The background features a vertical crease down the center, suggesting a foldable surface. On the left side, there are brushstrokes in shades of orange, green, and cyan. On the right side, there are brushstrokes in shades of purple, green, and pink. The overall aesthetic is modern and artistic.

Adam Parsons

Will Apple make foldable phones mainstream?

My thoughts on a folding Iphone

Adam Parsons

What? A foldable smartphone! How could this be?!?! If this was your reaction when reading the title to this article, that's probably because Apple has yet to make one, and if you were aware of such a device but don't intend on getting one, that's probably because Apple hasn't made one. Though these are just my assumptions, they are not without justification. Take touchscreen phones for example, contrary to popular belief, Apple did not make the first touchscreen phone. In fact, LG, Nokia and IBM all had touch screen phones before Apple. The difference is that Apple made it great. The same can be said about Apple's AirPods. I believe foldable phones will follow this trend.

"But seriously, what is a foldable phone?" You might be thinking, put simply, a foldable phone is a smartphone that has the capability of folding. Unlike old flip phones, foldable phones generally have a display that can fold, though this isn't necessary. Unfortunately, most foldable phones seem gimmicky, with screens made of plastic, high prices and screen distortion at the point of the fold, you aren't given a compelling reason to purchase one, other than the novelty of owning a foldable phone.

But fear not! For I have hope in the knowledge that Apple has ownership of multiple patents of foldable devices. Amidst all their patents, there is one that I believe has the solution to virtually end all the problems facing foldable phones today. Before I go further into this particular patents, let's clarify said problems. If I had to summarize the problems facing foldable devices in two words, they would be: Plastic Screens. Yep, believe it or not it's really difficult to make glass bend, it is because of this that brands such as Samsung, Motorola and Huawei use plastic displays on their foldable phones. These displays are not scratch resistant, features a daunting crease and generally feel low quality, as you can imagine it's difficult to give someone a plastic phone display who has become accustomed to glass.

What is this be all and end all patent I have been mentioning so much? Put simply, Apple has a patent for a foldable device with a screen made of glass, this is possibly not by bending the glass, but by having two flat displays join together using magnets into a single display when the device is unfolded. These two displays will join in a way that prevents the phone from making a crease, something present in almost every foldable phone.

There are so many possible form factors that foldable phones can have, it's comical. There are two that I believe pretty accurately represent the majority, one resembles a flip phone with the top of the phone flipping down to the bottom making it easier to fit in your pocket, and the other resembles a book with the side unfolding into a larger screen.

Surprisingly, ever since 2015, the smartphone industry has been at a steady decline, though I believe innovation is a way out of this trend. If Apple manages to be the spark that lit the flame of foldable phones, our understanding of what a phone is will drastically change and the era of rectangular phones would be over, or merge into one with a plethora of different form factors each with their own advantages and disadvantages.

