



SAMSUNG GALAXY WATCH: TIME TO UPGRADE

T3

SMARTER LIVING

4K TODAY'S TOP BUYS

Get Ultra HD quality and
Dolby Atmos in *any* room



SAMSUNG
NOTE 9
THE FIRST REVIEW

BEST TECH

FOR EVERYTHING

54 ace innovations, from killer audio to smooth shaves

NEW
MACBOOK
PRO: RATED
Apple's most
powerful
ever



- Turntables
- OLED TV
- Techy toys
- Fitness gear
- Top tablets

TESTED

FOLDING EBIKES



Brompton
Electric vs.
the commute
challengers

NEW!

SPORTY
WIRELESS
EARBUDS

Solid fit, zero
cable hassle

6

GAMING
HEADSETS



HOT!

WIRELESS SMART
SECURITY CAMS





The biggest small music system

Immerse yourself in real stereo power and finesse. | **Two-box fully integrated music system with an audiophile-grade 230W x 2 dual mono amplifier.** | Never before have small music systems produced such scale and detail. | **Industry-acclaimed and patented Uni-Q concentric drive technology.** | Five minutes from unboxing, turn on your music and enjoy. | **Custom room EQ and integrated streaming.** | An acoustic performance so innovative, no wonder the most respected of reviewers are calling the KEF LS50 Wireless **"The Future of Hi-Fi."**

24bit/192kHz    OPT APP CONTROL  Spotify  TIDAL  ROOM

WHAT HI-FI?
AWARDS 2017

PRODUCT OF THE YEAR
Hall of Fame
KEF LS50 Wireless

WHAT HI-FI?
AWARDS 2017

PRODUCT OF THE YEAR
Best all-in-one system over £1000
KEF LS50 Wireless

KEF.COM

KEF

OBSESSED WITH HIGH RESOLUTION



GAMECHANGER

The tech that's so cutting edge,
you're risking your fingers
just turning this page

COMPLETE CONTROL

Leave the AI-powered Ovis suitcase to drive itself, or grab it by the handle to cut power and engage manual mode, at which point all four wheels become omnidirectional for a smoother ride



FORWARD X OVIS

In the world of travel tech, arguably nothing is evolving faster than the suitcase. The first wave of smarter cases had built-in chargers, and some even had Bluetooth functionality so that you could track their whereabouts at the luggage carousel.

The arrival of the Ovis marks the biggest advance yet, bringing artificial intelligence to the suitcase. Forward X's AI-powered clothes carrier is capable of driving itself, so that it rides alongside you to, through and from the airport, and over various terrains (maximum speed 6.2mph). The waterproof Ovis uses self-driving tech similar to cars, with advanced obstacle avoidance smarts helping it glide out of the way of people, animals and objects; it's designed to continuously sense its surroundings, calculating the distance and best route to take. The 34-litre case weighs itself, too, displaying real-time weight via the app, and sounds an anti-lost alarm if you move too far away from it. We wouldn't let it stray too far anyway, though – someone might take a fancy to a self-driving suitcase.

\$799 (£607.70), forwardx.com

Meet the team



MATT BOLTON
Editor

The natural instinct of an editor is to fit more stuff into smaller stuff, so Matt was the natural choice for creating a perfect mini 4K setup (p16). Also because he knows about tellies and stuff.



CLAIRE DAVIES
Senior Content Editor

At some point, autumn will arrive, and at this rate it's going to be really sudden. That's why Claire's helping you get your house ready for the colder months (p85) while the going's still good...



JO GULLIVER
Senior Art Editor

Vinyl nut Jo got a bit taken with the Pro-Ject turntable in our Best Tech for Everything (p32) photoshoot. She doesn't know why a record player needs to be carbon, but she knows she likes it.



MICHELLE MCLAREN
Art Editor

We promised Michelle a fun day away from the office, directing an on-location photoshoot of cutting-edge tech. As you can imagine, she was delighted to learn the tech was hoovers and mops.



KIMBERLEY BALLARD
Production Editor

Kimberley's been walking her commute for too long, so took our folding bikes for a spin (p72). She just needs to add a basket for holding baguettes and flowers, and whatever else goes in baskets.



ANDREW WESTBROOK
Operations Editor

Andy's been working through our range of gaming headsets (p100) to find his perfect match. "Don't like the band..." "Too heavy..." "Too gamer-y..." But Mummy Bear's gaming headset was just right.



PAUL DOUGLAS
Global Editor-in-Chief, T3.com

Paul's never jumped on the smartwatch train, but the long battery life of the TicWatch Pro (p98) tempts him. "It's rugged and reliable, just like me," he claims.



DUNCAN BELL
Lifestyle Editor, T3.com

As our resident torturer of headphones for reviews, and himself for testing fitness products, Duncan was the ideal reviewer for our sporty true wireless headphones head-to-head test (p96).



SPENCER HART
Product & Style Editor, T3.com

To protect his collection of Fabergé eggs (long story), Spencer tried to steal our smart security camera (p66). You can probably guess why that didn't work out.



ROB JONES
Tech & Gaming Editor, T3.com

Rob got his hands on Samsung's latest opus, the Note 9, for us to look at this issue (p92). That's hands plural, of course – once again, it's a big old beast.



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VISIT T3.COM

We've overhauled T3.com – the best site for gadget news and reviews now has a great new look and is fully responsive, enabling you to enjoy it on any device.



Editor's letter

I love putting together our Best Tech for Everything list each year, because we always give ourselves licence to let the rope out a little. Yes, it's full of laptops and phones and shavers and important stuff everyone needs, but we also like to go a little broader with it.

We get to explore the fringes, from the unsexy-but-useful (HDMI switch boxes that support 4K HDR), to the things few people would consider but might actually find a godsend (high-tech treatments that make you look fresh after even the roughest nights), and the fun (great gadgets for luxury glamping, or a drone you fly in first-person).

I was also really excited for us to finally get our hands on the Brompton Electric this issue. They've been well and truly beaten to market, but they've taken the time to get it right, and... Well, boy have they gotten it right, as you'll see on p72. Personal electric vehicles – from ebikes to scooters to even little pod vehicles – will be one of the biggest things to hit tech over the next few years, I think. There are lots of them in European countries already. They offer the chance for a quieter, cleaner, more spacious future in urban areas especially, which is really exciting, but we've spent so long building cities around the car, I wonder if we have the collective will to change things.

Matt Bolton, Editor
matthew.bolton@futurenet.com
 Tweet me @matthewbbolton

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 as been thoroughly tested by our team of experts, enabling you to buy with total confidence.

OUR AWARDS



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



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



This accolade and others like it show you which gear is best for specific features or tasks



For kit that demonstrates exceptional industrial design and refinement, in addition to being great

HORIZON

010 TOP 10

The latest drop of the world's hottest new tech is right here. Feast your eyes on Samsung's stylish new smartwatch, an AI-powered drone that's big on cinematic shots, and a slightly weird yet innovative full body scanner to monitor your health from the inside out (yikes!)

018 STYLE

The best jeans for autumn style. Oh, and we show you how to dress like Jeff Goldblum. You're welcome



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Bring smart home-esque levels of control to your ride with the emergence of connected car tech

021 LIVING

You could shell out on a new kitchen, but these simple tricks will help you upgrade without draining your bank account

022 TRAVEL

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072 STATE OF THE ART
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50 awards. One day. A whole table full of pastries. Welcome to T3 Awards judging



085 PREPARE YOUR SMART HOME FOR AUTUMN
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"Finally an in-ear Headphone, that is beyond comfortable & has the clearest, deepest & most natural sounding quality, I've heard..."

Julian Lennon



Proud to have been shortlisted for the 2018 T3 Awards

Best Bluetooth In-Ear Headphones.

Use this code at checkout to receive your special T3 readers discount on the Flares® PRO earphones:

T3FLARESPRO

FLARE
LONG LIVE EARS.

flareaudio.com





HOME

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TESTED

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Samsung has relied heavily on the motto 'Bigger is better'. But is that really enough this time around?

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Question: is increased battery life and affordability a better swap for quality? This unique new smartwatch seems to think so. Here's our verdict

**100
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If you're a dedicated gamer, your headset is probably the most important peripheral in your arsenal. Here are six to elevate your game

**102
APPLE MACBOOK PRO**
Six cores of processing power in a 1.5cm body... Dang, Apple! It sent us the high-end version for testing, and we discovered some pretty interesting things during the review



WIN!

1 OF 2 BOSCH
BCS122GB
UNLIMITED
CORDLESS
VACUUMS

Clean everywhere with this super-powerful, highly portable, battery powered cordless vac. We have two to give away!

103

**WORTH
£499
EACH**



BEST OF THE BEST

**105
YOUR IN-DEPTH
BUYER'S GUIDE**
Want to know what the best top-end telly is? Or the best first-time DSLR? Or the best wireless headphones? Our giant buyer's guide helps you find the world's best and *only* the best!

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046





Klipsch® HERITAGE *Inspired*



April 2018

the Sixes

Klipsch Heritage Inspired incorporates a luxurious classic design and high fidelity acoustic technologies inspired by Klipsch's prestigious Heritage range. Forget the clutter, hassle and added expense of a receiver or amplifier. This gorgeous pair are powered by an integrated high-output 200W amplifier, and can efficiently deliver accurate room-filling sound.

The Sixes suit all means, be it analogue or digital. Equipped with an integrated phono pre-amp, Bluetooth wireless technology, and a plethora of other inputs. These speakers are not only stunning, but also intelligent.

For more information visit www.henleyaudio.co.uk



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Horizon

The best new tech heading your way

Edited by Claire Davies

1 SAMSUNG GALAXY WATCH

● From £279, samsung.com

Smartwatches are like Marmite: some see the appeal, and some don't. Samsung's new Galaxy Watch, a surprisingly attractive successor to the Gear S3, is hoping to convert non-believers and bolster the faith of the smartwatch loyal. The Galaxy Watch arrives in two sizes (42mm and 46mm), and is infused with a plethora of features that aim to make your daily life better.

It's clear that Samsung has designed the Galaxy Watch to look more like a regular timepiece rather than a big chunk of tech squatting on your wrist. In either its Black or Rose Gold persuasion, you'd be as happy pairing it with a crisp shirt as you would your gym clobber. And yes, the new Samsung wants in on your gym time...

In addition to displaying notifications, and enabling you to make and take calls on the wrist, the Galaxy Watch tracks 39 workouts and offers guided indoor exercises (via Samsung Health), as well as monitoring sleep. It also wants to help organise your smart home, connecting with SmartThings-enabled devices for wrist-based control.

We also like the sound of the My Day watch face, providing an at-a-glance peek at your schedule for the next 10 hours. Could there be a smartwatch hit for Android at last?

TECH-O-METER



Samsung reckons the 46mm Galaxy Watch's battery should last up to seven days if you don't hammer it with heavy use, with the 42mm version lasting for up to four days with light use



T3 SAYS...



A good-looking smartwatch that's fit for parties or the gym

Matt Bolton, Editor

POCKET SIZED PA

The Galaxy Watch acts as a digital assistant, keeping track of your schedule and nudging you about upcoming events. The watch uses the Bixby virtual assistant, so you can set reminders and alarms using your voice

**DOCTOR'S ORDERS**

Cycling, swimming (it's waterproof to 50 meters) and running (it has built-in GPS) are among the 39 workouts tracked, and there are 29 indoor exercises for you to explore, too

PERFECT PARTNERS

Samsung's newcomer is compatible with smartphones running Android 5.0+ or iOS 9+. SmartThings and Samsung Pay are also here, boosting control over your compatible smart home gear and your contactless shopping

2 SONY MASTER SERIES AF9

● £TBC, sony.co.uk

When it comes to tellies, it's easy to get befuddled by all the alphanumeric names. But there's nothing confusing about the sheer awesomeness of Sony's new Master series of 4K HDR TVs. The tech giant's aim with the AF9 OLED (available in 55- and 65-inch sets) was to create "a picture approaching the quality of a professional-grade monitor in a motion-picture studio". Plus, with the help of its own next-gen picture processor, X1 Ultimate, Sony has achieved the kind of supreme accuracy and detail that you'd expect to find from the master. Sony has also teamed up with Netflix to offer Netflix Calibrated Mode. What's that? Switch it on in the menu bar and your fave Netflix shows will come alive in exactly the way their creators intended. Prepare to fall in love with *Stranger Things* all over again.

T3 SAYS: Packed with pro-grade smarts, Sony's new panels are made for telly connoisseurs.

TECH-O-METER



3 AIRLANGO MYSTIC

● \$599 (£469.56), airlango.com

In case you've forgotten, drones aren't only useful for assassination attempts and smuggling contraband into prisons. They're also very good at aerial photography – and this Kickstarter project, due in November, is especially good at it. The Mystic, like many modern drones, uses 3D tracking to follow you around autonomously. But what makes this drone stand out is that it's AI-powered. As it soars above you, it will identify points of interest and focus on them for photos or 4K video. The Mystic is also pre-programmed with a number of 'cinematic' flight patterns, meaning you can recreate the chopper scene from *Apocalypse Now* as it divebombs your garden. Best of all, you can get it to take a selfie just by striking a few poses thanks to gesture control.

T3 SAYS: It's no longer about whether you need a drone, it's whether a drone needs you.

TECH-O-METER



4 KOZMOPHONE

● \$349 (£273.58), kickstarter.com

Much like vinyl records, fashions tend to go round in circles – and aesthetically, this turntable harks back to a time when men smoked pipes and women wore petticoats. Happily, though, the Kozmophone boasts some smarts. For a start, it's modular, so you can remove the horn and connect it, via Bluetooth, to your laptop or smart device as a portable speaker. If you keep the horn on the turntable, you can rotate it 360 degrees to direct sound around the room. But the feature that probably got most of its Kickstarter funders excited (it's due for launch in December) is its holographic display. Choose from a range of icons, download it, then have it rotating inside the turntable's perspex pyramid. Magic.

T3 SAYS: Some might consider it gimmicky, but as a conversation starter, the Kozmophone ticks all the boxes.

TECH-O-METER



5 LG 34WK95U-W

● \$1,499 (£1,165), lg.com

If Vincent van Gogh was alive today, he'd probably give his right ear for one of these. Destined to become the go-to monitor for digital artists, the 34WK95U-W is a borderless wonder that boasts the world's first 5K2K (5120x2160 resolution) 21:9 display. The luxuriant DCI-P3 colour gamut – a film-industry standard – and certified HDR600 compatibility will bring breathtaking exuberance to any project, whether that be Photoshopping your holiday snaps or editing a wedding video. And if you want to multi-task, you can – the monitor's Split Screen function, combined with a Thunderbolt 3 port that provides super-fast, 40Gbps data transfer, means two separate video streams can be viewed side by side.

T3 SAYS: Even for creatives this is arguably OTT, but there's no denying that it's immense when it comes to multi-tasking and crisp colours.

TECH-O-METER



6 NAKED LABS NAKED

● \$1,395 (£1,076), nakedlabs.com

The big drawback of dieting is that you end up spending twice as long in front of the mirror, trying to work out whether or not your handles have shrunk. Well, say goodbye to guesswork, slimmers, because Naked Labs has launched “the world’s first home body scanner”. Step onto the included set of rotating scales and this body-length ‘mirror’ will use its infrared light sensors to map your entire body in 3D. Your scan – along with details including body fat, fat mass, lean mass and weight – will then be beamed to the Naked Labs app, giving you a clear-cut appraisal of your calorie-burning endeavours, with detailed measurements. You can even view scans side by side, to check if you’ve developed an extra chin since last week’s bucket meal.

T3 SAYS: Weight Watchers meets *Minority Report* in this futuristic body-mapping tech.



7 NIKON COOLPIX P1000

● £999, europe-nikon.com

Ever wanted to know what an ant’s earlobe looks like? Or what that microdot on the moon is? Now you can (maybe). The latest snapper in Nikon’s long-running CoolPix range is a wonder of science: it boasts the world’s longest optical zoom (125x, with a focal-length range of 24-3000mm!) for this size of camera – and yet, at a piffling 1.4kg, it’s a fraction of the weight of your average chunky DSLR. Nikon’s proprietary vibration reduction tech will help you capture eye-popping detail even when your hand is shaking. And that telephoto lens can be called into action while filming glorious 4K video, too, so you can shoot *Blue Planet*-style close-ups of sea anenomes to your heart’s content.

T3 SAYS: Whether you’re a wildlife snapper or a super-spy, that mega-zoom will make a *big* difference to your work.



8 SAMSUNG GALAXY TAB S4

● £599, samsung.com

Like the Messi and Ronaldo of the tech world, Apple and Samsung seem to be constantly trying to outdo each other, and the Tab S4 is Samsung's attempt at stealing the 10.5-inch iPad Pro's thunder. As well as being the same size, it packs features that might cause Apple a few sleepless nights. The inclusion of Samsung's own DeX software – the first time the South Korean giant has added it to a tablet – gives users the option to work on a desktop-like interface, complete with a tab bar, window-swapping functionality and gestures like drag and drop. As for

downtime, the Tab S4's almost bezel-less AMOLED display brings movies, games and TV shows to life. Is it better than the iPad 10.5? As with the Messi/Ronaldo debate, that might come down to taste.

T3 SAYS: With a raft of tools and a delicious display, this tablet could give Apple a run for its money.



