

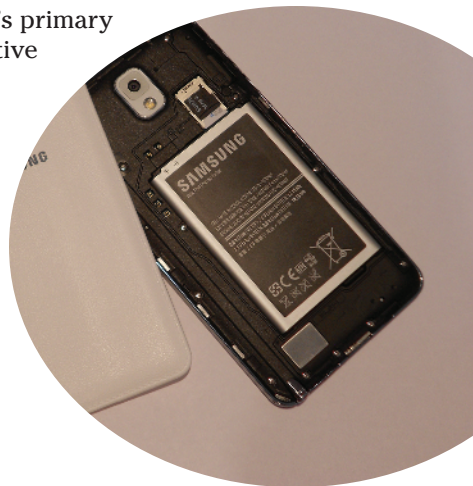
A Note for You

In This Chapter

- ▶ Liberating the phone from its box
- ▶ Installing things inside the phone
- ▶ Charging the battery
- ▶ Familiarizing yourself with the Galaxy Note
- ▶ Using optional accessories
- ▶ Taking the phone with you
- ▶ Keeping the phone in one place

The Galaxy Note phone is the Reese's Peanut Butter Cup of mobile gizmos: From the chocolate side comes the modern tablet, a large, slate-like device that does many of the same things a computer can do. On the peanut butter side is the cell phone, the 21st century's primary communications device, which suffers from a diminutive screen. Put the two together and you can have something curiously delicious, like a Galaxy Note phone.

This chapter introduces you to the Samsung Galaxy Note. The chapter helps you to get things set up, to identify important parts and pieces, and to provide a gentle, soothing introduction. I believe you'll find that this chapter is far more detailed and entertaining than the tepid *Quick Start* pamphlet. Your phone deserves better than that.



Out of the Box

The first step toward getting the most from the Galaxy Note is to remove it from the confines of its box. Not only does the phone work better outside the box, but its removal is also necessary to complete some initial setup and configuration.

Alas, you probably aren't the first to liberate the phone from its cardboard cradle. Initial setup was most likely done by the friendly folks at the Phone Store. They've probably installed something called a SIM card, configured the Galaxy Note to work with their cellular network, and walked you through the initial account setup and configuration. If so, great — that's less for you to do.

Whether the phone has been set up or not, I encourage you to rifle through the box to locate and identify these items:

- ✓ The phone itself, which may have already been assembled by a Phone Store employee. If not, you'll find the rear cover and battery inside the box, ready to be installed.
- ✓ The all-too-brief pamphlets, warnings, warranties, and perhaps other miscellaneous and potentially useful pieces of paper
- ✓ Earphones for listening to music and making phone calls
- ✓ The charger/data cable, also known as a USB cable
- ✓ The charger head, which is the wall adapter for the charger/data cable

The phone ships with a clingy, static, plastic cover on its screen, back, and sides. Peel away the plastic as if your phone were a banana, although the process would be more delightful if a fruity snack were available upon completion.

The most important doodad is the phone — your Galaxy Note — which might require some assembly, as described in the next section.



- ✓ The S Pen is found inserted into the phone, so don't panic when you can't locate it loose inside the box. See Chapter 3 for information on accessing the S Pen.
- ✓ One accessory I recommend getting right away is a MicroSD card. See the later section "Adding and removing a MicroSD card" for details.
- ✓ Keep the instructions and other information for as long as you own the phone. The phone's box makes an excellent storage place for that stuff — as well as for anything else you don't plan to use right away.
- ✓ If anything is missing or appears to be damaged, immediately contact the folks who sold you the phone.



- ✓ The Galaxy Note 3's charging cable is a USB 3.0 cable. If possible, connect it to a USB 3.0 port on a PC. It still works on other USB ports, but works faster on a USB 3.0 port. These ports, as well as USB cable connectors, are colored blue.

Phone Assembly

The Galaxy Note comes disassembled inside the box. The phone, back cover, and battery require assembly. The Phone Store employee puts everything together for you to configure the phone to work with the company's cellular network.

It rarely happens, but you may be required to perform the initial assembly yourself. Or, more frequently, you need to access the phone's innards to add or replace the MicroSD card or battery. If so, this section contains helpful information, such as taking-apart and putting-back-together details.

