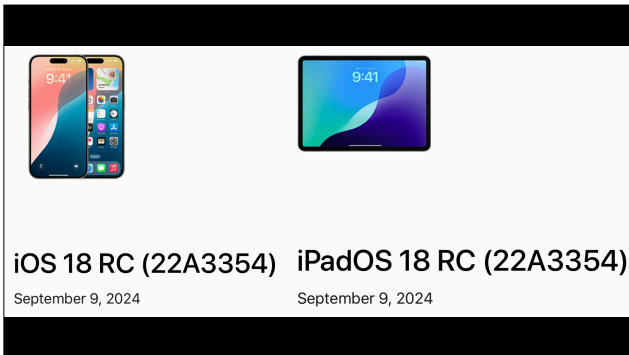


Monday September 9th was the “iPhone” Apple Event, and the beta software drop of the Release Candidates for all of the operating systems coming from Apple next week.



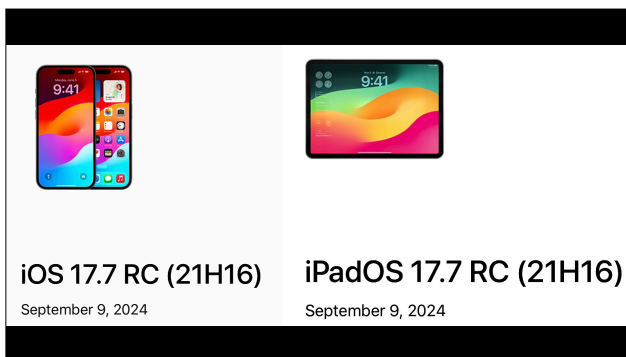
On Monday September 9th, along with it's Apple Event, Apple showed its Release Candidate versions of all of the new Operating Systems as Betas, available to developers.



These are all expected to be released this coming Monday, September 16th.



These will even include software updates for hardware which got no new gear this time around.



And at the same time, we expect to see a new release of iOS and iPadOS 17.7 with bug fixes and security patches, but none of the new features of version 18. iPad and iPhone users will be allowed to get their bug fixes and security updates without having to jump to the new version for several months. In recent years, Apple has offered the older version track for devices which cannot be updated, but also as a choice for people who simply may not want to make the leap to a new version yet.



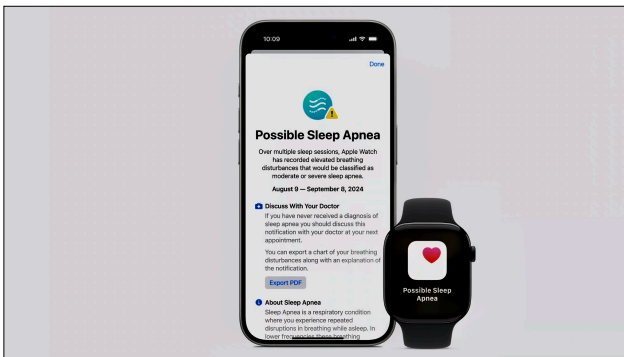
Now to the Apple Event. The usual gang was back to take their turns introducing Apple's shiny new toys.



First up was the new **Apple Watch** — starting with the **Apple Watch Series 10**, which will come with **watchOS 11** installed. The Watch 10 will be one millimeter larger in screen size than the previous series 9, and roughly 1mm thinner. That's the main difference other than a renumbered chipset to indicate it's the next version.



Apple keeps introducing health goodies to the Watch, and this time they are adding a big one...



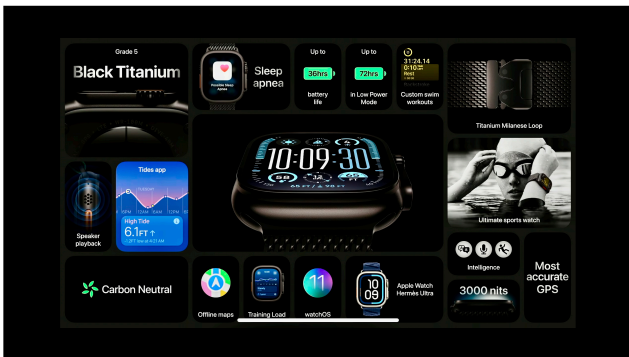
Sleep Apnea detection is being added to the sleep tracking. Note that is is not a hardware change, it's a software addition that will be appear in **watchOS 11** sometime this Fall, possibly after the initial release. When it is added via a software update, it will also be implemented with that same update for **Apple Watch Series 9**, so you don't need to buy a new Series 10 watch (if you have last year's watch) to get this.