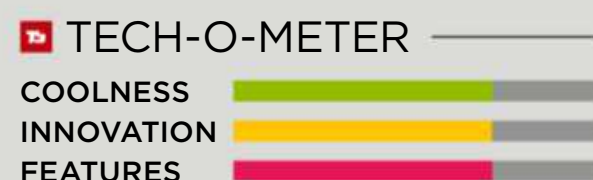
9 I-BOX ELLIPSIS

● £59.99, iboxstyle.com

The Ellipsis looks uncannily like Amazon's Echo Dot, and for good reason, since it's a mini Alexa unit. However, it's a little different: it plugs straight into your wall socket (the pins are right on the back). That might not sound particularly thrilling, but the benefits soon become clear. Apart from actually powering the thing, it makes it less conspicuous to burglars, and also means that sound from the built-in two-watt speaker bounces back off the wall behind it, giving the noise extra oomph. (The Dot has no speakers at all, mind.) Throw in Alexa's multitude of voice-

enabled features, a built-in internet radio and multi-room capability (up to eight Ellipsis speakers can be used), and all of a sudden the Echo Dot's place in your kids' Christmas stocking doesn't look quite so secure.

T3 SAYS: Do we hear an Echo? The Ellipsis is a dead-ringer, though we love its plug-in functionality.



10 FEIYUTECH G6 PLUS

● £269, feiyu-tech.com

No matter how careful you are, it's nigh-on impossible to film a panning shot on your camera or smartphone without it looking like you've sunk five pints beforehand. To achieve your desired smoothness, you need a gimbal. This one – made to fit any camera under 800g, as well as mobiles, pocket video cameras and GoPros – connects wirelessly to the shooting device, letting you control the camera's functions via buttons on the handle. A 'follow focus' feature, as well as the ability to electronically pan-tilt, zoom and rotate, will help you film like a seasoned pro. A

built-in OLED screen indicates battery life, among other things. If you're feeling lazy, you can do almost all of the above without laying a finger on the gimbal thanks to controls on the Feiyu ON app.

T3 SAYS: Channel your inner Spielberg with a shooting stick that's light, functional and full of features.



WE CAN BUILD YOU...

A COMPACT 4K SETUP

Squeeze a cinema-sized experience into any space with this suite of high-tech, low-footprint AV gear

THE READER

David Lees

David is converting his garage and wants to turn part of it into a little high-end entertainment den, but it's tight on space, so he wants to know what the most compact options are.

THE EXPERT

Matt Bolton

Our esteemed(?) editor has lots of experience fitting big tech into poky houses, and is obsessed with achieving the ultimate in home entertainment nirvana.

1 PHILIPS 43PUS6753/12 Go any smaller than 43 inches and you'll struggle to see the benefits of 4K, but in a small room this set is ideal for seeing the full splendour of an eight million-pixel image. And with this Philips TV you get the added bonus of three-sided Ambilight adding to the atmosphere. The TV not only handles Ultra HD but HDR too, with impressive micro-dimming of its LED backlights helping to get the dramatic blacks you need for mind-blowing dynamic range in your movies.

£429, philips.co.uk

2 DAMSON S SERIES So you need to stay small, but don't want to compromise on next-level tech? Damson sees you, friend. The S Series is a Dolby Atmos surround system that's super-teeny. The central soundbar is less than 10 inches wide, and produces the central, left and right channels of the audio, along with two upfiring speakers to add the signature Dolby Atmos effect of sound coming from above. Then, two mini wireless speakers can be placed behind you for rear left and right surround action. A small footprint subwoofer adds some heft to the bass. Even better, the S Series decodes Dolby Atmos signals itself, so no receiver needed: just plug your Xbox and Apple TV straight in here.

From £799, damsonglobal.com

3 XBOX ONE X The most powerful games console ever could earn its way into David's den for a few reasons:

a) you get incredible 4K graphics in your games; b) it's also an Ultra HD Blu-ray player, saving you space by pulling double-duty; c) it supports Dolby Atmos, so makes the most of our full setup; and d) it's much smaller than its 4K rival, the PS4 Pro, despite its more potent components.

£449, xbox.com

4 APPLE TV 4K The Philips TV already has a lot of available streaming services built in, so you could go even more compact here by dropping Apple's tiny entertainment centre. However, there's one crucial service it offers that you can't get elsewhere: iTunes. Apple's movie store has the biggest range of HDR movies for download anywhere, and the same will be true for Dolby Atmos support after an update expected this autumn. Its 4K HDR support is impeccable too, and if you have an iPhone, it's a handy way to beam whatever you're currently watching over to your TV.

£179, apple.com

5 SONY MDR-RF895RK In David's specific case we're not sure he'll need these, but if the rest of you are thinking this setup is ideal for a bedroom or another space where a soundbar might disturb other people in your house, these TV-focused headphones are ideal. The base station connects to your TV directly, so it works with any input, then beams hi-res audio lag-free to the headphones for private listening.

£97, sony.couk





1

2



3



4



T3 **SAYS...**



“A lack of space
doesn’t have to
mean a lack of
high-tech toys!”

Matt Bolton, Editor



RINSE, WASH, REPEAT

Jeans are the workhorse of any person's wardrobe... Sam Squire picks five of the best cuts and colours to be seen in this autumn

1



2



4



5



3



1 ZARA RAW EDGE SKINNY JEANS

Distressed jeans are one of 2018's hottest denim trends, and this raw hem creation can be partnered with every sneaker you own.

£29.99 zara.com

2 HUGO BOSS REGULAR FIT JEANS

For those occasions when you need to create a smarter look, slip into Hugo Boss' popular Regular Fit Jeans, pairing them with brogues and a crisp shirt.

£109, hugoboss.com

3 AMIRI TRACK STACK SKINNY-FIT STRIPED DISTRESSED STRETCH-JEANS

Side stripes were a big summer hit and aren't going away any time soon. These designer jeans will bring the look into autumn.

£705, mrporter.com

4 LEVIS 512 SLIM TAPER FIT

We've chosen the versatile 512 Slim Taper Fit because of its perfect fit and sheer range of colours you can buy 'em in.

From £85, levi.com

5 PULL & BEAR CARROT FIT JEANS

Looser at the crotch yet tapered at the calves, these jeans are ideal for those with larger thighs. They're also great for wearing with boots.

£29.99, pullandbear.com

WHICH WATCH

THE HOTTEST TIMEPIECES RIGHT NOW

> CERTINA DS PH200M

As part of its Heritage Collection, Certina resurrected a dive watch from the 1970s. Inspired by the depths of the ocean, it combines timeless design with a modern automatic movement.

£565, certina.com



> OMEGA SEAMASTER 1948 SMALL SECONDS

Released to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Seamaster, Omega's latest watch is full of retro touches, from the opaline silvery domed dial to the embossed vintage Omega.

£4,950, omega.com



> CHRISTOPHER WARD C65 TRIDENT BRONZE SH21

This classic 1960s dive watch is underpinned by Christopher Ward's thoroughly modern in-house movement. The bronze edition is limited to 150 pieces.

£1,850, christopherward.com



DRESS LIKE

JEFF GOLDBLUM

Turns out the king of cool's playful black ensemble is easy to pull off...

THE JACKET

Bomber jackets are a timeless classic, integrating beautifully with a wide range of looks. Jeff's Saint Laurent Sequin Bomber (£5,135, farfetch.com) is so strong it elevates his entire outfit in one swift move.

THE TROUSERS

Jeff often tones down his bold shirts and jackets with simple trousers. ASOS' Design Slim Fit Black Trousers (£20, asos.com) give you a similar look without the movie star price.

THE SHOES

A simple black boot is a great way to lend an edge to your outfit. The Office Heron Chelsea Boots (£54.99, office.co.uk) provide a similar vibe to Jeff and can be worn with black jeans and trousers.



FOR ALL SEASONS

HOW TO CREATE A TRANSITIONAL WARDROBE

Stylist Ellis Ranson explains how to transition from summer to autumn

Late summer through early autumn is an odd time for clothes. We're not quite ready to let go of the tees and lightweight chinos of summer, but it's still too warm to embrace the heavier knits of autumn. So, how can we shift into the new season both comfortably and stylishly? Ellis Ranson, stylist to the likes of Rio Ferdinand and Peter Andre, suggests running an inventory on your existing wardrobe, then carefully adding in new pieces, rather than splurging on a total fad closet overhaul...

"Men can get away with spending more on fewer pieces, avoiding too much throw-away fashion," says Ellis. Take a look at your jeans and how these could be paired with a new sweatshirt, or give your favourite summer tees a new lease of life beneath a tailored blazer.

Adopting a tonal approach to colour is another key starting point, says Ellis: "I love using different shades of the same colour. Grey is a great example, as different shades of grey creates a clean, effortless look." For choosing a look on cooler autumn days, Ellis suggests layering up – but stylishly. "Layering is a key style hack for all men. If you're wearing a plain jumper, try a longer-line t-shirt underneath, styled with a pair of skinny jeans for a more casual look."

When it comes to comfortable layering, Ellis advises her clients to follow one golden rule: "Gym clothes belong in the gym. We all love a tracksuit, but if you're looking for comfort try a twinset. These are hugely popular and offer a casual look while still helping you look as though you've made an effort."

MONEY NO OBJECT

Louboutin Greggo Flat Calf



There are Oxford shoes and then there's the Louboutin Greggo Calf. A true sartorial icon, this dapper calfskin shoe is more versatile than it first appears, lending itself smartly to suits (pair the Tan with blue suits, the Black with grey) as well as darker rinse jeans. A flash of red from the soles introduces a racy element to an otherwise refined choice of footwear.

£675, eu.christianlouboutin.com

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Even if you're more Johnny English than James Bond, you can still rock a car like 007's. First driven by Sean Connery in *Goldfinger*, the iconic DB5 made a comeback in recent Bond movies. Just don't expect it to fire bullets.

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holdersvc.co.uk



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Tesla's top dog doesn't look that sporty – it could easily be mistaken for a Toyota or a Mitsubishi. But with a 0-60 time of 2.4 seconds, it feels more like fighter jet than car. And it's bursting with cool tech, too!

From £250 per day,
classicparade.co.uk



SMART MOVE

MAKE YOUR CAR AS SMART AS YOUR CONNECTED HOME

Bring smart home levels of control to your car with the new breed of connected car tech. Paul Dimery revs up to find out more...

The average person spends three years of their life driving, so imagine how awesome your daily commute, or weekend road trips, would be if your car were as smart as your connected home? Well, it can be. There's a slew of smart car devices to choose from, starting with Chris (€300/£267, hellochris.ai), a windscreen-mounted digital assistant.

Chris connects via Bluetooth to your phone and car stereo, enabling you to send and receive texts, control music playback, or activate the device's built-in sat-nav, all via your voice or a simple hand gesture.

Another great device is the dash-fitted Hudway Cast (\$199/£150, hudwaycast.com), which wirelessly mirrors smartphone apps on its futuristic heads-up display. So you won't need to take your eyes off the road while you browse content or navigate.

Finally, it's a good idea to perform regular diagnostic checks. Plug the Automatic Pro adapter (\$129.95/£99, automatic.com/pro) into your car's OBD-II port (you should find it under the steering wheel), and the device will send all the info you need – petrol usage, mileage, engine health – to your phone.

HOLE IN NONE

GOODBYE, POTHOLES

Suspension damage could soon be a thing of the past, thanks to a revolutionary, erm, hatchback...

Potholes in the road do your car no favours (why do you think you're constantly having to get your suspension fixed?). Thankfully, help is on its way – or, at least, it is if you plan to buy a Ford Focus... The 2019 model will feature 12 high-resolution sensors, designed to detect pesky craters before you reach them. As soon as they spot a pothole, they'll communicate the message to your hatchback's dampers, which will adjust to ensure your wheels don't sink so deep into the hole. Et voila, a smoother ride (and less time spent at the garage).





TASTE TEST

KITCHEN MAKEOVER

You can shell out a small fortune on a new kitchen but, says Ruth Hamilton, these simple tricks will help you upgrade easily

A kitchen is a useful place for creating shopping lists, menu plans and cooking schedules. But ditch the food-stained bits of paper and make notes directly on your walls by painting in a patch of chalkboard paint. Try Johnstones Magnetic Paint for Blackboards (£14.99, homebase.co.uk).

Making over cabinet doors pays huge style rewards, too. If you have wooden doors, sanding them down and painting them can instantly transform the look of your kitchen. Or, for a faster, more affordable style change, swap in new handles. We like the understated class of the Murano Hand Blown Glass Square Turquoise Cupboard Knob (£10, pushkahome.com).

Next, transform your pans into a design feature by hanging them on a rack, such as the Hahn Classic Rectangular Ceiling Rack (£195, wayfair.co.uk). This has the added bonus of freeing up cupboard space.

Colourful white goods also provide instant makeover status. The obvious starting point is Smeg, which offers fridges, like the Fab 32, in a rainbow of colours (£1,699, johnlewis.com). While we're on the subject of gadgets, a gorgeous stand mixer or eye-catching toaster can also enhance your kitchen's new style. Try the Magimix Vision Toaster (£129.99, nibets.co.uk) or KitchenAid's new Matte Lavender Stand Mixer (£599, kitchenaid.co.uk).

CLEVER
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DELUXE

No garden to dry clothes in? Fret not, as the bijou DriBUDDI will dry your washing indoors. Using a 900W motor, it cleverly circulates hot air around the clothes contained within (up to 14kg of them), ensuring they get a quick, even airing.

£69.99, jmldirect.com

PHILIPS
PERFECTCARE ELITE

If you've ever scorched your clothes while ironing, read on. Equipped with Philips' OptimalTECH, this steamer will select the optimal temperature for whatever it is you're de-creasing. And it switches itself off too, so you won't burn the house down.

£289.99, philips.co.uk

SIEMENS IQ700
WASHING MACHINE

Doing the laundry has never been smarter. Not only will this Wi-Fi-enabled washing machine automatically dispense the correct amount of detergent for the size of your load, it can remove 16 different types of stain. Red wine, you don't stand a chance.

£1,289, johnlewis.com



BEST WATERPROOF CAMERAS



GOPRO HERO6 BLACK

The best choice for capturing extreme watersports footage, the HERO6 Black is small and versatile, offering 4K video at up to 60fps – stick to 30fps for image stabilisation. It's also waterproof to 10 metres without additional housing. **£399.99, shop.gopro.com**



OLYMPUS TOUGH TG-5

The Tough TG-5 utilises an f/2.8 maximum aperture, letting in as much light as possible when underwater. Pro Capture Mode lets you zoom in on details, plus there's 4K video, Wi-Fi and GPS. **£419.99, shop.olympus.eu/en-gb**



PANASONIC LUMIX FT7

31-metre waterproofing makes the Lumix FT7 ideal for diving. There's also a 20.4MP sensor, paired with a 4.6x zoom lens, for capturing detailed shots underwater. The electronic viewfinder's mighty handy too. **£399.99, panasonic.com/uk**



SNOWSCAPE

LICENCE TO THRILL

Spencer Hart is on a mission to infiltrate a James Bond exhibition built on top of an Austrian mountain

If you know exactly how many henchmen James Bond has killed and can recite *The Spy Who Loved Me* à la Alan Partridge, you might want to consider Sölden, Austria, as your next holiday destination. Why? 007 Elements, an immersive exhibition that looks back at the history of Bond and how the films are made. *T3* recently visited, and it was a treat for the Bond fanatics among us.

As you approach the structure, 3,050 metres above sea level, you actually get the feeling you're in a Bond film. And, well, that's because you are – a large section of *Spectre* was filmed on the Gaislachkogel Mountain, where the exhibition space sits.

At the top you're greeted by the stunning Ice Q restaurant and 007 Elements, a stark concrete structure embedded into the side of the mountain. The exhibition reveals itself through a series of tunnel and rooms, each looking at a signature element of the James Bond movie franchise as well as offering epic views of the Tyrolean valleys.

The rooms do a great job of immersing you in the 007 universe, whether that's checking out gadgets in Q's lab, or by inviting you to become a location scout in the 'Briefing Room'. If you're up for this mission, tickets cost €22 (around £20) from 007elements.soelden.com.

SPEAK TO ME

LOST IN TRANSLATION

Language barriers put many people off travelling abroad, but this slick new gadget could make translation issues a thing of the past

Many of us dream of visiting far-flung places, but the thought of learning a new language can be pretty daunting. It seems that the team behind iLi, "the world's most advanced offline translation device", have the same issue. The pocket-sized, rechargeable translator enables you to translate your voice into another language, and doesn't need to be connected to Wi-Fi. At present, iLi (£199, selfridges.com) can translate English into Spanish, Japanese and Mandarin Chinese in as little as 0.2 seconds, with more languages to follow.



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MERINO WOOL BASE LAYERS

SMARTWOOL MERINO 150 SHORT SLEEVE

Core Spun technology (merino wool wrapped around a nylon core) combines comfort



with durability. But where this tee really impresses is temperature regulation. Perfect for an early autumn hike when the wind could be feisty at the top of the climb. **£56.99, snowandrock.com**

ICEBREAKER COOL-LITE MOMENTUM LONG SLEEVE ZIP

Cool-Lite fabric aids comfort, nylon aids durability, and Lycra makes the top pleasingly stretchy. A



zipper chin guard and storm flap prevent chafing, offset shoulder seams stop pack rub, and the odour resistance is unbeatable.