Removing the rear cover

Before you can go phone spelunking, you must remove the Galaxy Note's rear cover. Heed these directions:

- 1. Ensure that the phone is turned off.**

See Chapter 2 for details.

- 2. Flip the phone over and locate the thumbnail notch at the bottom center of the back cover.**

Figure 1-1 illustrates where to find the thumbnail hole. Older Galaxy Note phones featured a thumb notch on the upper side of the back cover.

- 3. Insert your thumbnail into the notch, and carefully pry the back cover from the phone.**

The popping noise you hear whilst removing the back cover is normal.

- 4. Set aside the cover.**

The Galaxy Note has three items you can access after the back cover is removed (refer to Figure 1-1): the battery, SIM card, and MicroSD card. The following three sections offer specific information on each of these items.

To reassemble the phone, see the later section "Reattaching the phone's rear cover."

Installing and removing the battery

The battery is the largest item you can add or remove inside the phone. It's necessary to remove the battery to access the SIM card slot. It's not really necessary to take out the battery to access the MicroSD card, although it's easier to do so by first removing the battery.

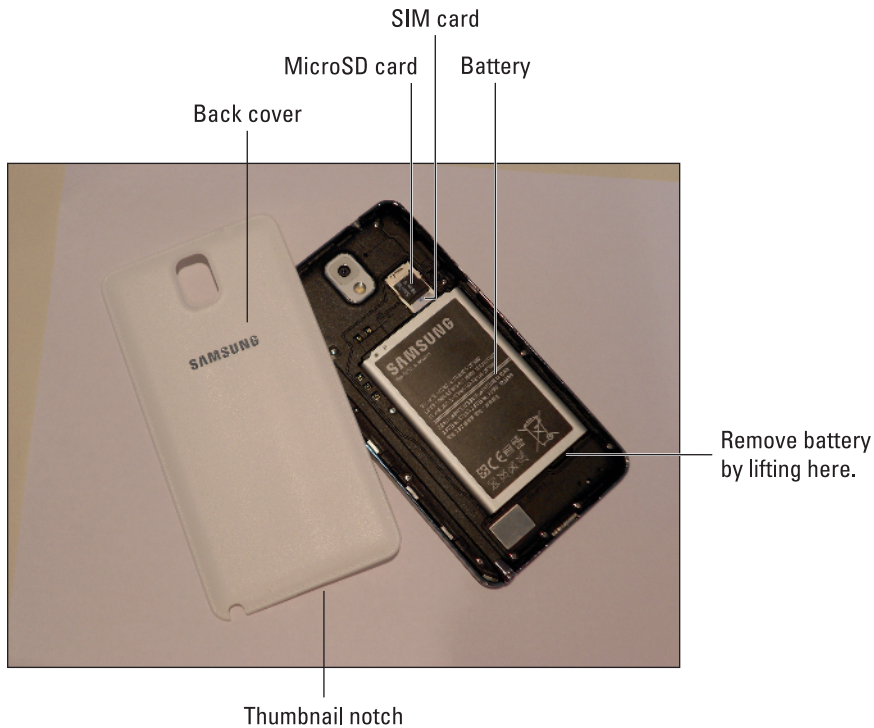


Figure 1-1: Galaxy Note guts.

To remove the battery, insert your thumbnail in the notch in the lower-right (refer to Figure 1-1). Lift the battery out of the phone.

To insert the battery, orient it so that the contacts are up, toward the top of the phone. The text on the back of the battery should be oriented right side up, as shown earlier, in Figure 1-1. Insert the battery top side first, and then insert it the rest of the way, as though you're closing the lid on a tiny box. When the battery is properly installed, it's flush with the back of the phone.

Obviously, if the battery is still in its tiny, plastic bag, you should first remove the bag before inserting the battery into the phone.

If you're setting up your Galaxy Note for the first time, the next task after inserting the battery is to charge it — see the later section “Charge the Battery.” Well, put the back cover on first, and then charge the phone.

- ✓ If you're replacing the battery, store the original inside a nonmetallic box in a dark, dry location.
- ✓ If you need to dispose of the battery, do so properly; batteries are classified as hazardous waste and should not merely be placed in the trash.



