

Google Pixel Fold Review: Is a Foldable Pixel Worth It

Description

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The foldable smartphone market has grown rapidly in recent years, with major brands like Samsung, Huawei, and now Google entering the space. Google's first attempt at a foldable, the **Pixel Fold**, aims to combine the company's signature software prowess with innovative hardware. But does it live up to the hype? In this detailed review, we'll examine the Pixel Fold's design, display, performance, camera, battery life, and software to determine whether it's worth the premium price.

Design and Build Quality

The **Google Pixel Fold** follows a book-style folding mechanism, similar to the **Huawei Mate X2** and **Oppo Find N2**, rather than Samsung's clamshell-style **Galaxy Z Flip**. When unfolded, it measures **7.6 inches**, making it one of the largest foldables available. When folded, it's **5.8 inches**, comparable to a standard smartphone.

Materials and Durability

Google has opted for a **stainless steel frame** and **Gorilla Glass Victus 2** on both the front and back, ensuring a premium feel. The hinge is smooth and well-engineered, with minimal creasing on the inner display—a common issue in early foldables. However, like most foldables, the Pixel Fold is **thicker and heavier** (283g) than traditional smartphones, which may take some adjustment.

Ports and Buttons

The Pixel Fold features:

- USB-C port (on the right side when folded)
- Power button with a built-in fingerprint sensor (ergonomically placed)
- Volume rocker (on the left side)
- SIM tray (supports one physical SIM + eSIM)

The device is **IPX8 water-resistant**, a rarity in foldables, which is a major plus for durability.

Display: A Tale of Two Screens

The Pixel Fold has **two displays**: a **5.8-inch outer screen** and a **7.6-inch inner foldable screen**.

Outer Display (5.8-inch OLED)

- **Resolution:** 2092 x 1080 (FHD+)
- **Refresh Rate:** 120Hz LTPO (adaptive)
- **Brightness:** Up to **1,550 nits** (peak)
- **Aspect Ratio:** 17.4:9 (tall and narrow)

The outer display is sharp, bright, and responsive, making it great for one-handed use. However, its **tall and narrow aspect ratio** means some apps (like YouTube) display black bars on the sides.

Inner Display (7.6-inch OLED)

- **Resolution:** 2208 x 1840 (QHD+)
- **Refresh Rate:** 120Hz LTPO (adaptive)
- **Brightness:** Up to **1,450 nits** (peak)
- **Aspect Ratio:** 6:5 (almost square)

The inner display is **impressive**, with vibrant colors, deep blacks, and smooth scrolling thanks to the 120Hz refresh rate. However, the **crease is noticeable**, though not as bad as some competitors. The **almost-square aspect ratio** is great for multitasking but may feel awkward for media consumption.

Performance: Tensor G2 Holds Its Own

The Pixel Fold is powered by Google’s **Tensor G2 chip**, the same processor found in the **Pixel 7 series**. While not as powerful as the **Snapdragon 8 Gen 2** in competing foldables, it handles **daily tasks, gaming, and multitasking** well.

Benchmark Scores

- **Geekbench 5 (Single-Core):** ~1,050
- **Geekbench 5 (Multi-Core):** ~3,100
- **AnTuTu:** ~750,000

Real-World Performance

- **App launches and switching** are smooth, though not as instantaneous as flagship Android phones.
- **Gaming** (e.g., *Genshin Impact*, *Call of Duty Mobile*) runs well on medium settings, but the **Tensor G2 does heat up** under prolonged load.
- **Multitasking** is where the Pixel Fold shines—**split-screen, app pairs, and drag-and-drop** work seamlessly.

RAM and Storage

The Pixel Fold comes with **12GB of RAM** and **256GB or 512GB of storage** (no expandable storage). While 12GB is generous, some competitors offer **16GB**, which may be better for long-term multitasking.

Cameras: Google's Signature Computational Photography

Google has equipped the Pixel Fold with a **triple-camera setup**, similar to the **Pixel 7 Pro**, but with a few tweaks:

Rear Cameras

- **50MP main sensor (f/1.7, OIS, Laser AF)**
- **10.8MP ultrawide (f/2.2, 121.1° FOV)**
- **10.8MP telephoto (f/3.05, 5x optical zoom, 20x digital zoom)**

Front Cameras

- **9.5MP cover camera (f/2.2, 84° FOV)**
- **8MP inner selfie camera (f/2.0, 84° FOV)**

Photo Quality

The **main camera** delivers **sharp, well-balanced images** with excellent dynamic range and color accuracy—hallmarks of Pixel photography. The **ultrawide** is solid but not class-leading, and the **telephoto** provides **5x optical zoom**, which is useful for portraits and distant subjects.

