

170 GADGETS RATED

Stuff

GADGETS / GAMES / GEAR

NEXT-GEN HANDHELDS

Play the future of mobile gaming & Nintendo Switch OLED tested



REVIEWED: WINDOWS 11 NOTEBOOKS

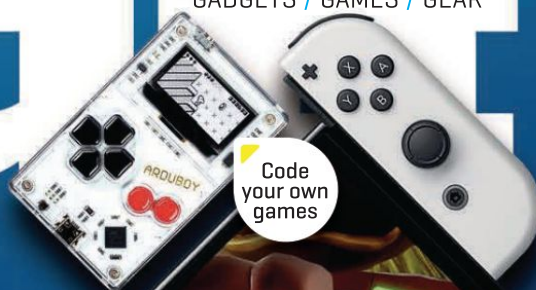
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WELCOME



Hello! I'm new here. But enough of that – welcome to what is a superb issue of *Stuff* (if we do say so ourselves), where we look in depth at the year's biggest handheld, the Nintendo Switch OLED. Not only that, but you also get the full skinny on the next generation of mobile gaming hardware set to hit the streets in our tasty main feature.

We've also reviewed all the new Apple gear in the form of the iPhone 13 Pro and super iPad Mini, plus the cream of Windows 11 laptops now that Microsoft has released the latest version of its mildly successful operating system. And there's more tip-top new tech from Amazon, Sky, Xiaomi, Philips, Hasselblad, Bowers & Wilkins and many, many more.

Next issue is set to be a good one too – we'll have our annual Christmas Gift Guide spectacular for you, in addition to a little bit of champagne cork-popping: it'll be 25 years to the month since the first issue of this magazine was published, so we'll be taking a look back at some of the tech that has rocked our world over the last two and a half decades.

Oh, and by the time you read this we'll also have relaunched our *Stuff*tv website with a brand spanking new design, so do go and check that out. Until next time!

Dan Grabham, Editor-in-Chief / @dangrabham



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- Google Pixel 6 Pro**
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THE LEGENDARY STUFF TOP TENS P82



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"X-S10 makes a lot of sense for a lot of people"

-Photography Blog



"If you own an APS-C DSLR and want to switch to a smaller, lighter mirrorless system, quite simply this is the camera for you."

-Amateur Photographer



"The X-S10 is an easy camera to recommend for photographers of all kinds"

-DP Review

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H

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T

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T

a sky original

WOLFE

• CRIMES TO SOLVE, A LIFE TO FIX

Glass wipe

The TV is available as part of your Sky subscription, so you don't need to pay a penny up front. Monthly prices start from £13 (for the 43-inch), £17 (55in) and £21 (65in).

Gogglebox
Top pick for you

TV shows

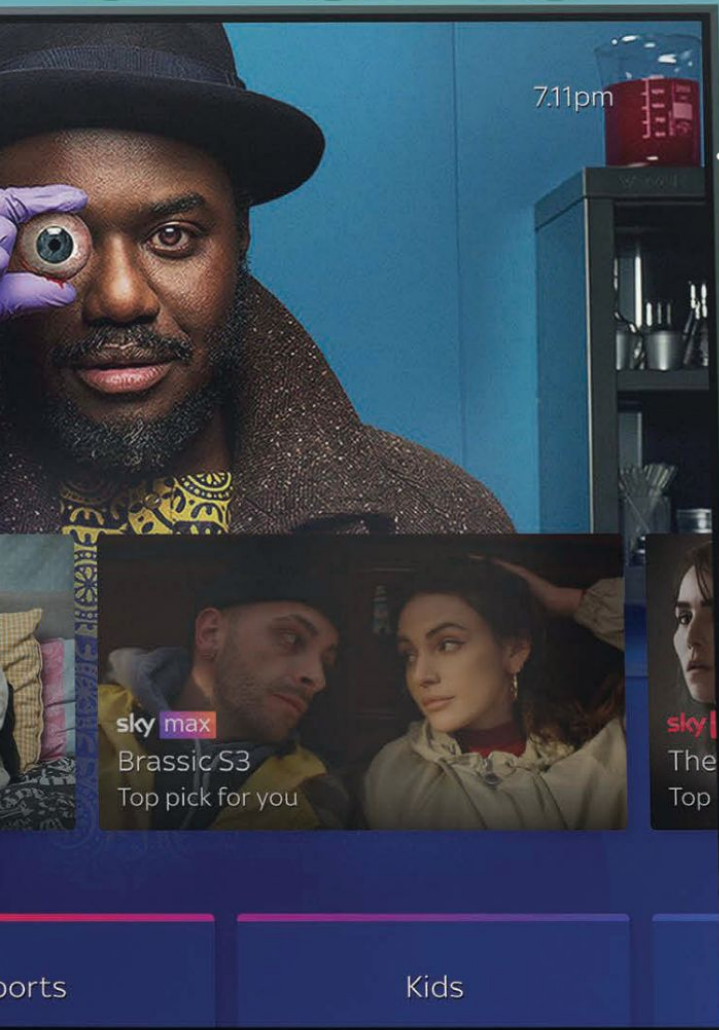
Movies

Sp

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ALL THE
BIGGEST
STORIES FROM
PLANET TECH

Glass holes

Sky Glass only needs mains power to get working but you still get three HDMI 2.1 ports and a USB-C socket, so you can plug in your PS5, UHD Blu-ray player and so on.

**HOT
FIVE
#1**

SO LONG AND THANKS FOR ALL THE DISH

Sky Glass

When you think about it, screwing a metal dish to the outside of your house just so you can have *Modern Family* beamed into your living room from space is a little bit ridiculous. So don't bother.

Sky Glass, which is available in 43in, 55in and 65in screen sizes and five different colours, ditches the dish and the box, streaming everything over Wi-Fi instead; all you need to do is plug in the power cable.

It's chunkier than a lot of tellys, mainly because there's a built-in Dolby Atmos speaker system that uses six drivers for room-filling sound – so you can probably chuck your soundbar too.

Those with bogus broadband might need to explore an upgrade, because the 4K HDR Quantum Dot display means you'll want to be streaming as many pixels as possible. The telly comes with a sleek glow-in-the-dark remote but pretty much everything can be controlled using your voice: just say "Hello Sky" to turn it on and away you go. You might as well say goodbye to the dish while you're at it.

As hot as... a satellite burning up on re-entry
from £649 or £13/m/sky.com

ALSO FROM MICROSOFT...


Surface Pro 8
 from £999

It might not be quite as flexible as the Studio, but 11th-gen Intel CPUs and a larger touchscreen than its predecessor certainly make the 13in Surface Pro 8 a tempting upgrade, especially when you consider the 120Hz screen and a rear cam that shoots 10MP stills and 4K video.


Surface Duo 2
 from £1349

Microsoft's original Surface Duo was met with mixed reviews on its launch last year, mainly because its specs felt a bit out of date. With a Snapdragon 888 5G chipset, triple-sensor camera and slightly bigger 8.3in screen, this follow-up to the book-like folding phone should put that right.


Surface Go 3
 from £449

With its 10.5in touchscreen and wallet-friendly price, Microsoft's Surface Go is probably the cheapest, most portable way to take proper Windows 11 on the road. The latest version lets you choose an Intel Core i3 processor, plus the battery life has been extended by an extra hour.

The race for spaces

The Studio isn't crammed with ports but there is a headphone socket plus two USB-C with Thunderbolt 4, so you can hook up two external monitors.

Every tally

Microsoft reckons with 'typical use' you'll get up to 19hrs out of the battery. That's impressive, even if it turns out to be a bit less under intensive effort.

Write magic

If you do add the Slim Pen 2 (£120) you shouldn't have to worry too much about losing it: the stylus clicks in magnetically under the front edge to recharge.

HOT FIVE #2

PUBLIC SURFACE BROAD TASKING

Microsoft Surface Laptop Studio

Buying an iPad these days is a bit like booking a flight with Easyjet – there are all kinds of optional extras you need to add to really get the best out of it. But the Surface Laptop Studio comes ready for action right out of the box, with a proper keyboard and a 14.4in tilting touchscreen that lets you effortlessly switch formats for the task at hand.

In laptop mode you get a clever Precision Haptic Touchpad; pull the screen forward to hide the QWERTY and it becomes a kind of digital easel (or the perfect setup for watching films on the train thanks to Dolby Vision support); while folding it flat gives you a rather hefty tablet, with 120hz PixelSense Flow tech making it a dream to draw on – though you'll have to pay extra for the Surface Slim Pen 2.

Inside you can kit it out with up to 32GB of RAM, an 11th-gen Intel Core i7 processor, Nvidia GeForce RTX 3050 Ti graphics and up to 2TB of removable SSD storage, so it'll be beefy enough to tackle some pretty demanding tasks. Even booking Easyjet flights.

As hot as... an in-flight vindaloo
 Etba (due 2022) / microsoft.com



HOT
FIVE
#3

HERE COMES THE LEAK FRIEND

Google Pixel 6 Pro

Google isn't very good at keeping secrets, which is less than ideal for a company that knows more about you than your own mother... but at least it only tends to give away its own. So while everybody knew the Pixel 6 Pro was coming (and even what it looked like) long before it was officially unveiled in full, that doesn't make it any less exciting.

The biggest news is round the back, where you'll find three cameras: a 50MP main, a 12MP ultrawide and a 48MP telephoto with 4x optical zoom. When their powers combine you get 20x zoom, but as usual it's Google's computational wizardry that's likely to impress the most: a new Magic Eraser automatically removes unsightly objects and people from your shots — handy if you ever find yourself on Downing Street.

Powered by Google's new Tensor chipset and 12GB of RAM, its 6.7in QHD+ OLED screen has a fingerprint reader underneath and a variable refresh rate ranging from 10Hz to 120Hz, while the 5000mAh battery should keep it in action right up until you need to recharge yours.

As hot as... the Colonel's secret recipe
£849 / store.google.com

Bot property

Astro is always listening out for breaking glass, and can sound a siren or turn on your smart lights to scare off intruders. It'll also warn you if it detects smoke or carbon monoxide.

HOT
FIVE
#4

TRUNDLE OF JOY

Amazon Astro

Alexa has been helping out around the house since 2014, but there's only so much a disembodied voice can actually do for you before you start craving something a little more, well, robotic. Clear a path for Astro, then: basically Alexa on wheels with a 10in tablet for a face.

Let Astro loose in your home and you'll have a roving bot that's always on hand to respond to your usual Alexa queries and will follow you around while you use it to make video calls or listen to music. It can even ferry stuff about in the storage bin on its back, identifying individual faces to make sure it's delivering its cargo to the right person. You can set out-of-bounds areas that Astro will avoid, and there's also a button to turn off all the mics, cameras and motion completely.

When you're not in it'll keep an ear out for disturbances and send video clips of anything it spots to your Ring account, with a 1080p periscope camera that can extend 42in upwards. You can even send it into the kitchen to check the oven's off. There's really not a lot it can't do — just don't ask it to fetch something from upstairs.

As hot as... an angry Dalek in a ladder shop
from \$999 / amazon.com



**Bot ticket**

Amazon's robot will only be available in the USA to begin with, and that \$999 price tag is just for the earliest of early adopters. After that it'll go up to \$1450 – that's a lot of Echoes.

**A view
to a chill**

A common problem of VR is that it rarely takes long for the headsets to get hot. The Flow's solution is an active cooling system that pulls warm air away from your face.

**Thunder
bowl**

The ViveFlow features 'full 3D spatial audio' – but if you find yourself wanting a bit more sonic oomph, you can also connect it to your favourite Bluetooth earbuds.

**HOT
FIVE
#5**

FLOWING OUT IN STYLE

Vive Flow

Virtual reality is great, but when it comes to the vast majority of headsets – which tend to be enormous and often tethered to a PC – the only reality you can leave behind is the one in your living room. What if you could fight futuristic pirates, or nip off for a meditation in space, while you're sitting in an airport departure lounge?

This is, we think, the idea behind the ViveFlow, the latest VR headset from HTC... although, as you can see, it isn't really a headset at all. Its maker would rather you call it 'lightweight immersive glasses', apparently weighing little more than a chocolate bar and sporting a dual-hinge

design with soft face gasket that allows it to fold down to a backpackable size.

As you can probably guess, the Flow isn't for those seeking the most high-end VR experience. It's controlled by your phone (Android-only at launch) and can't operate without being attached to some kind of battery pack. But for jumbo-screened entertainment, light gaming plus health and wellness apps, the 100° field of view, 3.2K resolution and 75Hz refresh rate should be more than up to the job of some on-the-go escapism.

As hot as... virtual lava-kayaking
£499 / vive.com

Stuff



Yamaha SR-C20A

Feb 2021



 **YAMAHA**
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uk.yamaha.com

PINBOARD WIZARD

Amazon Echo Show 15

£240 / amazon.co.uk

Alexa's got an exciting new job: hanging on your wall and organising your whole life

● **Alexa, Alexa, on the wall**

Most kitchen walls are adorned with clocks, calendars, noticeboards and bad art created by children. Isn't it about time for a 21st-century upgrade? Amazon thinks so, which is why you can now replace the whole lot with an Echo Show 15: an Alexa-enhanced digital picture frame with a whopping 15.6in screen. All that space means it can display loads of widgets at once – calendars, to-do lists, reminders, weather forecasts, dinner inspiration and smart home controls – plus it can also double as your Kitchen telly and show Prime Video, Netflix and other streaming services in Full HD.

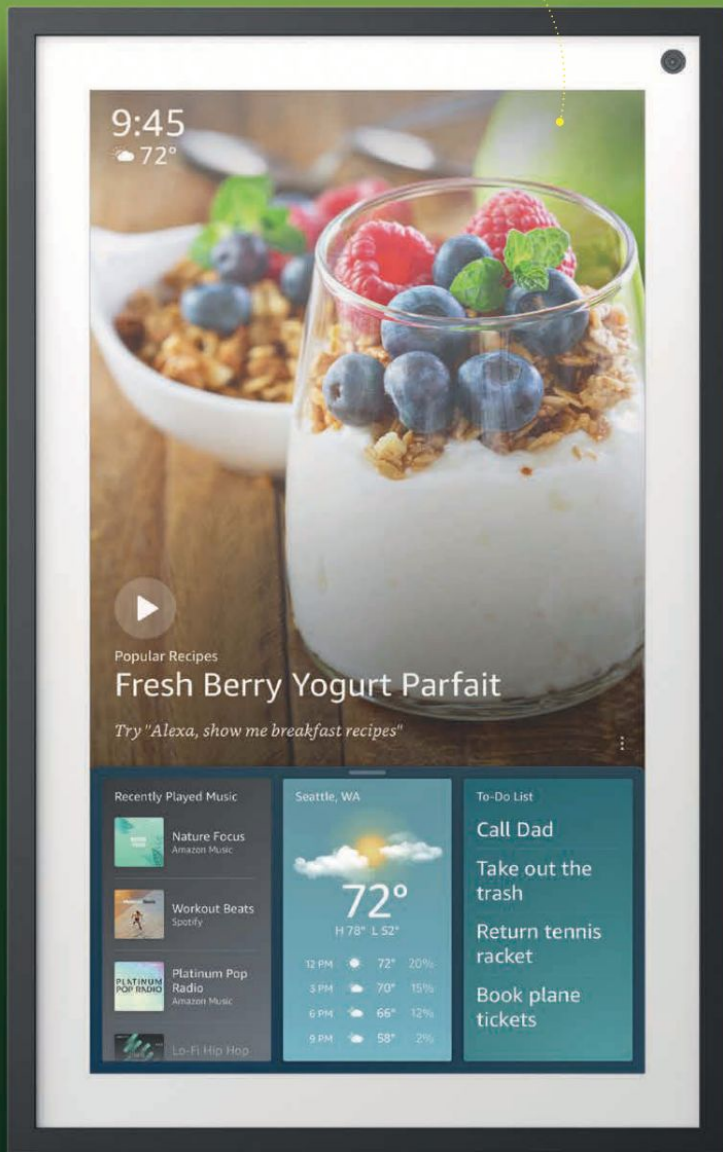
● **Who's the fairest...**

There's a 5MP camera in one corner that allows you to use the Show 15 for video calls, but it also comes with facial recognition tech called Visual ID, which makes sure the screen's showing content that's relevant to the person looking at it. That means all calendar entries, reminders, notes and recently-played music will be specific to you, while younger eyes will only be shown stuff that's appropriate for their age – so you don't have to worry about sprogs sneaking down and watching *Strippers vs Werewolves* on Prime during the night. It's only got 3/10 on IMDb anyway.

● **...of them all?**

If you don't want to hang it on the wall, Amazon will sell you a stand that you can use to prop up the Echo Show 15 instead. That should also solve the issue of how you hide the trailing power cable, but it certainly won't feel as sci-fi. It's powered by a new AZ2 Neural Edge processor, which means all the facial and voice recognition stuff is done on the device for added security. As with all other Echo devices there's also a mute button to stop Alexa from listening, plus a physical cover for the camera if you want to make absolutely sure she's not watching you dancing to Little Mix.

It supports picture-in-picture, so you can watch *Squid Game* while using a recipe widget. Sicko.





ALSO FROM AMAZON...

● Glow

With an 8in display for video calls and a 19in virtual touchscreen projected onto the surface it's standing on, the Glow (\$250) lets kids play games with family members when they can't be in the same room. Cute... we think?

● Smart Thermostat

There's no UK price for this Alexa-operated thermostat yet, but it'll only cost \$60 in the States and uses Alexa Hunches to guess when you've gone out (or to bed) and adjust the temperature accordingly.

● Ring Alarm Pro

Fed up of adding endless hubs and bridges to your smart home setup? Amazon's Ring Alarm Pro (from \$249) combines a mesh router with its new base station, so you can cut down on boxes dotted around your pad.

IT ONLY SHOWS
CONTENT
RELEVANT TO
THE PERSON
LOOKING AT IT



Zep inside love B&W ZEPPELIN (2021)

When you've got a product called the Zeppelin you're pretty limited in what you can make it look like. But while this latest incarnation of the famed speaker looks pretty much identical to its shapely predecessors on the outside, B&W says its innards have been totally reimagined. Powered by 240W of amplification, its two double-dome tweeters, two 3.5in mid drivers and one 6in subwoofer can be fed via AirPlay 2, Spotify Connect or aptX Adaptive Bluetooth, or using one of the many streaming services that are included in the Bowers & Wilkins Music app. There's also Alexa onboard, and multiroom support coming in early 2022. It still doesn't actually fly, though.

£699 / [bowerswilkins.com](https://www.bowerswilkins.com)



Scrolling in the deep WITHINGS SCANWATCH HORIZON

When you're 100m below the surface of the ocean you're probably not too worried about what's going on in your WhatsApp groups, but the ScanWatch Horizon is a smart timekeeper that's not afraid of the deep. The sapphire glass casing is able to withstand pressures of up to 10atm, while its diving watch credentials are boosted further by a stainless steel rotating bezel and Luminova hands that make it easier to read when you're submerged in the gloom. And while this watch can deal with your standard phone notifications, it's the advanced medical features – heart rate, ECG, breathing disturbances and blood oxygen levels – that'll really let you take a deep dive into your stats.

£450 / [withings.com](https://www.withings.com)

Imagine *Game of Thrones*, but with a wheel instead of a game and time instead of thrones... hey presto, your next epic fantasy blockbuster!



Army of Thieves

Zack Snyder's *Army of the Dead* may not have set the world alight, but Netflix is already serving up a (relatively zombie-free) prequel focusing on nebbish safe-cracker Ludwig Dieter. In a world distracted by the undead uprising (well, it would be...), he joins a band of criminals looking to loot Europe's most secure safes.

Film / 29 Oct, Netflix



Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings

If the CGI-heavy fight scenes in most Marvel movies leave you cold, rest assured that *Shang-Chi* has real kung-fu DNA in its blood: there's a sense of realism here that really sells the martial arts magic. Yes, it's another superhero origin story, but this one's a welcome departure from the usual churn.

Film / 12 Nov, Disney+



Red Notice

A top FBI profiler (Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson) is sent to put a pair of master thieves (Ryan Reynolds and Gal Gadot) in handcuffs, only for the three to team up in an attempt to pull off an audacious heist. It's *Ocean's 11* meets *Rush Hour* meets *Fast & Furious* – so grab the popcorn, turn off your brain and enjoy.

Film / 12 Nov, Netflix



The Shrink Next Door

The gripping true-crime podcast about the perils of becoming too close to your therapist gets some lavish adaptation treatment in this Apple-made series starring Will Ferrell and Paul Rudd. No spoilers here, but suffice to say Rudd's Dr Ike has an unusual concept of doctor-patient boundaries, and a taste for the finer things in life.

S1 / 12 Nov, Apple TV+



Cowboy Bebop

A late-'90s anime that holds a special place in the hearts of many a geek in Japan and beyond, *Cowboy Bebop*'s first live-action adaptation looks stylish as hell. A super-cool combination of neo-noir, sci-fi and western, it's finally arriving after a long delay. John Cho stars as spacefaring bounty hunter Spike.

S1 / 19 Nov, Netflix



Hawkeye

Often derided as the dullest Avenger, Jeremy Renner's bowman Clint Barton now gets to prove his non-dullness with a series of his own. Hawkeye just wants to get back to his family for Christmas... but with New York gripped by a criminal conspiracy, he must team up with another exceptional archer to face down an old foe.

S1 / 24 Nov, Disney+



The Wheel of Time S1 / 19 Nov, Amazon Prime Video

Robert Jordan's 14-volume fantasy series has shifted over 90 million books to date, so why it's taken so long for a screen adaptation to arrive is anyone's guess... but it's here now and it's looking absolutely lush. The setup is pretty standard – a prophesied champion of light must be found to face the champion of darkness in a world-shaking battle – but in the meantime, a party of potential heroes, led by Rosamund Pike's magic-wielding mentor, must avoid agents of evil on their journey to a mythical city.



STREAM



ICON



THE DIGITAL BACK
CAN BE REMOVED
AND ATTACHED TO
ANY HASSELBLAD
V SYSTEM BODY

HASSELBLAD 907X ANNIVERSARY EDITION KIT

£13,900 / hasselblad.com

Hey, the olden days called. They want their camera back.

If you'd whipped one of these out 80 years ago you'd have been burned as a time-travelling witch... but there's no denying the retro appeal of this special-edition shooter. It's here to mark the 80th anniversary of Hasselblad's very first camera, the HK-7, created after the Swedish Air Force asked Victor Hasselblad to develop an aerial surveillance snapper like the

ones used by the Luftwaffe. But the model this most resembles is actually the SWC, a groundbreaking camera that made wide-angle photography accessible in 1954.

Presumably it didn't cost the same as a new car back then...

It would have set you back around \$500, so not cheap – but that one didn't combine digital and analogue tech in quite the same way this thing does. Its 30mm wide-angle

lens apes the SWC's Biogon barrel, while the back is home to a 50MP medium-format CMOS sensor and 3.2in tilting touchscreen, so you can shoot from the hip as Victor intended. He probably didn't foresee the inclusion of Wi-Fi and wireless photo transfers via the Phocus Mobile 2 app, though.

What else is new?

Well, the black leatherette finish and 'tunar grey' trim are obvious

echoes of the SWC, with every element featuring custom detailing, but the modular control grip and optical viewfinder keep things contemporary. For the ultimate combination of old and new tech, though, the digital back can be removed and attached to any Hasselblad V System body – so if you happen to have an original hidden in a shoebox somewhere, you can give it a go at being digital. How's that for time travel?



HIT me with your rhythm stick SONY WF-C500

Half way through a HIIT workout probably isn't the perfect moment to appreciate sonic clarity, but even audiophiles need their exercise.

Sony's WF-C500 true wireless in-ears promise to improve the playback quality of your motivation playlist for less: while many buds go big on bass, Sony's Digital Sound Enhancement Engine instead aims to accentuate high-frequency sounds for more authentic audio. The moulded design means they should lock snugly into your lugholes, while IPX4 waterproofing ensures sweat won't stop your flow. The batteries will see you through 10hrs of star jumps, with a 10-minute visit to the charging case adding an extra hour. More burpees, anyone?

£90 / sony.co.uk



Tomorrow never nose HUAWEI MATEBOOK 14S

Buy your mate a book and they'll get a window into another world. Buy them a MateBook 14s and they'll get, er, a Windows 11 upgrade at some point soon. Underwhelmed? Get a better look: Huawei's latest laptop packs a 14.2in display with 2.5K resolution and a 90Hz refresh rate. It's powered by an 11th-gen Intel i7 chip; and while it won't trouble lighter rivals at 1.43kg, the aluminium alloy chassis is hardly chunky at 16.7mm.

Two tweeters and two woofers take care of audio, while a quartet of mics with AI noise-cancelling should improve your Zoom calls – and best of all, the webcam is back up in the bezel, unlike the MateBook 14's notorious 'nostril cam'. Thanks, mate!

from £1200 / huawei.com



Laptops
group test
p52

☑ DROP EVERYTHING & DOWNLOAD

Windows 11 Efree / PC

Windows updates are often forced on us at the most inconvenient moments, but this is one you won't want to put off.

While Windows 11 isn't the most drastic overhaul in the history of Microsoft's OS, a centred Start button and row of app icons on the taskbar give it a more Mac-like look, while the more rounded corners contribute to a cleaner feel. Teams is fully integrated now (thanks for that, Covid); it borrows some gaming features from the Xbox Series X, such as Auto HDR; and at some point soon it'll be able to run Android apps from the Amazon Appstore.

Best of all, if you're already running Windows 10 it's a totally free upgrade. In the market for a new laptop to install it on? Turn to p62 for our latest group test.





