

FINALLY



Apple has finally done the thing we've all been wondering about for years: it has folded the iPhone in half. Meet iPhone Duo, Apple's first foldable iPhone, and perhaps the most dramatic rethink of the smartphone since the original iPhone arrived and convinced us that buttons were terribly old-fashioned.

At first glance, iPhone Duo looks like a remarkably slim phone. Open it up, though, and things get rather more interesting. The 7.6-inch inner display gives you a sizeable canvas for films, games, photos and multitasking, while a special nano-texture finish helps cut down glare and reflections. Apple says it's the thinnest iPhone ever when opened, which should make slipping it into a pocket considerably less dramatic than carrying around what is essentially a small tablet.

Close it up and you get a 5.4-inch outer display, providing 90 per cent of the screen area found on the iPhone 18 Pro. Both displays use the same aspect ratio, meaning content scales proportionally between them. In other words, you can start something on the outside, open the phone up and carry on without everything suddenly looking like it has been put through a funhouse mirror.

The folding mechanism itself is clearly something Apple has taken very seriously. The precision hinge contains more than 100 components and has been designed to provide a smooth, reassuring action every time you open and close the device. There are internal support ribs, ceramic-fibre antenna inserts and a titanium plate beneath the inner display, while the phone itself uses

grade 5 titanium. Ceramic Shield protects the rear, with Ceramic Shield 2 on the front offering three times better scratch resistance than the previous generation. The whole thing is also IP68-rated for splash, water and dust resistance.

Naturally, a foldable iPhone needs some clever tricks to justify its existence, and Apple has plenty. The camera system includes a 48MP Fusion Main camera with zero shutter lag, optical-quality 2x zoom and sensor-shift optical image stabilisation, alongside a 48MP Fusion Ultra Wide camera with macro photography. There's also a Center Stage front camera that can automatically frame photos and videos in any orientation, so landscape selfies no longer require the awkward dance of turning your phone sideways.

Then things get properly playful. Smart Take uses on-device AI to recognise when everyone is ready and automatically captures the shot, potentially putting an end to the classic "sorry, I blinked" routine. Duo Preview puts the camera viewfinder on the outer display, allowing subjects to check their pose and framing, while Kid Cue can play Peanuts animations to persuade younger subjects to actually look at the camera. Apple has even added Duo FaceTime, allowing people gathered around the phone to join a call via the outer display.

Video enthusiasts haven't been forgotten either. The main camera can record 4K at 120fps in Dolby Vision, while Cinematic effects can now be applied after recording at up to 60fps. There's also an upgraded Audio Mix, 4K Dolby Vision HDR time-lapse and the ability to prop the phone up for longer recordings

DUO





without reaching for a tripod.

iOS 27 has been redesigned to make the most of all this folding real estate without throwing away the familiar iPhone experience. Menus and controls move to the sides to leave more vertical space for content, while the open phone can display two Home Screen pages alongside Today View. The Dynamic Island has also been redesigned to work vertically on both displays.

The real party trick, however, could be multitasking. Split View finally allows two apps to sit side by side on an iPhone, while users can run two windows of the same app, quickly swap between applications and save pairs of apps for later. You can even chat with Siri AI on one side while keeping an eye on whatever you're doing on the other. Suddenly, that enormous inner screen starts to make rather a lot of sense.

Underneath it all sits Apple's new A20 Pro chip, the same silicon powering the iPhone 18 Pro models. Apple claims sustained performance is up to 35 per cent better than the iPhone 17 Pro, with a six-core CPU that is up to 20 per cent faster than A19 Pro and a seven-core GPU that is up to 40 per cent faster and more power efficient. There's also a dual 16-core Neural Engine, offering twice the compute power for on-device AI.

Keeping all that hardware cool is a custom vapour chamber, while a dual-battery architecture places a high-energy battery on each side of the phone. Apple says this provides up to 31 hours of video playback using the inner display, or up to 44 hours using the outer screen. Use both displays equally and you can expect up

to 24 hours of usage per charge. Fast charging can take the battery to 50 per cent in around 20 minutes, while wireless charging can achieve the same in around 30 minutes using MagSafe or Qi2.

Apple has also gone all-in on eSIM, with iPhone Duo using an eSIM-only design worldwide. That frees up valuable internal space for the battery, while providing compatibility with hundreds of carriers.

And because no new iPhone is complete without a small mountain of accessories, Apple has introduced an iPhone Duo Folio with an integrated kickstand, plus a slim two-part iPhone Duo Case. Both support MagSafe and Qi2 25W charging.