£140, uk.icebreaker.com

DHB MERINO SLEEVELESS BASE LAYER

Here, the lightweight, super-fine material wicks away sweat and resists body odours, with excellent thermal regulation



keeping you cool. This soft vest is a good choice for a base layer, or as the first layer of your base system.

£23.99, wiggle.co.uk

ROCK AND ROLL

Original Wild founder and adventure expert Kyle Moran picks his top rock climbing kit



1 BLACK DIAMOND VAPOR HELMET

This helmet is so ultra-light you forget you're wearing it. Extremely breathable too, so you can climb harder.

£96, bananafingers.co.uk



3 MONTANE PRISM JACKET

When securing your climbing partner, things can get chilly. A quality synthetic jacket that fits over your harness and gear is essential for exposed moments.

£120, montane.co.uk



2 ARCTERYX AR 395A HARNESS

If you want a lightweight harness that feels like it was made for you, this is it. We use it at Original Wild, and it's one of the best I've owned.

£120, arcteryx.com



4 DMM PIVOT BELAY DEVICE

A bombproof guide belay device used at Original Wild.

Enables you to secure a climbing partner in different modes, with single or double ropes.

£30.60, gooutdoors.co.uk



5 BOLDRINI APACHE 5

These climbing shoes aren't the cheapest, but they last. Comfortable, and a great-looking shoe that slides on and off a treat.

£149, coldmountainkit.com

RUNNING SHOES FACE-OFF

Ultra-grip trainers for staying steady on your feet



INOV-8 TERRAULTRA G 260

£140, inov-8.com

British brand inov-8 already has an excellent reputation for its running shoe grip, and by using graphene, it's now durable too. The upper is no less rugged, infused with Kevlar. A wide toebox makes the shoes breathable, while zero drop aids natural running form. At just 260g, the shoe is also insanely light. ★★★★★

ALTRA MEN'S LONE PEAK 3.5

£120, altrafootwear.co.uk

Altra, huge in US trail-running and new to the UK, offers a wide toebox, zero drop and ample cushioning. The shoes are comfortable and rugged. Grip is good, but less sticky than the TerraUltra's. The cushioning will feel luxurious to some but excessive to others, and the size and weight negates dexterity. ★★★★★





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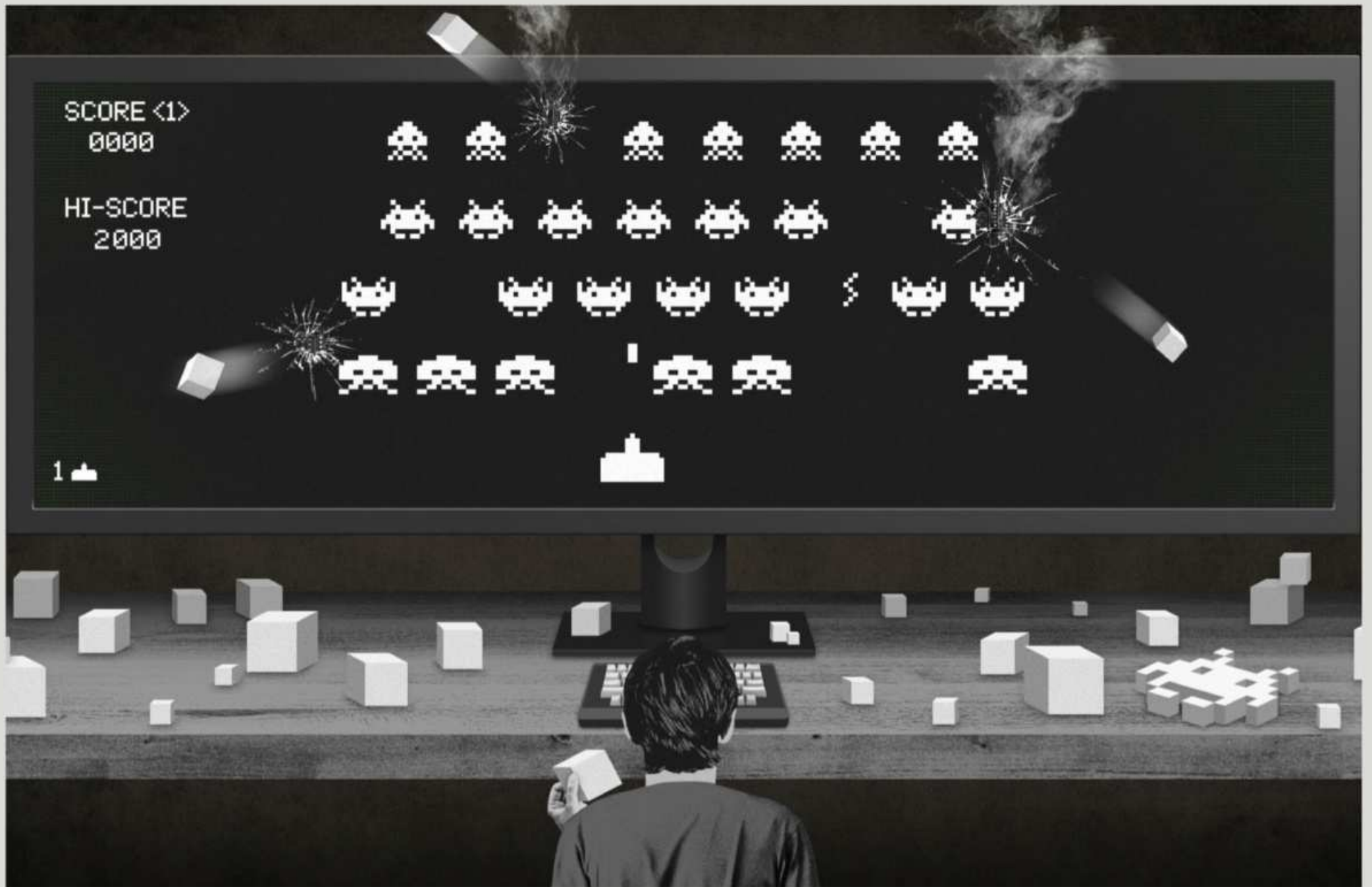
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*Performance result may vary on different configuration. Product features and specifications may vary by model.

TRUE GAMING

GADGET GURU

Our adviser makes the tech world even clearer than a 5K display



CHERRY GREEN, UTTOXETER

Which monitor should I get?

A The progressive ease at which Korea, Japan, and China can manufacture LCD panels means great things for the desktop market, and good news for fans of odd aspect ratios and absurd pixel density. Though selecting the right one boils down to a personal cost/benefit analysis.

You could plump for a 16:9 screen, which suits most applications, most online video formats, and most games, or you could go mad with a more exotic oblong: the Cinemascope-shaped 21:9 is making big inroads, while Samsung and others are pushing a rather silly 32:9 ultrawide ratio.

When things start getting that complex, and you start dealing with that many pixels, you need extra hardware to drive it; 1080p has you wrangling two million pixels, while a 4K screen pushes that over eight million. Not that GaGu would recommend going for anything less than QHD (2560x1440), because it really does make a difference.

When things start getting that complex and you start dealing with that many pixels, you need extra hardware to drive it

ABOVE

The bigger your monitor, the bigger your joy. Isn't that how the saying goes?

There's the question of curves (that's really an each to their own sort of thing) and HDR (you don't need it, but it's nice to have, if what the manufacturer *claims* is HDR actually is). There's the question of refresh rates (don't trust science - you'll notice the difference between 60Hz and 144Hz) and sync (look for something in conjunction with your graphics card for tear-free images).

GaGu cop-out answer time, then: buy the best thing you can afford, and what works with your desk. Don't get something gigantic if you're going to be a foot away from it; don't spend on gaming features if you're never going to use them.

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

**FRANKIE DANIELS, FIFE**

Is my smart speaker really spying on me all the time?



GaGu's been asked this question before, and nothing has changed: they're just not built to do that. And that remains true: until its trigger phrase kicks it into action, an Alexa or Google Assistant-infused device is only listening on a tiny loop (one-second in the Echo's case) that's constantly recording over itself. You're limited to a specific list of potential triggers because the small hardware circuit that splits the wait mode from the active mode is not advanced enough to accept anything more, and (for your security) it's designed to stay exactly as it is, to prevent hacking.

That said! That said. Guru has learned that while your smart speaker is not listening at all times (we'll sidestep a few sinister patents from Facebook – you can write your own conspiracy theories about those) it is certainly remembering. Google Assistant, for instance, literally stores a record of

everything it's heard you say once activated, along with everything else you've done with your Google account. Some of these entries (you can find them in the My Activity section of your Google account) even include audio recordings. Ostensibly this is a way to ensure the service Google offers you is personal; cynically, Guru also suspects Google is holding on to them to improve its voice-recognition algorithms.

Amazon does the same thing – you can find your voice recording history through the Alexa app, and see just how miraculous it is that your Echo device can determine through the muffled hiss of your room just what it is you're trying to say. Both services helpfully allow you to delete these recordings, but here's the rub: if you want to use a voice assistant, you're going to be recorded. Uncomfortable as the idea may be, that's how these services work.

**ABOVE**

If there's a tiny spy living in your smart speaker, do they get tiny pay cheques?

**LARRY RYAN, LONDON**

How do I keep my humidor tippity top?



Guru (and, he is assured, the rest of the agonisingly clean-cut *T3* team) cannot condone the idea of you smoking, dear reader. You shouldn't do it. It's really bad for you. But if you do, and if your predilections lean towards cigars through which you can really taste the sumptuous surfaces it was promised to have been rolled on, you're not going to be able to pull off that fantastic Hannibal Smith impersonation with a soggy stoogie.

So, if you must, the best way to keep tabs on your death-box is with a Bluetooth sensor that can sit in there and beam the conditions out to you. GaGu especially likes the SensorPush HT1 (£50), which monitors both humidity and temperature in one tiny package (so you can relocate the box if it's looking like your storage space is the problem), but he's more inclined towards putting it to work in his suspiciously damp, warm fridge. Just what is in there? We may be better off not knowing.

GADGET GURU'S MAGIC BOX



This summer's heatwave led GaGu to place himself in front of the barbeque, turning ever-more lobster under the burning sun. Turns out (or at least this is the story he told

Mrs Guru) that the grill was definitely broken. While the price of getting a Lynx Smart Grill express-shipped from the States didn't quite match up to the immense value of its Wi-Fi connectivity, rotisserie features and app-directed meat-placement advice, Guru did at least get a Big Green Egg (£625 for too small to £2,950 for ridiculously big). Inside, a Meater (£79) beams the meat's internal goings-on directly to GaGu's phone.

Guru is a little alarmed at the ability of his youngest child to wiggle his little brain into any tech put in front of him – particularly if that tech is protected by parental controls.

More severe sanctions have been made necessary – router-level parental controls, specifically the Disney-fied variety found in the Netgear Orbi mesh system (£250 for two nodes) are doing the trick at keeping him on the straight and narrow for now.

Technology couldn't fix GaGu's cat's recent predilection for what the vet calls 'middening' – even the mighty Feliway face-hormone diffusers (£17-ish, or a lot more if you get it from the vet) didn't stop the agoraphobic tyke from leaving presents throughout Guru Towers. GaGu can, however, heartily recommend both cat litter tray liners, which simplify an otherwise disgusting process, and the microchip-detecting SureFlap cat flap (£52), which (as long as batteries are live) does a strong job at keeping out unwanted intruders.



NEW MEDIA

NOW PLAYING

The greatest media you need on your various screens

**BETTER CALL SAUL**

One of the greatest TV tricksters returns to Netflix in the new season of *Better Call Saul*. We can't wait to see what Jimmy gets up to as it creeps toward the start of *Breaking Bad*.

**GIDEON FALLS**

Echoes of *Twin Peaks* haunt this new comic from the creative team behind *Old Man Logan*, which sees a young man and Catholic priest drawn to the dark town of Gideon Falls.

**DONUT COUNTY**

In this quirky, colourful game for PC/Mac/PS4/iOS, you play a hole that must get bigger and eat everything in its path. It sounds daft, but suspend all scepticism and jump in.



HAL WINTER, TRURO

Can tech help me gain muscle?

A Look away from the infomercials, Mr Flex, because there's nothing for you there. GaGu can't legally say that (unnamed) vibrating stando-plates or torturous ab-zappers don't work, but use a little common sense – you know you can't cheat your way to a six pack.

The trick is to dodge the other kind of six pack, get your diet right, and work the right things at the right time. Tech, or at least apps, can help with that; Fitness Point (iOS/Android, free) offers a basic selection of mass-building routines, with animations to help you find the right form, while Jefit (iOS/Android, free) does the same with photos, and lets you track your lifts as well.



EVAN PETERSON, NORWICH

Are dash cams worth it?

A What price do you put on security, safety, or the possibility of capturing footage of a crazy meteor strike while you're trundling along the M5? Of course it's worth it. Decent dash cams are leaving China by the containerload, so while we think you should plump for Garmin's Dash Cam 55 (£119) you could get good results with the Yi Smart Dash Camera (£40).

Your insurance will get cheaper and, as long as you install the cam properly, you'll not even notice it's there. One caveat, though: GaGu's experiences attempting to run the cabling for a rear-facing camera were so negative he was inclined to dash the thing onto the pavement.

With a dash cam in your car you have the possibility of capturing footage of a crazy meteor strike as you trundle along the M5

**ABOVE**

We want to look great on the outside, but we also really want to just lie in bed watching Netflix



KERRY CALLIHAN, LIVERPOOL

How do I make good mobile recordings?

A You would be surprised at what that tiny mic on your phone is capable of. Guru listens to podcasts recorded using nothing but an Android handset, and while the content's excruciating, the audio quality generally isn't.

To do it better, Zoom's compact £100-ish H1n (a replacement for the H1, a long-standing favourite) produces remarkable audio at a decent price, using a crossed-pair microphone array to deliver a good stereo image. Consider also the Tascam DR-05, similarly specced but coming in at £75. For even more professional results, see the Beyerdynamic mic on p42.

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

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

See p46

Duncan Bell is wrapped in plastic

Opening a new bit of tech is like weird sex involving lots of film. Is this sustainable?

Opening a new gadget is a very 21st century expression of sexual desire. As millennials turn their backs on bonking, to spend more time with their avocados, inducting a new bit of tech is filling the hole that leaves. You don't agree? Consider this...

When you buy a new bit of tech, the box is swaddled in shrink wrap, stretched taut across its body. Everything is visible, yet prophylactically covered. With fumbling hands you must ease your way through, then tear it off. Inked text and logos hint at the excitement within, like the neon signs on disreputable bars of yore.

Pprise off the lid and what you desire is finally visible. The next layer of plastique is not transparent but translucent – sometimes near opaque. Rather than being sealed tightly like the outer layers, this is suggestively loose, held together by easily found tabs. This must be carefully, lovingly peeled back.

Beneath, the soft plastic, the vulnerable glass and the hard, unyielding metal of the gadget's construction seem to yearn for your touch. Finally, on the most sensitive area, the screen, there is one final sheet of plastic. You peel it back. Now, at last, you can gaze upon its true face, and let your fingers work their magic, bringing it to life.

You get the subtle subtext of what I'm getting at here, right? Come on, we all know why people love unboxing videos...

I need a shower after that

Not surprisingly, it was an Apple product that recently made me have all these rather feverish thoughts about plastic. The Series 3 Apple Watch, which I bought as

a present, is perhaps the most well wrapped device of all time.

First up, the watch comes in a shrink-wrapped box that even the shop assistant at the Apple Store described as "over-sized". Honestly, it's about the size of one of those massive packs of cigarettes you can buy in duty-free shops, or luggage for a rabbit. Then the inner packaging is plastic on top of card on top of plastic. Even the straps, *which are entirely made of plastic*, come wrapped in individual bits of more diaphanous plastic.

I've played up the sexy element of unwrapping tech here because that's the way my mind works, but it is, of course, much more complex than that.

“There are aspects of fetishism, but there is also inhuman precision and spiritual devotion”

There are aspects of fetishism but there is also inhuman precision, spiritual devotion and, more prosaically, protection and preservation of the new tech as it moves up the supply chain from factory to the clammy embrace of your sweaty hands.

With the Apple Watch, for instance, the vacuum-formed inner tray is like a perfect tech bento box, fussed and thought over to the nth degree by Jony Ive and his monkish

acolytes.

The way Apple has taken some of the tropes of luxury watch packaging, but applied them to a more explicitly 'tech' product, is also clever if you're in the know. However, how long can this level of packaging excess continue?

Given how upset people now get about plastic drinking straws and single-use shopping bags, it seems inevitable that there will be a backlash against this school of packaging. It's so beautiful, so OTT, so perfectly plastic and... So absolutely destined to be immediately sent to landfill.

I'm not picking on Apple in particular here. I'm aware that, in recent years, the company has worked hard to reduce the amount of plastic it uses in its packaging, and that much of what it uses is actually recycled (though this is problematic in itself as recycled plastic has usually reached the last of its nine lives) or is recyclable. Probably other brands have too.

