

**NEW  
PIXELS**



# GOOGLE FOLDS

**G**oogle have joined Samsung in the folding phone category with a new Pixel dubbed imaginatively the Pixel Fold. Alongside the new folding phone is a new budget phone; the Pixel 7a and a new 11-inch Pixel tablet but more on those after this.

The smartphone market has been in decline for a few years now, with minor updates year on year and not helped by the various things going on in the world. Phones have also been getting more and more expensive, so it seems odd that major players in the market seem to think the way forward is to introduce phones that are even more expensive and the Pixel Fold is no exception coming in at an eye watering £1,749.00 and for the moment is not seeing a release in Australia!

The new phone features a 5.8-inch OLED display Always-on Display with a refresh rate of 120Hz and unfolds to reveal a 7.6-inch FULL HD+ display with a resolution of 2208x1840 (380ppi). HDR is of course supported with a peak brightness of 1,450 nits. The external screen is protected by Corning® Gorilla® Glass Victus whilst the internal screen features an 'Ultra-thin glass with protective plastic layer'.

Pixel Fold is powered by Google's Tensor G2 processor with Titan M2™ security coprocessor. The camera system has been redesigned to



fit into the slim body of the Fold and features a 48MP f/1.7 main camera with optical image stabilisation, and laser detect auto focus (LDAF). Alongside is a 10.8MP ultra-wide F/2.2 camera and 10.8MP f/3.05 telephoto camera with 5x optical zoom and 20x Super Res Zoom. On the front is a 9.5MP f/2.2 and there is also an internal 8MP f/2.0 camera. That's cameras everywhere! The rear camera can shoot video at 4K 30fps or 60fps whilst the outer front can shoot video at 4K 30/60fps. The inner front camera's video is limited to 1080p 30fps. Like all modern Pixel phones, Pixel Fold users will be able to take advantage of advanced camera features like Magic Eraser and Photo Unblur. Tabletop mode in Pixel fold also allows for a new palm gesture to trigger the shutter.

The Pixel Fold features IPX8 for water resistance and will feature Android 14 in the autumn featuring Dual screen interpreter that utilises both screens to translate live conversations.

Pixel Fold can be pre-ordered now and will launch at the end of June.

