

AccessionIndex: TCD-SCSS-T.20250701.005

Accession Date: 1-Jul-2025

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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), S/N: 490005-20-090629-0.

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 19th 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 10th 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 27th March, 1991, and the first official GSM call was made by the Prime Minister of Finland on 1st 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.

Many thanks to Avril Coghlan for donating this item.

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Some of the items below may be more properly part of other categories of this catalog, but are listed here for convenience.

Accession Index	Object with Identification
TCD-SCSS-T.20250701.005	Nokia 1011 Mobile Phone. First mass-produced single-band 2G GSM mobile phone (1G was analog, 2G was digital), S/N: 490005-20-090629-0, 1992.
TCD-SCSS-T.20250701.005.01	Nokia 1011 Mobile Phone. Model: NHE-2XN, S/N: 490005-20-090629-0, 1992.
TCD-SCSS-T.20250701.005.02	Nokia 1011 Ni-CD Battery. Type BTH-7S, 7.2V 900mAh, S/N: 419313785, 1992.
TCD-SCSS-T.20250701.005.03	Nokia 1011 Battery Charger. Model: AQC-77320, S/N: 61007027, 1992.
TCD-SCSS-T.20250620.001	Nokia 101 analog mobile phone. Analog (1G) mobile phone, S/N: 11/37/00/03675.
TCD-SCSS-T.20250701.004	Nokia 100 analog mobile phone. S/N: ???, 1992.
TCD-SCSS-V.20250620.001	Nokia 1011 User Manual. Nokia, manual for 1011 single-band 2G GSM mobile phone, 1992.
TCD-SCSS-T.20150608.002	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.
TCD-SCSS-V.20220825.007	Nokia 8210 User's Guide. Nokia, manual for 8210 dual-band 2G GSM mobile phone. c.2000
TCD-SCSS-T.20150608.001	Motorola V3690 Mobile Phone. Clamshell dual-band 2G GSM mobile phone, one of very few early mobiles allowing firmware updates, c.2000.
TCD-SCSS-V.20220825.006	Motorola V3690 User Manual. Motorola, manual for V3690 clamshell dual-band 2G GSM mobile phone. c.2000.
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TCD-SCSS-T.20250701.003	Orange SPV Classic mobile phone. First mobile phone to be based on Windows Smartphone 2002 software. Tri-band 2G GSM mobile phone. S/N: HT246CK09339, 2002.
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TCD-SCSS-T.20250701.001	Apple first-generation iPhone smartphone. Touch-screen quad-band 2G GSM mobile phone based on iPhone OS software, considered by some to be the world's first smartphone. S/N: 7R7351QPWH8, 2007.
TCD-SCSS-T.20250701.002	T-mobile G1 smartphone. First smartphone based on Android software. Touch-screen quad-band 3G GSM mobile phone. S/N: xxxxxxxx, 2008.
TCD-SCSS-T.20220825.007	Samsung H1 GT-i8320 smartphone. Early touch-screen quad-band 3G GSM mobile smartphone based on Linux LiMo software. S/N: R3XSB53869M. 2009.
TCD-SCSS-T.20220825.006	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.

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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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Also: <https://www.scss.tcd.ie/SCSSTreasuresCatalog/hardware/TCD-SCSS-T.20250620.001/Nokia-1011-first-test-call-27Mar1991.pdf>
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Nokia 1011



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

Figure 1: Nokia 1011 specifications



Figure 2: Nokia 1011 mobile phone, front view.



*Figure 3: Left: Nokia 1011 mobile phone, rear view.
“NOKIA NHE-2XN, Made in Germany, CEPT GSM, 490005-20-090629-0”
Right: Nokia 1011 Battery. Rear view.
“Ni-CD Battery Pack, Type BTH-7S, 7.2V 900mAh, Ser. No.: 419313785, Made in Finland”*



Figure 4: Nokia 1011 Battery Charger.

“Model: AQC-77320

Input: 100-240VAC

85-240mA 50-60Hz

Output: max 10VDC

max 88mA

Made in Finland by Salcompoy

Serial no: 61007027”