Even so, realistically, our precious tech must surely all start coming to us in corrugated cardboard and ugly pseudo-plastics based on starch. That's probably great for the planet, but I admit I will miss this era of perfect icons of glass and steel, impeccably dressed in sexy, sexy plastic.



THE WORLD'S LEADER IN VPN



ExpressVPN



editor's
choice

techradar



BEST TECH FOR EVERYTHING

Find out how tech can upgrade every part of your life,
from art appreciation and top tellies to the best shave ever

Words: Becca Caddy, Matt Bolton Photography: Neil Godwin





THE BEST TECH FOR... *audiovisual supremacy*

1 Sonos Beam

Sonos' new soundbar packs a stunning amount of audio into your bedroom or living room, lifting the flat sound you get from most TVs. But it's also a great addition to a smart home setup, thanks to built-in Alexa voice control, and it's part of a Sonos or Apple AirPlay 2 multi-room music system. And that Sonos support means you could add a couple of Sonos satellite speakers or its subwoofer to extend it into a more comprehensive surround system. There's really no better-value way to boost your home's sound and smarts.

£399, sonos.com

2 Sony AF8

Our favourite telly on the market right now (the AF9 may change that when it lands – see p12) starts with a gorgeous OLED 4K panel that produces perfect HDR visuals, and then continues with best-in-class image processing for making HD content look great at Ultra HD, and making motion perfectly smooth in sports. It also comes with 'Acoustic Surface' speaker tech: the whole screen itself is a speaker (with a woofer at the back for added oomph), creating a more engrossing soundstage than other TVs.

From £2,199, sony.co.uk

3 Sony WH-1000XM2

Get rid of the outside world and focus solely on your music with Sony's advanced noise-cancelling headphones. They're comfortable to wear for long periods of time, and do an amazing job of cutting down on exterior noise (and even have special tuning for pressure-change environments, such as planes). Most importantly, they sound fantastic. With lively detail and rich bass, it all sounds perfectly balanced. Add smarts like being able to place one hand over a cup to let in noise from the outside temporarily, and you've got a winner.

£330, sony.co.uk

4 Optoma UHZ65

When it comes to projectors, you need to go laser if you want the best picture possible. But buying this kind of cinema-quality tech has always been the reserve of the really rich... until the UHZ65 arrived. This projector blows the mind with its HDR pictures, the laser system creating deep blacks and vibrant colours. The 4K image is also packed with detail. It's not too large either, so you won't need to create a whole home cinema space just to accommodate it.

£4,999, optoma.co.uk



1



2



4



3

Pro-Ject RPM 9 Carbon

Rectangular turntables? Forget it. Half the fun of getting back to vinyl is how everything looks on display in your home, so you want to buy a player that's as much objet d'art as practical tool. Say hello to the RPM 9 Carbon. The main plinth, with platter and tone arm, is shaped like a guitar pick, and finished in dramatic carbon fibre. The motor is in a separate section of the base, ensuring that it doesn't interfere with the smooth motion of the platter, so your records always sound impeccable. **£1,750, henleyaudio.co.uk**

Bang & Olufsen BeoSound 2

Continuing our 'audio as art' theme is B&O's 360-degree wireless speaker. The gorgeous aluminium design comes in silver, gold and Infantry Green finishes, and is easy to play music to, thanks to wireless support for Bluetooth, AirPlay 2, Chromecast and DLNA. The sound spreads around the room beautifully thanks to that striking 'Acoustic Lens' design at the top: the tweeter fires downwards onto a teardrop-shaped structure, which reflects it out in all directions. **£1,475, bang-olufsen.com**



TOP TV ACCESSORIES



XOLORspace SMARTOOO 23051

We've now got a range of 4K HDR streamers, games consoles, Blu-ray players... but a lot of TVs only have a couple of 4K-capable ports. You need a high-speed HDMI switch, and this is it. Five inputs, one output: all sorted. **£39.99, amazon.co.uk**



Logitech Harmony Elite

Control your telly and smart home from one touchscreen-programmable remote. A single press can turn on the TV and the Blu-ray player, set the input, and dim the smart lights. You can also control it from your phone or using Alexa. **£299, logitech.com**



Chromecast Ultra

This tiny streaming box dangles behind your TV, adding an easy way to beam 4K video over to it from any Chromecast-enabled app on Android or iOS, including Netflix and YouTube. Browse on your phone, watch on your TV. Easy. **£69, store.google.com**

THE BEST TECH FOR... *finer tastes*

1 Cozzia Qi CZ-730 Smart Massaging Chair

A hand-held body tension sensor built in to this smart chair evaluates the stiffness in your back. You can then tell the app where you're experiencing problems and it'll use that info along with your biometric data to create a personalised massage programme specially designed to ease up your problem areas. Using heated rollers that move in all directions, the chair is designed to feel like a real life human massage, not a fancy robot. Think of it as your own personal chair doctor.

\$12,999.99 (£9,826), cozziausa.com

2 Coravin Model 2 Elite

For the ultimate in luxury-meets-technology, may we introduce you to Coravin. It's a wine preservation system that lets you taste that crisp white or rich red without pulling out the cork. It comes with a needle that pierces corks gently to extract the wine, then the Coravin Capsule uses argon gas to prevent oxidation of the vino that's left, keeping it as delicious as the day you started it. It's a must-have for sampling fine wines without committing to finishing the whole bottle, and would be right at home in any wannabe sommelier's kitchen.

£279, coravin.co.uk

3 Orion SkyQuest XT8g Computerised GoTo Dobsonian Telescope

See the stars like you've never seen them before with this high-end telescope from Orion. It's fully motorised and comes with object-location tech, which means it can automatically track more than 42,000 celestial objects, and makes stargazing a breeze. Its eight-inch aperture reflector optics can show you detailed views of our solar system, including planets and the moon, but you can also view some deep sky objects as well, like star clusters and nebulae.

£849.99, uk.telescope.com

4 Leica M10 Edition Zagato

This beautiful camera combines the high-end German craftsmanship Leica is famous for with the luxury Italian touch of car-design legend Dr Andrea Zagato. It has a Leica Summilux-M 35mm f/1.4 ASPH lens and as the Zagato design house is known for its innovative use of aluminium, it's no surprise to see that's what the camera's casing is made from. It's limited edition, so if you want to take exceptional photos on an exceptional device, act fast.

£18,000, leicastore-mayfair.co.uk



Optik Horizon 001 Flagship

This distinctive and stylish watch presents time in a totally different way by putting the whole 24 hours of the day on its face. Not only is it an unusual concept, but so is its design. Its face features a yellow and grey rotating dial, which turns only once throughout the day, and is housed in a stainless steel casing. The device has a 100m water resistance rating, a 20mm black silicone strap and comes in a number of different androgynous styles.

£349, optikinstruments.com

Meural Leonora

It's time to make your art smart. The Leonora may look like a regular frame, but you can control the art that's displayed on it via the Meural app, Alexa voice control, or just by waving your hand in front of it. You have instant access to more than 100 images and works of art, or you can sign up for a membership to the Meural gallery, which will give you lots more to choose from. **From £599.95, Smartech at selfridges.co.uk**



DELUXE GLAMPING GADGETS

**Nebula Capsule**

Watch movies, TV shows and anything else from your phone in the middle of nowhere with this portable projector. It delivers a great picture up to 100 inches, and the 100 ANSI lumens brightness looks fab in dimmer light. **£399.99, amazon.co.uk**

**Heining 5995 Portable Fire Pit**

If you like sitting around fires but not the way your hair and clothes smell of smoke afterwards, this portable fire pit is for you. It burns smokeless and it's easy to carry, making it ideal for the campsite or your patio. **£231.94, amazon.co.uk**

**Olight X7R Marauder**

You want to see in the dark? The X7R Marauder has a maximum output of 12,000 lumens, which means it's one of the brightest flashlights you can get. It's also dust-proof and waterproof, so can survive a rainy walk back from the pub. **£237.95, olightstore.uk**

THE BEST TECH FOR... *having fun*

1 Expressive E Touché Synth Controller

If your idea of a good time involves listening to music or creating your own, then you're going to love the E Touché. It's an expressive instrument that lets you control electronic sounds using touch. Soft and hard gestures will influence the intensity of the sound you hear and even the slightest pressure will have an effect, which means there's lots of scope to be creative. The E Touché is USB-powered and also has built-in MIDI and CV ports for direct connection to your favourite synth.

€399 (£352.84), expressivee.com

2 Z Scooter

The first self-balancing scooter, this shiny vehicle may have been designed with vintage styling, but with zero emissions, its own app and a Tesla Model S long-lasting battery, it's a modern take on the classic mode of transport. It's made of solid, high-quality materials and comes in a range of different colours. Everything about the scooter is intuitive, with a touch-activated light and a driving style that follows your body's movements, making it easy to learn to use in a matter of minutes.

€5,950, z-scooter.com

3 Nintendo Classic Mini: Super Nintendo Entertainment System

Retro gaming is having a real moment right now and what better way to relive your youth than with a SNES Classic? This version of the iconic console has the original look and feel of the '90s console, but it's smaller and more portable. It also bakes in a new feature, which enables you to rewind up to five minutes of gameplay. It comes fully loaded with 21 games, many of which are multiplayer (it comes with two controllers in the box), including *Super Mario Kart* and *Donkey Kong Country*.

£69.99, store.nintendo.co.uk

4 Lego Star Wars Y-Wing Starfighter Ultimate Collectors Series

Part of Lego's elite-level *Star Wars* sets, this Y-Wing Starfighter kit features an incredible level of detail, including wheel-activated ion cannons, space for the R2 astromech droid, and it even has an opening cockpit with a Gold Leader minifigure perched inside. It's a great toy to own, but it's definitely been designed with *Star Wars* fans and collectors in mind, as it comes with both a display stand and a fact plaque. It's more than two feet long and 11 inches wide, so make some space.

£169, shop.lego.com

1



2



3



4



MenKind FPV Rock Crawler

This remote-controlled buggy is built for off-road adventures, with a sturdy waterproof frame and big tyres. A camera sits over the front, so you can use the remote to take photos or video, or watch a live stream from the rock crawler on your phone in real time. What's more, if you have a VR headset that can be powered by your phone, you can have an even more immersive experience by viewing what the rock crawler sees as if you're there.

£79.99, menkind.co.uk





Parrot Bebop 2 FPV

For the most immersive flying experience you're likely to get without a pilot's license, you need the Parrot Bebop 2 FPV drone. For those not in the know, FPV stands for First Person View, and that's exactly what you get when you send the Parrot Bebop 2 drone up into the sky. It can take exceptional photos, but it's also able to capture 1080P Full HD, which you can watch in real time via the FPV Goggles – just like being in the cockpit.

£379.99, parrot.com/uk

VIRTUAL REALITY



Oculus Go

The latest VR headset from Oculus works all on its own, without added devices or an expensive computer. It's a lightweight design with a clear lens, and has surround sound audio and access to more than 1,000 VR games and apps.

£249.99, oculus.com



GoPro Fusion 360 Camera

A GoPro especially for capturing 360-degree videos and photos in all kinds of conditions. It has an 18MP camera with built-in stabilisation for a super-smooth shot, and you can create fully immersive VR experiences in 5.2K video.

£649.99, shop.gopro.com



Lenovo Star Wars: Jedi Challenges

If you've always dreamed of becoming a Jedi, then now is your chance. This augmented reality game arms you with a headset and a lightsaber controller so you can battle Darth Vader and Kylo Ren as you use the Force.

£149.99, currys.co.uk

THE BEST TECH FOR... *personal improvement*

1



2



3



5



4



1 DrinKup Bottle

Stay hydrated with this smart water bottle, which recommends how much you need each day based on your height, weight and daily activities. It'll also show you your hydration level on the lid throughout the day and vibrate when you need to drink more. It comes with an app, which bugs you to hydrate, keeps tabs on how often you drink so you don't have to and lets you know how well your hydration habit is coming along.

\$69 (£52.15),
drinkupbottle.com

2 Dyson Supersonic Hair Dryer

One of the best hair dryers on the planet, the Supersonic has 1,600W of power, with amplification tech tripling the amount of air it pushes out. There are three different speed settings, as well as heat-control smarts. That means it might be super quick and easy to use, but it won't frazzle your hair. The hair dryer also comes with a number of different magnetic attachments, like a smoothing nozzle for added sleekness and shine.

£299.99, currys.co.uk

3 Garmin Forerunner 645 Music

Runners need a dedicated sports watch for pounding the pavement, and with GPS and music storage, this is perfect. Download 500 songs and connect Bluetooth headphones for hassle-free listening. It has everything you'd expect from a high-end running watch, including heart-rate tracking and lots of data about how you move – and there's even more detailed tracking if you add the Garmin Foot Pod sensor.

£399.99, buy.garmin.com

4 Ovie Smarterware

For a food storage system that's smart yet simple, check out Ovie. Attach its SmartTags to anything in your fridge, from an Ovie container to a bag of veg. The light on the tag will then show you the status of your food and how quickly you should eat it. Green is fresh, yellow is good (but eat it soon), and red is throw it away. It's a great idea for meal prep and reducing food waste if you often forget when you put things in your fridge.

£TBC, ovie.life

5 WattBike Atom

A super-smart indoor bike trainer that enables you to get fit and improve your cycling performance from the comfort of your living room. A Climb Mode with automatic resistance, means you don't need to keep changing settings. It also keeps your cycling quiet, so you can get up at the crack of dawn for a spinning session without waking everyone up. You can access training plans, track your performance and analyse data from the WattBike Hub via an app.

£1440, wattbike.com

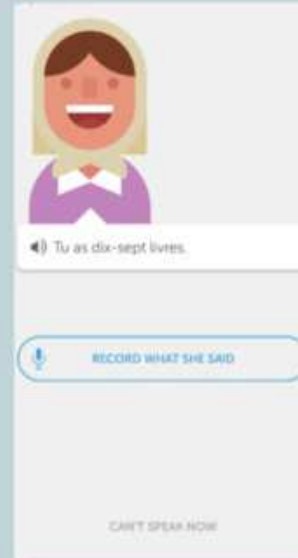
Philips Series 9000 Prestige Electric Shaver

The latest shaver from Philips, the Series 9000 Prestige, gives you a shave as close as a straight razor. It's equipped with blades that pull hair closer to the foil before cutting, for ultimate closeness even when tackling days-old stubble, and anti-friction rings ensure it won't irritate the skin as it goes. You can easily tweak its power to suit the sensitivity of your skin, too. It also comes with a Qi charging pad for keeping it juiced up without any hassle (handy for your phone, too).

£450, amazon.co.uk



LEARN ANOTHER LANGUAGE



Duolingo

A popular app for learning languages, Duolingo teaches you through different levels, badges and topics in a range of ways that'll keep you on your toes. With more than 30 languages to choose from, you'll be like a local in no time. It also has social features, for practicing with others.

Free, iOS;

Free, Android



Rosetta Stone

If you're serious about learning a new language, buy a subscription for Rosetta Stone. You'll then get access to the service's fantastic app, which is full of lessons and has speech-recognition technology built-in to improve your pronunciation. Lessons can be downloaded for offline learning.

Free, iOS;

Free, Android



Memrise

If you're having fun, you're likely to develop lasting skills faster. That's why Memrise mixes real-life content with language learning. There are lots of languages to choose from and a handy offline mode means you can learn any time. There's even a chatbot to practice talking to.

Free, iOS;

Free, Android

THE BEST TECH FOR... *getting things done*

1 Samsung Galaxy Note9

Samsung's biggest phone yet is ideal for working on the go, because it has a bunch of features that make the most of its 6.4-inch 2960x1440 AMOLED display. The S Pen is now Bluetooth-connected, with 4,096 levels of pressure detection and a button you can use to control the phone. It's also got clever split-screen controls, which let you pair apps to launch side-by-side, so it's easy to bring up your calendar and email together, for example. Plus, you can get it with 512GB of storage, and then at another 512GB SD card for a whopping 1TB. **£899, samsung.com**

2 Beyerdynamic Fox Professional USB Studio Microphone

This professional microphone is the ideal choice for podcasters, gamers, YouTubers, content creators, musicians, singers, songwriters and anyone else who relies on recording top-quality audio for a job or side project without any hassle. With 24-bit and 96kHz support, it delivers a high-resolution audio quality that could compete with the result you'd probably get from a professional recording studio. It comes with a USB cable, but can also connect to smartphone via an adapter. **£179 (£158.23), europe.beyerdynamic.com**

3 Anker Powercore II Slim

We all know there's nothing quite as heart-breaking as watching your phone battery slowly ebb away when you've forgotten your charger. Make sure that never happens again with a portable charger that can go with you everywhere. We like the Powercore II Slim from Anker because it's compact enough to fit in any bag, it's high capacity, promising 3.5 whole charges for an iPhone 8, and it plays nice with a range of other devices. **£25.99, amazon.co.uk**

4 Microsoft Surface Go

Microsoft's latest Surface is a tablet on the, uh, surface, but it's got the full power of Windows underneath, which makes it really flexible for working on the go. At 1.15lbs, it's the lightest Surface ever made, and with 8GB RAM and 256GB of storage it delivers great performance. It's specially designed for mobile work with a compact design and touchscreen, but you can also connect it up to a Surface Dock and view your work from an external monitor when you get back to the office. **From £379, microsoft.com**



Moleskine Pen+ Ellipse and Moleskine Paper Tablet

The Pen+ Ellipse may look like a stylish, regular pen but it's super smart and can transfer everything you do offline onto your digital devices. You'll need one of the Moleskine Paper Tablet notebooks for it to work, which contain special paper that tracks everything you do with the pen and makes it available digitally in real time. That means whether you're taking notes, doodling, creating graphs or even using the diary planner, you can easily turn your analogue scribbles into shareable digital ones. **£179, moleskine.com**

Apple MacBook Pro 13-inch

Packing more power than ever, the new 13-inch Pro from Apple is ideal for getting things done. It has a great-looking 13.3-inch LED-backlit Retina display and latest-generation Intel quad-core processors, while still weighing just 1.3kg. With 10 hours of battery life, it's good for working while on the move, with even pro apps handled comfortably by the power of that processor. The integrated Touch Bar and Touch ID security also make for quicker, more efficient working.