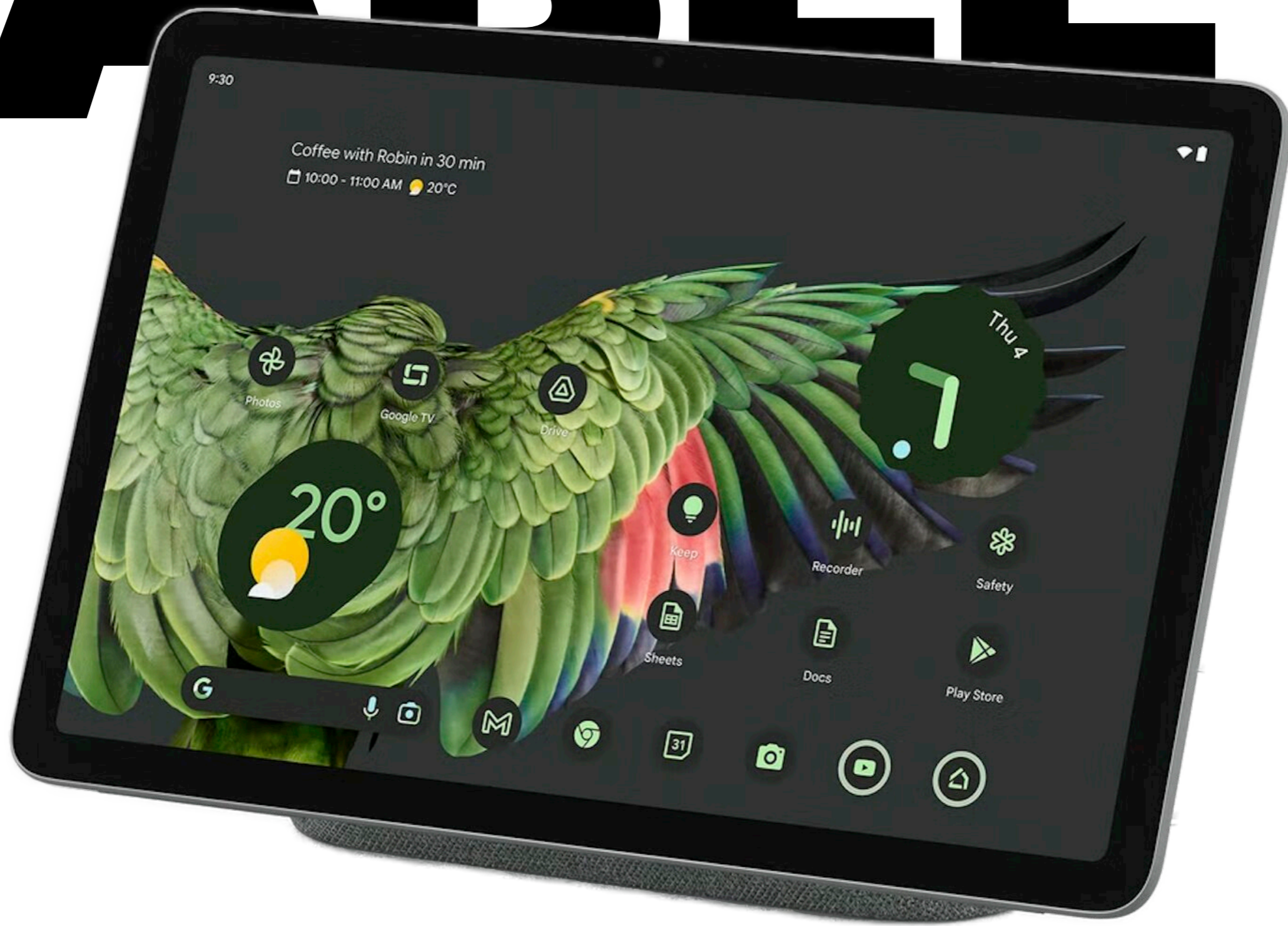


# TABLET

**A**lso announced was the new Pixel Tablet which Google have decided to bundle with a new speaker dock which has the tablet resemble one of their Nest Home Hubs.

The Pixel Tablet features a 10.95-inch LCD screen with a resolution of 2560x1600. The tablet will be powered by Google's own Tensor G2 processor and Titan M2 coprocessor, 8GB LPDDR5 RAM and choices of 128 or 256GB storage. Onboard is a quad speaker array which is becoming quite common on tablets nowadays. There is also an array of three microphone with noise suppression for clear voice and video calls.

The tablet features both front and rear 8MP f/2.0 cameras that are able to make use of



Google's camera features like Magic Eraser, Photo Unblur. And video at 1080p 30fps for video calls and recording.

Pixel Tablet attaches magnetically to the Charging Speaker Dock and switches to 'Hub' mode when connected. Google state it features four times the bass as the tablets speaker's and provides room filling sound, although initial write ups states it's not really any better than the Nest Home Hubs we have now. So, yes it can fill the room, but don't expect it to replace your existing hifi system! This is the first tablet with Chromecast built-in so users can cast videos or music straight from their phones to the tablet when in Hub mode.

The new Pixel Tablet is available to pre-order now starting at £599.00/AU\$899.00.

The final announcement is Google's new budget smartphone; the Pixel 7a.

The 7a like all new devices outlined here is powered by the Tensor G2 processor and Titan M2 security coprocessor with 8GB LPDDR5 and 128GB of storage.

