



NEW **iPHONE DUO!**

T3

SMARTER LIVING

THE HOTTEST

SMART HOME TECH

The ultimate indoor living guide —
these are the upgrades you need

THE BEST

Urban EBIKES

Space-age tech for inner
city streets



*GADGETS
WITH OLD-
SCHOOL COOL*

RATED

PIXEL 11 PRO

Camera, power and
AI upgrades



6 *Lightweight*
GAMING LAPTOPS



BOSE'S 5-STAR
TRAVEL CANS



CUBITT
SERIES



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SHOWSTOPPER

Gadgets that showcase the very best that design and technology have to offer



KEF LS LUXE

Speakers needn't stop at pleasing the ears – they can look good too, as the new Kef LS Luxe attest. This set of bookshelf speakers was dreamed up by designer Ross Lovegrove, and its soft, swooping aesthetic and grooved back panels make it an eye-catching addition to any living room. Kef also claims the “low-diffraction” visual style helps enable “a purer sound experience, with sharper clarity and deeper bass”. On the inside is a 12th-generation 6.5-inch Uni-Q driver array with advanced Metamaterial Absorption Technology, which to the rest of us means “a wider sweet spot and minimal distortion” that banishes unwanted sound interference. The LS Luxe also boasts improved bass accuracy and is Kef's first speaker with Velocity Control Technology that monitors the driver and corrects movement inconsistencies. It's rounded out by support for multi-room audio, lossless 24-bit/384kHz audio formats and a range of digital and analogue connections. There's a lot on offer here, whether you're enjoying its acoustic output or simply taking in its rounded curves.

£3,500, [kef.com](https://www.kef.com)

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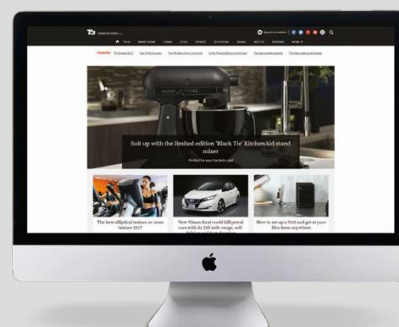
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T3

Editor's letter

The folding iPhone is finally here. The iPhone Duo – because iPhone Fold would have been too obvious, and sound too similar to other folding phones already in the game – is the Apple revelation that I really didn't think would ever happen, even though I knew it had to.

Each year, the latest phone – whether it's from Apple, Samsung or Google – has become an incremental step forward, just enough of an improvement to keep the upgrade cycle ticking over, but not all that inspiring. Modern folding phones, divisive though they may be, have broken the mould, and feel genuinely special in a way that regular phones aren't any more.

Although I am glad that Apple has jumped on the folding bandwagon, I expected something slightly more extraordinary, in the same way the first iPhone was when it came out nearly two decades ago. Don't get me wrong, the Duo looks impressive (Apple claims to have solved the crease 'problem' with folding phones), but the Samsung Galaxy Fold 8, which shares a similar form factor, already exists, and already does a very good job for the same sort of price. Which is just under two big ones, if you're asking. The advantage of the iPhone is Apple's software ecosystem, but can it really be a gamechanger? Check out our impressions on page 10.

Nick Odantzis, Editor

nick.odantzis@futurenet.com

T3'S MISSION

Our mission is to bring you the clearest recommendations we can – and that means a great deal of hard work happens before a product even reaches our pages!

Because we only feature products the T3 team would happily use ourselves, we end up discarding a significant number of options in each category before settling on a final shortlist to review. We select only the best of the best for our Tested section; the gear we know you'll want to seriously consider purchasing. And that should mean an end to you

having to undertake hours of painstaking research and product comparisons.

You won't see any duff products, but you will come away with clarity on which one is the best in its category or for a specific task: our awards badges (see below) ensure that everything T3 recommends is clearly highlighted on the page.

It goes without saying that every product in our review section has been thoroughly tested by our team of experts, enabling you to buy with total confidence.

OUR AWARDS



This is given to winners of our group tests, so you can see which is the best at a glance



Only the best products – those that score five stars – receive our Platinum Award

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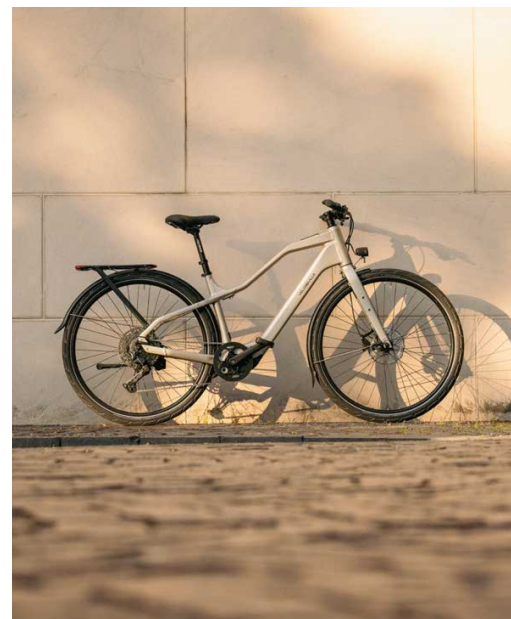
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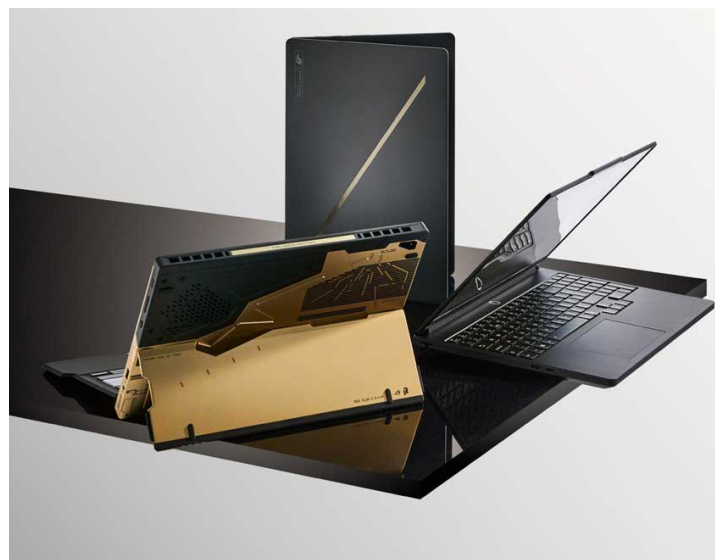
...to urban e-bikes. Commute with extra electric power



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Portable PC gaming is more high-end than ever, and comes with stupendous graphics power

Mock Tudor



Architects use the term for modern houses dressed up as something older. Decorative beams. Period additions. A borrowed sense of history. Our new **Trident Biscay Automatic** may take its cues from the great skin divers of the 1960s, but there's nothing decorative about it.

Its slim proportions, highly legible dial and vintage warmth are all rooted in the same practical thinking that shaped the originals. We've simply applied everything watchmaking has learned since: chronometer-certified movements, surface-hardened bezels, modern luminous materials, marine-grade alloys and a bracelet that adjusts without tools. This isn't a contemporary dive watch in fancy dress. It's a 1960s skin diver, built 60 years wiser.

Do your research.



christopherward.com





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The folding iPhone is real, and more



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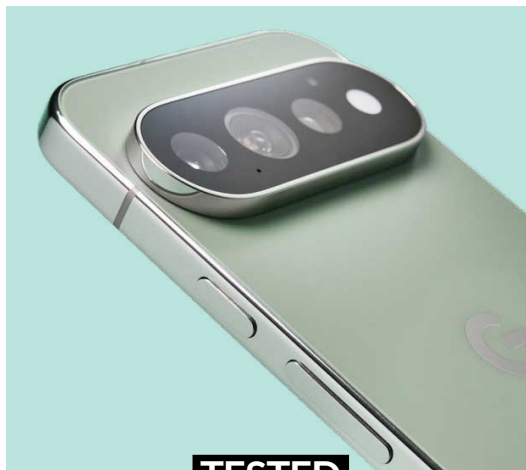
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YOUR IN-DEPTH BUYER'S GUIDE

Our giant buyer's guide helps you find the world's best gadgets in over 50 categories, from top tellies to DSLRs to car tech to shavers – all tested by T3's team of tech experts!

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MOTION**



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Horizon

The best new tech heading your way

1 APPLE iPhone Duo

● From £1,999, apple.com

Apple. Apple never changes. Not much, anyway. The tech giant typically adopts an ain't-broke-don't-fix approach to its products, shaving millimetres or upgrading components but rarely coming up with something entirely new. Until now – the iPhone Duo is the first time the iPhone form factor has dramatically changed in 20 years.

While Samsung rushed in with its Galaxy Z Fold and Google followed suit with the Pixel Fold, Apple has taken its sweet time to perfect the intricate engineering behind a device that seamlessly switches from conventional smartphone form factor to mini-tablet. In 'normal' mode, the phone features a boxy 5.36-inch screen, but fold it open and it doubles in size to 7.58 inches. All the screens are Apple's Super Retina XDR, but textured finishes, unique sliding layers, and customised glass substrates help keep the tell-tale crease to an absolute minimum.

Behind the screens, Apple has retooled iOS to handle this vast new real estate, running gaming and media apps full-screen, but also allowing for side-by-side multitasking. A vapour-cooled A20 Pro chip delivers high performance and AI smarts, while a dual battery system delivers up to 24 hours of mixed usage.

While there are concerns about Apple's supply chain keeping up with demand, as well as the premium £1,999 price tag, the two-in-one design – and the fact that it's something new from Apple – has put this firmly at the top of our Christmas wishlist.



CAMERA, OBSCURED

The most important camera here is the one you can't see. Tucked under the inner display is a 12MP selfie cam, so you can film yourself and your subject at once. An invisible front-facing cam has always been a dream for phone designers – and Apple has finally done it.



T3 SAYS...



“My next challenge: can I edit an entire issue of T3 on an iPhone?”

Nick Odantzis, Editor



TAKE A TABLET

Leaning into Apple's iPad expertise, the iPhone Duo acts like a tablet when it's unfolded. As well as enabling multitasking, it's compatible with the Apple Pencil, opening up a world of possibilities in creative apps, and helping add crude moustaches to your nearest and dearest.

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

The photography modes are the cleverest thing on the external screen. It can display fun animations to get even your grumpiest offspring to smile straight at the camera, or it can provide your subject with a selfie-style live view so they can perfect their pose.

2 APPLE iPhone 18 PRO

● From £1,199, apple.com

Don't fancy the fold? Apple's still making conventional phones, and the iPhone 18 Pro adds just enough upgrades to make it worth a look. While it doesn't include the iPhone Duo's invisible camera, it features under-display Face ID tech that shrinks the Dynamic Island. The phone also features a micro-polished titanium unibody in fetching new shades, plus a Super Retina XDR OLED display.

Out the back, you'll find 48MP cameras, one of which packs variable aperture control for better low-light performance, plus even better 3D spatial capture for that one person who uses it. The A20 Pro chip adds ray tracing for enhanced mobile gaming, plus neural processing to enhance your AI experience.

T3 SAYS: Fully expecting the iPhone 19 Pro to contain a full-frame camera sensor.

T3 TECH-O-METER



IMAGE SOURCE: APPLE

3 FIIO EA13

● £769, fiio.com

A throwback amp that looks like it belongs in a Bond villain's lair, FiiO's EA13 glows and twitches malevolently when you pump music through it. Its crowning achievement is its six imported vacuum tubes (Sylvania NOS and JJ EL34, valve fans) which work in conjunction with twin backlit mechanical VU meters to bring your tunes to life.

It's not just about the looks, though: it outputs 28W per channel, making it a perfect match for the most demanding bookshelf or floorstanding speakers. Add a solid aluminium unibody chassis, 6.35mm headphone jack and very reasonable price, and you've got a robust and versatile core for your home hi-fi – or your subterranean base's PA system.

T3 SAYS: "Do you expect me to talk?"
"No, Mr Bond! I expect you to appreciate the warm sound of a valve amp."

T3 TECH-O-METER



IMAGE SOURCE: FIIO



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Marantz Cinema 40 courtesy of Harman

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4 ROG XBOX ALLY X20 ● £799.99, asus.com

Anyone who's tried to use Windows on a handheld PC is probably still having nightmares – but the ROG Xbox Ally X20 solves some of its clunkiest issues. Asus has partnered with Microsoft to spawn a portable PC that boots into Xbox's interface for console-like simplicity.

Beneath the 120Hz VRR 1080p display, Asus has packed an AMD Ryzen AI Z2 Extreme APU coupled with 24GB of high-speed LPDDR5X RAM and a 1TB SSD, which is more than enough for most modern titles. An 80Wh battery and contoured grips will keep you gaming for hours in complete comfort, while additional AR glasses project a cinematic 171-inch screen for a more immersive experience. At £800, it's also one of the cheaper ways to get PC gaming on the go.

T3 SAYS: You'll still be going straight to your Steam library anyway, but at least they tried.

T3 TECH-O-METER



IMAGE SOURCE: ASUS

5 IKEA YXSTABY COLLECTION ● From £15, ikea.com

A collab between two brands that we're going to wind up by not putting their names in all caps, Xbox and Ikea's partnership has borne a nine-piece collection of rather fun gaming-based furniture. A thumbstick stool (built from original Xbox CAD files) dynamically tilts as you shift around, while controller-inspired D-pad cushions and storage trays make you feel like you've shrunk in a teenager's bedroom.

In addition, a rolling TV stand with hidden power and charging cables and a toolbox that converts into a laptop stand mean you can work and play in complete comfort. Tying everything together is a lounge chair with built-in controller storage, perfect for taking on General Raam after an intense Allen-key sesh.

T3 SAYS: A gaming setup that doesn't make your bedroom look like a murderer's den..

T3 TECH-O-METER



IMAGE SOURCE: IKEA/XBOX



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6 APPLE WATCH SERIES 12 AND ULTRA 4

● From £369, apple.com

Dubbed “the most advanced health and fitness companion” Apple has ever created, the Series 12 introduces better heart rate monitoring, plus a readiness score. But the biggest innovations here are new Audio Intelligence features that help users remember key moments of conversations, and alert hard-of-hearing users to important sounds such as doorbells, crying babies, or crying babies ringing doorbells.

Joining the 12 is the Ultra 4, with the same features in a durable chassis, increased battery life, and tracking workouts for as much as 25 hours. A new deep-sea version, designed with Parisian luxury goods company Hermès, adds a titanium band that extends to fit over a wetsuit, plus ocean-themed watch faces.

T3 SAYS: A watch that might remember things you’d rather forget...

T3 TECH-O-METER



IMAGE SOURCE: APPLE

7 FOSI DISC NANO

● £89.99, fosiaudio.com

Sitting somewhere between ‘90s nostalgia and something you’d use to terrify your enemies, the Fosi Disc Nano is the portable CD player reduced to the absolute bare minimum. Insert a disc and most of it sticks out, reminding you just how fast these things spin, and potentially issuing a nasty nick if you touch it.

The minimalist player isn’t just a novelty act, though: it boasts a premium Cirrus Logic DAC, plus a 4.4mm balanced output alongside a standard 3.5mm jack and Bluetooth streaming. MagSafe compatibility is the icing on the cake, turning your phone into something akin to a pocket hi-fi separates system. It’s absurdly impractical but ridiculously cool, and the sub-£100 price tag makes it a Christmas stocking essential.

T3 SAYS: The big question: is this compatible with circular saw blades?

T3 TECH-O-METER



IMAGE SOURCE: FOSI

8 SONOS ACE ULTRA

● £449, sonos.com

It's shocking that instant audio handover still isn't a thing – it's been on our wishlist for at least 15 years now. But Sonos has finally brought our dreams to life with its Ace Ultra headphones, which include one-tap audio swap, so you can use a button or the app to send audio from your cans to Arc or Beam soundbars, or vice-versa.

That's not all: the Ace Ultras also include enhanced adaptive active noise cancellation and lossless Bluetooth audio via Snapdragon sound. Stainless steel headband accents, plush memory foam ear

cushions and tactile physical controls (at last!) make listening an absolute delight, while extended 35-hour battery life (with ANC on) and quick charging keep the tunes pumping day in, day out.

T3 SAYS: Jedi-like gestures when flinging audio between devices are optional but highly encouraged.

T3 TECH-O-METER



IMAGE SOURCE: SONOS

9 PRO-JECT HARLEY-DAVIDSON TURNTABLE

● £2,299, project-audio.com



American icon Harley-Davidson teams up with Austrian audiophile master Pro-Ject for this hyphen-heavy collaboration. Presented in the (slightly unwieldy) shape of Harley's logo, it combines a solid aluminium-MDF sandwich chassis with polished metal accents to bring a touch of *Easy Rider* to your hi-fi.

Like the motorcycles, the turntable packs power where it counts, with a Pick It Pro moving magnet cartridge and 915g Harley-Davidson record puck for high-torque rotational inertia. A hand-polished 8.6-inch S-shaped aluminium tonearm, leather

platter, and TPE-damped isolation feet ensure your Steppenwolf records sound their absolute best. It's pretty pricey, but essential for Harley owners, and a great way to experience the bank-breaking nature of the brand for everyone else.

T3 SAYS: A great player – if you can hear it over your Harley's engine.

T3 TECH-O-METER

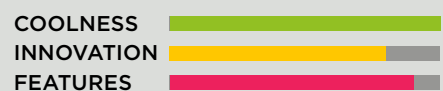


IMAGE SOURCE: PRO-JECT

10 JBL COVE SYSTEM

● From £249, jbl.com

Sonos gets a serious run for its money with JBL's new room-aware speakers. The Cove system detects your presence using ultra-wideband proximity sensing and automatically transfers playback between speakers as you wander from room to room, so you never miss a word of that deep-dive Roman plumbing podcast.

The speakers are packed with tech from the increasingly upmarket JBL, too. Immersive 3D audio, thanks to upward-firing driver arrays with automatic room calibration, makes them sound far bigger than they actually are, and there's a portable

model, so you can share your tunes with everyone else on the top deck of the bus. Already got a JBL soundbar? Pair them, and they can pull double duty as wireless rear surround speakers.

T3 SAYS: A great way to convince your other half there's a ghost following them through the house.

T3 TECH-O-METER



IMAGE SOURCE: JBL

BIG IN JAPAN

Japanese style is leading autumn's menswear



< PULLOVER SHIRT

Nanamica is primarily an outdoorwear brand, and it is quintessentially Japanese, blending functionality with style, as seen in this two-tone shirt with a pullover design.

nanamica.com/en, £148



WATER-REPELLENT JACKET ^

Japanese inspired fashion often embodies the spirit of utilitarianism and this light jacket is the epitome of easy style that serves a purpose.

uk.muji.eu; £49.95

JUMBO CARGO TROUSERS >

Japanese fashion often eschews figure-hugging styles for clothes that can breathe. These cargoes from Kojima-born brand Kapital embrace excess with a healthy dose of creativity.

kapital.jp, £450



✓ SOFT LEATHER LOAFERS

High-end Tokyo-based brand Auralee leans towards longevity and quality rather than passing trends. Tread gently in these loafers, made from the softest leather.

auralee.jp, £819.50



^ KNOT FASTENING SHIRT JACKET

Japanese brand MUJI excels at contemporary designs that nod to classic-wear, like this stylish shacket that references traditional Japanese work garments where ties were used instead of zips.

uk.muji.eu, £49.95



Timber tech

Jon Bentley considers why your next gadget might be made of wood

Until recently I'd never thought of wood as a technologically sophisticated material but, increasingly, it's becoming one. Science is transforming it into a cutting-edge resource with the potential to revolutionise the tiniest gadget or the largest-scale infrastructure project.

The biggest change is how much stronger it has become. The latest lamination, densification and compression techniques mean wood can now rival aluminium, carbon fibre and steel in terms of cost, strength per weight, and durability. Some of these techniques have been patented. US company InventWood, for example, has developed Superwood, a treated and compressed wood that boasts a strength-to-weight ratio up to 10 times higher than steel.

Engineered wood is now commonly used for large-scale projects from skyscraper frames to turbine blades. Laminated wood fairings on the latest Siemens high-speed train, for example, protect carriages and high-voltage roof equipment from track debris while travelling up to 405 km/h.

But the strength and lightness of the latest engineered woods will soon be just as valuable in the design of personal tech – our smartphone bodies, laptop cases, tripods and drones for instance. These devices will increasingly use wood to replace metals and oil-based plastics, because it's

lighter, tougher, and has less environmental impact.

Wood also retains its strength while being flexible, so should prove invaluable in the design of future folding and wearable devices. Another benefit is that Wi-Fi, Bluetooth and other radio signals pass through wood much more readily than through metals or carbon fibre.

By removing lignin, the light-absorbing material that gives wood its colour, it can even become translucent or transparent,

Flexible wooden chips and biodegradable circuit boards have the potential to cut e-waste

while the addition of bio polymers makes it strong and shatterproof. This combination produces tougher touchscreens, and more durable and flexible solar cells. Lignin removal also creates a structure that can generate electricity at a nano scale, paving the way for kinetic self-powered wearables that operate completely battery-free. Meanwhile, inside our tech, flexible wooden microchips and biodegradable

circuit boards have the potential to cut e-waste dramatically.

There are aesthetic and tactile benefits too. Wood offers a comforting, non-slip and inviting surface texture during physical interaction, replacing sterile plastics and cold metals with organic warmth. Wood has long been a feature of top end hi-fi speakers and is now making a comeback in products such as the Ruark R410 and Sonus faber Omnia. Wood blocks could blend into furniture as design pieces, but light up with touch-sensitive controls if tapped.

There are limits however. High-tech woods can't match carbon fibre for resistance to multi-axial stress, cyclic fatigue and corrosive environments, but a mix of technologies can yield benefits.

Twmpa Cycles based in Hay-on-Wye uses this approach. Wooden bicycle frames offer improved vibration damping, and the premium gravel GR1.0 has a hollow frame made from locally sourced laminated ash that's reinforced with carbon fibre and steel.

In anticipation of more demand for wood, trial plantations of the lightest hardwood in the world – a species of Paulownia – are being planted in Norfolk. It's similar to ash and oak but a third of the weight.

Wood is a force for good and of course, unlike the production of steel and carbon fibre, absorbs rather than generates CO₂. In a few years' time our tech could be brimming over with it.

SCREEN BREAK



GARMIN CIRQA

Garmin's first screenless band brings its health ecosystem to a discreet 20g design. It tracks sleep, stress, recovery and training readiness, detects activities automatically and lasts up to 10 days. Best of all, Garmin Connect doesn't require a subscription.

£180, garmin.com

IMAGE SOURCE: GARMIN



FITBIT AIR

This accessible band combines seven-day battery life with sleep, stress, heart-health and activity tracking across more than 40 exercise modes, plus a Gemini-powered health coach for personalised guidance. Core tracking is usable without a subscription.

£85, store.google.com

IMAGE SOURCE: GOOGLE



WHOOP 5.0

Whoop remains the performance-focused choice, turning continuous heart-rate, sleep and activity data into digestible Strain, Recovery and Sleep scores. Version 5.0 lasts more than 14 days and adds improved sensors, but access requires a Whoop membership.

From £169/year, whoop.com

IMAGE SOURCE: WHOOP



IMAGE SOURCE: BOWFLEX

HEAVY ROTATION

POWER DIAL

BowFlex rebuilds its adjustable-dumbbell icon with metal plates

BowFlex's SelectTech 552 became a home-gym staple by squeezing an entire dumbbell rack into one compact package. Now its successor, the SelectTech 52 (£280, bowflex.com), gives that formula its most substantial overhaul in years.

