

Apple Watch Series 11 2025 – TechRadar Review

[Techradar online \(16.09.25\)](#) - 4/5

Fazit: Punkten können die gesteigerte Akkulaufzeit sowie das robuste Display. Das Betriebssystem funktioniert einwandfrei und ergänzt neue Gesundheitsfunktionen. Allerdings gibt es keine signifikanten Leistungssteigerungen.

The [Apple Watch](#) Series 11 looks a lot like the [Apple Watch Series 10](#) – both have the same rounded-square design and come in 42mm and 46mm sizes, and both are just 9.7mm thick, making them the thinnest Apple Watches you can buy. You still get two speakers on the left, the Digital Crown and side button on the right, and ample water and sweat resistance.

The big highlight here is the display: an Always-On Retina LTPO3 [OLED](#) that drops down to 1Hz, peaks at 2,000 nits for visibility in direct sunlight, and is protected by Ion-X glass that's twice as scratch-resistant as the Series 10.

On the software side, [watchOS 26](#) refreshes the interface with Liquid Glass elements and the new Flow watch face, while an updated Photos watch face maybe steals the show. With the latest watchOS, you get Notes on your wrist, and call screening makes it easy to dodge spam. Additionally, gestures build on the familiar Double Tap with a new [Wrist Flick](#) that lets you go back a step with – you've guessed it – a flick of your wrist.

Health tracking is as comprehensive as ever, with heart-rate alerts, ECG; wrist temperature, respiratory rate and cycle tracking, and hearing health, plus two additions. [Hypertension Notifications](#), FDA-approved in the US and rolling out to more than 150 countries, use the optical sensor and Apple's algorithm to flag possible high blood pressure. You will, of course, want to see a doctor for a proper diagnosis if you get an alert.

Sleep Score finally turns your sleep tracking data into something easily digestible, giving you a 0–100 rating with color-coded factors, and even retroactively scoring past nights. And [blood oxygen tracking is back in the US](#) after an August 2025 update.

Performance is powered by the same chip as the Series 10. Inside the Series 11 is the S10 chip with a dual-core CPU, GPU, and 4-core Neural Engine. In testing, both Apple apps and third-party ones like [Flighty](#), Tesla, and Carrot Weather opened quickly and ran smoothly.

The bigger story is battery life: battery capacity is up 9% on the 42mm model and 11% on the 46mm. Apple rates both models for 24 hours of typical use and up to 38 hours in Low Power Mode. In practice, I pulled my 46mm review device off the charger at 54% one night, slept with tracking enabled, and didn't hit 1% until after 5pm the next day – so I got about 17 hours from half a charge. With light use, a full day and a half is very realistic.

A new 5G antenna for the LTE models makes using internet services faster when you're away from your iPhone. And the onboard mics continue to impress – even during a noisy, sold-out exhibition baseball game at Yankee Stadium, calls came through clearly, with the person on the other end hearing me well.

The Series 11 isn't a radical redesign, but between the refined durability, new health features, and the much-needed battery gains, it feels like the most capable and balanced Apple Watch yet.

That said, if you're rocking a Series 10, you likely don't need an upgrade unless you're eager for better battery life. Those coming from an older Apple Watch, like an SE or a Series 8 or earlier, will see a

bigger difference in performance – although the new Apple Watch SE 3 is equally compelling in this respect.

Apple Watch Series 11: Specifications

Component	Apple Watch Series 11
Price	From \$399 / £369 / AU\$679
Dimensions	42mm x 36mm x 9.7mm (42mm), 46mm x 39mm x 9.7mm (46mm)
Weight	30.3g (42mm); 37.8g (46mm)
Case/Bezel	Aluminum with a metal back or Titanium (100% recycled)
Display	Always-on Retina LTPO3 display Wide-angle OLED at 374 by 446 (42mm) 416 by 496 (46mm). Ion-X scratch-resistant
GPS	L1 GPS, GNSS, Galileo, and BeiDou
Battery Life	24 hours, 38 hours in Low Power Mode
Connection	Bluetooth 5.3, Wi-Fi, second-generation ultra-wideband chip, and 5G (Optional)
Water Resistance	WR50 and IP7X

Apple Watch Series 11: Price and availability

- **\$399 / £369 / AU\$679 for the 42mm**
- **\$429 / £399 / AU\$699 for the 46mm**
- **Cellular costs extra**

The Apple Watch Series 11 42mm with Wi-Fi and Bluetooth connectivity starts at \$399 / £369 / AU\$679 for the entry-level aluminum finish. That's the same price as the Series 10 in the US, and a price cut if you're in the UK; however, there's a slight increase for Australia. The larger 46mm model with the same connectivity, also in aluminum, starts at \$429 / £399 / AU\$699 – that's the same price as last year in the US and Australia, while again UK gets a price cut.