FIRST PLAY

MARVEL'S GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY

PC, Switch, PS5, PS4, XSX, XB1

After the mixed bag of last year's *Marvel's Avengers* game, Square Enix is now turning its attention to another ragtag society of superheroes: the Guardians of the Galaxy. But few would have predicted that this follow-up effort would be an entirely single-player third-person action game.

In *Marvel's Guardians of the Galaxy*, you play exclusively as Peter Quill, better known as Star-Lord, the self-appointed leader of these intergalactic outlaws. Our hands-on plonked us straight in at chapter five,

where we find the squabbling Guardians heading to pay a fine to the Nova Corps, essentially the intergalactic police.

Though the game doesn't star the original MCU cast, Drax' blunt delivery is just as amusing here as it is on the big screen, while Rocket Raccoon's sneering dismissal of most of Quill's ideas is bang-on.

While you only directly control Star-Lord, in combat you're in charge of everyone's moveset. The Guardians will happily scrap away alongside you, but by holding L1 (we played a PS5

build) you can tell any member of the team to use one of their unique abilities.

At certain points you can also trigger a 'huddle', where the combat freezes and you give your fellow Guardians a pep talk. You always emerge from these recharged and ready to fight, helped by a song from Quill's '80s-fuelled mixtape.

Developer Eidos-Montreal clearly understands how a Guardians of the Galaxy game should play, look and sound, and we're looking forward to seeing how the rest of the story unfolds.



FIRST LOOK NOBODY DOES IT 'NETTA



BAYONETTA 3

Switch

Almost four years have passed since Nintendo first teased the long-anticipated next entry in the best action game series of all time, leading to fears that developer PlatinumGames might have pulled the plug. So, very much better late than never, *Bayonetta* has finally

returned – and with a new hairstyle to boot.

The stylish Umbra Witch has no qualms about taking down angels or demons, and the first gameplay footage shows her fighting the latter in a ruined downtown Tokyo, which naturally gets wildly over the top.

But while *Bayonetta 3* looks set to continue the

frame-perfect action we've come to expect, where last-second dodges also trigger the slow-down effect of Witch Time, it seems she'll also be relying a little more on her demonic pets.

In the past she might have called on these beasts to finish off her foes but here you'll be able to control them in some massive-scale fights,

perhaps inspired by the developer's previous Switch exclusive *Astral Chain*, and even its cancelled game *Scalebound*.

That leads to plenty more questions – from the story to why Bay appears to have a new voice actor – but the good news is we won't have to wait too long, as it's coming to Switch in 2022.

BEST OF THE SEASON OF THE SWITCH



SPLATOON 3

Switch

The trendiest squids on the block are coming back in 2022. Even in a new wasteland apocalypse environment, ink is still in good supply for the game's signature team-based Turf Wars, with new maps, new abilities and a new story campaign: Return of the Mammallians.



KIRBY AND THE FORGOTTEN LAND

Switch

It seems even Nintendo's cuddliest hero can't escape the post-apocalypse as Kirby's latest adventure (his first in 3D) sees him no longer in Dream Land but in a world that looks like a scene from *The Last of Us*. Look out for it next spring.



TRIANGLE STRATEGY

Switch

Despite the ridiculous name, this isometric tactical RPG in the vein of classics like *Final Fantasy Tactics* is full of tough choices on and off the battlefield – the latter type requiring you to sway others to your convictions. It's coming exclusively to Switch in March.

INCOMING

NOVEMBER

- CALL OF DUTY: VANGUARD
- BATTLEFIELD 2042
- POKEMON BRILLIANT DIAMOND & SHINING PEARL

DECEMBER

- HALO INFINITE
- ADVANCE WARS 1+2: RE-BOT CAMP
- BIG BRAIN ACADEMY: BRAIN VS BRAIN
- SOL CRESTA



Zero SR/F

NOTHING AMPERES TO YOU

For £2000 more, the Premium model adds heated hand-grips, aluminium bar ends and the 6kW Rapid Charge System.



from £18,990 / zeromotorcycles.com

NEWS DASHBOARD

Now that looks cool – have you ridden it?

Yeah baby! We dug out our tatty leathers and “threw a leg over”, as all the cool bikers say. There’s a lot of scepticism surrounding electric motorcycles, but twist the throttle when a Zero SR/F is in Sports mode and many of those gripes get left behind. Along with your kidneys and spleen.

So it’s fast?

Blistering barnacles, it’s insanely quick. Zero doesn’t really bother with traditional 0–62mph times, but 190Nm of torque ensures an exhilarating take-off. Top speed is pegged at 124mph, and although power bleeds off a little beyond 70mph (on the track, of course), it’s enough to tickle the adrenal gland of any seasoned biker.

OK, now bore us with the EV stuff.

This is still the major sticking point for anyone thinking of dropping

almost 20 grand on an electric bike – because unless you pay an extra £3k for the range-doubling Power Tank, the Zero SR/F can only manage around 100 miles on a charge... and that’s if you’re being careful. Even with the optional 6kW charger, you’re still looking at an hour to fill up the batteries at a public charging point. That’s a very long wee, several cups of coffee and then another wee.

Strong ‘Tesla early adopter’ vibes.

Well, Zero is a Californian startup, very much gunning to be the Tesla of the two-wheeled world... and it has come on a long way since its inception in 2006. With in-house motors and battery packs, the bikes look fantastic and now come with premium components. This is certainly one of the best electric motorcycles we’ve ever ridden... but, like the equally great Harley-Davidson LiveWire, it just costs way too much money.



A STARR IS BORN

Rayvolt has just released its Ringo model (£2950), which packs the Spanish firm’s three-phase electric motor and cutting-edge lithium-ion battery pack. Opt for the upgraded 16.5Ah ‘smart battery’ and you’ll get around 35 miles of assistance. Isn’t it just the gnarliest e-bike you’ve ever seen?



HIGH ROLLER

No, this isn’t the electric Rolls the media has been speculating about for years, but an all-leccy prop plane made by the other Rolls-Royce – the one that makes jet engines and stuff. Dubbed the Spirit of Innovation, its main goal is to crack 300mph and prove zero-emissions planes really could be a thing.



GREEN GUARDIN’

Meet the Fering Pioneer, a British off-roader for eco-minded adventurers and emergency rescuers. It’s powered by two electric motors, which provide around 600Nm of torque and have a 50-mile range... but its biodiesel generator can keep it going for 4000 miles if necessary.



Nok around the clock

NOKIA G50

Besides build quality that could break bricks, the Nokias of old were known for their longevity. Come back to your blower after a week away and you'd still have three bars to work with. While the G50's 5000mAh battery only lasts a couple of days, it supports 18W fast charging, so when you've sapped the cell by directing pixelated snakes across the 6.82in HD+ display it won't take too long to refill. As for shooting duties, a 48MP main camera is flanked by a 5MP ultrawide and a 2MP depth sensor, so your Insta snaps shouldn't look too shabby. Add in 5G connectivity with a readiness for Android 12 and you've got a Nokia that's ready for the long game.

£200 / nokia.com



Keys to the highway

LOGITECH MX KEYS MINI

Whether you're working out some of history's finest spreadsheet formulae or crafting a curt comeback to a beleaguered customer service representative, keyboards are pretty crucial. Trouble is, they're not always the easiest things to transport. Logitech's compact MX Keys Mini ditches the numberpad and arrow keys of its full-size sibling in favour of a streamlined metal build that's easier to tote alongside your tablet. Sculpted keys and improved stability promise a typing experience that won't disturb the cafe crowd, while it also comes with dedicated buttons for dictation tools, muting your mic and diving straight into the emoji menu (shocked face) – plus a 10-day battery.

£100 / logitech.com



NEWS FEED

AMAZON GOES ON A FEE-FREE IMDB TV SPREE

You no longer need to pay a penny to watch films on Amazon Prime Video. The new IMDb TV channel shows you ads rather than asking for cash – and the selection isn't bad at all. *Pulp Fiction* and *Napoleon Dynamite* are among the films on offer, while *Community* and *The Shield* are available to binge.

ANIMATED MARIO MOVIE IN THE PIPELINE

Not many people have fond memories of 1993's *Super Mario Bros* film, but that's not stopping Nintendo from having another go – and Chris Pratt is set to lend his voice to the plumber. Anya Taylor-Joy will play Princess Peach, with Jack Black voicing Bowser. It's due out in December 2022.

CANON LETS YOU VIRTUALISE YOUR OWN REALITY

Got a Canon EOS R5 and an urge to shoot your own VR movies? The RF 5.2mm f/2.8L Dual Fisheye Lens records two scenes at once on the same sensor with lenses spaced 60mm apart, which gives the footage a natural stereoscopic depth – perfect for reviewing on a VR headset. Shame it'll set you back £2100.

ADIDAS UNVEILS AN XBOX FOR YOUR FEET

The Xbox Series X might be a boring black box but the true colour of Microsoft's console will always be green. Adidas agrees, which is why it's marking the 20th anniversary of the first Xbox with these luminous lime trainers, which have an Xbox logo on the tongue.



? WTF IS THE SONY SRS-NS7?

That travel pillow's got a puncture.

Yeah, good luck getting 40 winks with this thing around your neck. The SRS-NS7 is a wearable speaker, so once it's sitting on your shoulders its upwards-firing drivers will discreetly fill your ears with audio, meaning you can carry on watching telly after everybody else has gone to bed.

What's wrong with headphones?

Cans cut you off from the rest of the world, so they're not ideal if you need to keep an ear out for any sprogs in nocturnal distress, plus they also get hot and sweaty if you wear them for too long. With its fabric coating, 319g weight and adjustable silicone band on the back to help you find the perfect fit, you should manage a whole *Succession* marathon wearing the SRS-NS7 without feeling like you've been carrying a hod around all day. And the battery lasts up to 12 hours, so you're likely to conk out before it does.

OK, how do I connect it?

There's a transmitter that plugs into your TV with optical and USB cables, which you connect to the speaker via Bluetooth 5.0. If you're watching one of Sony's Bravia tellys, this cuts down on lag between the sound and the pictures, so whatever you're watching won't end up looking like a badly dubbed kung-fu movie.

And how does it sound?

It supports Dolby Atmos and Sony's 360 Spatial Sound, plus there's a passive radiator inside, so while it's not going to replace your soundbar it should still give you a decent sense of being right there in the bathroom with Dion Dublin. You can even use the 360 Spatial Sound Personalizer app to take photos of your ears, which it'll analyse and then tweak the audio performance to suit you. Not bad for a deflated travel pillow.



Wristy mountain hop MOBVOI TICWATCH PRO 3 ULTRA

TicWatch ticked a lot of boxes with last year's Pro 3 — and now it's been upgraded to satisfy outdoorsy sorts. Clad in Gorilla Glass, stainless steel and reinforced nylon, the Pro 3 Ultra is built to withstand the world's worst weather. Extreme temperatures? Low pressure? Solar radiation? All in a day's work for this toughened watch. Plus you get all the skills that made the standard Pro 3 such a compelling package: three-day battery life, built-in GPS and a Snapdragon Wear 4100 chipset for blitzing through Wear OS, which should look its best on the 1.4in AMOLED display. More than 20 workout modes help you train smart, and of course this ticker also monitors your ticker. Tickety-boo.

£290 / mobvoi.com



Specs and lugs and rock'n'roll ANKER SOUNDCORE FRAMES

Built-in speakers might improve your glasses, but it takes the right look to make them truly smart. So Anker's new Soundcore Frames ship in 10 interchangeable styles to suit every face. Whether you opt for aviators or wayfarers, with prescription lenses or moody shades, you'll find two audio drivers in each arm for the OpenSurround stereo effect. A private listening mode reduces sonic leakage on calls, while noise-masking mics mean friends and voice assistants should hear you clearly. They have touch controls, and Anker reckons you'll get over five hours of playback from a charge — long enough to blast through any 'spectacled rock idols' playlist.

from £150 / uk.anker.com

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WIN AN ASTELL&KERN PORTABLE MUSIC PLAYER AND DAC MODULE!

If you're old enough to remember Pez candy dispensers, you'll know how special it is to be able to switch the flavour of your sweets. But now that we're all adults, what in the world of gadgets can offer us such a gateway to swappy joy?

Enter the Astell&Kern A&futura SE180 hi-res portable music player (RRP £1399), the first of its kind to support interchangeable DAC modules, offering audio fanatics mindblowing levels of customisation... and alongside it, the SEM2 DAC module (£319), which gives you the option to summon a totally different sound to that provided by the player's bundled module.

On top of that, Astell&Kern's latest kit promises better audio, an enhanced interface with a 5in Full HD touchscreen, and advanced connectivity with Wi-Fi and Bluetooth 5.

Find out more at astellkern.co.uk – then book a day off for some important sonic admin and find the DAC setup that's candy for your ears.

HOW TO ENTER

Ready to go DAC to the future? For your chance to win this month's competition, simply go to stuff.tv/win and answer this question:

WHAT WAS THE NAME OF MARK MORRISON'S BIGGEST HIT?

- A...** Return of the DAC
- B...** Return of the Mack
- C...** Return of the Flapjack

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Play the future of mobile gaming & Nintendo Switch OLED tested



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iPhone 13 & iPad Mini tested
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Everything Pro's my way

Opt for the iPhone 13 Pro and you're getting this year's juiciest Apple, with zero compromise on display, camera tech or battery life. Best. Phone. Ever?



from £949 stuff.tv/13Pro

New iPhone launches have become a bit predictable, haven't they? But bear with us here. While the iPhone 13 Pro doesn't look wholly dissimilar to last year's offering, it comes with a bunch of tweaks that add up to something more significant. With a better brain, a better battery and Apple's most

powerful camera yet, it's hard not to get a little bit excited.

Apple knows that Apple fans love creative stuff – enjoying it and producing it. That's why this is pound-for-pound the best little media machine imaginable. For starters, there's a totally new camera array. Both the wide and ultrawide cameras have been redesigned with

wider apertures, meaning loads more light pouring into the lenses for better night shots, portraits and more.

Thanks to the new A15 Bionic chip paired with this hardware, a new Cinematic mode allows you to change the focus while shooting video. Then there's Macro mode for getting up close to bugs, a 3x telephoto zoom

and some (slightly less exciting) filters, while for videographers the ProRes film format works with professional software.

And for watching video, Apple has one more trick: the refresh rate goes from 10Hz to 120Hz depending on what's on the screen. This all adds up to make the iPhone 13 Pro more than the sum of its shiny new parts.



1 Feels of steel

The 6.1in OLED HDR display is protected by ceramic glass, and the phone is dunk-proof with an IP68 rating. The notch is almost 1cm narrower than the old one; elsewhere you'll find flat-edged stainless steel edges and a smooth matt finish on the rear.

2 The rate beyond

Finally Apple has caught up with adaptive refresh rates; this OLED has the ability to hurtle along at 120Hz when gaming and watching movies, and also when scrolling between tasks... but can dial it down to just 10Hz for less taxing jobs, such as reading.

3 Film me up

Video quality is quite stunning. The wide-angle shooter uses sensor-based stabilisation, which makes for much better results even in limited light. Cinematic mode allows for some clever focus shifting, but caps out at 1080p @ 30fps.

4 Daddy fuel

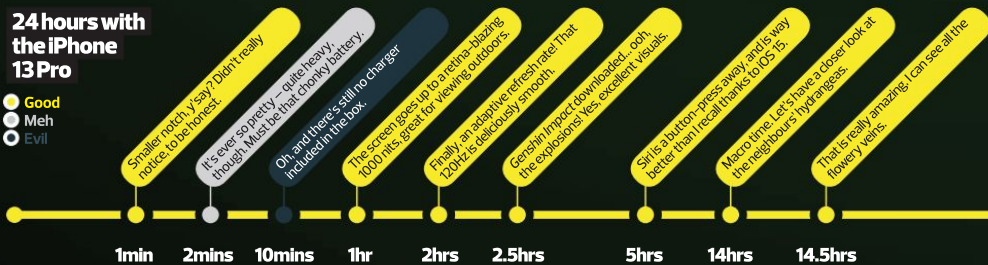
Apple has done something very simple to improve battery life: tucked in a bigger one. That's why it's a heavier phone than the 12 Pro, but it's a decent trade-off for an extra 1.5hrs of fun. After a day of heavy use, we still had up to 40% left in the tank.

5 Noise in the attic

Call quality is superb and iOS 15 allows the 13 Pro to do spatial audio, but what's more interesting is the voice isolation feature in FaceTime, which blocks out ambient noise. Wide Spectrum mode does the very opposite, enhancing background sound.

24 hours with the iPhone 13 Pro

- Good
- Meh
- Evil



Tech specs

Screen 6.1in 2532x1170 120Hz OLED
Processor A15 Bionic **RAM** 6GB
Storage 128/256/512GB/1TB **OS** iOS 15
Cameras 12+12+12MP rear, 12MP front
Battery 3095mAh (Lightning, Qi/MagSafe)
Dimensions 147x72x7.7 mm, 203g

Pro, you pretty things

Apple's triple rear camera is back, only bigger and smarter... so we pointed it at everything we saw



■ Pro happy day

Even on a dreary day the colours pop in a wonderful and realistic way, without any oversaturated silliness, thanks to computational photography techniques such as Deep Fusion and Smart HDR 4.



■ Pro lonesome me

The 3x optical zoom is a huge step up from last year and it's equivalent to a 77mm lens. This does drop the aperture from f/2.2 to 2.8, but the telephoto has a low-light mode to make up for it.



■ Pro what a night

The main wide-angle sensor has got the biggest upgrade, as it's so much bigger and has an aperture of f/1.5. Combined with Apple's AI tricks, low-light iPhone photography has never been better.



■ It's Pro so quiet

Simply get within a few inches of your subject and you'll notice the camera jolt as it switches to the ultrawide sensor – while remaining in focus. The results are surprisingly excellent.

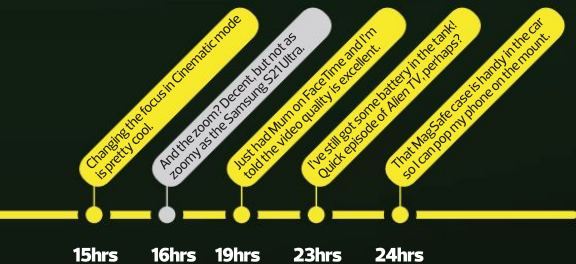


The iPhone 13 Pro is Apple's most accomplished handset this year, with the A15 Bionic chip, 5G, a battery that'll last well over a day and the best camera system on any phone.

Yes, all the advances are incremental, but when you add them up it's big – and these are all the powers of the 13 Pro Max in a device you can use one-handed. @NatalyaPaul

STUFF SAYS ★★★★★

The iPhone 13 Pro hits the spot for power, performance, camera, battery life and design



The alternatives: Your other iPhone options

There are four new phones in Apple's 2021 range – here are the other main contenders to weigh up alongside the 13 Pro

Apple iPhone 13 Mini

from £679 /
stuff.tv/13Mini

What's the story?

We could have focused on the 6.1in iPhone 13 here, but we've chosen the Mini version because it's the entry-level model – and size aside, it's essentially the same phone.

Mind you, if price is your key factor, you'd be better off getting an iPhone 12. The old model now costs the same as the new Mini (the 12 Mini is £100 less) and has a bigger display, albeit with inferior cameras and less storage.

Is it any good?

The 13 Mini is all about the form factor, offering you a (nearly) compromise-free option when you want the full-fat iPhone experience without, well, the fat.

Is it perfect? No. The battery life is improved but remains a trade-off, and this iPhone can be fiddly to use. But it is easily the best tiny phone you can get. Let's hope more people buy it this time – and Apple doesn't tire of making small handsets.

KEY SPECS

Screen 5.4in 2340x1080 60Hz OLED **Processor** A15 Bionic **RAM** 4GB
Storage 128/256/512GB
Cameras 12+12MP rear, 12MP front **Battery** 2438mAh **Dimensions** 132x64x7.7mm, 141g

Stuff says

★★★★☆

Bumps up the camera skills and battery life of the smallest iPhone



Apple iPhone 13 Pro Max

from £1049 /
stuff.tv/13ProMax

What's the story?

A flagship phone has to be something special... yet when Apple revealed the iPhone 13 Pro Max, it looked much the same as the iPhone 12 Pro Max. Ah, but appearances can be deceptive, because the 13 Pro Max is a definite step up from last year's model.

Is it any good?

This is in many ways the best iPhone Apple's ever made. It has the biggest and best screen, a superb camera system, a bigger battery, solid speakers, and more power than most people will ever need or use. But it's also big, expensive and heavy.

And this year, all those camera upgrades and a chunk of battery benefits also come to the standard iPhone 13 Pro. So if you want the best, this is your iPhone. But first weigh up whether you could live with a little less battery life, screen space and weight – and £100 extra in your pocket.

KEY SPECS

Screen 6.7in 2778x1284 120Hz OLED **Processor** A15 Bionic **RAM** 6GB
Storage 128/256/512GB/
1TB **Cameras** 12+12+12MP rear, 12MP front **Battery** 4352mAh **Dimensions** 161x78x7.7mm, 240g

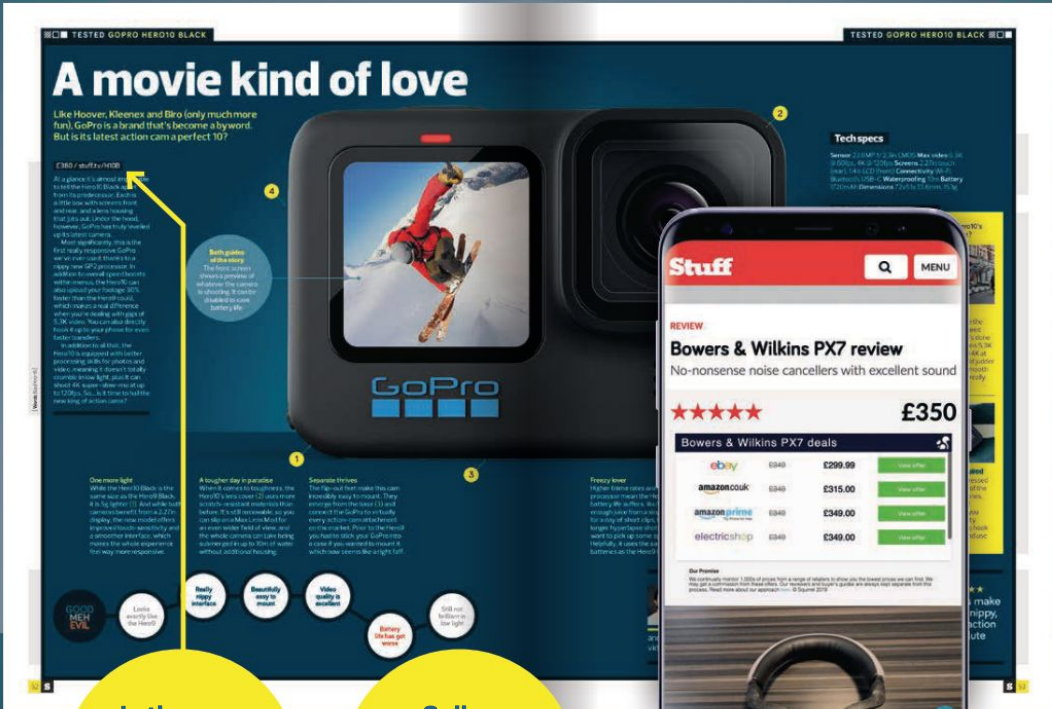
Stuff says

★★★★★

A significant upgrade for Apple fans who like to go large



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DESK DELIGHTS



The phone fueller
Ikea Hektar Work Lamp

Most desks could do with a dose of Scandi minimalism. While this simple device won't address the admin piling up, the all-metal Hektar will at least bathe your paperwork in useful lumens. Plus it'll charge two devices simultaneously: one via USB, the other with its built-in wireless charger.

£50 / ikea.com



The glare-free glower
BenQ WIT e-Reading Desk Lamp

For screen-staring that's easier on the eyes, BenQ's curved lamp casts an even glow across a wide arc. It's brighter at the sides to better balance your display's backlight with the surroundings, while hinges and an adjustable ball joint permit perfect positioning of the aluminium arm.

£179 / benq.eu



The wider warmer
Huawei Opple Smart Desk Lamp

One-bulb beams cast long shadows and can make your study feel like an interrogation room... so besides the main bar at the top, Huawei's dimmable lamp features a light panel on the stem for extra ambience. Connecting to the AI Life app unlocks remote control and personalised settings.

£60 / consumer.huawei.com

FLOORSTANDING FANCIES



The rainbow rod
Philips Hue Gradient Signe

Smart bulbs might fill your ceiling sockets, but it takes a glowing totem to truly light up a room. Enter the latest addition to Philips' family of Wi-Fi wonders. Blend light along its aluminium stem to paint your walls with a collage of colours, and pair up with your other Hue kit for voice-controlled scenes.

£265 / philips-hue.com

UPVOTED LAMPS

Always looking on the bright side of life, **Chris Rowlands** goes full Brick Tamland in order to help you light on something that'll glow the extra mile



The iconic illuminator
Anglepoise 1227 Floor Lamp National Trust

Few functional objects achieve cult status quite like the angularly poised Anglepoise. Finished in sage green, this version shines a light on an organisation that's also a bit of a retro treasure: the National Trust. Stick one in the corner and you'll be contributing to the Trust's conservation efforts.

£299 / anglepoise.com

TABLETOP TECHIES



The levitating light
Floately Gravita

An apple on Newton's bonce unveiled the universal force of attraction, but this gravity-defying bulb makes old Isaac look bananas – thanks to electromagnets. While pondering its wireless wizardry, pop your phone on the base for cordless power. Plus there are built-in Bluetooth speakers.