The updated model switches from moulded weight plates to premium metal ones, which promise a sturdier, more satisfying feel. BowFlex has also redesigned the locking mechanism and added an ergonomic, non-slip handle for greater confidence when the weight climbs.

The dial-based adjustment system remains pleasingly simple: when you return the dumbbell to its base, turn the selector and lift the weights up again, only the required plates come with you. Each dumbbell offers 15 settings from 2kg to 24kg, making it suitable for everything from lateral raises to heavy presses without filling the spare room with iron.

The SelectTech 52 comes at a price premium, but you also receive two months of BowFlex's digital platform, JRNY, providing guided workouts, adaptive training plans and performance tracking.

OVERTIME

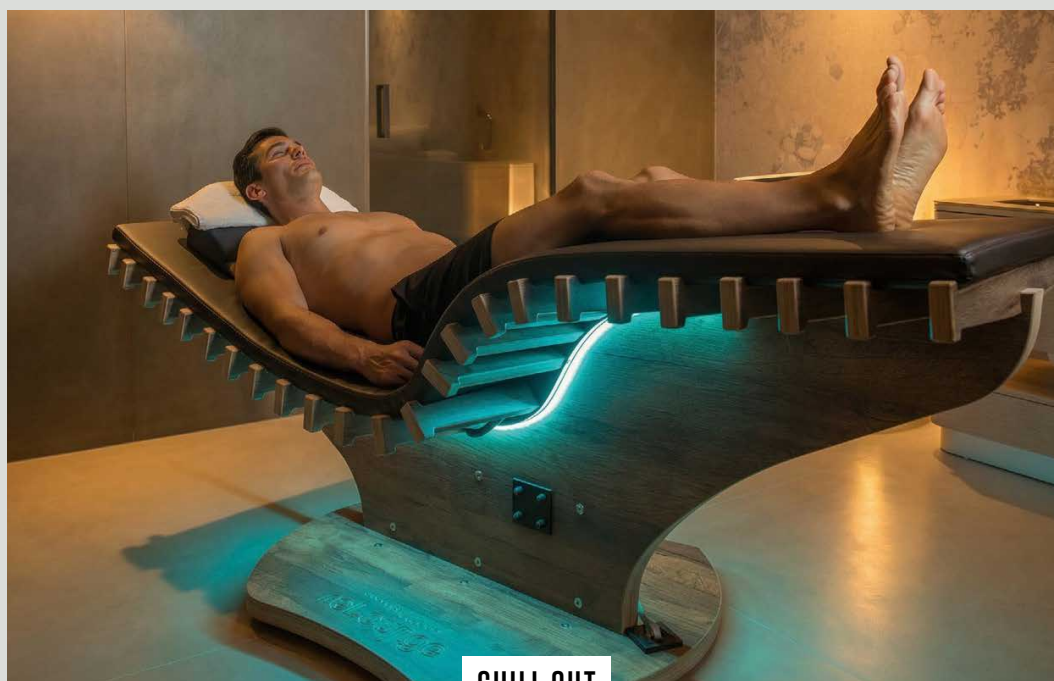
BUSINESS CASUAL

Puma and Salsky bring office culture to performance running

Puma and Copenhagen running label Salsky are clocking in for the final chapter of their collaboration. Back to Business (ETBC, puma.com) celebrates runners who squeeze miles around meetings, commutes and everything else that competes for diary space. The collection gives two of Puma's shoes a makeover: the carbon-plated Deviate Nitro Elite 4 for race-day speed, and the maximal-cushioned MagMax Nitro 2 for easier mileage. Technical tops, shorts, tights and accessories complete a wardrobe designed for runners who never clock out.



IMAGE SOURCE: PUMA/SALSKY

**CHILL OUT**

BUST THE WINTER BLUES AND GET A WELLBEING FIX

Hi-tech hotels, spas and retreats offering perfect ways to relax

There's no denying it: the heatwaves of summer seem like a distant memory. The good news? It's a great time to treat both your body and mind to some TLC, and we suggest starting at the Rosewood Amsterdam, a tranquil haven in the centre of the city, where therapies on offer include facials which use Oxylight (combining LED light therapy, microcurrent, oxygen therapy and ultrasound) to boost radiance and hydration, while we're also huge fans of the numerous offerings designed with travellers in mind (we recommend the Ayurvedic-based Recovering Traveller treatment). You can also opt for some art therapy in the form of the hotel's guided art tour, and taking time to admire the huge screen in the lobby – the hotel has a partnership with digital art museum NXT and showcases art exhibits.

The Four Seasons Hotel Singapore also offers a hi-tech approach to wellness, with futuristic spa treatments such as the Advanced Holistic Biotech Facial, which uses a combination of next-gen hyaluronic acids and vegan collagen to promote cellular renewal and restore moisture levels. Alternatively, you could simply head to the hotel's NOBU restaurant, with its enormous selection of sakes which are rich in antioxidants known to help protect skin cells from free radical damage.

For something closer to home, try the Zannier Île de Bendor, which opened in

Provence in May. Every visit to its spectacular Résonance Spa starts with an in-depth consultation comprising 3D skin analysis, body composition assessments and cryotherapy profiling.

There's also plenty of tech at ZEM Wellness Clinic Altea in Alicante, Spain, which offers three, seven and 14-night stays tailored to your exact requirements. Advanced electrocardiogram evaluations and cognitive tests are carried out to find out which areas need the most attention, and the crack team of wellness gurus includes experts in ozone therapy, genetics and integrative medicine.

Finally, gym bunnies will love the latest offering from Spain's Camiral, A Quinta do Lago Resort, which hosted Arsenal FC prior to their Premier League win earlier this year. But you don't have to be a pro footballer to appreciate the amenities. The wellness centre is one of the few in Spain to offer photo-biomodulation therapy, which promotes tissue repair and reduces inflammation, while other offerings include oxygen chamber therapy (brilliant for aiding tissue repair and reducing inflammation). It's also the only place in Spain with a MECOTEC double cryotherapy chamber. And when it's time to relax? Hit the nearby walking trails weaving through the forested foothills of the Pyrenees or chill out on the Costa Brava's most beautiful beaches, ideally with a (very large) sangria in hand. Salud!

TOOL TIME

NIRA PRO 3 LASER

At-home laser gizmos designed to boost collagen production are nothing new, but what sets this non-fractional at-home laser device apart is the potential customisation, thanks to nine comfort levels and a silent-vibration mode. You can pair it with the free iOS app to access AI-powered skin analysis, too.

£629, niraskin.com



IMAGE SOURCE: NIRA

VOL.U.LIFT

For some topical skincare tech, it's hard to beat Image Skincare's Vol.U.Lift, a plumping and hydrating cream which relies on XOSM Technology, a smart-encapsulation delivery system which ensures antioxidants such as Vitamin C reach the skin layers where they're needed most.

£105, imageskincare.co.uk



IMAGE SOURCE: IMAGE SKINCARE

MAGNITONE PEBBLE PRO ADVANCED MICROCURRENT AND LED FACIAL TONING DEVICE

Say hello to pocket-sized perfection. This LED light therapy device offers a hat trick of LED light therapy (blue 460nm, red 660nm and near-infrared 850nm) which works wonders when it comes to boosting radiance, collagen production and hydration.

£89.99, magnitone.co.uk



IMAGE SOURCE: MAGNITONE

PEEP, CLEAN AND FREEZE

RING PEEPHOLE CAMERA 2K

Ring just made it easy to add smart technology to your door with its Peephole Camera 2K.

Ideal for anyone renting, the camera is easy to install as it slots through your existing peephole to offer an extra layer of security to your front door.

£79.99, ring.com



IMAGE SOURCE: RING



ROBOROCK QREVO 2 PRO

The Qrevo 2 Pro robot vacuum and mop has finally launched in the UK. With 25,000Pa suction, it offers versatile, smart cleaning for hardwood floors and carpets. The multifunctional dock stores up to 65 days worth of dust, and self-cleans and dries the roller and mop pads.

£649, roborock.com

IMAGE SOURCE: ROBOROCK

PRO BREEZE EASYFREEZY ICE CREAM, SLUSHIES AND FROZEN DRINKS MAKER

Pro Breeze's first-ever frozen drinks maker doesn't require any pre-freezing, and has a built-in compressor and VertiFold technology to blend ingredients and create perfectly textured sweet treats in as little as 25 minutes.

£169.99, probreeze.com



IMAGE SOURCE: PRO BREEZE



IMAGE SOURCE: PANASONIC

FAST FOOD

WHEN A MICROWAVE AND AN AIR FRYER FALL IN LOVE

Panasonic just made home cooking even quicker

Appliance trends can be hard to keep up with, but air fryers have become the go-to way to cook, thanks to their quick power, money- and space-saving design and healthier cooking methods. And they've become bigger and better over the years.

Now, hybrid appliances are the latest craze, combining two or more appliances in one gadget. As expected, air fryers have been the most popular way to combine multiple cooking technologies, and this latest hybrid from Panasonic might be one of the smartest we've seen so far.

Panasonic released its first microwave oven for home use back in 1966 with the NE-700, and the Panasonic Combination Microwave Oven (£249.99, panasonic.com) takes this engineering and design expertise and upgrades it with more power and extra features. The four-in-one appliance can be used as an air fryer, convection oven, inverter microwave and quartz grill.

The Panasonic Combination Microwave Oven looks like a regular microwave, but its programmes and power set it apart from similar appliances. It has 19 auto-cooking programmes to choose from, can supply temperatures of between 30°C to 220°C and has an impressive 27 litres of internal capacity.

Using up to 1000W of power for its microwave setting, the oven has seven power levels, and a 34cm turntable. Instead of having its fan positioned at the back like a 'normal' microwave, Panasonic has placed it at the top, making it much slimmer for sitting on your worktop.

The fan positioning is also handy for its air fryer setting. The top fan circulates hot air around the inside – just like an air fryer does – to cook food quickly and without using excessive amounts of oil. Instead of using a drawer, the Panasonic Combination Microwave Oven comes with an enamel tray and air fryer basket which sits atop the turntable. It can hold up to 800g of chips, and the dedicated air fryer settings give it enough heat and power to cook foods like chicken in under 10 minutes.

Having tried it ourselves, the Panasonic Combination Microwave Oven really needs to be seen in action to be believed. During testing, it cooked breadcrumbed chicken in six minutes, making it one of the speediest appliances we've tried yet. With time being a huge priority with today's cooking and meal prepping, this speedy, time-saving appliance is sure to make its way into many people's kitchens.

HAZY GLOW

Bring the rich palette of an Indian summer into your home.



1 FOREST DUSK WALLPAPER

This mural depicting a forest as the sun sets captures the ethereal mood of an Indian summer, evoking the magical moment when the seasons change. Enjoy the feeling all year round with a feature wall that makes a stunning centrepiece.

wallsauce.com, £35 per m²

2 WINSTON CHAIR

The intense trio of deep green, warm orange and inky black is a winning combination for this atmospheric scheme, while the geometric Salerno fabric adds plenty of pattern and texture. It looks pretty comfy, too, which is always a plus for autumn evenings.

mindtheg.com, £2,700

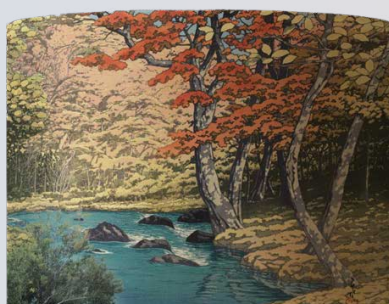
3 AUTUMN LANDSCAPE RIVERSIDE SHADE

Let nature be your guide when styling your space to reflect the season's warming, evocative palette. This shade depicts a peaceful scene in early autumn's rich tones, bringing a sense of woodland calm indoors.

lamp-shades.co.uk, £40



3



4 JOULES PORTHLEVEN CUSHION

Never underestimate the power of a scatter cushion when it comes to adding the finishing touches to a colour scheme or theme. This super soft cushion is just the right shade of burnt gold to reflect the warm glow of the season.

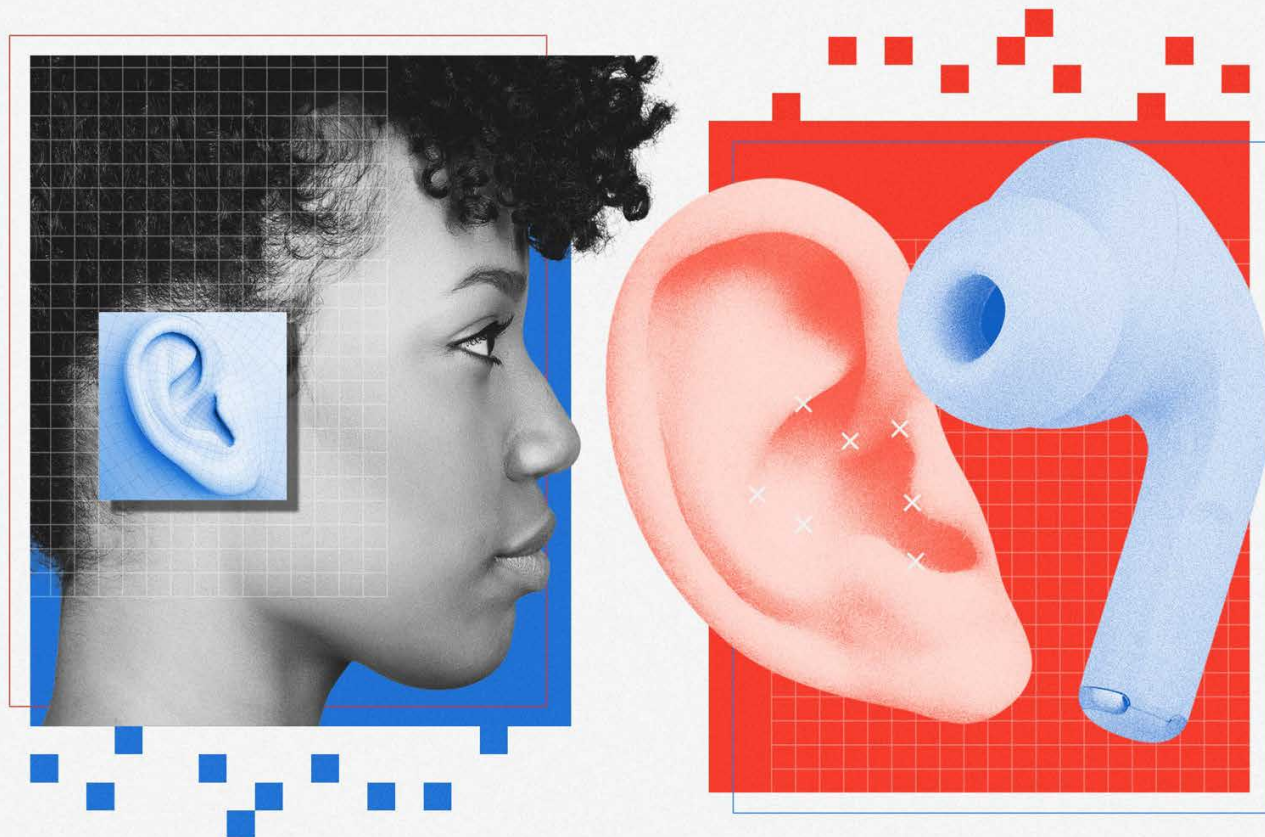
joules.com, £55



4

GADGET GURU

T3's tech sage knows the secret to a good stuffing, and it's not onion



Q AMIR HOLLOWAY, LUTON

Why do my earbuds keep falling out?

A Imagine, as Guru often does, that you are an earbud. You have to be a thing that goes into one of the weirdest conflagrations of skin and cartilage that the animal kingdom has to offer, and smelly plebs expect you to fit well even when they're cavorting and sweating and shaking their heads around like idiots. What is worse, every monstrous head-side flesh-tangle is subtly different, and your advanced ANC usually depends on creating a nice, reliable seal. Yours is a rough lot indeed.

Worse, you could be one of a pair of, say, Galaxy Buds 4 (£160),

rocking a open-fit design that really only works with very specific lugshapes; should you come across a conchal bowl that's too small, sits at an angle, or otherwise doesn't suit your delicate design, your user will get a sub-par experience and you will likely end up on the floor.

Were you a sentient non-open-fit earbud – GaGu's not dropping

Every monstrous head-side flesh-tangle is different, and advanced ANC usually depends on creating a nice, reliable seal

ABOVE
Everybody's ears are different, and that's part of our wonderful world

the tedious framing here, by the way – you might ask your user to pick you up some new ear tips. Bigger or better silicon tips such as the £18 SpinFit Audifine will likely help you sit more tightly in that ear canal, or a set of squishy memory foam options such as the Comply TrueGrip (£23) might prove a little grippier for particularly slippery tubes. You could always wish yourself into a completely different shape that's made to fit that ear: Snugs' ProMusic line (£170) work with an arm-long list of earbuds and IEMs, are moulded to fit individual ears and, frankly, are not going anywhere.

ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPHEN KELLY

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO: INBOX@T3.COM OR [FACEBOOK.COM/T3MAG](https://www.facebook.com/T3MAG)



JOANNE MERCER, DERBY

How many kinds of ice does one fridge need?

A Guru can tell you are not one of his seemingly many (but apparently just two) children, because their ideal amount of ice appears to be no ice at all unless GaGu fills up the ice trays, in which case it is all of the ice all at once and it doesn't matter what shape it is. They are teenage gits and you can have them.

'Need' is a strong word here. Your freezer needs plain ol' ice, but H₂O in rock form doesn't quite tell the whole story. Samsung's product page for its fridge-freezer selection reveals that the Korean giant allows you to choose to spit crushed ice, cubed ice, curved ice, and the irritatingly trademarked Ice Bites™ and Sphere Ice™ from its ice makers. While Guru is pretty sure there's a touch of the audiophile (glaciophile?) about all this, these shapes are said to serve microscopically different use cases.

Spherical ice, in particular, is apparently good for chilling drinks

without diluting them; crushed ice obviously does the opposite, its surface area encouraging faster melting and its many nucleation points likely flattening your fizzy drinks fast.

If Guru were to recommend anything in particular, he'd point you towards a little finger-shaped silicon ice tray, which you can get for about £5 on Amazon. These are brilliant because they produce ice in just the right shape to fit down the neck of a bottle, which is a thing you now know that you want. If you're so last year that you still love a Stanley cup, you can also get (for about £12) ring ice moulds that produce a trio of little frozen circles which precisely fit the inside of the insulated mugs, basically chilling your drinks in perpetuity.

Guru supposes the real answer is that you need 'some' ice, and that's good enough. And maybe a second freezer that your teenagers don't know about.



ABOVE

Ice can form 19 known crystalline phases, but not in your fridge



MARTHA WEBB, Salford

Why does my mouse hate my shiny desk?

A Not all mice are made equal, and neither are desks, but they all work on the same principle: desks are hard things on which you put objects, and mice (at least those from this century) use what amounts to a little eye to look at the desk, analysing changes to determine how far they've been moved. If you have a shiny or somehow glassily uniform desk, the mouse's sensor won't be able to make sense of it.

You could upgrade your mouse, though it wouldn't actually solve your problem, so Guru suggests you don't. You could get a mouse pad or desk mat, but given that you've persisted this far you're probably so aesthetically motivated that you won't. So let's go left-field and suggest you get a trackball, which inverts the optical bit to instead follow the movement of a ball that you wiggle. GaGu's a bit obsessed with the Ploopy A+ (from \$99 Canadian loonies), because it's made by a company called Ploopy and few devices can claim that.

GADGET GURU'S MAGIC BOX

So, what has Guru been doing this issue? Very little, reader: a series of both metaphorical and actual kicks in the nuts has caused the ol' executive dysfunction to flare up extensively. Guru has almost exclusively been sitting playing on his Steam Deck in opposition to all of his many responsibilities. This behaviour has naturally infuriated his family, royally annoyed the poor T3 team, and spurred Jeff Bezos to send in a bunch of heavies for a 'welfare check' owing to GaGu's lack of impulse purchases.

Not that Amazon didn't get at least some of Guru's dwindling funds, you understand. It was Mrs Guru's birthday, and in her position as a high-falutin' school administrator she is soon to fall victim to the same mobile phone ban that is ruining students' chance to procrastinate. Guru's gift to her was a series of stylish watches in



different colours, in order that she can get to her next meeting on time and match her outfit of the day. The model in question was the best one: the now almost 40-year-old Casio F-91W (from about £17, though rarer colour combos can get quite pricey). No mucking about with sensors or Bluetooth or smart functions, just the time and, if you're creative and in possession of just a little electronics skill, they're apparently a good cheap option for settings timers on things.

Guru is already looking ahead to Christmas, so if you're feeling generous (or are a lovely product liaison person looking for the next 'influencer' to butter up) you could do worse than putting a Genki Manta in his hands. It seems like every month there's a new best-ever controller, and this lad – starting at an earlybird price of £139 on Kickstarter but likely to land closer to £260 – has to be the current champ. It's just so fancy.

NEW MEDIA

NOW PLAYING

Guru finds the finest media you need on your various devices



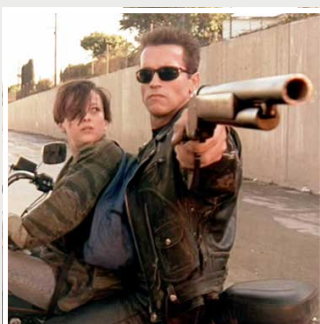
JET LAG: JAPANORAMA

A travel gameshow where the lads – and YouTube ubiquity Tom Scott – make their way from the bottom of Japan to the top mostly by train. Nerdy, funny, and worth a Nebula sub.



CHOPPING MOUNTAIN

The latest from London band Ibibio Sound Machine is their usual urgent, punchy fight between African funk sounds and electronic grooves, and Guru loves every note of it.



T2: JUDGMENT DAY

Back in cinemas (and possibly gone by the time you read this) is the second-most formative movie of Guru's childhood after RoboCop. He is convinced he should have been an android.



PHILIPPA DUNN, YORK

Can someone copy my keys from a photo?



Heck yes they can. Guru reckons he could manage it, too. Here's how a regular key works: each of its bumps can be at one of, say, six heights. There are maybe five or six bumps. That means that only a little analysis is required to work out your secret six-digit code if you happen to present it to the world in a photograph.

A potential key copier needn't even convince the nice man at Timpsons to cut a real key, given that templates are readily available for 3D printing keys for just about every lock type. There are probably websites you can type key codes into to get .stl files – Guru hasn't looked, because he's on enough lists already.



CORBIN ROOK, VIA EMAIL

Can I train crows to tidy my garden?



Legally, GaGu doesn't think you'd get into trouble if you did. Realistically, you probably wouldn't want to. Sure, you could reward crows with treats if they delivered a bit of litter to the right spot. There are auto reward dispensers (look into the CrowBox, a DIY open-source design) which encourage certain behaviour without direct interaction.

But a tidy garden might come with unintended consequences. You might well raise an ever-growing corvid army, so reliant on your delivery of treats that they will swoop on you when you leave the house. It may be preferable to train them to smite your enemies.

You might well raise a corvid army, so reliant on your delivery of treats that they will swoop on you when you leave the house



ABOVE

Read Daphne du Maurier for more details on why this is a bad idea



SANJAY PATEL, COVENTRY

My car reads the wrong speed limits. Who do I blame?



