

# TOP 5

## Things the Apple Watch Series 2 Does Incredibly Well

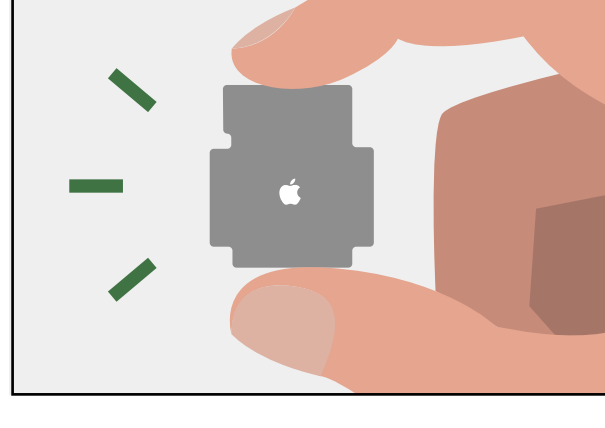
The Apple Watch Series 2 has been on the market for a few months now. After a while of practical use, it's usually a better time to assess whether or not the **Apple Watch Series 2 is worth your money.**

Our short answer? It is, particularly if you're into a **workout watch**. There are significant upgrades to performance and capabilities that open the door to the athletic device market. Read below and see if you think our list of **top-five Apple Watch Series 2 features** is good enough for you.

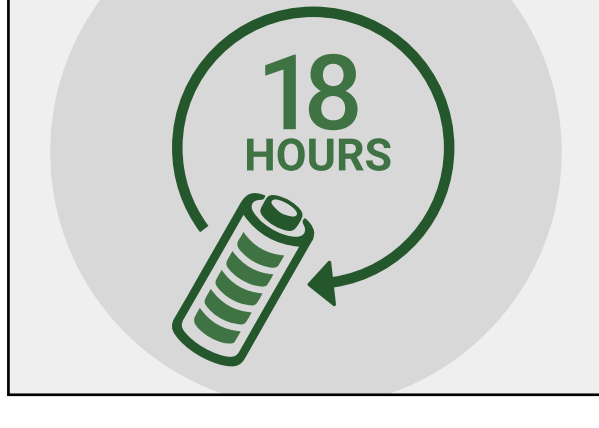


### Better Performance

We've all upgraded our smartphone, laptop, or tablet at some point with this problem: it supported the latest and greatest software but sucked the battery dry. An upgrade to the latest technology should mean that **both functionality and performance are optimized**. Fortunately, the Apple Watch Series 2 is extremely successful in both of these areas.



When it comes to speed, the Series 2 is **fast**. The technical specifications come down to Apple's S2 chip -- a dual-core CPU and GPU that's twice as fast as Series 1. The result is an increase in performance that Apple claims is up to **50% faster than the Series 1**.



The easy way to sum it up is that **battery life is better than your Series 1 watch**, and that's not just because the physical hardware has less historical usage drain on it. The battery itself is larger, so the battery life is listed up to **18 hours**.

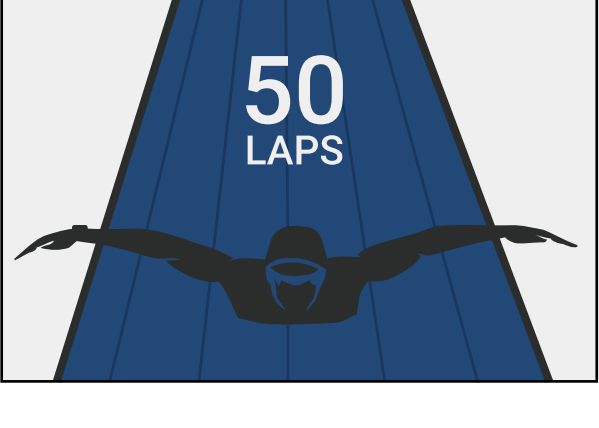


### Swimming

The previous Apple Watch was water resistant -- washing hands, playing at the beach, getting through the rain, that sort of thing was no big deal. With the Series 2, however, we're looking at resistance upon full immersion -- **up to 50 meters of immersion**.



Apple's team has created a mechanism for flushing out remaining water in the watch's body by using the **speaker's vibrations**. It's an ingenious technique, and by all accounts, it actually works quite well.

