



Electric power bank

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Traveling often involves taking along multiple devices—smartphone, tablet, laptop, and the like. But you won't always have access to a wall outlet to charge all, or even any, of them. That's why it's important to add a power bank to your pack. But with so many options available, how do you know which power bank best suits your needs? Everything from various charging specs, to different ports, to the included cables need to be considered before making a purchase.

That's where we come in. We've tested a ton of power banks from different manufacturers spanning the range of available price points and specs. We've curated a list of our favorites to help you find the best value. You can rest assured that our recommendations are all great picks as the PCWorld staff puts each power bank through a battery—pun intended—of tests. You can learn more about our evaluation process below our picks.

While our recommendations reflect a range of needs, if you need something more substantial to power your appliances while off-grid or during an emergency, check out our roundup of best power stations.

Updated 11/22/2023: Looking for a hybrid power bank capable of recharging a laptop? We loved the Anker 521 PowerCore Fusion 45W, a 5,000mAh power bank that can also charge MacBooks and other thin-and-light laptops as well as USB devices like phones, tablets, and earbuds. You can read more about it in our review.

The Anker 511 FusionCore 5K is a great travel companion, particularly when out and about in a city. Its hybrid design makes it ideal if you don't like to carry much but always want an adequate charge for your phone—though it does take up an entire wall outlet when used as a charger.

This older Anker model may not be as svelte as the newer 511 variation, but the PowerCore Fusion 5000 is still an extremely convenient combo wall charger and portable power bank—especially if you have



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devices that still use USB Type-A cables. The bank itself can be recharged via either method—power outlet or MicroUSB port. It’s limited to two USB-A ports for device charging, but that doesn’t diminish its great handiness-to-cost ratio.

With its stylish fabric-clad body, its discreet yet useful battery-status display, and its three USB ports (one of which is USB-C), Einova’s power bank adds flair and above-average battery efficiency to your everyday carry.

There are times when a mere power bank isn’t enough—the circumstances call for a power station. Say you’re spending the weekend off the grid. Or you want to be prepared for a future emergency. The RAVPower Portable Power Station 252.7Wh Power House will get the job done. With a capacity near 252.7Wh, a nice complement of ports, a built-in flashlight, and an included carrying case, this highly portable power station makes a great travel companion for road trips. (For more options, see our roundup of the best portable power stations.)

Determining whether a power bank lives up to a company’s promise entails more than simply connecting it to a phone and charging. Testing battery packs is done over weeks, not days, and requires extra equipment in order to ensure the batteries work as expected.

As we use the DROK load tester to drain the pack of power, we are able to test against a battery’s stated maximum current, and verify that proper shutdown mechanisms are in place should something go wrong during a charging session (such as a device drawing over the maximum amps).

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