Probably you. For all their new smarts, cars are pretty dumb. They'll 'read' signs as you fly along A roads, and also read random things as signs, or ignore them if they're partially covered up, or pull outdated speed limit data from your mapping provider.

Even if this worked perfectly – and whatever Elon Musk says, it doesn't and won't – Guru wouldn't rely on it and has pointedly turned it off on every modern car he's driven because if he's going to get another fine in the post it had better be his own fault.

Don't miss another instalment of the legendary Gadget Guru!

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

See p54

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Replacing my voice with smart home automations

Voice control is no longer the foundation of Lizzie Wilmot's smart home

The idea of running a smart home via voice control once felt like the height of futuristic living – and it really wasn't all that long ago. The fact that you didn't have to get up from the sofa or reach for a light switch, and could instead make things happen with a simple voice command, blew people's minds. However, fast-forward to 2026 and I can't help feeling that this part of the smart home experience is slowly becoming less important.

I still use voice assistants regularly, and I don't see myself abandoning them completely anytime soon. However, after years of testing smart home gadgets, I've realised that the smartest home is often the one you don't have to speak to at all. Instead, I'm increasingly letting automations take care of things quietly in the background, and it's changed how I think about smart home technology altogether.

When you think about it, voice control might be convenient, but there's still an action involved. Depending on which ecosystem you use, you have to remember the right command, say it correctly, and occasionally repeat yourself when your smart speaker decides it

hasn't got a clue what you're talking about. There are also times when speaking aloud simply isn't convenient, whether someone's asleep or you're watching TV. Automations remove that extra step entirely.

Presence sensors are a great example, detecting when someone enters or leaves a room and triggering other

The novelty of saying “turn on the lights” wore off for me a long time ago

devices accordingly. Your lights could switch on as you walk into the hallway and turn off again once everyone's left – all without any input from you. Add temperature, humidity, contact and light sensors into the mix and the possibilities grow, such as having a fan automatically switch on once the room reaches a certain heat level.

Automations can also take care of several things at once, rather than controlling one device at a

time. A single 'goodnight' routine could switch off the downstairs lights, lock your smart lock, adjust the thermostat and activate certain security features. You could manage each one with separate voice commands, but I'd much rather have it all happen automatically than stand at the bottom of the stairs giving my smart speaker a list of instructions.

That doesn't mean I'm about to throw my smart speakers away. Voice assistants are still brilliant for those less predictable moments, especially when your phone isn't nearby. I love using them when I'm baking, for example, when I'm covered in flour and touching a screen is the last thing I want to do. Equally, if I'm already in bed and suddenly want the bedroom light dimmed, asking for it is much easier than reaching for my phone and opening an app.

I've simply found myself relying less on voice control as my automations have become more capable. The novelty of saying “turn on the lights” wore off for me a long time ago, but walking into a room and having those lights already know they're needed still feels clever. For me, that's what a smart home should look like – especially in 2026.

Announcing the return of the inimitable Wallpaper* Travel Guides

The essential companion for today's design lover



Twenty years after the launch of its celebrated City Guides, Wallpaper* returns with a new series uniquely positioned to introduce design lovers to vibrant cities, cool escapes and emerging, design-focused destinations. Fully revised with one-of-a-kind intel for today's global explorer, the series launches with guides to four of the world's most stylish, culturally active and exciting hubs: **Milan, Paris, New York City, London.**

Each of these beautifully produced pocket-sized books has been curated by a Wallpaper* writer intimately familiar with their destination's most exciting neighbourhoods, hotels, cafes, restaurants, bars, retail and wellness experiences – as well as ideas for culture-rich weekend excursions. And we are just getting started. Future Travel Guides will not only visit landmark cities, but also cultural capitals, island idylls and creative hotspots across the globe.

Available to buy in bookstores now and online at wallpaper.com/wallpaper-travel-guides

Wallpaper*

SMART HOME UPGRADES

The latest gadgets and the greatest gear for creating a relaxing pad full of good food, the perfect gaming hideaway, or a dynamic party palace

Words: Beth Morgan, Lizzie Wilmot Photography: Lucy Robinson



SET THE MOOD



1

GOVEE OUTDOOR WALL FLOODLIGHT

Govee has blended its love of colourful ambient lighting with home security for this clever outdoor launch. RGBWW lighting, 3,000 lumens and a 120° PIR sensor mean it can react when movement is detected, flood your exterior with colour or simply provide a welcoming glow when guests arrive.

£100, [govee.com](https://www.govee.com)



2

TEWKE LIGHT SWITCH

Now you've filled your home with smart lighting, you'll need something equally clever to control it. Enter the Tewke Tap, a touchscreen switch with an OLED display, Gorilla Glass, environmental sensors and real-time energy monitoring. Ordinary light switches suddenly look terribly boring by comparison.

£389, [tewke.com](https://www.tewke.com)



3

TAPO L430C SMART WI-FI CANDLE BULB

Sometimes the smallest lighting changes make the biggest difference. Tapo's L430C Candle Bulb shifts from a cosy 2,500K to a crisp 6,500K, but its ultra-low 1% brightness setting is the real treat. Perfect for late-night illumination without being greeted by the lighting equivalent of an early-morning alarm.

£24.99 (two-pack), [tapo.com](https://www.tapo.com)

THREE-LAYERED LIGHTING

When it comes to filling a room with good lighting, the trick is to think in three layers – ambient, task and accent. Start with ambient lighting for the overall glow – a floor lamp or larger smart light works well for this – before adding more smart bulbs for focused task lighting. Finally, light bars and LED strips can provide accent lighting around shelves, artwork or other features, bringing everything together.

4**WIZ GRADIENT LIGHT BARS**

Give movie night a little more drama with the WiZ Gradient Light Bars. Positioned around a TV or gaming setup, they wash the surrounding space in colourful gradient light, dance along to music, and can even sync with what's happening on-screen when paired with WiZ's HDMI Sync Box. **£75 (two-pack), wizconnected.com**

5**MEROSS SMART TABLE LAMP**

For an impressively affordable price, this smart table lamp combines touch controls, 16 million colours and 0-100% dimming with a minimalist design. It's the perfect way to introduce some ambience without paying premium-brand prices, and who wouldn't want that? **£35, meross.com**

6**PHILIPS HUE PLAY TABLE LAMP**

The Philips Hue table lamp takes the colourful appeal of its much-loved Signe floor lamp and shrinks it into a compact design made for desks and entertainment setups. Place it beside a TV or monitor and let Hue's ecosystem turn whatever you're watching into a room-filling light show. **£70, philips-hue.com**

4**5****6**

DAILY GRIND



1

SAGE THE DOSE CONTROL PRO

Great espresso starts before the coffee machine gets involved, and the Sage Dose Control Pro gives you 60 grind settings to play with. An adjustable timer helps control how much coffee you grind, while grounds can go straight into your portafilter.

Consider your supermarket pre-ground era officially over.

£170, [sageappliances.com](https://www.sageappliances.com)



2

GRIND TWO MILK FROTHER

Grind's frother is here to give your homemade flat whites a serious upgrade, whipping milk into everything from silky hot microfoam to cold foam. It'll tackle hot chocolate too, while its sleek design means it's one of those rare kitchen gadgets you won't immediately want to hide in a cupboard.

£75, [grind.co.uk](https://www.grind.co.uk)



3

FLAIR CLASSIC

No plugs, pods or automatic buttons here. The Flair Classic is a completely manual espresso maker that puts you in charge of the extraction, using a lever to generate the pressure needed for a proper shot. It's coffee making slowed right down – and one for anyone who considers brewing part of the ritual.

£121, [flairespresso.com](https://www.flairespresso.com)



4

NESPRESSO VERTUO UP

Nespresso's latest Vertuo wants to make choosing your morning coffee almost effortless. The Vertuo Up automatically recognises each capsule and adjusts its brewing settings accordingly, with six cup sizes covering everything from a quick espresso to a much-needed longer coffee. Just add capsule, press button and attempt to wake up.

£99, [nespresso.com](https://www.nespresso.com)

COFFEE MISTAKES YOU'RE PROBABLY MAKING

You can spend a small fortune on a coffee machine and still end up with a disappointing brew. Old beans, the wrong grind size and poorly textured milk are some of the easiest ways to ruin your morning coffee. Grinding

beans fresh can make an immediate difference, while matching the grind size to your brewing method is just as important. Don't forget cleaning – leftover coffee and milk residue aren't going to make your flat white taste good.

5

DE'LONGHI RIVELIA START

The new, smaller addition to the Rivelia family serves up espresso, coffee, long and Americano at the touch of a button. Its clever Bean Switch System also lets you swap between two different beans, because apparently committing to just one coffee is now optional.

£600, [delonghi.com](https://www.delonghi.com)

6

OXO BREW RAPID BREWER

Good coffee doesn't always need a machine – or much patience.

Oxo's rapid brewer uses a clever manual brewing system to produce concentrated coffee in just two minutes for hot and five for cold. It's compact, portable and doesn't need electricity, making decent coffee away from home considerably less complicated.

£45, [oxouk.com](https://www.oxouk.com)

5



6



FRONT OF HOUSE

1

YALE LINUS SMART LOCK L2 LITE

Yale's smart lock retrofits discreetly onto the inside of your existing door, with no drilling required. It's simple to install, easy to live with and particularly tempting for renters. Your landlord need never know what hit them.

£130, yalehome.co.uk



2

TAPO C675D KIT

The Tapo C675D has practically every angle covered. Its dual-camera setup combines wide-angle and telephoto lenses with 4K clarity and 360° panning, while solar power keeps trips up the ladder to a minimum. Better still, there's plenty available without the need to commit to an ongoing subscription.

£238, tapo.com



3

RING WIRED VIDEO DOORBELL (2ND GEN)

Don't let the entry-level price fool you. Ring's latest wired video doorbell provides a sharper look at whoever's calling, while clear two-way talk and the excellent Ring app make everyday monitoring effortless.

At £60, it's an appealing way to bring smart security to your doorstep.

£60, ring.com



4

EZVIZ EP4 WIRE-FREE PEEPHOLE DOOR VIEWER

No permission to drill into the front door?

No problem. The EP4 transforms an existing peephole into a smarter security setup, complete with remote smartphone viewing and a 4.3-inch indoor screen. AI facial recognition makes it particularly appealing for apartment living

£230, ezviz.com

LOOKING SHARP

1

BRAUN NEVO 15000C ELECTRIC SHAVER

Braun isn't exactly known for doing things by halves, and this might be its most extravagant shaver yet. AeroTouch technology reduces friction, while 250 blades and a smart processor adapt power to your beard density. There's even a seven-in-one Care System to handle all the maintenance afterwards.

£740, braunshop.co.uk


2

SHARK CRYOGLOW CLINIC FACE + BODY

Shark's LED tech targets eight ageing zones across the face, neck, back, chest and hands. Better still, it does the job of three separate devices, saving your bathroom cupboard from yet another collection of beauty gadgets.

£550, sharkninja.com


3

SURI CORE 1.0

Suri has stripped its electric toothbrush back – but not too far. The Core 1.0 still includes a pressure sensor, timer, magnetic wall mount and up to 28 days of battery life, just without the Pro's UV charging case. Great teeth, slightly happier bank balance.

£65, trysuri.com


4

ROOTIQUE DUO

Scalp serums have a habit of going everywhere except your scalp. The Duo's one-handed micro-mist system applies its tonics right where they're wanted, and also incorporates 650-660nm red light, dosage notifications and a clever hair-parting design.

£112, rootique.co



COOKING UPGRADES



1

CASO DESIGN PIZZACHEF 430° INDOOR PIZZA OVEN

Pizza ovens don't have to be oversized or stand loud and proud in your garden, as this indoor model proves. It still reaches up to 430° to replicate the intense temperature of a traditional brick oven. The results? Crispy, delicious pizzas that taste authentic and are cooked perfectly in mere minutes.

£199.99, casodesign.co.uk



2

PROCOOK INSTANT READ DIGITAL THERMOMETER

A must for both indoor and outdoor cooking, this thermometer can handle temperatures up to 300°C, has a backlit LCD screen that instantly delivers readings, and can handle the stress – and mess – of the kitchen thanks to a waterproof design.

£32, procook.co.uk



3

OONI DOUGH TOOLS

From pizza to bread and beyond, these tools are exactly what you need for mixing, kneading, scraping and prepping dough. The set includes mixing and lifting spatulas, and a bench scraper, all of which make it easy to handle the entire manual dough-making process.

£35, uk.ooni.com

BRAINS BEHIND THE HOME

Thanks to advancements in smart technology and AI, the kitchen has become a place for hybrid appliances that have almost taken cooking completely out of our hands. Where we're starting to see improvements within the AI appliance space is white goods, such as fridge freezers and ovens. Having a screen on your fridge sounded ridiculous a few years ago, but now it compiles your shopping

list, tracks expiration dates, and even plays music while you cook. Despite air fryers taking over, the oven has never been smarter, with AI cameras inside that scan your food and adjust time and temperature to deliver the best results. Have things gone too far? Probably, but if a fridge can order your groceries for you, it might be nice to have an extra brain in your home.

4**SMEG AFC01 DUAL FLAVOUR AIR FRYER**

Known for its Italian retro-inspired designs, Smeg has put its own stylish twist on the air fryer. Its AFC01 has two cooking functions and seven presets that expertly cook different ingredients to perfection. Available in a range of matte colours, Smeg's latest air fryer is the best-looking model on the market.

£199.95, smeguk.com

5**PANASONIC MINI BREAD AND ICE CREAM MAKER**

Bread and ice cream in one machine? Sign us up! The Panasonic Mini has 34 programmes to play with, covering a range of ice cream, dessert and bread recipes. The best feature is the dispenser in the lid which adds yeast, nuts, seeds and sprinkles at just the right moment to achieve the perfect rise and mix.

£TBC, panasonic.com

6**OUR PLACE CERAMIC NONSTICK PERFECT POT 6L**

One of the most valuable things you can have in your kitchen is a reliable cooking pot, and this eight-in-one non-stick pot ticks all the boxes. It can tackle any roasting, frying or boiling task you throw at it, from your stovetop and into your oven. It looks the part, too, coming in a range of Mediterranean-inspired colours.

£135, fromourplace.co.uk



GAMING GADGETS

1

MSI CLAW 8 EX AI+

For gaming on the go MSI has you covered, with a handheld PC that'll make your daily commutes more enjoyable. Powered by the Intel Arc G3 Extreme processor, the MSI Claw 8 EX AI+ offers fast and immersive gameplay for up to four hours on a single charge.

£1,399.99, [msi.com](https://www.msi.com)



2

ALIENWARE 16 AREA-51 GAMING LAPTOP

The 16-inch Area-51 has everything you need to take your games to the next level. Its second-gen Intel Core processor is joined by an Nvidia graphics chip up to the mighty GeForce RTX 5090 to make ultra settings tremble.

From £2,599, [dell.com](https://www.dell.com)



3

STEELSERIES ARCTIS NOVA PRO OMNI

Ideal for PC, consoles and mobile, this headset offers high-fidelity wireless audio and controls you can adjust with a quick tap. Active noise cancellation blocks out up to 96% of background noise to completely dive into whatever you're playing or streaming.

£349.99, [steelseries.com](https://www.steelseries.com)



4

ROG XREAL R1

These AR glasses have a 0.01ms response time and 240Hz refresh rate for smooth and responsive action across their 171-inch virtual screen. The lenses come with different tint levels, and they can switch from 2D to 3D, depending on the content. Earbuds by Bose seal the deal.

£749, rog.asus.com

HOME OFFICE

1

NANOLEAF X FANTAQI SMART LED MONITOR STAND

If you've ever wanted to make your desk look more exciting, Nanoleaf's collaboration with art-driven smart home technology brand Fantaqi is up for it. With a combination of natural wood and ambient lighting, this monitor stand illuminates your desk with colour – it's enough to make you want to sit at it for hours.

£179.99, nanoleaf.me


2

CANYON WEBCAM C2N

Upgrade your video calls with this pocket-sized camera that clips onto the top of your laptop or sits on your desk to offer wide viewing angles with 360° rotation. Its five-layer 1080p lens will make your colleagues feel like you're in the room with them – in a non-creepy way, of course.

£34.99, canyon.eu


3

ERGOCHAIR PRO

A comfortable office chair is a must, and this one has nine adjustment points to customise the seat's depth, tilt, lumbar height and headrest. The foam adjusts to your body to keep you supported for hours for the feeling that you're sitting on air.

£466.80, autonomous.ai


4

COZYLA CALENDAR+ 2

Keep your work schedule and daily life organised with a 24-inch colour touchscreen that stores everything from meetings and chores to tasks and meal plans. Hang it on your office or kitchen wall, and when not in action, it turns into a photo frame.

£699.99, cozyla.com



KEEP COOL (AND WARM)



1

MEACOFAN SEFTE 6" PORTABLE AIR CIRCULATOR

Compact enough to sit on your desk or bedside table, this fan might be small but it sure is mighty. With three modes and 12 fan speeds, it offers strong air circulation and up to 26 hours of battery life. With a sound output of just 22dB while it's working, you'll barely know that it's there.

£69.99, meaco.com



2

TADO SMART AC CONTROL

Helping you make the most of your air conditioning throughout the year with simple, wireless connectivity, the Tado Smart AC Control connects to your heat pump or AC system and controls heating, cooling, speeds and other modes from your smartphone. It also monitors energy usage to help reduce your monthly bills.

£89.99, shop.tado.com



3

INGENIX SMART GLASS PANEL HEATER

Moving away from traditional radiator designs, the Ingenix Smart Glass Panel Heater features a glass front LED touch panel that blends into your home while delivering 2000W of heat to keep you warm during the winter months.

£99.99, igenix.co.uk

WHAT TO CONSIDER BEFORE INSTALLING AIR CONDITIONING

CHOOSE THE RIGHT TYPE

The AC system you choose will determine cost, how much space it takes up, and installation length. Try to choose between cooling single or multiple rooms, and match the AC unit's cooling capacity to room size.

DECIDE ITS LOCATION

Indoors, place the unit high on your wall away from heat sources. Outdoors, the compressor should be out of direct sunlight. Check with your building management or the local council first, if you need to.

GO PORTABLE

Installation and maintenance costs for permanent air conditioning systems can add up, but portable AC units deliver super-cool air when you need it and are small enough to pack away when you don't.

4**DREO WHOLE-ROOM
HEATER 714S**

The colder weather will be a reprieve for many after this summer, but Dreo's whole-room heater is perfect for both hot and cold seasons. This oscillating heater and fan hybrid can fill a room with warmed or cooled air, and it still remains cool to the touch while it's doing it.

£99.99, dreo.com

5**DUUX YENTL CUDDLE
HEATED OVERBLANKET**

There's nothing better than getting warm under a cosy blanket after a long day, and the Duux Yentl Cuddle Heated Overblanket is the perfect accessory for this. With its extra large size and faux fur material, the Yentl has multiple heat settings to keep you toasty warm for up to nine hours.

£159.99, duux.co.uk

6**DYSON HUSHJET
MINI COOL FAN**

While it might look a little obscene, if you've got that kind of mind, this premium handheld fan recently saved a lot of people's summers. With its simple controls and star-tipped adjustable nozzle, the HushJet Mini Cool gives immediate cooling relief and a powerful airflow while on the go.

£99.99, dyson.co.uk

**6**

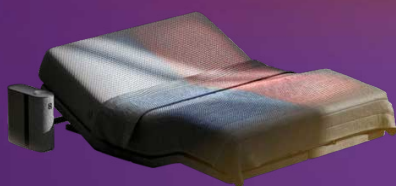
TECH FOR SLEEP

1

HATCH SLEEP CLOCK

Hatch's new Sleep Clock is a sleep tracker, wake up light and alarm in one cute, semi-circle gadget. Instead of a wearable, the Hatch Sleep Clock uses radio signals to track your breathing, movement and sleep stages without being invasive. It also has colourful lights, sleep sounds and personalised guidance for the best night's rest.

\$249.99, hatch.co



2

EIGHT SLEEP POD 5

When it comes to smart sleep technology, no one does it better than Eight Sleep. Its Pod 5 sleep system features a base, cover and hub that work together to track your sleep and health. Overnight, it makes adjustments to regulate your temperature, stop snoring and more, so you wake up feeling refreshed and rejuvenated.

£2,499, eightsleep.com



3

LOOP DREAM

Sleep uninterrupted by your partner's snoring. Perfect for side sleepers, thanks to its soft silicone and small shape, the Loop Dream plugs reduce external noise and other distractions so you can sleep without interruptions. But don't fret – they're not completely noise-blocking, so you won't miss your morning alarm.

£44.95, loopearplugs.com



4

THERABODY SMARTGOGGLES 2ND GEN

If blackout blinds just aren't enough, these goggles block out all external light. But they are much more than just an eye mask, offering compression massage, heat and vibration cycles which will relax you, reduce stress and eye strain, and relieve headaches.

£199, therabody.co.uk

JUST SMART STUFF

1

AQARA SPATIAL MULTI-SENSOR FP400

Make your smart home work without you having to think about it too much. This sensor uses mmWave radar and AI, so it knows when someone is in the room and whether they're sitting, standing or lying down – so lights and other devices can react automatically without anyone reaching for a switch.

Price TBC, aqara-shop.co.uk


2

IKEA KLIPPBOK WATER LEAKAGE SENSOR

Not every smart home gadget needs to be exciting – sometimes you just want to know if the dishwasher is flooding the kitchen. Ikea's tiny sensor sounds an alarm when it detects water and, when connected to a hub, can send an alert to your phone.

£7, ikea.com


3

TAPO P304M SMART WI-FI POWER STRIP

Why make one plug smart when you can do four at once? This strip gives each of its four sockets individual smart control, alongside Matter support, energy monitoring and surge protection. It can even estimate how much your connected gadgets are costing you.

£34.99, tapo.com


4

HOMEY PRO

When your smart home gadgets all speak different languages, Homey Pro acts as the translator. This hub supports Matter, Thread, Zigbee, Z-Wave, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, 433MHz and infrared, bringing devices from different ecosystems together and letting you build some seriously sophisticated automations.

£449, homey.app

POWERED-UP PARTYING



1

ROBERTS SOLARDAB 99

The Roberts SolarDAB is made for those rare British afternoons when the sun actually decides to cooperate. Its integrated solar panel helps keep the battery topped up outdoors, while DAB+/FM radio and Bluetooth give you plenty to listen to. Garden soundtrack sorted.

£150, robertsradio.com



2

HYPERVOLT HOME 3 PRO

An EV charger isn't usually the most exciting thing attached to your house, but the Hypervolt Home 3 Pro makes a strong case for changing that. Alongside 7kW charging, it can make use of surplus solar energy, schedule charging around cheaper tariffs, and put everything within reach through the Hypervolt app.

£690, hypervolt.co.uk



3

ECOFLOW STREAM GARDEN/GROUND KIT

Now that plug-in solar panels are legal in the UK, EcoFlow has the perfect kit to get you started. It includes two 400W rigid solar panels bundled with a microinverter and ground-mounting hardware, letting you angle them towards the sun without committing to a permanent rooftop installation.