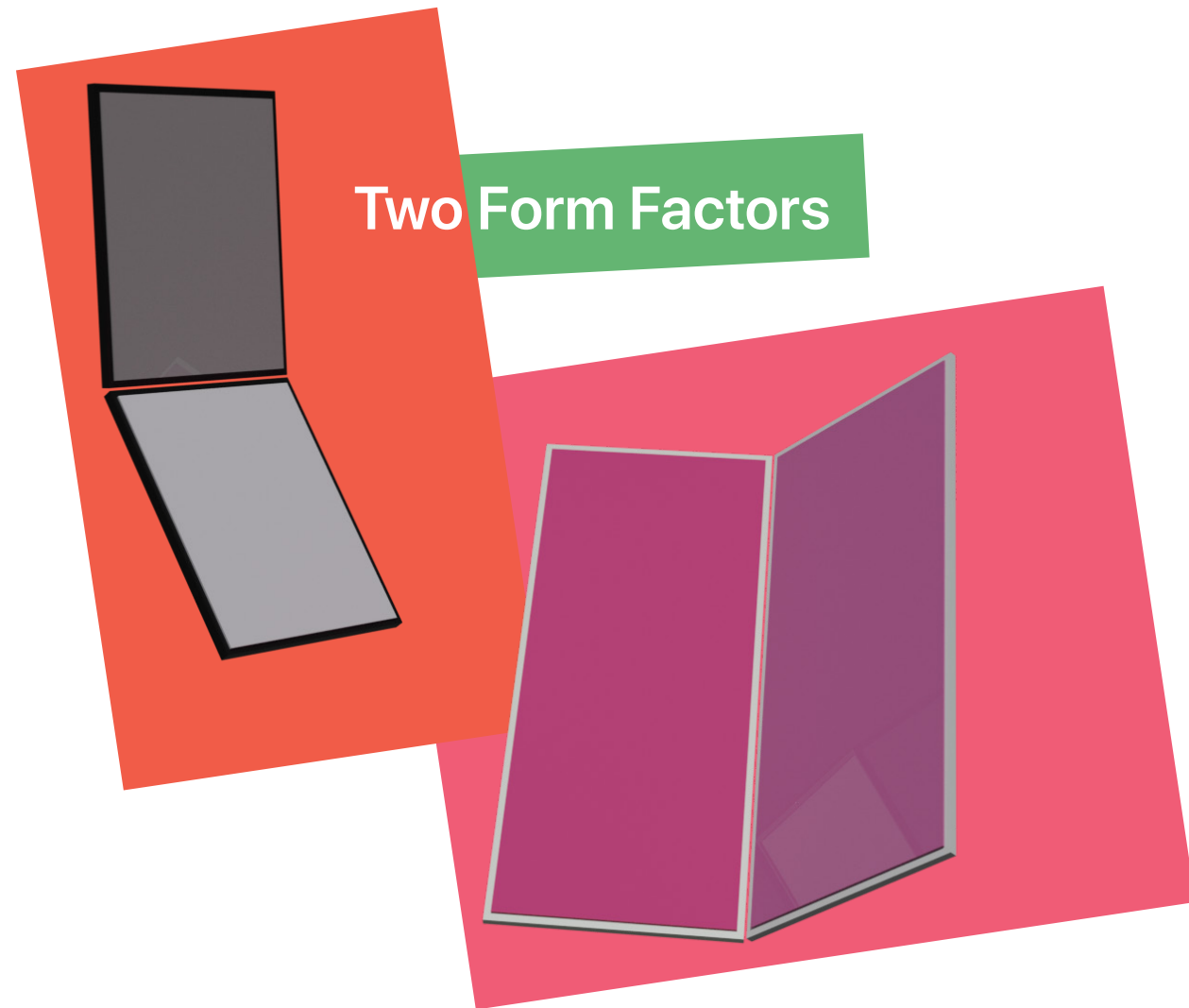
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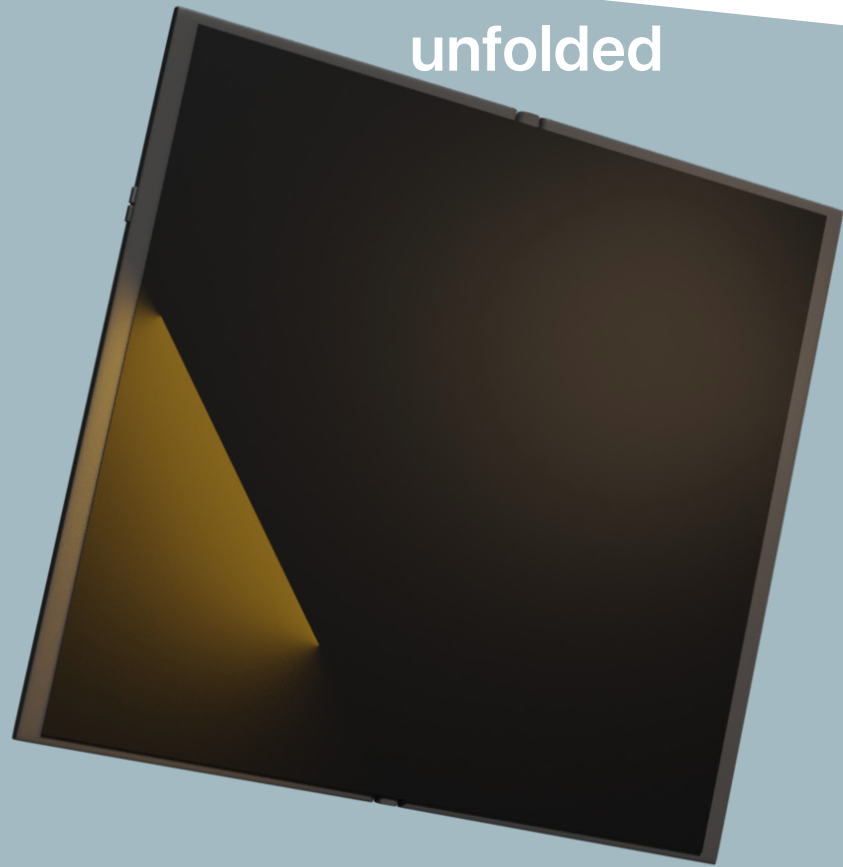
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