It features a 6.1-inch FHD+ OLED display with a resolution of 1080x2400 (429ppi). The display has a refresh rate of up to 90Hz and is protected by Corning's® Gorilla® Glass 3 and even supports Always-on display, At a Glance and Now playing. Bearing in mind this is a budget phone but unlike most phones at this price point Google have built-in a 64MP f/1.89 aperture wide camera and 13MP f/2.2 ultra-wide camera with both featuring optical and electronic image stabilisation. Around the front is a 13MP f/2.2 ultra-wide camera. The 7a has not been limited in its features and can make use of Google Eraser, Photo Unblur and more. Both rear and front cameras can shoot video at 4K 30fps with the rear capable of 60fps. Google is promising all-day battery life with up to 72 hours of battery life using the Extreme Battery Saver mode and promising 5 years of pixel updates.

The new Pixel 7a will be available in four colours; Sea, Charcoal, Snow and Google store exclusive, Coral. It's available to buy now for £449.00/AU\$749.00.



# ON TOUR



**M**ove over AirPods, there's a new kid in town. What you will notice immediately is that the new wireless earbuds feature a screen on their charging case. A first for this market but most likely something that will become a trend.

The screen is 1.45-inch and actually serves multiple purposes. Calls can be answered or declined, sound modes can be tailored; choose between movie, music or game modes. A feature called SilentNow disconnects Bluetooth and enables ANC to create a 'silent bubble' to get some rest. The duration can be set and an alarm to mark the end of your rest time. Messages can be managed from the case with notifications highlighted on the small screen and these can be tailored further with the option to see just a notification or a preview of the message onscreen. There is a Find my Buds feature that when activated prompts a loud sound from the buds. The earbuds ANC and ambient sound settings can also be controlled directly from the case. Finally, of course, music can be played, skipped and paused directly from the case.

The earbud's noise cancelling utilises four of the onboard

mics to adjust to surroundings and can be further adjusted in the JBL Headphones app. Ambient sound can be controlled more precisely from the app boosting them by 15-20dB even allowing for adjust the L/R balance. Six onboard mics allow for better voice calls in difficult weather conditions and a feature called VoiceAware allows your voice to be heard through the earbuds and how much comes through can be controlled by the user.

Battery life comes in at 10 hours of bluetooth playback with 30 hours extra in the charging case or 8+24 with ANC enabled. A quick 15 minute charge can provide 4 hours of life in a pinch.

The headphones are available in two colours, silver or black and cost £249.99/AU\$329.96.

**F**ujifilm have just held their May 2023 X-Summit where they announced the new X-S20 APS-C camera, a range of new accessories, a new app and the long awaited firmware updates for the X-H2 and X-T5.

The X-S20 is a camera that sits in between the old and the new featuring the brand new X-Processor 5 that came with the X-H2S, X-H2 and X-T5, but with the older 26.1MP X-Trans CMOS 4 sensor from cameras like the X-T4, or X-Pro 3. This combination of the older sensor and reduced power consumption of X-Processor 5, along with the high capacity NP-W235 battery has allowed the X-S20 to achieve a 750 shot CIPA standard rating. During the course of the X-Summit, the host set himself a target of a 1000 shots as he stated CIPA tend to take a variety of settings into account like using a camera's in-built flash (the X-S20 does have a built-in flash). By the end of the event the host was able to take over 1000 shots with one bar of battery life left. Long story, short, battery life on the X-S20 is very good!

As well as the reduced power consumption mentioned before, X-Processor 5 also adds AI processing technology and support for the HEIF image format. FujiFilm have equipped the X-S20 with 7.0 stop 5-axis of in-body stabilisation up from the 6.0 stops on the X-S10. The viewfinder looks to be the same 2.36m dot EVF as before but the 3.0-inch LCD screen features a higher 1.86m dot resolution. Video is also improved on the X-S20 which can shoot up to 6.2K 30 in F-Log 2. There is also a new Vlog modes which gives access to six of the most frequently used features by vloggers. Accompanying the



video mode features are two new accessories: the TG-BT1 is a selfie stick with remote controls which can even be used away from the camera. There is also the FAN-001 to keep the camera cool for video shooting as CMOS sensors traditionally run quite hot!