£649, ecoflow.com

SOLAR ISN'T JUST FOR ROOFTOPS ANY MORE

For years, solar has meant expensive panels professionally installed on your roof, but that's recently changed. Following a change in the rules at the end of August, compliant plug-in solar systems can legally connect to standard household sockets in the UK, making generating your own electricity much more accessible. They won't replace a full rooftop setup, but could offer a simpler and cheaper way to generate some of your own power without committing to a full-size installation.

4**ANKER SOLIX EVERFROST 2**

Forget melting ice and soggy sandwiches. The Anker Solix EverFrost 2 is a battery-powered electric cooler that can actively chill its contents without bags of ice taking up valuable space. Available in three sizes, its wheels and pull-out handle make transporting it a breeze, whether you're camping, picnicking or taking the garden party *really* seriously.

From £799, [ankersolix.com](https://www.ankersolix.com)

5**IKEA SOLVINDEN LED SOLAR TABLE LAMP**

Not every outdoor light needs an extension lead or complicated electrical installation. Leave Ikea's Solvinden table lamp outside to charge from the sun during the day, and it'll provide a decorative glow after dark. With such a low price, scattering a few around the garden doesn't feel particularly extravagant either.

£12, [ikea.com](https://www.ikea.com)

6**JACKERY EXPLORER 300D PORTABLE POWER STATION**

Essentially a giant power bank for everything your phone charger can't handle, this power station is compact enough to take outdoors with you. Its 288Wh capacity and 300W output can keep laptops, cameras and other gadgets going, while USB-C fast charging makes it particularly handy for weekends away from a plug socket.

£219, [jackery.com](https://www.jackery.com)



Right: Boardman's
SLR 9.8 Carbon
Below: The Devil's
Staircase in Wales



TAKING ON THE DEVIL'S STAIRCASE WITH BOARDMAN

One of Britain's steepest road climbs requires 100% effort
– and uncompromising machinery from Halfords



U

K climbs don't come much more intimidating than the Devil's Staircase: it's a killer kilometre of vertiginous, pock-marked tarmac that Satan himself dumped in the middle of Wales. It's a popular route among cyclists because it's so unforgiving, spiking with an unrelenting 25% gradient – but the Boardman SLR 9.8 carbon road bike has the high-spec engineering needed to conquer this infamous challenge.

The first few metres of the Devil's Staircase are deceptively gentle, but it soon ramps up. Where a standard road setup would immediately send you into strenuous grind, the bottom end of SLR 9.8's ultra-wide gear range comes into its own, so you can spin through the hairpins while keeping your bum firmly planted on the saddle, saving vital energy.

As the Staircase gets tougher, the SLR 9.8 becomes a reliable machine that will take you to the top. Built

The Boardman SLR 9.8 Carbon is aero-optimised for speed, control and comfort



around an ultra-lightweight carbon frame, the SLR 9.8 won't flex or wobble as you get out of the saddle, ensuring every precious watt propels you onwards and upwards. The 30mm Goodyear Eagle F1 R tubeless-ready tyres guarantee stability by maxing out their contact patch with the ground.

Thankfully, the Devil's Staircase isn't pure pain, and the ascent gracefully flattens – but SLR 9.8's job isn't done yet. Its carbon layup eats into road buzz as you shift into higher gears and increase your speed to hit the summit, bag a PR – and then enjoy the descent.

With Halfords, the Devil's Staircase can become the Devil's Escalator.

Explore the Boardman SLR 9.8 and the full performance range at [halfords.com](https://www.halfords.com)

halfords

ESSENTIAL KIT FOR KILLER CLIMBS

Complete your cycling lineup with clothing, shoes and protective gear that'll optimise your performance on hills – and beyond

Pairing the Boardman SLR 9.8 with the right clobber is essential for maximising your performance on the steepest hills – and looking great is just as important. Here's the complete Halfords kit for your next road-based adventure.

BOARDMAN 9 SERIES SHORT SLEEVE JERSEY

An ergonomic fit ensures optimum aerodynamics, while high-output breathability ensures you're cool on all but the hottest days. There's plenty of space for energy-boosting gels in the rear pockets, too.

BOARDMAN 9 SERIES BIB SHORTS

Precision-engineered fit meets fresh fabrics in these shorts, which boast a high-density chamois to keep you comfortable as the miles add up.

BOARDMAN 9 SERIES GILET

Keeping your core warm on cooler days is essential for peak performance. The lightweight 9 Series gilet offers vital wind protection, and packs down to a small size for easy stowage once you get going.

BOARDMAN CARBON CYCLING SHOES

Stiff shoes are a vital interface between rider and machine, and the Boardman Carbon Cycling Shoes ensure that no watts are wasted while bringing style to your rides.

HALFORDS ADVANCED ROAD HELMET

Last but not least, Halfords' helmet is an essential piece of kit. Double in-mould technology to keep your noggin protected, and an aero-optimised shell that keeps cool air flowing around the hottest of heads.



THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO...

Urban e-bikes

Electric bikes are taking over our city streets – and they're fast and fun. Join us for a backie into the future

Words: Henry Winchester

The humble bicycle is fast becoming the best way to get around urban environments. Soaring fuel costs, low-emission zones and congestion charges are pushing vehicles out of city centres, while expanding bike lanes make two-wheeled travel quicker than ever. In fact, research from health data expert Terra proves cycling is the fastest way across London for journeys under eight miles.

The problem is pedalling. While bicycles are highly efficient, they require effort. Sweaty, panting effort. There's a simple solution: add an electric motor. Suddenly, you can get around the city with minimal exertion, and the drawbacks of conventional cycling evaporate like sweat off a Lycra-clad back. Today's models are a far cry from the clunky e-bikes of the mid-2010s, with subtly integrated batteries and minimalist motors that look almost identical to standard bikes. Here, we'll guide you through everything you need to know about these cybernetic velocipedes.

GETTING STARTED

Ask any e-bike addict what their gateway drug was, and they'll

probably tell you the same thing: Limes. What was once a citrus fruit associated with hazy memories of salt and tequila is now synonymous with electric hire bikes dotted around the country's cities. Other options are available: Forest, Voi, Beryl, Bolt, Tier, Santander, but Lime is the most popular. And the most unpopular: the Daily Mail will often run horror stories on how these citric e-bikes are clogging our pavements and causing 'Lime bike leg' (severe injuries attributed to being crushed by one of the cumbersome cycles).

Whatever your opinion on hire e-bikes, there's no denying that they've revolutionised the way we get around cities. Unlike buses, you don't have to wait for a bike to show up – you can usually just grab one from your nearest parking zone. They don't get held up in jams, or by red lights (rider dependent). And, unlike the early era of Boris Bikes, electric motor assistance makes riding these absolute units an effortless joy.

But, as e-bike riders find, it's not always plain sailing. Sometimes they can be unreliable, and their per-mile or per-minute pricing seems low to start with, but can soon add up: an

average daily commute with Lime's pay-as-you-go pricing can cost a whopping £240 a month. And this is exactly where buying an e-bike makes sense.

BECOME A CONVERT

Your best bike is the one you already have – and you might not need to buy an entire new e-bike when you can just strap a motor to your existing one. Units such as Skarper (which attaches to your rear disc brake rotor) and Swytch (which replaces your front wheel with an electric one) give you all the benefits of an e-bike on your existing steed. The added advantage here is that you can switch it back to a non-electric bike in a matter of seconds, and you don't need to find space to store a whole extra bicycle, which can be handy when each cubic inch of your flat costs £1,000 a month in rent.

Or, you could just get a whole new e-bike, and throw your non-electric unit in the canal. There are now electric variants of every kind of bicycle, from monstrous mountain bikes to aero-formed roadsters. Here, we're going to focus on bikes that are suited to the urban environment, though.

The dominant bike in this sector



The top three...

SMART COMMUTER GEAR

Upgrade your urban e-bike ride with these accessories

01



TMD CHAIN LOCK

This hardened steel chain lock includes a 100Db alarm, keyless unlocking with your phone so you don't have to carry your keys like you're a 17th-century jailer, and even the ability to share lock access. **€229 (around £200), tmdlocks.com**

02



UNIT 1 AURA HELMET

A helmet that doesn't make you look like a dork, the Aura includes 360° lighting, turn signals, brake lights, and GPS crash detection, plus MIPS impact protection and the highest Virginia Tech rating. **£200, unit1gear.com**

03



ORTLIEB VARIO PLUS

A versatile pannier bag that clips securely to your bike, then switches to a comfortable backpack when you need to walk. It's pricey, but Ortlieb's products tend to be nigh-on indestructible. **From £192.50, uk.ortlieb.com**



is the urban commuter, whose more upright design helps you see and be seen in traffic. Designs of these vary enormously, from classy Dutch-style sit-up-and-beg models to hybrid bikes that pack mountain bike-like features such as suspension forks and high-torque motors into lightweight, agile frames. To make them practical for commuters, they also often feature mudguards, pannier racks, and built-in lights.

These are often also the cheapest way to get into e-biking, starting at around £800 for fairly respectable models. Spend more and you'll find more features, such as higher-class motors, built-in computers for navigation and recording your rides, and tracking if the bike is stolen.

And that's one of the biggest problems with commuter bikes: they have to be locked up outside, or in 'secure' garages that are actually about as impenetrable as a string vest. This is where folding bikes come in handy: they perform about as well as their full-size brethren, but when your journey is complete you can fold them up and stow them in a cupboard or under your desk.

Adding electric power to these versatile bikes makes a lot of sense: as they're often used by commuters, they can help mitigate the dreaded sweaty shirt syndrome, and they can be taken on public transport for longer journeys. They're also surprisingly fun to ride, combining small wheels with micro-suspension to make the bike feel a lot bigger than it actually is.

LET'S CARGO

At the other end of the scale are cargo e-bikes. These are large and heavy but also the most versatile e-bikes, with modular systems so you can transport your kids to school or load up with a week's worth of

shopping. They have taken off among inner-city families who want to ditch the car (every urban primary school has at least one cargo-bike parent), and their bomb-proof frames make them a great investment.

Regardless of your choice, there are a few things to look out for. As e-bikes are legally limited in terms of speed in the UK, torque has become the big number to look out for: the higher the torque, the more quickly the bike can reach top speed, in turn giving riders the confidence to accelerate away from red lights when they've got a lorry behind them. It's also what helps the bike maintain higher speeds when going uphill or carrying heavy loads. High-end e-bikes pack a whopping 150 Nm of torque, but 75 Nm will suffice for most commutes.

An e-bike's battery is also important, and manufacturers have to maintain a balancing act between delivering mileage while keeping weight low. An 800Wh (watt-hour) battery will deliver up to 80 miles of range on a single charge, although this is heavily affected by factors such as the lumpiness of both the rider and the terrain. Systems such as Bosch's PowerMore range extender are water bottle-sized units that plug into e-bikes to deliver more range.

E-bike motors usually sit mid-mounted in the bottom bracket, between the pedals, but they can also be hidden in the hub of

Folding bikes perform about as well as their full-size brethren

T3 recommends...

THE FOUR BEST URBAN E-BIKES

Our expert picks in the commuter, folding, cargo, and smart tech categories

Choosing the right urban e-bike can be tricky – but there's one out there for everyone, from slick Pogačar wannabes who like to engage in races to the lights, to sedate mums and dads on the school run. There are myriad features to consider, and every manufacturer is trying to outdo one another in terms of tech integration and smart design. Here, we've picked four standout models that are the absolute peak of urban micro-mobility, whether you need to transport massive loads or kids (or both), or you need a bike that rides like a full-size one but folds into the footprint of a suitcase.

URBAN COMMUTER



VELO DE VILLE REVO-C

The world's first urban bike powered by DJI's Avinox, an ultra-smooth and high-torque (up to 120Nm) motor used on MTB trails around the world. As well as ensuring you can zoom off when the lights turn green and

tackle hills effortlessly, it can be customised to your riding style via an app. The bike is perfect for the urban environment, with a built-in ABUS lock plus integrated GPS tracking and an alarm.

From £3,579, [velo-de-ville.com](https://www.velo-de-ville.com)

BEST FOLDING



BROMPTON P-LINE ELECTRIC

Brompton has utterly perfected the folding bike format, and has become a status symbol for city commuters. The P-Line Electric takes this winning design and adds a motor, so you can power past MPs and TV stars, then

pack it up for the tube. The 2026 edition features a new design to reduce road buzz, wider handlebars for better control, and a removable pedal that makes it even smaller when folded.

From £3,879, [brompton.com](https://www.brompton.com)

CAR REPLACEMENT



TARRAN L1S

The easy choice here would be the Tern GSD, but Tarran's L1s has one-upped it. This longtail cargo bike boasts a whopping 215kg capacity and a motor with 100Nm of torque, as well as a clever motorised kickstand that

deploys when stopped, so you can pretend it's the landing gear on a 737. Add a built-in radar and camera, and you've got a super-safe, super-smart GSD-killer.

From €5,499 (around £4,720), [tarranbikes.com](https://www.tarranbikes.com)

MOST HIGH-TECH



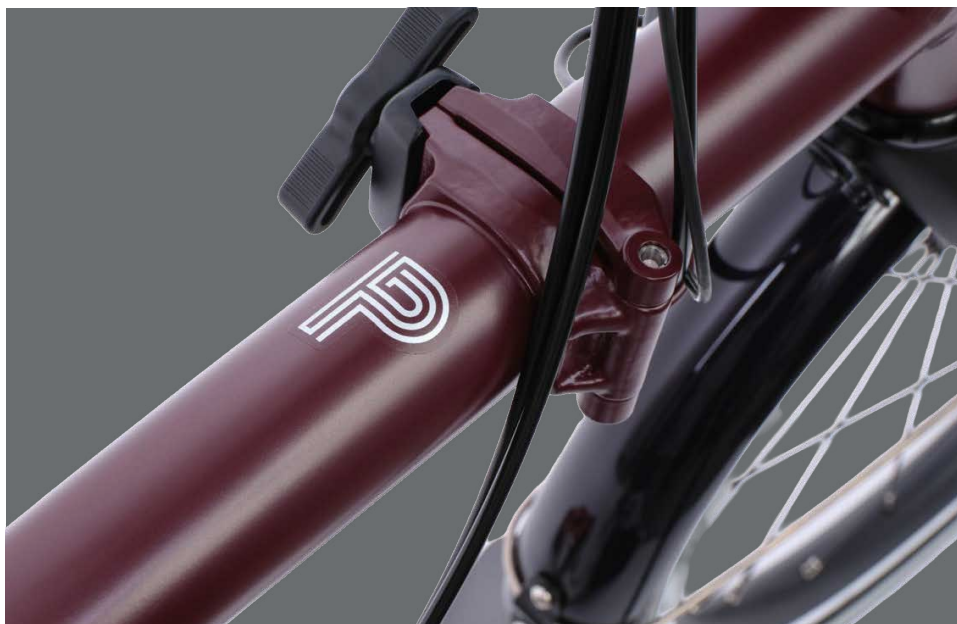
VOLKSWAGEN SMART E-BIKE

This bike is packed with tech borrowed from the German company's automobiles. A rear camera streams a live feed to the handlebar display, while a radar alerts you to incoming dangers. It also integrates with a top-tube

LED light bar with turn signals and brake lights, and you can get a matching helmet that connects via Bluetooth for even more Christmas tree-like visibility.

From £3,999, [volkswagen.co.uk](https://www.volkswagen.co.uk)





the rear wheel, which results in more stealthy frame designs. Gearing is usually much the same as it is on a non-electric bike, with front and rear derailleurs moving the chain into different cogs to change the ratio between pedalling and rotations of the rear wheel.

However, some e-bikes make use of carbon belt drives and intricate gearing in the rear hub to shift between gears. While this reduces the range of the gears, the benefit to this setup is that it's quieter, oil-free, and requires less maintenance. Because e-bikes add assistance to pedalling, a big gear range is less essential than it is on traditional bikes, and belt drives are becoming much more popular as a result.

THE FUTURE OF E-BIKES

E-bike sales are surging at the moment, and manufacturers are locked in an arms (or should that be legs?) race to create e-bikes that are safer, more efficient, and just much cooler. Solid-state batteries are likely to be the biggest upcoming shift in e-bikes, delivering as much power as conventional lithium-ion batteries in formats that are smaller, lighter, charge faster, and are inherently unable to burst into flames.

Meanwhile, e-bikes themselves are borrowing tech from a new generation of cars to protect riders on chaotic city streets. Created in collaboration with Volkswagen, Canyon's Roadlite:ON V2X incorporates V2X

technology that uses radio frequencies to enable vehicles to see one another – even when they're around corners or behind other large vehicles. In turn, this can alert drivers via dashboard warnings, and let cyclists know that something's coming with haptic vibrations in the handlebar grips.

Bikes and vehicles aren't the only things that are getting smarter – cities themselves are beginning to move more fluidly thanks to intelligent traffic lights that prioritise emergency vehicles, public transport, and e-bikes. These systems are already on trial in the Netherlands (of course!) and can automatically switch to green as you approach, so you never have to put your foot down. And up. And down again.

Utrecht's Flo system also uses overhead radar and rider instructions (speed up or coast) to group cyclists into a caravan of courage so they can pass through traffic lights in a 'green wave.' And, as e-bikes become more popular, dedicated cycle highways designed exclusively for higher speeds enable cyclists to get to their destinations in less time than it would take to drive there.

When previous generations imagined the world of tomorrow, it was often flying cars and jet packs that crossed their minds – but now it seems more likely that it'll be defined by supersmart e-bikes cruising effortlessly around hyperconnected cities. It may not be quite as exciting, and there are still some issues with legislation and safety to be ironed out – but if you want to be part of the future before it happens, get yourself an e-bike.

FIVE GOLDEN RULES OF THE ROAD FOR E-BIKE LEGALITY AND SAFETY

KNOW GOOD E-BIKES FROM EVIL

So, you're ready to ditch the hire bike and get your own electric two-wheeler. But before you splash your cash, it's important to understand one thing: there are good e-bikes, and there are evil e-bikes. Good e-bikes abide by EPAC laws – a maximum 250W continuous motor power and a 15.5 mph pedal-assist limit. Anything more turns your machine into an electric moped requiring licensing, insurance, and number plates. Police are seizing and crushing illegal bikes, so sticking with road-legal models is essential.

AVOID FIRE HAZARDS

Uncertified grey-market e-bike batteries can cause terrifying fires. Thankfully, buying a safe e-bike is easier than ever thanks to initiatives like the E-Bike Positive

campaign, which is backed by major brands such as Specialized and Trek alongside retailers including Halfords and Decathlon. Always ensure your bike complies with EN 15194 safety standards and only use the manufacturer-approved charger.

LOCK IT LIKE IT'S HOT

E-bikes represent high-value targets for urban bike thieves, and thin cable locks are basically a great big invitation for someone to nab your precious two-wheeler. Invest in dedicated high-security hardware carrying a Sold Secure Gold or Powered Diamond rating. Always anchor both the main frame and rear wheel to an immovable bike stand. If your bike features a removable battery or quick-release display, take it with you.

PLAN SAFE, STRESS-FREE ROUTES

Taking full advantage of electric power means you don't need to stick to the shortest roads. Use cycle-specific navigation apps such as Komoot to find segregated cycle tracks, low-traffic neighbourhoods, and canal paths. A ten-minute detour may keep you clear of heavy traffic, blind spots, and irate motorists.

STAY VISIBLE

E-bikes accelerate faster than traditional bicycles, which means drivers often misjudge your approach speed at junctions. Keep daytime running lights turned on at all times, wear a brightly coloured helmet, and check before you signal. Maintain a dominant lane position away from the side of the road, stay alert around large vehicle blind spots, and never undertake HGVs at red lights.



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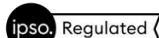
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T3

ISSUE 392

ON SALE

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27 OCTOBER

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We present the finest gadgets, perfect for putting under the tree or stuffing in a stocking



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It's our 30th birthday, so we celebrate the best tech mag in existence, and take a look back at the greatest gadgets of the last three decades

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THE BEST NEO-RETRO TECH TO BUY RIGHT NOW

What's old is new again, as a neo-retro revolution takes hold

Words: Rik Henderson



Nostalgia is a powerful force. We all have fond memories of people, moments, sounds and even smells, and when we experience them again, it can take us right back. Most of us also remember our first

mobile phone, game console, even music player. And many of us strive to replicate the experience.

Thankfully, we can. The retro tech market is booming, with myriad devices giving us classic designs with a modern twist. Be it for gaming,

audio, photography or phone use, there's something out there that harks back to yesteryear with the features of today.

Here are 15 great examples of neo-retro devices that deserve your attention and money today.



TECHNICS SL-1200 55TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

Not so much a neo-retro release as a special edition, this turntable is the real deal. Re-released to celebrate the model's 55th anniversary, this particular SL-1200 has been built as a limited run of just 1,200 units available worldwide, including a gold-coloured variant for those who want a bit of bling with their vinyl. **£TBC, technics.com**



KODAK CHARMERA

There are plenty of retro-inspired cameras on the market, but the collectable Charmera range from Kodak combines the old and new in arguably the cutest fashion. Designed to clip onto a keyring, or the strap of a bag, these digital cameras don't have the biggest sensor, but there's something fun about having a shrunken snapper wherever you go. **£35, kodak.com**

CLICKS COMMUNICATOR

Clicks has made a name for itself over the last couple of years, with its cases that add physical keyboards to iPhones. However, its Communicator handset goes one better, bringing back the BlackBerry for those who miss having a more tangible typing experience on their device. And as it runs on Android, you get a modern suite of apps too.

\$499 (around £370), clicks.tech



ACEMAGIC RETRO X3

Mini PCs come in all shapes and sizes, but Acemagic has become well-known for creating models that look like consoles from the 1980s. The Retro X3 is one of its cheaper options, but is great value for what you get. All you need to do is install Retrobat or Batocera and you have yourself a retro games machine that's more than capable of playing up to PS2.

£699, acemagic.com

TINY VINYL PLAYER

Tiny Vinyl releases miniature records of classic tracks that have become highly collectable. And while they can be played on any deck, it's great that they now have their own dedicated turntable too. The Tiny Vinyl Player is as compact as the four-inch discs it plays, and while it's only available in the US for now, it should arrive in the UK soon.

\$50 (around £37), tinyvinyl.com



FUJIFILM INSTAX MINI EVO CINEMA

Not only does the Instax Mini Evo Cinema camera look about as retro as it's possible to be, but it can record video in the styles of different eras too, from the '30s to modern day.

Clips are stored in 15-second chunks, so are perfect for sharing on social sites, and there's even an Instax printer built-in to provide physical copies of your favourite stills.

£329.99, instax.co.uk



FIIO DM15 R2R

The vinyl resurgence has been nothing short of miraculous, but now it seems that CD is starting to have its time in the sun too. The FiiO DM15 R2R is a great example why, with portability and lengthy battery life coupled with high-end hi-res audio capabilities, thanks to its built-in R2R DAC.

£249, fio.com

WE ARE REWIND X PINK FLOYD WE-001

We Are Rewind has carved out a niche by recreating tape-based music systems for a modern audience, and its WE-001 portable cassette players are keeping the Walkman dream alive. There are plenty of collaboration versions too, with this Pink Floyd edition even coming with a remastered version of *Dark Side of the Moon*.

£159, wearerewind.com

HYPERKIN SUPABOY

There are plenty of retro gaming handhelds available today, with most requiring you to add your own game ROMs on an SD card. The Hyperkin SupaBoy, however, celebrates the cartridges of the Super Nintendo, and has a slot at the back for you to insert your original physical games into. It's been around for a while, but has finally arrived in the UK, along with new retro-inspired colourways.