£129 / floately.com



The Technicolor tube
Govee Glow

Styled like the offspring of a smart speaker and a space heater, this cylinder delivers ambience in 360°. Touch-buttons on the base allow quick control, while Wi-Fi and Bluetooth let you dive deeper in the app. Pick from preset scenes or set it to 'music mode' for responsive mood lighting.

£70 / uk.govee.com



The bedside beacon
Lepro WiFi Smart Bedside Lamp

As well as scaring off the monsters hiding in your wardrobe at night, this dimmable lamp can set all sorts of scenes. Fire up the app for hub-free control of colour, brightness and a timer via Wi-Fi. You can also call for Alexa or Google Assistant after dark, instead of disturbing your parents.

£38 / lepro.co.uk

HOW TO DECIDE

Right size

You want to fill your room with light, not clutter. Go for something with a streamlined stand if desk space is in short supply. Shopping for the floor? A small footprint is your friend.



White lies

Most standard lamps serve up a single shade; smarter ones offer multiple colour temperatures, from bright white for focused work to warmer hues when it's time to unwind.



The engineered enlightener Dyson Lightcycle Morph (Floor)

One day, Dyson will reinvent the wheel. For now, it's happy rehashing the humble lamp. Pivot the mighty morphing Lightcycle's head to glow on books, walls or artwork — or touch the arm to send it gliding back to base, where it will cast light through a soothing amber filter in the stem. An algorithm even adjusts colour and brightness according to your local time and — weirdly — age. And thanks to vacuum cooling that keeps LEDs alive for longer, this lamp could last until Dyson really does have a crack at post-circular wheels.

£650 / dyson.co.uk

🔥 Bright eyes

Dimmers deliver precise brightness control. Some lamps offer several preset levels of luminosity, while others permit adjustments via a touch interface or partner app.



🔥 Light skies

What's right at dusk can be too bright in the night. The smartest lamps adjust brightness levels and colour settings automatically, using an ambient sensor or even GPS.

Stuff

DIGITAL EDITION



Available from shop.kelsey.co.uk/stuff
plus Readly and Pocketmags

PAWS THE ACTION

This time last year we were discovering how impossible it is to buy a PS5... but 2021 is the year of handheld gaming. From a new Nintendo Switch to a portable PC and a tiny yellow console with a crank-handle, the mini marvels are coming – just don't try to grab them all at once.



TESTED Nintendo Switch OLED

One of our favourite ever gadgets has a new screen, a new stand and a new paint job... but is it an essential upgrade? We spent days playing games, guilt-free, to find out.

p38



PC

Imagine a Switch, but instead of *Mario* and *Animal Crossing* it plays every PC game you own. That's the pitch for the incoming onslaught of handheld gaming PCs, led by Valve's Steam Deck.

p42



Retro

As much as we like 4K HDR visuals, ray-tracing and zero loading times, for some people games don't get any better than the bleepy-bloopy ones made 40 years ago. Thus, the retro handheld scene.

p44



Quirky

There are tried and tested inputs for playing games... but Panic reckons the world needs a console with a crank, so that's what you get with the Playdate, which leads our selection of maverick handhelds.

p46



Mobile

A mobile phone can do everything these days, and you'd better believe that includes gaming. With one of these super-specced blowers in your pocket, you'll never be bored again. Well, not very often.

p48

NINTENDO SWITCH OLED

The new Switch isn't quite what we were led to believe was coming, but it sure is nice to look at. So how is it to play?

F

our and a half years and nearly 90 million shifted units later, Nintendo's masterstroke of a hybrid console has returned its maker to the top...

but there's no denying the Switch is starting to show its age, and that's why bubbling rumours of a 'Switch Pro' were easy to believe.

When Nintendo confirmed its first significant Switch revision since 2017, however, it was not the Pro we were expecting. 4K upscaling on the telly? Forget it. A 1080p handheld display? Nope. In fact, if we're talking raw power specs, the Switch OLED is entirely unchanged.

But, as the name suggests, it does bring something new to the table, namely that display – as well as a handful of other hardware tweaks that frankly should have been there from the beginning. If you're looking to buy a Switch for the first time, then we'll come right out and say it: this one is well worth the £50 extra.

Grow OLED with me

As anyone who's bought a top-end smartphone in the last four or five years will know, the rich colours, deeper blacks and far higher contrast made possible by OLED really do make staring at a glowing rectangle that much more enjoyable – and it's no different here.

It's not surprising that Nintendo opted to launch the Switch OLED alongside *Metroid Dread* (turn over for more on that), in which the inky blacks of the darker areas you explore look gorgeous alongside bright orange lava and the neon lights of alien bases. We fired up Switch classics like *Super Mario Odyssey* and *Breath of the Wild* and their already vivid worlds popped even more than usual.

A wider shade of pale

If you ignore those new and rather fetching white Joy-Con controllers, the Switch OLED looks very familiar; but as a handheld, the revised model quickly reveals itself as a pretty major upgrade. As well as kitting out the new hardware with a shiny OLED display, Nintendo has also upped the screen size from 6.2in to 7in – and it's done so by shrinking the chunky bezel,

Skyward hoard

The Switch OLED doubles the built-in storage to 64GB. It's a welcome upgrade, but still easy to fill very quickly.



Animal glossing

The 'bezel around the bezel' is glossy on the new console, which lends it a slightly more grown-up aesthetic.

**Link's a-weakening**

The quoted battery life remains a vague 4.5–9hrs. It depends on screen brightness, what you're playing, and Wi-Fi use.

Rehouser's fury

We spent a good two minutes trying to find the storage-boosting microSD card slot. It's been moved behind the stand.

rather than increasing the overall size of the device. An increase of 0.8in might not sound like much, but it really does make a difference, immersing you more in handheld play.

Can stand me now

Let's be honest, the original Switch's kickstand was a joke. It felt like it was going to break off entirely every time you went to use it, and the slightest jog to your tray table was enough to plonk the console onto its face.

The Switch OLED's stand, though, actually does its job. Now as wide as the console itself, it props up the device with ease, while its adjustable angle means play can extend beyond the tabletop. You should be able to find a decent enough angle to play with the Joy-Cons off and the Switch on your lap while reclining in bed... which might look a bit odd but is nice to have as an option should the console start to feel heavy in your hands.

The speakers have what Nintendo calls 'enhanced audio', and they are

clearly louder than before, which is great if you can't be bothered reaching for headphones as you move rooms with the console. Just remember, Nintendo recently decided – after four years of forcing us to use wired headphones or a dongle – that Bluetooth headphones magically work with the Switch now.

Eye of the Tegra

Performance-wise the Switch OLED isn't doing anything differently. Insiders continue to insist that somewhere a more powerful 4K-ready Switch is slowly being readied, but this one runs on the same Nvidia Tegra X1 as the LCD model, with the same 4GB of RAM and max resolution of 720p handheld or 1080p docked.

Nintendo's dev wizards can still make its games look pretty fantastic, but it's not unusual to see the Switch struggling to keep up when big 3D games get really busy; and in the age of the 4K 60fps PS5 and Xbox Series X, Nintendo is lagging very far behind

where tech is concerned. The world is surely ready for a Switch Pro, even if its maker apparently isn't.

Do you wanna clutch me?

If you do most of your Switch gaming via the TV, you absolutely do not need this upgrade. There's no point; games will look exactly the same. And if you just really want white Joy-Cons or that new dock, they'll both be available to buy separately anyway.

For the handheld-first crowd, it's going to come down to how much you value the benefits of the big OLED. All we'll say here is that, once you've seen Link gallop across Hyrule on that display, it is quite hard to go back.

Price £310 / stuff.tv/SwitchOLED

Key specs

- 7in 1280x720 OLED touchscreen (1920x1080 docked output)
- Nvidia Tegra X1, 4GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, LAN, HDMI, USB-C
- 64GB storage
- 242x102x13.9mm, 320g

STUFF SAYS Enough improvements to make for a tempting Switch upgrade ★★★★★



Breath of the wired

The new dock has two USB ports and HDMI in, but the big addition is a LAN port, great for online gaming stability.

● NOW PLAY THIS



METROID DREAD

If you're going to splash out on a new Switch, might as well add this long-awaited game and give that screen a proper workout

Look at any 'best games of all time' list online and you can bet you'll see at least a couple of *Metroid* games near the top. Expertly combining platforming, action, puzzling and nonlinear exploration in a sci-fi universe rich in atmosphere, the adventures of Samus Aran are up there with anything gaming has to offer.

Intended as a Nintendo DS game but eventually cancelled, presumably due to the console's limitations, *Metroid Dread* is the series' first brand-new 2D game in nearly 20 years, and one that most fans understandably gave up on long ago.

Samus it ever was

You play as once again as Samus Aran, a bounty hunter who heads to the unexplored planet ZDR after receiving an unsourced video transmission suggesting that the extremely dangerous shape-shifting X parasite she thought she had eradicated may still exist. Upon arrival, Samus loses a fight with the Chozo

warrior waiting to greet her and finds herself deep beneath this alien planet's surface, stripped of most of her abilities, far from the safety of her ship and in a fair bit of trouble.

Like the side-scrolling *Metroid* games before it, this one has you exploring a maze-like alien world that gradually opens up as Samus regains the suit augmentations she's lost. Classic *Metroid* power upgrades such as the Charge Beam, Grapple Beam and Morph Ball return, but best of all is a new one, the Phantom Cloak, which temporarily turns Samus invisible, allowing her to sneak past enemies unnoticed. There's a fair bit of combat and some very tricky multi-stage boss battles, but Samus has never felt this good to control.

EMMI—self and I

Metroid games have always been about feeling alone and isolated as you slowly uncover new areas of the planets you're exploring, but *Dread* brings another level of tension. As you explore you'll



enter some EMMI (Extraterrestrial Multifunction Mobile Identifier) zones, in which a terrifyingly agile robot will stalk you and engage as soon as you're spotted. When you first meet an EMMI your missiles will bounce off it like peanuts – which sets up some thrilling chases that force you to choose routes in a panicky split second.

Metroid Dread will inevitably be compared to brilliant modern *Metroidvania* titles like *Hollow Knight* and the *Origami* games; but they don't have the legacy of Samus, and we're really hoping the conclusion of this particular storyline also marks the beginning of an exciting new era for one of Nintendo's greatest ever series.

● ...& THESE



Eastward

There's no new *Zelda* title arriving with the Switch OLED (harumph!); but if your fondest memories of Link's adventures are pre-*Ocarina of Time* top-down affairs, then you might want to check out this nostalgic action RPG with a strong whiff of cult SNES classic *EarthBound*.



Mario Kart 8 Deluxe

An oldie, but still very much an oh-so-goodie: no Switch library is complete without the best *Mario Kart* game ever. And you can bet those Technicolor courses are going to look even better on the OLED version. This will keep you going until we finally get *Mario Kart 9*.



TOEM

An indie gem that we fear has gone unnoticed by too many people, *TOEM* is a chilled-out hand-drawn adventure game in which you take photos, chat to eccentric characters and, well, that's pretty much it. No colour in this one, but a whole lot of black that'll look lovely on the OLED.

STUFF SAYS The perfect showpiece game for the Switch OLED ★★★★★

PC

VALVE STEAM DECK

What if the Switch and your gaming PC had a baby? Well, we'd have questions, but it might look like this...

Shake thumb action

The two full-sized thumbsticks have touch sensors built in, giving you a little extra precision with FPS games.



We are the gigs

The pre-order page lets you choose from three configurations, the main differences being how much storage you get.

T

he Switch has a lot going for it, but you wouldn't catch one boasting about its specs in a bar.

If we're going on raw power,

Valve's upcoming handheld crushes Nintendo's without breaking a sweat. The idea is that any game in your Steam library, from mini indies to AAA blockbusters, will be playable on the Steam Deck.

To ensure this was possible, Valve partnered up with AMD to design a custom APU that pairs a Zen 2 CPU with an RDNA 2 delivering the graphics. Factor in 16GB of LPDDR5 RAM and up to 512GB of fast NVMe SSD storage and you're looking at a serious rig for your backpack.

Into the rate wide open

Valve is targeting a solid 30fps for any game you choose to boot up, but you should expect to be able to get higher framerates without giving fidelity too much of a pounding.

The 7in touchscreen is the same size as the Switch OLED's, with an only slightly sharper 800p resolution. It has a 60Hz refresh rate and 16:10 aspect ratio and, like the Switch, can be plopped into a dock for TV gaming.

The trackpads of my tears

You can't accuse the Steam Deck of scrimping on inputs. It has full-size controls, twin triggers on both sides and four programmable buttons on the rear, plus two mini trackpads that should make the transition smoother

for games originally intended for a mouse-and-keyboard interface.

The console runs its own version of Valve's Linux-based SteamOS, but it won't be hard to get it playing Windows games, and you're free to uninstall and install whatever software you like. That goes for games and everything else you might want to do on a portable PC... which is very much what the Steam Deck is.

Price from £349 / stuff.tv/SteamDeck

Key specs

- 7in 1280x800 LCD touchscreen
- AMD APU, 16GB RAM
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, HDMI, USB-C
- 64/256/512GB storage
- 298x117x49mm, 669g

● NOW PLAY THESE



The Witcher 3

About as obvious a pick as they come, this legendary RPG remains one of the best games of all time – and one that's well worth losing another 100 hours to from the comfort of your bed. If you've never dipped into the ever-branching adventures of Geralt of Rivia, then now is as good a time as any. And while this isn't the first time *The Witcher 3* has been playable in handheld form – the Switch version remains an act of sheer technological witchcraft – we'd be willing to bet the high-powered Steam Deck fares a bit better with it.



Death's Door

One of our absolute favourites of the year so far, *Death's Door* is about as good an old-fashioned *Zelda* game not made by Nintendo (or in any way associated with *Zelda*) that you'll ever see. You play as a humble crow who makes a living out of reaping the souls of the dead; but when it emerges that a land exists whose inhabitants have found a way of cheating death, it's up to you to put things right. If that all sounds a bit grim, don't be put off. This game is certainly memorable for its world design, but its peculiar sense of humour is what really stands out.



Disco Elysium: The Final Cut

An alcoholic detective wakes up in a strange hotel room and is plunged into an existentialist socio-political fever-dream in this fantastically written RPG – now available in its refined definitive edition across pretty much every platform around... and that list will soon include the Steam Deck. The shabby glamour of a crumbling city is brilliantly realised by the isometric visuals, but it's the RPG system itself that makes this game so unforgettable.



Red Dead Redemption 2

You don't need an excuse to revisit Rockstar's cowboy-'em-up classic: if you're looking for a game that really gets your Steam Deck working, we can think of none more appealing. It might be three years old now, but the violent and often tragic tale of Arthur Morgan remains a high point in AAA videogame storytelling – and other than perhaps *Breath of the Wild*'s Hyrule there's no more impressive game world either. The thought of exploring it all over again on the bus, the train and – oh yes – the toilet makes us very excited indeed.

■ ALTERNATIVELY...



AYA NEO

Take a look at its big-talking Indiegogo campaign page and you'll see the Aya Neo is being called the world's first 7nm handheld gaming device, with a six-core AMD Ryzen 4500U APU, 16GB of RAM and up to 1TB of NVMe SSD storage. What does that all equate to in performance? Well, the likes of *Cyberpunk 2077* at 30fps on low settings might not sound astonishing, but a smooth run on a handheld would still be impressive for that kind of game. Like the Steam Deck, it has a 7in 800p touchscreen. [£950 / ayaneo.com](https://www.ayaneo.com)



ONEXPLAYER

This monster handheld has a gigantic 8.4in 2.5K touch display and can be specced up to an 11th-gen Core i7 CPU, 16GB of RAM and integrated Iris Xe graphics. Its maker reckons it'll comfortably hit 60fps on a lot of demanding titles at low settings, and it can be docked for TV play. Like its competitors, it's pitched as a portable PC as well as a gaming machine, and there's even a magnetic keyboard add-on should you want to do some inter-game spreadsheeting. [from £1150 / droix.co.uk](https://www.droix.co.uk)



GPD WIN 3

It's certainly not cheap, but the GPD Win 3 takes the all-in-one concept to the next level. It packs in an i7, Iris Xe graphics, a 1TB NVMe SSD and 16GB of RAM, and targets 60fps for most modern games. But when productivity calls, the Win 3's secret weapon is its clamshell design, which allows its slide-up display to reveal a backlit touch keyboard. While a 5.5in screen might look a bit cramped next to the others here, anyone looking for versatility might be willing to make that sacrifice. [£1200 / droix.co.uk](https://www.droix.co.uk)

■ ALTERNATIVELY...



EVERCADE HANDHELD

This one's a breezy, cheerful way to scratch your retro gaming itch without dunking your bank balance in the sea. It's still cartridge-based, but officially licensed games are issued as affordable compilations. These range from classic Atari, Bitmap Brothers and Codemasters titles through to modern indie hits from the likes of Mega Cat Studios. You can plug your Evercade into the telly too, although the new Evercade VS will be a better bet for playing all those old-school games on the big screen. **£60 / evercade.co.uk**



ANBERNIC RG351M

You can run emulators on a phone – but if you want a dedicated device, loads of Chinese consoles are fighting for your cash. Anbernic's are solid, in every sense: the RG351M has a sturdy metal shell and top-notch controls. It's powerful enough to cope with any titles up to the PS era and they'll look great on the 480x320 IPS display. There's minor faff in adding games, but once everything's set up the RG351M is a pocketful of retro bliss. **£120 / droix.co.uk**



GAME & WATCH: THE LEGEND OF ZELDA

Nintendo long ago learned people will endlessly buy repackaged versions of its games, but it went full-on audacious with Game & Watch: Super Mario Bros, which squeezed its most famous platformer into a form factor that made ancient gamers squuee. And it seems Game & Watch is going to be a series. The second release is this Zelda model, which includes three NES titles plus the Game & Watch classic Vermin. **£45 / nintendo.co.uk**

● NOW PLAY THESE



Tetris

In 1984, Alexey Pajitnov was tinkering away on an obscure Soviet computer exploring a love of puzzles when he hit upon a new game format that would eventually enrapture millions. But only with the 1989 Game Boy release did Tetris become a worldwide gaming hit. It's still the version to play: polished, refined and free from the complications later added by people with dollar signs in their eyes. Today, an original cart-only costs about a quid on eBay. Be warned, though: play it once and that tune will be stuck in your head forever.



DMG Deals Damage

Old consoles die (and get reborn), but do game creators even notice? Every 'dead' platform has a thriving current games scene, and that includes the Game Boy. *DMG Deals Damage* is a quality modern title, released in 2019 to celebrate the Game Boy's 30th anniversary – and to let the console punch its rivals in the face. We mean that literally: this game is an arena fighter where you use two detachable fists to duff up opponents. Go to drludus.itch.io to play online and order an original cart for your Game Boy – or Analogue Pocket.



Rhythm Tengoku

The first entry in the series later known internationally as *Rhythm Heaven*, this was the last title Nintendo developed for the GBA... which went out on a high with its glorious mash-up of rhythm action and *WarioWare*. It's Japanese-only, but easy enough to understand – and if you don't grin on playing the Bunny Hop and Bon Dance stages, you're dead inside. The biggest obstacle is that it's costly second-hand, even cart-only. But if you've just spent 200 dollars on a flashy new Pocket, what's a few quid more?



The Last Blade: Beyond the Destiny

The Last Blade was the most gorgeous thing ever committed to the Neo Geo. Surprisingly, this pint-sized take is every bit as impressive, with dinky fighters slicing each other up in a bid to become (adorably cute) legends. This is another expensive one to source second-hand – and you could instead buy *NeoGeo Pocket Color Selection Vol.1* on Switch for £36. But that's not how properly dedicated retro gamers do it. We apologise in advance to your bank account.

ANALOGUE POCKET

RETRO

This modern take on the Game Boy is so cool you'll have to wear shades while playing it – and the screen's so bright, you'll still top the high-score tables



Analogue Pocket

Suss studio

There's no built-in game but you do get Nanoloop, a DAW that recalls the Game Boy's music creation skills.

Give me assign

Always jumping when you mean to fire? Don't worry: the Pocket lets you remap buttons however you see fit.

T

he nerds at Analogue have form in retro gaming, having carved out a niche reimagining ancient consoles. This is enthusiast kit that

caters to modern requirements, demands you use original cartridges, and was clearly designed by someone with a minimalism fetish.

The Pocket brings an Analogue approach to classic handhelds for the first time. Out of the box, it works with Game Boy, Game Boy Color and Game Boy Advance cartridges, while optional adapters expand support to Game Gear, Neo Geo Pocket Color and Atari Lynx.

Of course the console's design most echoes classic Nintendo fare, but there's nothing old-school about the specs – most notably the gleefully over-the-top 3.5in 1600x1440 LCD screen. That's 10 times the original Game Boy's resolution and lets the Pocket perform all manner of tricks to simulate original display modes, should you prefer pixel-grid grime to pin-sharp upscaling. And it's all protected by Gorilla Glass.

Chip to be square

To further enhance accuracy, the Pocket eschews software emulation and instead uses FPGA – essentially programmable hardware that closely replicates the original consoles. What this means for you is less danger of ending up a gibbering wreck in the corner through latency wrecking your attempts at nailing the precision timing required in games such as *Rhythm Tengoku* (see left).

When on the go, audio blasts out from stereo speakers – or into your lugholes through cans connected to the headphone port. And when you're home, you can connect the console to your telly and have up to four players use wireless controllers to do battle on the big screen, assailing their eyes with pixels as big as kittens. It's all cheerfully indulgent, but then that's what the classics deserve.

Price \$200 / stuff.tv/AnaloguePocket

Key specs

● 3.5in 1600x1440 LCD ● microSD, USB-C ● 149x88x21.9mm, 275g

QUIRKY

PLAYDATE

A handheld with a crank? Is this a wind-up? Are you having a funny turn? Nope, this one's round the twist...

I want you so pad
Not every Playdate game has to be controlled with the crank. That's why it also has a D-pad and two face buttons.



Coming around a pen
When your Playdate needs juice, pop it in the dock, which has a speaker... and a pen holder. Why? Fun! (Just go with it.)

T

he Game Boy had a D-pad and buttons. The DS got a stylus. The Playdate has... a crank handle. Why?
You'd have to ask its

creators, but presumably the crank's there mostly because it's fun. In fact, everything about this dinky handheld seems designed to raise a smile, from its vibrant yellow hue to the way new games rock up weekly (which is where the name comes from).

The Playdate is the brainchild of Mac software darlings Panic, publishers of *Untitled Goose Game* and *Firewatch*. But hardware geeks Teenage Engineering devised the crank, in part to encourage people to make games for this console that

you wouldn't be able to experience anywhere else.

The crank's not the only oddity. The 2.7in 400x240p display is 1-bit. Even the first Game Boy's was 2-bit, but the Playdate evokes — suitably, given Panic's heritage — the earliest Macs. Judging by press preview units, this has had game designers working with high-contrast monochrome visuals and wrestling with an awful lot of dithering.

Crank you, next

You get a lot of 'quirk', then. What you don't get are a few things you might have come to expect from modern handhelds. The display isn't backlit, so isn't suited to dimly-lit rooms. There's no TV connectivity — this device is

resolutely old-school in that regard. And although Keita Takahashi of *Katamari Damacy* fame has made a Playdate game (see right), most attached names will only be familiar to dedicated indie buffs.

But this isn't supposed to be the next Switch anyway. We ought to celebrate its idiosyncrasies; small, experimental, surprising games; unique visuals; a user-friendly development kit that encourages sideloading; and yes, that crank.

Price \$179 / stuff.tv/Playdate

Key specs

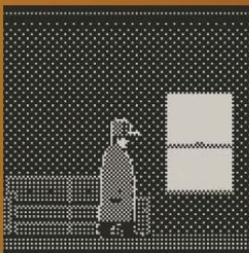
- 2.7in 400x240 1-bit display
- Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, USB-C
- 4GB storage ● 76x74x9mm, 86g

● NOW PLAY THESE



Crankin's Time Travel Adventure

Designed by Keita Takahashi and having had its footage sprayed all over the internet for months, this is the most anticipated Playdate game. It features the titular robot on his way to a date... but obstacles keep getting in his way. Fortunately, Crankin exists in a timey-wimey reality, so you can wind the crank to adjust his flow of time while the world around him continues — for example, having him dip to smell a flower as a surprisingly deadly butterfly flits overhead.



Saturday Edition

Of the games included with the Playdate's preview units, this one is the most conventional. It comes across like a proper narrative adventure and doesn't use the crank at all. Instead, you work with the D-pad and buttons to interact with objects and characters, digging ever deeper into what comes across like a simplified point-and-click game you might have once played on a PC. The lack of quirk on a quirky console might be disarming, but it's a smart entry that shows the Playdate has a more serious side.



Lost Your Marbles

Games like *Florence* and *Behind the Frame* showcase a modern trend of narrative games akin to novellas. And, like many games in this sub-genre, they're contemplative, serious fare. **Not *Lost Your Marbles*.** This Playdate original finds you in an absurd situation where an inventor's decision-making software has been fired into the mind of someone trying to find their dog. When they're asked a question, you use the crank to fling a ball around a pinball-like playground until it hits an answer, the silliest ones being hardest to reach.



And many more...

At the time of writing, Panic remained tight-lipped about other games, except for *Whitewater Wipeout*. If you're old, that one will remind you of the surfing stage in Epyx classic *California Games*, with the crank affording you precision control as you perform show-off stunts and try not to fall in. Beyond that, all we have is a list of titles and creators. We're keen to play Zach Gage's *Snak*, on the basis of his superb mobile games — oh, and someone's ported *Doom*, with the crank used for firing the chaingun.

■ ALTERNATIVELY...