- ✓ Replacement batteries are commonly available, some of which may allow you to use your phone for longer periods between charges. Always ensure that you replace the battery with one that's compatible with your specific Galaxy Note model. Using any old battery as a replacement is a hazard and can damage your phone, you, or innocent bystanders.

Installing the SIM card

Your cellular provider uses the *SIM card* to identify your Galaxy Note with its cellular network. If the cheerful human at the Phone Store hasn't installed the SIM card into your Galaxy Note, you need to do it. Obey these steps:

1. If necessary, remove the phone's back cover.

The SIM card is inserted into a slot directly underneath the MicroSD card slot.

2. Pop the SIM card free from its holder.

Press the SIM card until it pops out of the credit-card-size frame.

3. Insert the SIM card into the SIM card slot.

The SIM card fits in only one way: notched end in first, printed side up. Push in the card all the way.

4. Replace the battery and the phone's back cover.

You're done.

If you have trouble inserting the SIM card and a MicroSD card is already installed, you may have to remove the MicroSD card first. See the next section.

- ✓ You rarely, if ever, need to remove the SIM card.
- ✓ A typical way to use a SIM is to replace a broken phone with a new one: You plug the SIM from the old phone into the new phone, and instantly the phone is recognized as your own. Of course, the two phones need to use similar cellular networks for the transplant operation to be successful.
- ✓ SIM stands for Subscriber Identity Module. SIM cards are required for GSM cellular networks and 4G LTE networks.



Adding and removing a MicroSD card

The Galaxy Note doesn't come with a MicroSD card, which is disappointing. The MicroSD card bolsters the phone's storage, adding what's called *removable* storage. As with any portable electronic gizmo, the more storage, the better.



Obtain a MicroSD card for your Galaxy Note. The cards come in capacities of 8GB, 16GB, and 32GB. The higher the capacity, the more expensive the card, so buy the largest capacity you can afford.

To install the MicroSD card inside your Galaxy Note, obey these steps:

1. Remove the phone's back cover and battery.

Specific directions are offered earlier in this chapter.

2. Locate the slot into which you stick the MicroSD card.

Use Figure 1-1 as your guide.

3. Insert the MicroSD card into its slot.

The card goes in only one way. The arrow on the card indicates which edge goes in first; the printed side of the card is facing you as you insert the card.

4. Reinstall the battery (if necessary), and reassemble the Galaxy Note.



The MicroSD card must be formatted for use with your phone. Directions are found in Chapter 20.

To remove the card, follow these steps:

1. Turn off the phone.

2. Remove the back cover and the battery.

3. Nudge the MicroSD card a tad.

4. Use your fingernail to help grab the card and pull it out the rest of the way.

The card has been liberated.



✓ The MicroSD card might also be referred to as an SD card or media card. It's a standard form of removable media for portable devices, used in mobile phones, cameras, and music players.

✓ MicroSD cards are teensy! Keep them in a safe place where you won't lose them.

✓ You can buy a MicroSD card adapter, which allows its data to be read by computers, via either the standard Secure Digital (SD) memory slot or the USB port.



✓ If you're upgrading to the Galaxy Note from another Android phone, simply remove the MicroSD card from the old phone and install it on the Galaxy Note. By doing so, you instantly transfer your pictures, music, and videos.

Reattaching the phone's rear cover

When you're done rooting around inside your phone, or when it tells you that it's shivering and needs to warm up, you should replace its back cover. The operation works like this:

1. **Line up the top of the back cover with the bottom of the Galaxy Note.**
2. **Working around the back of the phone, gently press the cover into place.**

The cover snaps as it settles into position.

When the back cover is on properly, it should have no gaps or raised edges. Keep pressing the back cover until you no longer hear any snaps.

Charge the Battery

One of your first duties after assembling your Galaxy Note is to charge its battery. You don't need to turn on the phone to charge its battery — just follow these cinchy steps:

1. **If necessary, assemble the charging cord.**
2. **Plug the charger head and cable into a wall socket.**
3. **Connect the USB cable to the phone.**

The charger cord plugs into the multipurpose jack, found at the phone's bottom side. Ensure that you properly orient the connector before jamming it into the phone.

