

The Smartwatches of CES 2014

Written by Marco Attard
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Wherever you went within the cavernous halls of CES 2014 one word showed up with at times distressing regularity-- "wearables," most times in reference to any number of announcements of smartwatch-style devices taking place at the show.

Even [Intel caught the wearable electronics bug](#) , presenting a miniature computer called Edison perfect for powering smartwatches, as well as smart earbuds and smart baby onesies. However, for the sake of brevity this feature will only cover smartwatches, meaning we won't talk of app-connected fitness trackers such as the Razer Nabu, LG Lifeband and Misfit Wearables' Shine sensor. Sorry, fellas!

The first CES surprise is a high-end update on Kickstarter success Pebble. The show saw the nicer-looking Pebble Steel, replete with stainless steel and Gorilla Glass construction. The Steel ships with leather and metal straps and features an anti-fingerprint coating and an RGB LED to indicate charging status.

Internally it remains identical to the original, plastic Pebble and is compatible with all apps currently available for the device. Likewise it still requires connection to a smartphone to be of any use (beyond overpriced timepiece, at least).

Another high-end smartwatch seen at CES is the MetaWatch Meta. Designed by ex-Vertu designer Frank Nuovo, the Meta features a dual-hinge strap that supposedly "flows" around the wrist, a higher-contrast display and sensors from MetaWatch partner Memsic.

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[Samsung Gear S](#) is a smartwatch that can be used as a standalone device or as a companion to a smartphone. It features a 1.2-inch Super AMOLED display and a 32GB of storage. The watch is powered by a 1.4GHz processor and has a battery life of up to 3 days. It also features a heart rate monitor and a GPS sensor.