Available in Star White and Night Sky, iPhone Duo certainly represents a huge departure from the familiar iPhone formula. It's a phone, a mini tablet, a rather elaborate selfie assistant and, occasionally, a stand for your next FaceTime call. Pre-orders open on Friday 16 October, with the first devices arriving on Friday 23 October.

After years of increasingly incremental smartphone upgrades, Apple has finally given us an iPhone that quite literally has a new trick up its sleeve. And yes, that pun was absolutely intended.

Then there's the price. Many feared it would be worse than it is considering the ongoing 'RAMageddon' crisis, which is still pushing tech prices to the highest they have ever been but Apple have not gone too crazy considering. iPhone Duo starts £1,999.00/AU\$3,499.00 and can be configured with up to 2TB of storage. There the pricing gets a bit crazy!

Apple's latest Pro iPhones have arrived, and the iPhone 18 Pro and iPhone 18 Pro Max are bringing some properly substantial upgrades to the bits we actually care about: cameras, performance, battery life and, naturally, an ever-growing dose of AI.

The biggest photographic change is arguably the most intriguing. The new 48MP Fusion Main camera introduces a variable aperture to the iPhone for the first time, using six tiny laser-cut blades to move between four aperture settings. It can automatically adjust depending on the lighting and depth of field, or you can take control yourself. That means more creative flexibility when shooting everything from portraits to low-light scenes, without needing to pretend you understand every setting on a dedicated camera.

Apple has also added Pro controls to the Camera app, allowing users to manually adjust aperture, shutter speed and white balance, while a histogram provides a handy way to keep an eye on exposure. Upgraded Photographic Styles bring new texture and grain controls, giving photographers more ways to put their own stamp on an image.

Video gets a boost too. Cinematic effects can now be added after recording to footage shot at up to 60fps, while Time-lapse supports 4K Dolby Vision HDR. Audio Mix has also been improved, with new algorithms designed to produce clearer voices and isolate music. In other words, your next holiday video could look suspiciously professional. Apple is also tackling the

increasingly tricky question of whether the photo you're looking at is actually what happened. Apple Reference Image uses signed sensor data to create an unalterable reference image, allowing users to compare it with the original in Photos. Combined with image metadata and upcoming SynthID support, it gives photographers and viewers more tools for identifying images that have been altered or generated by AI.

Under the bonnet, A20 Pro provides plenty of muscle. Built using a 2-nanometre process, it has 50 per cent more memory bandwidth than A19 Pro, while its seven-core GPU is up to 40 per cent faster. A new Dual 16-core Neural Engine doubles AI processing power, while a redesigned vapour chamber with three times the surface area helps keep everything running cooler. Apple claims up to a 40 per cent improvement in sustained performance.

Battery life gets a sizeable bump too, with up to 36 hours of video playback on iPhone 18 Pro and 45 hours on Pro Max. The Pro can reach 50 per cent charge in around 15 minutes, while five minutes of charging on the Pro Max can deliver around seven hours of video playback.

And yes, AI is everywhere. Siri AI can understand personal context, recognise what's on screen and take action, while Apple Intelligence adds smarter photo editing and useful features such as Safari's Notify Me.

Available in black, silver, glacier and new burgundy, the iPhone 18 Pro starts at £1,199.00/ AU\$2,099.00, or £1,299.00/ AU\$2,299.00 for the Pro Max version of the phone.





Apple has decided that its most affordable AirPods deserve a serious dose of cleverness, introducing AirPods 5 with Active Noise Cancellation, improved sound and a collection of smart features that make these little open-ear earbuds considerably more capable than their £119.00/AU\$219.00 price tag might suggest.

The headline act is undoubtedly Active Noise Cancellation. Apple says AirPods 5 can remove up to 50 per cent more external noise than AirPods 4 with ANC, making them better equipped for everything from noisy train journeys and busy offices to flights where the person behind you has apparently decided everyone needs to hear their conversation. This is thanks to a new multiport acoustic architecture, paired with improved computational audio algorithms. Inspired by the technology in AirPods Pro 3, the new design works alongside next-generation Adaptive EQ to deliver richer, more detailed sound across a wider range of ear shapes. Personalised Spatial Audio also makes listening more immersive and dynamic, helping create the impression that your music is surrounding you rather than simply being piped into your ears.