As the phone charges, the touchscreen displays a large, animated battery icon. It's your clue that the gizmo is connected to a power source and charging. The touchscreen turns off after a few seconds.



- ✓ The Galaxy Note may come with a partially charged battery, often containing enough juice to run setup and get you started. Still, I recommend fully charging the phone before you use it.
- ✓ You can use the phone while it's charging. Granted, you have to turn the thing on first. That procedure is covered in Chapter 2.
- ✓ You can charge the phone in your car, using what was once called a cigarette lighter. Simply ensure that the cell phone charger in your car features the proper connector for your phone or that it's specifically designed for use with your cell phone brand.

- ✓ The phone also charges itself when it's plugged into a computer by way of a USB cable. The computer must be on for charging to work.
- ✓ The Galaxy Note charges more quickly when it's plugged into the wall as opposed to a computer's USB port or a car adapter.

Explore the Galaxy Note

The Galaxy Note is a phone like no other. To help you get better acquainted, peruse this section and familiarize yourself with the names of the specific doodads and pieces.

Identifying important things

The typical Galaxy Note 3 phone is handsomely illustrated in Figure 1-2. The items referenced in the figure are the same terms used elsewhere in this book and in whatever pitiful Galaxy Note documentation exists.

Here are the highlights:

Power/Lock button: The Power Lock button could be called the phone's on/off switch, but it's not. That's because the button does more than just turn the phone on or off. Chapter 2 covers the details.

Volume button: The Galaxy Note's volume control is two buttons in one. Press the top end of the button to set the volume higher; pressing the bottom end sets the volume lower. This button can also be used to control the zoom function when using the phone as a camera. See Chapter 15.

Touchscreen display: The main part of the phone is its *touchscreen* display. It's a see-touch thing: You look at it and also touch it with your fingers to control the phone. That's where it gets the name *touchscreen*.

Front camera: The phone's front-facing camera is found above the touchscreen (refer to Figure 1-2). It's used for taking self-portraits as well as for video chat.

Headphone jack: On the top of the phone is a hole by which you can connect standard headphones.

Speaker: The primary phone speaker is located top center on the phone. A second speaker is found at the bottom of the phone.