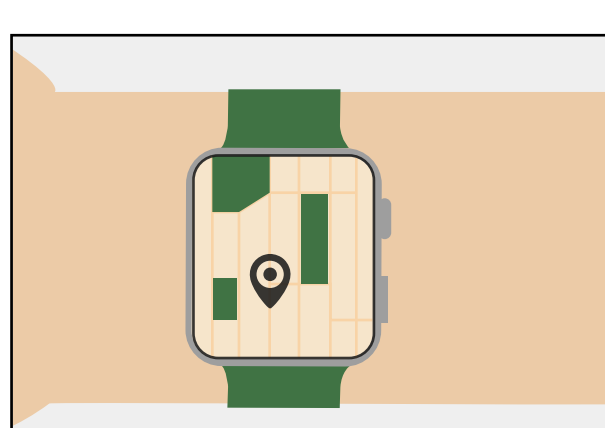


Series 2 comes with **two different swim workout apps**. These can be used to do calculate distance, detect stroke style, even totaling your workout calorie burn. If you're swimming laps at a pool, you can even set the pool's length for an accurate lap count.



### Built-in GPS

The Apple Watch was a great first step in many ways, though it's clear that runners missed one particular feature: **a built-in GPS**. The Apple Watch always had to sync up with the user's iPhone, meaning you could never just pick up and go.



Apple has listened to all of the runners out there and **provided the Apple Watch now with a built-in GPS**. All device GPS's tend to vary in accuracy, so how well they reflect your actual workout is dependent upon your hardware and the time of workout you partake in.



The GPS worked quite well when you kept a steady pace, but if you stopped or varied your pace by walking a bit, its accuracy was affected. However, perhaps the more expert perspective is from the folks at **Runner's World, who gave it high praise**.



### Visuals & Interface

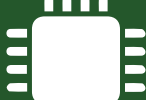
Performance and battery life mean nothing if your screen is difficult to see or your interface is difficult to use. The Apple Watch Series 2 improves on its last iteration in both ways.



The Series 2 offers brighter hardware for its screen (**up to 1,000 nits of luminance**). Brighter is better, especially considering you'll be wearing this outside a lot.

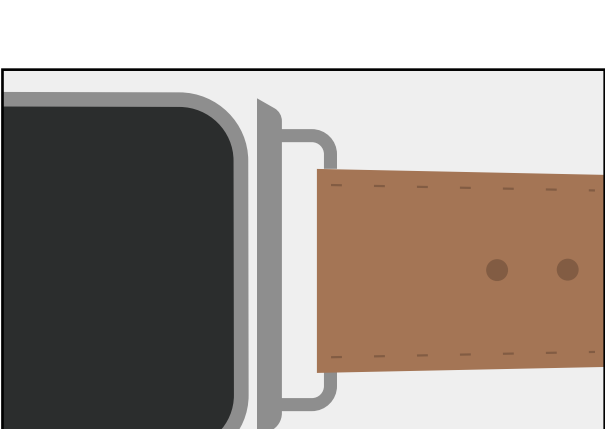


The Series 2 side button opens up a new Dock view, which offers auto-refreshed recent apps, giving you an at-a-glance view that **saves you time and effort**.

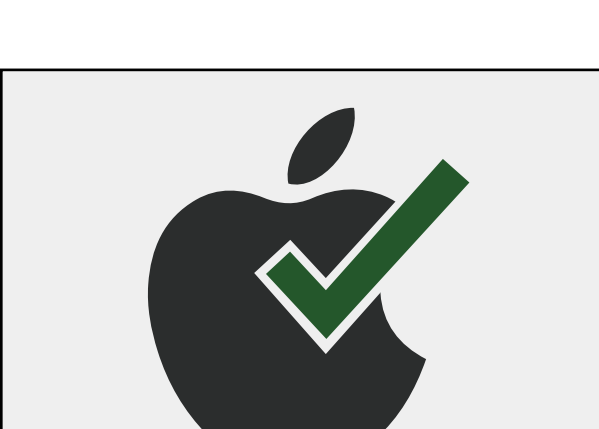


### Hardware & Software Backwards Compatibility

The Apple Watch's **quick-release functionality** makes it easy to switch bands. That makes the Apple Watch an ideal combination of style and functionality in just about any situation.



The Apple Watch Series 2 is **completely backwards compatible with watch bands**. Apple also provided **backwards compatibility from the software side**.



An upgrade to the new Series 2 means that all of your **hardware and software will remain in use**.

## The Verdict



Despite some drawbacks, the Apple Watch Series 2 delivers in many of the areas that the initial product launched. For those that rely on a smart device for their workouts, the Apple Watch Series 2 is a **significant improvement** and a **must-have** for weekend warriors in training.

