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Over the past few years, Fossil has made significant efforts to expand its presence in the smartwatch industry. For those who want to get a useful smart watch experience, Fossil serves it to wear an OS based on a fossil watch. But for those looking for more balance between a conventional wristwatch and a smartwatch, the fossil smartwatch's hybrid range aims to bridge the gap. But this time, Fossil is committed to further strengthening the hybrid experience, including an electronic ink screen and its own stack of software. The inclusion of an electronic ink display provides a much greater functionality of the watch and is an attempt to further blur the line between the two extremes. With features such as heart rate tracking, customizable dials, sleep tracking, workout tracking, and 3ATM certification, is Fossil Hybrid HR worth the price? Well, let's find out in our full review of the hybrid watch! With Smashable I usually create my opinion in subdivisions and never give away my takeaway in lede. But with fossil hybrid HR, I had to make an exception. This hands down the most attractive smartwatch that sat on my wrist. Straight from its metallic black case to the rich brown leather straps that came with the watch that I had to review, the watch shines throughout its abundance. Now, the watch comes in two versions like the 42mm: the black HR collider (the one we need to review) and the Gold HR Charter. Once you've made a choice, you're further given a selection of different frames and bands. Our HR collider came with 22mm tan leather straps that look pretty good. But you can choose the strap metal and silicon strips that fossils have to offer or use your own custom 22mm strips. Tan Brown leather stripe strips are themselves a bit stiff when taken out of the box, but adapt well to the wrist in just a couple of days. As someone who wore a smart watch during the day, and even while sleeping from time to time, I can assure the straps were very comfortable and did not leave a rash. It is noteworthy that the skin is sewn on top of the silicon base. So while the look looks stylish with leather, the interior is comfortable because of the silicon. The right side of the watch is surrounded by three buttons, which is the only way to interact with the watch, as there is no touch screen. The top and bottom buttons help sift through the user interface, while the center buttons are to be selected. But when on the home screen, the buttons cause different actions and functions. Musical control on fossil hybrid HR. The top button shows wellness dashboard where you can check stats like steps, calories burned and measure your heart rate. The lower button opens up the control of the music from where you can play/pause tracks, increase/decrease the volume and skip the tracks. The center button opens the center at the touch of a button. The long push button shows the menu from where you can access features such as DND, Timer, Secondwatch, Ring My Phone, etc. Be a hybrid - smartwatch - Hybrid HR misses features such as speaker and microphone to receive calls or the ability to respond to messages, for example. Ergo, if you are looking for these hybrid HR features is something you should definitely go through. SEE ALSO: Fossil Gen 5 Smartwatch Review: Google and Kvalcomm need to step up traditional watches to last for years, smartwatches for days. Fossil hybrid HR slots itself in the middle, offering battery life of up to two weeks. It is also the first hybrid watch from Fossil to have a rechargeable battery as previous hybrid watches have been powered by interchangeable elements. In my use, with alert notifications and automatic heart rate tracking, I found this number to be quite truthful. The watch had no problems, lasted more than two weeks, sometimes a little more. The lack of GPS, eSIM support and multicolored touchscreen certainly seems to help the cause here. For charging purposes, the watch comes with a 2-pin cradle (USB Type-A), which is magnetically attached to the back of the watch. It will take about an hour and a half to fully charge the watch. While this is not a feature per se, it is something I found myself doing during the review period. Since there is no touchscreen to map here, button presses for certain actions will soon become part of muscle memory. The only catch here is that you will need to take the initiative in the start. Now that we're used to touch screens, pressing the buttons thrice to get a simple action like pause music isn't exactly intuitive. But if you're used to buttons, you'll be able to skip the tracks without even looking at the display or removing the phone from your pocket. SEE ALSO: Samsung Galaxy Watch Active 2 LTE Review: Apple Watch Alternative for Android Users This iteration of the fossil hybrid is the first to pack the display. At the center of the watch is an electronic ink display. If you've ever used or seen a Pebble Watch or an Amazon Kindle, the watch uses the same kind of display. Being an electronic ink display, upgrade rates are slow as they are not as responsive as LCD panels. Coming from the smart watch, the slow pace of the upgrade seemed to be a bummer when I started using the watch. But the slow upgrade time will grow on you eventually. The hands of the watch sleep horizontally when access to the information on the display. If you're wondering, there's an advantage to the electronic ink display though. Aside from being energy efficient, it also doesn't reflect light, which makes it easier to look at, even in harsh sunlight. And for other extremes, i.e. in low light or at night, the watch uses illumination. Although it is useful, the implementation of this illumination seemed to me quite unpleasant. Instead of uniform illumination, the light seems to appear from four different dots and does not light up the display evenly. The action - double pressing - to turn on the backlight was also a hit and miss. Me. Whereas sometimes it register register cranes, in other cases it requires severe smashes. Keep an eye on the face and buttons with the Fossil Hybrid smartwatch. Although there is a display, the watch doesn't really have the concept of looking face. There's only one face watch that can be configured to show different information and have different wallpapers. To change the wallpaper, you can use the Fossil Hybrid companion app (available for Android and iOS) and use some default templates or an image from your gallery. While I can complain about the lack of watch faces here, I wouldn't expect more from watches that try not to be a full-fledged smartwatch. Overall, turning