GPD XD

Android devices are fine for playing games (see p48), and the platform is open; but traditional fare requires real buttons. That was the challenge GPD solved with this handheld, which combines the clout of an Android phone, the clamshell design of a Nintendo DS and the controls you need to play a full range of games. More powerful systems have arrived since, but none with this much flexibility, whether you want to dig into console-style titles on Google Play or play classic system emulators. **£185 / droix.co.uk**



RETROFLAG GPI CASE

If Analogue fancied riling Nintendo's legal team rather than doing its own thing, it might have come up with the GPI Case. Extra buttons aside, it's the spit of a Game Boy... and stranger than it first appears. The cartridge slot around back doesn't house a game, but a Raspberry Pi Zero. Your dinky handheld then becomes whatever you want, depending on the operating system, apps and games you choose to install. **£50 / droix.co.uk**



ARDUBOY FX

Should the GPI Case not satisfy your hunger for tinkering, try the ArduBoy FX. Its form factor again has shades of Nintendo, but this console is tiny (about the size of a credit card). It comes with over 200 pre-installed games, which you can enjoy on its diminutive display until your thumbs and eyes seize up... and while they recover, you can design your own. This system is the flip of the Playdate, the games being almost an optional extra while learning to create your own is the main focus. **£48 / shop.pimoroni.com**

■ ALTERNATIVELY...



ASUS ROG PHONE 5

Gaming-centric phones are a bit of a niche curio: typically bulky, pricey, and unnecessary for most users. But the Asus ROG Phone 5 is the most convincing attempt yet to close that gap, delivering top performance at a fair price. It's a beast thanks to a Snapdragon 888 chip and up to 16GB of RAM, plus an immense 6000mAh battery. OK, it's also heavy like a brick, so there are trade-offs. But this really does feel like a smartphone maximised for mobile gaming enthusiasts.

£800 / asus.com



SONY XPERIA 1 III

Like the iPhone 13 Pro, this year's Sony flagship isn't a true gaming phone, but it's a hell of a handset to use for that purpose. The ultra-tall 21:9 4K HDR display is a brilliant rectangle on which to play *CoD: Mobile*, and there's easily enough power to do so at max detail settings. It can automatically save the last 30 seconds of footage, a bit like the PS4's Share button; and with 256GB of storage, you'll be able to clip a lot of highlights before you run out of room.

£1199 / sony.co.uk



LENOVO LEGION PHONE DUEL 2

For its sequel to the Legion phone, Lenovo has gone fully 'kitchen sink'. This bulky behemoth is as unsubtle as handsets come, with its RGB lighting and twin fans. But the 6.92in FHD+ AMOLED display has a 144Hz refresh rate and 720Hz touch-sampling rate; the whole device is covered in virtual triggers; and you also get haptic feedback if devs build it into their games. Chuck in 90W charging and up to 16GB of RAM, and really it's a handheld console that also makes calls.

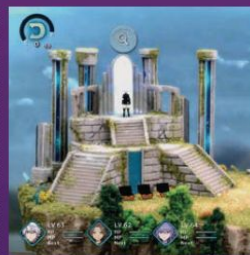
from £699 / lenovo.com

● BEST OF APPLE ARCADE



Clap Hanz Golf

No matter how boring you find the real-life sport of golf, its simplicity has always made it a great fit for video games. And this is a very good golf game. From the makers of cult PlayStation series *Everybody's Golf*, *Clap Hanz Golf* features the same cheerful aesthetic, likeably dorky characters and deceptively deep gameplay as the titles that came before it, but this one is designed for mobile. The touchscreen controls are surprisingly accurate, but you also get controller support if you're struggling with the swipecy gestures.



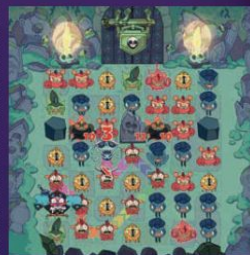
Fantasian

Thought mobile games were all about quickfire stuff you can play for five minutes on the bus? Well, that's not what *Final Fantasy* creator Hironobu Sakaguchi had in mind when he made *Fantasian* an Apple Arcade exclusive. This sprawling JRPG, which combines exploration with dungeon-crawling and old-school turn-based battles (though you can opt out of the latter), will take you up to 90hrs to complete. And when you've seen some of the 160 real-life handcrafted dioramas that form its visual style, you may want to stick around for most of that.



The Pathless

A shiny PS5 launch title that dropped on Apple Arcade at the same time, *The Pathless* is a one-of-a-kind action-adventure game. Unlike countless other open-world affairs that litter their maps with waypoints, this one (clue's in the name) doesn't even have one, instead trusting you to learn to read environmental cues as you solve its puzzles. Movement is a huge part of the game, with the protagonist able to use a companion eagle to soar across the world collecting upgrade crystals. Played with a controller, this is an indie gem.



Grindstone

Among the very first Apple Arcade games and still one of the best the service has to offer, *Grindstone* is a beautifully straightforward and wildly morish puzzle-battler that will eat up as much of your free time as you allow it to. You play as a bloodthirsty Viking type, and your objective is to slay as many monsters of the same colour as you can in each turn. Collecting the titular grindstones during a turn lets you change the colour of 'creep' you're targeting, letting you chain together huge and gory combos. Mobile games don't get much more fun than this.

APPLE iPhone

MOBILE

Yes, you're using it for emails and pet photography... but slap any recent iPhone in a controller and it'll become a fine gaming device



Baby got jack

The Backbone One has a headphone port on its underside, so it'll take wired headphones even if the iPhone won't.

Little black drain

As it works off your phone's battery, it's worth remembering the new iPhone 13 range has improved stamina (see p29).

T

he keenest of mobile gamers (or just your average Candy Crush fiend) would argue that the iPhone has always been a worthy handheld

gaming device. And that's probably true. But it's never been better than right now.

From indie hits to rock-solid ports of console classics, the App Store is teeming with games to play. Whether you want a more traditional gaming experience or something that was specifically designed for the iPhone's multitouch interface, you'll find it here. And the Apple Arcade subscription service takes iOS gaming a step further, offering a slowly growing collection of premium (and mercifully

ad-free) games for a monthly £5 fee, many that launch alongside their console counterparts. Oh, and you can also effectively turn your iPhone into an Xbox thanks to Game Pass.

Pad but true

Casual gaming often works well on a touchscreen, but for meatier stuff you need a proper controller. There are some great iPhone pad-ons these days, and the gold standard is the Backbone One above (£100, playbackbone.co.uk). It's comfy in the hands and is powered by your phone, so you never have to charge it.

There's a capture button and one that takes you to Backbone's superb app, from which you can launch games and jump into multiplayer matches

with friends. It's all incredibly slick, and sets the Backbone apart from rival controllers like the Razer Kishi.

Pro me heaven

Any iPhone from the last three or four years will make for a decent gaming device, but if you want a real console-botherer you'll need the iPhone 13 Pro. Its A15 Bionic chip will chew away at anything you throw it, while the 6.1in OLED display (6.7in on the Pro Max) can reach a 120Hz refresh rate.

High refresh rates are a big deal in gaming, resulting in a much smoother and more responsive experience; and while you can expect 120Hz support to roll out slowly on existing iPhone games, it should prove a significant upgrade over time.

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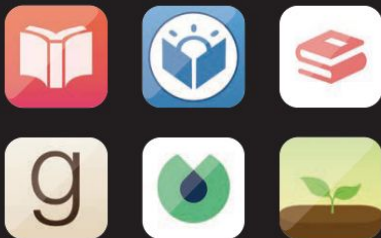
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Mini meme



HELLO, READING FESTIVAL!

That's 'reading' as in books, not Berks: get more from yours with apps that can track digital collections, recommend stuff to try next... and help you read more



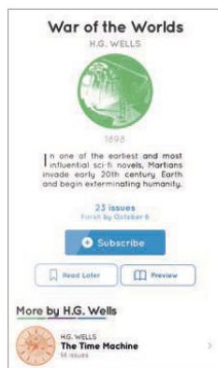
● Bookshelf

For Android folks, Bookshelf performs the same tasks as Book Track: you can quickly log your collection, track how far through each book you are and note down to whom (and when) you lent that sizzling bonkbuster. There's discovery baked in as well, since the app's browser initially points you at bestsellers. The lack of a price tag feels generous – and leaves more pennies to buy yet more books. **£free / Android, iOS**



● Goodreads

This app combines a digital library manager and a recommendation engine. Feed it your likes and it'll suggest new titles to read. Each has its own set of ratings and reviews... which you can add to, if you believe 'literary critic' is your true calling but you've been cruelly spurned by the world. Want something more visual? Try Litsy, which is like Instagram taken over by book lovers. **£free / Android, iOS**



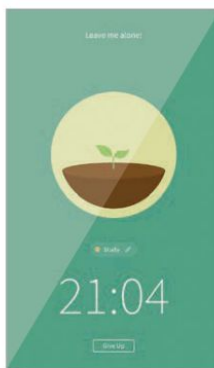
● Serial Reader

You've no time to read that shelf full of classics, right? Wrong... as long as you install Serial Reader. This app lets you subscribe to the likes of *The War of the Worlds* and *The Odyssey*, which are served up as daily excerpts. Throw a few quid the creator's way and you unlock cloud sync and the means to keep going when you're hooked on your latest bite-sized read and can't wait for the next part. **£free / Android, iOS**



● Blinkist

Got a load of thought-provoking non-fiction books littering your shelves, just waiting to turn you into a perfect human? Can't be bothered to read them? Blinkist rides to your rescue. For a fiver a month (that's if you buy a year up front), it handily compresses books into 15-minute reads you can even listen to if your eyes are done for the day. Not feeling flush? There's a daily free blink for cheapskates. **£free (IAP) / Android, iOS**



● Forest

If you can't stay off your phone long enough to read an actual book, try Forest. It's a timer that grows a little tree as the clock ticks away – but kills it should you switch to another app and not heed a notification warning. Go pro and your focus sessions can be converted into real trees being planted – perhaps going some way to offset the ones cut down to make all the books you read. **£free (IAP) / Android, iOS**

A movie kind of love

Like Hoover, Kleenex and Biro (only much more fun), GoPro is a brand that's become a byword. But is its latest action cam a perfect 10?

E380 / stuff.tv/H10B

At a glance it's almost impossible to tell the Hero10 Black apart from its predecessor. Each is a little box with screens front and rear, and a lens housing that juts out. Under the hood, however, GoPro has truly levelled up its latest camera.

Most significantly, this is the first really responsive GoPro we've ever used, thanks to a nippy new GP2 processor. In addition to overall speed boosts within menus, the Hero10 can also upload your footage 30% faster than the Hero9 could, which makes a real difference when you're dealing with gigs of 5.3K video. You can also directly hook it up to your phone for even faster transfers.

In addition to all that, the Hero10 is equipped with better processing skills for photos and video, meaning it doesn't totally crumble in low light, plus it can shoot 4K super-slow-mo at up to 120fps. So... is it time to hail the new king of action cams?

[Words: Basil Koorini]



Both guides of the story

The front screen shows a preview of whatever the camera is shooting. It can be disabled to save battery life.

One more light

While the Hero10 Black is the same size as the Hero9 Black, it is 5g lighter (1). And while both cameras benefit from a 2.27in display, the new model offers improved touch-sensitivity and a smoother interface, which makes the whole experience feel way more responsive.

A tougher day in paradise

When it comes to toughness, the Hero10's lens cover (2) uses more scratch-resistant materials than before. It's still removable, so you can slip on a Max Lens Mod for an even wider field of view, and the whole camera can take being submerged in up to 10m of water without additional housing.

Separate thrives

The flip-out feet make this cam incredibly easy to mount. They emerge from the base (3) and connect the GoPro to virtually every action-cam attachment on the market. Prior to the Hero9 you had to stick your GoPro into a case if you wanted to mount it, which now seems like a right faff.

GOOD
MEH
EVIL

Looks exactly like the Hero9

Really nippy interface

Beautifully easy to mount

Video quality is excellent

Battery life has got worse

Still not brilliant in low light



Tech specs

Sensor 23.6MP 1/2.3in CMOS **Max video** 5.3K @ 60fps, 4K @ 120fps **Screens** 2.27in touch (rear), 1.4in LCD (front) **Connectivity** Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, USB-C **Waterproofing** 10m **Battery** 1720mAh **Dimensions** 72x51x33.6mm, 153g

Take a look at me, wow

It might not look any different, but do the Hero10's internal upgrades mean even gnarlier footage?



■ In the glare tonight

The Hero10 shares the Hero9's 23.6MP sensor, but performance is clearly better this time around. Colours are rich and detail is ample. Dynamic range is decent, and exposure compensation is on the money most of the time.

■ Race value

You can get double the frame rates compared to anything GoPro's done before, which means 5.3K at up to 60fps and 4K at 120fps. There's mild judder when the HyperSmooth 4.0 stabilisation is really working overtime.



■ If leaning me is easy

GoPro's new in-camera horizon-leveling is a phenomenal party trick. With a range increase from 27° to 45°, you can tilt the camera and the image is held magically level – ideal for shooting on a rocking boat.

■ No racket required

We were also impressed by the sensitivity of the onboard microphones, even in the face of moderate wind. If you need higher-quality audio, you can also hook up a Media Mod and use an external mic.

Freezy lover

Higher frame rates and a mightier processor mean the Hero10's battery life suffers. You'll still get enough juice from a single charge for a day of short clips, but for longer hyperlapse shots you'll want to pick up some spares. Helpfully, it uses the same batteries as the Hero9 (4).

I wish it would grain down

Photos are improved, though we wouldn't recommend it as a stills camera. One area we did have an issue with was shooting HDR photos in heavily backlit scenes. The dark areas can carry a lot of grain, although hopefully that's something that can be fixed with a software update.



While on the surface the Hero10 is a rehash of its predecessor, the GP2 processor means it's a very different camera. It's more responsive and captures better images in all lighting conditions, while 'nice to have' features (better livestreaming and webcam support, faster wireless and wired transfer of video) iron out some long-standing niggles. *@Basil_Knows*

STUFF SAYS ★★★★★

Beefed-up internals make the Hero10 Black a nippy, powerful, polished action cam – and an absolute fiend for slow-mo

Bowers to the people

B&W has gone affordable (sort of)... but can these noise-cancellers survive in the dog-eat-dog world of premium true wireless earphones?

£199 / stuff.tv/pi5

■ When we looked at the Bowers & Wilkins PI7 headphones earlier in the year, we liked them a lot. An awful lot. The drawback is that they're £349 – and despite the awesome sound quality, that kind of outlay for a pair of buds is quite an ask when the true wireless market is packed with superb rivals from Apple, Bose, Technics, Sennheiser, Sony and more.

■ So here's B&W's answer: the PI5s, which slip in under the £200 mark. That's still premium, but in a price range that more are willing to stretch to. They use aptX wireless tech, like so many competitors, and come in white or charcoal.

■ Many in-ears have connection problems and sync issues between the two buds. None of that here, just glorious high-quality sound. They're a step up in audio fidelity from the slightly more expensive AirPods Pro, and they also support Google's Fast Pair technology.

■ The active noise-cancelling isn't adaptive like that of the PI7s, and uses only four mics instead of six. There is a transparency mode with a couple of presets, but you need to turn this on in the app. You can turn the ANC on and off with a long press on the left bud.

■ The charging case can be topped up wirelessly, and there's a large LED indicator to let you know when the buds are pairing or charging. The case lid feels a bit flimsy, but otherwise the quality of the materials seems high.

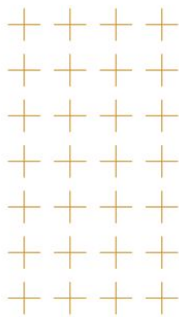
Tech specs

Drivers 9.2mm ANC Yes
Connectivity Bluetooth 5.0
Battery life 4hrs + 24hrs case
Water-resistance IP54
Weight 2x 7g, case 47g



Sparking over

The batteries last around 4hrs, with a full 24hr charge in the case. A quick 15-minute juice-up will give you a few hours of playback.



Instant palmer

You can raise Google Assistant or Siri using a long press on the right-hand bud. You do get used to the controls, but as with many in-ears, it can be easy to initiate the wrong command unless you know what you're doing.



Working-class earlobe

The PI5s are comfortable in the ears (there are three tip sizes included) and are actually pretty good to wear for long periods... but they do stick out rather a long way and may not look so great to sneering onlookers.

STUFF SAYS Superb sound and a fair price make these buds a strong option ★★★★★

Imagine there's no PI7; it's easy if you try these ace sub-£200 buds

—Dan Graham



Although we were expecting little more than a watered-down version of the PI7s here, the Bowers & Wilkins PI5s are anything but. Indeed, we loved the sound quality, the comfort and the reliable connectivity, while the active noise-cancelling is pretty decent too. Weigh all that up and you have a product that matches or betters a lot of other options – including, crucially, Apple's AirPods Pro.

Tile see you again

Finding can work both ways: press a button on the Tile and, if it's in range, your lost phone will play an alert.

Waving tags

An AirTag can be put into Lost mode if it's misplaced, so compatible Apple devices can keep an ear out for it.



Finders bleepers

They can stop you losing your precious stuff... but which is the tracker to back?

Tile Pro

vs

Apple AirTag

Tile has recently revamped its array of Bluetooth trackers. This is the premium one with replaceable battery, improved 120-metre range plus more robust waterproofing – yes, we did run it under the tap – and a new 'lozenge' design.

One of Tile's strengths is that it's cool with whatever devices you use: iOS and Android are both supported with the Tile app. You can easily track your stray item to a room, then the ringer on the Tile Pro will do the rest.

Tile's trackers have always been pretty reliable and this one's no exception: it's easy to pair, easy to find and hardy. It's the ideal tracker to attach to keys or a bag. There's even a QR code on it to help people return your lost kit.

The AirTag is intended a general purpose tracker – unlike Tile's range, it's one size fits all from Apple with this round puck. If you want to attach one to your keys or bag, you'll need an accessory to do that as there's no keyring hole.

AirTags can only work with other Apple gear (using the Find My app on iOS, iPadOS and macOS) but they do show up straight away alongside your other devices. Like the Tile Pro, you can play a sound through an AirTag to help locate it.

Tracking is extremely accurate thanks to the combination of Bluetooth and Precision Finding over Ultra-Wideband (UWB). Note that Apple devices older than the iPhone 11 are supported via Bluetooth only.

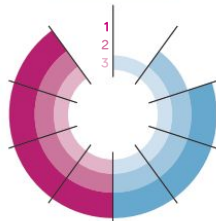
1. DESIGN

2. IN USE

3. SMARTS

Technology Bluetooth
Battery life 1yr (replaceable CR2032)
Water-resistance IP67
Dimensions 58x32x7.5mm

● Price £30 / stuff.tv/TilePro



Technology Bluetooth, UWB, NFC
Battery life 1yr (replaceable CR2032)
Water-resistance IP67
Dimensions 32x32x8mm

● Price £29 (€99 for 4) / stuff.tv/AirTag

★★★★☆

STUFF SAYS

★★★★☆

While Tile's feature set is top-notch, the AirTags' Precision Finding is just a little better



Philips TV & Sound
The difference is real

PHILIPS OLED+936: THE ULTIMATE TV

Philips' latest OLED set is an all-in-one statement piece that's as much a technological marvel as it is a work of finely crafted art

Choosing a new telly can be a daunting experience, with hundreds of options all fighting for your attention with an onslaught of buzzwords and offers. But it doesn't have to be like that. Enter the Philips OLED+936, a new TV that serves up an incredible viewing experience with peerless sound in a beautifully designed package.

Created for those looking for the very best no-compromise TV experience, the OLED+936 combines a stunning high-end OLED panel, powerful AI smarts, a built-in Bowers & Wilkins Dolby Atmos sound system and, of course, the magical Immersion of Ambilight. The result is a no-nonsense set that can handle everything from soaps and films to gaming and music, plus everything in between.

Visual perfection

Available in 48, 55, and 65-inch versions, the new OLED display offers jaw-dropping colours and rich, true blacks, with the 55in and 65in versions featuring a panel that's 20% brighter at peak output. You'll be enjoying all content the way it's meant to be consumed too, thanks to support for all HDR formats including HDR10+ Adaptive and Dolby Vision with Dolby Vision Bright mode. And all these modes take advantage of the OLED+936's built-in light sensor to guarantee optimum brightness and contrast settings for the room.

If that wasn't enough, the new twin-chip version of Philips' powerful P5 AI engine means the OLED+936 can automatically engage Film Detection mode, tweaking everything so you can enjoy films precisely as their directors intended. That same processor, by the way, is also the brains behind Philips' innovative anti-burn-in solution, which is able to monitor 32,400 zones to detect static content, before imperceptibly reducing the intensity of the local

light output to completely eradicate the risk of burn-in.

Looking beyond TV, this set has all the tools a modern gamer needs – and then some. These include VRR, FreeSync Premium and G-Sync compatibility for the greatest gaming experience with smooth frame rates, along with HDMI 2.1 for taking full advantage of the new consoles. Throw in some of the lowest latency performance of any OLED around, and there's nothing the OLED+936's visuals can't handle.

Pedigree sound

Often an afterthought on TVs, the sound experience with the Philips OLED+936 is unlike anything you've come across before. The built-in Bowers & Wilkins sound system has been designed from the ground up to provide an incredibly accurate and immersive listening experience. Whether you're getting caught up in explosions from a new action flick or losing yourself in a Rick Astley marathon, your ears will enjoy quality never before produced by a television's own audio.

The sound system is loaded with high-end components: it's packing a new amplifier and four mid-range drivers plus two dedicated up-firing Atmos drivers, a bass woofer and three tweeters – including, of course, B&W's iconic 'tweeter on top' tech. The end result is a robust and flexible soundscape that's more clear and precise than ever, enveloping you with sound from all directions to create a feeling of space and verticality without the need for placing separate speakers all over the room. With the option to connect an external subwoofer for even mightier bass performance, you'll never be left wanting for more sound ever again.

Premium design

It's easy to lose yourself in all the tech... but without the looks to back it up, a telly will never take pride of place in your living room. The Philips

Sweet light
We never get tired of Philips' Ambilight tech. All four sides of this TV feature the smart LEDs that immerse you in the picture.



The Ambilight LEDs let the wall behind your TV get in on the immersive action.



OLED+936, however, looks and feels every bit as premium as its gadgety specs suggest. Crafted from materials including glass and metal, it also features Kvadrat cloth for the speaker enclosure and a remote control wrapped in luxurious Muirhead leather. With all these design elements combined, the Philips OLED+936 is a TV that's just as worthy of admiration when turned off as it is when it's strutting its mesmerising stuff.

Find out more at philips.co.uk/oled+

Tweet right
 'Tweeter on top' tech from Bowers & Wilkins means there's a tweeter above the main speaker system, isolated for cleaner sound.



PHILIPS OLED+986

Available as a 65-inch model only, the Philips OLED+986 shares the same high-end visual tech as its OLED+936 sibling... but elevates the listening experience further with even higher-spec components found within its larger, more powerful Bowers & Wilkins speaker

system. And yes, that does include the famed 'tweeter on top' setup.

The OLED+986 features B&W's incredible Continuum cones, which are made from a specially designed composite structure for precisely controlled sonic performance that's open,

natural and uncoloured, with exceptional clarity and low distortion.

It's the same technology used in the flagship 800 Diamond Series speakers, which are used at none other than Abbey Road Studios, so you know you're in safe hands.

Treasure hunt

The Mini has often felt like the forgotten sprog of the iPad litter — but with a big redesign and spec bump, this sixth generation means business

from £479 / stuff.tv/iPadMini

When Apple made its first foray into teeny tablets with the 2012 iPad Mini, it was responding to increasing Android competition. But in terms of power and app capability, Apple's cutesy always had the lead — and that continues with the latest iteration.

At £479 and up, it's clear Apple is not in a scrap with lower-end Android offerings here. You get the full iPad experience, broadly without compromise, and in the smallest of form factors — it looks like an iPad Air that shrank in the wash. And the Mini tops the Air's specs: it has an A15 chip that's zippy with the most demanding apps and games; Touch ID in the power button; a True Tone 'wide colour' display that ramps up the brightness to 500 nits; and USB-C, which brings more scope for accessories.

But does the new Mini hold up on its own, and has Apple made the right decision in shifting it from entry-level to resolutely mid-range?

A question of short

At a smidgeon under 300g, the new iPad Mini is barely heavier than a big smartphone cocooned in a case (1), but has better weight distribution. It looks great and feels properly premium, with the smaller—than-A5 dimensions meaning it should fit into bags, folders and even roomy pockets.

Screen zest

The Home button's gone, leaving you a blank canvas surrounded by a sizeable but unobtrusive black bezel (2). The screen is sharper than any other at 326ppi — which is just as well, since you will be holding it closer to your face. It looks great, though it lacks the 120Hz ProMotion of the iPad Pro.

All clued app

iPadOS works fine, although the interface can be fiddly and Split View feels daft on such a small screen. We had no trouble digging into apps — except those littered with desktop-style panels — but a bigger concern is how many don't yet fill the display with its new 14:9 aspect ratio (4).

Tame that tune

The volume controls have moved to the same side as the power button, but switch function based on orientation — a nice touch.

Catch gaze

The Mini's smaller dimensions make you feel less absurd while shooting with the upgraded 12MP snapper, but the ultrawide front camera (3) is the bigger story. It noticeably improves image quality in video chats and can follow you around the room by way of the Centre Stage feature.

Jots my line

There's no Magic Keyboard support for the Mini but the second-gen Apple Pencil works wonderfully with iPadOS 15's Quick Notes, and neatly snaps to the device to charge. It further helps with input, and is borderline essential for drawing and fine detail in apps like MindNode.



GOOD
MEH
EVIL

Feels
great to
hold

Ooh, the
screen is
so sharp


Surprisingly
punchy
speakers...

