Viva la foldables...

A device that aims to be less of a chunky notebook and more of a svelte, sophisticated booklet for the digital age, is it the best foldable ever?

₹1,49,999 / vivo.com/in



[**Words** Khumail Thakur]

Let's get one thing straight: the X Fold 5 is staggeringly, almost absurdly, thin. Unfurl this bad boy, and you're greeted with a profile that's just 4.3mm thick, that's barely wider than the USB-C port at its base. When snapped shut, it's a manageable 9.2mm, making it feel less like a tech sandwich and more like a conventional candybar smartphone. Tipping the scales at a mere 217g, it sidesteps the pocket-dragging heft of some rivals, like the OnePlus Open.

This is a foldable you can genuinely imagine using as your daily driver without needing to invest in trousers with reinforced pockets. The Titanium Gray variant we tested has a refined texture that feels lovely in the hand, with softly curved edges that make for a surprisingly comfortable grip. It's an elegant piece of kit that doesn't scream for attention but certainly earns it upon closer inspection. This isn't just engineering; it's origami with purpose.

The visual experience is, in a word, lush. Whether you're using the expansive 8.03-inch main screen or the very capable 6.53-inch cover display, you're in for a treat. Both are 2K+ E7 AMOLED panels with a buttery-smooth 120Hz refresh rate and an eyeball-searing local peak brightness of 4500 nits, making them perfectly readable even under the glaring Indian sun!



Bright unfold

With resolutions of 2480x2200 on the main screen and 2748x1172 on the cover, everything from text to 4K video is pin-sharp. It also supports Dolby Vision, which makes Netflix content look brighter and punchier.

Splash zone safe

For durability, a second-gen Armor Glass on the cover screen, which is supposedly 30% more puncture-resistant than its predecessor. Add IP58/IP59 water resistance and IP5X dust protection, and you have a foldable that's not fragile.

Thin is in...

For all the visual splendour, the audio is a bit of a let-down. The stereo speakers sound disappointingly hollow, lacking the depth and low-end punch you'd find on a Samsung Fold or OnePlus Open. It's not a deal-breaker if you use TWS only.

Multitasking maestro

Under the bonnet, the X Fold 5 is packing some serious firepower. The Snapdragon 8 Gen 3 paired with 16GB of LPDDR5X RAM and 512GB of UFS 4.1 storage means this phone chews through tasks like a caffeine-addled hamster.

Benching numbers

While it can handle any task you can dream up, benchmark purists might note it falls slightly behind the rumoured Snapdragon 8 Elite chip in Samsung's next-gen Fold. But in the real world, this is a non-issue.

24 hours with the Vivo X Fold 5

Good
Meh
Evil

- 2mins — Impossibly thin and light design, really easy to put it in your pocket.
- 5mins — Gorgeous, bright 120Hz displays on both sides? That's a win.
- 15mins — Vivo and its versatile ZEISS camera system is still so much fun to use.
- 1hr — No Snapdragon 8 Elite is a big let down at this price point.
- 1hr 30mins — Still, the Snapdragon 8 Gen 3 is plenty powerful for now...
- 2hrs — Great, this is really thin but there's a huge 6000mAh battery.
- 7hrs — Speakers sound hollow and lack bass, which shouldn't be so at this price!
- 8hrs — Portraits from this camera smart-phone is absolutely bonkers.
- 9hrs — It does whitewash the face for darker skin tones.

HOW ARE THE PICTURES? TURN OVER TO SEE! →



Tech specs

Processor Snapdragon 8 Gen 3 **Main Screen** 8.03in AMOLED, 2480x2200, 120Hz **Cover Screen** 6.53in AMOLED, 2748x1172, 120Hz **Cameras** Rear: 50MP Main (OIS) + 50MP UW + 50MP Telephoto, Front: 20MP on cover screen, 20MP on main screen **Battery** 6000mAh

Pocket-friendly foldable

You have been able to slip it into your pocket, but how useful is it once it's in your pocket?



