Google announces Material 3 Expressive, a colorful evolution of Android design

Google accidentally showed off its big Android design refresh last week, but now Material 3 Expressive is official. Google says the new interface will begin with Android OS, but it will eventually expand across the full Google app ecosystem, bringing a more lively vibe to Gmail, Google Photos, and more.

Material 3 Expressive won’t be entirely unfamiliar—it shares some basic design elements with the Material You system Google launched four years ago. Material 3 Expressive is a bolder take on the same aesthetic, featuring “springy” animations, brighter colors, and new shapes.

[embedded content]

Material 3 Expressive

As we learned from Google’s slipup, Material 3 Expressive is the result of numerous user studies, which included more than 18,000 participants. Google explored how people parse information on their phone, finding design themes that supposedly support quicker and easier interactions. Often, that seems to result in making certain UI elements larger and easier to spot. Google claims people can find these important buttons four times faster than they can with older Material You interfaces.

What you can expect from Material 3 Expressive

Animations will abound in future versions of Android, and Google emphasizes the springy aspect. The style is supposed to feel natural and fun, with more UI elements connected to dynamic haptics. Colors are also getting an overhaul, but this isn’t a complete rethink of Material You. The theming engine will pick bolder colors to improve the visual separation of UI elements, and you will see those colors in more places.

Google says it’s also updating Android’s typography, featuring more contrast between headers and body text. This will change across Google’s apps to help users parse information faster. Certain buttons will also come in a wider variety of shapes, and the labels will have varying text weights. Likewise, the style and shape of status bar icons will change to be more readable.

https://arstechnica.com/gadgets/2025/05/google-reveals-vibrant-material-3-expressive-coming-soon-to-a-pixel-near-you/