

## On sale now in China: the 'iPhone 5'

October 5 2011

---



Several Chinese online stores are offering die-hard Apple fans the opportunity to buy the much-anticipated next-generation iPhone 5. There's just one catch -- the US tech giant hasn't released it yet.

Several Chinese online stores are offering die-hard Apple fans the opportunity to buy the much-anticipated next-generation iPhone 5. There's just one catch -- the US tech giant hasn't released it yet.

The fake smartphones are available for as little as 200 yuan (\$31) on hugely popular websites such as China's largest online marketplace Taobao.com, which has 370 million registered users.

Customers who left comments online appear to have brushed aside the fact that [Apple](#) failed to unveil the [iPhone 5](#) on Tuesday, despite expectations it would. It instead launched an updated, improved version of the [iPhone 4](#).

"It's really great, I've already used it for a few days and it's good value for money," one customer who purchased a fake [iPhone 5](#) said on Taobao.

Some of the smartphones offered are billed as "HiPhone 5" in a bid to avoid accusations of counterfeiting, but photos of the devices show the Apple logo on the back of the phones and "iPhone 5G" printed in the battery compartment.

Even before Tuesday's launch of the iPhone 4S at Apple headquarters in California, Chinese authorities had seized fake versions of the US firm's supposed latest offering.

Commerce department inspectors in the southeastern city of Fuzhou found 61 iPhone 5s on sale that featured new capabilities such as dual sim cards, the official Xinhua news agency reported earlier this week.

Vendors said the phones had been manufactured in the southern boomtown of Shenzhen, the report said. The Fuzhou trade and commerce bureau was unavailable for comment.

The craze for all things Apple in China -- which has the world's largest online population with over 500 million users -- has triggered widespread cloning of iPhones and [iPads](#).

In July, an American blogger even uncovered [fake Apple stores](#) in the southwestern city of Kunming. Even staff working there did not appear to know the shops were fakes.

Some Chinese fans queue for days to get their hands on the latest Apple products.

Apple has five official stores in mainland China -- two in Beijing and

three in Shanghai -- although more shops are authorised to sell its products, while others offer those smuggled in from overseas markets.

(c) 2011 AFP

Citation: On sale now in China: the 'iPhone 5' (2011, October 5) retrieved 26 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2011-10-sale-china-iphone.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.