...but they're
too easy to
muffle

The cellular
version
has 5G

No external
display
support

3

TESTED APPLE IPAD MINI (2021)   

→ Turn over for iPadOS 15 tips

Tech specs

Screen 8.3in 2266x1488 IPS Processor A15 Bionic
RAM 4GB OS iPadOS 15 Connectivity USB-C,
Wi-Fi 6, Bluetooth 5 Storage 64/256GB Cameras
12MP rear, 12MP front Battery life Up to 10hrs
Dimensions 195x135x6.3mm, 293g (cellular 297g)

The price is slight...

Apple iPad (2021)

from £319 / stuff.tv/iPad



While the Mini has been brought up to speed on both specs and design, the ninth generation of Apple's entry-level iPad keeps things a lot more familiar with a Home button, a Lightning port and even a cheeky little headphone socket.

The chip inside has been upgraded to the A13, which was first introduced with the iPhone 11 in 2019, so it won't cope so well with more pro-level apps, but in general use there's barely any difference between this and the Air or the new Mini. It is only compatible with the first-gen Pencil and Smart Keyboard, but iPadOS 15 means this

is still a highly capable productivity tool, even if adding both peripherals will significantly bump up the cost.

There are a number of welcome additions here. Storage options have been doubled to 64GB and 256GB, while the 10.2in 2160x1620 screen now supports True Tone tech, which reacts to ambient light to adjust its output. And the 12MP camera nestling above it now uses Centre Stage to keep you in shot on video calls.

Stuff says ★★★★★
There's so much here for the money – it might just be all the iPad you need

4



For the iPad Mini this update is transformative, in terms of design, display, connectivity and raw power. All that needs to be balanced against a sizeable price hike – but if you prize portability, don't need traditional keyboard input and have the eyes to enjoy a smaller, sharper display, the new Mini is an excellent package. @CraigGrannell

STUFF SAYS ★★★★★
Shame about the price rise, but with this update the iPad Mini cements its position as the best small tablet around

BETA YOURSELF iPadOS & macOS



Want more from your iPad and/or Mac? Luckily for you, it's operating system season – so **Craig Grannell** digs into iPadOS 15 and macOS Monterey to unearth their best bits...

THE BASICS

■ Go working in the Air

Any Mac with Monterey should appear on mobile devices running iOS/iPadOS 15 as an AirPlay receiver, letting you send audio and video to it. If not, open System Preferences and in the Sharing pane ensure AirPlay Receiver is checked. You can allow this to work for anyone, or limit it to the current user or people on the same network.

■ Take a Shortcut

The Mac's legacy of smart automation tricks has now been picked up by a port of iOS/iPadOS star Shortcuts. Launch the app and select from dozens of pre-made time-saving actions, or quickly make your own by way of a straightforward drag-and-drop interface.



■ Glide between gadgets

Promised for 'later this year', Universal Control lets you move your cursor between Macs and iPads, dragging content between them to save having to switch devices. In the Displays section of System Preferences, you can re-arrange relative screen positions, disconnect individual devices and tweak how the feature works.

■ Get your account back

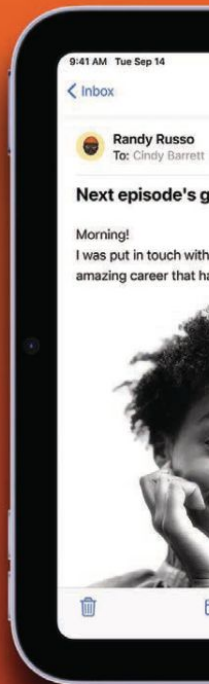
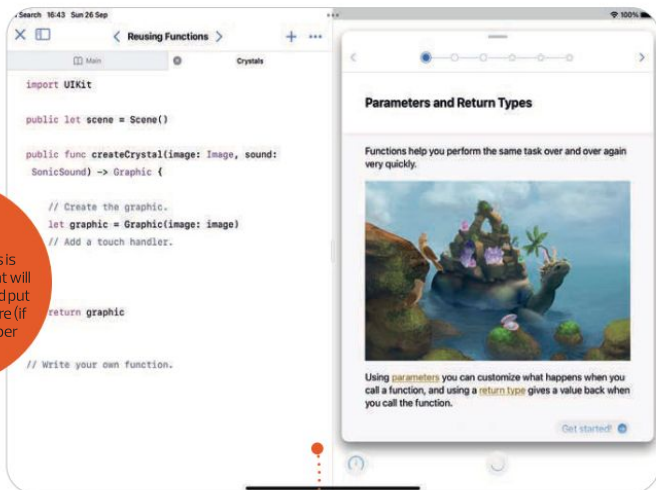
You can now define a recovery contact in case you ever forget your Apple ID password or device passcode. Set this up in Settings (iPadOS) or System Preferences (macOS), in the Password & Security section of Apple ID. Your trusted contact won't have access to your data, but will be able to give you a code that'll get you back in.

■ Slam the spam

With any paid iCloud service, you can create and manage randomised 'burner' email addresses that forward to your real one. If an address gets spam, just deactivate it. (Set this up in the iCloud section of Settings or System Preferences.) Elsewhere, Mail makes sure people can't use iffy tricks like invisible pixels to check whether you've opened a message.

Big app yourself

Swift Playgrounds is getting a revamp that will let you build apps and put them in the App Store (if you have a developer account).



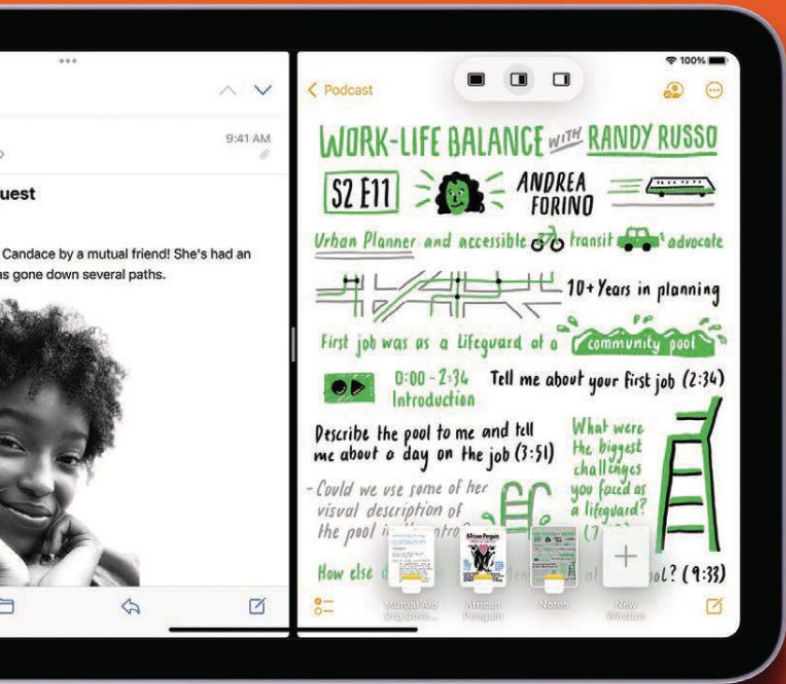
IPHONE IT IN

■ Map your apps

App Library arrives on iPadOS from last year's iPhone – and it's actually more useful here, since it sits in the Dock. Tap it to access categorised app folders, or use the search field to browse an alphabetised list. Not keen? There's an off switch in Settings.

■ Fidget with widgets

Widgets are no longer limited to a tiny strip on your first homescreen. Tap-hold the screen, prod '+' and you can add to any homescreen all manner of widget goodies, some of which have been made massive for iPad.



TOP 3 IPAD WIDGETS



MUSICHARBOR

Apple Music helps you discover new tunes, but Musicharbor is better for tracking favourite artists. There are widgets for new and upcoming releases, and a big one that combines both, with 12 buttons that quickly get you to the best stuff.

£free or £4.99



NETNEWSWIRE

RSS never grabbed the mainstream, but subscribing to websites and having headlines load into a minimal reader is fantastic for efficiently following your top sources. This is the best iPad RSS reader, with widgets to help you get at new articles.

£free



McCLOCKFACE

Your iPad has a small clock in the corner, but McClockface gives you a huge widget-based flip clock that you could see from across the street. Smaller options evoke everything from *Back to the Future* to an underground rail map.

£2.49



TAKE NOTE

■ Copy some copy

Drag up from the bottom-right corner with your finger or Apple Pencil to capture a Quick Note – it's like scrap paper on standby. You can swipe through your notes in the window or peruse them in the Notes app.

■ Link for yourself

Found something online to save? Select it and choose 'Add to Quick Note'. The text and a link will be added to your most recent note – or a new one that you first create in the Quick Note window. Later, you can tap the link to jump back to the right bit of the web page.



MULTITASK IN STYLE

■ Do the splits

The multitasking button (three dots) sits at the top of your iPad display. Tap it to access options: you can send a window to full screen, Split View or Slide Over. In Split View, drag one app down to select another.

■ Work in, er, windows

With iPadOS 15, Apple's flirting with a (limited) multi-window model. Tap-hold a message in Mail or a note in Notes and select 'Open in New Window' to view it in a modal window. Swipe down to minimise it.

■ Respect your shelf

Your what? Your shelf! It's new and pops up when you tap the multitasking menu in an app with several open and/or minimised windows, so you can select one of them. Interact with that app and the shelf fades away.



GO GLOBAL

■ Free the key

The 'globe' key on Apple keyboards was previously used to switch languages or get at emoji. It now helps you zoom around your system, with shortcuts that trigger actions and switch apps. Hold the key down to see them... and commit them to memory.

■ Caps, perhaps?

If you're using a keyboard without a globe key, go to Settings > General > Keyboard > Hardware Keyboard > Modifier Keys. Then remap the little-used caps-lock to be your globe, unlocking all those handy shortcuts.

**BEST FOR
SERIOUS
GAMING**



Love is all surround
The Razer supports THX Spatial Audio, bringing 7.1 surround sound to make your games really come to life.

Wild bling
Each of the keys is individually backlit, offering up to a crazy 16.8 million different colours. It's all totally customisable.

Chip building
The Swift 3 is hardly a premium device, yet it's relatively thin and comes with a choice of either Intel or AMD power.

Bump it up
As with all the laptops here, you'll get a free upgrade to Windows 11 if the one you buy has Windows 10 out of the box.

**BEST FOR
A TIGHT
BUDGET**



These go to 11

Want a new laptop to get the most out of the new Windows? We've picked out six of the best for work, play and everything in between...

Razer Blade 15 Advanced

What's the story?

Razer has been on top of its gaming game for years now – first with its mice and keyboards, and now with the Blade 15 Advanced. This machine will motor through every top title, comes with a range of high-quality displays, and looks mean as hell in black aluminium.

Is it any good?

Keen gamer? You're not going to go wrong here. This Blade is available with a choice of three excellent Nvidia graphics cores: the GeForce RTX 3060, 3070 or 3080. They're all great for mainstream games and e-sports titles, while the 3080 serves up sensational speed for ray-traced games and future blockbusters.

This laptop has Wi-Fi 6 and Bluetooth alongside USB and Thunderbolt ports, with displays running at between 60Hz and 360Hz and resolutions between Full HD and 4K.

While it's true that any Blade will always be a great gaming option, it's worth

doing some research before you buy. The non-Advanced versions of this machine are cheaper, but here you're getting better RGB lighting, faster screens, more ports and slimmer frames.

Downsides? No gaming laptop has brilliant battery life when it's playing, and you'll find lighter machines elsewhere. And while this Razer is a well-made piece of kit, you can find similar performance for less if you're willing to forgo the luxuries.

But if you do want a sleek, good-looking and super-fast gaming laptop with loads of features and impressive build quality, your search might well end with the Blade 15 Advanced.

from **£2150** / stuff.tv/15A

Key specs

- 15.6in 1920x1080–3840x2160 IPS/OLED
- Intel Core i7/i9, 16/32GB
- Nvidia GeForce RTX 3060/3070/3080
- 512GB/1TB SSD
- 9hr battery ● 355x235x16–20mm, 1.99–2.09kg

STUFF SAYS A gaming giant with lashings of power and top-notch design ★★★★★☆

Acer Swift 3

What's the story?

The Acer Swift 3 is the best laptop on the market if you want a Windows 11 machine that doesn't cost too much. In its most affordable spec it costs a very reasonable £529, and even the top models just about duck under the £1000 bar.

On the outside it has the quality and ergonomics to handle everyday computing; on the inside it's got solid components that will run the new OS with ease.

At this price there are trade-offs, of course: pricier laptops will be slimmer and lighter or have better components, and this screen won't trouble the best creative notebooks.

Is it any good?

The Ryzen 5 and Core i5 CPUs in the more affordable models are both quite adept for day-to-day use, and at the top end we find Core i7s that can tackle basic tasks alongside loads of browser tabs and some mainstream creative tools.

What else do we like? Well, it's light and thin, the

keyboard offers speed and firmness, and the trackpad is large and has gesture support. You get plenty of USB options, Wi-Fi 6 and a fingerprint reader... and a battery that should be enough to get through a working day.

But there are areas where the Swift isn't so effective. The 14in display isn't bright enough for outdoor use, the speakers are only good for casual media and videos, and it lacks Thunderbolt, Windows Hello support or wired internet.

But these are unlikely to be dealbreakers – because you are getting ample power, a solid chassis, a reasonable keyboard and a display that can cope with most workloads.

from **£529** / stuff.tv/Swift3

Key specs

- 14in 1920x1080 IPS
- Intel Core i5/i7 or AMD Ryzen 5, 8/16GB RAM
- Intel Iris Xe/AMD Radeon
- 256/512GB/1TB SSD
- 8hr battery
- 323x212x15.9mm, 1.2kg

STUFF SAYS Doesn't break boundaries, but it's capable and affordable ★★★★★☆

Noise don't cry
For video calls, the DTS:X Ultra audio system offers active noise-cancellation to remove unwanted background hubbub.

**BEST FOR
CHEAPER
GAMING**

Not hot hot
This laptop's cooling system – involving five heatpipes and four fans – is self-cleaning, so it shouldn't get dusty.

Asus TUF Dash F15

What's the story?

Gaming laptops are some of the most popular portables around, but we can't all afford a beast like the Razer on p62. If you'd like some serious gaming power without the serious price, this Asus is your best option by miles.

Its price ranges from £899 to £1399, so every model in the series is far cheaper than a Razer Blade, and these affordable notebooks have good components and impressive displays.

Is it any good?

The Dash F15 uses a variety of different graphics cores, and each is tempting in its own way. At the top end you've got the GeForce RTX 3060 and RTX 3070, which can play top games at fast framerates, while the cheaper models have RTX 3050

and RTX 3050 Ti cores that are suitable for popular e-sports titles like *Call of Duty* and *Rainbow Six*.

The Intel processors used here are often slower than their AMD counterparts but they're quick enough to handle standard tasks, and the varying models have 8GB or 16GB of memory and 512GB or 1TB of SSD storage. So far, so good.

You get plenty of USB ports alongside a Thunderbolt 4 connection – and a fast, consistent, comfortable keyboard. The 1080p panel has rock-solid contrast and colour quality, and it's available at a range of different refresh rates. The battery only lasts an hour when gaming, which is normal for a laptop of this type, but we managed eight hours of working.

The Asus is a little bit ordinary in some departments. It's a hefty 2kg yet its metal

and plastic casing looks a little cheap; there's no webcam or card reader, and the speakers are feeble. The trackpad isn't great for games either – you'll want to add a USB mouse and headset.

The Dash F15 can't compete with the market's best gaming notebooks when it comes to finesse and performance, but it does still offer rock-solid playing power alongside decent design... and it'll leave you with more cash to spend on games.

from £899 / stuff.tv/F15

Key specs

● 15.6in 1920x1080 IPS ● Intel Core i5/i7, 8/16GB RAM ● Nvidia GeForce RTX 3050/3060/3070 ● 512GB/1TB SSD ● 8hr battery ● 360x252x19.9mm, 2kg

STUFF SAYS Understandably compromised, but a great budget laptop for gamers ★★★★★☆

I don't wanna fright
The Dell's battery life can push 18 hours if you're not ragging it, so it'll easily last through the working day and an evening.

Streamy Windows

The Wi-Fi 6 chip is designed to prioritise the important stuff if you're streaming, video-calling or gaming.

**BEST FOR
WORK ON
THE MOVE**

Dell XPS 13

What's the story?

The Dell XPS range has been around for ages, and for good reason: these machines consistently balance quality components, excellent displays and sleek enclosures, and they're often at the forefront when it comes to embracing new features.

The latest XPS 13 excels in all areas, and Dell has managed to keep the prices surprisingly low.

Is it any good?

Even if you go entry-level you're getting top-notch design and ergonomics here. The latest version combines aluminium, carbon fibre and a Gorilla Glass display to create a machine that's sturdy and good-looking, and at just 14.8mm thick and 1.2kg it's comparable with any other ultraportable. The tiny bezels, stainless

steel logos and scratch-resistance are all impressive in the flesh.

And there's no shortage of practical features. It has a lid sensor that boots the machine as soon as it's opened, and you can log in with Windows Hello. You get Thunderbolt 4 ports and a microSD card slot, and the battery lasts between 12 and 18 hours depending on your choice of screen. The keyboard is fast and satisfying, while the large touchpad is accurate and supports gestures.

On the inside you've got Intel's Core i5-1135G7 and i7-1185G7 CPUs, with the former suitable for everyday work and the latter ideal for creative stuff. The screen choices are broad, with OLED, touch and anti-reflective options all available.

This tiny notebook is a brilliant option for productive days – it's fast, light and

crammed with features. And it means you won't have to break the bank to get started with Windows 11.

Oh, and you don't have to settle for the basic XPS 13 either: Dell also produces this machine as a 2-in-1 that's barely any heavier than the conventional laptop. There are also 15in and 17in versions if you'd like larger displays and more powerful processors – those are the top options if you need a heavyweight productivity tool.

from £1099 / stuff.tv/XPS13

Key specs

- 13.4in 1920x1200/3840x2400 IPS or 3456x2160 OLED
- Intel Core i5/17, 8/16GB RAM
- Intel Iris Xe
- 256/512GB/1TB SSD
- 12hr battery
- 296x199x14.8mm, 1.2kg

STUFF SAYS A workhorse with great looks, top display quality and slick ergonomics ★★★★★

The sliver of dreams

Despite its strong performance, the Gram 16 is less than 17mm thick and weighs in at a super-light 1.2kg.

**BEST FOR
BATTERY
LIFE**

A matter of rust
This LG has passed military-level tests for pressure, vibration, shock, dust, low and high temperatures plus corrosion.

LG Gram 16

What's the story?

The LG is the only machine in this group that holds a Guinness World Record: at just 1.19kg, it's officially the lightest 16in laptop on the planet.

Beyond the disarming lack of heft, it has a battery that lasts for almost 22 hours when playing media and 12 hours in a tough work benchmark. That makes it one of the only notebooks that could last two days before running out of juice.

Is it any good?

The Gram 16 impresses beyond the scales. It has a 16:10 display with 2560x1600 resolution, which means plenty of space for work and fun, and quality levels are consistently good – there's loads of contrast and great colour accuracy thanks to its wide colour gamut. The speakers

have good detail and depth, so that big screen is well-suited for movies.

The keyboard is crisp, firm and fast, the trackpad is fine, and elsewhere we find a fingerprint sensor, a decent webcam and plenty of USB and Thunderbolt 4 ports. It also has built-in Alexa functionality, as well as Wi-Fi 6 and Bluetooth 5.

On the inside, the Gram 16 is available with the same Intel Core i5-1135G7 and Core i7-1165G7 processors as the Dell on the previous page. And that's no bad thing: the i5 is a capable option for everyday workloads and the i7 will handle your content-creation apps too.

There's loads to like about this laptop, but there are some compromises to bear in mind too. The slimline chassis means the processors never quite run at their full speeds, and you can find more power

in larger machines. You're also missing out on discrete graphics and Windows Hello in the webcam.

Despite that, the huge battery life and feather-like weight mean the Gram 16 is the best choice right now if you need a bag-friendly notebook that'll last for absolutely ages – and starting at £1249, it's not particularly pricey. Note that LG also produces 14in and 17in versions if 16in isn't the perfect size for you; the former starts at £100 less.

from £1249 / stuff.tv/Gram16

Key specs

- 16in 2560x1600 IPS
- Intel Core i5/i7, 8/16GB RAM
- Intel Iris Xe
- 512GB/1TB SSD
- 22hr battery
- 356x243x16.8mm, 1.19kg

STUFF SAYS Record-breaking design and battery life make the LG a contender ★★★★★



Bend of a tentry
You can use the x360 in tent mode, laptop mode or tablet mode depending on how you want to work or play.

Dark life
The x360 detects when it's inside a bag so it doesn't waste energy thinking you're going to open it up any second.

**BEST FOR
2-IN-1
SKILLS**

HP Spectre x360 14

What's the story?

This HP is one of the best laptops you can buy... and that means it'll give you a brilliant Windows 11 experience. It's a 2-in-1 device, so it works as a laptop or tablet, and the high-quality screen, powerful internals and superb ergonomic design make it a fantastic all-rounder.

Is it any good?

Very. For a start the Spectre x360 is one of the best-looking laptops on the market, clad in machined aluminium that comes in black, blue or silver with bevelled copper edges. There's a smart speaker grille, tidy logos and a crisp backlit keyboard. It's a notebook that will turn heads.

And the 360° hinges mean it can turn into a tablet too, improving productivity and making it easier to play touchscreen

games; plus it can sit in a tent position for media viewing. Build quality is superb throughout – it's easily strong enough to be slung into a bag without concern – and at 1.34kg it won't weigh you down.

The 13.5in display has a 3:2 aspect ratio, so it's taller than most, which means you get extra height for web pages and documents. You can specify a Full HD touchscreen, but the OLED is a worthwhile upgrade: the 3000x2000 resolution is crisp and the contrast is stunning.

On the inside, you get the familiar choice between Intel Core i5 and Core i7 with a 512GB SSD. You can expect full-day longevity, but be aware that non-OLED models last longer.

The rest of the spec list is impressive. It has Thunderbolt 4 ports with 100W of power delivery alongside a full-size USB

port and a microSD card reader, and on the inside there's Wi-Fi 6, Bluetooth 5 and speakers that are punchy enough for music. The keyboard is crisp and satisfying, and there's a 13in version if you'd like all that in a smaller package.

The Spectre x360 14 strikes a great balance between size and portability, though, and that's why this one is our favourite from the range. Look no further for superb design, comprehensive features and impressive components.

from £1200 / stuff.tv/x360

Key specs

● 13.5in 1920x1280 IPS/3000x2000 OLED touchscreen ● Intel Core i5/i7, 8/16GB RAM ● Intel Iris Xe ● 512GB SSD ● 11.5hr battery ● 298x220x16.9mm, 1.34kg

STUFF SAYS Great display options, loads of features and awesome performance ★★★★★

INSTANT UPGRADES SAMSUNG GALAXY WATCH4



FIRST ADD
THESE...



ONE SAMSUNG SPORTS BAND

It's simple to swap out the band on your Watch4 for a third-party option, given the fact that Samsung opted for standard strap fittings. That said, the company also makes its own alternatives to the one in the box. Our pick is the white sports band with black accents, perfect for that look-I'm-really-active vibe. [from £34 / *samsung.com*](#)



TWO GOOGLE PIXEL BUDS A-SERIES

Low-cost, decent-quality wireless sound is what Google's new wireless earbuds are all about. Pair them with the Watch4 and you can enjoy phone-free tunes, with offline support for Spotify and YouTube Music. Meanwhile, adaptive sound automatically adjusts the volume based on your surroundings. [£89 / *store.google.com*](#)

THREE SAMSUNG GALAXY S21 ULTRA 5G

If you're thinking about upgrading your smartphone and already have a Galaxy Watch4, the S21 Ultra could be a great shout. Unlike non-Samsung phones, its reverse wireless charging feature will top up your wearable when the battery is low... and the S21 Ultra also happens to be one of the best phones around. [from £1149 / *samsung.com*](#)

NOW TRY
THIS...

1 PAY NICELY

When you first fire up a Watch4, only Samsung Pay is pre-loaded for mobile payments – but that doesn't always get on well with other makers' phones. If you want to give Samsung the slip in favour of Google Pay, simply jump into the Play Store on the watch and download it. Now add a card, set it as the default payment method in the watch's NFC settings, and you're good to go.



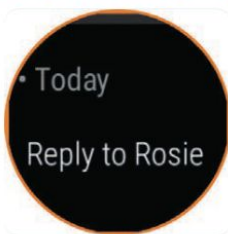
2 TOGGLE TOGGLES

The Quick Panel options are how you quickly toggle on and off things like the always-on display. If you want to rearrange them, you can long-press them and drag them around, but that can be fiddly. For a big screen reshuffle, go into your Galaxy Wearable smartphone app; tap on Quick Panels, then either switch out the ones already loaded up or add some that are hidden by default, such as NFC.



3 ROCK UP

Getting tunes loaded up on your Watch4 is easy. If you have a bunch of good old-fashioned MP3s, they can be loaded up using the Galaxy Wearable app on your phone. To transfer your tracks, open 'Watch settings', followed by 'Manage content', then tap 'Add tracks'. Alternatively, a dip into the Google Play Store to download Spotify or YouTube Music will also do the job.



4 GO LARGE

The Watch4's display is one of the smallest around, especially if you pick up the 40mm option. To give its interface a size boost and make those dials easier to see, you can fire up a 'triple tap to zoom' feature. Open the Galaxy Wearable app on your phone and tap 'Watch settings', then 'Accessibility', and then 'Visibility enhancement'. From here you just have to toggle magnification on.