£119.99, hyperkinstore.com



GADHOUSE WESLEY HEADPHONES

It's fine to own a Walkman-alike in 2026, but to get the most authentic experience it's advised you match it with retro-style headphones. These Gadhouse wired on-ears feel about as '80s as shoulder pads and 'Frankie Says' T-shirts, yet also come with a USB-C adapter to connect them to modern gear.

£50, gadhouse.com



LEGO DONKEY KONG ARCADE

Okay, so this isn't tech exactly, but the Lego Donkey Kong Arcade set not only delivers a recreation of one of the best coin-ops of all time, you can roll barrels at Mario through a slot in the side. It's also reasonably priced for one of Lego's retro gaming builds, especially as you get 1,367 Lego pieces in the box.

£149.99, lego.com



SHANLING M0 PURA

Yes, you can listen to countless digital music tracks on your phone, but who doesn't miss the simplicity of an iPod? And especially the portability of an iPod nano. Well, the Shanling M0 Pura is essentially just that, it even comes in multiple colours like one of Apple's discontinued players, but better still is that it comes with Bluetooth and is capable of hi-res audio playback, too.

£129, en.shanling.com



COMMODORE CALLBACK 8020

After relaunching the Commodore 64, reimagined with HDMI and modern connectivity, the resurrected company has turned its hand to a phone. The Commodore Callback is a flip phone that harks back to when handsets were simpler, yet it still gives you access to some of the most popular social networks. You even get a 48-megapixel camera on the rear to help capture new memories.

From £294.58, commodore.net

8BITDO RETRO 87 KEYBOARD

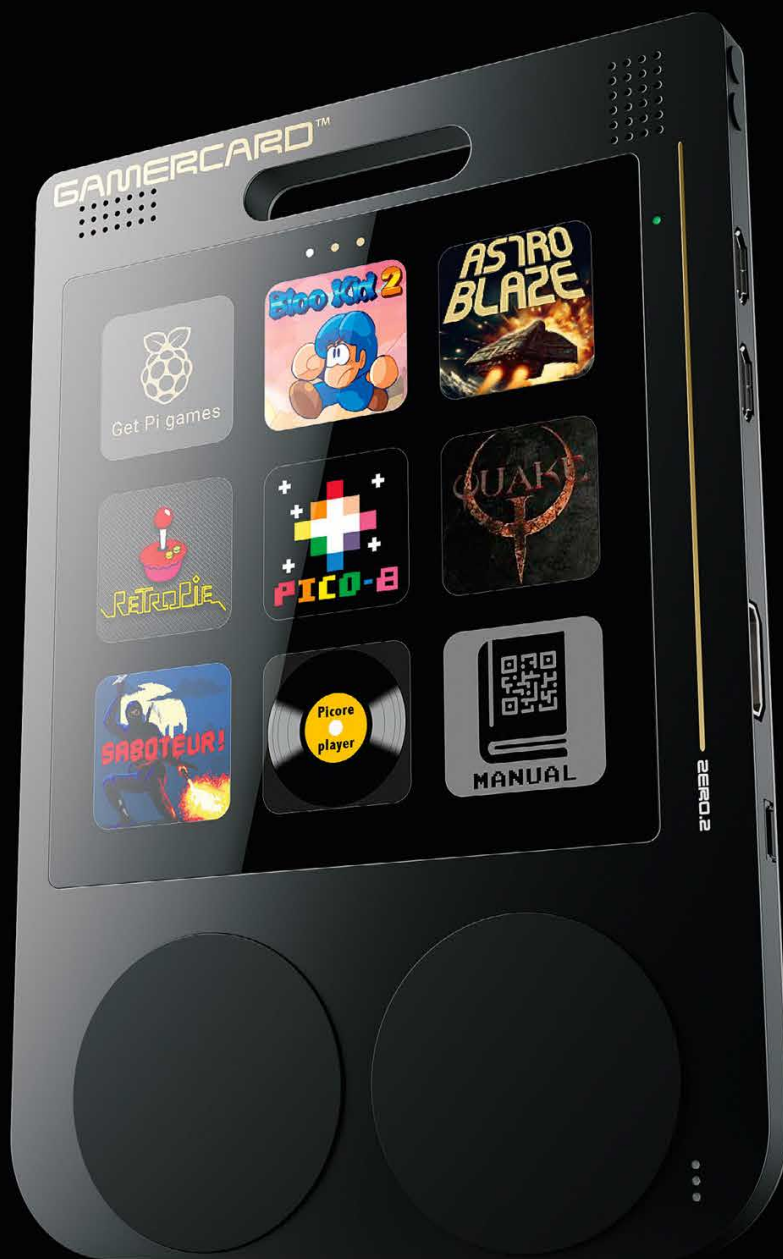
Renowned for its game controllers, 8BitDo also has a fine collection of mechanical keyboards in a variety of retro-inspired colours. There's one that looks like an NES console, another in the distinctive hues of a Commodore 64, and you can even get a special edition version that apes the translucent green design of the original Xbox and is compatible with Windows and Android.

From £85, 8bitdo.com

GAMERCARD

The superthin GamerCard gets double retro points by being able to emulate retro games on its stunning four-inch screen, and also being the brainchild of Grant Sinclair – the nephew of the genius behind the ZX Spectrum, Sir Clive. And yes, you can play classic Speccy games on it too, it even comes with a couple preinstalled.

From £99



RETRO COOL OR RETRO FOOL?

There's no doubt that retro-inspired devices can look cool, but unless you want some modern quality of life upgrades, you might be better off looking at second-hand original hardware. After all, you can still get film for a Polaroid Sun 660 camera

from the 1980s, and it might give you more authentic images in comparison with a current model.

It can also be argued that well-maintained speakers and audio equipment from the 1970s and 80s is just as good as today's, if not better.

You could also be doing the planet a favour – upcycling gear that would otherwise be heading to landfill is surely better than encouraging manufacturers to make disposable tech similarly destined for the bin.

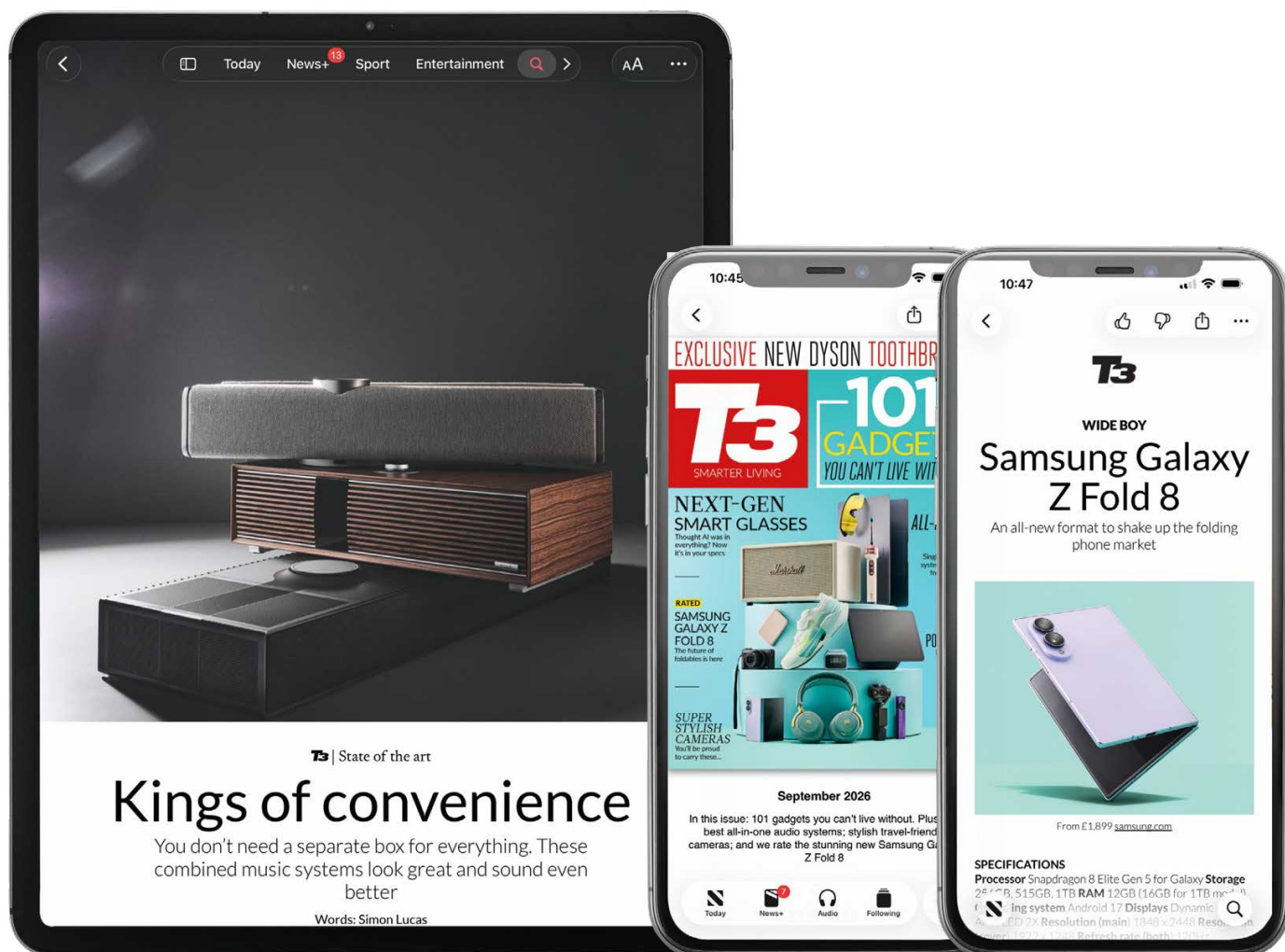
For example, there seems

to be a trend right now for disposable cameras once more – that are designed to be used until all the exposures are gone and then discarded. That's one side of retro we'd rather see stay in the past, to be honest, like CFC-laden hairsprays and deely-boppers.



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LIGHT AND *FAST* GAMING LAPTOPS

Portable gaming is more high-end than ever. The latest gaming laptops are as easy to carry as a MacBook, with stupendous graphics power

Words: T3 team Photography: Lucy Robinson





LENOVO LEGION 5 (GEN 10)

In the current economic climate, everything electronic is expensive, particularly portable gaming machines, but Lenovo's Legion 5 (Gen 10) breaks this wallet-unfriendly trend. It's one of the most affordable ways to get an Nvidia GeForce RTX 50-series card, and an OLED display, in a brand new laptop. In short: it's a laptop that does exactly what it says on the tin, in the best way possible, and will be hard to beat.

£1,779.99, lenovo.com

ASUS ROG FLOW Z13

Asus' 2-in-1 hybrid gaming tablet is either genius or madness. Versatility is the key here. On the one hand it's a Windows 11 tablet with a 13.4-inch WQXGA IPS panel and kickstand that can be used for touchscreen gaming, or watching films. On the other, with the keyboard attached magnetically, it's a proper gaming laptop. We say proper, as although there's a mighty AMD Ryzen AI Max 390 chip inside, the decidedly mid-range Radeon 8050S graphics chipset means that while it can play triple-A titles, a similarly priced gaming laptop will get you much better results.

£2,199.99, [asus.com](https://www.asus.com)





RAZER BLADE 16

Despite packing in ridiculous amounts of power – a 33% CPU performance increase over last year's model – the latest version of the 16-inch Razer Blade is one of the thinnest and lightest gaming laptops out there. At only 14.9mm thick and weighing in at 2.14kg, you get the snazziest, and very overclockable, Intel Core Ultra 9 386H, up to 64GB of the latest RAM, and a mighty Nvidia GeForce RTX card. The 16-inch QHD+ 240Hz OLED display is the icing on a very nice, albeit rather expensive, cake.

£3,099.99, [razer.com](https://www.razer.com)

MSI STEALTH 16 AI+

It seems everyone is making slim gaming laptops these days, so how does MSI's latest compete? A beautiful new design cements this sleek machine as a fantastic contender, though it's certainly not the thinnest out there, nor is it the lightest, and the massive price tag is hard to ignore.

Technically, though, it's right up there with the best, with an Intel Core Ultra 9 386H processor paired with an Nvidia GeForce RTX 5080 laptop GPU. A gorgeous OLED panel makes the most of its superb performance.

From £2,599.99, [msi.com](https://www.msi.com)





ACER PREDATOR HELIOS NEO 16S AI

If you want the screen real estate that a 16-inch gaming laptop offers, and to be able to pack it away and carry around without breaking your back – or, indeed, the bank – but aren't tempted or able to justify a truly ultralight option, then Acer's machine is a great choice for guaranteed high-end gaming. It boasts great specs, a beautiful OLED display, and the power to run the most recent games at their maximum settings.

£2,499.99, [acer.com](https://www.acer.com)

ASUS ROG ZEPHYRUS G14

Could this be the world's greatest gaming laptop? The 14-inch ROG Zephyrus G14 is slim, lightweight, and gorgeous to look at. As well as gaming, it can work well for productivity when needed – the 50-series GPU (up to a beastly 5080 in the most premium configuration) has the performance to support even modern releases. Around five hours of battery life on the road and a particularly nice keyboard give it remote-working potential, too.

£2,899.99, [asus.com](https://www.asus.com)



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PEBBLE
TIME 2

HOW WE TEST

In *T3*, we feature only the finest gadgets out there, and we believe that you – our loyal reader – deserve only the best tech in your life. We don't want you to waste time, and money, on inferior products, and that's exactly why our Tested section exists.

In here you'll find only the latest and hottest tech. Each product has been handpicked and tested by *T3*'s experts.

We only choose people with specialist knowledge for each test, so you know you're going to get an outcome based on many years of experience in their respective field.

As well as our traditional five-star rating system (right), we also give out awards to particularly exceptional gadgets, using the line-up below – so when you spot one of these, you'll know you're onto a good thing.

THE SCORES EXPLAINED

- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Forget it
- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Below average
- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Good for the price
- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Very good all round
- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ An exceptional, best-in-class product

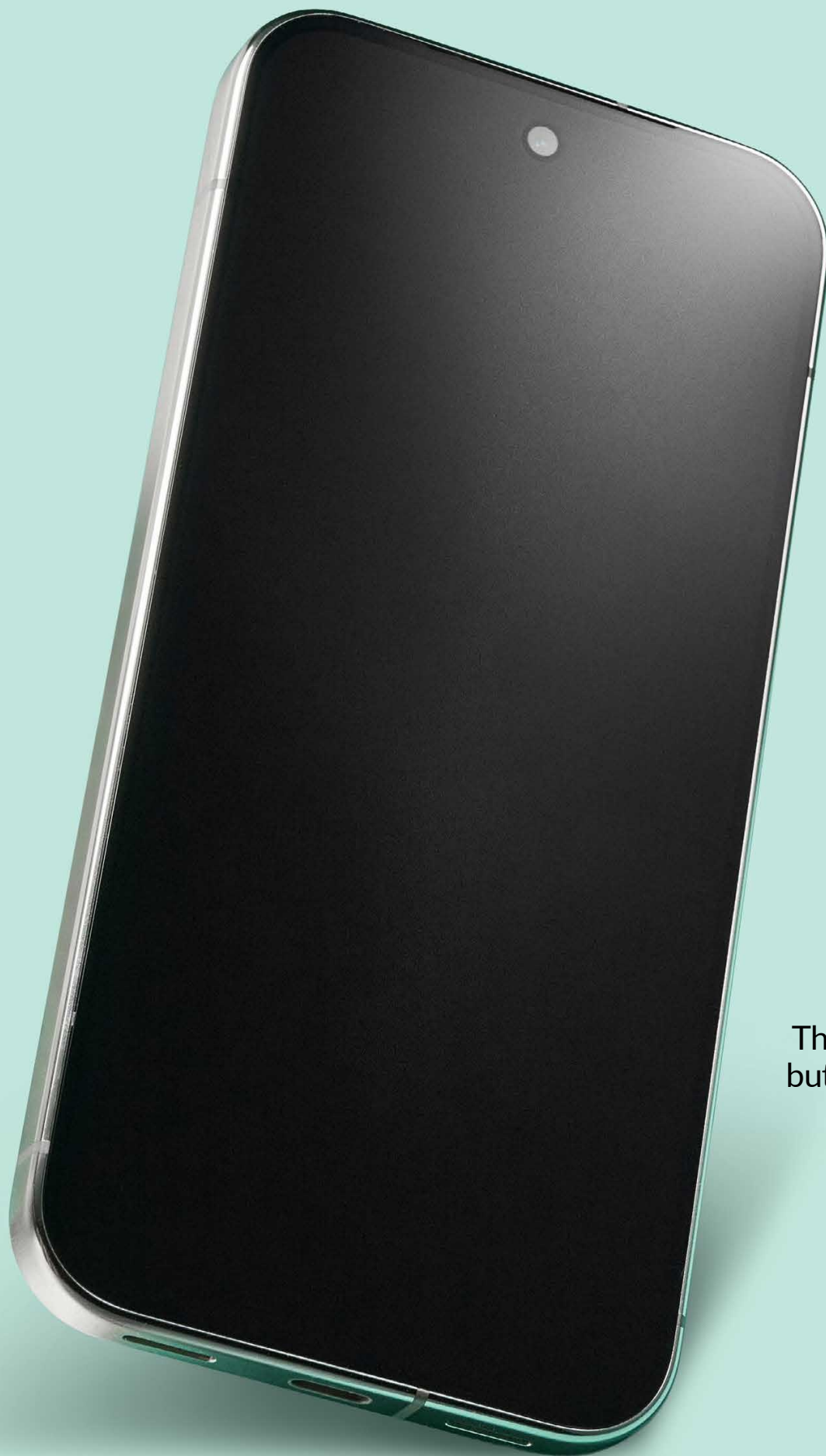
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PRO-DIGY

Google Pixel 11 Pro

The hardware is worth it,
but HiLight is no highlight

Believe it or not, Google has been making Pixel phones for almost a whole decade. The search giant's long-established hardware division has shown significant breakthroughs over the years, especially in computational photography skills for its camera setups.

Google's latest flagship hardware for 2026, however, doesn't break the mould for its now well-established features – such as those great cameras and distinctive design – but goes all-out with an increased focus on its

SPECIFICATIONS

CPU Google Tensor G6 **RAM** 12GB (16GB in 512GB and 1TB models) **Storage** 256GB (512GB and 1TB options)
Screen size 6.3in **Panel technology** LTPO OLED **Resolution** 2856 x 1280 **Refresh rate** 120Hz
Max brightness 3600nits (HDR peak) **Connectivity** 5G, Wi-Fi 7, Bluetooth 6, Ultra-wideband,
 satellite SOS, NFC, USB 3.2, Qi 2.2 **OS** Android 17 **Dimensions** 153 x 72 x 8.4mm **Weight** 204g



COAT OF MANY COLOURS

The Pixel 11 Pro comes in Canyon pink, a greenish khaki called Olive, Fog (which is your basic white) and a matte Obsidian dark grey. There's no shiny black option this time around.

AI agent, Google Gemini. The Pro models in the Pixel 11 series house a new feature called HiLight, which is an illuminated area in the rear camera bar, designed to act as a visual indicator when you're conversing with Gemini rather than interacting with your phone's screen. But is this one Google-centric feature enough to truly elevate the Pixel 11 Pro over its rivals?

Visually, the most obvious point of distinction over the Pixel 10 phones is that the Pixel 11 Pro makes the rear camera bar completely black, encased in a metallic edging, unlike the exposed flash area of the previous model. Part of the reason for this, of course, is that new HiLight feature. When active, the blue-white glow and motion of the light area is a Pixel 11 Pro (and Pro XL and Pro Fold) exclusive feature – it's not present in the base Pixel 11 model.

The design is otherwise largely the same as the last generation: protective glass sandwiched between an aluminium frame. This year's phone is the tiniest bit smaller than last year's, but the main differences can't be seen

by eye. The cameras get a quiet glow-up, with a new 50MP sensor used for the main camera, plus a larger sensor for the 48MP telephoto zoom. There's no resolution increase, sure, but the size and nature of these new sensors is an improvement.

The display also gets a quiet boost in terms of brightness. Its peak HDR output is even bolder for peak whites, across a panel that's otherwise the same size, resolution and refresh.

Tensor G6, meanwhile, brings more CPU and GPU capability than last year's G5 – but with a lower RAM pairing for the base model (only the 512GB version gets 16GB now).

Design classic

The familiar Pixel design brings the same downsides as we've seen for a few generations: the steep edge of the camera bar loves to collect dust and debris, and the metal edging of the unit is prone to scuffs and marks after only a matter of days.

One of the Pixel 11 Pro's star qualities is its display. That's partly down to the quality of the visuals, the

The HiLight LED looks like a lens, but it's more like Nothing's Glyphs

natural colours and the abundant brightness, but it's partly down to the software and how Google's implementation of Android 17 permits you to arrange icons, adjust scale and sizing better than some other brands.

It's not quite perfect, though, on account of the ongoing choice to use a glossy coating that doesn't negate reflections as well as others, while curved display edges can cut into your content – it's a little annoying when the 'x' to close an ad is teetering on the edge of being visible.

The benefit to the glossy coating, however, is the way in which images look more three-dimensional, as if they want to jump out of the panel. And the brightness here is so high that reflections can be offset to some degree. It's worth nothing that the auto-brightness can be a little keen to dip, instead of always taking advantage of its considerable reach.

Reduced bundle

Sadly, Google's bundling of a year's AI Pro subscription with a new phone has been trimmed down to just six





SIZE MATTERS

Step up to the Pixel 11 Pro XL, and the bigger screen drops the pixel density to 486ppi, which is still higher than the iPhone 17 Pro Max

months, which feels like bad business, as it adds to a user's year-one cost by a big margin.

In theory, you'll want that subscription for all the Google Gemini interaction that you'll be doing – especially with that new HiLight feature... but it's not very useful in practice. Yes, it illuminates and sort of wiggles about a bit, but conversations aren't improved and it only works with the phone placed face-down, so it feels a little lacking as it stands. There is the promise of more HiLight features to come, however.

We've also watched the brand

The camera bar means it doesn't wobble so much placed on a desk

Nothing grow over the years, with similar kinds of visual ideas from its Glyph systems of lights and displays on its phones' rears. They're not always invaluable, but are at least fun, whereas Google's equivalent here feels quite serious.

The Pixel 11 Pro uses Google's latest and most advanced processor yet, the Tensor G6. It's a quality chip, which somehow manages to run fairly cool within this glass and metal design. It gets warm, sure, just not quite to searing levels. Whether you're loading multiple apps, running some of the more hardcore games from the Play

Store, or switching between the Camera app and everything else, the Pixel 11 Pro performs every bit like a pro model (despite its RAM reduction).

All of this will affect the battery life, which is merely okay at best, and Google's auto-brightness preference tends to dim a bit more in an effort to conserve it. In testing, the phone reached the end of a day with its battery about to die, after 16 hours of use and plenty of screen time. Even Samsung's most recent foldable, with its silicon carbon battery, can outlast it. Charging could be quicker too, as 30W is behind the flagship norm now.

ALTERNATIVES



SAMSUNG GALAXY S26 ULTRA

A finessing of Android's finest, the S26 Ultra might seem like a marginal generation-on-generation upgrade, when you're upgrading the best to be better, that only makes for an even more compelling prospect.