Cellular connectivity, which now includes 5G access, will cost you a bit more. For instance, in the United States, the Series 11 is \$100 more in either size, plus the cost of a monthly plan. The Apple Watch Series 11 in aluminum comes in a new Space Gray finish as well as Jet Black, Rose Gold, and Silver, and in Slate, Gold, or Natural Polished Titanium finishes.

The Apple Watch Series 11 is up for order now in the US, UK, Australia, and beyond, with an official launch date of September 19, 2025.

Apple Watch Series 11: Design

Ultra-thin build with improved durability

All your existing bands and chargers will work here

watchOS 26 refreshes the design

Other than the new colors for the aluminum and titanium finishes, the Apple Watch Series 11 is pretty much indistinguishable from the Apple Watch Series 10. Placing my 46mm Series 11 review device next to a Series 10 I see an identical rounded-square Apple Watch, aside from the updated paint job; this year, my testing unit is in Space Gray, whereas last year's was in Jet Black.

The overall similarities here aren't necessarily a negative. Apple, now 11 years into the Apple Watch, seems set on this look for the core of its smartwatch lineup, and it's refining the formula rather than reinventing it. I also really liked the changes the Series 10 ushered in over the Series 9 last year – mainly thinning out the overall build and sloping the screen down the edges – so I'm very happy that Series 11 retains those.

Both the 46mm and 42mm models are just 9.7mm thick, meaning they barely protrude from your wrist and remain the thinnest Apple Watches yet; there were times when I forgot it was even there during my seven days of testing.

Just like the Series 10, the Series 11 measures 42 x 36 x 9.7mm for the smaller 42mm size, and 46 x 39 x 9.7mm for the 46mm size. Both models weigh ever so slightly more than the previous generation, but you'd be hard pressed to feel it on your wrist in daily use.

You still have two speakers on the left-hand side, with the Digital Crown and main button on the right. It's all very familiar to anyone who's used an Apple Watch before, and easy enough to get the hang of if you haven't.

Furthermore, while other smartwatch makers have experimented with different types of band attachments, Apple is sticking with what it's used since the original Apple Watch. That's great news if you already have a collection of bands, or if you're adding new ones. I'm especially fond of the new Nike Run Sport Loops; they're comfy and fit well.

As well as sticking with the ultra-low profile, this year's Apple Watch also keeps the excellent display that its predecessor introduced. It's an always-on Retina LTPO3 wide-angle OLED display – that's a lot of tech jargon, but the gist is vibrant colors, deep contrast, and the ability for the refresh rate to drop to as low as a 1Hz. This means that watch faces like Flux and Reflections still update subtly in always-on mode.

The screen also gets plenty bright – up to 2,000 nits – for use in direct sunlight or under harsh artificial lighting, and the Ion-X glass layer is now twice as scratch-resistant as before. Considering the entire front of the watch is all screen, it's a welcome improvement in durability, and it complements the WR50 and IP7X sweat and water resistance ratings, unchanged from the Series 10.

While the internals have been re-engineered, the outer build is mostly the same, extending to the rear. Here, you'll find the main sensor stack, which protrudes slightly. A slightly different colored line around the rim denotes the antenna stack if you opt for a cellular Apple Watch Series 11.

As a whole, the Apple Watch Series 11 design is familiar, but still feels modern alongside other flagship smartwatches. It complements a variety of styles while still offering the smooth, fluid response you'd expect, and a large enough touchscreen to make watchOS 26 easy to navigate. Those wanting something entirely different may want to look to the Apple Watch Ultra 3, or wait for a future redesign.

Apple Watch Series 11: Features

- **The new Glow watch face is engaging and shows off Liquid Glass well**
- **watchOS 26 is filled with new features, including an useful new gesture**
- **Sleep Score is a long-awaited arrival that's executed perfectly**

Out of the box, the Apple Watch Series 11 runs watchOS 26 – a packed update that brings a fresh look to the core interface. And yes, Liquid Glass is finally on your wrist. You'll see this in subtle navigation elements that are now translucent, as well as in watch faces.

The Photos face now lets you place numerals for time or complications above the image, giving a better sense of depth. However, the new Flow watch face might be the purest form of Liquid Glass on the Series 11 – or any Apple Watch. Think bubble-glass numerals with a lava-lamp-like liquid flowing behind them. True to Apple Watch form, you can customize these by color and typeface.

It's a really fun addition, and joins more than a dozen built-in faces. watchOS 26 also brings the Notes app to your wrist, which I've found handy for jotting down quick thoughts or referencing notes created on iPhone, iPad, or Mac. Call screening also comes to your wrist, especially helpful with a cellular plan, letting you see if it's spam before answering.

