

Kickstarting a Pebble Sequel

Written by Marco Attard
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Pebble Technology returns to Kickstarter to crowdfund and/or open preorders for its next generation smartwatch-- the Pebble Time, an update featuring a colour ePaper display, microphone and a revamped "timeline" user interface.



Like the first Pebble, the Pebble Time features four physical buttons and requires connection to a smartphone (via Bluetooth LE) for actual usability. However it replaces the monochrome ePaper display with a 64-colour version, while the stainless steel body is slimmer and slightly curved to hug the wrist better.

Battery life clocks at around 7 days, making it superior to just about every other alternative on the market.

A built-in microphone does not handle voice controls, but simply allows for the dictation of voice responses to incoming notifications. Straps come in standard 22mm form, and an accessory port allows the creation of smart straps connected to the watch.

As mentioned earlier the UI also sees change with timeline-- essentially the organisation of notifications, reminders, events and news in chronological order, from "Past" to "Future." Users can also pin widgets to the "Present" using what Pebble calls App Faces.

The Pebble Time ships from May 2015, meaning it will go head-to-head against the biggest of smartwatches, the Apple Watch. Will a longer lasting battery and tougher design make it a crowdfunded David to the Cupertino Goliath?

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