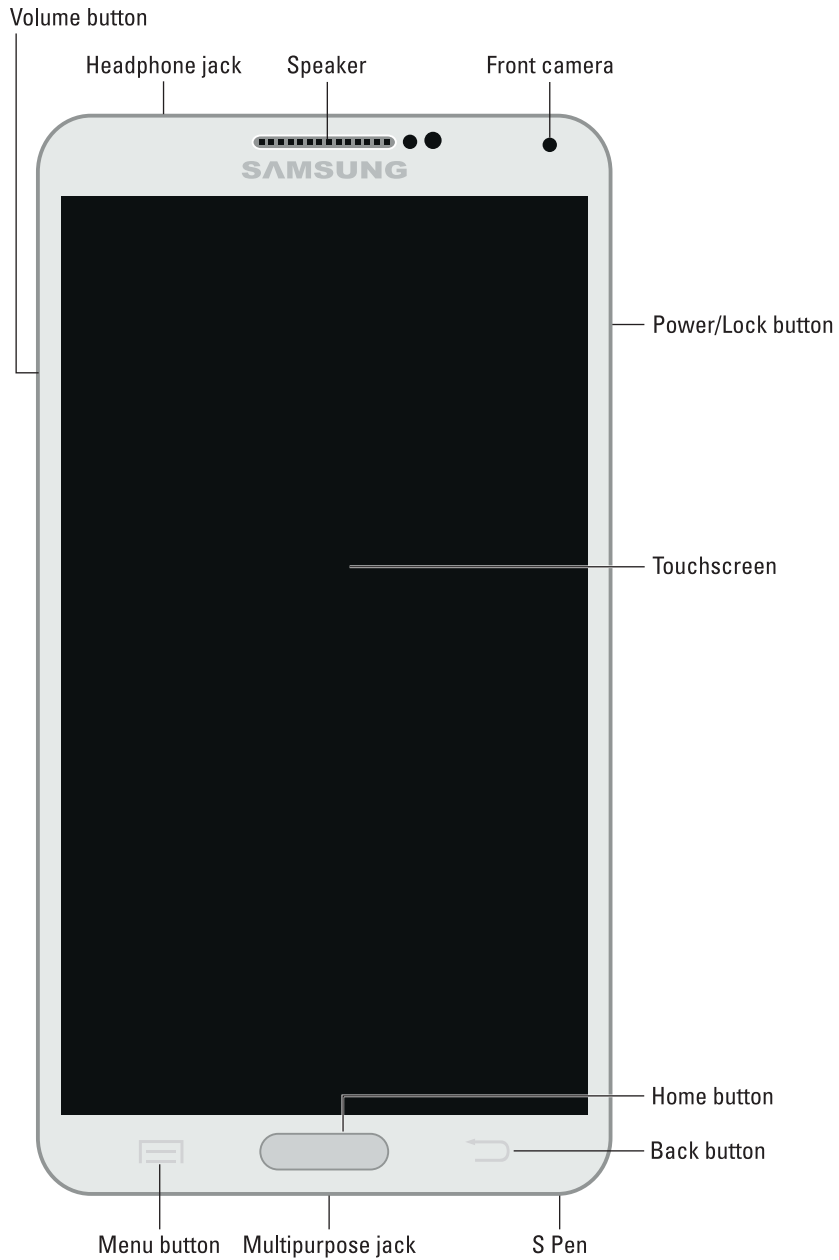


Figure 1-2: Your phone's face and rump.

Menu, Home, Back buttons: These navigation buttons are used in the Android operating system itself. The Home button is a physical button you press; the Menu and Back buttons are touch-activated. See Chapter 3 for more information on using these buttons.



Multipurpose jack: This important connector is found at the phone's bottom edge, right in the center. It's where the USB/power connector attaches to the phone. The USB cable is used to charge the phone as well as to communicate with a computer. Charging the phone is covered in this chapter; see Chapter 20 for information on sharing files with a computer.

S Pen: This digital stylus is what makes the Galaxy Note special. See Chapter 3 for information about accessing and using the S Pen.

Not shown in Figure 1-2 are a few additional goodies that adorn the sides or rear of the phone. These items include the following:

Microphone: The microphone looks like a tiny hole on the phone's bottom edge. A second, noise-canceling microphone is found on the bottom right side of the phone (near the S Pen).

Rear camera: The phone's main camera is found on the phone's back. It's accompanied by an LED flash.

Other goobers: Various other interesting items adorn your phone. Don't mess with them! Avoid the temptation to stick things into holes on the phone.

Take a moment to locate all the items mentioned in this section, as well as shown in Figure 1-2, on your own Galaxy Note phone. It's important that you know where they are and what they're called.

- ✓ The multipurpose jack is customized for the Galaxy Note phone. It's not the same, standard micro-USB connector used on other Android phones. Ditto for the Galaxy Note's USB cable. See Chapter 20 for more information on using the cable.
- ✓ The main microphone, on the bottom of the phone, picks up your voice loud and clear. There's no need to hold the phone at an angle for the microphone to work.
- ✓ The speaker at the top of the phone (refer to Figure 1-2) is used primarily when making phone calls. The bottom speaker (not shown in Figure 1-2) is used when watching videos or playing games or when a phone call is placed "on speaker."
- ✓ The phone's physical buttons — Power/Lock, Volume, and Home — are referred to as *keys* in Google's Android documentation. This book uses the term *button*, although you may find the word *key* used here and in other documentation.



Using earphones

You don't need to use earphones to get the most from your Galaxy Note, but it helps! Though most cell phones don't come with earphones, the Galaxy Note does. Or at least mine did. Sorry if that's not the case for you, but you can always buy earphones, and I recommend that you do.

The earphones that came with (or should have come with) the Galaxy Note are the common earbud style. The earbuds are set into your ears. The sharp, pointy end of the earphones, which you don't want to stick into your ear, plugs into the top of the phone.

Fancy earbuds come with a doodle button somewhere on their wires. The button can be used to mute the Galaxy Note when you're on a call or to start or stop the playback of music when the phone is in its music-playing mode.