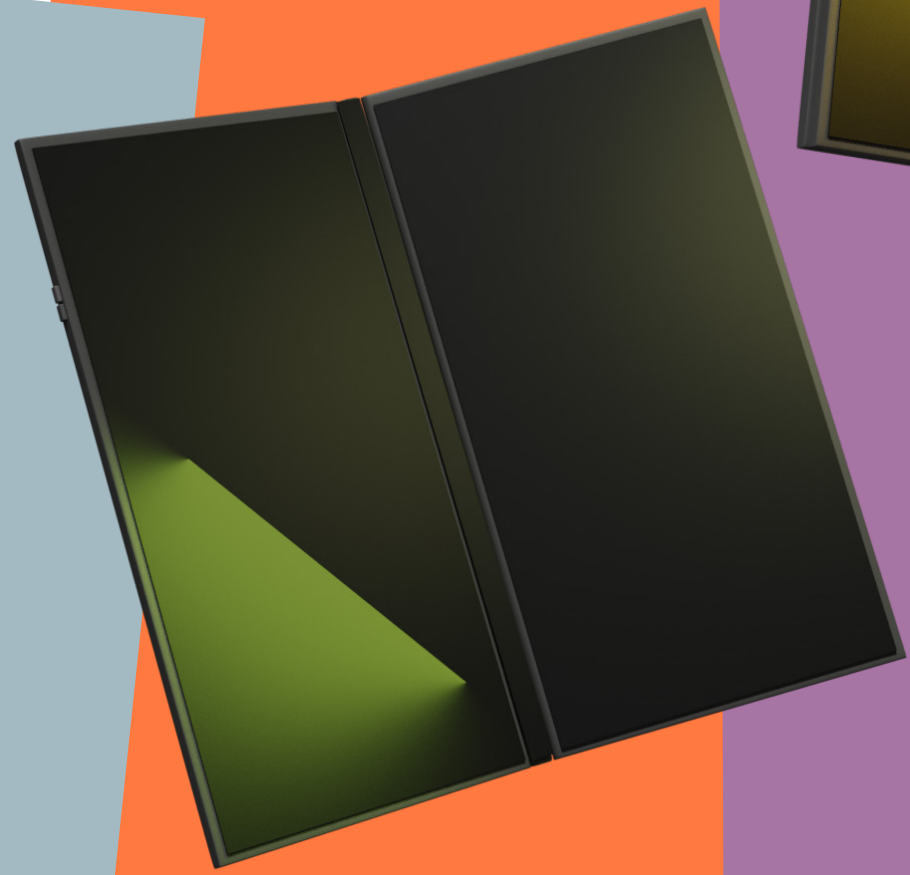
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Concept of folding Iphone

unfolded



Transition to unfolded



Folded

