Acer’s Chromebook Spin 714 is worse than its predecessor

Acer’s Chromebook Spin 713 has been at the top of our Best Chromebook list for a few years running now. It’s one of the most beloved Chromebooks of the past several years, and it had a laundry list of things going for it: blazing fast Intel processors, a crisp and high-resolution 3:2 screen, a generous port selection with Thunderbolt 4, all-day battery life, and one of the better keyboards you could find in the Chromebook space. I had very high hopes for its sequel, the Chromebook Spin 714.

So it brings me no pleasure to report that the Chromebook Spin 714 is worse than the 713. That doesn’t make it a terrible computer — and at my Core i5 / 8GB / 256GB unit’s MSRP of $729.99, many of these flaws are more forgivable than they would be at a price of, say, $1,000. But I do see it, unfortunately, as a step back. Here’s why.


acer



6 Verge Score

Chromebook Spin 714

$ 499

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The Bad

- Battery life worse than last year
- Thin audio
- microSD slot is gone

a:hover]:text-black [&>a]:shadow-underline-gray-13 [&>a:hover]:shadow-underline-black text-gray-13″>*This is verified through Intel Evo.*

This is also, in my opinion, a slightly better-looking computer than the 713. I won’t go so far as to call it a good-looking device – the design is still somewhat boring and drab, and an “Antimicrobial Corning Gorilla Glass” logo etched into the top bezel is particularly unappealing. Still, there are some nice accents around the touchpad that make everything look more professional. And the finish is high-quality – this device was battered around in my backpack without a scratch. Visually and materially, this device is a step up from the 713. (But, I cannot overemphasize, it still looks boring.)



a:hover]:text-black [&>a]:shadow-underline-gray-13 [&>a:hover]:shadow-underline-black text-gray-13″>*USB-C and USB-A on the right.*



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md:text-30″>But then there’s everything else

Okay, time to talk about some of the more puzzling changes Acer made. First, the display. So, yes, the Spin 714’s screen is slightly larger. However, the Spin 713 had one of the most exceptional screens that has ever been put on a Chromebook. It was

3:2 with 2256 x 1504 resolution. It was so roomy, there was zero glare, colors were vivid, and all of this was a *huge* part of the reason that Chromebook 713 was topping Best Chromebook pages all over the internet. I am picturing that screen right now, and I miss it so much. Please come back to me.

Anyway, that’s not the screen the 714 has. This device sports a 1920 x 1200, 16:10 panel. It reaches 340 nits of brightness, whereas the 713 easily passed 400. Look, this screen is fine, but like… meh. It’s fine.



a:hover]:text-black [&>a]:shadow-underline-gray-13 [&>a:hover]:shadow-underline-black text-gray-13″>*You can put it in all the usual*

convertible laptop modes, if you are so inclined.



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8s >Chrome

ChromeOS includes a built-in screen

reader (ChromeVox).

- ChromeOS supports

dictation, accessed in Settings

- High-contrast mode can be

toggled with Ctrl + Search + H.

Captions appear in the bottom center

of the screen. The following

caption features are adjustable:

size,
font,
color,
opacity,
shadow,

background color, and background

nd opacity.

The following

keyboard keys can be remapped:

Search,
Ctrl,
Alt,
Escape,
Backspac

e,
Assistant, and
Caps
Lock.

The top row can be remapped to act

as function keys.

The followin

g keyboard features can be toggled:

sticky keys, onscreen keyboard,

highlight object with keyboard focus,

highlight text caret when it appears

or moves, navigate pages with

text cursor, and switch access.

The following cursor settings can be

adjusted : color, size, speed, click

strength, and haptic feedback. The

following can be toggled: mouse accelera

tion,
reverse
scrollin
g, tap
dragging

, tap-to-click, touchpad accelera

tion,
and
automati
c click.
ChromeOS

includes a Snap Layout feature, accessed

by pressing and holding the

Maximize button on an open window.

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