But Apple hasn't forgotten about the outside world. AirPods 5 feature an improved Transparency mode that makes nearby voices and environmental sounds feel more natural. Adaptive Audio cleverly blends Transparency and ANC depending on your surroundings, while Conversation Awareness

automatically lowers your media volume when you start speaking. Handy when someone approaches you at work and you'd rather not perform the traditional 'remove one AirPod and say pardon?' routine.

There's plenty of intelligence here, too. When paired with an Apple Intelligence-supported iPhone, AirPods 5 can tap into Siri AI, which is rolling out in beta with iOS 27. Siri can understand personal context across messages, emails, photos and more, meaning you can ask it to play a song a friend recommended in a message or navigate to a restaurant using a reservation hidden somewhere in your inbox. Things get even more futuristic with Siri Interactions, which let you respond to Siri simply by nodding your head or shaking it. Yes, your AirPods now understand head gestures. Apple is also bringing Live Translation to the entire AirPods range. Once configured in the Translate app, users can hear translated conversations in their preferred language, helping make cross-language conversations a little less intimidating.

For £139.00/AU\$249.00, AirPods 5 with Wireless Charging Case add improved battery life and volume control via a swipe on the stem. ANC playback reaches up to five hours, with up to 22 hours when combined with the case. The case also supports Apple Watch chargers, Qi-compatible charging and USB-C.

With improved dust, sweat and water resistance thrown in, AirPods 5 look like a remarkably capable entry point into Apple's increasingly clever audio ecosystem.

Apple has unveiled Apple Watch Ultra 4, and once again it seems the company has decided that a smartwatch shouldn't merely tell you the time. The latest Ultra is being positioned as Apple's ultimate sports and adventure watch, but this time there's considerably more going on beneath that chunky titanium exterior.

At the heart of the upgrade is Apple's new Health Sensing System and S11 chip, which together promise the most accurate heart rate sensing in a wearable. The watch now checks heart rate every five seconds throughout the day, while heart rate variability measurements are taken up to 24 times more frequently. That means Ultra 4 can build a much more detailed picture of what's happening inside you, whether you're training hard or simply trying to survive Monday morning.

Perhaps the most interesting addition is Readiness, which takes recent activity, training load, sleep and vital signs and turns them into a simple score from 0 to 10. The idea is refreshingly straightforward: should you go for it, pace yourself or perhaps admit defeat and recover on the sofa? The score updates throughout the day as new information comes in, giving athletes a useful snapshot of how prepared they are for whatever is next.

Battery life gets a substantial boost too. Apple Watch Ultra 4 can now last up to 50 hours in normal use, or up to 84 hours in Low Power Mode. A quick 15-minute charge can provide up to 18 hours of additional battery life, while Extended Workout

mode offers up to 25 hours of tracking with full GPS and heart rate readings. For serious endurance adventures, Max Extended Workout mode stretches that to an impressive 45 hours, with GPS readings every second. GPS accuracy gets an upgrade, as does step tracking, with a redesigned pedometer using machine learning and the S11 chip to improve distance and step measurements. There's even a new Steps complication, because apparently knowing exactly how many steps you've taken is now something we all need permanently displayed on our wrists.

Then things get rather futuristic. Later this year, Apple's new Audio Intelligence features will bring some clever listening capabilities to Ultra 4. Sound Recognition can alert deaf or hard-of-hearing users to sounds such as alarms, sirens, doorbells and a crying baby, even when their iPhone isn't nearby.

Live Rewind can show the previous 15 seconds of a conversation as a text snippet, while Siri Recap can create a brief summary of a conversation for later. Shazam also gets a wrist-based upgrade, identifying music playing nearby and displaying the artist and track.

Importantly, Apple says these features are designed around privacy. Audio isn't recorded or stored, with processing handled in an isolated part of the S11 chip before the raw audio is immediately deleted.

Available in natural or black titanium, Apple Watch Ultra 4 is available now starting at £649.00/AU\$1349.00. Whether you're running 100 miles or merely running late, your wrist is ready.





Apple has unveiled the Apple Watch Series 12, and while it still looks very much like the smartwatch we've come to know, there's a lot more going on beneath the surface. With a new Health Sensing System, Apple's latest S11 chip and a fresh batch of health and intelligence features, the Series 12 wants to be less of a gadget on your wrist and more of a personal health companion.

The headline upgrade is the new Health Sensing System, which combines redesigned optical and electrical heart sensors with the S11 chip. Apple says it delivers its most accurate heart-rate sensing yet in a wearable, based on a study of more than 1,000 participants comparing Apple Watch with leading competitors.

