

The "Smallest, Smartest and Simplest" DJI Spark Drone

Written by Marco Attard
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Chinese drone maker DJI announces what it claims is its "smallest, smartest and simplest" drone yet-- the Spark, a palm-sized quadcopter featuring gesture-based control.



The miniature drone weighs 300g, and carries enough battery power to fly for 16 minutes. It can also shoot HD video and 12MP photos, has a 2-axis gimbal camera stabiliser, 3D sensing camera, GPS/Glonass and on-board software to mitigate shake and shutter roll. That said, what makes it really interesting is the aforementioned gesture control, allowing users to end the drone overhead and take a photo without need for a controller or app.

“Controlling a camera drone with hand movements alone is a major step towards making aerial technology an intuitive part of everyone’s daily life, from work and adventure to moments with friends and family,” the company says. “Spark’s revolutionary new interface lets you effortlessly extend your point of view to the air, making it easier than ever to capture and share the world from new perspectives.”

Users wanting more control can pair the drone with a smartphone and companion app, with control range reaching 100m. The app also features a QuickShot Intelligent Flight feature, which has the drone follow a target for 1 minute, before automatically creating a 10 second clip with all the recorded footage. An optional remote control accessory boosts control range to 2km.

The Spark ships from June 2017 in either a basic package including the drone, battery, USB charger and 3 pairs of propellers, or a Fly More combo adding four pairs of propellers, remote controller, propeller guards, charging hub, all necessary cables and a shoulder bag.

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