

Foldables Showdown: Galaxy Z Fold 7 Vs. China's Best – Who's Really Winning?

Foldables aren't new anymore – they're evolving. As the Galaxy Z Fold 7 makes its debut with refined hardware and more productivity-focused features, a different kind of competition is heating up. Chinese manufacturers like Honor, Oppo and Xiaomi are no longer just catching up; in some cases, they're outpacing Samsung in design, innovation and value.

While Samsung continues to dominate the global foldable market, it's clear that the race is far from over. If you're wondering which foldable deserves your attention in 2025, this side-by-side look at the Z Fold 7 and its fiercest Chinese challengers breaks down the differences that matter.

Galaxy Z Fold 7: Samsung doubles down on refinement

[Samsung's Galaxy Z Fold 7](#) doesn't reinvent the form factor – but that's by design. Instead, it focuses on refinement. The chassis is thinner and lighter, the hinge is more robust and the crease is finally less visible. Inside, it's powered by the Snapdragon 8 Gen 4 processor, paired with up to 16GB of RAM and a more efficient cooling system. The battery has been slightly increased and the outer display is now wider, giving the device a more phone-like feel when folded.

Software is a major selling point. Samsung's foldable-optimized version of One UI is now more fluid, with better support for multitasking, floating apps and taskbar pinning. There's a new split-screen app launcher that remembers preferred combinations and stylus support is now embedded in the hinge itself – no more carrying an S Pen separately.

The Z Fold 7 is the most polished version of Samsung's foldable vision so far. But is that enough in a world where Chinese brands are experimenting faster and pricing more aggressively?

Honor Magic V3: Slimmer, lighter and better looking?

The [Honor Magic V3](#) is grabbing attention for being the world's slimmest inward-folding phone – and it's not just a gimmick. At under 10mm thick when folded, it feels significantly less bulky than the Z Fold 7. The device also weighs less, thanks to Honor's use of aerospace-grade titanium and a new teardrop hinge that reduces visible creasing and adds durability.

Where it really shines is in the external display. The cover screen is practically edge-to-edge, with a 21:9 aspect ratio that feels natural in the hand. Inside, the foldable display offers near-perfect color accuracy and brightness levels that compete directly with Samsung's Dynamic AMOLED 2X panel.

Honor's software, [MagicOS](#), is growing more capable, now supporting floating windows and split-screen multitasking. While it still lacks the polish of Samsung's UI, it gets the job done – and at a lower price.

Oppo Find N3: The small foldable that packs a punch

[Oppo's Find N3](#) takes a different approach by being more compact overall. It's designed for users who want a foldable without the bulk and its shorter, wider form factor makes it easier to use with one hand. The outer screen is functional without feeling cramped and the inner display opens up into a nearly square workspace that's ideal for reading, note-taking or sketching.

One of its standout features is the hinge design. It uses fewer parts and fewer visible seams, making it both more durable and less prone to dust ingress. The crease is also impressively subtle – arguably even less noticeable than Samsung's.

Performance-wise, it matches the [Z Fold 7's specs](#) in most areas, with the same flagship Snapdragon chip, high refresh rate display and strong camera hardware. And yet, it costs several hundred dollars less, depending on the region.

Xiaomi Mix Fold 4: Powerhouse with a productivity focus

[Xiaomi's Mix Fold 4](#) is a spec monster. It features an even larger internal display than the Z Fold 7, a sharper 5K-resolution screen and a laptop-style multitasking interface. It includes a desktop-style taskbar, window snapping and even a virtual touchpad mode – aimed squarely at business users who might otherwise consider a tablet or 2-in-1 PC.

It also has a strong camera setup, including a periscope zoom lens and Leica image tuning. In many tests, it outperforms Samsung in both daylight and low-light conditions. And with fast wired and wireless charging, the Mix Fold 4 manages to beat Samsung on convenience too.

The main caveat? Availability. Xiaomi's foldables are still primarily aimed at the Chinese market and global support, including warranty, updates and Google integration, can be spotty depending on where you live.

Hardware comparison at a glance

When you line them up, here's how the Z Fold 7 compares to its biggest challengers:

- **Design:** Honor Magic V3 wins on slimness and aesthetics
- **Durability:** Oppo's hinge engineering makes it a quiet contender
- **Display:** Xiaomi's resolution and refresh rates take the crown
- **Cameras:** Xiaomi and Oppo edge out Samsung on imaging flexibility
- **Software:** Samsung still leads with its polished One UI ecosystem
- **Global support:** Samsung remains the safest bet for updates and services

- **Value:** Chinese brands offer similar (or better) specs at lower prices

So, who's really leading the foldable race?

In pure market share, Samsung still holds the top spot – but not because it's innovating faster. In fact, many of the most exciting foldable features in 2025 are coming out of China: slimmer profiles, better hinge tech and desktop-like interfaces. The Z Fold 7 is an excellent foldable phone, but it now feels like a safe play – refined, reliable and expensive.

By contrast, Honor, [Oppo and Xiaomi](#) are pushing boundaries in form factor, usability and price. The only major hurdle for these brands is global availability. While Honor and Oppo are making strides in markets like Europe and Southeast Asia, their presence in the U.S. remains limited or nonexistent. That leaves Samsung as the default choice for many American buyers, even if it's no longer the most exciting one.

Should you buy the Galaxy Z Fold 7?

If you value reliability, polished software and full ecosystem support, the Z Fold 7 is still the most complete foldable available internationally. Its app continuity, stylus features and warranty backing make it a solid investment. But if you're open to importing, or if you live in a market where Chinese foldables are supported, you'll likely get better design and performance per dollar elsewhere.

Foldables are maturing quickly. And while Samsung helped create the category, it may no longer define the future of it. For now, the smartest move is to compare carefully, consider your region's support landscape and decide whether you want a foldable that plays it safe – or one that pushes limits.