From £1,279, [samsung.com](https://www.samsung.com)



HONOR 600 PRO

A great performer, with a good main camera and excellent display. The battery life is long and it's good value too, and it will go down in history as the Android phone that looked most like the iPhone 17 Pro.

From £899, [honor.com](https://www.honor.com)



NOTHING PHONE (4A) PRO

Nothing continues to break the mould, standing apart from its core competition, while holding its own in the key areas that matter. No other phone at this price has a tele zoom camera lens, for example.

From £499, [nothing.tech](https://www.nothing.tech)



SIX OF THE BEST

The Tensor G6 is built on the same 3nm TSMC process as the 10 Pro's G5, but has more cores (10), a tweaked architecture (ARM v9.3-A) and faster clock speeds (4.11GHz) than last year's chip.

PRO FEATURES

The 11 Pro is the same size as the vanilla Pixel 11 but gets a brighter screen, better cameras (including 8K video), 16GB RAM and a 1TB storage option too.

Camera upgrades

Flipping into the Pixel 11 Pro's Camera app opens the gates to one of the best experiences in any current Android phone. It's a simple, effective, yet powerful package, and while the core of the triple camera offering doesn't appear to have changed much – in that it delivers a 50-megapixel main, 48MP ultra-wide, and 48MP 5x optical zoom – there have been fundamental changes to two of those three sensors.

The Pixel 11 Pro's main camera gets an uplift in capability, but it's the telephoto that really gains a bigger advantage: its sensor is 30% larger than the previous model's was, which helps in light-gathering and overall quality potential. It's Google's best camera setup yet.

The optical stabilisation is great to help negate hand-shake, the trio of lenses looks consistent across the full package, and the Night Sight mode for long-exposure low-light shooting – which you can adjust in Settings as to when/how it activates – is truly brilliant for handheld low-light or night shots beyond what your eyes can even see.

Google's AI features are also worth a shout out, with well-

established Magic Eraser and Magic Editor bringing the magic once again. Whether you need to spot-remove a photobomber, or drag a subject elsewhere within the frame, these staples have now become part of the computational photography expectation. Google pretty much started this – and continues to lead the pack.

The only real downside is that the system isn't very good at telling you when something isn't quite in focus when in the Macro close-up mode. Get it right and the Pixel can deliver delightfully sharp shots.

What the Pixel 11 Pro gets so right is the completeness and simplicity of its camera package. It's consistent, full of features and modes, and delivers great results across all of its lenses and in majority of conditions. It's ahead of Samsung's offering – which is one of the key reasons to consider spending a little more on this phone than an S26 Ultra.

While many will see the Pixel 11 Pro models as a source of Gemini joy, The big new feature, HiLight, is actually mostly bypassable. It's an interesting first step in creating the ultimate 'AI Agent' phone, though.

Luckily, everything else about

The aluminium edges look nice, but can scratch quite easily

the Pixel 11 Pro is on point – and proves that Google's decade-long venture in the Android hardware space still proves its worth. From the overall design, to the camera suite's upgraded capabilities, and the latest Android 17 options, it's in the little details where the Pixel 11 Pro wins.

That said, the so-so battery life and the reduction in Google AI Pro subscription with purchase see this year's flagship held back from a full five-star score.



VERDICT

WE'RE IMPRESSED Upgraded cameras; distinctive design; flagship power.

WE'D IMPROVE New 'HiLight' feature just isn't dramatically useful; so-so battery life.

THE LAST WORD A very capable all-round flagship, but just misses out on greatness.



Find the best deals on the Pixel 11 Pro at bit.ly/t3p11pro



SPECIFICATIONS

Size 65-155in **Resolution** 3840 x 2160 **Refresh rate** 120Hz **Connectivity** 2x HDMI 2.1, 2x HDMI 2.0, 2x USB, Wi-Fi 6E, Bluetooth **Processor** Sony XR **Speakers** 8, 80W total **OS** Android TV

From £3,499
sony.com



HUE AND CRY

Sony Bravia 9 II

New flagship embraces next-gen RGB tech, but is this the future?

Sony has long been a proponent of LED backlights in TVs, with its flagship models often using some variation of that tech rather than the ever-popular OLED.

The RGB backlight in the Bravia 9 II uses separate red, green, and blue LEDs in each local dimming zone instead of standard white, and feels like an evolution of Mini-LED. This is a flagship Sony TV that shines in pretty much everything that it does – especially if brightness and colour are your biggest asks. It might not seal the deal over OLED, though.

Comparing today's Bravia 9 II to

the previous Bravia 9 from 2024 might not be quite fair. The Bravia 9 II increases audio output, as well as having that RGB backlight, using a new contrast-boosting system, and sporting an anti-reflective display, which is a new technology for Sony.

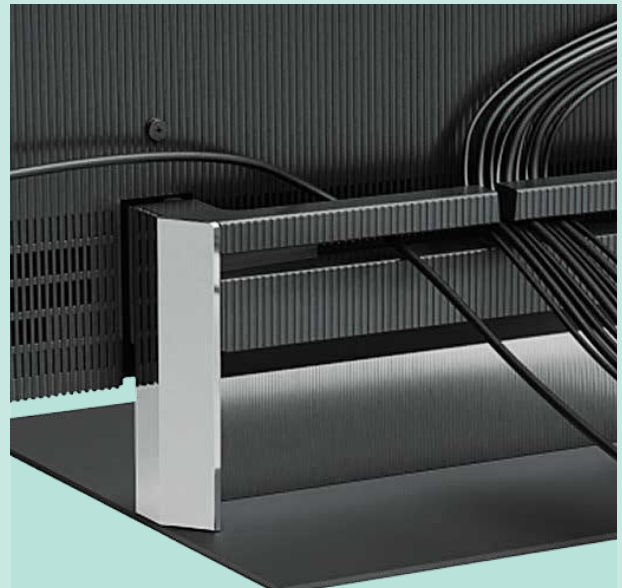
Peak brightness on the Bravia 9 was somewhere around 3,000 nits, but the Bravia 9 II aims to be closer to 4,000 nits.

Stand and deliver

More good news comes in the form of Sony's new Mirage stand, which is a very welcome addition, moving support into the centre of the screen

rather than at the edges as we saw in the previous generation. That makes it a lot easier if you want to place the TV on a piece of furniture – the 65-inch model is 145cm wide – but now you don't need a huge surface to sit it on, as it can protrude over the edges. The Mirage stand earns its name thanks to the clever refractive panel that slots between the legs. This plastic panel allows light through, but it obscures anything that's behind it. That basically means that cables can be hidden, but visually there's no huge block under the TV – it's a nice move to keep things tidy.

If you're interested in RGB



backlights then there's something you need to know: this tech results in hefty TVs. While premium OLED models are wafer-thin, RGB TVs are hench. Sony has used the extra bulk of this TV to pack in a more accommodating sound system, but the 65-inch model is definitely a two-handed lift.

There are two remotes in the box: one a button-heavy handset that's been established for many years; and a lighter remote made from recycled plastics, offering USB-C charging, which strips down the buttons to the most-used basics.

Sony's TV uses the Google TV platform, and the setup process is rather long, walking you through a number of steps that invite you to connect devices, as well as introducing you to My Cinema, the core of Sony's picture modes.

At the back, Sony hasn't made a huge change from its previous input arrangement: only two of the four HDMI ports support full-bandwidth HDMI 2.1. That's a pain for anyone connecting a soundbar and multiple games consoles. This is a 120Hz display, so there's a bit of a feeling

that you're not getting a huge amount of futureproofing here.

Colour theory

Sony continues to offer exceptional visual processing. The RGB tech can deliver huge brightness and vibrancy, and the fact that Sony keeps that in balance is a credit to the brand's pursuit of accuracy.

There's no HDR10+ and there's no Filmmaker Mode, which is usually what TVs recommend for the 'most accurate' presentation. Instead, Sony offers calibrated modes for Netflix and Amazon Prime, and these will overrule Dolby Vision, which is usually upheld as the gold standard for HDR content. You can turn those calibrated modes off for even better results, as they can be a little dark. But RGB isn't a magic bullet, as there are areas where its delivery looks a little strange, giving you a combination of a slightly muted picture, but with colours that pop off the screen – and that includes sport. The adverts around a football pitch can be really vibrant, for example, while the grass remains dull.

This is a great-sounding TV, with

The stand's cable management is almost as exciting as the RGB tech

an 80W speaker system made up of eight speakers. Rather than firing down from the bottom of the screen, the system is divided into two woofers in the rear of the screen, left and right speakers placed at eye-level (around two-thirds of the way up the screen) left and right sound-positioning tweeters, and upfiring beam tweeters. The layout is designed to support immersive audio, and it makes a noticeable difference.

Overall, the Bravia 9 II is a great TV for brighter rooms – and a showcase for RGB tech. It's not an OLED killer, as there's still blooming when viewed off-axis. But Sony's handling of dark scenes displays movies the way they're supposed to look.



VERDICT

WE'RE IMPRESSED

Outstanding colour presentation; huge brightness; clever stand design.

WE'D IMPROVE A bit chunky; some blooming issues persist; comes in at flagship OLED price.

THE LAST WORD Not quite as precise as OLED, but has the potential to deliver some outstanding HDR content with punch like no other.



Find great deals for the Sony Bravia 9 II at bit.ly/t3sb9ii

THE ALTERNATIVES

SAMSUNG S99H

A hugely bright QD-OLED model that's stunning in its delivery, while not delivering quite the accuracy out of the box that Sony strives for. From £2,299, samsung.com



LG OLED G6

One of the finest OLED models you can buy, and cheaper than the Sony. The glossy finish retains the brilliant blacks that OLED is known for. From £1,849, lg.com





NOMINATIVE

Bose QuietComfort Headphones (2nd Gen)

Trickle-down features make these a premium choice

These updated over-ear headphones take their cues from the superior QuietComfort Ultra model – including many features that, in some cases, put them on par with the best. If you're a fan of physical buttons rather than touch controls, then these 2nd Gen cans arguably make the better choice.

The QC 2 come with a carry case, in which is a little pouch with USB-C-to-C and USB-C-to-3.5mm cables. That's handy for when you want to use wired connections, such as on planes. The earcups fold towards the headband, minimising their size for stowing, and everything is held nice and secure in the case.

While some aspects of the product's feel in the hand might not be hyper-premium, you'll forget about that when wearing them, as they're lightweight enough to wear for hours, and so comfortable they almost dissolve away.

The sound is truly epic. Big bass, plus enthusiastic mid and high frequencies, combine to output a wide soundstage even with the settings at their most basic. Play around with the Immersion aspect (a feature that was originally

the reserve of the Ultra model) and it gives the headphones a three-dimensional uplift that makes you feel as if you're moving through the music. It can over-sharpen some higher frequencies, and battery life is more limited when it's in use, but it's a totally optional processing feature.

It certainly doesn't affect just how capable the active noise-cancelling system is. Bose is the master at this, and the ANC is ideal for blotting out surrounding ambient sound and focusing on your listening. There's one thing that can fox the ANC, however, and that's changes in pressure. That's not unique to this product, but passing trains can cause one side of the ANC to cut out and reset. No biggie, but something you might notice on public transport.

So while the QC 2 don't have 'Ultra' in the name, there are plenty of ultra features on show here. And should you prefer physical buttons to touch-sensitive ones, this non-Ultra model is actually your best match. While the build might not look great at every turn, the cushioning materials and wear factor are second to none, and they sound really, really good.



VERDICT

WE'RE IMPRESSED

Impressive active noise-cancelling; lightweight and comfortable; foldable design and included carry case.

WE'D IMPROVE Inelegant integrated buttons; ANC affected by pressure changes.

THE LAST WORD

If you're looking for headphones with excellent sound quality, exceptional ANC and strong battery life, these tick every box.



Find Bose QC HP (2nd Gen) deals at bit.ly/46bzRpG

£179
garmin.com

CIRQA OF LIFE

Garmin Cirqa

Excellent health and fitness tracking with no screen

Some Garmin fans have been waiting years for the company to launch a screenless wearable, and many expected it to be a smart ring. It's not, it's a band, but this isn't disappointing: the Cirqa has some personality and does what a screenless wearable should do: passively track your health and fitness. Better still, it gives you access to Garmin's polished ecosystem for a lot less than your average Forerunner or Fenix.

The Cirqa is essentially Garmin's Elevate Gen 4 optical heart-rate sensor with a vibration motor attached to a strap, and it's hard not to like it. It has 128MB of onboard memory (for data, not music), Bluetooth and ANT+ connectivity, and a 5ATM water-resistance rating, making it suitable for swimming. If you have a Garmin watch but don't like wearing it to bed, the Cirqa might be a good accessory. It's also beneficial for people who do resistance training and handle kettlebells.

It does, however, suffer from the same issue as other casual Garmin wearables: the algorithm caters more to athletes than everyday people.

Performance is essentially the same as other Garmin wearables that use the same sensor. It tracks your vitals and sends them to the Connect app, where the algorithm makes sense of it all. The sensor can also track your blood oxygen and includes an accelerometer, but no built-in GPS. Like cheaper fitness trackers, the Cirqa uses connected GPS from a paired smartphone to track outdoor position. The band can continuously monitor heart rate every second and feed data into familiar Garmin metrics, including HRV Status, Body Battery, stress, sleep, Training Readiness, and Training Status. It also

supports advanced sleep tracking, nap detection and respiration monitoring.

If you subscribe to Garmin Connect+, the Active Intelligence algorithm will provide activity summaries and suggested workouts. The Cirqa band tracks workouts (and walks) automatically, but is very athlete-centred and may not count walking as exercise, leading to a feeling that you're not exercising enough while also doing quite a lot. It needs an internet connection via a smartphone, but there's little to criticise when it comes to data accuracy – the sensor is more than sophisticated enough.

The Cirqa uses the same four-pin charger the company has used for years, so if you already have a watch, you should be able to charge your band with the same cable. Charging is fairly quick, and Garmin rates it for 10 days of life between charges. In our testing it kept going for nine. Close enough.

The Garmin Cirqa is a comfortable, discreet and impressively long-lasting fitness tracker that makes Garmin's excellent health ecosystem more accessible without putting another screen on your wrist.



T3

VERDICT

WE'RE IMPRESSED

Distraction-free fitness tracking; great ecosystem; comfier than smartwatches with silicone straps; strong battery life.

WE'D IMPROVE No on-board GPS or screen for instant feedback; Active Intelligence feels awkward.

THE LAST WORD Tap into Garmin's excellent health and fitness ecosystem without wearing a smartwatch.

★★★★☆

Find the best Garmin Cirqa deals at bit.ly/4yixsp4



SPECIFICATIONS

CPU Qualcomm Snapdragon X2 Elite
RAM Up to 32GB **Storage** Up to 2TB SSD **OS** Windows 11 **Ports** 3x USB4 **Wireless connectivity** Wi-Fi 7, Bluetooth 5.4 **Dimensions** 14 x 312 x 221mm **Weight** 1.17kg

From £1,050
lenovo.com



UPWARD SALUTE

Lenovo Yoga Slim 7X Gen 11

Qualcomm's Snapdragon X2 processor delivers the goods

The latest Lenovo Yoga Slim 7X is among the first laptops that we've tried with a Snapdragon X2 Elite processor. This is what's going to have to do battle with not just Intel's new Core Series 3 generation, but the upcoming Nvidia Spark tech that could potentially rewrite the thin-and-light laptop rulebook.

For years, Lenovo has nailed both the looks and practicality of the Yoga Slim family. But the one part we always have to mention is the way this isn't quite as 'yoga' a laptop as you may expect.

It's not a hybrid. It doesn't even

have a touchscreen – although you can spec it up with one. The Yoga Slim 7X Gen 11 is a pure ultraportable laptop, with no funny stuff involved, bar a near-but-not-quite 180° hinge.

Lenovo has made some perhaps slightly contentious moves to get the weight down to a trim 1.17kg, though. While the Yoga Slim 7X Gen 11 has a lovely all-metal outer casing, the screen has a plastic top layer. It's a dead giveaway when you notice the reflections distort a bit. This also means it loses the desirable pure flat screen finish you typically get in a glass-screened PC. A biggie? That's up to you to decide.

It's a good screen otherwise (though Lenovo sells this PC with at least three different panels) – a 14-inch 120Hz OLED, one whose 3K resolution looks sharp and clean at this size. Colour depth is fantastic too. And, as usual, OLED gets you those inky and deep blacks that make movie borders disappear completely in a dark room.

Bright and beautiful

This generation gets a big brightness upgrade, although you won't see it in all conditions. In a normal room the Yoga Slim 7X Gen 11 will reach around 500 nits brightness with normal



content. Feed it some high dynamic range video, though, and the ceiling rises to an impressive 1000 nits.

This laptop also has a more chunky and substantial-feeling keyboard than most of its contemporaries, with a decent white backlight. You can feel some of the Lenovo ThinkPad heritage here: it's ideal for long stretches of typing, and for all-day working that doesn't just involve meetings.

The touchpad is very familiar too. It's not a haptic pad, just a classic mechanical one. And that means it does have a slim dead zone at the top, an area that does not click. It's old-school, but is still a great pad, and has a quality click response, with a super-smooth textured glass surface.

And unlike a bunch of other slim-and-light-laptops, this one does not bridge the generation gap on connectivity. You get three USB-C ports and that's it. They are all USB4, though, each offering 40Gbps.

Snap happy

The Yoga Slim 7X Gen 11 will be many folks' first exposure to Qualcomm's second-generation Snapdragon CPUs. The first-gen chips made a splash in

2024 with their unusual architecture, long battery life and fab performance. This generation's aim is to take things even further while addressing the biggest issues with the first: graphics processing power and compatibility with some apps.

And it turns out the raw performance is terrific, particularly considering how portable this PC is. Its CPU power beats the rival third-gen Intel Ultra series in benchmarks, representing up to a 30% increase in power. GPU performance gets a huge upgrade too, with as much as a 70% boost over the last generation. That's not bad across one generational leap, way more than what we typically see.

It means you can run *Cyberpunk 2077* at 60fps with a bit of settings massaging, rather than 30fps, and plenty more besides. Gaming power is roughly equivalent to a low-tier gaming laptop, which isn't bad, but it doesn't have the upscaling or frame-gen tech you get from an Nvidia GPU.

As for app compatibility, there's a significant improvement. Some apps that flat-out didn't work with Snapdragon X1 laptops will run just

The Gen 11 only comes in Cosmic Blue, which makes a change from grey

fine here. However, there appear to be some support issues with the DirectX XII graphics framework, which has been an issue in getting some games to run, including *Resident Evil 5* and *Guardians of the Galaxy*.

The Yoga's fairly ordinary 70Wh capacity battery will stretch to a very long runtime if you don't push the laptop too hard. When playing video, the laptop will last around 15.5 hours, which is towards the higher end of what we've seen from the latest generation of portability-first laptops.

The Lenovo Yoga Slim 7X Gen 11 is among the best laptops in its class if you're happy to prioritise practicality and the fundamentals over flashy stuff and extra features.



VERDICT

WE'RE IMPRESSED

Top-quality keyboard; bright OLED screen; long battery life.

WE'D IMPROVE

Relatively weak speakers; only three USB-C ports.

THE LAST WORD Powerful, light and great to work on for long stretches, the Lenovo Yoga Slim 7X Gen 11 is an ideal ambassador for Qualcomm's Snapdragon X2 processors.



Find great deals for the 7X Gen 11 at bit.ly/t3lys7xgen11

THE ALTERNATIVES

APPLE MACBOOK NEO

In day-to-day use, the cheapest MacBook is more than capable and has no problem with multitasking. Most users will be completely satisfied.

From £699, apple.com



DELL XPS 13 (2026)

A stunningly compact and very lightweight metallic slab, the new XPS 13 has the best design of any Windows laptop we've tested in many years.

From £899, dell.com



From £166
repebble.com



ROCKING

Pebble Time 2

Resurgent smartwatch brand produces one of the most enjoyable wearables we've tested this year

Pebble was big in the early 2010s, then after financial trouble passed through the hands of Fitbit and Google, before its software was open-sourced and the company's original founder revived the brand last year.

The Pebble Time 2 looks exactly like you'd hope. It's square, slightly nerdy (and utilitarian), but there's enough metal and detailing here to stop it feeling like a novelty throwback. The case is CNC-milled from 316 stainless steel with a hardened PVD coating, while the front is covered by a flat Gorilla Glass lens.

It feels nice on the wrist, considerably more premium than the plasticky smartwatches Pebble was known for during its first life. Four physical buttons surround the case, also made from CNC-milled stainless steel and given the same knurled finish Pebble used on the old Time Steel from 2015. There's something wonderfully straightforward about moving through menus, dismissing notifications or controlling music without looking closely at what you're doing. The Time 2 does have a touchscreen, but Pebble remains very much button-first, and almost everything can be accomplished using them.

The other star of the show is the 1.5-inch, 64-colour e-paper screen. It has a modest 200 x 228 resolution, but judging it by pixel count rather misses the point. It reflects ambient light,

though there is an RGB backlight you can activate with a wrist flick, and as a result it's always on but the luminosity isn't on a par with AMOLED panels. Colours are muted, and animations look distinctly retro. There are thousands of watch faces to choose from, ranging from extremely simple digital faces to colourful designs, weather displays and wonderfully silly creations. Installing them from the Pebble app takes seconds.

Pebble has also added some fitness and health functionality, while stressing that the Time 2 isn't a fitness watch. There's an optical heart-rate sensor, and the watch records steps, distance, calories and sleep. The last of those was oddly inaccurate in testing, and while PebbleOS is constantly getting updates it feels at odds with the disciplined approach to features.

Battery life depends on how you have the watch configured. Pebble says the median is around 21 days, but we saw just 11 between charges. The app recommended we turn down the backlight intensity and reduce the time before it switches off.

The Pebble Time 2 is more of an enthusiast gadget than a mainstream smartwatch: it gives up advanced fitness, payments and other modern conveniences in favour of battery life, physical controls and endless customisation. Not essential, perhaps, but undeniably fun.

T3

VERDICT

WE'RE IMPRESSED

Always-on e-paper display; long battery life; huge scope for customisation.

WE'D IMPROVE Expensive for what it does; limited fitness and smartwatch features; sleep tracking inaccurate.

THE LAST WORD

A wonderfully nerdy smartwatch that trades modern bells and whistles for personality, battery life and endless customisation.