The watch can now measure your heart rate every five seconds throughout the day, while heart-rate variability gets a serious boost too, with measurements taken up to 24 times more frequently. That data feeds into a new Readiness feature, which might just save you from making questionable decisions about that early-morning workout.

Readiness analyses recent activity, training load, sleep and vital signs before giving you a score from 0 to 10, along with some fairly straightforward advice: Recover, Pace Yourself, Ready or Go For It. The score can also change during the day as new information arrives, meaning your watch can react if you suddenly decide that a gentle stroll wasn't enough and launch into an unexpectedly heroic gym session.

Apple is also expanding its health tracking with daytime

vitals, more detailed overnight measurements and improved step counting. A redesigned pedometer system uses machine learning to make indoor walking and running distances more accurate, while a new Steps complication puts your progress right on the watch face.

Then there's the clever stuff. The S11 chip is powering a new collection of Audio Intelligence features arriving later this year. Sound Recognition can identify important sounds such as sirens, alarms and doorbells, while Live Rewind can turn the previous 15 seconds of a conversation into text if you've just realised you weren't quite paying attention. Siri Recap can also provide a brief summary of conversations, giving you a handy reminder without requiring a full transcript.

Apple says privacy remains central to these features, with audio processed using the S11 chip's Secure Exclave and immediately deleted rather than recorded or stored. Battery life remains at up to 24 hours, but outdoor workouts can now run for up to 10 hours, while just 15 minutes of charging can provide up to 12 hours of additional battery life.

And, naturally, there are plenty of ways to make the Series 12 your own. Available in 42mm and 46mm sizes, it comes in new aluminium, titanium and ceramic finishes, alongside a colourful collection of new bands.

Apple Watch Series 12 is available to order now starting at £369.00/AU\$649.00. for aluminium, and £649.00/AU\$1249.00 for Titanium. Your wrist, it seems, is about to become considerably more observant.

For years, Siri has often fallen short of the competition. While rival assistants have become

increasingly capable at understanding context, answering complex questions and getting things done across apps, Apple's digital assistant has sometimes felt more like a glorified voice-controlled timer. That looks set to change, with Apple unveiling the next generation of Apple Intelligence and a completely reimagined Siri AI.

Siri AI is designed to be far more conversational, personal and capable. It can understand personal context, recognise what's happening on your screen, draw on broad world knowledge and take actions across apps. In short, Apple wants Siri to finally feel like an assistant rather than someone you occasionally ask what the weather is doing.

The biggest change is how Siri can connect the dots between different parts of your digital life. Ask what a family member suggested doing during an upcoming visit and Siri can search your messages, find the relevant conversation, pull a recipe from an old email and add the ingredients to your Reminders grocery list. That's a rather more impressive trick than setting a kitchen timer.

Siri AI is also becoming much friendlier with third-party apps. You can already use Siri to send messages through WhatsApp or play a book in Audible, with support coming for tasks such as drafting an email in Microsoft Outlook, finding an assignment in Notability or saving a restaurant recommendation in Tripsy.

Onscreen awareness adds

another useful layer. While browsing your favourite sports team's website, for example, you can ask Siri to find upcoming home games and add them to your calendar. Visual Intelligence also lets Siri understand what you're looking at. Point your iPhone at a music festival poster and Siri can identify the relevant details before creating calendar events for the performances you want to attend.

Apple is giving Siri its own dedicated app, too, with conversation history privately synced through iCloud. That means you can start a conversation on your iPhone and continue it on your Mac, iPad, Apple Watch or Vision Pro. Siri's voice is becoming more expressive, while improved dictation promises to turn natural speech into cleaner, better-formatted text.

Apple Intelligence is spreading well beyond Siri. Photos gets smarter editing tools including Spatial Reframing, Extend and an improved Clean Up feature, while Image Playground can now create photorealistic images. Safari can organise tabs by topic and notify you about product restocks or price drops, while Mail, Messages, Calendar and Shortcuts all gain new AI-powered abilities. Behind the scenes, Apple's latest Foundation Models run both on-device and through Private Cloud Compute, with the company continuing to put privacy at the centre of its AI architecture.

Siri AI beta rollout in English is available now, with French, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese and Spanish arriving next month. After years of Siri playing catch-up, Apple is finally giving its assistant the AI overhaul it arguably needed all along.