5 TAP DANCE

Whether you're using Audible, Spotify or YouTube, the Watch4 lets you control playback from your wrist... but media controls don't fire up by default. To enable them in those trusty Watch settings, tap 'Display settings', toggle on 'Show media controls' and play any audio or video. Controls will now pop up on your watch so you can hit play or pause, skip tracks and adjust the volume.



6 STAY AWAKE

If you're happy to charge your wearable daily and don't want to twist your wrist every time you need to tell the time, turn on the always-on display. This dims the screen and shows a low-power version of your chosen watch face all the time – no waking required. To turn it on, go to the Galaxy Wearable app's Watch settings and tap 'Display'. Here you can toggle the feature on or off.

THEN GET
THESE...

A WRIST POMODORO

Struggle with time management? The pomodoro technique is great for ditherers. This timer sends you a ping when your work and rest periods are up.

Free



TODDOST

Smartwatches make it easy to add items to a to-do list without having to pull out your phone; Todoist has tidy watch, phone and web apps to keep your lists in sync.

Free



SEVEN – 7 MINUTE WORKOUT

A personal trainer on your wrist: if you can't make it to the gym, you can enjoy a guided equipment-free workout that takes just seven minutes a day.

Free

Everything glows

With a picture every bit as lustrous as the Ambilight round the back, Philips' latest 4K telly is aiming to raise the bar – but not the price – for OLED

£1499 / stuff.tv/OLED806

■ On paper, the OLED806 is a TV with everything it needs to keep Philips' upward trend going. The specs are right, the looks are right, the selection of sizes (48in, 65in and 77in as well as this 55in) is right... and the price is right.

■ You have to hand it to Philips: it knows how to specify a television. HDR is a great example – only Philips and Panasonic telies are compatible with every worthwhile HDR standard. Two of this screen's four HDMI inputs are 2.1-compliant, which means every clever feature of your new PlayStation 5 or Xbox Series X can be exploited.

■ It also features the company's proprietary Ambilight technology, and here it's on all four sides of the rear of the chassis (which goes some way to explaining its relative chunkiness). If you've ever seen Ambilight in action, you'll know it really works.

■ The OLED806 features superb picture quality thanks to the latest-generation of Philips' P5 picture processor. The deep black tones we all expect from OLED are here, but they're also loaded with detail and variation. And because the white tones are equally clean, detailed and nuanced, it follows that contrasts are strong and convincing. Textures in general, and skin-tones in particular, are fully expressed and absolutely alive with fine detail.

Tech specs

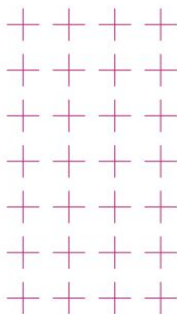
Screen 55in 4K OLED HDR HLG, HDR10, HDR10+, HDR10+ Adaptive, Dolby Vision, Dolby Vision IQ

OS Android TV **Connectivity**

4x HDMI, 3x USB, Ethernet, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 5 **Dimensions** 1228x706x68mm, 19kg

Mellow clout

The rear three-driver array is powered by a total of 50W. It sounds clear and open, with impressive bass for a TV.



I do want control of view

There's a mic on the remote, and a button for Google Assistant. Android TV is in charge but soon to be replaced by Google TV; there's also Freeview Play, with a good selection of apps including Disney+ (but not Apple TV).



Metal babies

The feet are a little design feature of their own. They're reversible, so you can either have a shiny metal finish on display or a darker, 'smoky' alternative. The screen sits very close to them, so there's no space for a soundbar.

STUFF SAYS All the specs and all the performance make this a real contender ★★★★★

Picture quality is just about flawless – ain't that enough?

Simon Lucas



You'll have to commit some time to setting up the OLED806 to your satisfaction. And as far as downsides go, well, that's just about it. This is a well-specified, well made, high-performance television at a completely mainstream price – and when you take Ambilight into account too, it becomes pretty compelling. Philips has serious and justifiable designs on your money here.

Fuel be in my heart

Xiaomi's latest phone can slurp up a full load of fresh electricity in just 17 minutes... and comes at a distinctly sub-flagship price



Against all odds

The fingerprint sensor is built into the power button on the side. It's at a sensible height and is quick to respond.



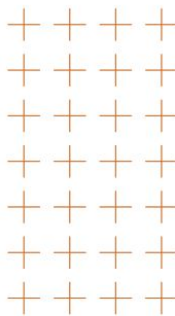
Enhance into the light

A 108MP sensor is the main event for photo fans. Pictures are impressively detailed, if a little over-sharpened at times. Dynamic range is handled well but noise creeps in fairly quickly in low light.



Fisheye missed again

Pics from the 8MP ultrawide camera are lower-quality than from the main sensor, falling short in both exposure and colour balance, but the autofocus on the 5MP macro lens lets you take pleasingly clean close-ups.



£599 / stuff.tv/11TPro

■ Xiaomi's standard Mi 11 blends screen, CPU, camera and design smarts at a price that undercuts the likes of Samsung and OnePlus. Now its successor is here – and it aims to mix the formula up a bit. The 11T Pro goes without a few premium additions in order to drive the price down further, and adds stupidly fast charging.

■ The screen is a palm-filling 6.67in and 2400x1080 is still the gold standard for mid-range phones. AMOLED means flawless contrast, vibrant colours and deep blacks that ensure photos pop, while a 120Hz refresh rate makes scrolling and swiping super-smooth.

■ A Snapdragon 888 with 8GB of RAM guarantees a near-flawless Android experience. Gaming is a delight, even if it can get a little toasty when you push it hard, and for everyday use the 11T Pro feels as responsive as a true flagship.

■ The 120W USB-C power brick offers a complete refuel in just 17 minutes, which transforms how you use the phone: instead of leaving it overnight, just hook it up while you hop in the shower.

■ Like Marmite, EDM music and *Love Island*, you'll either love or hate Xiaomi's MIUI OS. Version 12.5 is less intrusive but still comes with an abundance of pre-installed apps. Happily, much of the bloat can be nuked and there's plenty of scope for customisation.

Tech specs

Screen 6.67in 2400x1080 120Hz AMOLED **Processor** Snapdragon 888 **RAM** 8GB **Storage** 256GB **OS** Android 11 / MIUI 12.5 **Cameras** 108+8+5MP rear, 16MP front **Battery** 5000mAh (USB-C) **Dimensions** 164x77x8.8mm, 204g

STUFF SAYS Puts pricier phones on notice with its blisteringly rapid charging ★★★★★

You can hurry, love... but is this a better deal than the Mi 11?

Tom Morgan



Viewed in isolation, the 11T Pro is a potent and well-priced anti-flagship with a capable camera, gorgeous screen, top-tier performance and properly fast charging. But at the time of writing Xiaomi's identically-powered Mi 11 costs the same and comes with an even nicer display and more premium build (although it won't charge as quickly). While the latter remains in stock at that price, it's got to be considered the better buy.

My pluggy Valentine

Everyone loves a Mini, but what's the latest Electric model like to live with? **Dan Grabham** takes one for an extended drive... and some extended charges

from £26,000 / stuff.tv/MiniElectric

The new Mini Charging service gives you access to over 11,000 charge points across the UK.



DAY 01

Essentially the 2021 Mini Electric is a facelift of last year's first-gen model to bring it in line with the rest of the Mini range. There's less chrome, replaced by a sleek black trim and more body-coloured detailing. The grille is wider and boasts a fine-looking black surround. The separate fog lights have been removed, replaced by air inlets. The Mini Electric fluorescent 'E' branding remains and is echoed inside, including

on the LED lighting around the central driver display.

Pricing starts at £26,000, but only the best for *Stuff*: we borrowed a top-of-the-line Mini Electric Collection model (from £32,550), which includes plenty of extras including a head-up display, parking beepers all round, parking assistance, wireless charging in the armrest and Apple CarPlay as well as Android Auto. But even the entry-level Mini

Electric has a decent spec sheet, with cruise control, sat-nav and air-con. Perhaps most striking is the multi-tone roof, which blends from black to purple to blue. Minis have often had colourful tops, of course, and this is a smart new spin on the idea.

Mini said at the launch of this model that it would be doubling production of the Electric this year – 20 years after the arrival of the first revised version under BMW's ownership – with all Minis going electric by 2030.

As with last year's iteration, it's almost immediately obvious when you get behind the wheel

that this year's model is loads of fun to drive. Note, though, that it comes in three-door form only, so if you want a fatter Mini you can't go electric just yet. Often carrying kids or other passengers? This one probably isn't for you.

The stamina of last year's model was a problem, and again Mini cites the same 145-mile maximum range. That's a bit of a shock as the mileage tends to descend quickly; but we know these range estimates tend to settle down after a few journeys, so let's see how it gets on over the next week or two.



It's almost immediately obvious when you get behind the wheel that this year's model is loads of fun to drive



Donut of Truth™

01 A modern Mini that's a blueprint for the future
02 It's so much fun to drive, and so responsive
03 Plenty of tech on board with the pricier versions

04 The central instrument cluster needs a redesign
05 The maximum range is relatively poor...
06 ...and as such, it's very much a second car



Tech specs

Motor 181bhp, automatic, front-wheel drive
0-62mph 7.3secs
Range 145 miles
Battery 32.6kWh, 50kW charging
Displays 8.8in, 5.5in



DAY 03

Aside from our optional HUD, there are two other screens in the car – an 8.8in main display for sat-nav, entertainment and so on, plus a great-looking 5.5-incher immediately behind the wheel that shows you essentials such as speed, remaining battery power, and whether you're charging or discharging the battery. We absolutely love the clarity of this driver display.

The bigger screen, however, is powered by Mini Connected (a variant of BMW's iDrive) and can be controlled by touch or via a controller on the central console. It can be a little confusing to use and it feels shoehorned into the circular console, which is designed to ape the large round speedo in the original Minis.

DAY 06

The range has now settled down. While 120 miles is a much more plausible maximum, you'll find yourself getting nearer 100. That said, it is possible to tease extra mileage out of it.

It's got to be said, though, that you are paying a premium for this vehicle when you consider the mileages of other electric vehicles



DAY 10

It's when other passengers join you in the car that you realise just how quick the acceleration is: the 181bhp motor gives a 0-62mph time of 7.3 seconds. Deceleration is also rapid, and on a lot of drives you'll rarely need to use the brake. You also get to see just how stiff the suspension is when you go over a bump.

DAY 14

Well, living with this car is pretty easy... so long as you remember to charge the 32.6kWh battery. And if you're using it every day, you'll need to do that on a very regular basis. We're lucky to have a wall charger that'll juice it up in around 3.5hrs (7kW), although if you can find a 50kW charger you can do it in an hour. Charging on a plug is just about doable for daily use – it takes around 12hrs.

Because of its limited range, this Mini really has to be considered a second car rather than a regular commuting steed. But with that admittedly hefty caveat, it's very appealing indeed.

STUFF SAYS

An absolute blast to drive, but the range is still lacking compared to its rivals

★★★★☆

D-LINK'S EAGLE PRO AI SERIES: NEXT-GEN WI-FI

Give your home network the upgrade it deserves with the newest kit from D-Link: ultra-powerful, smart, and refreshingly simple to configure

You and your family no doubt spend a lot of time online, whether that's chatting with friends and relatives, working on projects with colleagues or sitting back for some movie-streaming chillout time. So it's vital that you have a home Wi-Fi network you can rely on in terms of speed and stability, even with dozens of devices connected.

Enter the EAGLE PRO AI Series from D-Link: next-generation devices designed to make your home Wi-Fi as fast and as smart as it can possibly be.

Hot mesh

Not only will these devices get wireless internet into every corner of your home, but they'll manage bandwidth intelligently to make sure everything from your phone to your games console stays online with the best speeds possible.

At the centre of the network sits the dual-band D-Link R15 EAGLE PRO AI AX1500 Smart Router, featuring the latest Wi-Fi 6 tech. It can serve up maximum speeds of 1500Mbps across as much as 230 square metres, which should be more than enough for the majority of users.

It's backed up by the M15 mesh nodes, which you can dot around your home to blanket it in speedy

Wi-Fi. Any corners or floors that were previously out of range of your router, or where you had slow and unstable connections, will be brought right up to speed.

Completing the series is the E15 range extender, which couldn't be any simpler to use: just plug it into a spare wall socket in any part of the home where you're struggling to get a strong signal, and it will boost the range of the Wi-Fi being broadcast by your router.

The R15, M15 and E15 gadgets are designed to work together, so you can mix and match to come up with the configuration that suits you best.

Crisp packets

Behind the scenes there's a whole lot of smart optimisation happening. One of the clever tricks the EAGLE PRO AI Series offers is OFDMA — that's Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiple Access, if you were wondering. It breaks down internet traffic into smaller packets so they can be more easily directed around your home, solving some of the connection issues that can happen when big chunks of data are involved.

And the R15, M15 and E15 can also recognise different types of internet use. If you're deep in an online gaming session that's likely

to need more Wi-Fi capacity than the smart light that's connected upstairs, for example, D-Link's tech can spot that and make the necessary adjustments.

Security is also an important part of the setup: this kit supports the latest WPA3 protocols and offers 128-bit encryption to make it virtually impossible for anyone to snoop on your internet traffic.

Easy, lover

Despite all of these advanced features, the EAGLE PRO AI Series remains very simple to use — even if you've no experience managing network devices. Everything is handled through the smartphone app; all you need to do is plug in the hardware and follow the prompts on screen. Whether you want to see which devices are connected to Wi-Fi or how much bandwidth you've used up this week, the app can tell you.

Add in a host of other useful features — including parental access settings, guest networks, integration with Google Assistant and Alexa for voice commands, and smart notifications delivered straight to your phone whenever there's a problem with the network — and it's an all-round package that's hard to beat.

Find out more at eu.dlink.com

Multi versed
Built-in multi-user, multiple-input, multiple-output (MU-MIMO) tech means the R15 can keep many devices online at once.

THE WI-FI 6 DIFFERENCE



If you're buying a router right now, then you want it to have the latest Wi-Fi 6 capabilities on board... but what exactly is Wi-Fi 6, and what sort of upgrades does it offer for your home network? Simply put,

it's like upgrading a highway with more lanes for more cars, only the lanes are connections for your devices to hook up to, and the cars are batches of data travelling to and from the internet.

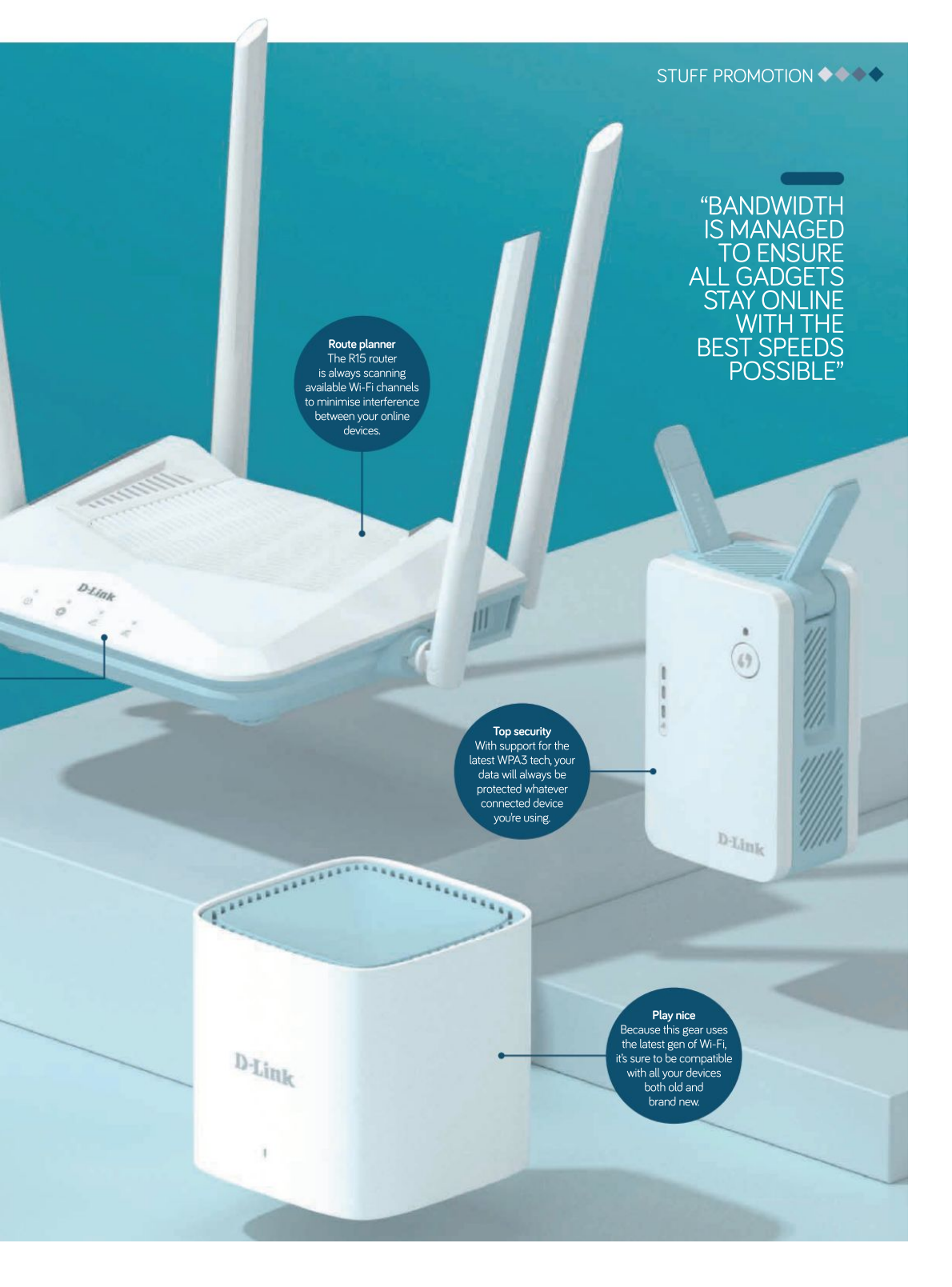
Those cars (or data packets) can travel faster with Wi-Fi 6 as well, although the broadband deal you've signed up for at home is going to play a key role in the download and upload speeds you actually see.

“BANDWIDTH IS MANAGED TO ENSURE ALL GADGETS STAY ONLINE WITH THE BEST SPEEDS POSSIBLE”

Route planner
The R15 router is always scanning available Wi-Fi channels to minimise interference between your online devices.

Top security
With support for the latest WPA3 tech, your data will always be protected whatever connected device you're using.

Play nice
Because this gear uses the latest gen of Wi-Fi, it's sure to be compatible with all your devices both old and brand new.





Deathloop

With meaty combat, organic exploration and lots of ingenious puzzles, *Deathloop* is a wondrously accessible adventure that's easy to pick up but just about impossible to stop playing

This game is incredible. Sorry, is that not a fancy enough intro? It's just that all we want to do right now is get back to playing it. Forever. You know, like the very premise of the game itself.

Deathloop takes you to a secret island, Blackreef, where the usual rules of life and death don't apply. Its Eternalist inhabitants loll about, safe in the knowledge that no matter what happens to them they'll still wake up the following morning, refreshed and with no

memory of their demise. And every single one of them wants to kill you.

In order to escape the loop, you must kill all seven of the island's leaders (known as Visionaries) in a single day, but you can only make four visits to the isle: once in the morning, once at noon, once in the afternoon and once in the evening. So you need to manipulate events to get each Visionary in the right place at the right time.

The one unknown quantity will be Julianna, your arch-nemesis

and certified pain in the arse who will periodically invade your game masquerading as an everyday Eternalist before furiously engaging. We didn't find her particularly challenging when under AI control – but *Deathloop* offers a multiplayer mode that lets other players join your game as Julianna. You can turn it off if you'd prefer to explore unchallenged by human combatants, but it doesn't half add a delicious edge.

How you traverse Blackreef's four distinct areas is entirely up

to you – there is no one correct approach. You can either scream through the place with all guns literally blazing or skulk from shadow to shadow, rooftop to rooftop – and *Deathloop* truly values both.

This is a triumph of a game, flawless in pretty much every way, from its design style to its soundtrack – throat-punching its way into the annals of gaming history where, like the Eternalists, it will surely live on forever.

Vikki Blake

STUFF SAYS Not just one of the best games of the year, but one of the best games ever ★★★★★

PS5, PC / stuff.tv/Deathloop

If you were doomed to live forever, you'd probably vandalise snowcats too.

Nice, but string backs would have given you a bit of extra purchase.



Groundhog daze

While resetting your progress at the end of every day might sound tedious, the good news is your character Colt never forgets the information he learns in each loop.

It's not as straightforward when it comes to retaining your cool weapons, trinkets and powers, but you will also be able to 'infuse' and retain favourite items each time you loop. This means every single run will be useful. There's no end to the imaginative ways you can finish off enemies, and you can tirelessly experiment with your powers and weapons without ever thinking the way you play is 'wrong'.

Offing all seven Visionaries in a single loop will take a bit of doing, mind. Not only will you have to thoroughly explore Blackreef to ensure you pick up all the clues that will slowly reveal the best times of day to strike, but you'll also have to know exactly where to tackle each one.

It can be overwhelming, particularly to begin with, but with every zone changing according to the time of day, there are limitless places to explore and research; and with plenty of puzzles, you won't ever feel bored.

Knowledge is power... and the more visits you make, the better you'll know all of *Deathloop's* secrets.

PS5, PS4, XSX, XB1, PC,
Stadia / stuff.tv/FarCry6

Far Cry 6

After five main entries and two spin-offs, the *Far Cry* formula has become familiar... but you could be too busy causing chaos with a crocodile to care

Far Cry 6 is absolutely enormous. The islands of Yara, the fictional South American archipelago where the game is set, are gargantuan, and completists could potentially spend 100 hours exploring its every corner – sniffing out loot, crafting materials or finding bad guys to machete in half.

But it's not just the map here that's big (probably too big, in all honesty). *Far Cry 6* has scaled up the action to unprecedented levels. This has always been a series where absolute chaos was only ever a few misplaced bullets away, but here misplaced bullets are pretty much encouraged from the get-go. Yes, there's stealth, but you might as well accept that if a game gives you an airstrike backpack and a giant flamethrower within its first 90 minutes, it is perhaps 'gently' encouraging you to kill everything in sight.

You play as Dani, either in male or female guise; and after ruthless dictator Anton Castillo's goons take over your town, you join up

with the guerrillas of Libertad to plot his downfall. Of course, this ultimately results in a series of missions about shooting people and capturing checkpoints – it's still *Far Cry* – but it's very much of the 'more is more' school in terms of scale.

That extends to the game's animal buddies, which include a waistcoated crocodile and a little dog with wheels for back legs... who can kill people. They're charming enough, but too often find themselves half-dead on the floor within seconds of a firefight breaking out. It turns out a croc isn't that much use against a helicopter.

Unlike previous games, this one has no skill tree. Instead, you're expected to change clothes like some sort of rebel Clark Kent whenever you want to activate a different perk, buff or trait. There are all sorts of 'premium' clothing and weaponry options on sale for micro-transaction money, so it's hard not to feel cynical about that. Ugly business, this revolution.

Jon Denton



Selective breeding has given the dachshund short legs and a lust for murder.



Yes, it's got Gus Fring in it. If he asks you about your chicken, just say it's delicious.

STUFF SAYS The sixth version of a fine game you've played many times before ★★☆☆☆



all platforms / stuff.tv/FIFA22

FIFA 22

At last, the proper next-gen debut, with upgraded animations and a more considered approach. But is it more Leo Messi or Leo Sayer?

Faces are more realistic, as you can tell here if you're Theo Hernandez's mum.



Yes, you can help Mbappe's PSG finally buy... sorry, win the Champions League.



One-nil is the most common scoreline in football, but if you played *FIFA 21* you'd be forgiven for thinking it was 6-5 or 5-4. The end-to-end goalfests might have been entertaining to some, but matches often bore only a passing resemblance to the real thing.

With *FIFA 22*, EA has brought the game back down to earth. The tempo has been noticeably reduced, passes have less zip, defenders are better at standing their ground and intercepting the ball, and goalkeepers are much harder to beat – not least because they're less inclined to push the ball out into dangerous areas, instead redirecting shots safely past the post.

That's not to say goals are now impossible to come by; scoring just requires a little more patience. With defences better at keeping their shape and making it harder to find space in the final third, good passing and movement is key... but with players reacting better to dextrous use of the left stick, it's easier to manipulate the ball

in tight spaces without having to learn a load of show-pony skill moves. The extra animations really add to the sense of having more control over what you can do on the pitch.

Off the pitch, Career mode now allows you to create your own club from scratch and insert it into one of the many playable leagues. It's a nice way of allowing supporters of absent clubs to join in, and there are plenty of choices when you come to designing kits – but the game fills your squad with a bunch of made-up players, which ruins the illusion somewhat. Just being able to edit the names would make a big difference for those who could be bothered to do so.

And then there's Ultimate Team. There have been changes to the way you earn coins and tweaks to the structure of its competitions that make this mode slightly more forgiving, but it's about time some of its grubby pay-to-win strategies went in the bin. Oh, and EA, you can chuck goal music and VAR in there while you're at it.

Tom Wiggins

STUFF SAYS A more mature approach... if only that extended to Ultimate Team ★★★★★

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Active living



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Dark winter days can challenge even the most dedicated rider. Why not give your favourite rider a boost this Christmas with a pair of warm winter riding socks and a subscription to Your Horse, the magazine that inspires its readers to enjoy every single second that they spend in the saddle.

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We all know how important it is to live a healthy lifestyle, so why not gift your loved one a helping hand? Top Sante is packed full of life-enhancing tips and advice on health, fitness, food and beauty. Plus our Christmas offer also includes a candle from Scented worth £16.95.