£1,749, apple.com/uk

**ESSENTIALS FOR WORKING ON THE GO****Thule Vea Backpack 25L**

Thule creates tough bags and cases that keep your gear and your tech safe. This backpack is designed to keep a 15-inch MacBook/15.6-inch PC protected with padded pockets, padded straps and compartments for everything else. **£110, thule.com/en-gb**

**Satechi Type-C Pro Hub Adapter**

If you get the MacBook Pro recommended above (or on p102), you'll notice it only has USB-C connections. This small adapter gives you every port you could need: Ethernet, HDMI, 2x USB 3, microSD card, and power. **\$99 (£75.33), satechi.net**

**Western Digital My Passport**

A good-looking and reliable portable storage system that you can take with you wherever you go. It's ideal for those who rely on smaller laptops that lack space and need a simple, secure way to back up their work. **From £54.99, wdc.com**

THE BEST TECH FOR... *relaxing and recharging*



1 Kindle Oasis

The newest ereader from Amazon is also the best of the bunch. For starters, it's waterproof, which makes it ideal for holidays or indulging in some restorative reading in the bath. It has a seven-inch high-resolution display at 300ppi, so it reads just like printed paper without glare from any lights like other ereaders. It also has built-in Audible support with 200,000 titles to choose from, so you could read a book then seamlessly switch to listening to it. **£229.99, amazon.co.uk**

2 Moodo

Smell is a really strong trigger for evoking feelings or memories, so take fine control of how your house smells with this smart scent diffuser. You can load four capsules of various aromas into it, then use the app to program what balance of each you want, giving you a personalised air for every mood. You can control it using Alexa or Google Home too. Push something invigorating first thing in the morning, or chilled out in the evening, and anything in between. **£99.95, moodo.co**

3 Spire Health Tag

To monitor your stress levels, sleep and activity throughout the day and night, attach one of these to your clothes and you won't have to worry about it again. All of the data goes to the Spire app where you can take a look at how your activity levels, heart rate, sleep, breathing patterns and stress levels affect how you feel and perform throughout the day. You can put more than one tag on your clothes. They're waterproof, as well as washer and dryer safe. **From \$49, spire.io**

4 Oura Ring

You don't need a wristband to find out more about how you move and sleep. The Oura ring tracks all your activity, like exercise and steps, and helps you get a better night's rest. It helps you to visualise and understand your sleep patterns by analysing your sleep stages, resting heart rate, heart rate variability, body temperature and more. It's also durable, water resistant up to 100 metres, and as a bonus, looks minimal and stylish. **From €314 (£277.68), ouraring.com**

5 Hyperice Viper 2.0

Foam rollers are great for easing out knots and relieving aches on your own after you've been working out. Luckily, like everything else, the boring old foam roller has had a high-tech makeover and this one from Hyperice vibrates. This means you're getting a deeper, and more effective massage. Use the smart roller regularly for better circulation, relaxing your muscles, warming them up before exercise and recovering from injury. **€230 (£203), hyperice.eu**

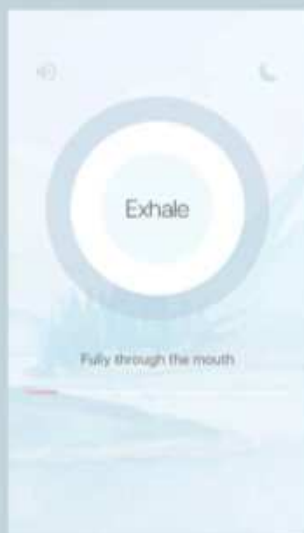
Foreo UFO Smart Face Mask Treatment

This combines dermal technology with effective Korean face mask formulas. The result is an indulgent treatment for your face that only lasts a few seconds, but improves the look of your skin the way a long mask treatment would. The UFO uses a mixture of warm and cold therapies, LED light therapy and a pulsating message to give you a safe, painless, UV-free facial that can help you look miles better after a night out, even when you have no time to spare.

£249, foreo.com



CALMING APPS



Oak

Whether you're after a quick and simple breathing exercise or a guided meditation that'll last half an hour, Oak has all your relaxation needs covered. It also plays soothing sounds and white noise for those who have trouble going to sleep. If you can't get out of your own head enough to relax, this might be just what you need.

Free, iOS



Hexologic

Some people like to switch off to calm down, others like to distract themselves. If you're in the second group, Hexologic is for you. It's a refreshing spin on Sudoku that also serenades you with relaxing music while you play. It's chilled out, without time pressure, so is ideal for winding down gently.

**£0.99, iOS;
£0.89 Android**



Sway - Mindfulness in Motion

Practicing mindfulness doesn't have to mean sitting in silence with nothing but your own thoughts. Sway is designed to keep you in the moment by playing with colour, sound and movement on your phone. The idea is that it helps you find focus in everyday life.

\$2.99, iOS

SUBSCRIBE

to *T3* and get a charging station!

Native Union Eclipse Charger

Three USB ports, and tons of style!



Gift worth
£69.99

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FIREWALL

ZERO HOUR

OUT NOW





THE MISSION

Household chores are an ever-present misery, sucking time, energy and joy from our already busy lives, but it needn't be this way. From robot vacs to self-cleaning juicers, there are plenty of helpful gadgets designed to keep your home clean without the need for back-breaking, time-consuming effort on your part during our spare time. Our writer is ready to get his hands dirty to find out whether cleaning tech can actually clean house better than he can. Dusters at the ready!



CLEAN UP YOUR ACT

The daily grime

Can tech clean house better than we can? Our man dons his marigolds to find out whether it's any match for elbow grease

Words: Chris Barnes Photography: Olly Curtis



I've been so committed to enjoying every minute of the glorious British summer that I haven't cleaned my house in weeks. Yet with autumn just around the corner, I'll be spending more time indoors. That's all well and good, but my toilet is a toxic hazard and my floors are oddly sticky. I'd rather not waste hours cleaning, so I've been researching gadgets that promise to tackle my household chores and save me time. Before I spend hundreds of pounds, does cleaning tech actually do the job better than me? Or would I be pouring money down the drain?

WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY

The balmy summer has meant more dust in the air, so the windows of my flat are caked in grime. I'd like to be able to see out of them again, but even the thought of washing them by hand is making my arms ache. I'm intrigued by Vorwerk's Kobold VG100 window cleaner. The handheld device is designed to wet your windows, remove the dirt, and extract the remaining water in one swift movement. Is it too good to be true, though? More importantly, could I do it better with some Windolene and a cloth, and for a fraction of the Vorwerk's £249 price tag?

I grab my Windolene and start washing. The results are passable, but the filthy cloth quickly starts leaving ugly streaks and my arms are aching. With the Kobold VG100 fully charged, I attach one of the supplied microfibre cleaning pads and fill the tank with 80ml of water and 5ml of Vorwerk's Cleaning Concentrate.

Positioning the device in the top left corner of the filthiest window, I switch on the 30-watt motor. Applying a little pressure, I drag the vibrating VG100 to the bottom of the frame. Miraculously, the grime has disappeared and there's not a streak in sight. Two more speedy swipes finish the pane. 10 minutes later (with lots of battery power remaining) my windows are gleaming. The VG100 costs more than a cloth and spray, but the spotless results and time saved make it a clear winner.

If you have kids or pets, hoovering is a daily job. On paper, robot vacs are ultimate time-savers, but are they as capable as a manual Hoover? Neato's Botvac D7 Connected uses sensors to map your floors and calculate efficient ways to clean. Schedule cleaning sessions using the Neato app and even set no-go lines to stop the Botvac chewing cables or terrifying the cat.

hands-on than the Botvac, the V10's digital motor and crud-sucking Cyclone technology ensure a spotless clean. Interchangeable heads make light work of stairs, window sills, cobwebbed ceilings and even my car – areas the Botvac simply can't access. We love the 'set up and forget' approach of the Botvac, but at almost half the price and for sheer versatility, the Dyson takes the crown here.

PULP FRICTION

I like to start my day by drinking a healthy juice, but I don't like the horrible mess juicing creates. So when I learned that Philips makes a juicer that cleans itself, I had to get it. The powerful 1,200W motor inside Philips' Avance Centrifugal juicer reduces my pile of whole oranges, carrots and apples to a delicious hit of fruity goodness. But now the clean-up...

THE VG100 COSTS MORE THAN A CLOTH AND SPRAY, BUT THE SPOTLESS RESULTS AND TIME SAVED MAKE IT A CLEAR WINNER

In practice, the D7 does exactly what it promises. It gets stuck into deep-rooted dirt, and the level of control and convenience, plus additional features like the full bin sensor, make it ideal for time-poor people with big, open spaces to clean.

In the interests of fairness, for this test I'm also getting to grips with Dyson's Cyclone V10 Absolute cordless stick vacuum. While it's more

I needn't have worried. The Avance's QuickClean function definitely helps with cleaning. Simply pour tap water into the feeding tube and give the juicer an extra whizz. Within seconds the worst of the pulp is blasted from the main components, including the fruit-mashing sieve, which usually requires a deep scrub. With the worst of the mess dealt with, the parts take no time to rinse clean in the sink.

LEFT
T3's resident George Formby gives his elbows a good workout

RIGHT
Chris sits for a bit of quality time with the latest household pet



All together now: "I want to break freeeee"



GOOD CLEAN FUN

DOMINATE THE DIRT WITH SOME HIGH-TECH HOME CLEANING ESSENTIALS



VORWERK KOBOLD VG100

Achieve gleaming, streak-free windows in seconds. The VG100's microfibre pad applies cleaning solution to the glass, before removing the grime and sucking away dirty water. **£249,** kobold.vorwerk.co.uk



NEATO BOTVAC CONNECTED D7

The Wi-Fi-enabled Botvac maps your floors for supreme, autonomous hoovering. Use the Neato app to plan a thorough cleaning schedule. **£799,** neatorobotics.com



PHILIPS AVANCE CENTRIFUGAL JUICER

A 1,200-watt motor, centrifugal extraction system and a FibreBoost setting ensure you get the maximum goodness from your fruit and veg. **£220,** philips.co.uk



VORWERK KOBOLD SP600

This upright mop/hover hybrid takes no prisoners when it comes to cleaning hard floors. The SP600 uses 50 times less water and cleaning product than a mop and bucket. **£849,** kobold.vorwerk.co.uk



UV-C LIGHT PRODUCTS PORTABLE WAND

Give surfaces a blast of short-wave UV radiation from this magic wand and you'll neutralise 99.9 per cent of nasty bugs. **£18.50,** uvc-lightproducts.com



KÄRCHER K7 PREMIUM FULL CONTROL PLUS HOME

The K7 cleans everything, from your car to garden furniture. You can also adjust water pressure and detergent levels via the LED display panel. **£569.99,** kaercher.com





LEFT
You're not living in the future until you've cleaned the lav with a glowing wand

RIGHT
Our man does science for your benefit. Grim, dirty science...





THE WAND FIRES OUT SHORT-WAVE UV RADIATION TO KILL 99.9 PER CENT OF VIRUSES AND BACTERIA

comes to the toilet. Swab testing my porcelain using a germ kit produces some seriously sinister results. This needs attention.

For this test, I'm cleaning one half of the bowl with Toilet Duck and treating the other half to a 20-second blast with UV-C Light Products' Portable Wand. The wand is designed for use on most household surfaces and fires out short-wave UV radiation to kill 99.9 per cent of viruses and bacteria. To be honest, I'm not entirely convinced it's going to work.

But I was wrong, as the second swab test reveals that both the Toilet Duck and UV-C Wand have neutralised the grime – take that, germs! Considering the wand can be used in other areas of the house and doesn't involve pouring chemicals down the drain, it's a potent weapon in the battle against household bugs.

AT THE CAR WASH

Having had my head stuck down the toilet, I think I'm in need of some fresh air, which brings me to the final test: cleaning the car. Kärcher has always been at the forefront of household cleaning gadgets, and the K7 Premium Full Control Plus Home pressure washer is the daddy. From sprucing up filthy patio tiles and blasting muck off garden tools, to scrubbing the family car, the K7 promises to do it all. But can it do the job better than the good old application of hard graft?

Grabbing a bucket of soapy water and a sponge, I attack the rear of my car. Like the windows, the results are passable, but getting the really caked-on stuff off is making me tired already. Now it's the Kärcher's turn...

Different jobs require different water pressures, and the K7's pressure can be controlled, along with detergent concentration, via the digital display on the Full Control Trigger Gun. Elsewhere, the 3-in-1 multi-jet spray lance can switch between a flat stream, a mud-blasting rotary stream and a detergent stream. In the battle between the sponge and the Kärcher, there is only one contender. A quick high-pressure burst and that crusty bird poo on the bonnet is gone. The spray is better at getting in the fiddly gaps, too.

I'm not shy of manual labour, but I believe most people would prefer to spend their free time doing something more enjoyable than chores. While the best cleaning tech is pricey, anything that keeps the grime at bay and saves you time is surely worth exploring?



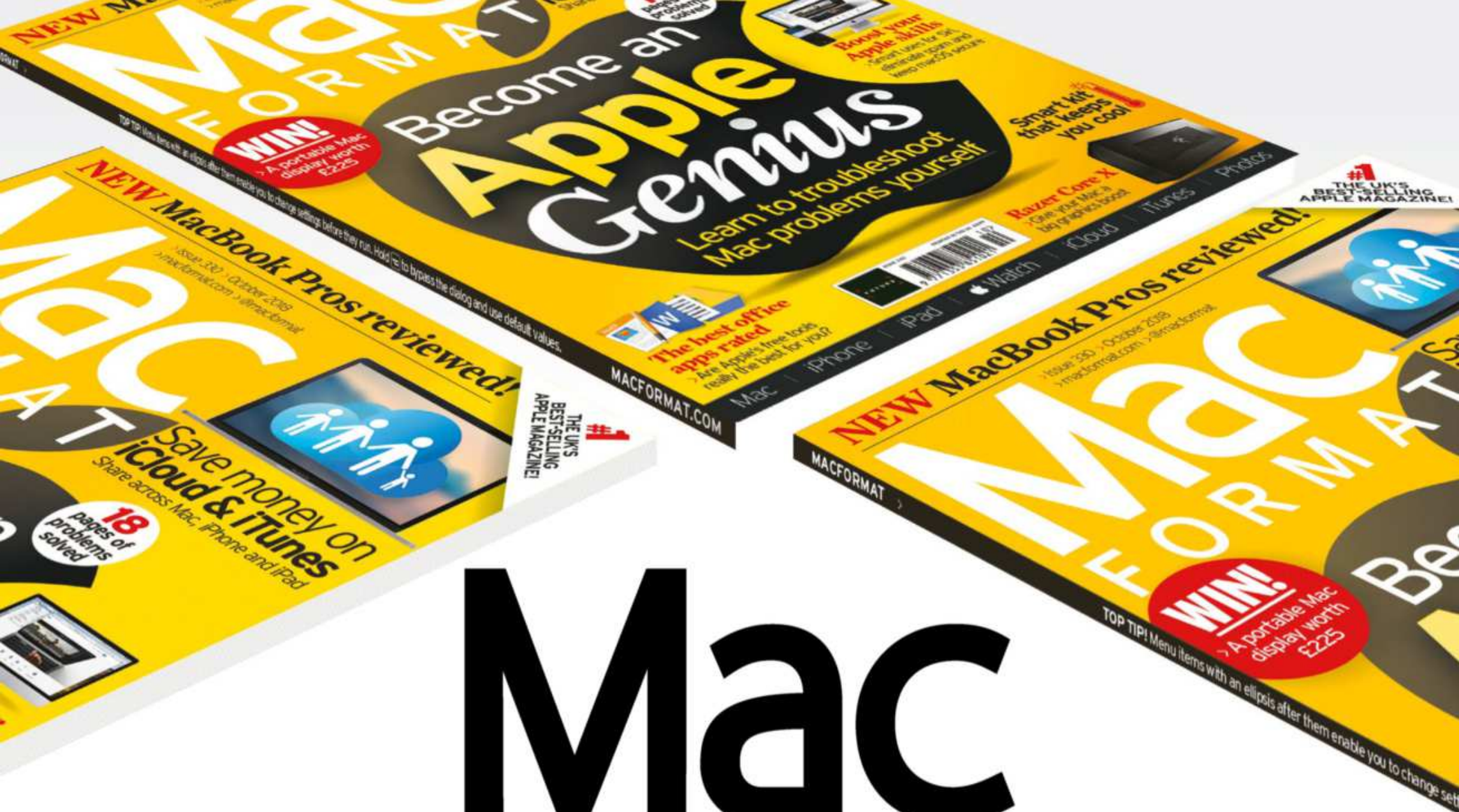
Some pulp has ended up on my hard kitchen floor – the perfect excuse for another test! I quickly grab a mop and bucket. It gets the job done, but leaves the floor slick and I now have litres of dirty water to dispose of. The hefty Vorwerk Kobold SP600 hard floor cleaner, on the other hand, mops and hovers at the same time.