Not fun to touch

The Funtouch OS 15 software feels a tad underdeveloped. Beyond the nifty Origin Workbench, it lacks the intuitive gesture swipes for quick split-screening and easy multitasking.



Workbench

We fired up the Origin Workbench mode. It's Vivo's take on the iPad's Stage Manager that lets you run up to five apps at once. The result? The X Fold 5 didn't even break a sweat.



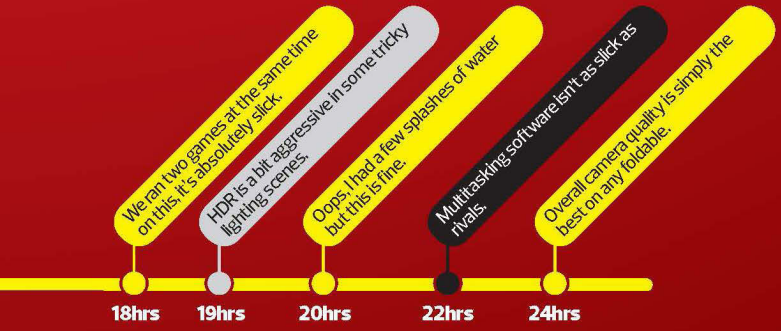
Zeiss-ty

The camera system on the X Fold 5 is a proper showstopper. You get a trio of 50MP sensors: a main shooter with OIS, an ultra-wide, and a 3x optical zoom telephoto lens, also with OIS.



One take camera

The camera system is thoroughly enjoyable, giving even the most cack-handed photographer the ability to capture snaps that look professional. Photos are vibrant and eye-pleasing.





It's not perfect, of course, but the X Fold 5 is a formidable piece of hardware. It's a mature, elegant, and powerful foldable that proves the form factor is ready for the mainstream. In terms of hardware, it's a device that feels less like a compromise and more like a genuine upgrade on the traditional smartphone. @)khumailthakur

STUFF SAYS *****

Its camera is a triumph, but no SD 8 Elite and slightly clunky software stop it from being perfect.

The pictures: Portrait, perspective and post

Few smartphones let you experiment with framing and composition as seamlessly as this







New trick under the hood

Photos are vibrant and eye-pleasing without straying into the realm of the unnatural. It strikes a perfect balance that will flatter your subjects and your scenery. Even in harsh sunlight, the camera does a commendable job, managing to control blown-out highlights while keeping the overall exposure well-judged. It's the type of camera you can point anywhere and expect good results, dare I say, consistent results as well. Something new to Vivo cams.



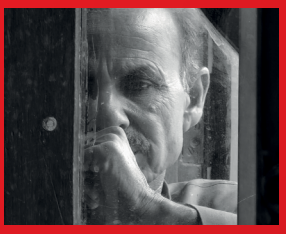
Bokeh time

The Zeiss bokeh modes are here as well, like all flagship Vivo smartphones, and while you do need a particular lighting in the background to tell the difference between the bokeh, they're all excellent.



Selfie game on point

The best thing about a foldable is that the rear camera can easily be used for high-resolution selfies, which is best taken with bigger hands lest you drop the thing holding it with one hand unfolded.



Please me portraits

Versus the Samsung Galaxy Z Fold 7, the Vivo's portraits are noticeably brighter, some-times to the point of looking slightly washed out. It tends to brighten skin tones for a pleasing rather than accurate one.



Go retro

There's even a 'Classic Negative' style inspired by Fujifilm film for that moody, cinematic look. It's a versatile and powerful toolkit for any shutterbug. I absolutely enjoyed taking photos on this!

It's in the face

In low light, the X Fold 5 truly shines, delivering shots with excellent colour balance and impressive detail retention. Where it gets a bit dicey is in its processing, particularly with people. Compared to the more naturalistic approach of a Google Pixel or iPhone, the Vivo can be a bit aggressive with its face-brightening and texture-smoothing, occasionally smudging details.



A cinematic curveball

Sonos, the gaffer of multi-room audio, has finally stepped into the crowded, noisy stadium of wireless headphones. But are they truly ace, or a waste of space?