You can also use the doodle button to answer the phone when it rings.

A teensy hole on the doodle serves as the phone's microphone. It lets you wear the earphones and talk on the phone while keeping your hands free. If you gesture while you speak, you'll find this feature invaluable.

- ✓ If your Galaxy Note didn't come with earphones, or (more frequently) if they broke, purchase a new set. Ensure that the headset features a microphone; you need to talk *and* listen on a phone.
- ✓ The earbuds are labeled R for right and L for left.
- ✓ See Chapter 16 for more information on using your Galaxy Note as a portable music player.
- ✓ Fully insert the earphone connector into the phone. The person you're talking with can't hear you well when the earphones are plugged in only partway.
- ✓ You can also use a Bluetooth headset with your phone, to listen to a call or some music. See Chapter 19 for more information on Bluetooth.
- ✓ Fold the earphones when you don't need them, rather than wrap them in a loop: Hold the earbuds and connector in one hand, and then pull the wire straight out with the other hand. Fold the wire in half, and then in half again. You can then put the earphones in your pocket or on a table-top. By folding the wires, you avoid creating one of those Christmas-tree-light wire balls that would otherwise happen.



Adding other accessories

It's difficult to leave the Phone Store without having the nice people there try to sell you many thousands of dollars' worth of phone accessories. Of all the temptations available, the following items may offer you the most happiness:

Multimedia dock: The multimedia dock works like a base station for the Galaxy Note, by propping it up at the perfect angle for viewing videos or using it as a desktop alarm clock. As a bonus, the phone charges while it's nestled in the multimedia dock.

Car mount: This gizmo lets you suction-cup the phone to your car's windshield (or any other flat surface). After the phone is secured, you can use it — hands-free — while driving. See Chapter 14 for more information on using the Galaxy Note's amazing navigation abilities.

Phone jacket: The Phone Store doubtless has an ample repository of various phone cases. Choose something stylish and protective.

A Home for Your Phone

Thanks to its mobile nature, your Galaxy Note phone can go anywhere. You can find your phone across town or overseas or even in the couch cushions or under a stack of books on the nightstand. Because the phone will no doubt become a necessary part of your life in the near future, finding a better location than the couch cushions is probably a good idea.

Toting your Galaxy Note

It's true that many a wild-eyed stare greets the Galaxy Note because of its dominating size and hybrid tablet-phone nature. Still, the thing fits perfectly in your front pocket, clips easily on a belt, or sits snugly in even the teensiest of party purses. To help it survive in these harsh conditions, the Galaxy Note features a proximity sensor.

The *proximity sensor* disables the touchscreen whenever the phone is in a confined space — or even pressed firmly against your cheek. You risk no danger that your phone might accidentally activate its touchscreen and suddenly dial Tibet.

- ✓ Though it's okay to let go of the phone when you're making a call, be careful not to touch the phone's Power/Lock button or the Home button (refer to Figure 1-2). Touching either button may temporarily enable the touchscreen, which can hang up a call, mute the phone, or do any of a number of other undesirable things.
- ✓ Don't forget that the phone is in your pocket, especially in your coat or jacket. You might accidentally sit on the phone, or it can fly out when you take off your coat. The worst fate for any cell phone is to take a trip to the laundry. I'm sure that the Galaxy Note has nightmares about it.



Storing the phone

I recommend that you find a permanent place for your phone when you're not taking it with you. Make the spot consistent: on top of your desk or workstation, on the kitchen counter, on the nightstand — you get the idea. Phones are as prone to being misplaced as your car keys and glasses. Consistency is the key to finding your phone.

Then again, your phone rings, so when you lose it, you can always have someone else call your cell phone to help you locate it.

- ✔ I keep my phone on my desk, next to my computer. Conveniently, I have the charger plugged into the computer so that the phone remains plugged in, connected, and charging when I'm not using it.
- ✔ Phones on coffee tables get buried under magazines and are often squished when rude people put their feet on the furniture.
- ✔ Avoid putting your phone in direct sunlight; heat is a bad thing for any electronic gizmo.
- ✔ Do not put your phone in the laundry (see the preceding section). See Chapter 23 for information on properly cleaning the phone.