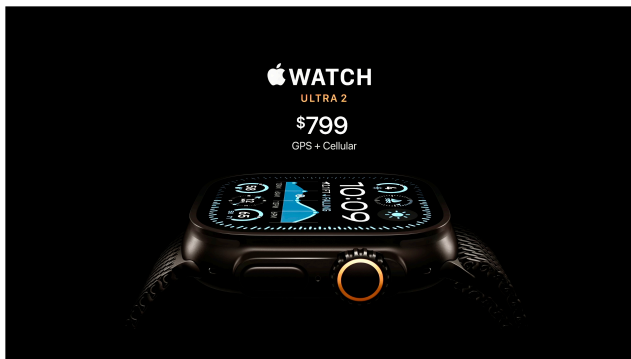
Watch Series 10 will also get a depth gauge for snorkeling and shallow diving, less than 5 feet. This shallow depth gauge feature is limited to the Series 10 hardware.



The Watch 10 will be priced at the same prices as last year's Series 9. There will also be a seriously overpriced Hermès version of the 10. This year there is no new Ultra-sized watch.



The Watch Ultra 2 is getting a new titanium color option, but no change to it's hardware at all.



The Ultra remains a few hundred dollars more than the 10, though it is not longer the largest screen, just more features for people into serious physical activities. The larger of the 2 new Watch 10 sizes actually has a larger viewable area of screen than the Ultra 2.



Here's the new large Watch 10 compared to the Ultra 2; the 10 is a fraction of a MM larger. 10 has a thinner bezel so it doesn't look as big as the Ultra unless you view their screens side by side.



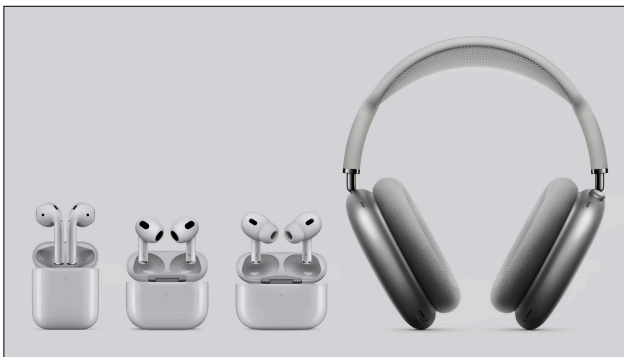
Here's a Series 6 compared to the new Series 10, which has a significantly larger viewable area, though thinner bezels reduce the amount of increase in physical size of the overall device.



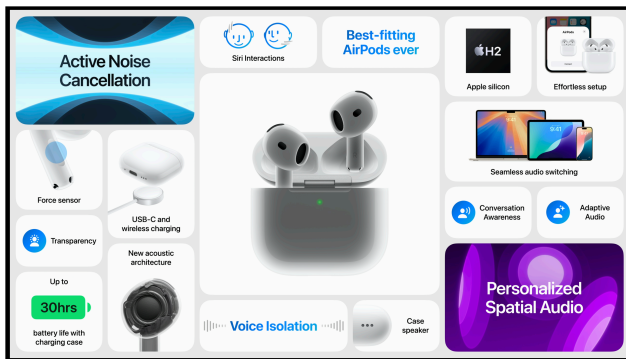
So the new lineup of watches is the Apple Watch 10 starting at \$399, the Ultra 2 from last year at \$799 with one additional color option which is more expensive, and the less expensive Watch SE at \$279 — which lacks some of the health features of the other two and has no hardware upgrade at the moment.



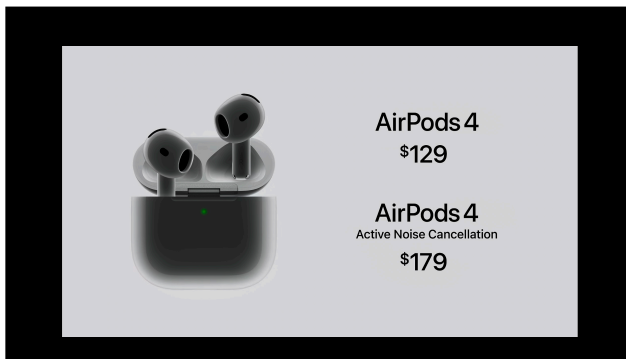
Last year's Watch Series 9 will get the touted health features (Sleep Apnea detection) of the Watch 10 via watchOS 11 updates as they become available, except for the water depth gauge which is a Series 10 hardware feature.



