



Novatel's V4G LTE Mobile Hotspot MiFi 4510L for Verizon Wireless (\$269.99) is a lightning-fast way to get up to multiple Wi-Fi devices online, even when there's no wireless network in sight. With the 4510L, I was able to achieve double the [download speeds](#) and ten times the upload speeds, on average, than I get with my home Internet connection—which never struck me as particularly slow in the first place. While the 4510L isn't significantly speedier than Verizon's [Samsung 4G LTE Mobile Hotspot SCH-LC11](#) (\$269.99, 3.5 stars), it has a much better battery and signal strength indicator, and connects more reliably, making it our latest Editors' Choice hotspot.

### Physical Design and Data Plans

Measuring 2.4 by 3.7 by .5 inches (HWD) and weighing 3 ounces, the 4510L is little bulkier than the LC11, but not distractingly so. And unlike the LC11, the 4510L has an excellent e-ink external status display that clearly shows signal strength and battery life, as well as how many devices are connected to the hotspot using dots to represent each one. An easy-to-understand, multicolor LED status light is located on one side of the device to indicate connection status. There's a port for an external antenna on the other side of the hotspot, but there's no MicroSD card slot, so you can't use a memory card as a shared drive between connected devices.

You can connect the hotspot to a laptop via the included microUSB cable, but this will only charge the device; the hotspot won't transmit while it's connected via USB. Conveniently, you can connect the LC11 via USB and it will still transmit Wi-Fi [data](#) at the same time, so this is something to consider if you plan to charge your device via USB while using it. The 4510L can also be charged using the included microUSB wall charger, however, and it can transmit wireless data this way.

Though Verizon's [4G](#) LTE network is currently the fastest around, the carrier doesn't offer an unlimited or large-capacity data plan. You can get 5GB per month for \$50 or 10GB per month for \$80, plus \$10 per additional GB. This means you likely won't be able to use 4G to replace your current home Internet connection. If you [download](#) lots of movies or television, for instance, chances are you'll reach your monthly data cap sooner rather than later. To compare, Sprint's 4G WiMAX network has shown considerably slower speeds in our tests, but least there's no cap on the amount of data you can use per month.

# Specifications

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## Service Provider

Verizon Wireless

## Cellular Technology

CDMA 1X, LTE, EV-DO Rev 0, EV-DO Rev A

## Bands

800, 1900, 700

## 802.11x

Yes

## Mac Compatible

Yes

[More](#)

## Performance

The 4510L is extremely simple to use. After turning it on and waiting about 30 seconds for it to start up and connect to Verizon's network, all you have to do is connect to the 4510L as you would with any other wireless connection, and you're ready to go. It will automatically appear in your available wireless connections, and a password is provided in the materials that come with the device. A simple Web-based administration page can be accessed once you're up and running to modify the hotspot's settings. It includes everything from 802.11 b/g/n settings, MAC address filtering, port blocking and forwarding, and WPA2 encryption. An automatic shutdown option is the lone power-management feature.

I saw speeds peak around 20Mbps down and 7Mbps up, though on average, the results were about about the same as with the LC11. These speeds are blazing fast, and typical for Verizon's LTE network, but they are still a touch slower on average than the speeds I saw with our Editors' Choice [Pantech UML290](#) cellular modem (\$249.99, 4 stars). From what we know about Wi-Fi speeds this is typical, and many users won't mind the slight decrease in speed in exchange for the ability to connect multiple devices wirelessly.

While the 4510L offers more than 100 feet of range, performance takes a big hit once you start moving past the 50-foot mark. As with many other hotspots, it's best to stay within close range of the hotspot. In my tests, speeds dropped to around a tenth of what they were at 25 feet when I moved any further away than that.

Battery life is much better here than on the LC11. The 4510L was able to make it through 3 hours and 48 minutes of LTE streaming on a complete charge of its 1500 mAh battery. This still isn't as good as the solid 4-to-5 hours we've seen on hotspots on other networks, but it's an improvement.

The most significant difference between the 4510L and the LC11 is reliability. I tested the two hotspots streaming the same content at the same time. Twice during this test, the LC11 dropped connection momentarily, before resuming again about 20 seconds later. Though there are a number of reasons I would choose the 4510L over the LC11, this is the most significant.

## Comparisons and Conclusions

The Verizon Wireless 4G LTE Mobile Hotspot MiFi 4510L nails all the basics, and adds some extras, like the detailed battery and signal strength indicator. I wish there was a MicroSD card slot for data sharing and that wireless data

would transmit while connected via USB. Also, Verizon's capped data plans are pricey, and they prevent you from using this device as an alternative to your home Internet connection. Still, these issues don't negate the fact that the 4510L has better features and is more reliable than the Samsung LC11, and it's currently your best choice for a hotspot on Verizon Wireless, and thus our Editors' Choice.