THE VERGE

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TL;DR

I have a hard time believing your wearable is good if you had to Photoshop it onto a model

Why not take a new photo?

By Sean Hollister | @StarFire2258 | Oct 14, 2021, 3:29pm EDT

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Wearable gadgets live or die on whether they're actually comfortable to *wear* — it's tough to recommend a fitness tracker that gives me a rash or a headset constantly dragging my head down. So, for HTC's <u>new, exceptionally light Vive Flow VR headset</u>, the company wanted to show just how effortlessly it might fit into your life, commissioning pictures of men and women wearing it in their cozy living rooms without a care in the world.

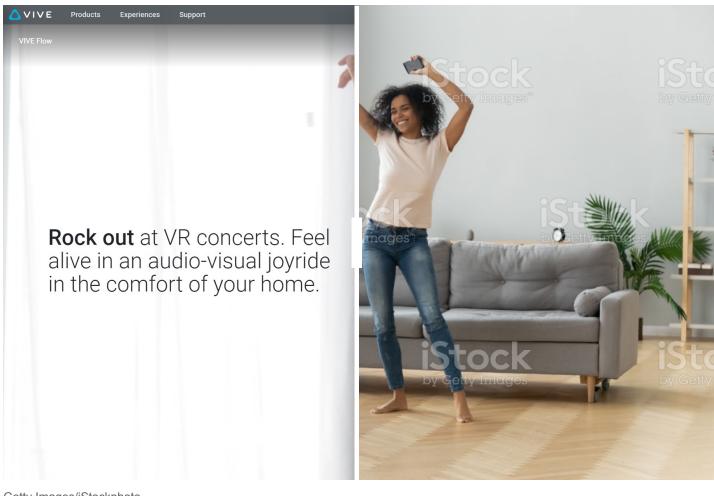
One rather important reason *why* they don't seem to care: they're not wearing it at all. It's photoshopped. The woman in the photo above was actually photographed with a bowl of popcorn, not a headset or a phone. Here's what the original looks like <u>at</u> <u>istockphoto.com</u>:



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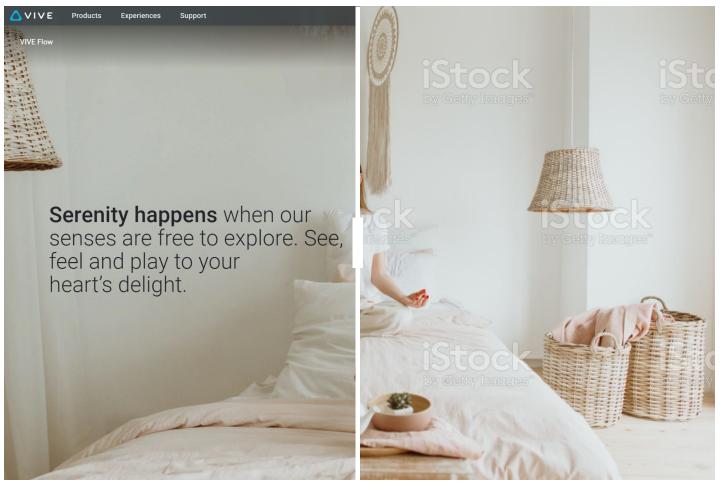




Getty Images/iStockphoto

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It could be worse. They could have forced a ridiculous smile onto somebody's face, an image which I don't see on the final website:



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Or, they could have pulled a Panasonic and <u>photoshopped a white man's head onto a</u> <u>black man's body</u>, in addition to shopping in their wearable speaker.

This is the second time in two months we're seeing a wearable gadget digitally added to a person's body, and it's weird. It's misleading, and — fair or no — my gut reaction is to wonder what these companies might be trying to hide. (My colleague Adi Robertson said the headset kept slipping down her face in demos, but she also tried a different face gasket that worked better.)

This is a bad look, particularly for wearables. Please stop it.

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