Hatch Restore 2 review: TikTok made me try it

I’m a sucker for “get ready with me” (GRWM) videos on TikTok. They’re just as they sound. You watch a complete stranger go through their daily routines, sometimes while espousing chaotic musings on everything wrong with American society. Some are narrated, while others are set to lo-fi beats and overlaid with text. They’re a vicariously aspirational and entertaining window into another way of living.

Watch enough GRWM videos, and you will eventually come across the $199.99 Hatch Restore 2.

At its core, the Restore 2 is a smart alarm clock, sunrise lamp, and sound machine rolled into one. It gently wakes you up by mimicking the sunrise and creates a cozy nighttime atmosphere by simulating the sunset. But, unlike the vast majority of sleep tech, it’s not a sleep tracker. It’s wholly unconcerned with your sleep stages, biometrics, or grading your sleep quality. The goal is to achieve your best #thatgirl life by creating morning and nighttime routines to improve your sleep habits.

I am a sleepy girlie trying to become a morning person. Sadly, TikTok has made me try a number of things — and most of them have been misses rather than hits. But like a moth to an aesthetic flame, I called in the trendy gadget. You never know. Every once in a while, the influencers are onto something.







8Verge Score

Hatch Restore 2

$ 199.99

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The Bad

- Expensive
- Subscription needed to access all content
- Might disturb sleep partners

How we rate and review products

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I watched *dozens* of videos like this before the Restore 2 ever arrived on my doorstep. I saw dozens more *while* reviewing this thing. So believe me when I say the reality is not quite as

glamorous, but it’s not too far off from the truth, either.

Here is a day in my life using the Restore 2.

I wake up at 6:15AM, even though my alarm is set for 6:30AM. This used to be because my rotund cat Pablo would perch over my head, meowing loudly for his morning kibble. Instead, I’m waking up because there’s a bright-but-not-blinding white light beaming into my face from the Restore 2. For a second, I’m quite pleased that I woke up before the alarm and mildly amazed that this keeps happening. Seeing that I’m awake, *now* Pablo meows. I stretch a hand (with chipped nail polish) and press the right button to turn off my alarm.

I used to press the same button a second time to start a guided morning stretch in bed. But I’m married to a night owl, and they complained about it waking them up

too many times. There’s no way to pair headphones to the Restore 2, so I only get to do my guided stretches when they’re away on business. I am begrudgingly up, my spouse is snoring, and Pablo still begs to be fed. I remind the bugger that he has a fancy automatic feeder that will shower him with kibble at 6:25AM.

I brush my teeth, take my meds, and make some pre-workout — another product that TikTok convinced me to buy. At 6:30AM, cheery retro lo-fi beats emerge from the Restore 2. It turns out, I only *pressed* the left button instead of holding it down, so I didn’t actually turn the alarm off. I marvel at how crisp it sounds until my thoughts are interrupted by a groan from my spouse. Oops. I apologize and promise to try to turn it off correctly tomorrow. I go do my 30- to 60-minute workout, take a shower, drink a protein shake, and sit down for work for the next eight to 10 hours.

a:hover]:shadow-highlight-franklin dark:[&>a:hover]:shadow-highlight-franklin [&>a]:shadow-underline-black dark:[&>a]:shadow-underline-white”>A well-designed alarm clock

The Restore 2 isn’t just effective. It’s a good lookin’ device that fades into the background but in an aesthetically pleasing way. I mean, look at this thing. It feels like it was plucked straight out of a West Elm catalog while the rest of my bedroom hails from the IKEA or Wayfair bargain bin.

It helps that the front is covered in a natural linen fabric, which gives it a modern, **Japandi** vibe. The fabric also helps diffuse the light like a lampshade would (as you can see in the above photo), compared to a more traditional sunrise lamp. It comes in three colors: slate, latte, and putty. My review unit is latte, but the others are equally neutral tones that should blend into whatever your bedroom’s color theme or

aesthetic is.

a:hover]:text-black [&>a:hover]:shadow-underline-black dark:[&>a:hover]:text-gray-e9 dark:[&>a:hover]:shadow-underline-gray-63 [&>a]:shadow-underline-gray-13 dark:[&>a]:shadow-underline-gray-63″>*On either side of the time, you can tap the device to raise (right side) or lower (left side) the volume.*

a:hover]:shadow-highlight-franklin dark:[&>a:hover]:shadow-highlight-franklin [&>a]:shadow-underline-black dark:[&>a]:shadow-underline-white”>A definite upgrade with a bigger library The Restore 2 is an upgrade over its predecessor in every sense. It has a more appealing design, comes in more colors, and has three speakers, compared to the original Restore’s one. It also has several remastered sounds, 10 new sunrise alarms, new light and sound pairings for sunsets, 21 new sleep sounds, and a new “morning moment” option. The latter is a

series of affirmations, stretches, or motivational content to get you going in the morning (provided you don’t have a sleep partner with a different schedule).

The Hatch app is pretty easy to use once you get the hang of it, and I appreciate that you can preview how things will look and sound before you add it to your routines. That said, once you find something that works for you, there’s not much reason to use the app unless you want to switch things up. In the month or so that I’ve been testing the Restore 2, I’ve only changed up my content twice — and that was mostly for review purposes. Left to my own devices, I probably wouldn’t have tried to switch things up for another few months.

a:hover]:shadow-highlight-franklin dark:[&>a:hover]:shadow-highlight-franklin [&>a]:shadow-underline-black dark:[&>a]:shadow-underline-white”>Is it worth it?

Buying stuff you see on TikTok is a game of roulette. On the one hand, I've found my favorite sunscreens, protein powder, and backpack on that app. But generally speaking, I've found most "Tiktok made me buy it" products haven't lived up to the hype.

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