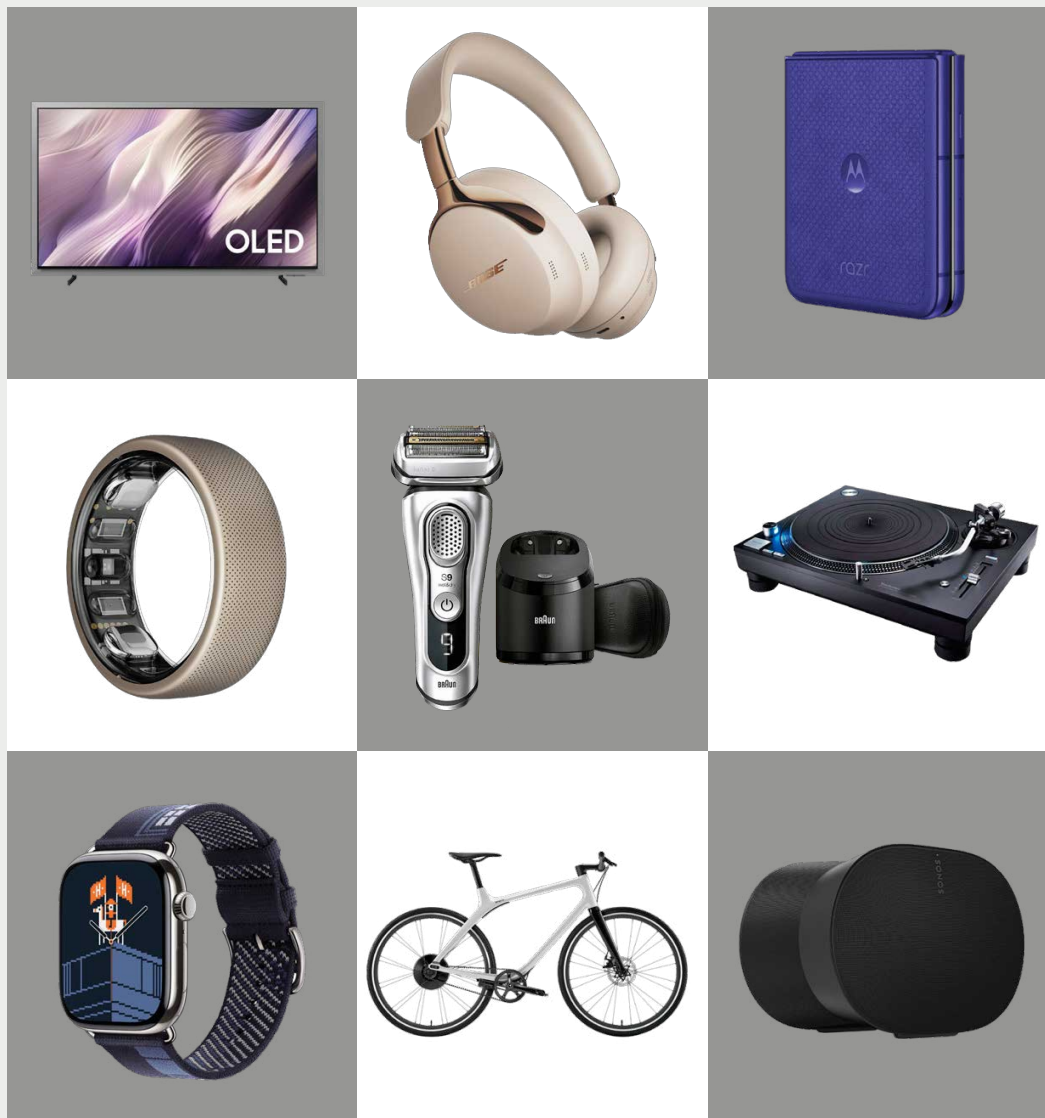
★★★★☆

Find great Pebble Time 2 deals at bit.ly/T3PT2



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just the right mix of features and budget for what you need. These rankings come from real testing by our team of experts – they're the products we'd choose for ourselves, and we can't recommend any more highly than that.

Look for the links above each category that take you to the same list (plus more beyond the top four, and many more categories) at **T3.com**, where our price comparison system shows you the current best deals for every product.



SMARTPHONES

Find the lowest prices at:
t3.com/bestphone

APPLE IPHONE 17 PRO

From £1,099, apple.com



The best iPhone for your money, it delivers super cameras with amazing optical stabilisation, a gorgeous design (now in orange!), a larger Max version, and is undoubtedly a top-tier Apple device.

SAMSUNG GALAXY S26 ULTRA

From £1,279, samsung.com



The best premium Android phone is the Galaxy S26 Ultra. With a gorgeous design, superb cameras and a stylus for added versatility, Android phones don't get any more sophisticated.

GOOGLE PIXEL 11 PRO

From £1,079, store.google.com



With its distinctive design and upgraded cameras, Google's flagship goes from strength to strength. It's also full of AI, and the latest Android release brings some fun new features to the table.

APPLE IPHONE 17E

From £599, apple.com



The cheapest iPhone still performs every bit as well as you would expect. It has a great-looking screen, an excellent rear camera and is the ideal phone for younger users, or those on a budget.



FOLDING SMARTPHONES

Find the lowest prices at:
t3.com/bestfolding

SAMSUNG GALAXY Z FOLD 8

From £1,699, samsung.com



A bold vision for the future of foldables – and the 4:3 aspect ratio will rapidly become a norm. Its crease-negating Flex Titanium tech makes it an ideal platform for media consumption.

GOOGLE PIXEL 10 PRO FOLD

£1,749, google.com



More battery, brighter screens, less front bezel and better charging are the key takeaways here. The camera system is versatile, the screens some of the brightest, and the software advanced.

MOTOROLA RAZR 70 ULTRA

£1,199, motorola.com



Easily the best flip phone you can buy, with the biggest and most usable cover display. You're not going to be disappointed in any aspect of this flip phone, it scores highly in all key areas.

HONOR MAGIC V6

£1,999, honor.com



Thin and light yet powerful with little compromise – and a battery life that'll outshine any of its current competitors. That last one alone is reason enough to buy this foldable over any other.



TABLETS

Find the lowest prices at:
t3.com/besttablet

APPLE IPAD AIR (M4, 2026)

From £599, apple.com



Apple continues to outdo itself with its iPad Air, and the M4 model is a brilliant piece of kit. Whether you're browsing, streaming or working in productivity apps, this is a great upgrade.

APPLE IPAD 11TH GEN (2025)

From £329, apple.com



Apple's entry-level iPad is great value, and the latest version ups the screen size to 11in. It's a fantastic option if you want an iPad but don't need the extra features (and cost) of the Pro or Air.

SAMSUNG GALAXY TAB S10 FE+

From £459, samsung.com



You don't have to pay over the odds for a good-quality Android tablet: this one uses an IPS LCD rather than an OLED screen, but that makes it a great value choice if your budget is tight.

XIAOMI PAD 8 PRO

From £529, mi.com



A premium Android tablet with flagship power, great battery life and a nice design that's only blighted by the chunky camera. This tablet is excellent value for money, and is bound to turn heads.



SMARTWATCHES

Find the lowest prices at:
t3.com/bestsmartwatch

ONEPLUS WATCH 3

£319, oneplus.com



Refined with an AMOLED screen, rotating crown, dual-chip setup, robust health tracking and a five-day battery life. It is stylish, loaded with features, and ideal for all Android users.

APPLE WATCH SERIES 11

From £369, apple.com



The Apple Watch Series 11 provides the best smartwatch experience today. There might be some with longer battery life or more features, but we've yet to see one that can surpass Apple's platform.

SAMSUNG GALAXY WATCH ULTRA 2

£649, samsung.com



Samsung's most complete smartwatch yet, combining a dazzling display, excellent health tracking, improved battery life and a more comfortable design. It's an outstanding wearable.

APPLE WATCH SE 3

From £219, apple.com



The corners Apple had to cut to keep the price of the Apple Watch SE 3 at an affordable level are forgivable. We'd recommend it to people who like to get their money's worth and seek value.



SMART RINGS

Find the lowest prices at:
t3.com/best-smart-ring

OURA RING GEN 5

From £399, ouraring.com



Offering refinement rather than flashy innovation, the Oura remains the most polished and capable smart ring available, despite incremental hardware changes and an unavoidable subscription fee.

ULTRAHUMAN RING AIR

£192, ultrahuman.com



A lightweight smart ring, offering comprehensive health-tracking capabilities. It excels in sleep and recovery monitoring, providing insights through its app, all without subscription fees.

RINGCONN GEN 2 AIR

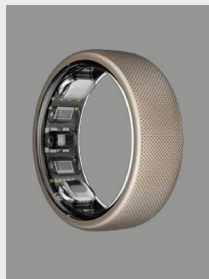
£239, ringconn.com



Solid health tracking features without the burden of subscription fees, as well as an excellent battery life, are the hallmarks of this ring, which delivers on its promises without unnecessary frills.

AMAZFIT HELIO RING

£192, amazfit.com



Excels in sleep tracking, readiness and recovery, but lacks standalone functionality and automatic activity recognition. Best for Amazfit smartwatch users needing advanced insights.



WATCHES

Find the lowest prices at:
t3.com/bestwatch

AUDEMARS PIGUET ROYAL OAK CHRONOGRAPH

£21,500, audemarspiguet.com



We love Audemars Piguet's simple stainless steel model with a blue Grand Tapisserie pattern dial. It features a self-winding manufacture calibre 2385 movement with a 40-hour power reserve.

BAMFORD LONDON MAYFAIR DATE

£500, bamfordlondon.com



The Bamford Mayfair Date is dependable and has the added benefit of being waterproof to 10ATM, making it a great accessory for outdoor activities while remaining cool and stylish.

BAUME SMALL SECONDS

£430, baume-et-mercier.com



Baume uses sustainable and recycled materials where possible, and its elegant watches are fully customisable, with over 2,000 permutations achievable on an online configurator.

BELL & ROSS BR03 NIGHTLUM

£3,600, bellross.com



Aviation heritage has been clearly channelled into the BR03's straightforward, design. The BR03 packs a sapphire crystal face and a hard-wearing leather strap.



TVs

Find the lowest prices at:
t3.com/besttv

SAMSUNG S99H

From **£2,499**, [samsung.com](https://www.samsung.com)



Picture quality so bold and bright – yet still natural and convincing – that it's almost unbelievable. Most people's living rooms will appreciate the anti-glare panel's ability to diffuse reflections, too.

LG OLED G6

From **£1,699**, [lg.com](https://www.lg.com)



Delivers on its promise of premium picture performance without flagship pricing in just about every area that matters, with very few negatives to talk about and a mature smart platform.

PHILIPS OLED 910

From **£2,199**, [philips.co.uk](https://www.philips.co.uk)



A new panel type means a brighter picture, while the Bowers & Wilkins audio collaboration makes for one of the best-sounding sets straight out of the box. You get four-sided Ambilight too.

SONY BRAVIA 9 II

From **£3,499**, [sony.com](https://www.sony.com)



Sony's new flagship TV switches to an RGB backlight that delivers big brightness and colour vibrancy. It's not quite an OLED, but Sony's powerful panel makes for a premium watching experience.



TVs UNDER £1,000

Find the lowest prices at:
t3.com/besttv1000

AMAZON EMBER QLED

From **£649**, [amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk)



A great mid-range TV, offering solid picture quality thanks to its brighter panel and increased dimming zones. The Fire TV interface is familiar and fast too, thanks to a boosted processor.

LG OLED C5

From **£949**, [lg.com](https://www.lg.com)



The C6 has priced itself out of this column, but the C5 is one of the best gaming TVs and delivers incredibly cinematic results for movies too. A great all-rounder that's worth the price.

TCL P8K

£499, [tcl.com](https://www.tcl.com)



Less than £500 for a 55in 4K TV is a bargain, and this QLED set has a lot of mod cons on board such as an Onkyo sound system, bright HDR image quality and HDMI 2.1 features for gamers.

SKY GLASS

From **£156/year**, [sky.com](https://www.sky.com)



The Sky Glass is a 4K QLED TV with a decent display that's easy to set up and, most importantly, you don't need to drop a chunk of cash on it to buy – it can be bought as part of your Sky package.



8K TVs

Find the lowest prices at:
t3.com/best-8k-tv

SAMSUNG QN900B

£3,399, [samsung.com](https://www.samsung.com)



The 65in Samsung QN900B proves that Mini LED can get close to OLED in terms of quality, and has support for both HDR and the latest HDMI 2.1 format – making this a great buy.

LG Z3

£7,999, [lg.com](https://www.lg.com)



OLED remains the top choice in display technology, and the 77in Z3 doesn't disappoint. You get all the usual quality and contrast plus brilliant upscaling in an incredibly thin design.

SAMSUNG QN900D

£3,499, [samsung.com](https://www.samsung.com)



It's not cheap, but you still get plenty of value for money from this, because of the super-bright Mini LED technology, immersive sound, superior HDR support and built-in gaming features.

SONY Z9K

£5,199, [sony.com](https://www.sony.com)



As well as its eye-popping resolution, the Sony Z9K also brings excellent HDR support, top-notch sound and image processing technology that can make any kind of video look great.



4K BLU-RAY PLAYERS

Find the lowest prices at:
t3.com/best-4k-blu-ray-player

PANASONIC DP-UB820

£345, panasonic.com



After a high performance video deck? This offers Dolby Vision and HDR10+ playback support, has a classy video processor and is a standard component width, so easier to stack.

PANASONIC DP-UB9000

£999, panasonic.com



This flagship UHD Blu-ray player is a thing of beauty. Combining class-leading picture quality with heavy-duty build, it gives the impression that no expense has been spared.

SONY UPB-X700

£199, sony.com



Sony's compact UHD Blu-ray deck comfortably outperforms its modest price tag, delivering crisp, accurate video, Dolby Vision, smart apps and surprisingly good audio.

REAVON UBR-X200

£999, reavon.com



This French audio specialist has its sights on the premium player space. This beautifully specified flagship player is compatible with 4k discs, plus SACD and DVD-A.



4K MONITORS

Find the lowest prices at:
t3.com/best4kmonitor

SAMSUNG ODYSSEY OLED G8

£1,099, samsung.com



The best 4K monitor for most people, the Odyssey OLED G8 is premium in terms of its specs and its design. It excels for gaming and does everything else to a very high standard too.

BENQ PD3225U

£1,099, benq.com



Gaming isn't the primary focus of this monitor. With its high levels of colour accuracy, its built-in USB-C hub, and the control puck you get with it, this is aimed firmly at creative professionals.

AOC U27P2CA

£320, aoc.com



A great choice for a home office setup, where you need a screen to be rock solid in terms of its computing and colour output. It also comes in at a very reasonable price, which always helps.

APPLE STUDIO DISPLAY XDR

From £2,999, apple.com



A significant feature bump from the standard model. This mini-LED display provides more brightness and precise colour, while the bump to 120Hz refresh will please pro video editors.



PROJECTORS

Find the lowest prices at:
t3.com/bestprojector

OPTOMA CINEMAX P2

£1,999, optoma.co.uk



This second-gen ultra-short throw projector delivers a fantastic 4K viewing experience. Image quality is superb, and you can get a 120-inch picture with it placed around a metre from the wall.

BENQ TK850

£1,499, benq.com



A brilliant buy if you want 4K big-screen sports, but don't particularly want to dim all the lights. Its motion smoothing is highly effective, so onscreen action looks wonderfully naturalistic.

BENQ TK700STI

£1,299, benq.com



This 4K projector is smartly geared up for gaming, with a low input lag (16ms at 4K 60fps), with movies and TV catered for via a hidden Google TV stick, and an impressively short throw of 2m.

VIEWSONIC M2 MOBILE STUDIO

£599, viewsonic.com



The perfect 1080p option for big-screen fun and games. It requires next to no warm up and runs cool. Images are sharp and detailed, and colour performance is similarly outstanding.



TURNTABLES

Find the lowest prices at:
t3.com/bestturntable

PRO-JECT ESSENTIAL III

£250, project-audio.com



Really sounds great for the money, with an expansive and enjoyable sound across a range of genres and volume levels. It also looks very pleasing, in a variety of high gloss finishes.

TECHNICS SL-1200GR

£1,199, technics.com



With rock solid build quality, easy set-up, immense bass, and a hugely exciting and involving sound, this is much more than just a DJ deck. There are few turntables that are more enjoyable to own.

PHILIPS 'THE TINA' (TAV9000D)

£399, philips.com



This throwback sound system isn't about audiophile purity, but lovers of mid-century design are in for a treat. If you value vinyl, vintage and versatility, The Tina music system hits all the right notes.

ELIPSON CHROMA CARBON RIAA BT

£699, elipson.com



Elipson's top-line turntable pulls down a lot of features from the truly high end. You get a super-stiff carbon fibre tone arm and new digital belt drive motor, plus AptX Bluetooth and USB.



SOUNDBARS

Find the lowest prices at:
t3.com/bestsoundbar

SAMSUNG HW-Q990D

£1,250, samsung.com



This recent Samsung flagship delivers more than 600W of power from 22 different drivers. The system is made up of a soundbar, a beefy subwoofer and two small rear speaker units.

SONOS BEAM 2

£449, sonos.com



A superb soundbar that's small enough to fit under even a 32-inch TV but big enough to fill your room with brilliant sound. This version adds Dolby Atmos, and improved on-board processing.

MARSHALL HESTON 120

£899, marshall.com



This single-box solution (there's a sub output if you want it) delivers huge sound, can decode Dolby Atmos and DTS:X, and there's 4K/120Hz HDMI passthrough, which the Sonos lacks.

BOSE LIFESTYLE ULTRA SOUNDBAR

£999.95, bose.co.uk



Even as a standalone product its sheer sonic width and height impresses, as does the degree of bass – without the need to add any extras (though you can). This bar is an absolute sensation.

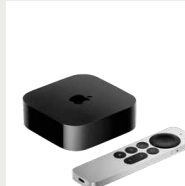


STREAMING DEVICES

Find the lowest prices at:
t3.com/best-streaming-device

APPLE TV 4K

From £149, apple.com



The powerhouse choice that pays you back in almost every way. The user interface is excellent and its picture and audio performance is the best you can get. It plays Apple Arcade games too.

AMAZON FIRE TV STICK 4K MAX

£69, amazon.co.uk



Amazon's Fire TV Stick range is by far the most popular media streamer, and the Fire TV Stick 4K Max sits at the top of the range. It's the most powerful stick that the company has released to date.

ROKU STREAMING STICK 4K

£49, roku.com



Roku has been making streaming devices pretty much since the technology was invented. The Roku Streaming Stick 4K is currently its most powerful UK offering yet won't break the bank.

NVIDIA SHIELD TV PRO

£189, nvidia.com



As well as Android TV, Nvidia has included features rivals can't, such as AI video upscaling, Chromecast, a Plex server and access to Nvidia's cloud gaming platform, GeForce Now.



BLUETOOTH SPEAKERS

Find the lowest prices at:
t3.com/bestbluetooth

BANG & OLUFSEN BEOPLAY A1 V3

£299, bang-olufsen.com



If portability is key, but sound quality is to not be compromised, the A1 V3 is the ideal take-anywhere speaker. Massive sound from such a small speaker is unrivalled and it's worth every penny.

SONOS MOVE 2

£449, sonos.com



Designed like the perfect at-home speaker, the Move 2 is substantially bigger than your typical carry-around, but can easily be detached from its dock to deliver ace audio without the wires.

ULTIMATE EARS WONDERBOOM 4

£80, ultimateears.com



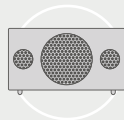
The best cheap Bluetooth speaker, combining good sound with an ultraportable design and effective 360-degree audio. It doesn't have Wi-Fi but you can pair two either in stereo or dual mono.

MARSHALL ACTON IV

£259.99, marshall.com



A belter of a one-speaker system that upgrades the sound and Bluetooth connectivity over the previous edition. Marshall also makes the best physical controls in the home audio world.



MULTI-ROOM SPEAKERS

Find the lowest prices at:
t3.com/bestmultiroom

SONOS ERA 300

£449, sonos.co.uk



The latest Sonos Era 300 premium smart speaker is hugely impressive, delivering bigger sound than you'd expect from its diminutive size. The best wireless speaker money can buy right now.

APPLE HOMEPOD 2023

£299, apple.com



The second-gen HomePod sounds superb and is an impressively compact wireless speaker, but as it only really works via AirPlay, you need to be a full Apple convert to really consider it.

BOWERS & WILKINS ZEPPELIN

£699, bowerswilkins.com



Streams pretty much everything, and borrows some technology from the kind of hi-fi gear where if you have to ask the price, you can't afford it. By audiophile standards, this is cheap.

BLUESOUND PULSE M

£449, bluesound.com



Treat it to the quality of content it demands and this is a very rewarding listen. You can buy smarter speakers than this for less money – but it's safe to say they won't sound as big or as accomplished.



SMART SPEAKERS

Find the lowest prices at:
t3.com/bestsmart

AMAZON ECHO SHOW 8 (4TH GEN)

£179, amazon.co.uk



The new Show's redesigned look is modern and premium, performance is noticeably faster, and the upgraded audio makes it far more capable for music and casual streaming than previous versions.

BOSE LIFESTYLE ULTRA SPEAKER

£299.95, bose.co.uk



Offering good looks with taut bass and well-balanced sound, this speaker's upfiring channel really works, providing a taller and wider soundstage than many other small-scale speakers can muster.

GOOGLE NEST HUB MAX

£219, store.google.com



Winner of our 2020 T3 award as the best smart speaker for doing absolutely everything. You get a crisp 10-inch screen, a speaker that can fill a room, a front camera and Google Assistant.

SONOS ERA 300

£449, sonos.com



This smart speaker sounds absolutely incredible. It's on the pricier side, but you're getting plenty for your money. The difference Dolby Atmos makes is something you have to hear to believe.



NOISE-CANCELLING HEADPHONES

Find the lowest prices at:
t3.com/bestnoisecancelling

BOSE QUIETCOMFORT ULTRA (2ND GEN)

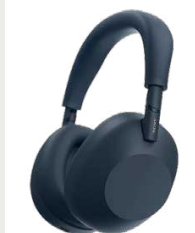
£459, bose.co.uk



Headphones are about listening to music, and these Bose headphones are great at that. Their noise cancelling is epic, and they are particularly good for blocking out the outside world.

SONY WH-1000XM6

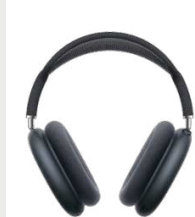
£399, sony.co.uk



The latest in the stellar series of over-ear headphones from Sony are worth the wait: they offer fantastic sound and ANC, while the folding design makes them perfect for travelling.

APPLE AIRPODS MAX 2

£499, apple.com



A refinement rather than a reinvention: you get better sound, stronger ANC and smarter features, all wrapped in the same premium design as before. Some of the best over-ears you can buy.

BOWERS & WILKINS PX7 S3

£399, bowerswilkins.com



With their ANC feature hugely improved over previous versions, plus a new design that's exquisitely comfortable, these over-ear headphones are among the very best money can buy.



TRUE WIRELESS EARBUDS

Find the lowest prices at:
t3.com/besttruewireless

TECHNICS EAH-AZ100

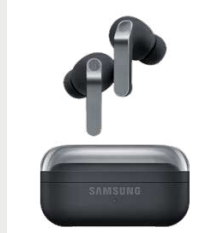
£259, technics.com



A phenomenal pair of wireless earbuds, and we think the best earbuds for most people overall: they combine full and punchy sound with great battery life, plus a neat and slim design.

SAMSUNG GALAXY BUDS 4 PRO

£219, samsung.com



Samsung takes on the established names with excellent sound quality, ANC that easily blots out traffic noise, and a remarkably good fit that makes these some of the most comfortable buds.

NOTHING EAR (3)

£179, nothing.tech



The most stylish pair of Nothing earbuds to date. You'll pay more for these than other models from the brand, but you're getting a new case and some seriously great audio to make it worthwhile.

APPLE AIRPODS PRO 3

£229, apple.com



A top choice for iPhone owners. Not only do they have handy automatic pairing and switching, but they've also got wireless charging functionality, as well as IPX4 water resistance.



WIRED HEADPHONES

Find the lowest prices at:
t3.com/best-wired-headphones

FIIO FT5

£430, fiio.com



These planar magnetic headphones not only look and sound stupendous, but aren't as exorbitant as some wired models found elsewhere on this list. That makes for a very well-judged product.