The Series 11 also supports gestures like Double Tap, which lets you control navigation with a pinch between your forefinger and thumb – invaluable, in my opinion. The new Wrist Flick gesture, which lets you flick the watch backward to go back a step, is even handier for one-handed use.

Thanks to the sensor array and new software, the Series 11 covers all the expected health features: heart-rate tracking and alerts, ECG, wrist temperature, respiratory rate, cycle tracking, and hearing health.

A major new addition this year is Hypertension Notifications. Also available on the Series 9, Series 10, Ultra 2 and Ultra 3), this feature can alert you to possible hypertension – high blood pressure – over a rolling day. In the US, it's FDA-approved as of September 15, 2025, and will be available in over 150 countries.

Hypertension Notifications use the optical heart-rate sensor to analyze pulse signals and morphology through Apple's algorithm, validated by internal and external studies. If it detects signs of possible hypertension, you'll get a notification – but of course you should still see a doctor to get checked out.

Sleep Score is another welcome new feature. The Apple Watch has long tracked sleep, but has never presented the data in a digestible way. Now, you'll wake to a score from 0 to 100, rated from Very Low to Excellent. A color-coded ring breaks down bedtime, duration, and interruptions. It's much more actionable, in line with devices like the Galaxy Watch, Whoop, and Oura Ring.

Best of all, Apple retroactively assigns a Sleep Score to your past tracked nights, making it easier to spot trends. Like Hypertension Notifications, it's also available on other models that support watchOS 26.

Blood oxygen tracking also returns in the US, after its August 2025 reinstatement. The Series 11 (and other supported models) can once again take blood oxygen readings, with results viewable in the Health app.

Just like the Series 10, the Series 11 features redesigned speakers, with dozens of precision holes forming two grilles on the left side. They sound similar to the Series 10 – passable for a song or voice memo.

The real standout is the onboard microphones, which still pick up your voice clearly even in noisy environments – at a noisy Yankee Stadium, my brother on the other end of a call could hear me without issue.

Apple Watch Series 11: Performance

- **Finally, a larger battery inside an Apple Watch**
- **The Series 11 can last for up to 24 hours and supports fast-charging**
- **It's the same S10 chip as the previous generation, but feels responsive**

No, the processor here isn't new, but the bigger battery is. Both the 42mm and 46mm models now pack larger batteries – about 9% bigger on the 42mm, 11% on the 46mm. Apple claims this extends the runtime from 18 hours to 24 hours with regular use, and up to 38 hours in Low Power Mode.

So how does it perform? On Sunday night, I picked it up from the charger at 54%, wore it through sleep tracking, woke up with 42% left, and it didn't hit 1% until after 5pm following a full day of use. That's about 17 hours from half a charge.

It's much closer to 24 hours overall, depending on usage, and stretches further than any previous Apple Watch Series (or SE). With the Series 11, I can often push to a day and a half, or use fast charging to top up quickly.

Beyond the bigger battery, the LTPO display helps conserve energy by dynamically adjusting brightness and refresh rate. During workouts, metrics update quickly, while in always-on mode, updates slow down to save power.

The S10 chip is still plenty powerful, with its dual-core CPU, GPU, and 4-core Neural Engine. Apps – both first-party (Notes, Photos, Maps, Mail) and third-party (Flighty, Tesla, Parcel, Carrot Weather) – all opened quickly and ran smoothly.

Battery efficiency on the LTE model also benefits from the new 5G antenna, which ensures fast performance as carriers phase out 4G. Messaging, app data, and calls all felt as quick as when paired to an iPhone. You can spot the antenna band on the underside.

The biggest difference generation over generation is endurance. With the Series 10, you needed to recharge before bed or in the morning if using sleep tracking. The Series 11 stretches that to a day and a half, which makes a real difference in daily use.

It still runs watchOS 26 swiftly and keeps up with competitors, while continuing to expand health and activity tracking. And with the return of blood oxygen monitoring in the US, it feels even more complete.

Performance is excellent – not night and day better than the Series 10, but the addition of a larger battery is a game changer.

Buy if: You have an older Apple Watch

If you've been waiting to upgrade until Apple rolled out longer battery life, for blood oxygen tracking to return in the US, or until your watch slowed down, now's a great time get a new one

Don't buy it if...

You have an Apple Watch Series 10: Considering most of the new features are also coming to the Series 10 – Sleep Score, watchOS 26, and Hypertension Notifications – you're likely good to skip this year

You don't need all the health features: The Apple Watch SE 3 is a lot cheaper and offers almost all of the same features aside from ECG, Hypertension, and Sleep Apnea, in a slightly bulkier build with an always-on display.