On the base is a large cleaning pad complete with an 260ml tank filled with cleaning solution. It's easy to control how much water is released into the cloth and the rate at which the pad buffs, so you can tackle anything from spillages to ground-in stains.

The SP600 glides over the floor, manoeuvring nimbly into tight corners and leaving a quick-drying trail and clean floor in its wake. The only drawback is the price. Considering a mop and bucket costs a few quid, is an £850 outlay truly justifiable?

GAME OF THRONES

Keeping the house looking clean is a challenge in itself, but eradicating invisible bacteria is a different ball game altogether, particularly when it



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HOME

Get the complete smart home lifestyle

Edited by Claire Davies



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THE SETUP

How to get started with the Amazon Echo Spot and customise it to suit your smart home needs

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UPGRADE

Do you know how much fat and sugar is in your smoothie? Nutribullet's new Bluetooth blender can tell you

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LIVING SMARTER

Bring the outdoors in by getting your weather forecast app talking to your smart lighting – purple means rain!



THE SETUP

Each issue, we show you how to set up a key piece of connected-home tech. This month...
Amazon Echo Spot



WHO YOU GONNA CALL?

Nestled discretely above the Spot's screen is a tiny camera. If your pals have the Alexa app on their device or an Echo Spot or Echo Show at home, you can make video calls hands-free (or voice calls to any Echo device). The Drop In feature is ideal for quick communication with other Echo devices in your home, like if you want to ask what's for dinner or check the baby is still snoozing in the nursery.

TAKE CONTROL WITH AMAZON'S MINI- SCREENED ASSISTANT

Run your smart home, make video calls and play music with Echo Spot

Amazon's burgeoning Echo range leads the way in the realm of voice-controlled personal assistants, using far-field voice recognition tech to enable you to play your favourite music, check your schedule, set alarms, control your smart home and more. Like the Echo Show, the Spot (£119.99, amazon.co.uk), available in Black or White, features a screen capable of displaying information, but in a neater (and cheaper) package than the Show.

Setup is simple, using the Alexa app (iOS/Android) and the Spot's touchscreen. Connect to your Wi-Fi, log into your Amazon account and give your first command. There's a short learning curve to nailing the best approach to commands, but, over time, Alexa learns your vocabulary and speech patterns. This means the Spot's abilities improve the more you use it.

The Spot's screen adds a new dimension to the PA experience, adding visuals to the mix. Start your day by watching a Flash Briefing from BBC News or Sky Sports, and check the weather to see if you need a brolly.

The Spot's integrated 1.4-inch speaker ensures calls and bulletins – or tunes streamed from your Amazon Music, Spotify, Deezer or TuneIn Radio account – sound clear enough, with a surprising amount of depth. If you have more Echo devices, Multi-Room Music makes it a breeze to play the same tunes across devices.

One of the neatest features is the built-in camera, which you can use to can drop-in on other Echo devices in your house, intercom-style ('Anyone up for pizza?'), or video call anyone in your phone book who has the Alexa app. It's a free and easy way to stay in touch.

Skills boost the Spot's capabilities further, particularly when it comes to controlling your smart home. Enable the Nest Camera Skill from within the Alexa app and the Spot displays your security camera's feed. Or why not select other Skills to voice-control your TP-Link smart plugs, Hive Heating System, Philips Hue lighting, or Sony Android TV? With new Skills being added frequently, even if you can't do something right now, it's probably on the way.

The Echo Spot combines all the hands-free smarts of its predecessors, but in a sleeker package, and that nifty screen adds a neat visual element to your daily routine.

HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU

The Spot's circular 2.5-inch, 480x480 pixel screen might be small, but it's capable of displaying a world of information based on your voice commands: watch news, sport and weather reports, check out trailers before booking your next cinema trip, view today's work schedule and keep tabs on your smart security camera feed. Our favourite? Line up your favourite tunes via Amazon Music and the Spot can display on-screen lyrics to help you sing along.

SCREEN-READY ALTERNATIVES TO THE ECHO SPOT

Not sure about the Spot's small screen? Try these...

AMAZON ECHO SHOW

The Echo Show (£199.99, amazon.co.uk) delivers the same smarts as the Spot, but on a much bigger, seven-inch screen. A pair of two-inch speakers add extra, Dolby-powered audio punch.



LENOVO SMART DISPLAY

With Google Assistant built-in, and generous eight- and 10-inch display options available, Lenovo's Smart Display (from \$199.99/£156.59, lenovo.com) is always on-hand. A 10-watt full-range speaker takes care of audio.



LG WK9 THINQ

The retro-looking WK9 ThinQ (\$299.99/£234.89, lg.com) might resemble an old handheld telly, but this is LG's first foray into the screen-toting smart assistant world. Behind that eight-inch touchscreen is Google Assistant and Chromecast.



SAYS...

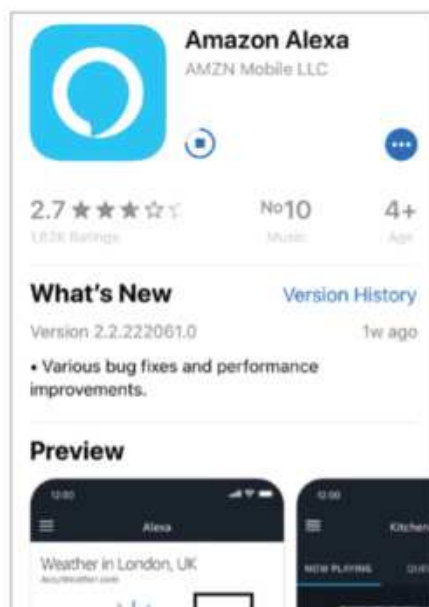


"Echo Spot makes a great smart alarm clock, but it's handy all around the house. I keep mine in the hallway, so I check whether I'll need a coat before I head out for the day."

MATT BOLTON, EDITOR

FIND THE SWEET SPOT

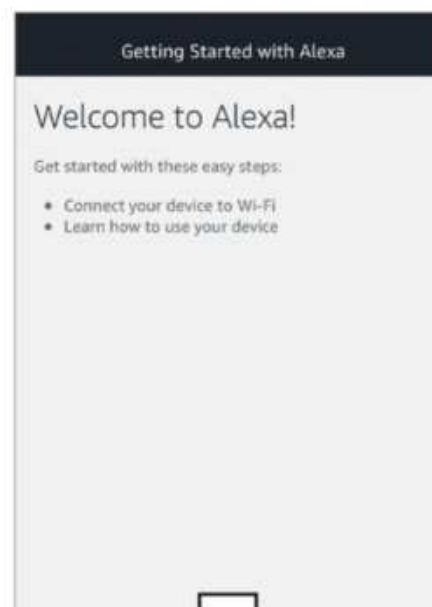
It takes no time to set up your Amazon Echo Spot. Customising it is where things really get good



01

GRAB THE APP

Once you've decided which room to position your Echo Spot in, plug the device into the mains. While your Spot is optimising itself for setup, download the Alexa app (iOS/Android) to your smartphone or tablet. If you don't have an Amazon account already, now would be a good time to register at amazon.co.uk.



02

BEGIN SETUP

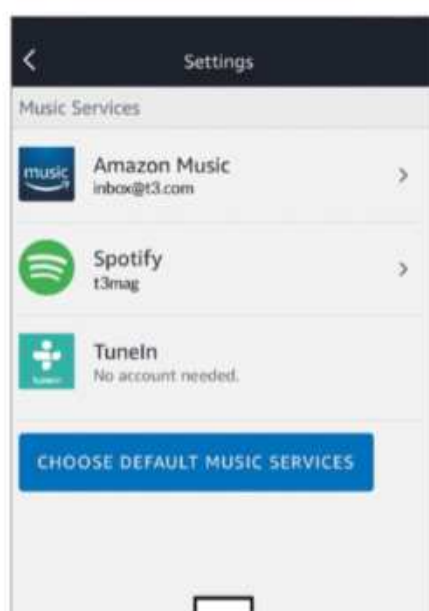
At this point, you'll need to head to the Spot's touchscreen to continue setup. You'll be asked to connect to your home Wi-Fi and log-in to your Amazon account. Once you're in, your Spot will play you a short video highlighting what it can do. It's a useful intro and a great way to experience the screen in all its glory.



03

CUSTOMISE

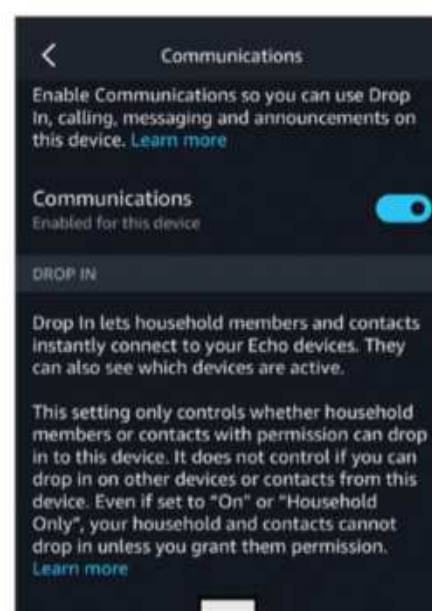
Time to make the Spot your own. Within Settings you can choose a home screen clock face, or select a more personal home screen image. Here, you can also adjust audio settings, to link your calendar and choose which services you wish to include in your daily Flash Briefings, from BBC News to Sky Sports.



04

LISTEN TO MUSIC

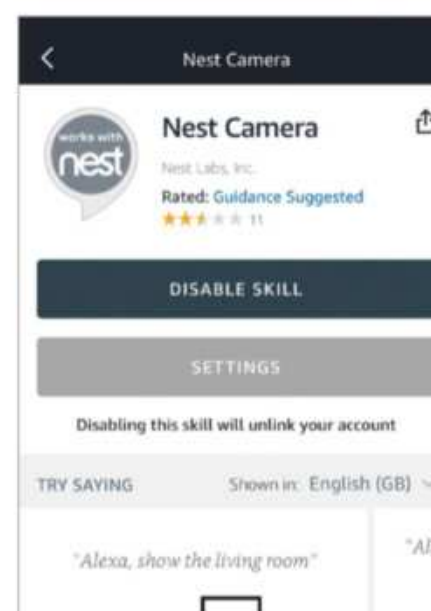
Navigate to Music & Media within the Alexa app Settings menu and select which music service you want. Now you can start requesting tunes. Ask for a song, album or playlist, or make a more leftfield request like, "Alexa, play the song with the lyrics 'Mama Mia let me go'". If you use Amazon Music, lyrics can also be displayed.



05

MAKE A CALL

Head to the Communications tab in the Alexa app, 'Enable Communications' and set Drop In to 'On'. Now you can video call anyone in your contacts book who has an Echo Spot or Show, or voice call people with a non-video Echo device. What's more, you can Drop In on other Spots in your home: "Alexa, drop in on the lounge."



06

GET SKILLS

Skills add extra functionality, particularly when it comes to controlling your smart home gear. Head to the Skills tab in the Alexa app and search for a specific Skill, such as 'Nest Camera'. Hit Enable to view your camera's feed using a voice command. Enable more Skills to control your lighting, thermostats... even your TV.

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Smarten up your smoothies

You may enjoy a daily smoothie, but do you know how many calories are in them? Find out with the world's cleverest Bluetooth blender



Fresh smoothies do wonders for your health, but some of these meal drinks have a naturally high calorie and sugar yield – higher than you're perhaps aware of. While it's fun creating your own smoothies and experimenting with different combinations of fruit and veg, figuring out the exact balance of nutrients can be taxing, especially if you're following a specific diet. The NutriBullet Balance, the world's first Bluetooth blender with app functionality, could help you figure all of that out quickly.

NutriBullet's latest squeeze has its own companion app (Balance for iOS and Android), via which you can track the nutritional content of any ingredient you

The Bluetooth Balance offers real-time tracking of the fat, calorie, sugar and vitamin content of your smoothies

place inside the blender. You do this by first placing the Balance cup on the blender's base, within which sits a sensor. Once the cup's base is in contact with the sensor, you can then work with the app to build your own smoothie or to create one

from the hundreds of in-app recipes that are available.

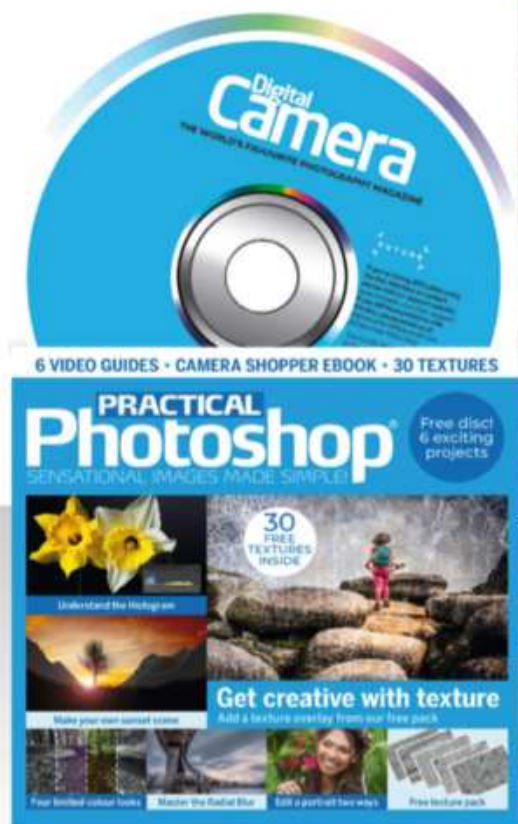
From there it's a fun process of dropping ingredients into the Balance cup and watching data getting pinged to the app, giving you a real-time picture of how healthy (or not) your smoothie is going to be. You can name and save your own custom blends via the app, as well as saving favourites you've discovered within the NutriBullet library.

NutriBullet promises that it will be really easy to clean as well, which is important if it's going to become a regular part of your day. For health nuts, this sounds like it could be one of the best purchases they'll make all year.

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DESIRE

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the ultimate in modern
living accessories

01



02



03



04



05





04 COPPER WOODEN ARMCHAIR

Autumn is made for devouring books in a comfy armchair, so why not introduce a slice of slow living into your life with Cult Living's relaxing faux leather armchair? Available in black and brown, this modern mid-century design chair was made to bolster comfort as soon as you sit down.

£449, cultfurniture.com

05 TUSCAN STOOL

A hot new interiors trend for autumn, lavastone is lighter than concrete but still has the same moody, industrial vibe. That smooth stone seat looks handsome offset against the stained and sealed acacia trapeze legs. Buy one before the world and its wife does.

£199, swooneditions.com

06 GEOMETRIC AVIARY WALLPAPER

Just because we're heading into autumn doesn't mean we need to part ways with funky interiors. That's why we're feeling this Divine Savages wallpaper, an ode to tropical fauna and flora. The wipeable, easy-to-hang wallpaper is ideal for a statement wall or transforming smaller spaces.

£140, divinesavages.com

07 TEFAL JAMIE OLIVER CERAMIC SHALLOW PAN

Part of the Jamie Oliver series for Tefal, this gleaming pan will inject style into your kitchen while giving you the perfect tool for sautéing and frying veggies, meats and fish.

The pan itself is made from scratch-resistant anodised aluminium and ceramic.

£100, tefal.co.uk

08 XMERCER NESTING TABLES

Crafted from solid wood, each table is finished with industrial-style black metal legs, or brass if you'd prefer a warmer vibe. The tables slot neatly under one another, and tuck into corners when not in use.

£109, cultfurniture.com

07



01 PLATE BY CLAUDIA RANKIN

Claudia Rankin brings her ceramic art to the masses with the 'affordable' and handmade Plate. Combining Rankin's love of colour and nature, this quirky display plate adds warmth to dour kitchens.

£225, theshopfloorproject.com

02 GREY HURRICANE LANTERN

Lanterns introduce a soft glow into your living space, and the 'new neutrals' palette of this Scandinavian style offering will suit most decors. At 32cm tall, the lantern is also large enough for pillar candles.

£45, beaumonde.co.uk

03 GOOD MORNING MUG

Audenza's Good Mug, made in Blue, Green and Pink, is the perfect vessel for drinking tea. Buy one of each colour and stack 'em charmingly across your kitchen worktop.

£14.95, audenza.com

08



Wireless outdoor security cams

Super security needn't mean drilling holes through walls, as we discover with three of the finest battery-powered eyes in the sky

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR WIRELESS OUTDOOR SECURITY CAMERAS...

PLACE IT WELL

All of these cams cope well with light level changes, but to get the best footage possible you'll want to avoid placing the sensor facing direct sunlight which might dazzle it – stick to the shadows if possible. This might mean installing beneath the eaves of your house, or high inside a window opening. The higher you go, the more difficult the process of recharging becomes, but better a good picture than a blown-out image that does you no good.