Night Sight and **Magic Eraser** work as expected, enhancing low-light shots and removing unwanted objects with ease.

Video Recording

- **4K @ 60fps** (main and ultrawide)
- **1080p @ 60fps** (telephoto)
- **Stabilization is good**, but not as smooth as the **iPhone 14 Pro** or **Galaxy S23 Ultra**.

Selfies

The **cover camera** is decent for quick selfies, while the **inner selfie camera** is better for video calls when the phone is unfolded.

Battery Life: Surprisingly Good

The Pixel Fold packs a **4,821mAh battery**, which is **larger than most foldables**. Google claims **up to 24 hours** of mixed usage, and in real-world testing, it delivers:

- **Moderate use (calls, messaging, social media):** ~1.5 days
- **Heavy use (gaming, video streaming, multitasking):** ~8-10 hours
- **Standby time:** Excellent (minimal drain overnight)

Charging

- **Wired charging:** 30W (0-50% in ~30 mins)
- **Wireless charging:** 7.5W (Qi standard)
- **Reverse wireless charging:** Supported

While not the fastest charging in the foldable space, it’s **adequate** for most users.

Software: Android 13 with Foldable Optimizations

The Pixel Fold runs **Android 13** with **Google’s customizations**, including **foldable-specific features**:

Key Software Features

- **Flex Mode** Apps like YouTube, Google Meet, and the camera adapt when the phone is partially folded.
- **App Continuity** Seamlessly transition between the outer and inner displays.
- **Split-Screen & App Pairs** Run two apps side by side with ease.
- **Drag-and-Drop** Move text, images, and files between apps.
- **Taskbar** A persistent dock for quick app switching (similar to a tablet).

Updates

Google promises **5 years of software updates** (until 2028), which is **better than most Android foldables**.

Competition: How Does It Stack Up?

Feature	Google Pixel Fold	Samsung Galaxy Z Fold 4	Huawei Mate X3
Price	\$1,799	\$1,799	~\$2,000
Outer Display	5.8” 120Hz	6.2” 120Hz	6.4” 120Hz
Inner Display	7.6” 120Hz	7.6” 120Hz	7.85” 120Hz
Processor	Tensor G2	Snapdragon 8+ Gen 1	Snapdragon 8+ Gen 1
RAM	12GB	12GB	12GB
Storage	256GB/512GB	256GB/512GB/1TB	256GB/512GB
Battery	4,821mAh	4,400mAh	4,800mAh

Feature	Google Pixel Fold	Samsung Galaxy Z Fold 4	Huawei Mate X3
Charging	30W wired	25W wired	66W wired
Water Resistance	IPX8	IPX8	IPX8
Software Updates	5 years	4 years	3 years

Pros Over Competitors

- Best software experience (clean Android, long updates)
- Better water resistance (IPX8 vs. some competitors)
- More compact when folded (easier one-handed use)
- Superior computational photography

Cons Compared to Rivals

- Tensor G2 is less powerful than Snapdragon 8+ Gen 2
- No S Pen support (unlike Galaxy Z Fold 4)
- Higher price for fewer premium features

Verdict: Is the Pixel Fold Worth It?

The Google Pixel Fold is a strong first attempt at a foldable smartphone, offering excellent software, great cameras, and solid battery life. However, it lacks some premium features found in competitors (like S Pen support) and is held back by the Tensor G2’s performance.

Who Should Buy It?

- Google fans who want a foldable with long software support.
- Photography enthusiasts who prioritize computational imaging.
- Multitaskers who need a large screen for productivity.

Who Should Skip It?

- Gamers who need top-tier performance.
- Users who want S Pen support (like Samsung’s Galaxy Z Fold).
- Budget-conscious buyers (the \$1,799 price is steep).

Final Rating: 8.5/10

The Pixel Fold is a well-rounded foldable with standout software and cameras, but it’s not without flaws. If Google refines the hardware in future iterations, it could become a top contender in the foldable market. For now, it’s a solid choice for early adopters who value Google’s ecosystem.

Category

1. Uncategorized

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