Alongside the announcement of the X-S20 was the introduction of the new X-App. Camera apps outside of Leica's Fotos app and perhaps Sony's app have generally been terrible and FujiFilm are trying their best to improve things for their cameras. Despite some initial hiccups, the X-App is able to detect cameras with greater accuracy. The app features a number of features beyond just being a remote control or transfer of photos. Geotagging info is sent to the app every 10 seconds with the 'Timeline' and 'Activity' functions. 'Timeline' highlights users activities in chronological order styled like a diary and if location data is synchronised shooting will be highlighted on a map. The 'Activity' tab collates all of your photographic activities providing an overview of everything across various cameras.

Finally, FujiFilm announced the long awaited autofocus firmware update for the X-H2 and X-T5. This was launched last year for the X-H2S but has taken a little longer for the 40MP cameras. It is now here, and has vastly improved the autofocus of Fuji's top of the range X-series models. They are now more resistant to changes in the speed of moving subjects and the 'Enhanced Subject Detection' can now recognise more subjects with insects and drones being added to the list.

The X-S20 is available to pre-order now and launches in June starting at £1,249.00/ AU\$2,349.00.



**L**eica's long anticipated new compact camera has been released and feature wise it is a very worthy successor to the Q2 model.

The most obvious difference when looking at the camera is the addition of Leica's first ever tilt screen. A feature that they have been resistant to until now. Early reports suggest the screen perhaps sticks out a little too much but is the sturdiest out there. Some Leica fans believe it takes too much away from the Q-series design language, but anything that is going to make the shooting experience better is likely more important for the majority.

The Q3 gains a modified version of the BSI 60MP triple resolution sensor from the M11, allowing for shooting at 60, 36, or 18 megapixels with the lower resolutions allowing for a little more dynamic range. It also features the Maestro III processor so performance will be snappy. The built-in 28mm F/1.7 is the same lens and actually just seems to get better with each generation of Q. In fact, based on some recently discovered MTF charts it actually performs better than the more expensive Summilux-M 28mm f/1.4. People tend to say that when you buy a Q you get the camera for free but with these latest revelations, there may be something in this!

Besides the sensor, processor and tilt screen, Leica have added a bunch of other features and improvements. Autofocus has been improved with Phase Detect auto focus. Until now, Leica have only used Contrast Detect AF in their cameras which is not as effective and something other manufacturers moved away from some time ago. It's good to see Leica catching up in this regard. The EVF has been improved dramatically and is now 5.76m dots like the current

SL series cameras and the rear LCD's resolution has also been increased to 1.86m dots. Like the M11, the Q3 supports USB-C charging.

The Q3 is the first ever camera to feature wireless charging, but there are some caveats. Firstly, in order to make use of the feature Leica's optional handgrip accessory is required which costs £170/AU\$390. The second thing required is either Leica's own Drop XL wireless charging pad (which costs more money) or a wireless charging pad that can output 10w. A great additional feature (and surely a sign of things to come for cameras) but the added cost seems unnecessary.

The Q2 featured crop modes in camera of 35mm, 50mm and 75mm. The Q3 adds in a 90mm option. These crop modes function like a digital zoom, so quality does drop and when imported the picture is uploaded as the cropped version, but unlike other brands where this would be the whole file, Leica preserve the entire RAW file leaving the user free to play around with the crop or revert to the original 28mm focal length of the picture. However, the increased resolution of the Q3 has made the 35 and 50mm modes particularly useful. The 35mm crop still produces a 38.6mp picture with the 50mm dropping to a very respectable 18.9mp. The 75mm and 90mm drop to 8.4mp and 5.8mp respectively.

High ISO shooting is improved over the Q2 by about 1.5 stops with the Q3 being far more usable at 12,500 ISO and even 25,000 (in B&W) than the previous model.

The Q3 is available to order now retailing at £5,300.00/ AU\$9,790.00. There are also more accessories than ever before that come in a variety of colours and finishes, including brass!