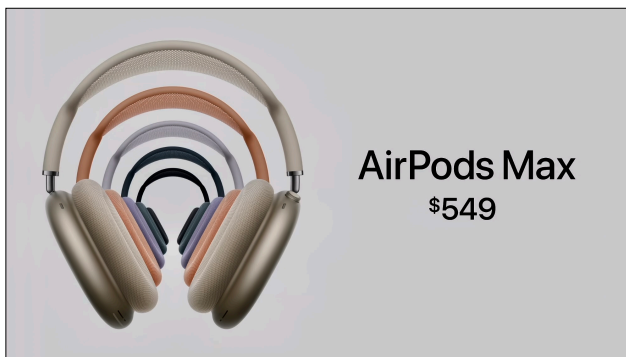
Then Apple moved on the AirPods products, saying that they were upgrading the entire product line, which was only sorta true...



They started with the new AirPods 4, which replace earlier AirPods other than the AirPods Pro or Max. AirPods 4 come in 2 versions, both with a new improved chip comparable to what is used in the Pro series, but with 2 serious trade-offs. The less costly version still lacks active noise cancellation — just passive noise cancellation caused by sticking something — almost anything — in your ear.



Both versions are called AirPods 4 and look alike, but the pricier version includes Active Noise Cancellation using the new chips that were introduced in the Pros a few years ago.

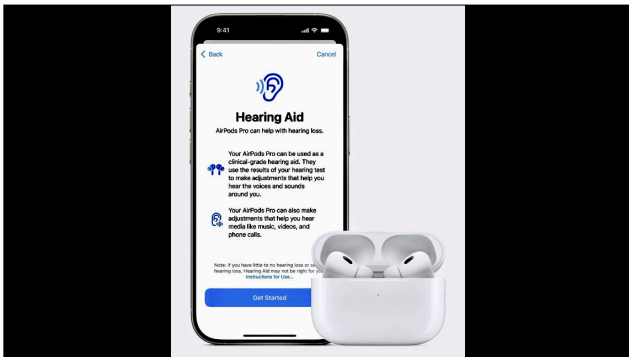


Then the AirPods Max got their hardware update, which consisted of new colors and a USB-C jack for charging to replace the older Lightning charger cords. The guts of these are unchanged from exactly what they were when first released about 4 years ago. And the price remains at \$549, so there is no reason whatsoever to replace the earlier version if you already have them.

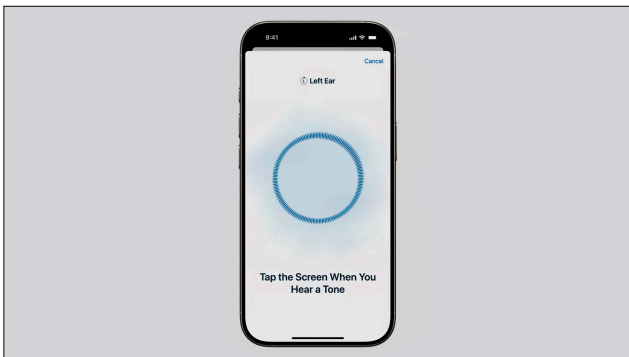


Finally there is the AirPods Pro 2 — which did not get any hardware upgrade at all this time around.

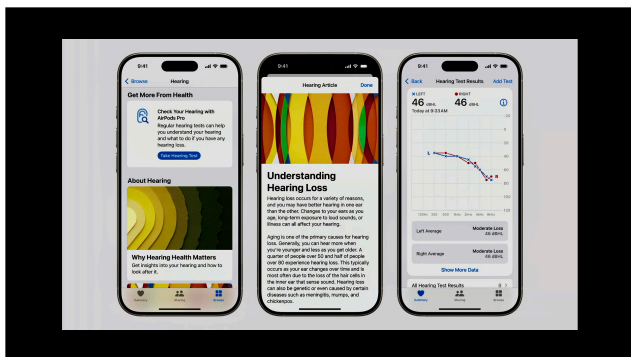
These have a flexible rubber tip system for in-the-ear fits which work for more people than the hard plastic of the standard AirPods 4, so they don't fall out, and they have a ton of other sound processing features enabled. That's been true since they were released nearly 2 years ago.



But now they will get a software update with iOS 18 which will make them into clinical grade hearing aids! The software will include a do-it-yourself hearing test run on the iPhone, with...