MARK LEVINSON NO 5909

£999, marklevinson.com



A hugely impressive audio experience, with everything slotted together with care and precision. If you have the budget to be able to consider them, we don't think you'll be disappointed with what you get.

AUSTRIAN AUDIO HI-X15

£99, austrian.audio



Detailed, unfussy and thoroughly engaging audio with convincing tonality and extensive dynamic headroom. These are inexpensive but comfortable headphones, which means you get a lot of bang for your buck.

SENNHEISER HD660 S2

£489, sennheiser.com



If you want a big, robust and opulently detailed sound from light, comfortable and properly constructed headphones, you need to give these your complete attention – and really good sources.



LAPTOPS

Find the lowest prices at:
t3.com/bestlaptop

DELL XPS 14 (2026)

From **£1,849**, [dell.com](https://www.dell.com)



A superb meeting of design and power. It's sleek and gorgeous, but also has a fantastic screen, enough power to be a genuinely reliable workstation, and even has some gaming clout.

SAMSUNG GALAXY BOOK 6 PRO

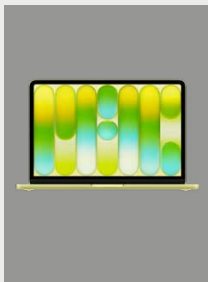
From **£1,799**, [samsung.com](https://www.samsung.com)



Our favourite Windows laptop at the moment looks fantastic, has a screen that really stands out, and performance levels are great for most of the tasks you'll be tackling.

MACBOOK NEO

From **£599**, [apple.com](https://www.apple.com)



Apple's entry-level MacBook runs on an iPhone processor, but that doesn't hold it back. This 13in laptop is thin, light, capable and cheap, with typical Apple build quality and a superlative OS.

HP OMNIBOOK X FLIP 14

From **£1,030**, [hp.com](https://www.hp.com)



A super-versatile 2-in-1 hybrid laptop that won't bankrupt you. It includes a stylus for sketching and handwriting, has a metal casing, and includes Intel's AI-ready Core Ultra processors.



GAMING LAPTOPS

Find the lowest prices at:
t3.com/bestgaming

ASUS ROG ZEPHYRUS G14

From **£3,200**, [asus.com](https://www.asus.com)



A gaming laptop that defies belief. It's slim and could pass for a MacBook Pro, but also has unbelievable power to offer up. It basically has no flaws other than a steep price tag: one it merits.

RAZER BLADE 16

From **£2,100**, [razer.com](https://www.razer.com)



Razer's thin and light gaming laptops have become synonymous with class, and the latest version of its 16-inch option is brilliant. It's thinner than ever, and just as powerful as it ever was.

MEDION ERAZER BEAST 16 X1

From **£1,499**, [medion.com](https://www.medion.com)



Genuine value for what you're getting, with a 300Hz mini-LED display that looks brilliant in all conditions and a design that's surprisingly easy to carry. A great buy from a smaller name.

MSI STEALTH 18 HX AI

From **£2,799**, [msi.com](https://www.msi.com)



The biggest screen in laptops might not fit in your bag, but it does mean this is a hugely capable machine with a 120Hz mini-LED panel and the ability to play games in 4K on the move.



VR HEADSETS

Find the lowest prices at:
t3.com/best-vr-headset

PLAYSTATION VR2

£399, [playstation.com](https://www.playstation.com)



A virtual reality system that, while expensive, is still remarkably good value when compared to the competition. Can be used with a PS5, or a gaming PC with an optional adapter.

META QUEST 3S

From **£319.99**, [meta.com](https://www.meta.com)



If you want to dip into VR, this is the perfect way to refrain from big-budget spending while still having almost all the newest features that you're likely to want. Meta knocked it out of the park here!

SAMSUNG GALAXY XR

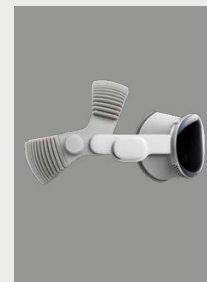
£1,699, [samsung.com](https://www.samsung.com)



A niche product for a select audience, but also a blueprint for what is possible on the Android side of the fence. Samsung is blazing a trail with the Galaxy XR, and hopefully others will follow in its wake.

APPLE VISION PRO (M5, 2025)

From **£3,499**, [apple.com](https://www.apple.com)



Expensive, and much closer to AR than VR, but the Vision Pro is hugely impressive. Its high resolution and intuitive controls mean it offers an experience that can't be matched on a flat screen.



COFFEE MACHINES

Find the lowest prices at:
t3.com/bestcoffee

DE'LONGHI LA SPECIALISTA OPERA

£799, delonghi.com



When it comes to ease of use and accurate consistency, we don't think you'll find a better domestic espresso maker than this sterling contender from the house of De'Longhi.

GAGGIA CLASSIC UP

£849, gaggiadirect.com



The Up delivers consistent and balanced shots every time, at an almost specialty café standard. With tight temperature control, it brings Gaggia's espresso brewing into the modern era.

DREAME ECCELUXE SLIM

£499, dreamestore.co.uk



Ideal for smaller kitchens, this fully automatic espresso machine has a width of just 18cm. It's also feature-rich, with a bean hopper and grinder, generous water tank and touch controls.

KITCHENAID KF8

£1,899, kitchenaid.co.uk



This stylishly modern machine is available in four colours and produces a wide range of drinks from ristretto, espresso and lungo to latte and cappuccino at the touch of a button.



POD COFFEE MACHINES

Find the lowest prices at:
t3.com/best-pod-coffee-machine

SMEG LAVAZZA A MODO MIO

£249, lavazza.co.uk



This relative newcomer to the Lavazza roster is one of the most gorgeous looking machines in podland. It also happens to produce some of the best capsule-based espressos we've seen.

NESPRESSO VERTUO PLUS

£179, nespresso.com



The best thing about the Vertuo system is that it's capable of using different sized pods for different coffees. There are five capsule sizes in all, from Espresso to Gran Lungo, Mug and extra large Alto.

GRIND TWO

£295, grind.co.uk



Grind is a sustainable coffee brand that produces a range of organic coffees in a variety of flavours and strengths, and this is its second-gen capsule-based espresso machine for Nespresso pods.

LAVAZZA A MODO MÍO DESÉA

£249, lavazza.co.uk



This stocky but stylish Lavazza model comes with an ingenious milk frothing system that doesn't involve any fiddly wands or, indeed, any user input at all. It's quick and easy to use.



ROBOT VACUUMS

Find the lowest prices at:
t3.com/bestrobotvac

ROBOROCK S8 MAXV ULTRA

Around £1,700, global.roborock.com



This accomplished autonomous floor cleaner features accurate LiDAR navigation, limpet-like suction power and a mopping system that automatically lifts the mop up when it senses a carpet.

SWITCHBOT MINI ROBOT VACUUM K10+

£500, uk.switch-bot.com



A pint-sized robot vacuum cleaner with self-emptying bin, full LiDAR navigation, customisable mapping via the SwitchBot app and very decent suction for its size. Well built and rather brilliant.

DREAME MATRIX10 ULTRA

£1,399, dreamestore.co.uk



A "next-gen" cleaning machine rather than just an upgraded robot vacuum cleaner. Its advanced cleaning tech justifies the high price, as it switches between mops depending on which room it's in.

EUFY OMNI C28

£649, eufy.com



An excellent robot vacuum that delivers more than its price tag suggests. It may not have the highest suction power or the smartest obstacle detection, but it gets the basics absolutely right.



BARBECUES

Find the lowest prices at:
t3.com/best-barbecue

MASTERBUILT GRAVITY SERIES 600

£799, masterbuilt.com



This app-enabled charcoal grill-cum-smoker uses an offset grilling area and a computer-controlled temperature management system that uses a powerful fan to provide consistent grilling.

NINJA FLEXFLAME GAS

£999.99, sharkninja.co.uk



A versatile outdoor cooking station that can handle everything from low-and-slow smokes to rapid burger grilling, with the option to use it as a conventional fan oven too.

TRAEGER IRONWOOD 650

£1,499, traeger.com



Pellet grilling is arguably the easiest type of barbecuing because it's all controlled by a computer, leaving you to chill out and relax safe in the knowledge that the food will be cooked to perfection.

KAMADO JOE JR

£499, kamadojoe.com



These ceramic-lined barbies have amazing heat retention properties which makes them ideal for any barbecuing discipline, from smoking, baking and roasting to standard grilling and searing.



PIZZA OVENS

Find the lowest prices at:
t3.com/best-pizza-oven

GINO D'ACAMPO PIZZA OVEN

£279, ginopizzaovens.com



A lovely looker from every angle, but more than that it's just a brilliantly designed and very efficient domestic pizza oven that's light enough to carry a short distance and small enough to easily store away.

GOZNEY ARC

From £599, gozney.com



With its classic dome design, this oven has an impressive size and power, and can fit a huge amount of food inside, including 14-inch pizzas. It's versatile too, as you can cook a bunch of BBQ classics in it.

WITT ETNA ROTANTE

£399, wittpizza.com



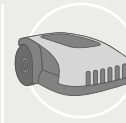
One of the first outdoor pizza ovens to feature a revolving stone. And that means you won't need to turn the pizza mid-way through the bake while singeing the hair on your hand.

SAGE THE SMART OVEN PIZZAILO

£730, sageappliances.com



The Sage Pizzaiolo runs on electricity instead of charcoal, and is an oven designed for indoor use. It's more than capable of producing an evenly browned crust and perfectly cooked toppings.



ROBOT LAWNMOWERS

Find the lowest prices at:
t3.com/best-robot-lawn-mower

SEGWAY NAVIMOW X350E

£3,199, segwaynavimow.co.uk



Offering boundary-free mowing with advanced obstacle avoidance, the X350E can mow lawns up to 5000m² with remarkable accuracy. It also feels seriously solid and well put together.

KRESS MISSION NANO 600

£999, kress.com



A compact and clever mower that punches well above its weight. Its smaller footprint makes it perfect for irregularly shaped lawns with curves and tight spaces, with coverage of up to 600m².

HUSQVARNA AUTOMOWER 312V

£1,499, husqvarna.com



A wire-free mower that delivers excellent grass cutting, with settings that can be tweaked to suit a variety of lawns. It relies on a good Wi-Fi signal, but is full of clever tech to keep your lawn neat.

ROCKMOW Z150 4WD

£2,999, rockmow.co.uk



A beast of a mower built for large, hilly gardens where other machines would give up. The four-wheel drive, active steering and dynamic suspension are impressive, and it cuts grass evenly.



AIR PURIFIERS

Find the lowest prices at:
t3.com/best-air-purifier

BLUEAIR HEALTHPROTECT 7470I

£419, blueair.com



The HealthProtect 7470i air purifier is dazzling, not to mention big. It's smart too, and features real-time pollutant tracking of fine particles as well as smoke, gases, bacteria and viruses.

DYSON PURIFIER HUMIDIFY+COOL FORMALDEHYDE

£699, dyson.co.uk



This 2023 release from Dyson is a 3-in-1 device that purifies, humidifies and cools, all while looking pretty damn good. It improves your home's air quality by cooling you down with its strong airflow.

MEACO MEACOCLEAN CA-HEPA 76X5

£199, meaco.com



This Meaco is equipped with lasers to monitor the air, so it will increase suction and expulsion whenever it detects poor air quality from smoking, pets, kitchen smells or summer pollen.

DYSON PURE HOT + COOL FORMALDEHYDE

£699, dyson.co.uk



This is the best Dyson fan, purifier and heater to date, and the firm has made its setup and use quick and easy, via an app and the remote. It's a versatile and attractive device.



SMART BULBS

Find the lowest prices at:
t3.com/bestbulb

PHILIPS HUE

From £69, philips-hue.com



Hue dominates the smart lighting sector for good reason: it's a superb system with the widest range of bulbs and a simple, useful app. Rivals may be cheaper but they can't compete with Hue's variety.

LIFX

From £15, lifx.com



If you fancy a Hue system but don't want to spend so much, LIFX has a strong product range and integrates with your favourite personal digital assistant. Philips still wins, but only just.

NANOLEAF ESSENTIALS

From £18, nanoleaf.me



A line of bargain-priced bulbs and light strips that support Thread, an upcoming protocol a bit like Zigbee. We love the faceted look, but they're only available in E27 or B22 fittings.

IKEA TRÅDFRI

From £13, ikea.com



Ikea's Zigbee-compatible system doesn't have the range of Hue, but if you prize control over colour options it's stellar value for money and has some great controllers and dimmers.



SMART THERMOSTATS

Find the lowest prices at:
t3.com/bestthermostat

NEST THERMOSTAT E

£180, nest.com/uk



This cheaper Nest model doesn't fit as much information on its screen and doesn't feel as premium, but that's it. Same algorithm, same Alexa and Google Home compatibility.

TADO SMART THERMOSTAT

From £179, tado.com



Tado is very sociable: it works with 95% of the systems out there. It's flexible, clever and supports a wide range of accessories too. Price cuts have made it even more enticing.

NEST LEARNING THERMOSTAT

£219, store.google.com



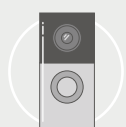
This smart-looking third-gen Learning Thermostat is able to monitor your habits and control the heating. There's also an activity sensor which adjusts the heating if it detects someone's home.

HIVE THERMOSTAT

£119 (plus £70 for a hub), hivehome.com



A well-designed app makes it easy to create heating schedules and keep track of your energy usage, and you can also arrange installation by a British Gas-backed engineer.



VIDEO DOORBELLS

Find the lowest prices at:
t3.com/best-video-doorbell

RING BATTERY VIDEO DOORBELL PLUS

£99, ring.com



With 1536p HD video and a 150 x 150-degree field of vision, plus two-way audio, you can quickly talk to whoever's at your door so you won't miss a parcel or visitor again.

EZVIZ EP8 ULTRA

£140, ezviz.com



One of the most complete battery-powered video doorbells, thanks to a dual-camera setup, intuitive app, cute AI screen characters, reliable performance and subscription-free local storage.

TAPO D235

£90, tapo.com



If you're on a tight budget, the Tapo D235 video doorbell is an admirable performer. Sure, it's not the best looking example of its kind, but it offers 2K video, night vision and two-way audio.

ARLO 2K WIRELESS VIDEO DOORBELL

£139, arlo.com



The best budget wire-free video doorbell available today. You get all you could want, including high-res video, two-way audio, motion detection, night vision and a 180° field of view.



SECURITY CAMERAS

Find the lowest prices at:
t3.com/bestsecurity

EUFY S220 SOLOCAM

£110, eufy.com



The Eufy S220 SoloCam is an excellent security camera with a bunch of features, a reasonable price and no subscription. Plus if you get enough sunshine, you can run it via solar power.

ARLO PRO 4

£219, arlo.com



The Arlo Pro offers 2K HDR video, full weatherproofing, a 160-degree viewing angle, and even colour night vision. It also connects directly to your home Wi-Fi so you don't need a separate hub.

RING STICK-UP CAM

£90, ring.com



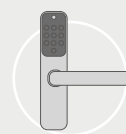
Pretty much all the features you could ask for are included here, such as night vision, motion alerts, two-way audio and 1080p HD video. This being Ring, the app is polished and professional too.

YALE FLOODLIGHT CAMERA

£170, yalehome.co.uk



The best part of the Yale Floodlight Camera is its spotlight. It has a 2,000 lumens worth of floodlighting appeal, a range of light settings and boasts an IP65 weatherproof rating.



SMART LOCKS

Find the lowest prices at:
t3.com/best-smart-lock

ULTION NUKI PLUS

£239, ultion-lock.co.uk



The Nuki Plus can be operated in multiple ways, including keycodes, voice commands, the app, key fob, fingerprint access and a police-approved key with Apple Find My technology.

IGLOOHOME SMART DEADBOLT 2S

£200, igloohome.co



A great DIY addition to a door, and one that doesn't require the existing lock to be removed. Its light-up PIN panel disappears when not in use, only illuminating when a palm is pressed on it.

YALE CONEXIS L1

£40, yalehome.co.uk



A straightforward replacement for just about any existing multi-point lock, with simple instructions and fully adjustable mounting making it a breeze to fit however your door is configured.

ULTION NUKI SMART LOCK

£239, ultion-lock.co.uk



A simple and effective way to make any door lock smart. The unit attaches to the inside of your regular lock, so it's not obvious from the outside, and it's affordable and easy to fit.



DRONES

Find the lowest prices at:
t3.com/bestdrone

DJI FLIP

£369, dji.com



This exciting drone combines pro-level features with an accessible price point, making it ideal for new and intermediate pilots alike. Blending advanced flying with a user-friendly design, it's great value.

DJI AVATA 360

£409, dji.com



The immersive 8K 360° video makes this an appealing choice for content creators and FPV fans. However, all that footage requires complex post-production and careful editing.

ANTIGRAVITY A1

£1,129, antigravity.tech



A step forward for drones, thanks to a 360-degree flying experience that feels genuinely new and an 8K camera. It's expensive and niche, but also thrilling, creative and unlike anything else.

HOVERAIR X1 PRO

From £382, thehover.com



The first pocket-sized 2.7K camera-equipped drone to not require a hand controller at any time, although it also works in conjunction with an app for further functionality. Great for selfies.



DASH CAMS

Find the lowest prices at:
t3.com/bestdashcam

NEXTBASE IQ

£349, nextbase.com



With a forward-facing lens that comes in either 1K, 2K or 4K variants, this dash cam also captures video and sound of the interior of your car, and there's an optional rear-facing camera.

NEXTBASE PIQO

£89, nextbase.com



A much more compact proposition that can be easily installed inside any type of vehicle. The PiQo comes with 'lite' versions of many of the same features and functions found on the IQ model.

70MAI A800S

£180, 70mai.com



This is a two-channel, twin camera setup that offers a potent pair of lenses for much more comprehensive coverage. There's a very impressive app, and an optional hardwire kit too.

GARMIN DASH CAM LIVE

£349, garmin.com



This model packs in lots of features and functions, all hidden behind a quality near full-width rear screen. It's very easy to setup, but the real bonus feature is the LTE connectivity for remote access.



ELECTRIC BIKES

Find the lowest prices at:
t3.com/bestebike

BROMPTON ELECTRIC G LINE

£3,499, brompton.com



A highly versatile and portable folding bike with a 12-speed setup and electric assistance. Its medium-sized wheels and well-engineered construction make this folding e-bike a lot of fun to ride.

HONBIKE UNI4

£1,699, honbike.com



A perfect daily rider, offering comfort and more than enough power. The quality of the (quirky) design and build is excellent, which is even more impressive when you look at the cost of buying this bike.

BMC 257 AMP AL TWO

£1,749, bmc-switzerland.com



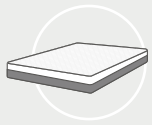
BMC has packed lots of lovely stuff into its AMP AL TWO e-bike, starting with a pleasingly tough and sturdy frame and powerful battery all the way down to the integrated lights and back rack.

ADO AIR CARBON PRO

£1,999, adoebike.co.uk



Offering high build quality, clever design details and exceptional power and performance on all types of road, this lightweight and very capable folding e-bike is a true pleasure to ride.



MATTRESSES

Find the lowest prices at:
t3.com/best-mattress

SIMBA HYBRID PRO

£1,199, simbasleep.com



A high-end pick for those who put comfort as a top priority. Its seven layers include a dreamily soft top layer, a natural wool layer to help regulate temperature, and two layers of springs.

NECTAR MEMORY FOAM MATTRESS

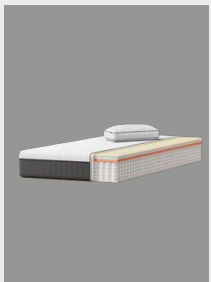
£499, nectarsleep.co.uk



The memory foam Nectar mattress feels comfortable from the minute it comes out of its minimal packaging, and offers medium-to-firm support that suits any type of bed and all kinds of sleepers.

EMMA HYBRID PREMIUM MATTRESS

£569, emma-sleep.co.uk



This mattress has brilliant temperature control and heat regulation, which helps you keep at a pleasant temperature all night. Surprising, considering how soft, cosy and thick its cover feels.

PANDA LONDON HYBRID BAMBOO MATTRESS PRO

£1,290, pandalondon.com



Panda is an eco-friendly firm and this comfortable mattress is made of premium bamboo materials, meaning it'll last for a long time. It moulds to the body, cradles it and aligns the spine while you sleep.

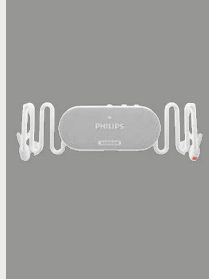


SLEEP HEADPHONES

Find the lowest prices at:
t3.com/best-sleep-headphones

PHILIPS X KOKOON NIGHTBUDS

£187, kokoon.io



Comfortable, relaxing and the best sleep headphones we've tried. They wrap around your head and have a base unit that back sleepers might not love, but which is perfect for side sleepers.

COZYPHONES SLEEP HEADPHONES

£20, cozyphones.com



These on-ear sleep headbands are made of plush fabric and a cool mesh lining that makes them comfortable to sleep in. However, the CozyPhones' biggest selling point might be the bargain price.

OZLO SLEEPBUDS

£299, ozlosleep.com



Made by Bose engineers, these are comfortable for all types of sleepers, due to their silicone tips, and they come with multiple tips to cater to all ear sizes. The sound quality is pretty good too.

LOOP DREAM

£44.95, loopearplugs.com



Not headphones, but if you get easily distracted or roused by external noise, then try these stylish, memory foam earplugs. They're ideal for all sleeping positions, especially side sleepers.



BEARD TRIMMERS

Find the lowest prices at:
t3.com/besttrimmer

BRAUN SERIES 9 PRO+

£499.99, braun.com



Melds outstanding comfort with remarkably consistent results. A flexible head tackles awkward contours, while its five cutting elements ensure an impressively close shave.

BRAUN BEARD TRIMMER 7

£65, braun.com



This trimmer feels like good value. Small, light and easy to use, its tough blades shave cleanly. Battery life is solid, and the unit is waterproof enough for easy rinsing under the tap.

PHILIPS ONEBLADE 360

£70 braun.com



The best budget beard and body trimmer. Despite its garish looks, this is a cheap and cheerful face and body groomer that's great value for money, and easy and comfortable to use.

PHILIPS ONEBLADE PRO

£50, philips.co.uk



The best trimmer for those with sensitive skin, this uses innovative OneBlade technology. It's good for both your face and your downstairs, although you may wish to change heads in between.

RETRO

Remembering the
tech of yesteryear



POLAROID SX-70

1972

In the 1960s and 1970s, photography – an expensive and technical hobby – was the preserve of the wealthy and the patient. That all changed with the Polaroid SX-70. Although Polaroid had launched instant cameras before, the SX-70 was the first to bring photography to the masses. Unlike past attempts, its automatically ejected pictures developed quickly, easily and safely, with no complicated processes or risk of dangerous chemical spillages. Its compact form and simple operation, meanwhile, made it a social phenomenon and a popular tagalong for parties and outings. The SX-70 was a wonderful example of ingenious design – just as well, given the challenges it faced. It was small enough to fit into a coat pocket when folded down, while its batteries were stored in its film packs, thereby reducing the complexity of the folding camera itself. In today's world of digital photography and instant shareability, it stands out both for its pioneering philosophy and its world-changing history. No wonder it retains a proudly analogue cult following.



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