[**Words** Khumail Thakur]

Sonos Ace aren't just another pair of cans to block out the uncle snoring next to you on the flight; they're a meticulously crafted piece of kit aimed squarely at making your movies and shows sound utterly epic. Right out of the gate, I'll say it: Sonos has absolutely nailed the design of the Ace. These are quite possibly my favourite-looking and feeling headphones on the market. In a world of fussy touch controls and confusing button layouts, the Ace is a breath of fresh, minimalist air. It's the perfect marriage of the clean, understated aesthetic Sonos is renowned for and a genuinely practical, no-nonsense approach.

There's a satisfyingly tactile 'Content Key' that slides for volume and presses for playback, a dedicated power/pairing button, and another for noise-cancelling modes. It's all wonderfully intuitive and a darn sight less confusing than the Apple AirPods Max's Digital Crown. Then there's the weight. The Apple AirPods Max, bless their metallic socks, are seriously hefty at 384.8g. They feel premium, sure, but wear them on a long-haul flight and you'll start to feel like you've got a small anvil clamped to your head. The Sonos Ace, at a more svelte 312g, are noticeably lighter and less fatiguing over long listening sessions.



Top shelf

The build is top-notch, with a stainless steel headband and plush memory foam earpads that are magnetically attached. This is copied from Apple and we're not complaining. It not only makes them easy to clean, but also customise in the future.

Making space

The spatial audio implementation is simply amazing. Fire up Godzilla Minus One on Netflix, and the soundstage becomes this vast, dynamic entity. Every earth-shattering rumble, the screech of twisting metal, and the frantic dialogue is given its own space.

Clashes to ashes

The ANC is excellent – a match for the best. I did have a few crackles when I first engaged it, but a software update soon appeared and it didn't happen again after that. They dealt brilliantly with the noise of a plane and the people on it.

Flatlining

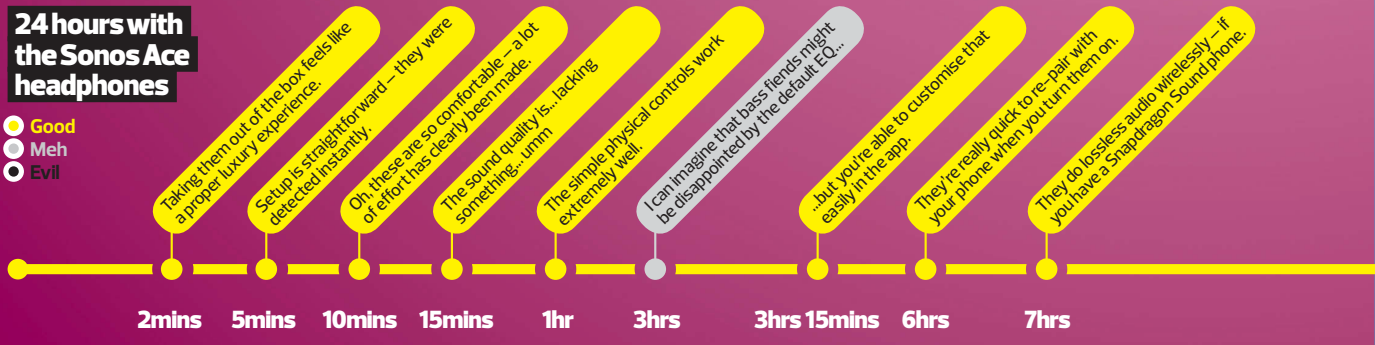
The Ace's sound signature is, to put it politely, neutral. It's incredibly balanced and clean, almost like a pair of professional studio monitors. While that might sound good on paper, in practice, it often strips the life and soul out of tracks.

Just getting by

The presentation is balanced, but it's just not fun. It lacks the energy and drive that makes you want to tap your feet. Switch to the Sony XM5s, and the same track comes alive with texture and detail in every drumbeat that the Ace simply glosses over.