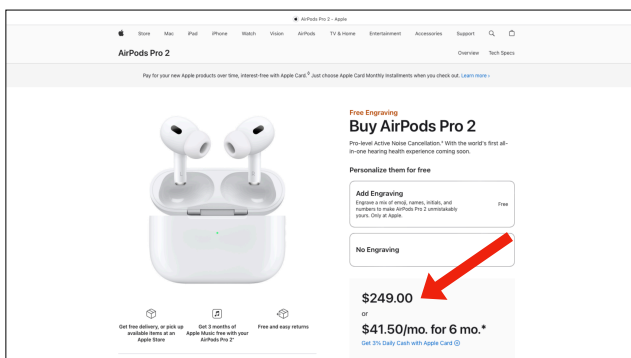


A prescription-quality result which can be either handed over to your doctor to order pricey hearing aids, or you can just tell the iPhone's software to tune your AirPods Pro to correct the frequency outputs to offset your hearing deficiencies. iOS 18 and the Airpods Pro 2 will then adjust all sound coming into your ears to correct for your hearing capabilities whether you are listening to music, streaming, gaming, or just wearing them as standard hearing aids.

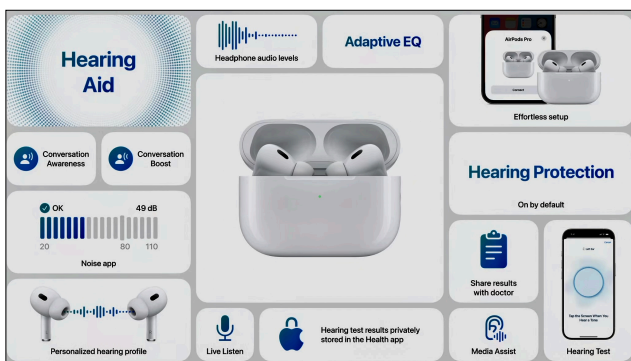


This is a software-only update which will work with all existing AirPods Pro 2 after a firmware auto-update when iOS 18 comes to your paired iPhone.

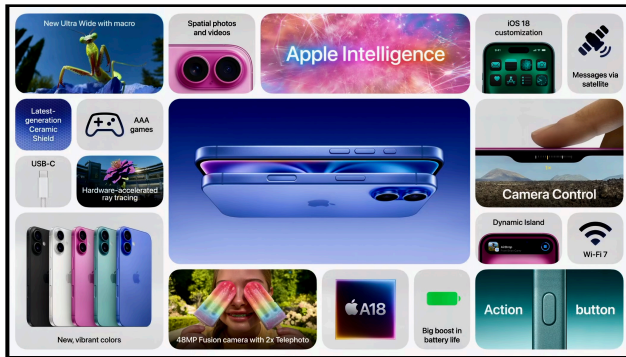
The FDA approved this use of Apple's AirPods Pro just this morning (Sept. 12), so it could be available as soon as Monday morning if Apple tweaks its software update in time — otherwise before month's end.




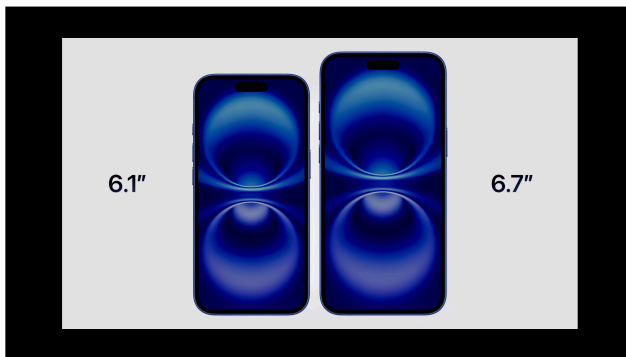
The AirPods Pro 2 have been for sale for 2 years already, and their current hardware is unchanged. If you have them, the update via software will arrive after you update your iPhone. If you want to buy them, they are priced at \$249 a pair from Apple.



Here's Apple's fact sheet screen on the AirPods Pro 2, the exact same hardware some of us have for 2 years now. All new features are software based — no need to buy another pair if you already own them.



