

AccessionIndex: TCD-SCSS-T.20250620.001

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Object name: Nokia 1011 Mobile Phone

Vintage: 1992

Synopsis: First mass-produced single-band 2G GSM mobile phone (1G was analog, 2G was digital).

**Description:**

From Wikipedia [1], the free encyclopedia:

The Nokia 1011 (NHE-2X5, NHE-2XN) is the first mass-produced GSM phone. It was sold also as Mobira Cityman 2000. The typenumber refers to the launch date, 10 November 1992.[2]

The black handset measured 195 x 60 x 45 mm and featured a monochrome LCD and an extendable antenna. The memory could hold 99 phone numbers. It did not yet employ Nokia's characteristic ringtone: that was only introduced in 1994. The phone operated in the 900 MHz GSM band. At that time the device cost about 2500 DM [3] (about 2120 euros today).

The phone was able to receive SMS messages but not send them.

Nokia 1011 continued production until 1994, when Nokia 2010 and Nokia 2110 were introduced as successors.

The *Nokia 1011* wasn't the world's first GSM mobile phone – that was the *Orbitel TPU 901*, but it was the Finnish company Nokia who took this technology and mass-produced it. Starting off in wood pulp in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Nokia had diversified into rubber, then electric cable, then electronics, and by the early-1990s it was a large industrial conglomerate, and had been in the analog mobile phone business for a few years, more commonly branded *Mobira* rather than *Nokia*. When the *Nokia 1011* was launched on 10<sup>th</sup> November (said to suggest the product number) it was also sold as the *Mobira Cityman 2000*. Physically rather similar to Nokia's analogue phones, the 1011 was a fully digital 2G GSM device.

2G GSM was digital, voice and data, with better call quality, privacy, and SMS text messaging. Its predecessor, 1G, was analog. 3G added Internet connection, 4G added digital services. The specification for the *Global System for Mobile Communications* (GSM) was first agreed in February 1987, then in incredibly quick time the MoU was tabled for signature in September 1987. The first successful test call was achieved at 4am on 27<sup>th</sup> March, 1991, and the first official GSM call was made by the Prime Minister of Finland on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 1991 [4].

The 1011 was big and heavy (nearly 500grams), and expensive (2470 Deutschmarks). It is not known what processor/CPU it used. It was replaced two years later by the Nokia 2010 and 2110 mobiles. But it represented a seminal step in the digitalisation and computerisation of mobile communications.

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<a href="#">TCD-SCSS-V.20250620.001</a>	Nokia 1011 User Manual. Nokia, manual for 1011 single-band 2G GSM mobile phone, 1992.
<a href="#">TCD-SCSS-T.20150608.002</a>	Nokia 8210 Mobile Phone. Red ladies dual-band 2G GSM mobile phone that began Nokia's rise to dominance of the early post millenium mobile market, 1999.
<a href="#">TCD-SCSS-V.20220825.007</a>	Nokia 8210 User's Guide. Nokia, manual for 8210 dual-band 2G GSM mobile phone. c.2000
<a href="#">TCD-SCSS-T.20150608.001</a>	Motorola V3690 Mobile Phone. Clamshell dual-band 2G GSM mobile phone, one of very few early mobiles allowing firmware updates, c.2000.
<a href="#">TCD-SCSS-V.20220825.006</a>	Motorola V3690 User Manual. Motorola, manual for V3690 clamshell dual-band 2G GSM mobile phone. c.2000.
<a href="#">TCD-SCSS-T.20150810.002</a>	Motorola V66i Mobile Phone. Motorola clamshell tri-band 2G GSM mobile phone. c.2002.
<a href="#">TCD-SCSS-T.20220825.008</a>	Samsung SGH-ZV10 mobile phone. Late model clamshell tri-band 3G GSM mobile phone. S/N: R9TYA47381E. 2005.
<a href="#">TCD-SCSS-T.20220825.007</a>	Samsung H1 GT-i8320 smartphone. Early touch-screen quad-band 3G GSM mobile smartphone based on Linux LiMo software. S/N: R3XSB53869M. 2009.
<a href="#">TCD-SCSS-T.20220825.006</a>	Samsung Galaxy S4 Zoom smartphone/camera. Superb combination of 10X optical SLR camera and Android multi-band 4G GSM mobile smartphone, model SM-C101. S/N: CN1D701B1PW. 2013.

## References:

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[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nokia\\_1011](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nokia_1011)  
Last browsed to on 21-Jun-2025.
2. The Register, *15 years ago: the first mass-produced GSM phone*, archived from the original on 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2012, retrieved 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2007, see:  
[https://web.archive.org/web/20120807122407/http://www.reghardware.com/2007/11/09/ft\\_nokia\\_1011/](https://web.archive.org/web/20120807122407/http://www.reghardware.com/2007/11/09/ft_nokia_1011/)  
Also: <https://www.scss.tcd.ie/SCSSTreasuresCatalog/hardware/TCD-SCSS-T.20250620.001/Nokia-1011-15years-ago-the-first-mass-produced-GSM-phone-RegHardware.pdf>  
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3. Focus.de, "*Mobilfunk-Geschichte: Mit dem Telefonkoffer durchs Land*" [*Mobile History: With phone suitcase throughout the country*] (in German), archived 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2009, retrieved 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2014, see:  
[http://www.focus.de/digital/handy/tid-13727/mobilfunk-geschichte-mit-dem-telefonkoffer-durchs-land\\_aid\\_382427.html](http://www.focus.de/digital/handy/tid-13727/mobilfunk-geschichte-mit-dem-telefonkoffer-durchs-land_aid_382427.html)  
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4. Nokia, *Thirty years on from the call that transformed how we communicate*, see:  
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Also: <https://www.scss.tcd.ie/SCSSTreasuresCatalog/hardware/TCD-SCSS-T.20250620.001/Nokia-1011-first-test-call-27Mar1991.pdf>  
Last browsed to on 21-Jun-2025.

## Nokia 1011



<b>Manufacturer</b>	Nokia
<b>Availability by region</b>	10 November 1992
<b>Successor</b>	<a href="#">Nokia 2010</a> <a href="#">Nokia 2110</a>
<b>Related</b>	<a href="#">Nokia 1610</a> Mobira Cityman 2000
<b>Compatible networks</b>	GSM 900
<b>Form factor</b>	Brick with antenna
<b>Dimensions</b>	195 x 60 x 45mm (with standard battery and internal antenna)
<b>Weight</b>	495g
<b>Operating system</b>	embedded
<b>Memory</b>	99-entry Phonebook
<b>Battery</b>	Ni-CD 7.2V 900 mAh
<b>Display</b>	2-line, 8-character monochrome LCD with dedicated function symbols
<b>Data inputs</b>	Numeric keypad
<b>Model</b>	NHE-2XN
<b>Development status</b>	Discontinued, extremely rare

*Figure 1: Nokia 1011 specifications*

*Figure 2: Nokia 1011*

*Figure 3: Nokia 1011*