PROTECT IT

Some security cameras come with theft protection, so if a sneaky intruder happens to abscond with your outdoor cam – these cameras are all easy to detach from their brackets – you'll be able to claim a replacement. Make sure the rest of your cams are either covered or insured, and (conversely) use the deterrent stickers included with each to draw attention to the fact that you're filming.

HEAD TO THE CLOUD

Your investment in outdoor security cameras is not the end of the expense: while you'll usually get short-term storage included for free, it's imperative that you sign up for the cloud storage service your chosen camera offers, both to extend the length of time your footage stays available and to keep a backup should you need to review old footage for a claim or to prevent evidence of something happening on or near your property.

SMALL AND AFFORDABLE



SWANN SMART SECURITY CAMERA

£100, laptopsdirect.co.uk

First impressions make all the difference... but not when it comes to Swann's accomplished little outdoor security cam.

Pull it out of the box and it defaults to the lowest quality streaming mode, offering up a painfully glitchy and rough picture. Up the quality in-app and, if your Wi-Fi network can handle it, things get a lot better. Swann's motion capture is decent. 20-second clips loop through the on-board memory – it could potentially store a week's worth – and in the cloud for a couple of days if you sign up for the cloud plan. Push message reporting is a little slow, though. Design-wise, it's pleasingly small – half the size of the Ring Spotlight Cam – and pulling it off the wall to recharge its internal battery is a case of scaling a ladder, disconnecting the magnetic dish-mount from the bracket and plugging it into a USB port. Easy.

T3 VERDICT

T3 SAYS Compact and capable in all conditions, and priced very modestly. Make sure you find the right settings for you so that you don't miss any vital details.

★★★★☆

HIGH-END AND HARDCORE**ARLO PRO 2**£525 (two cameras and base station), arlo.com

The price of getting started with the Arlo 2 might make you wince a little – you need the siren-equipped base station, and this two-pack isn't a cheap option (and neither is an additional camera at £250). But performance is as slick as it gets, certainly beyond Wi-Fi-only cams. We were really taken with the flexibility of this one: it's another mag-mount cam, so it's easy both to position and to remove for charging, but since each camera also features a replaceable battery, you can potentially be back up and running in seconds, rather than pulling the cam offline while it powers up again. The picture is spot on, offering a 130-degree lens which captures more of the action than some of its rivals, and the Activity Zone feature enables you to be selective about your motion capture – but only when plugged in and used indoors.

VERDICT

T3 SAYS Spectacular picture and a host of neat features, but this is one expensive system if you're looking to cover a whole home perimeter.

★★★★☆

ALL THAT AND MORE**RING SPOTLIGHT CAM BATTERY**£199, ring.com

Ring, best known for its smart doorbells, was recently acquired by Amazon for a cool \$1bn. It's not hard to see why the retail giant would be interested. Yes, it's a foothold in the security market, but the Ring Spotlight Cam Battery, giant as it is, is a technical masterpiece. The sensor is fantastic, the app equally so, and the thought given to engineering is top of the line: the correct drill bit and screwdriver to fit it are even included in the box. Unlike others on test, this outdoor security camera is meant to stay exactly where it is on your wall. Simply open up the PIR sensor (which helps it act as an LED spotlight) and you can remove the USB-chargeable battery and pop in a new one (or two, if you want additional battery life). There's two-way talk for spooking trespassers, and a terrifying 110dB siren to really get the message across.

VERDICT

T3 SAYS Motion sensing can be a little hit-or-miss at times, but this camera captures solid footage, has a great collection of extras, and an impeccable design.

★★★★☆

T3 SMART HOME SURGERY

Your connected-home queries answered by T3's experts



Q CARL HORTON, BRIGHTON
I've moved house and finally have a room (though small) for a dedicated home cinema. What kit should I buy for it?

A STEVE MAY REPLIES:
As it happens, Carl, small rooms can make perfect home cinemas! This is because 4K TVs are designed to be viewed closer than standard HD models. A 65-inch UHD panel is enjoyed from 1.5m-2m, the optimum distance to see fine detail. Depending on budget, go for a 65-inch Hisense U7A LED LCD (£1,089, ao.com), or an OLED like the 65-inch Sony AF8 (£3,299, sony.co.uk).

If you want to supersize your movies, opt for an Ultra Short Throw 1080p projector rather than a TV. The Optoma GT5500+ (£1,299, homeavdirect.co.uk) casts 100-inch images from just 30cm. Small rooms are also a doddle for audio. Polk's Command Bar (£349, polkaudio.com) is a gutsy stereo soundbar with integrated Amazon Alexa functionality.

If you want to go multi-channel, audition Q Acoustics' 7000i system.

The speakers are compact and integrate beautifully with the Q Acoustics 7000si subwoofer (£324.95, qacoustics.co.uk), giving cinematic sound. Power them with a Sony STR-DN1080 Dolby Atmos AV receiver (£550, sony.co.uk).

Amazon's Fire TV with 4K Ultra HD (£69.99, amazon.co.uk), Panasonic's DMP-UB300 UHD Blu-ray player (£129, richersounds.com), or Sky Q (£POA, sky.com) all make fine 4K sources.

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO: inbox@t3.com or www.facebook.com/T3mag



Q PAUL PRICE, MILTON KEYNES
Is there a sleep lamp that can wake me up?

A CLAIRE DAVIES REPLIES:
 The best smart sleep lamps are just as equipped to wake you up feeling refreshed as they are to help you drift off feeling soothed and sleepy. In fact, there's been an influx of new products in this space, just in time for the darker mornings of autumn...

One lamp we're excited about is the Terraillon Homni (sold with Dot Sensor, £199, [amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk)). The lamp simulates sunset and sunrise, bathing your bedroom in red hues at night to help you drift off and blue tones in the morning to wake you. The Homni's sensors analyse temperature, humidity, luminosity and noise levels in your bedroom, so you can adjust your environment to get a better night's rest, while the Dot sleep sensor analyses your night's sleep.

Alternatively, Lumie has a great range of lamps designed for sending you to sleep and waking you up, and its latest Bodyclock Glow 15 (£90, [lumie.com](https://www.lumie.com)) might be the best yet. The lamp has customisable sunrise duration and light-intensity settings, as well as a suite of relaxing sounds so you can tailor your wake-up call to something less irritating than a traditional alarm.

Finally, for a sleep lamp that makes a style statement, try the Philips Somneo (£189.99, [philips.co.uk](https://www.philips.co.uk)), designed with a guided breathing feature to help you relax enough to drift off. The best part is the lamp's slow and steady sunrise, changing from soft red to bright yellow each morning.

KATIE BASSETT, EMAIL
Q Which robot vacuum cleaner is the most intelligent?

A BECCA CADDY REPLIES:
 Although there's still a way to go before robot vacuums make regular vacuums obsolete, they're getting smarter with every update.

If we were to get the best of the bunch to take an IQ test, we imagine Neato's Botvac D7 Connected (£682, [amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk)) would come out on top. It's just been given additional smarts, including Multiple Floor Plan Mapping, so it can remember the layout for cleaning upstairs as well as its usual floor. You can also set no-go areas, which is handy if there's a piece of furniture you're particularly precious about.

The iRobot Roomba 980 (£899.99, shop.irobot.co.uk) is also a firm favourite. It may not provide a clean that rivals the Neato range, but it's great at handling navigation. For something different, try the Vorwerk Kobold VR200 (£749, kobold.vorwerk.co.uk). Although its cleaning and navigation smarts don't quite rival the others, it's the most stylish.

Remember that as smart as these robot vacs are, they're still learning. So move cables and shoelaces out of the way, create specific floor maps and take the time to program your new robot servant to best suit your home rather than setting it off to work right away.



SMART WEATHER STATIONS

Get local climate reports. Like, really, *really* local...

Smart weather stations keep tabs on what the weather is like where you're located in real time. They're fitted with sensors to give you more information about humidity, air quality, rainfall and more. You can then use these readings to automatically trigger your lights, thermostat or other smart home devices. The Netatmo Smart Home Weather Station (£139.99, shop.netatmo.com), for example, has indoor and outdoor modules and keeps tabs on the temperature, humidity, barometric pressure and weather forecast outside, which it serves up to your phone. Powered by



a solar panel, the Bloomsby Sky2 (£299.99, weathershop.co.uk) tracks rainfall, humidity, temperature and pressure, with an added HD camera on top for real-time snaps of the sky throughout the day.

T3 HOME | LIVING SMARTER

Match moods indoors and out

Bring the outdoors in with a clever lighting tweak



Want to know what the weather's like without looking outside? Use a smart bulb

There's nothing worse than starting your day in a warm and fuzzy mood and then meeting a great outdoors that hasn't had the same idea. Creating equilibrium between a smart home and the dumb outdoors isn't impossible, even if it would be easy to take this too far. Linking your thermostat to the temperature outside would be a little crazy – though, perhaps, tweaking your home's temperature within a certain range might work without freezing you solid in your bed.

But that's a project for another day. Rather than dealing with the physical – firing up a smart plug-connected fan when your home hits a certain heat level, for example, is a trivial task – let's look instead at the mental aspect of the daily departure. Getting a morning weather report delivered is straightforward enough, given that it's baked into the Alexa Flash Briefing, although you can do slightly better if you're on an Amazon device: try using the Big Sky skill to pull in a hyperlocal and, most importantly, polite

weather forecast. If you're often angry in the morning, the phone app WTForecast will be more your slice of toast, given that it delivers the bad news with a liberal dose of vitriol and wanton cursing.

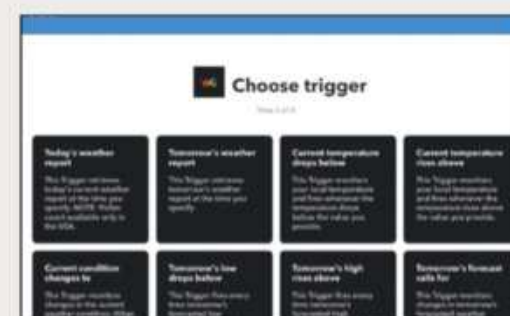
Let's not talk to anyone, though. Let's not even look at a screen with bleary eyes.

Use smart bulbs to link the conditions outside to a certain colour

Using IFTTT and a smart bulb or three, you can link the conditions outside to a certain colour light – a miserable purple for rain and a cold blue for cloud. The key to making this work is the crowdsourced and data-friendly Weather Underground service, though you could also use the outdoor portion of the Netatmo Weather Station if you were so inclined.

LINK YOUR LIGHTS TO WEATHER UNDERGROUND

'This' is the forecast; 'that' is your smart bulbs



GET THE WEATHER

Head over to IFTTT.com and log in. Make sure you've previously registered your bulbs with the service – it's happy with most makes. Click 'My Applets', 'New applet', '+this', and find 'Weather Underground' in the list.



PICK A CONDITION

We'll use WU's 'current condition' trigger, which fires on one of four specific weather types. You could get more specific if you wanted to. Click it, select 'Rain' in the drop-down box, then 'Create trigger'. Now click '+that'.



COLOUR IT UP

Find your smart bulbs (using the search box makes this much quicker) and set an action to change the colour – avoid the 'switch on' option, so you're not woken up by a blazing bulb if the sky's clear. Then repeat for each other condition.



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Folding fast

Want the convenience of a folding bike but need to get where you're going quickly? Meet the perfect compact commuting ebikes

Words: Nick Odantzis Photography: Neil Godwin



WHAT'S ON TEST...

- 1** Tern Vektron S10
The biggest folding bike here, but there's loads of room to carry luggage, or even kids, with added comfort, and it's equipped with a capable Bosch motor.
From £3,400, ternbicycles.com

- 2** Brompton Electric
Brompton has taken the classic folding bike formula, synonymous with city slickers, and added a dollop of extra speed to its perfectly formed package.
From £2,595, brompton.com

- 3** Vello Bike +
Boasting regenerative charging as you ride, an all-in-one hub, and a sleek folding frame, the Vello looks every bit the part. A titanium frame option offers even more bling.
£2,970, vellobike.com

Folding bikes have been around for ages – as far back as the '60s, in fact, and if you live in a busy city it's highly likely you'll spot one on your commute, unless you're asleep. Folding bikes are ideal transport in a variety of scenarios – if you're commuting by train, they're great for covering those extra miles at either end without worrying about trying to find bike space on board; if you want something for getting about, but don't live in a bike-friendly home, they're easy to store

indoors and out of sight, ready when you need them; and then there's leisure types – a folding bike is perfect on your travels because you can simply chuck it in a car for when you get to your chosen destination.

If you've ever been on a folder, you'll know that the actual riding part feels like an afterthought – with tiny wheels and ergonomics suited only to the shortest of rides. But the latest breed of folding bikes is better than ever, packing modern comforts such as electric assistance, mighty brakes and

featherweight frames, making them as easy to ride as a full-size bike.

On show for this issue's super-test, we give you three of the most capable electric folding bikes you can buy today. Each one has its own unique approach to the folding theme, from its intended purpose, to the way it actually goes about folding, as well as the type of electric system it uses. Each of these bikes couldn't be more different, so which one is the best, and which one should you choose? Read on to find out.



TEST 01: DESIGN

They're made to fold first and foremost, so just how well do they do it?

With its award-winning frame, Vello's Bike+ adopts a unique design that eschews the normal fold in the main tubes. This means it's quite long when folded, but looks neater when riding, and aids rigidity. The folding process is simple – a single magnetic point connects the rear to the main frame, while the front forks have a turn key connector, with an, admittedly fiddly, pin lock. Swing the wheel around and magnetic points on forks and frame allow them to connect together securely. The stem can be lowered quickly thanks to a quick-release collar; ditto for the bar ends which, removed, give the Bike+ a long, but narrow stance. A lack of proper stand makes it clumsy to unfold, but it gains points for being super light (13.9kg!), so it's easy to carry around.

With its chunky looks, the Tern Vektron looks a beast to handle, but it's very friendly to operate thanks to huge levers at each break, which are quick to undo. The Vektron has a stand built into the bottom of the frame, so it's easy to fold without fear of the bike toppling, while magnetic points on the frame and fork allow you to secure the bike together

There are lots of nice touches on the Brompton, like wheels on the stand

in seconds. A bungee on the rack neatly tethers the handlebars. At a mighty 21.8kg, you'll need some muscle to carry it around, though. Folded, it's a whopper too.

Brompton has been making folding bikes for a long time now, and it shows. The Electric acts like a regular Brompton, which of course means it folds beautifully to a super compact shape, though it's not the quickest to break down because you have to unscrew each section. Still, there are lots of nice touches, like a hook on the rear section and connector on the front forks, which make the bike feel super solid when folded, and the addition of rubber wheels on the stand makes it easy to move around. Cleverly, the Brompton has a pad underneath the saddle, allowing you to carry it comfortably – even when you take into consideration its slightly portly weight of 14.5kg (17.5kg with battery attached).

TERN VEKTRON S10



The Vektron offers a luxurious riding feel when unfolded, but the downside is that it's the biggest and heaviest bike to lug around when folded

SPECS

FRAME Hydroformed 7005 aluminium **WHEELS** 20-inch **TYRES** Schwalbe Big Apple 55x406 **BRAKES** Shimano Deore Hydraulic Disc **GEARS** Shimano Deore 10-speed (11-34T), chain driven **MOTOR** Bosch Active PLUS 250W **MOTOR LOCATION** Bottom bracket **BATTERY** 400Wh **DISPLAY** Bosch Purion **RANGE** 31-62 miles (depending on mode and environmental factors) **WEIGHT** 21.8kg



TEST 01: WINNER

BROMPTON ELECTRIC

Not surprisingly, the Brompton wins this by a country mile. It's a cinch to fold, small enough to fit just about anywhere and dead easy to carry, despite its weight.

BROMPTON ELECTRIC**VELLO BIKE+**

The Brompton hides its electrics well – even the battery bag looks inconspicuous. It's the smallest and easiest to carry when folded



A magnetic connector at the chain stays makes it really easy to fold the Bike+, but you're left with an unusually long overall shape

SPECS

FRAME Steel **WHEELS** 16-inch **TYRES** Schwalbe Marathon Racer 35-349 **BRAKES** Rim-mounted calipers **GEARS** 6-speed BWR (Brompton Wide Range) hub, chain driven **MOTOR** Brushless DC 250W **MOTOR LOCATION** Front hub **BATTERY** 300Wh **DISPLAY** Battery mounted LED **RANGE** 25-50 miles (depending on mode and environmental factors) **WEIGHT** 17.5kg

SPECS

FRAME Steel **WHEELS** 20-inch **TYRES** Schwalbe Kojak 406x35 **BRAKES** Shimano Deore Hydraulic Disc **GEARS** Single speed, belt driven **MOTOR** All-in-one 250W **MOTOR LOCATION** Rear hub **BATTERY** 160Wh **DISPLAY** ZEHUS smartphone app **RANGE** 18-unlimited miles (depending on mode and environmental factors) **WEIGHT** 13.9kg

DOES IT HAVE TO BE SMALL?