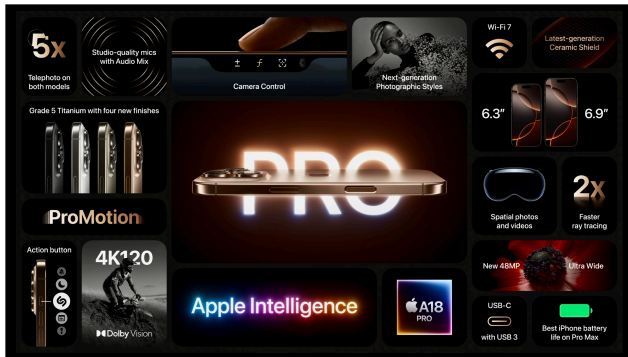
Finally Apple unveiled the new iPhones 16. All of the new 16s come with a version of the  A18 chip, 8MB of RAM, an action button, and a new Camera Control sensor button. The A18 chips are more efficient, so they are at least 15% faster, but also use less battery power for processing and generate less heat. All will support Apple Intelligence due to their A18 chips and 8MB processor RAM.



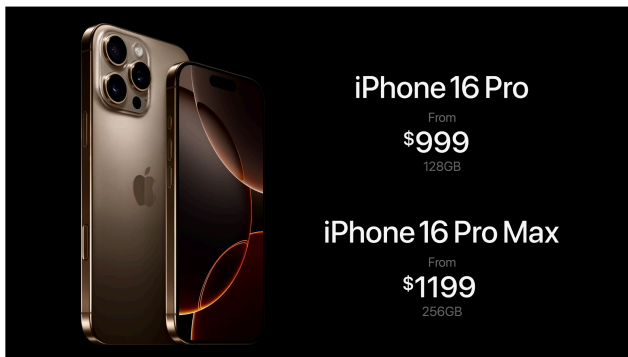
There will be 4 different models:
16, 16 Plus with a 10% larger screens than the 15s, ...



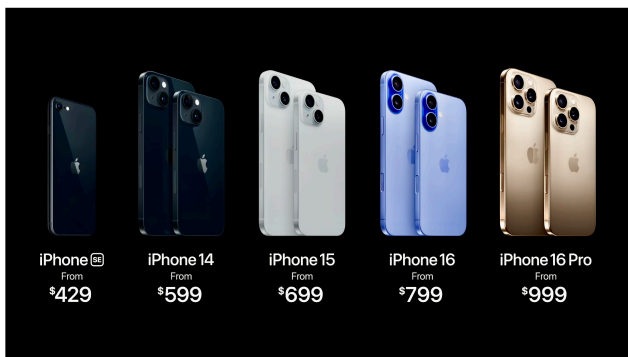
Pricing is by size on the 16s, largely unchanged from the iPhones 15 a year ago.



and the 16 Pros will come in similar slightly larger sizes, each about a .2-inch larger than the regular 16 models. There will be hardly any difference in the cameras between the Pros and the regular 16s, but the Pros will both have larger wide-angle resolution, higher optical zoom and a better Macro mode without having to buy the Max size for a better camera.



The Pro models will also have USB 3 speeds as opposed to the USB 2 speed on the regular 16s. Pro prices are considerably higher though the feature and hardware differences between the 16 and 16 Pro are significantly fewer than in recent years. Still, the difference in USB speed and the tweaks to the Pros' cameras over the regular 16s will be important to some users.



The price lineup for the iPhone base models as they appear on Friday the 13th are shown. Additional storage for each model is available at a considerable increase in price. (The Plus and Max sizes are no shown, but were onscreen earlier.)



Monday Sept 16 will bring the new iOS 18 for iPhones, iPadOS 18 for compatible iPads, and



macOS 15 which will be called Sequoia for Macs. None of the releases Sept 16th will include Apple's own version of A.I. which they are calling Apple Intelligence, but that's expected to rolled out with OS updates beginning in October, December, and later as Apple feels it is safe and ready for public use.



Meanwhile, the Apple event had no Mac or iPad previews. We do expect Macs and iPad to get an upgraded release in October or November, but Apple is keeping all that under wraps for now. We also expect a new A.I. capable iPhone SE generation 4 with the A18 chip next Spring.

- **Apple Watch Comparison page**
<https://www.apple.com/watch/compare/>
- **AirPods comparison page**
<https://www.apple.com/airpods/compare/>
- **iPhone Comparison page**
<https://www.apple.com/iphone/compare/>

Apple's online Store offers comparison pages where you choose which models of iPhones, Macs, iPads, AirPods, etc. you want to compare side by side. I suggest comparing 2 new models to your existing model when considering your next purchase so you can see what is improved or not.

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END — Switch to Safari for product comparison examples.