24 hours with the Sonos Ace headphones

Good
Meh
Evil





Tech specs

Drivers 40mm dynamic **ANC** Yes
Connectivity Bluetooth 5.4, USB-C
Supported codecs SBC, AAC, aptX Lossless **Battery life** Up to 30hrs (ANC on) **Weight** 312g

Ace oddity

The Sonos app has been a bit of a mess lately... so how do these headphones fare in everyday use?



Not your loss

These support standard SBC and AAC codecs, but with a compatible Android phone, they also boast Qualcomm's Snapdragon Sound platform, unlocking aptX Adaptive and aptX Lossless.



Get dirty

Although I really love the slim shape and aesthetic of the travel case, the fabric on it picks up dirt very quickly. Especially the white variant we got for review. It was brown after a single flight.



Sound all around

The TrueCinema uses a Sonos soundbar sensor to map the acoustics of your room and then recreates a 7.1.4 virtual surround sound system inside your headphones, strapped to your head.



EQ out

The EQ options are disappointingly basic. You get sliders for bass, treble, and loudness, and that's your lot. It's still better than Apple but Sony has th best in-app EQ setting to tweak the sound.



If you're a movie lover, a frequent flyer, or someone already embedded in the Sonos ecosystem, these are a good choice. The design is superb and comfortable. However, for music, the Ace might leave you wanting. Their neutral, almost sterile sound signature just doesn't do justice to the energy and dynamics of many genres. *@khumailthakur*

STUFF SAYS ★★★★☆

A stunningly designed pair of cans, but music lovers might find their neutral tune a tad too polite



Pocket paparazzi

The era of gargantuan smartphones that could double as picnic tables is drawing to a close.

₹54,999 / amazon.in

■ These new silicon-carbon batteries are the Gandalf of the power world, packing more magical energy into a smaller space than their old-school graphite brethren. This means phone makers like Vivo and OnePlus are gleefully zapping their top-tier handsets with a shrink ray, serving up pocket-friendly devices that don't conk out by lunchtime.

■ Vivo has slapped a rather lovely AMOLED display on the X200 FE, and it's a proper treat. It's a 6.31-inch flat screen with a 1.5K resolution that makes everything look pin-sharp, thanks to a pixel density of 460 PPI. But the headline act is the brightness. With a frankly bonkers peak brightness of 5000 nits, this display is more luminous than a supernova in a lightbulb factory.

■ As I see it, the processor is the one area where Vivo has made a noticeable compromise. This is the very same chip that was in the flagship Vivo X100 Pro, which launched way back in the mists of time (well, January 2024). The OnePlus 13s, by contrast, offers the very latest Snapdragon 8 Elite silicon, but its cameras are, to put it kindly, a bit mediocre, and it lacks an ultrawide lens entirely.

First point
Point this camera at pretty much anything, and it will reward you with a pleasing, shareable photo. It's a joy to shoot with.



Tech specs

Processor MediaTek Dimensity 9300+ **Display** 6.31-inch, 2640x1216 **Cameras** 50MP + 8MP + 50MP, Front: 50MP **Battery** 6500mAh **RAM** 12/16GB **Storage** 256/512GB



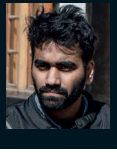
■ **Superb in every lens**
What's truly impressive is the consistency. Despite the different sensors, Vivo has worked some dark magic to ensure the colours and quality remain remarkably consistent across all focal lengths.



■ **Stacked to the top**
The hardware is, frankly, stacked. You get a 50MP main camera with a Sony IMX921 sensor and optical image stabilisation, an 8MP ultra-wide-angle lens, and the star of the show: a 50MP ZEISS Telephoto.

STUFF SAYS A pocket-rocket for the photo-obsessed, it's a camera-first phone ★★★★★

It's so small, what's the battery life like?
khumailthakur



All-day battery life, dear reader. But that depends on how long you scroll on cat videos in a day. However, it's a 6500mAh battery which is as big as some larger-sized smartphones so your mileage will be longer than an iPhone for sure. The main take-away is that if photography is your passion, then the answer is easy. The Vivo X200 FE is the compact camera king.