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WORRY NO MORE, WE HAVE IT COVERED!

Hobbies



Hot Stuff – the perfect gift for gadget fans

Stuff magazine is packed full of news, reviews, and all the best deals on the hottest new gadgets. Treat a friend to 13 issues of Stuff and receive a Nacon PS4 stereo gaming headset, worth £25.50.

Visit Shop.kelsey.co.uk/STUGIFT



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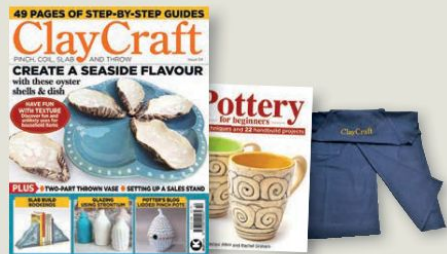
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Stuff

TOP TEN

OF EVERYTHING

Straight outta testing and into our rankings.

NEW

HOT BUY

BARGAIN BUY

UPDATE

Time changes everything, including Stuff Top Ten entries.

A product of techy genius that's set our hearts aflame.

A proper steal. Worth owning, regardless of cashflow.



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1

HOT
BUY

UPDATE

BARGAIN
BUY**Apple iPhone 12**from £679 / stuff.tv/iPhone12

The demise of Samsung's glorious Galaxy S20 5G left a space on the *Stuff* smartphone throne (and its replacement didn't even make the Top Ten)...but don't go thinking the iPhone 12 is only our No1 phone by default. We loved the iPhone 11, and its successor carries a whole host of improvements. All the '12' models on this list are sure to be bumped off by the new iPhone 13 range (see p29) – but for now at least, that just means the 12 and 12 Mini are available at tempting knockdown prices.

Stuff says ★★★★★**A top display and all the power you'll ever need in an iPhone****● NOW ADD THIS****Sandisk iXpand Flash Drive Go**

Bump your iPhone's storage capacity by 64, 128 or 256GB with this tiny Lightning flash drive.

from £36 / shop.westerndigital.com**TIPS & TRICKS**

- Enable 'Start PiP Automatically' so you can keep watching videos while flipping between apps.
- Under 'Face ID & Passcode', disable 'Require Attention for Face ID'. Now you can keep your shades on.
- Got AirPods Pro or Max? Under their Bluetooth settings, tap 'Spatial Audio' for fancy 3D immersion.



2

**Oppo Find X3 Pro**
£1100 / stuff.tv/X3Pro

In almost every respect, the X3 Pro is a killer flagship phone. Oppo's software has taken a major leap forward and the hardware is easily on a par with Apple and Samsung. If you want the best you pay the premium... and the Find X3 Pro is very much one of the best.

Stuff says ★★★★★

It's serious money, but it's brilliantly capable in just about every way

3

UPDATE

**Apple iPhone 12 Pro**
from £999 / stuff.tv/12Pro

The achievements of the iPhone 12 Pro are evident everywhere... but who actually needs them? It takes great photos, but for most of us the basic iPhone 12 will do fine. Anyway, you might struggle to find a 12 Pro now that the 13 Pro is out in the wild.

Stuff says ★★★★★

Advanced photo skills make this an iPhone for the few and not the many

4

**OnePlus 9 Pro**★★★★★ from £829 / stuff.tv/OnePlus9Pro

With OnePlus's best camera yet and a top display, this is high-end hardware at a non-premium price.

5

**Realme X50 Pro 5G**★★★★★ £499 / stuff.tv/X50Pro

Realme's high-spec, mid-price marvel makes for a compelling alternative to a OnePlus.

6

**Apple iPhone 12 Pro Max**★★★★★ from £1099 / stuff.tv/12ProMax

The choice if you want to fully Max your iPhone 12 experience... but it's making way for the 13 Pro Max.

7

**Apple iPhone 12 Mini**★★★★★ from £579 / stuff.tv/12Mini

A 5.4in-screened cutie packing Apple's lauded A14 Bionic chip and the same cameras as the iPhone 12.

8

**Sony Xperia 1 III**★★★★★ £1199 / stuff.tv/Xperia1iii

Photo novices might find it tough to master, but no rival has such comprehensive camera skills.

9

**Asus ROG Phone 5**★★★★★ £800 / stuff.tv/ROG5

Serious about mobile gaming? Top specs and clever tools make this our favourite phone for gamers.

10

**Samsung Galaxy S21 Ultra 5G**★★★★★ from £1149 / stuff.tv/S21Ultra

Earns its 'Ultra' name owing to an incredible camera array capturing moments other phones will miss.

1

HOT BUY



Sony WF-1000XM4

£250 / stuff.tv/WFXM4

A worthy successor to the XM3 buds that sat atop this list for what seemed like decades, Sony's latest true wireless noise-cancelling in-ears are smaller, smarter and better. With the arguable exceptions of call quality and app slickness, the WF-1000XM4s aren't quite the best at anything; but they're so close to being the best at everything that their all-round game is untouchable. No other wireless earbuds are so consistently accomplished across the board.

Stuff says ★★★★★

The finest true wireless noise-cancelling earbuds around – this is the complete package



2

Devialet Gemini

£279 / stuff.tv/Gemini

There's nothing special about their design, charging case, battery life, ANC or app... and the sound out of the box is arguably overhyped. But what you're getting here, after a quick tweak, is proper hi-fi brilliance.

Stuff says ★★★★★

Capable of delectable sonic refinement



3

Bose QuietComfort Earbuds

£250 / stuff.tv/QCE

They're bulkier than the average in-ears, but otherwise the QC Earbuds are difficult to knock. The sound is bassier than you might expect but retains lots of detail, and you won't find better ANC.

Stuff says ★★★★★

A fun listen with excellent noise-cancelling



4

Bowers & Wilkins PI7

★★★★★ £349 / stuff.tv/pi7

These true wireless buds are expensive but impressive. See also the PI5s on p54.



5

Bang & Olufsen Beoplay EQ

★★★★★ £349 / stuff.tv/EQ

Premium true wireless noise-cancellers for music lovers with cash to burn.

1

HOT BUY



Sony WH-1000XM4

£299 / stuff.tv/WHXM4

With their balance of wearability, active noise-cancelling prowess and audio performance, there hasn't been a better package than the Sony XM3s... until now. The XM4s look and sound almost identical, but a range of new features – including Speak-to-Chat, which stops the music when you start talking – aims to lure you away from your current phones. If those are the XM3s (still available at a super-low price, by the way), it's tough to justify the upgrade; but who's going to knock Sony off its perch now?

Stuff says ★★★★★

Not surprisingly given their heritage, these are the best all-round noise-cancelling headphones you can buy



2

Bowers & Wilkins PX7

£279 / stuff.tv/PX7

B&W's second ANC headphones place greater emphasis on comfort and are all the better for it, while the noise-killing is as effective as you'll find anywhere. Oh, and they sound flipping good too.

Stuff says ★★★★★

B&W takes on the best with top-class cans



3

Bose NCH 700

£350 / stuff.tv/BoseNCH700

There are superior-sounding headphones, but if call quality and noise-cancelling are just as important to you then Bose's flagship cans are the gold standard. The voice-pickup system is the best out there.

Stuff says ★★★★★

As all-rounders, these are hard to beat



NEW

4

Philips Fidelio L3

★★★★★ £240 / stuff.tv/L3

For those who value balance and tonal accuracy, the L3s are easy to recommend.



5

Bang & Olufsen H95

★★★★★ £700 / stuff.tv/H95

Prepare to be bankrupted by the most luxurious ANC cans of all.



1

HOT BUY

Samsung Galaxy Watch3

from £349 / stuff.tv/GW3

Yes, there's a new Watch4 at No4 on this list...but while that's a luscious piece of kit, it loses a star for poor battery life – and the old Watch3 remains an easy wearable to love. It's superbly made and very attractive, and the spinning bezel makes it a joy to use. Samsung's Tizen OS is slick too, with lots of customisation and shortcut options to keep things feeling fresh – made all the better by a class-leading screen. It also has all the fitness skills you're ever likely to need, with handy auto-tracking features.

Stuff says ★★★★★

A beautiful and powerful piece of kit that you'll be proud to have on your wrist



1

HOT BUY

BARGAIN BUY

Mi Smart Band 5

£25 / stuff.tv/MiBand5

With no installable apps, Xiaomi's dinky wearable can't stack up to smartwatches or reply to notifications, but it can relay alerts and track everything from sleep to workouts. It's better than the Mi Smart Band 4, thanks to a bigger and brighter screen, smarter software and a charger that's much less annoying. The slightly reduced battery life really isn't an issue – and with the addition of activity, stress and menstrual cycle tracking, this is a sub-£30 gift that keeps giving.

Stuff says ★★★★★

Fantastic value and decent features make this an easy fitness tracker to recommend

BARGAIN BUY

2



Garmin Fenix 6

£326 / stuff.tv/Fenix6

Anyone who's truly into their fitness will appreciate the Fenix 6's endless feature list. This is the finest fitness watch money can buy – if you're getting more serious about shaping up, you can't go wrong here.

Stuff says ★★★★★

The best fitness-orientated smartwatch

2



Myzone MZ-Switch

£140 / stuff.tv/MZSwitch

Myzone's modular heart-rate tracker can be attached to different parts of the body, while the app gamifies your activity. It's a versatile wearable that pushes you to roll up your sleeves and go further without intimidation.

Stuff says ★★★★★

An addictive and convenient route to fitness

3



Apple Watch Series 6

from £379 / stuff.tv/WatchS6

The Series 6 is a superb smartwatch with ambitions to be a total wellness deity; but while the new sensors are useful, they're not vital for most. We're hoping for better from the incoming Series 7 model.

Stuff says ★★★★★

A great all-rounder, especially for iPhone users

3



Hammerhead Karoo 2

£359 / stuff.tv/Karoo2

For ages cycling computers have been held back by outdated tech...but Hammerhead's sharp screen really is a gamechanger, and effectively running a tiny Android phone inside a custom case feels like a no-brainer.

Stuff says ★★★★★

At last, a bike computer for the 21st century

NEW

4



Samsung Galaxy Watch4 Classic

★★★★☆ from £369 / stuff.tv/Watch4

A true top-tier smartwatch...as long as you can put up with charging the thing every day.

4



Peloton Bike+

★★★★★ £2295 + £39/m / stuff.tv/PelPlus

The connected bike phenomenon: Peloton owners look smug for a reason.

5



Apple Watch SE

★★★★☆ from £269 / stuff.tv/WatchSE

The most obvious alternative to the Watch Series 6 – and it looks identical.

5



Wattbike Atom (Next Generation)

★★★★★ £1999 / stuff.tv/WBAtom

With improved sensors, this is the benchmark for serious indoor cyclists.

TIPS & TRICKS

The Sidecar feature on macOS Big Sur lets you use an iPad as a second display for your MacBook.

Apple charges a hefty premium for extra storage, so consider a cheaper external SSD.

1

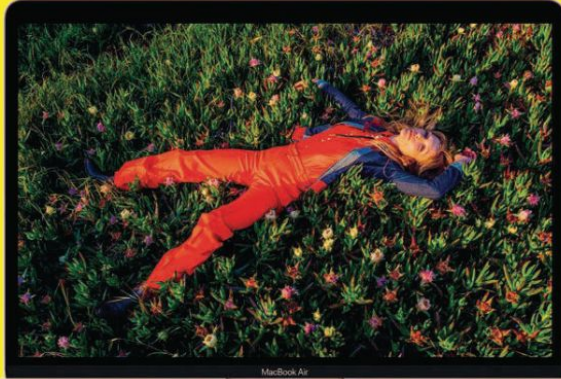
HOT BUY

Apple MacBook Airfrom £999 / stuff.tv/Air

The early-2020 version was already the best MacBook Air ever – and this one brings a real step up in power. Apple's amazing new M1 processor means that, for once, we aren't hankering after a Pro for video editing and graphics-heavy gaming. It's a pity about the rubbish webcam – a real annoyance in the age of video calling – but this is a stunning machine in every other respect, and the best all-round work laptop you can get for under a grand.

Stuff says ★★★★★**Our go-to MacBook just keeps getting even go-to-er****● NOW ADD THIS****Anker PowerExpand 7-in-2 Hub**

Turn the Air's twin USB-C ports into a media hub with a mix of HDMI, USB, microSD and SD card connections. £40 / uk.anker.com



2

**Apple MacBook Pro 13in**from £1299 / stufftv/Pro13

The new M1 chip has given this business-class performer an injection of jet fuel. The 13in Pro remains a sturdy notebook, but its processing power is incredible. Our review unit, with just 8GB of RAM, left a higher-specced 2020 Intel MacBook Pro in the dust.

Stuff says ★★★★★

Believe the hype: the Pro with an M1 chip inside kicks big, big bottom

3

**Microsoft Surface Laptop 3**from £795 / stufftv/SurfaceLap3

The Surface Laptop 3 seems plain on paper – no second screen, no hybrid hinge, no fingerprint scanner – but Microsoft has put supreme attention to detail into every bit that matters. And if you can spare a few quid more, see also the newer Surface Laptop 4.

Stuff says ★★★★★

Forget frills and gimmicks: this is everything a laptop should be

4

**Apple MacBook Pro 16in**

★★★★★ from £2399 / stufftv/MacBookPro16
Not just a bump up in screen size, but a serious upgrade to the already top-class 15in Pro.

5

**LG Gram 16**

★★★★★ from £1249 / stufftv/Gram16
LG's latest light weight machine is slick, light and well made – an impressive, versatile option.

6

**Dell XPS 13**

★★★★★ from £1099 / stufftv/XPS13
Style, portability, performance... there's little else out there that's quite so well rounded.

7

**Razer Blade Pro 17**

★★★★★ from £2200 / stufftv/BladePro17
Incredible power and quality make for a working and gaming beast.

8

**Huawei MateBook X Pro**

★★★★★ from £670 / stufftv/XPro
Not massively better than the 2018 model, but this is a real powerhouse of a Windows laptop.

9

**Asus ZenBook Duo 14**

★★★★☆ £1600 / stufftv/Duo14
The full-width second screen is innovative and useful, but ergonomics are compromised.

10

**Google Pixelbook Go**

★★★★☆ from £629 / stufftv/PixelbookGo
A light and stylish touchscreen laptop built for those who like to live and work in the cloud.

1

HOT BUY**TIPS & TRICKS**

You can control your Move with the touch controls on top, the Sonos app, Google Assistant or Alexa.

Auto Trueplay adapts the Move's sound to different rooms, while the app offers additional EQ tweaks.

**Sonos Move**£399 / stuff.tv/SonosMove

The Sonos range of wireless speakers had been crying out for a battery-powered portable model for ages – and finally our favourite multiroom audio specialist caved in. Luckily, the Move was worth the wait. Its adaptability and sound quality mean it's fine value for money, and a no-brainer for anyone who's already a fan of the brand. This is the speaker Sonos should have launched years ago – and for even better portability, see the Roam model at No3 on this list.

Stuff says ★★★★★

Sonos finally gets up to speed with the portable speaker craze, and in style

**NOW ADD THIS****YouTube Music Premium**

If you'd like a side of optional visuals with your audio, look no further than the ad-free tier of YouTube Music. £9.99/month / music.youtube.com

2

**Sonos One**£199 / stuff.tv/SonosOne

The Sonos One is now a more well-rounded device than it was at launch, supporting Spotify with voice control as well as Amazon Music and TuneIn Radio, while the early Alexa hiccups seem to have been fixed. It's a class apart from the competition.

Stuff says ★★★★★

A great balance of sound and smarts for forward-thinking audio nerds

3

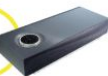
**Sonos Roam**£179 / stuff.tv/SonosRoam

The Roam's portability alone should be enough to see it shift plenty of units, but it's the bonus features like automatic Trueplay and Sound Swap that set it apart. Yes, there are better-sounding sub-£200 speakers, but none with the Roam's skills.

Stuff says ★★★★★

An attractive truly portable speaker with solid sound quality

4

**Naim Mu-so 2nd Generation**★★★★★ £1299 / stuff.tv/Mu-so2

More than capable of maintaining Naim's position at the front of the hi-fi pack.

NEW
5**Audio Pro Addon C10 MkII**★★★★★ £359 / stuff.tv/C10Mk2

Ideal for multiroom systems – there's nothing else that sounds this good at this price.

6

**Devialet Phantom 1 108dB**★★★★★ £2790 each / stuff.tv/Phantom1

An insanely powerful lump of hi-fi magic, best enjoyed in a neighbour-terrifying stereo pair.

NEW
7**JBL Charge 5**★★★★★ £180 / stuff.tv/Charge5

A no-nonsense portable speaker for audio fans who won't settle for a sonic lightweight.

NEW
8**Q Acoustics M20**★★★★★ £399 (pair) / stuff.tv/QM20

Hi-res sound from multiple sources, with none of the compromises the price suggests.

9

**B&W Formation Wedge**★★★★★ £899 / stuff.tv/BWWedge

Pricy, weird-looking... and a brilliant illustration of what a wireless speaker is capable of.

10

**Marshall Emberton**★★★★★ £130 / stuff.tv/Emberton

A tiny speaker that packs an unexpected punch without scrimping on refinement.

TIPS & TRICKS

You can configure this TV to work with the voice assistant of your choice, not just Samsung's Bixby.

Samsung's remote is solar-powered, so don't lose it down the back of the sofa – it's dark down there.

AirPlay 2 integration lets you stream content from Apple devices to the big screen.



1

HOT BUY

Samsung QE65QN95A

£2199 / stuff.tv/QN95A

This is Samsung's single most expensive 4K TV for 2021 (unless you buy a bigger version), but the pictures justify the outlay. The Korean giant's implementation of the new Mini LED tech is, on this evidence, something to be reckoned with. It's difficult to imagine how any of the other sets that are incoming this year could be better.

Stuff says ★★★★★

This Mini LED television is a fearsomely accomplished set – and the one to beat

● **NOW ADD THIS**

Samsung Q-Series soundbars

Pairing your QLED with one of these is a stress-free way to get 3D object-based sound. from £449 / samsung.com

2



LG OLED65G1

£2499 / stuff.tv/65G1

Almost £3k is a lot of money for a television, even one as slim and well-specified as this, especially when you take the humdrum audio into account – not to mention the absence of a stand. But the OLED specialists have made good on the 'Evo' promise by serving up pictures that exceed expectations... so maybe LG is entitled to charge what it thinks it can get away with. Between this and the Samsung at No1, there's really nothing in it.

Stuff says ★★★★★

Probably LG's best ever OLED... which is saying something

3



Philips 48OLED+935

£1499 / stuff.tv/OLED935

A grand and a half for a 48in TV is no one's idea of a bargain. But when you consider the level of audio-visual fidelity this money buys, not to mention the convenience of the integrated soundbar, it's hard to argue the 48OLED+935 isn't worth every penny. Next-gen gamers may lament the lack of HDMI 2.1, but for anyone other than the most ardent but-ton-bashers the lovely picture (with Ambilight) is quite immersive enough.

Stuff says ★★★★★

Expensive for its size, but the picture and sound justify the price

4



Samsung 75Q950TS

★★★★★ £3499 / stuff.tv/Q950TS

Extravagant when there's no 8K content yet... but no other 75in TV looks quite so elegant.

5



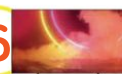
LG OLED55CX

★★★★★ £1099 / stuff.tv/OLED55CX

LG knows exactly what it's doing with OLED and the results here are mighty impressive.

UPDATE

6



Philips 55OLED805

★★★★★ £1149 / stuff.tv/OLED805

All the things we love about OLED without the price tag... but see the new 806 model on p70.

7



Sony XR-55A90J

★★★★★ £2699 / stuff.tv/A90J

Does everything to a dizzyly high standard – but the world is awash with cheaper rivals.

BARGAIN BUY

8



Samsung 50AU9000

★★★★★ £629 / stuff.tv/AU9000

As much TV as most people will ever need, at a reasonable price.

9



Sony KE-48A9

★★★★★ £1299 / stuff.tv/A9

Don't be fooled by its relatively small size: the A9 is a real smasher of a 4K OLED.

10



Hisense A7200G

★★★★★ £399 / stuff.tv/A7200G

This 50in budget buy is a perfectly good way to get a biggish screen at a little price.

1

HOT BUY



Sennheiser Ambeo Soundbar

£2199 / stuff.tv/AmbeoSoundbar

Utterly convincing Dolby Atmos and DTS:X 3D sound, ample power and lots of inputs mean no other soundbar currently available can perform feats with the solidity and confidence of this Sennheiser. The sheer room-filling scale of this device's sound is remarkable, and it's hard to think of any content that wouldn't benefit from being Ambeo'd. That's why, as well as being the biggest and the most expensive, it's the best you can buy.

Stuff says ★★★★★

The Ambeo Soundbar is a big unit but the sound it makes is bigger still

2



Sonos Arc

£899 / stuff.tv/SonosArc

Don't expect this soundbar to do everything a multi-speaker Dolby Atmos setup can do, but its up-firing and side-firing drivers give a real sense of scale for an immersively cinematic TV-watching experience.

Stuff says ★★★★★

Big-screen sound for your big-screen binges

3



Roku Streambar

£130 / stuff.tv/Streambar

It's a compact soundbar and a versatile streaming stick in the same box – and both parts of the deal work brilliantly well. This is the simplest and cheapest way to upgrade your TV's sound and smarts in one go.

Stuff says ★★★★★

A punchy little bar with built-in streaming skills

4



Sonos Beam

★★★★★ £399 / stuff.tv/SonosBeam

A great-value soundbar packed with smarts; the new Gen 2 (£449) adds Dolby Atmos.

5



Yamaha SR-C20A

★★★★★ £229 / stuff.tv/SRC20A

At 60cm wide, this is a little bit of a soundbar that can do a little bit of everything.

1

HOT BUY



Sky TV

from £25/m + setup / stuff.tv/SkyTV

Already home to the biggest selection of 4K content, from blockbuster films and original dramas to top-flight sport, Sky has adopted a can't-beat-'em-join-'em approach to streaming by incorporating the likes of Netflix, Amazon Prime Video, Disney+ and BT Sport in its user-friendly interface. It's also restructured its packages to make them more affordable, while multiroom and mobile options round off the most comprehensive content system money can buy.

Stuff says ★★★★★

Sky has come out fighting to move with the times and its selection of shows is unrivalled

2



Amazon Fire TV Cube

£110 / stuff.tv/FireTVCube

The Fire TV interface is easy to use and all the big catch-up services are available via this tidy box – and best of all, Alexa voice control works brilliantly. You'll never have to worry about losing the remote again!

Stuff says ★★★★★

A marvel of voice control for your telly

3



Amazon Fire TV Stick 4K

£50 / stuff.tv/FireStick4K

This streaming stick offers 4K plus a faster processor than the original Fire TV Stick, and comes with the Alexa Voice Remote... but look out also for the cheaper non-4K version below, and the bargain Lite model.

Stuff says ★★★★★

Simply a great 4K streaming stick

4



Chromecast with Google TV

★★★★★ £60 / stuff.tv/ChromecastTV

A solid buy if you like Google's casting tricks but also want all your TV apps in one place.

5



Amazon Fire TV Stick

★★★★★ £40 / stuff.tv/FireStick

A solid little HD streamer for all the best bits of Amazon and more.

1

HOT BUY



Apple iPad Air

from £579 / stuff.tv/iPadAir

The 4th-generation iPad Air ushers in big changes. It looks the spit of an 11in iPad Pro (at least from the front), and supports Apple's snazzy Magic Keyboard and second-gen Pencil... and the A14 chip makes it blazingly fast, leaving its predecessor in the dust. Sure, there are compromises, but none are critical. So if you were considering an iPad Pro but don't really need the extra power of that phenomenal M1 processor, it might be wise to save yourself a few quid and buy the Air instead.

Stuff says ★★★★★

Pointing to the iPad's future rather than its past, this is a meaningful, impressive, powerful Air update

2



Apple iPad Pro

from £749 / stuff.tv/iPadPro

The 2021 iPad Pro's display is wonderful and the M1 chip super-powerful, with only Apple itself holding things back with the flawed iPadOS. Don't rush to upgrade if you have the 2020 model... but this is the king of tablets.

Stuff says ★★★★★

Absolutely the best tablet around... at a price

3



Microsoft Surface Go 2

from £359 / stuff.tv/SurfaceGo2

The Surface Go 2 feels less user-friendly and slick than an iPad, but pair it with the optional Type Cover and it turns into a neat mini-laptop. It's also a surprisingly good way to play games.

Stuff says ★★★★★

Just enough power to be a genuine iPad rival

4



Samsung Galaxy Tab S7+

★★★★☆ from £799 / stuff.tv/TabS7Plus

A true iPad Pro alternative that brilliantly balances productivity and entertainment.

5



Apple iPad (2020)

★★★★☆ from £329 / stuff.tv/iPad2020

An absolute powerhouse... but the new model on p59 is even powerier.

1

HOT BUY



Sony PlayStation 5

£450 / stuff.tv/PS5

The PS5 is not a modest upgrade. Its hulking design means it'll make a bad first impression on some, but spend time playing it and it'll soon win you over – and then some. This is essentially a high-spec gaming PC for the living room: stupendously powerful, with greatly reduced loading times compared to the PS4. Most last-gen titles will run fine, many with a boost, and the line-up of new games is strong; we just hope developers make use of that fascinating DualSense pad and its haptic feedback trickery.

Stuff says ★★★★★

Huge power, clever hardware and a guarantee of great games to come make the PS5 hard to resist

2



Nintendo Switch

£279 / stuff.tv/NintendoSwitch

Now four years old, the Switch is the second-best-selling console in Nintendo's history thanks to great games and a unique twist on portable play. But should you pay more for the new OLED version? It's on p38...

