



Galaxy Gear App Design Tips

welcome!

let's get in Gear

Designing for a screen the size of a postage stamp requires a new way of thinking. That's what makes the Galaxy Gear by Samsung such an exciting platform for developers — the best is yet to come. Perhaps from you!

is this your first Gear app?

Describe your idea in one sentence:

My app is _____.

Was your description short and sweet, or did you need to slip in a bunch of bullet points?

If you struggled *at all* to describe it in one sentence, your app is probably too complicated for a watch. Read the next paragraph aloud, and try again:

Keep it simple. Keep it light. Cramming in more features than my competitor is not a win.

layout

Resist the temptation to shrink the layout of your phone app to the size of a smart watch screen. Instead, strip it down to fundamental, glance-able chunks.

Keep page flows simple and logical, without too many branches.



3 and done

Ideally, a user should be able to reach the action or information they are seeking in three moves or less.

pages

- Each page should have a purpose and a focus.
- Use color, size, illustration, and text to direct your users' attention.
- Eliminate clutter. Pages with more than four major elements are too busy.



buttons: how big is big enough?

- Don't drop below 5 mm for your button icons. Don't go below 7 mm for your touch targets. Critical buttons (like Delete) should be even bigger.
- Leave 2mm between buttons, 3mm for critical buttons.
- Find people with big fingers and use them as testers.

text entry

Text entry on a small screen is a challenge. Let users avoid it whenever possible.

Offer creative alternatives: voice, predictive text, suggested strings, limited choice, etc. Or push text entry to the phone using your companion app.



none of your business

Keep private data private. Avoid revealing personal information on your home screen, in titles or in the first couple lines of a notification.

tl;dr*

Improve the odds people will read what you write. Make sure your app is offering useful information at the moment it's needed. Keep text blocks short, and put the most important information at the beginning.

* too long; didn't read

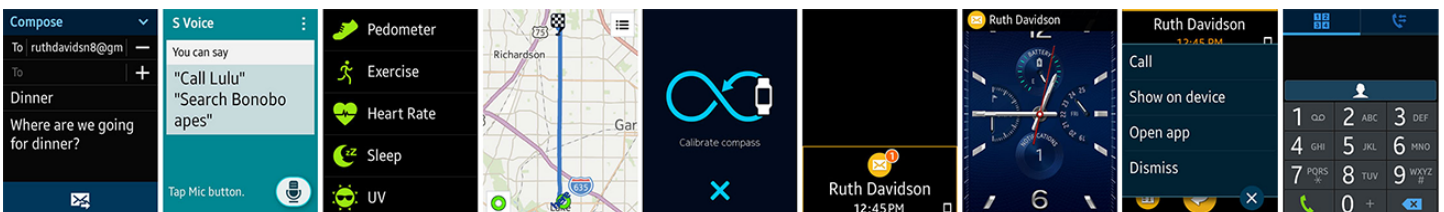
go easy on the battery

The success of the watch as a form factor relies, in part, on battery life – a resource all app developers share.

Some of the most common battery hogs are inefficient use of Wi-Fi or the cellular radio, constant streaming, and white app backgrounds.

resources

- [Tizen Wearable SDK](#): a development environment, sample apps and a device emulator.
- The [Wearables section](#) of the Tizen Developers' website. Programming and layout guides, sample code, API reference material and more.



Everything you need in one place:
developer.samsung.com/gear.

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