Best Seismograph App for iPhone: Pocket Seismograph Review

Pocket Seismograph turns your iPhone into a real-time vibration logger and seismograph. Free, offline, no account needed. Here's our full review.

Author: Lubor Šimůnek · Published: June 3, 2026 · Education

Online version: https://appstoryo.com/en/blog/best-seismograph-app-iphone-vibration-logger



The Best Seismograph App for iPhone

The **seismograph app for iPhone** you've been looking for is finally here. Pocket Seismograph transforms your iPhone into a fully functional vibration logger and seismograph using the device's built-in MEMS accelerometer. Whether you're a science teacher, a curious student, an engineer, or simply someone who lives in an earthquake-prone area, this free iOS app delivers real-time seismic data without any subscription, account, or internet connection.

In this review, we'll walk through everything Pocket Seismograph offers — from how it works to who should download it today.

What Is Pocket Seismograph?

Pocket Seismograph is a free iOS application that uses your iPhone's built-in accelerometer to detect and record vibrations. The app visualizes these vibrations as a live waveform on your screen, giving you an intuitive seismograph-style display. Sessions are logged with timestamps, so you can review, compare, and analyze vibration events over time.

The core technology behind the app is the MEMS (Micro-Electro-Mechanical Systems) accelerometer found in every modern iPhone. These tiny sensors measure acceleration

forces in three axes — X, Y, and Z — and can detect movements measured in milli-g (mg) or meters per second squared (m/s²). While not as sensitive as a professional seismometer, the MEMS accelerometer is sensitive enough to detect:

- Mild earthquakes (typically magnitude 3.0 and above, depending on proximity)
- Heavy truck or train vibrations passing nearby
- Industrial machinery operation
- Footsteps and door slams in the same room
- HVAC system vibrations

Key Features of Pocket Seismograph

Real-Time Waveform Display

The moment you open Pocket Seismograph, you see a live seismograph trace scrolling across your screen. The waveform responds instantly to any vibration the phone picks up. The display is clean, easy to read, and works in both portrait and landscape orientations. There's no learning curve — what you see is exactly what you get.

Session Logging with Timestamps

One of the most useful features for scientists and engineers is the session logging capability. Every vibration session is saved with a precise timestamp, allowing you to build a historical record of vibration events. This is invaluable for monitoring locations over time — for example, checking whether nearby construction is causing increasing ground vibrations.

Completely Offline

Unlike many modern apps, Pocket Seismograph works entirely offline. No data is sent to any server. No cloud account is required. Your vibration data stays on your device. This makes it ideal for field use in remote locations, underground facilities, or anywhere cellular coverage is unreliable.

Free and No Account Required

There is no paywall, no freemium tier, and no account creation. Open the app and start measuring. This commitment to accessibility makes Pocket Seismograph a standout choice for educators who need to deploy it across an entire classroom without managing student accounts.

Who Should Download Pocket Seismograph?

Science Educators and Students

For science classes, Pocket Seismograph is a dream tool. Students can conduct hands-on experiments measuring vibrations from different sources, compare waveforms, and develop an intuitive understanding of seismic waves. Teachers can use it to demonstrate concepts like wave amplitude, frequency, and the relationship between distance and vibration intensity.

Homeowners in Earthquake-Prone Regions

If you live near a fault line, having a pocket seismograph can be genuinely useful. While it won't replace the USGS network, it can confirm whether that rumble you felt was actually seismic activity or just a passing truck. It adds a layer of personal earthquake awareness that feels empowering.

Engineers and Facility Managers

Professionals who need to monitor machinery vibration levels, check whether HVAC systems are causing structural vibrations, or document vibration exposure near construction sites will find Pocket Seismograph to be a convenient first-pass measurement tool. It won't replace calibrated industrial sensors, but it provides quick, useful data.

Curious Minds Everywhere

Sometimes you just want to know: did I feel an earthquake, or was it the neighbor's washing machine? Pocket Seismograph answers that question in seconds.

Technical Details: How Accurate Is It?

Accuracy is a fair question. A smartphone MEMS accelerometer typically has a sensitivity range that makes it useful for detecting vibrations above about 1–5 mg. Professional seismometers can detect vibrations thousands of times weaker. So Pocket Seismograph is best described as an educational and practical tool rather than a scientific-grade instrument.

That said, for its intended use cases — detecting earthquakes that you can physically feel, monitoring machinery, education — the accuracy is more than sufficient. The real-time waveform gives you a genuine sense of vibration intensity and duration.

How to Get Pocket Seismograph

Pocket Seismograph is available exclusively on iOS. You can download it for free from the App Store. Visit the App Store page to find the app and download it directly to your iPhone or iPad.

There's no setup required after installation. Just open the app, set your iPhone on a stable surface, and watch the seismograph come to life.

Verdict: Is Pocket Seismograph Worth It?

Absolutely. For a free app that requires no account and works completely offline, Pocket Seismograph delivers exceptional value. It's educational, practical, and genuinely fun to use. The real-time waveform display is satisfying to watch, and the session logging gives it real utility beyond casual curiosity.

If you want the best **seismograph app for iPhone**, look no further. Download Pocket Seismograph today and start exploring the invisible vibrations around you.

Whether you're detecting an earthquake, monitoring a factory floor, running a classroom experiment, or just satisfying your curiosity, Pocket Seismograph is the iOS app that turns

science into something you can hold in your hand. Get it free on the App Store now.

Cite as: Lubor Šimůnek (2026). *Best Seismograph App for iPhone: Pocket Seismograph Review*. AppStoryo, lapnito.cz s.r.o.. https://appstoryo.com/en/blog/best-seismograph-app-iphone-vibration-logger
© 2026 lapnito.cz s.r.o.