

# Guide to drone brands

With so many uses and benefits, the drone market is well diversified in its offerings. Models range in size, flight time, added features and (unsurprisingly) price. It's important to know the features of a drone before you buy it, so we've created a guide to drones to give you some insight into key players worth looking at.

## DJI



The dominant player in the drone industry, DJI is the largest drone manufacturer which has (based on 2019) estimates just over 76% market share. DJI is arguably ahead of the crowd with their constant innovation and expansion, creating smaller drones with even faster flight times and with a range that caters to almost everyone's needs. Due to the nature of the relationship between US and Chinese governments, there has been pressure on DJI sales in the US and a push to grow more US-based drone manufacturers. Some of the DJI's most popular

drones include:

### DJI Mavic Mini

One of the smallest and lightest weight drone's money can buy, the Mavic Mini weighs just 249 grams which means flyers in the US don't need to register the device with the FAA. This drone is an interesting invention because despite its size, it doesn't compromise on features like smaller drones usually do. Equipped with a 30 minute flight time on one charge, 12 megapixel photos and 2.7K video which features 30 frames per second this drone has a lot to offer. Another interesting design feature is it (as well as the controller) folds up to make it even more compact and easy to carry. The only downside however is that in order to make the drone as small and lightweight as it is, sensors for obstacle recognition and avoidance had to be removed which means you as the pilot have some extra work cut out for you.

### Phantom series

The Phantom series was some of the original drones that DJI became famous for and are still favourites amongst professionals even now. For example, the DJI Phantom 4 Pro V2.0 was released four years ago but is still one of the best drones around for video professionals. It is known for being stable and responsive, creating high quality video and generally being a high quality done.

## INTEL

Working in a more commercial space, in the US market Intel takes out second position for market share behind DJI with 3.7% (and for context, their next closest competitor Yuneec is on 3.1%). Arguably their most famous drone is the Shooting Star, a quadcopter drone specifically designed for light shows that have been used by the likes of Disney World and the 2018 Winter Olympics opening ceremony. Since then Intel have launched the Shooting Star Mini drone to create indoor light shows.

## PARROT

Parrot is another player in the drone industry, often making it onto 'best drone' lists as solid options for budget or beginner fliers. Parrot was ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the US for drone market share in 2019 and has been in the market since 2009. Although they create drones that cover a range of categories, their Parrot Bebop 2 model is the most popular as it has a flight time of up to 25 minutes which in a cheaper model tends to be hard to come by.



More recently, the Parrot Anafi has also been increasing in popularity with special features like a 180 degree camera, enabling it to take photos facing straight up. Although the small size and camera features are convenient, the drone does not have obstacle avoidance built in, meaning it should be used by more experienced fliers.

## AUTEL

With 0.8% market share and ranking 8<sup>th</sup> in the top 10 drone manufacturers. US based company Autel Robotics is another company worth keeping an eye on. One of their more popular models is the 'Evo' which is a compact, foldable drone.

It's known for having stabled 4K video (with up to 60 fps), having a strong battery life, an obstacle detection system and can be worked with or without a smartphone. Some of the problems with the model however include it being difficult to access the memory card and not having as many safety features as other models.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SRz16aRbBzY>

## TEAL

A relative newcomer to the drone market, Teal was founded by teen entrepreneur George Matus in 2014. It has quickly become a key sUAS provider for Government and Commercial customers alike with its “all-American made” drone.

Teal’s latest system, the Golden Eagle is touted as versatile, secure, quiet, and includes onboard computing and a state of the art FLIR EO/IR payload.

It is one of [five drone manufacturers](#) with permission to sell to the U.S. military and federal agencies.

### Teal Drones - The Next Era of Flight



## SKYDIO

American drone manufacturer Skydio entered the market with a recreational drone assisted by autonomous flight technology called the Skydio 2 in 2014 and this year will launch its X2 drones for the commercial market.

Powered by proprietary tech, Skydio Autonomy™, each drone has six navigation cameras that feed into an autonomy engine that enables the drone to see and understand its surroundings, plan a path through them, and avoid obstacles in any direction.

Skydio also has solutions for 3D infrastructure scanning and house inspections. Skydio 3D Scan™ is the first of its kind general-purpose digital scan software for inspections of complex structures and locations and Skydio House Scan™ in partnership with Eagleview, it enables home insurance agents to automatically perform accurate inspection of residential homes safely.

It is also one of [five drone manufacturers](#) with permission to sell to the U.S. military and federal agencies.

### [Introducing Skydio X2™](#)



### Further Reading

<https://www.techradar.com/au/news/best-drones>

<https://dronerush.com/drone-manufacturers-9830/>