on the electronic ink display was a pretty good decision. It's thin enough not to distract you, but still useful enough to make you realize that your watch isn't dumb. Being a hybrid watch, hybrid HR doesn't tend to be a one-stop store for all your wearable needs. Having said that, there are still quite a few features that fossils are packed here. First of all, it is possible to show notifications from the phone with noise. From the Fossil Hybrid companion app, you can choose which apps will be allowed to be allowed to beam notifications on your watch. To be alerted to calls and SMS, you must provide permissions separately. And as mentioned above, you can't take calls on your watch, but you can accept or reject the call. You can also only allow calls and messages from specific contacts from the app. Fossil Hybrid HR Menu Options On the contrary, you can also activate DND mode on the watch, which allows you to block all incoming notifications. In case you're wondering, it doesn't put your phone on DND like some other watch do. The watch can also be used to call your phone in case you can't find it. Although this requires the app to run constantly in the background. There are regular watch functions like alarm, timer and stopwatch too. While the first must be configured from the app, the last two can be used directly on the watch. The Fossil Hybrid app also has a Find My Watch feature that remembers the location of the watch. Whenever the watch is disconnected from the phone, it saves the location, which will then help the user determine the location where the clock is left behind. Unfortunately, there are no separation alerts here, which will definitely help. SEE ALSO: Samsung Galaxy Watch LTE Review: The best smartwatch for your Android Phone Fossil Hybrid HR provides decent on some wellness features. Seated alerts come first, and users can select time intervals from a set of menus. Having my set for 20 minutes, the clock never reminded me to move after every 20 minutes. A key feature of the watch is the optical heart rate sensor, which is installed for automatic measurements. Unfortunately doesn't allow you to change the time intervals. But you can take manual measurements straight from the watch when Want. When it comes to accuracy, Hybrid HR has done a decent job. Although it's not as accurate as the heart rate sensor on the Galaxy Watch Active 2 (it exceed the maximum readings). You can see heart rate measurements in the app, but the compact look of the app doesn't allow you to immerse yourself in detailed results. There is also sleep tracking. While I wouldn't expect everyone to sleep with their watch strapped. I had no problem wearing a hybrid HR to sleep. I found the recordings to be pretty accurate with the app breaking down light and deep sleep as well as providing a heart rate measurement. The app can also be linked to Google Fit and Under Armour Record. SEE ALSO: Realme Band Review: Average Joe's major fitness trackers What's Not Smashable I ask you not to expect much when it comes to fitness tracking on hybrid HR. While the watch performs basic fitness tracking, it's far from what we've seen on smartwatches like Honor MagicWatch 2 that sit in the same price segment. So if fitness and workout tracking is a priority, I ask you to skip and look elsewhere. When it comes to fitness tracking, there is a basic step counter, a calorie counter and a heart rate sensor (mentioned above). Unfortunately, there is no GPS chip here that can record and map your outdoor runs. It can't even latch on to your smartphone's GPS to track runs. There's no automatic workout detection here either. So if you want to record a workout, you'll have to navigate the menu and start it manually. The training menu is pretty limited too. These options are offered by the watch: weight, running, elliptical, treadmill and covering workout mode that will try to track all other exercises. Even when tracking any of the above workouts, the watch will only provide time spent, steps, calories burned and heart rate count (medium and max). For runs, the watch gives the distance traveled as well. Given that the watch is only 3ATM certified, you can't even take them for a swim. It's only good to take the spray and resist the rain. Overall, fitness tracking range watches are quite limited. Fossil hybrid HR is out of sync continuously. One annoying problem I've encountered with the watch is that there is no continuous synchronization. Even when although the app has always been in the background and there has been a notification resting in the notification bar, I always have to manually sync the watch with the app. While it may not be bothersome for everyone, it's definitely something that shouldn't have been a problem in the first place. As mentioned above, the watch does not have a touchscreen. In an era when we're used to focusing on touchscreens, even on wearable devices, the three-ck navigation on Hybrid HR is a relatively steep learning curve. Even studying it, it may not necessarily seem very effective to you, since the concept of buttons is a diminishing concept -- in the mobile world. SEE ALSO: Honor MagicWatch 2 Review: Fitness-oriented watch with reasonable Smarts Final Verdict Now that we've gone through all that fossil hybrid HR has to offer, let's find out if these watches fit for your needs or not. If the description below suits you and your needs from the watch, the hybrid HR may be worth the purchase. If not, you'll be better off buying an actual smartwatch from OEMs like Huawei, Honor, Amazfit or Samsung. If you are looking for a watch that brings the charm of a regular watch with the intelligence of a smart watch, then this may be the watch for you. If you're not a workout buff and are all right with basic fitness tracking, this could be the watch for you. If you're OK with the steep learning curve of the software and navigating the clock with three buttons, this could be the watch for you. Fossil hybrid HR is certainly more than a gradual upgrade from its predecessor. The inclusion of an electronic ink display is definitely a step in the right direction and is a good implementation for what is a first-generation product for the company. I hope that Fossil continues in this direction and makes the watch more intuitive to use. At the same time, I hope the next generation watch is a little more comprehensive when it comes to fitness tracking, given that it is the main pillar of any wearable on the market right now. But even being the product of it right now, fossil hybrid HR is a great attempt from fossils. Fossil.

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