Stuff says ★★★★★

This 2-in-1 console is the real deal

3



Microsoft Xbox Series X

£450 / stuff.tv/XSX

A fully future-proofed machine that doesn't scrimp on specs or speed, the Series X just wants more exclusive titles to make it sing. Xbox Game Pass remains pretty much the best streamed offering in gaming.

Stuff says ★★★★★

A beast of a console that needs more games

4



Microsoft Xbox Series S

★★★★☆ £250 / stuff.tv/XSS

Delivers affordability without sacrificing key features, but still falls short on new titles.

5



Evercade Handheld

★★★★☆ £60 / stuff.tv/Evercade

Scratches the retro itch in all sorts of ways. See also the TV-bound VS model.

1

HOT BUY
BARGAIN BUY

The Last of Us Part II

£27 / PS4

Just as *The Last of Us* proved to be the perfect swansong for the PS3 era, *The Last of Us Part II* is a masterful triumph to see off the PS4 in style: a rare superior sequel that can be mentioned in the same breath as *The Godfather Part II*. An unparalleled masterclass in everything it does, with an extensive suite of accessibility options that every game should adopt as the standard, it's a game with a story that challenges us – and one we'll be discussing long into the new console generation.

Stuff says ★★★★★

Naughty Dog has done it again with this brutal, bleak and beautiful game

● OR PLAY THIS

Uncharted: The Lost Legacy

A leaner and somewhat less grim action adventure from Naughty Dog, starring a pair of kick-ass women.

£10 / PS4

TIPS & TRICKS

- Take your time exploring – you'll find key resources, notes, even some fun Easter eggs.
- Not keen on all the violence? A lot of confrontations can be avoided. Just look out for sniffer dogs!



2

Hades

from £20 / PC, Switch

Just when you think you've seen all this hellish roguelite has to offer, a new tweak yanks you out of your comfort zone. It quickly becomes very addictive... and even if you'll have to face numerous setbacks, few games make you feel so godly.

Stuff says ★★★★★

Great even if you don't like roguelites...and if you do, it's the best there is



3

Demon's Souls

£56 / PS5

This is a lovingly attentive remake that transforms an old game into a next-gen must-play. It's going to make you work for it, as beneath that shiny new coat it remains a uniquely foreboding challenge, but overcoming *Demon's Souls* is its own reward.

Stuff says ★★★★★

A gorgeous and faithful remake of a hugely influential cult classic

4



It Takes Two

★★★★★ from £30 / PS4, PS5, XBOX, XSX, PC

A masterful co-op experience that will live long in the memory.

5



Ratchet & Clank: Rift Apart

★★★★★ £56 / PS5

Consistently fun and incredible to look at, this is a PS5 must-have.

6



Tony Hawk's Pro Skater 1+2

★★★★★ from £35 / PS4, XBOX, PC

A superb remake of one of the best sports games ever committed to disc.

7



Final Fantasy VII Remake

★★★★★ £50 / PS4

The greatest remake of one of the all-time greatest video games.

8



Monster Hunter Rise

★★★★★ £35 / Switch

So many monsters and mechanics to feast on – this is unmissable.

9



Super Mario 3D World + Bowser's Fury

★★★★★ £39 / Switch

A sleeper Mario classic + an experimental 3D offshoot = one hell of a package.

10



Returnal

★★★★★ £60 / PS5

A must-play for the PS5 – just be prepared to die again and again.

1

HOT BUY



VanMoof S3

£1998 / stuff.tv/VanMoofS3

VanMoof's second-gen S3 (or X3 if you're under 5ft 8in) looks like a normal bike, rides like a normal bike and, crucially, doesn't cost a ridiculous amount of cash. The chunky 50mm tyres, slightly swooped bars and upright riding position all combine to make it super-comfy, and 30 miles with the power assistance set to level three (out of four) left us completely sweat-free with 20% still in the tank. Plus, for such a looker, the S3 has a lot of tech hidden away to make it a less than ideal target for thieves.

Stuff says ★★★★★

This smart-looking e-bike offers a great ride, great features and some genuinely useful security smarts

NEW 2



Cowboy 4

£2290 / stuff.tv/Cowboy4

The Belgian maker's latest model has 50% more torque than its predecessor, but the sleeky profile and simple interface with GPS remain... and there's also an equally excellent step-through version, the 4 ST.

Stuff says ★★★★★

Smoothly integrated e-power at a good price

NEW 3



LeMond Prolog

£4350 / stuff.tv/Prolog

From multiple Tour de France winner and world road race champion Greg LeMond, the Prolog is an all-carbon commute-crushing machine that doesn't really look like it has a motor or a battery at all.

Stuff says ★★★★★

If you want gears and lightness, it's worth it

4



Ribble Endurance SL e Pro

★★★★★ from £5199 / stuff.tv/Endurance

Super-light and a great bike on its own – the motor is just the icing on the hilly cake.

5



Gocycle G4i

★★★★★ £3999 / stuff.tv/G4i

This folding e-bike is silky-smooth, super-fast and splendidly futuristic... for a price.

1

HOT BUY



Porsche Taycan

from £72,850 / stuff.tv/Taycan

It was about time someone took the fight to Tesla, and boy has Porsche delivered with the Taycan. This electric four-door saloon is the EV that petrolheads have been waiting for. In full-fat Turbo S flavour, the Taycan hits 62mph in 2.8 seconds – and adding more drama to proceedings is how it shifts up through its two-speed gearbox. The Taycan has a dynamism that can't be matched by other electric cars, with a surefootedness that encourages you to press on.

Stuff says ★★★★★

Big power, sports-car handling and lots of clever tech make the Taycan the most exciting EV yet

2



Honda E

from £29,165 / stuff.tv/HondaE

Born to be a city commuter (its maximum range is just 137 miles), the E is light, nimble and planted, but also delivers a completely comfortable and saloon-like refined ride for longer journeys.

Stuff says ★★★★★

Pricier than the equivalent Mini... but more fun

3



Polestar 2

from £39,900 / stuff.tv/Polestar2

From Volvo's EV subsidiary, this five-door all-electric fastback blends elements of a futuristic saloon with bits of an SUV and totally gets away with it... thanks in part to a staggering 660Nm of torque.

Stuff says ★★★★★

A speedy five-door EV that's a joy to drive

4



Volkswagen ID.3

★★★★★ from £27,135 / stuff.tv/ID3

A solid hatchback that looks ice-cold but is equally good at the mundane stuff.

5



Nissan Leaf

★★★★★ from £25,995 / stuff.tv/NissanLeaf

An accomplished family car that packs some serious range, performance and gadgetry.

● Electric car prices include government plug-in car grant (P1CG)

1

HOT
BUY

Amazon Echo (4th Gen)

£90 / stuff.tv/Echo

Having morphed from a cylinder to a sphere, the latest Echo is an excellent newsreader, weather forecaster, personal assistant and intercom straight out of the box; but it's now also a capable speaker and a very accessible smart home hub. It doesn't sound as good as the Sonos One or Apple HomePod for listening to music, but it's significantly smarter than both and considerably cheaper too.

Stuff says ★★★★★

An all-round upgrade that makes the Echo a smarter speaker than ever



● **NOW ADD THIS**
Honeywell T6R

This Zigbee-enabled thermostat is wireless so you can place it where it's most convenient.
£169 / amazon.co.uk

TIPS & TRICKS

- The Echo's built-in Zigbee hub can hook up hundreds of smart home devices without a bridge.
- Pair a compatible thermostat and the Echo's temperature sensor can activate the heating.
- Alexa Flash Briefings deliver bursts of news or trivia; choose from 5000 sources in the app.

2



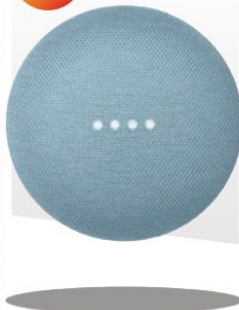
Amazon Echo Dot (4th Gen)
from £50 / stuff.tv/Dot

It can't match a full-size smart speaker for audio, but as a radio and Alexa assistant for the bedside or kitchen, this cutey gets the job done. It's worth paying £10 more for the 'with Clock' version, which adds extra functionality beyond telling the time.

Stuff says ★★★★★

With the optional clock, this is our favourite bedside wondergadget

3



Google Nest Mini
£49 / stuff.tv/NestMini

If you live in Google's world (and let's face it, most of us do) then the Nest Mini is the best, cheapest way to get into the smart home game. It's a better bet than the Echo Dot with Clock if you want close integration with your Google calendar and apps.

Stuff says ★★★★★

Louder and cleverer than ever... and it'll only improve with updates

4



Ring Indoor Cam

★★★★★ £49 / stuff.tv/RingIndoor

This cute little spy-cam is a bona fide bargain for anyone with security worries.

5



Nest Learning Thermostat

★★★★★ £219 / stuff.tv/NestTherm

A simple and mess-free smart thermostat with Alexa compatibility.

6



Philips Hue Starter Kit

★★★★★ from £45 / stuff.tv/Hue

Become an indoor god with the smartest way of lighting up your home remotely.

7



Dyson V15 Detect Absolute

★★★★★ £600 / stuff.tv/V15Absolute

Ludicrous but brilliant: a vacuum cleaner that illuminates your dust particles with a laser.

8



Brisant-Secure Ultion Smart

★★★★★ from £259 / stuff.tv/UltionSmart

Tradition and tech partner up in a smart lock to please everyone.

9



Nest Doorbell (Battery)

★★★★★ £180 / stuff.tv/NestDoorbell

A simple gadget that makes it easy to answer the door when you can't answer the door.

10



Amazon Echo Show 10

★★★★★ £240 / stuff.tv/Show10

The revolving trick makes this a handy (but not essential) upgrade on the previous Echo Show.

1

HOT BUY



Oculus Quest 2

from £299 / stuff.tv/Quest2

The original Quest felt almost too good to be true. Its successor lacks the same wow factor, but you can't argue with a better display and processor – not to mention a lighter, more comfortable build – for less money. Are there more powerful headsets? Is motion sickness still an issue? Yes to both, but superb tracking and a total absence of wires make this the VR package to get... that is, unless you're boycotting Facebook, because you have to be logged in to use it.

Stuff says ★★★★★

Not a complete reinvention, but our favourite VR headset is now even better... and cheaper!

2



Valve Index

£919 / stufftv/ValveIndex

While not revolutionary, the Index carries enough subtle upgrades to put it atop the PC-based headset pack. Everything looks fabulous and the controllers deliver the most fluid-feeling VR interactions to date.

Stuff says ★★★★★

The best of the performance-PC VR options

3



HTC Vive Pro

£599 (headset only) / stufftv/HTCVivePro

No longer the top dog for high-end VR using a PC, the Vive Pro remains a strong headset thanks to its crisp screens and comfy fit. We can't wait to try the new and improved Pro 2...

Stuff says ★★★★★

Impressive, but not the best around in 2021

4



HTC Vive Cosmos

★★★★☆ £699 / stufftv/Cosmos

A simple setup with potential for upgrades, but tough to recommend at this price.

5



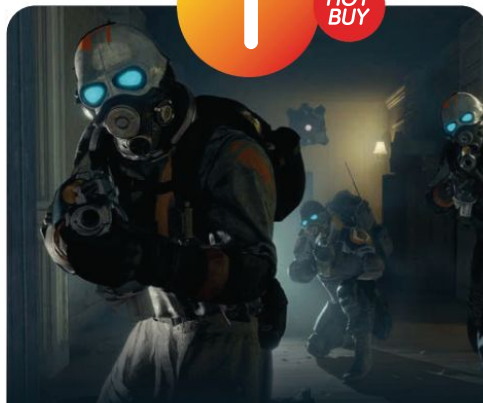
PlayStation VR

★★★★☆ from £260 / stufftv/PSVR

Held back by niggling issues...let's hope the upcoming second-gen PSVR will fix those.

1

HOT BUY



Half-Life: Alyx

from £34 / [Oculus, Vive, Valve Index](http://Oculus,Vive,ValveIndex)

Announcing *Alyx* as not only a 'midquel' but a VR exclusive got some *Half-Life* diehards riled up... but in classic Valve fashion, the end result is utterly brilliant. *Alyx* succeeds because its universe just happens to be a perfect fit for the format. It's also larger and much more robust than most VR games, at a meaty 12–15 hours. And though it unfolds at a different kind of cadence to past *Half-Life* games, it feels like a fully fledged solo campaign and a key part of the franchise narrative.

Stuff says ★★★★★

Valve's beloved series returns... and offers one of the strongest arguments to date for VR gaming

2



Beat Saber

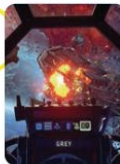
from £23 / [Oculus, Vive, PSVR](http://Oculus,Vive,PSVR)

Gleefully swinging your twin lightsabers to chop blocks that are flung your way to the thumping beat of a song. This game has reinvented the rhythm genre for VR and it's glorious, especially on the cable-free Quest.

Stuff says ★★★★★

A mesmerising musical melee

3



Star Wars: Squadrons

from £20 / [Oculus, Vive, PSVR](http://Oculus,Vive,PSVR)

Suit up and enter the cockpit in this dazzling dogfighter, a robust *Star Wars* sim that you can play fully in VR across the entire experience – campaign missions and online shootouts alike.

Stuff says ★★★★★

Spacey fun... and even better with a joystick

4



Pistol Whip

★★★★☆ from £23 / [Oculus, Vive, PSVR](http://Oculus,Vive,PSVR)

Like *John Wick* meets EDM, this rhythmic blaster makes you feel like a master assassin.

5



Population: One

★★★★☆ from £23 / [Oculus, Vive](http://Oculus,Vive)

Not as polished as *Fortnite*, but still a ripping, battle-royale shooter with chaotic action.

1

HOT BUY



DJI Air 2S

£899 / stuff.tv/Air2S

DJI's status as overlord of the consumer drone world is pretty much unchallenged, but there's no sign of laurel-resting here. The Air 2S may be its best drone yet: an almost perfect balance of portability, performance and price, ideal for novices but still able to produce nigh-on pro-level results. The richness of colour in conditions where a smaller sensor would struggle is the real killer feature; that this camera is bolted onto such a stable and easy-to-fly drone just makes it all the better.

Stuff says ★★★★★

DJI cranks up the magic once again with the best all-round camera drone on the market

2

DJI Mini 2

£419 / stuff.tv/Mini2

Just light enough to avoid having to be registered with the CAA, DJI's latest pocket drone is a little beast that grabs stellar aerial video. It's also super-intuitive to control and capable of shooting in 4K.

Stuff says ★★★★★

DJI's dinky drone soars above the competition



3

DJI Mavic Air 2

£769 / stuff.tv/MavicAir2

DJI has built on the platform of a simple entry-level drone and thrown in a heap of pro features, so those dipping a toe into aerial photography or videography no longer have to put up with mediocre content.

Stuff says ★★★★★

A viable cheaper option than the newer Air 2S



4



GoPro Hero9 Black

★★★★★ £330 / stuff.tv/H9B

One of the most versatile bits of filming kit we've used... but the Hero10's tested on p52.

5



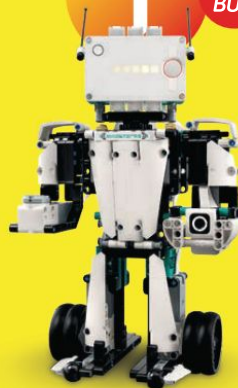
Fimi X8 Mini

★★★★★ £319 / stuff.tv/X8Mini

A pocket-friendly flying machine with convincing camera skills.

1

HOT BUY



Lego Mindstorms Robot Inventor

£330 / stuff.tv/Mindstorms

It's clear Lego has prioritised immediacy and fun with its latest build-your-own-bots kit, which lets you and/or your little ones create five different coding-controlled mecha-beings. Yes, the set lacks a proper screen and relies on a separate device for programming; but it offers great clarity and scope, plus an attitude that encourages tinkering... whatever your age.

Stuff says ★★★★★

A fun, versatile set for Lego electronics newcomers and old hands alike

2

Sphero RVR

£250 / stuff.tv/SpheroRVR

The RVR pulls off the balance between serious coding and knockabout fun perfectly: it's an all-terrain vehicle that you can throw around without worrying about it breaking, but also has serious programming chops.

Stuff says ★★★★★

Enough fun to convert any coding-phobe



3

Lego Vidiyo

from £3.99 / stuff.tv/Vidiyo

The brick masters' latest foray into AR sees you shoot video, directing music promos for bands whose members are based on real-world sets – think collectable minifigs crossed with TikTok.

Stuff says ★★★★★

Lego's best digital/plastic crossover yet



4



Mario Kart Live: Home Circuit

★★★★★ £100 / stuff.tv/MKLive

AR software, real-life cars and course markers turn your living room into a Mario Kart track.

5



Lego Adventures with Mario

★★★★★ from £50 / stuff.tv/LAMario

Basically Mario Maker in brick form; begin with the essential Starter Course.

1

HOT BUY



Fujifilm X-T4

£1399 / stuff.tv/XT4

The Fuji X-T4 might be the high-end mirrorless camera of your dreams. Relatively affordable for a flagship, it excels at stills and video thanks to in-body image stabilisation, high-speed shooting and 4K recording at up to 60fps. Rapid shooting is backed up by fancy AF tricks that feel equally fast and reliable, and even the battery life goes above and beyond the usual standards. There's no doubting this is a worthy successor to the already fabulous X-T3.

Stuff says ★★★★★
A superbly capable mirrorless camera for shooting pretty much anything in style



● **NOW ADD THIS**
Fujifilm XF 16-80mm f/4
This versatile lens covers a bigger zoom range than most and adapts to pretty much any requirements.
£699 / wexphotovideo.com

● **TIPS & TRICKS**

- It's easy to set up the X-T4's customisable Q button; just hold it down for a couple of seconds for options.
- Avoid those wonky horizons by turning on the built-in on-screen level in screen settings.
- Fujifilm X Acquire is a clever bit of PC/Mac software that backs up all your X-T4's custom settings.

2



Sony A7C
£1709 / stuff.tv/A7C

Putting full-frame sensors in small bodies is one of Sony's greatest strengths, and the A7C minimises things even further – but this is a compact package with a lot of imaging power. For photographers and video makers who want to carry everything with them in a modest bag (or hanging around their neck), the A7C fits the bill better than any other interchangeable-lens camera.

Stuff says ★★★★★
Superb quality and full-frame goodness from a half-pint camera

3



Sony A7 III
£1699 / stuff.tv/SonyA7iii

The A7 III manages to pack in a lot of technology and desirability for less than £2000. It's a fantastic all-rounder that's well suited to a bunch of shooting scenarios, coping well with landscapes, portraits, and even a little bit of high-speed sport shooting. As a camera design it's admittedly not the prettiest thing we've ever seen, but it handles well for its compact size.

Stuff says ★★★★★
An excellent all-rounder that thrives in low-light conditions

4



Nikon D780
★★★★★ £1810 / stuff.tv/D780
An all-round DSLR that's built like a tank and borrows the best tricks of its mirrorless siblings.

5



Canon EOS R6
★★★★★ £2400 / stuff.tv/EOSR6
With its low-light-friendly specs, the R6 all but guarantees sharp shots in any conditions.

6



Canon EOS RP
★★★★★ £1049 / stuff.tv/EOSRP
A full-frame mirrorless marvel that's light enough to not be a burden and offers top picture quality.

7



Sony A1
★★★★★ £6499 / stuff.tv/A1
There are better options for specialists, but this is the ultimate no-compromise all-round camera.

8



Fujifilm GFX100S
★★★★★ £5499 / stuff.tv/GFX100S
Not cheap, but lightweight and compact: Fujifilm has made medium-format accessible.

9



Sony ZV-E10
★★★★★ £680 / stuff.tv/E10
With lots of inputs, decent mics and strong 4K performance, this is a great-value vlogging tool.

10



Nikon Z50
★★★★★ £929 / stuff.tv/Z50
One of the best APS-C cameras out there, offering a multitude of pro-level features.

● System camera prices quoted are for body only unless otherwise stated

1

HOT
BUY

Amazon Echo Dot (4th Gen)

from £50 / stuff.tv/Dot

This fabric-covered take on Marvin the paranoid android in disguise as a Magic 8-Ball feels playful yet classical. It can't match a full-size smart speaker for audio, but as a little radio and an Alexa assistant for the bedside table or kitchen worktop, this cutey gets the job done. It's worth paying £10 more for the 'with Clock' version, which adds extra functionality beyond telling the time.

Stuff says ★★★★★
With the optional clock, this is our favourite bedside wondergadget



● NOW ADD THIS
Sportlink Wall Mount

This minimalist acrylic mount for the Dot will keep it clear from wet surfaces in the bathroom or kitchen. £9 / amazon.co.uk

TIPS & TRICKS

- Fed up of yelling? Alexa's voice can work like an intercom with connected Echo devices.
- Alexa Voice Shopping lets you order from Amazon, add a 'voice code' to keep the kids off.
- Dot at your bedside? Saying "Alexa, turn on whisper mode" will stop it waking up sleepyheads.



2



Microsoft Xbox Wireless Headset

£90 / stuff.tv/XboxHeadset

These black cans are unmistakably Xbox, with chunky earpads and plenty of padding. And the sound is impressive for the price, with a low-end response so impactful we had to turn down the bass in the Xbox's EQ app.

Stuff says ★★★★★

Yes, you really can bag a decent gaming headset for under £100

3



Raspberry Pi 400

£94 / stuff.tv/Pi400

This DIY computer kit isn't about the work (or homework) it can do, but what you can turn it into. It's an affordable standalone programming rig, a hub for electronics and a stashable device that can become any classic home computer in seconds.

Stuff says ★★★★★

A superb gadget for hacking around and exploring computing's past

4



Mi Smart Band 5

★★★★★ £25 / stuff.tv/MiBand5

Fantastic value and decent features make this an easy fitness tracker to recommend.

NEW
5

Redmi Note 10 Pro

★★★★★ from £239 / stuff.tv/Note10Pro

A strong all-round smartphone with top camera tech and a lush 120Hz display.

6



Orange Crest Edition

★★★★★ £95 / stuff.tv/OrangeCrest

Comfortable cans with a sound that's true to Orange's hard-rocking heritage.

7



Ultimate Ears Wonderboom 2

★★★★★ £90 / stuff.tv/Wonderboom2

A rugged little wonder that'll bring a sonic boost to any occasion.

NEW
8

OnePlus Nord CE 5G

★★★★★ from £299 / stuff.tv/NordCE

An affordable Android with impressive specs across the board, plus 5G support.

9



Chromecast with Google TV

★★★★★ £60 / stuff.tv/ChromecastTV

A solid buy if you like Google's casting tricks but also want all your TV apps in one place.

10



Nanoleaf Essentials A19

★★★★★ from £18 / stuff.tv/NanoleafA19

Simple, affordable, effective: these lights are a must for any Apple smart home.

Wii can work it out

The Wiimote resembled an inflated NES controller but was sophisticated kit for its day, with an accelerometer and even a speaker for, erm, immersive spatial audio.



RANDOM ACCESS MEMORIES 2006

NINTENDO WII

A console named after a bodily function. Top work, Nintendo naming department!

Pee-pee jokes aside, 'Wii' signalled that Nintendo was doing something different, ditching a drab codename (Revolution) for something fun. You remember fun – it's what gaming is before nerds start banging on that you're only a real gamer if you spend every waking hour glued to their preferred console. Mind you, 'Wii' possibly also referred to the sound you made as the Wiimote flew through the air towards the telly, having inevitably escaped someone's slippery hand.

Yeah, I was happy with a gamepad. And an intact television. Bad Nintendo!

No, good Nintendo! Again, this was about doing something different. Having had its face punched off during the GameCube era, Nintendo wanted to avoid an unwinnable straight fight against the Xbox 360 and PS3. It reasoned that button-heavy gamepads confused people; something more accessible would continue the firm's inclusivity drive that began with the Nintendo DS, and cement a reputation for unique experiences. Hence Wii Sports being a hit, because anyone could play. Well, until someone smashed the telly.

So you're saying people waving a controller around in the air saved Nintendo? Bonkers.

It wasn't just about the controller – it was about a brand with a history of success through being different, again succeeding by bucking trends. The Wii shifted Nintendo from also-ran to industry leader. And though the company subsequently stumbled with the Wii U, by attempting to claw back snooty 'core gamers' who'd abandoned them for 'proper consoles', the original Wii had done enough to set the stage for the Switch, which saw Nintendo go its own way again... this time having learned all the right lessons.

[Words: Craig Ginnell]

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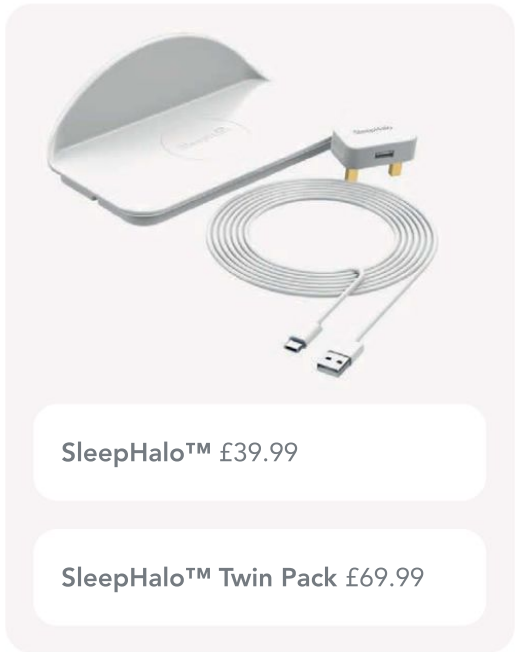
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A guide to finding the lesser-spotted Taylor's beers

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