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Jessica Dolcourt

August 24, 2010

Since cell phones exploded in popularity only in the last decade, quite a few people have lived well into their adult lives without ever owning one. Learning to use a new technology can be challenging for anyone, which is why some companies have stepped up to design handsets specifically for senior citizens. Senior-friendly models typically promote ease-of-use over a bushel of multimedia features that require a learning curve. Large fonts and dialpad buttons hold court, along with bright displays. We're also seeing an increasing number of medical features, like a 911 shortcut key, in-case-of-emergency (ICE) numbers, and an area to add medical notes.

PCD CDM8635 (U.S. Cellular) looks like your typical flip phone but adds useful shortcut keys, usability wizards, and hearing assistance tools as a nod toward seniors. Meanwhile, the rather boxy Samsung Haven (Verizon) also has handy shortcuts and voice command, but differentiates with reminder alarms, medical info, and "healing music." Um, we'll take a pass on that last one. It may look like a calculator with its tiny face and huge numbered buttons, but the unlocked Just5 J509 sands out for its slim profile and excellent call quality. The SOS emergency button, text messaging service, flashlight, and FM radio are notable extras.

Also making our roundup are the Doro PhoneEasy 410 (Consumer Cellular) and the Pantech Breeze II (AT&T), an entry-level flip phone with a music player and Bluetooth, which is also accessible for new users.

Product name	 ▶ PLAY CNET VIDEO PCD CDM8635 (U.S. Cellular)	 ▶ PLAY CNET VIDEO Samsung Haven - black (Verizon Wireless)	 ▶ PLAY CNET VIDEO Just5 J509 - black (unlocked)	 ▶ PLAY CNET VIDEO Pantech Breeze II (AT&T)	 ▶ PLAY CNET VIDEO Doro PhoneEasy 410 (white)
Price	Check Prices	\$39.99	Check Prices	\$19.99 to \$219.99	Check Prices
CNET editors' rating	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Average user rating	★ not yet available	★ not yet available	★ not yet available	★ not yet available	★ not yet available
Release date		July 29, 2010			October 19, 2009

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useful shortcut keys, and usability wizards help make it a prime entry-level phone for seniors.

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of its design and tools to become an easy-to-use and affordable phone for seniors.

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phone, the Pantech Breeze II comes with solid midrange features for a very affordable price.

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basic, easy-to-use phone for seniors and anyone who's new to cell phones.

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Features

Cellular technology	CDMA	CDMA 1X	GSM	WCDMA (UMTS) / GSM	GSM
Weight	3.5 oz	3.49 oz	Info unavailable	3.5 oz	3.9 oz
Talk time	Up to 250 min	Up to 300 min	Up to 100 min	Up to 180 min	Info unavailable
Band / mode	CDMA 800/1900 (Dual Band)	CDMA 1X 800/1900 (Dual Band)	GSM 850/900/1800/1900 (Quadband)	WCDMA (UMTS) / GSM 850/900/1800/1900	GSM 900/1800/1900 (Tri-Band)

http://reviews.cnet.com/cell-phones-for-seniors/[8/25/2010 5:39:27 PM]

Full specifications	Full specifications	Full specifications	Full specifications	Full specifications	Full specifications
Buying choices	E-mail me when this product is available	Verizon Wireless \$39.99 In stock: Yes Price from 1 authorized store	E-mail me when this product is available	AT&T Wireless \$19.99 In stock: Yes Wirefly Mobile \$189.99 In stock: Yes A1 Wireless \$189.99 In stock: Yes Prices from 3 CNET Certified stores	Please visit the manufacture's website, for additional information.

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