



The watch on your wrist has never been so useful, as demonstrated by our pick of 2021's best smartwatches (Samsung's Galaxy Watch4 Classic shown)

It's been another bumper year for smartwatches, with manufacturers improving the technology that drives them while cramming in more features and better sensors. Here's our pick of the best smartwatches of 2021.

The Apple [Watch 6](#) topped our list of the [best smartwatches for 2020](#) , and continued to attract high praise from industry pundits and consumers alike during much of this year. Until [Series 7](#) launched in September.

Quite simply, if you have an iPhone in your pocket then this is the smartwatch for you.

There are no headline-grabbing tech updates here, but Apple has significantly improved the display, which now offers almost 20 percent more screen area than the Series before, and the always-on Retina display is a lot brighter too.

The Watch 7 runs the latest version of the company's operating system for improved tracking metrics, new workout types, better fall detection, a new Mindfulness app, some new watch faces, and enhancements to the Messages and Photos apps.

The crystal up top is reported 50 percent thicker than before, for more resistance to cracking, and the smartwatch is sealed to IP6X standards, keeping dust out and allowing users to wear it while swimming. And though it has the same 18-hour battery as before, a new charging architecture makes for 33 percent faster charging.

If the operating system running on your smartphone leans to Android, then the latest Galaxy Watch is a sound choice – particularly as it runs the latest version of Google's Wear OS, which has been co-developed with Samsung instead of the latter company's own Tizen platform like its [predecessor](#) .

The smartwatch benefits from MIL-STD-810G durability, comes with a 20 percent faster processor, a more powerful GPU, and a 50 percent increase in RAM. Display resolution for the circular Super AMOLED screen is up too, at 450 x 450 pixels, but only the Classic variant has a rotating bezel for faster scrolling. The regular Watch4 offers a touch area around the screen instead.

Elsewhere, wearers can control the user experience with Bixby voice or gestures, Google apps can be had along with Galaxy services, eSIM tech means users can leave their handset at home, and up to 40 hours of per-charge battery life can be had, with a 30-minute quick charge giving up to 10 hours of use.

It can of course track a bunch of health metrics while active or during slumber, with Samsung employing a 3-in-1 BioActive sensor that uses a single chip to run three health sensors for monitoring of blood pressure, looking for irregular heartbeat, measuring blood oxygen levels and calculating body composition (including such things as body fat percentage, body water, basal metabolic rate and skeletal muscle). And the smartwatch can even connect with a compatible Samsung Smart TV to display metrics on the big screen.

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