



DJI Mavic Pro

All the power of the DJI Phantom in a foldable package

BY TEAM ROTORDRONE PHOTOS BY CHERYL MALTBY

The first thing you see when opening the box is that this bird is all preassembled and ready to go. Charge the battery and controller, download the app, and you are off and flying. The Mavic is constructed really well and when the arms snap into place they feel solid.



Both the transmitter and Mavic are in the folded-up position (with the exception of the transmitter antennae) to show just how small everything is.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Mavic Pro's clever design keeps it small, with all four arms folding up underneath and to the sides. The compact size makes it easy to transport in nothing more than a large jacket pocket, but the big advantage is the ability to keep the props on all the time. The unit is ready to fly, with battery, at an all-up weight of 1.62 pounds. The remote is one of the smallest ones we've used and is just a little bit bigger than a smartphone, with a small screen in the center relaying all of the essential telemetry information for flying and navigating the Mavic. To maximize the full functions of this bird, you just connect your smartphone to the transmitter and download the DJI GO app. The bottom of the remote unfolds and allows the phone to fit into the housing of the Mavic transmitter. The phone provides a live video feed and access to the more complex autonomous modes along with a wide array of camera functions.

We were impressed with the speed on the Mavic Pro; despite its small size, it was able to hit just under 40mph! The video stream was outstanding, with it only dropping out at some distance away, and this was due to some obstacles in the way; by climbing up a little, we were able to get the video back right away. The intelligent flight modes also show some improvements over older DJI models. In Point of Interest mode, the drone stayed on track even when inputting some throttle to very high altitude to create a different look. In Follow Me mode, it tracked the subject much better than we could when we were controlling the Mavic Pro.

SPECIFICATIONS

Model: Mavic Pro
Manufacturer: DJI (dji.com)
Type: Compact sport/camera rig
Size: 335mm
Weight: 1.62 lb.
Motors: Installed and included
Battery: 3S 3830mAh Intelligent Flight (included)
Speed controls: Installed and included
Radio: Mavic Pro remote controller (included)
Price: \$999.00

WE LIKE

- + Three-axis gimbal with solid performance
- + 4K video and 12 megapixel images
- + Flight times up to 27 minutes
- + Compact, foldable size for easy transportation

AERIAL RECAP

Flying the Mavic Pro is very easy, even if you don't have much in the way of piloting experience. The automatic takeoff and landing makes it simple to get the quad in the air; from there, piloting is straightforward and the Mavic is quite responsive. The stabilization works well, and we have flown it in some heavy wind without adverse results. The obstacle-avoidance system works well, but the Mavic will not avoid small things like tree branches, ropes, and wires, so be careful of those. When it encounters solid obstacles, the Mavic will stop its forward movement and wait for a command that will send the quad around the obstacle.

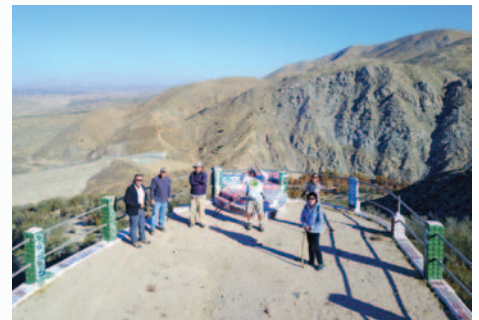
The Mavic Pro sits close to the ground, with the camera barely clearing the deck, so you should be careful of your takeoff and landing locations so that the blades don't hit tall grass or cause loose gravel to be kicked up. The DJI GO app relays a wealth of information back to you during flight. The Return to Home function is impressive because, even from great distances, the Mavic Pro will always land back within a foot or two of its takeoff point.

When we first used the onboard camera to film, we noticed that the video had so much jello effect that it was unusable. After a quick call to the manufacturer, we determined that the gimbal was touching the tabs that protect the gimbal base. After we moved the gimbal base so that it wasn't touching the tabs, the video and photos were outstanding. This most likely happened during shipping when the box was tossed around.

In flight, the Mavic Pro is solid and very stable.



Both the Mavic Pro and transmitter are in their open and operational positions. The smartphone is inserted into the bottom handles of the transmitter to use the advanced functions.



One of the many aerial images we were able to take during our hike with the Mavic Pro.

TRAVELING WITH THE MAVIC PRO

Perhaps the key feature of the Mavic Pro is that it has the ability to fold up into a compact size that is easy to transport, without having to uninstall or reattach the props. A Mavic shoulder bag is available for transportation, but we found it easy to fit this thing into a number of different bags that we already own. We took the Mavic on a six-mile hike to capture some selfies. The Mavic and controller easily fit inside a backpack, and setting up for the flight was quick and painless. The construction of the Mavic Pro is solid and can easily take the traveling bumps and hits. We also found it easy to use on a bike ride, and using the Follow Me mode, the Mavic Pro captured our riding adventure. The Mavic Pro was able to keep up with us and locked on to us very well during most of the ride.



BOTTOM LINE

This bird is compact enough to go anywhere, and the video and images are outstanding. The Mavic Pro fills a much-needed niche between the large and small quads out there. Having a quad that you can take anywhere will allow you to capture images anytime you like. ✈️