Graphene is one of those material science breakthroughs that’s so frequently described as a harbinger of technological revolution, it almost feels hackneyed. Almost, until an update like this rolls around:

Scientists at Cambridge today demonstrated the first graphene-based flexible display.

"This is a significant step forward to enable fully wearable and flexible devices," said the Director of the Cambridge Graphene Centre, Professor Andrea Ferrari, in a statement made today. Ferrari was describing the impact of the prototype device, which is compared to a screen of your average e-reader—with the glass screen replaced with a plastic one. The biggest difference, of course, is what's behind that plastic: Instead of the metal electrodes you'd find on an e-reader, there are graphene electrodes:
According to the CGC, the graphene display clocks in at a perfectly respectable 150 pixels per inch, and the center says it's working on full-color versions. It's the first flexible graphene display we've seen demonstrated, and in the demo video, we see the thin plane of plastic newly formed from CNTs was kicked out of college after punching a woman. The Apple Watch’s Smallest Parts Are Its Biggest Bet.

Though still very rough, it’s interesting to see how the latest 2D materials technology actually looks in practice. Many of these promising advances aren’t quite as far away as we assumed.

Every time I read how something is a “significant step forward” or a “major breakthrough” in graphene I wonder how many of these major leaps we need to get this stuff into consumer electronics in useful ways.

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