NOT ALL FOLDING EBIKES ARE EQUAL, AND MONTAGUE'S FULL SIZE FOLDER IS IDEAL FOR A BIGGER, MORE REASSURED RIDE

Though the Tern Vektron is relatively big among its folding compadres, it's still a weeny machine compared to a typical road bike, with a smaller frame and smaller wheels. The knock-on effect of this style is that the ride isn't as gracious as a full size bike. But if you're in the market for an electric folder, you don't have to go small. Montague (montaguebikes.com) makes

fine full-size folders, its USP a patented F.I.T. folding system, in which the frame uses a tube within a tube design, offering the strength of a non-folding bike (if not its looks) with the ability to fold on demand. The Montague Boston ZE marries the firm's folding prowess with a Zehus Bike+ all-in-one hub with regen – the same type found in the Vello Bike+ on test here.



TEST 02: ELECTRIC

Three different styles, but what are they really capable of?

All three ebikes have a unique electric setup. The Vektron uses the slick Bosch Active Plus motor, mounted at the cranks for optimum efficiency and smoothness. Unlike previous generation Bosch systems, the latest line now has the chainring on the outside of the motor, so you don't get that 'brick wall' effect when the motor isn't spinning. With a more traditional, externally mounted battery, the Vektron looks very much like an ebike – the plus point is you can remove the battery to charge it, or you can just plug in at the source. The 400Wh battery is rated for about 31 miles in its most powerful mode, or 62 miles in eco mode, which is nifty.

At a glance, you'd be hard pushed to tell the Brompton Electric apart from a regular one, aside from the battery strapped to it. The motor is housed in the front wheel hub, giving you instant power as you pedal. Developed in conjunction with Williams Advanced Engineering (yes, the F1 guys), the motor uses a smart sensor to adjust the power as you ride. With its 'battery-in-a-bag' setup, mounted to the handlebar stem, you can easily remove it for charging. The electric

The Vello's party piece is its F1-like Kinetic Energy Recovery System (KERS)

controls are mounted on the top of the battery, for accessibility. You get three power modes to play with and niceties such as auto lights and a USB port for charging your phone. The Brompton's 300Wh battery offers 25–50 miles of range, depending on mode.

The Vello Bike+ has a clever all-in-one motor and battery housed in a hub at the rear wheel. It weighs just 3kg and is mounted nice and low, to aid handling. The Vello's party piece is its F1-like Kinetic Energy Recovery System (KERS). In full regenerative mode you can travel indefinitely without having to charge the battery, which is a big deal. That said, it only really works on a flat, and as it only offers minimal power assistance to get you going, it won't handle hills. If you have a need for speed, Turbo mode will propel you at a rate of knots, bursting through the battery to give you a mere 18 miles of range.

TERN VEKTRON S10



BROMPTON ELECTRIC



VELLO BIKE+



TEST 02: WINNER

VELLO BIKE+

Under the right conditions, you'll never have to charge the Vello Bike+. That and its 'hidden' lightweight all-in-one electric setup are a gamechanging innovation.

TERN VEKTRON S10**BROMPTON ELECTRIC****VELLO BIKE+****T3****TEST 03: WINNER**

TERN VEKTRON

For long, leisurely rides, this is the bike you want to have underneath you. It's comfortable, fast over any terrain and even has a luggage rack to carry all your belongings.

TEST 03:

THE RIDE

Which will get you from A to B in the quickest and most comfortable way?

While the Tern Vektron suffers at luggability, it comes into its own when it gets rolling, offering a luxurious, 'big bike' ride. The big volume tyres eat potholes for breakfast and it's seriously quick, too, with 10 generous gears working in perfect harmony with the smooth Bosch motor to give you a perfectly balanced power delivery over any terrain. Unlike some ebikes, which run out of puff at the UK-mandated 15.5mph electric-assist limit, the Vektron just sails on. Even without the aid of the motor, it cruises along the flat at 20mph, which is astonishing really. The Vektron is perfect for mile-munching.

Whereas the Vektron feels like a tank, the Vello Bike+ is a racing car in comparison. Its relatively low weight allows it to zip off the line with gusto, and it's able to take corners as fast as you like. You might find yourself wanting for more, though, as the single speed gear setup – while effortless to get you off the line, the motor eagerly spinning up with a mighty dollop of electric boost – doesn't have the legs of a multi-gear setup and you'll be spinning like a lunatic at about 15mph. Which is fine in an inner city, but slightly tedious on

The Vektron's big volume tyres eat potholes for breakfast and it's quick

straights. Surprisingly, the single speed is well augmented by the electric assistance. As long as you're in Turbo mode, hills are a doddle. Sure, you won't be going up them quickly, but you won't break a sweat either.

As the smallest bike on test, the Brompton feels almost comical to ride, especially for taller folk, but there's loads of adjustments and it's heaps more comfortable than it looks. Sure, the small wheels, high handlebars and weighty battery make it a little nervous on turns, especially with the brick of a battery and motor at the front, but you soon get used to it, and it's a lot of fun. The six-speed rear hub gives a decent amount of range (it'll top out at a handy 17.5mph), though we found we were constantly cycling through power modes mid-ride to compensate for changes in terrain. Due to the battery's position, behind the handlebars, it's quite fiddly.

VERDICT:
THE OVERALL
WINNER IS...

BROMPTON ELECTRIC

From £2,595, brompton.com

WE'RE IMPRESSED By far the smallest package once folded, making it the go-to bike for commuting on packed trains; easy to fold; lively ride with usable gearing (six-speed version); good handling; it's got the visual kudos only matched by another Brompton. **WE'D IMPROVE** You're constantly adjusting the power

modes as you go; it's a little bit on the heavy side. **THE FINAL WORD** A great all-round package that rides as nicely as it folds - it still feels like a classic Brompton. It's also got a fit and finish unlike anything we've seen before, adding to the feeling of premium ownership. ★★★★★



TERN VEKTRON S10

£3,400, ternbicycles.com



WE'RE IMPRESSED An enjoyable ride - it's ideal for long journeys; Bosch electric system is smooth and fast with no motor resistance; folds really nicely. **WE'D IMPROVE** Big and heavy, so less ideal for commuting. **THE FINAL WORD** Easily as good as the Brompton, but for a different folding audience. ★★★★★

VELLO BIKE +

£2970, vellobike.com



WE'RE IMPRESSED Game-changing no-charge tech; super-light; single speed for ease of use; ideal for city riding. **WE'D IMPROVE** Long shape once folded won't suit all; slightly fiddly to fold. **THE FINAL WORD** The Vello Bike+ is a fun, fast and funky alternative to the Brompton. ★★★★★

SIX WAYS TO GET MORE FROM YOUR BROMPTON ELECTRIC

01 CHARGE YOUR DEVICES

The Brompton Electric comes with a USB connector in the top of the battery pack, meaning you can charge your phone on the go, as long as you have a cable that's long enough and a handlebar mount - which will be handy when you get a load of the next thing in this list...

02 GET THE APP

Though it wasn't available at the time of writing, Brompton has promised to release an app this

year that allows owners of the Brompton Electric to connect to the bike over Bluetooth and check your speed and mileage, as well as adjust individual riding modes on the fly.

03 SPEED UP CHARGING TIMES

The standard charger included with the Brompton Electric is a 2A unit, which means it'll take about 4.5 hours to get a full charge when you plug it in. If you want to cut down the charge time to a more

respectable 2.5 hours - perfect for those on the go - you'll need the optional 4A fast charger.

04 GET MORE RANGE

Brompton recommends you pump up the tyres to 100psi to minimise the amount of rolling resistance. In doing this, you'll give the motor, and yourself, a bit less work to do as you ride.

05 PREP FOR A COLD WINTER

Bike batteries don't like the cold, so when you're parking your

Brompton, remember to take the battery off and store it indoors. Also, keep the battery fully charged if you're not using it for a while.

06 CHECK IT BEFORE YOU TRAIN WRECK IT

Obviously, the Brompton Electric is an ideal commuter aid, which makes it perfect for catching trains. While you could happily jump on one without a problem, some operators require you to carry it in a bag, so check before you ride.

5

ESSENTIAL ADD-ONS

With a few custom touches, the Brompton can be made to perfectly suit your cycling needs

01



1 LARGE CITY BAG

The standard bag mounted to the front of the Brompton Electric has a mere 1.5 litres of capacity – good for a toothbrush and a sandwich, perhaps. For more carrying capacity – 20 litres, in fact – Brompton's bigger unit is a direct replacement for the existing one.

£130, brompton.com

02



2 TELESCOPIC SEAT POST

If you happen to be of a lofty height, Brompton's Telescopic seat post is the ticket, giving you loads more seat length than the standard post, without the drawback of a longer fixed post jutting out of the frame when the bike is in the fully folded position.

£40, brompton.com

03



3 SCHWALBE KOJAK TAN WALL TYRE

The standard Brompton tyres are perfectly good for all-round riding, but if you want an extra lick of speed, and style, Schwalbe's Kojak tyres will do it. With a 32mm width and slick tyre profile, you'll get less rolling resistance as well as added grip for fast rides.

£35 (per tyre), brompton.com

04



05



4 CRANKSET

Choose from a 44T, 50T or 54T crankset and you can customise the gearing on your Brompton. Why? If you want more help on hills, a smaller crankset will make it easier. A bigger one will make it harder on those uphill, but allow you to hit higher speeds in each gear.

£75, brompton.com

5 FOLDING FLIGHT CASE

A Brompton is as handy to have on holidays as it is for getting from A to B on a commute, so if you want to take yours on a flight, you'll want this sturdy carrying case to protect it. The wheels let you move it around with ease and it folds down when not in use to save space.

£170, brompton.com



T3**AWARDS** 2018

TECH'S DAY OF RECKONING

Deciding the winners of the most prestigious awards in technology takes a crack team and a hearty free lunch. Here's how it all went down...

It's nearly time for 2018's T3 Awards. Next issue (with the event itself taking place on 27 September), we'll crown the best gadgets of the year across a whopping 50 categories. That's our biggest-ever list of gongs, reaching into more new areas of tech than ever before.

All these winners have to be chosen, of course, so we brought together a group of the sharpest minds in the world of technology journalism (and also some staff from T3) for a day of intense judging. There, we whittled our shortlists down from a group of nominees to a select few worthy winners.

Naturally, before the judging day could even begin, we needed to create those shortlists. In the weeks leading up to that morning, the T3 team compiled the best products we'd seen within the various categories, while also inviting

nominations from our colleagues with specialist insight on other technology publications, including the likes of *Digital Camera Magazine*, *What Hi-Fi* and *TechRadar Pro*.

Having created our lists of the best products released in the last year, it was time to gather all of our judges in T3's London office, supply a table full of coffee and nibbles to keep them fuelled, and get to work.

For each category the nominees were displayed on the large screen, and the judges were encouraged to jump in and start discussing the merits of each one, while advocating for their preferred picks.

For some awards, a consensus quickly appeared: some companies or products have obviously nailed it in a way that others haven't, even if they're all excellent nominees in their

own right. In other cases, the room was split so a vote was taken. We didn't have any draws, but a really close vote would usually result in a Highly Commended award for the runner-up.

At the end we were left with a list of truly fantastic gadgets, and our big 'Gadget of the Year' ready to be crowned... next issue.

The awards this year:

- Gadget of the Year
- Brand of the Year
- Retailer of the Year
- Phone of the Year
- Innovation of the Year
- Best Gadget under £100
- Best Luxury Tech
- Best Video Streaming Service
- Best TV
- Best TV Platform
- Best TV Audio Product
- Best Over- or On-Ear Headphones
- Best In-Ear Headphones
- Best Bluetooth Speaker
- Best Multi-Room Speaker
- Best Hi-Fi Product
- Best Smart Home Tech
- Best Connected Lighting
- Best Connected Security
- Best Connected Eco or Energy Product
- Best Home Networking Tech
- Best Mid-Range Phone
- Best Mobile Accessory
- Best Fitness Wearable
- Best Laptop
- Best Gaming Laptop
- Best Gaming Accessory
- Best VPN
- Best Compact, DSLR or CSC Camera
- Best Lifestyle Camera
- Best Car
- Tech Personality
- Tech Legend
- Best Home Appliance
- Best Fridge
- Best Oven
- Best Dishwasher
- Best Vacuum Cleaner
- Best Washing Machine
- Best Small Appliance
- Best Garden Tech
- Best Travel Gadget
- Best Bike
- Best Fitness Tech
- Best Running Headphones
- Best Watch
- Best Home Air Improvement Tech
- Best Personal Grooming Tech
- Best Car Gadget
- Tech Innovation for the Future



THE JUDGING JURY

These are the judges who were in the room where it happened, along with some who joined us remotely to cast their votes



Duncan Bell,
Lifestyle Editor, T3



Paul Douglas,
Global Editor-in-Chief, T3



Cat Ellis,
Developing Technology
Editor, TechRadar



Matt Bolton,
Editor, T3



Rhiannon Williams,
Technology Correspondent,
i newspaper



Joe Cox,
Global Editor-in-Chief,
What Hi-Fi



David Jones,
Consumer Editor, *The Sun*



Spencer Kelly,
Presenter, *BBC Click*



Steve May,
Respected AV journalist



Chris Haslam,
Respected tech lifestyle
journalist



Hannah Bouckley,
Content Manager, Tech
and Gadgets, BT.com

*To see all of the shortlists our judges voted on,
please visit: t3.com/awards*

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Prepare your smart home for autumn

From checking your water pipes to updating your security, there are several key ways to prep your home for the darker, colder months. Here we round up the tech to help you do it

Words: Claire Davies



Stay warm for less

By using some well-chosen smart home tech, you can enjoy a toasty warm autumn without seeing an unwanted hike in the cost of your energy bills

Just as your wardrobe undergoes a seasonal transformation for autumn, certain aspects of your home need tailoring in order to be match-fit for the colder months. So now is the time to sort out your smart heating, and to ensure that whatever gadgets you use at home are energy efficient – you don't want any nasty surprises in your gas and electricity bills.

Smart thermostats are the obvious starting point. When used correctly, they keep your home warm and in the smartest way. How so? The majority of these thermostats use geofencing tech, so they can tell when you're due home or are approaching the house. The thermostat then turns the heating on so that your home is warm when you arrive. Smart radiator valves play into this further. Following an approach called district heating, these app-connected smart radiator valves enable you to heat only the rooms you're using.

For a complete smart heating solution encompassing district heating as well as whole home blanketing, team

Smart radiator valves heat only the rooms you'll use

Tado's Smart Thermostat with the brand's Smart Radiator Thermostat Kit. You'll then have everything you need to control your home's heating, right down to individual radiators, while, says Tado, cutting your energy costs by up to 31 per cent.

Curtains and blinds help prevent heat from escaping by adding an extra layer of insulation at your windows. Invest in smart blinds, such as the Thomas Sanderson PowerView Alexa-enabled blinds, and you can program them to close as soon as it gets dark, helping your room to stay warm when the temperature outside starts to fall. Also, if you have a stubborn cold spot in your home that needs to be warm on occasion (such as an office), draft in a tower fan. We like the Dyson Pure Hot+Cool Link.

No doubt you'll be spending increased time indoors this autumn, and using appliances more as a result, so get Belkin's Wi-Fi-enabled smart plug to monitor just how much electricity those appliance are sucking up.



ESSENTIAL KIT

1 TADO SMART THERMOSTAT STARTER KIT This voice- and app-controlled thermostat shows you how warm your home is, and how much money you're saving. **£199, tado.com** **2 TADO SMART RADIATOR THERMOSTAT KIT** Choose from horizontal or vertical valves, then create (in-app) heating schedules for specific rooms. **£179, tado.com** **3 DYSON PURE HOT+COOL LINK** Heats cold spots while purifying the air to cleanse it of germ-carrying nasties. **£499.99, dyson.co.uk** **4 BELKIN WEMO INSIGHT SWITCH** Plug your slow-cooker into the Insight Switch to start it cooking when you're at work, then jump into the app to see how much energy it's used. **£49.99, belkin.com/uk** **5 THOMAS SANDERSON POWERVIEW BLINDS** Control these Alexa-integrated smart blinds with your voice, or create schedules. **£POA, thomas-sanderson.co.uk**

We test the best outdoor security cameras p66



2



3



4



Feel more secure

Autumn brings with it darker evenings, so get the smartest eyes on your house with our pick of the best connected home security tech

Regardless of the size of your home, and whether you live alone or with others, it will benefit from a boost in security. An indoor security camera is a great choice for this, but we recommend taking it a step further with an all-in-one device. Our pick is the Cocoon, an AI-powered multi-room security system complete with a built-in camera and an array of genuinely smart features.

Using Subsound tech, this system senses unusual activity throughout your entire house, regardless of where it's positioned. The Cocoon quickly learns the unique 'sound signature' of your home so that it doesn't mistake your pet for an intruder. When it does pick up on activity, it alerts you to what's happening and where. Night Vision keeps watch when you're asleep, viewing your home through a 120-degree wide-angle lens.

You can reinforce the security of your house further by attaching Hive Window or Door Sensors (Hive Hub

required, £80) to your most exposed entry points, monitoring them 24/7. A video doorbell provides extra peace of mind too, saving you from answering the door to unexpected visitors, or enabling you to speak to couriers before they run off again with your parcel.

The Ring Video Doorbell 2 is an excellent choice for this, alerting you (via the app) when someone is at the door. You can then watch and speak to your visitor remotely, even if you're lounging in bed. Speaking of visitors, installing the Yale Conexis Smart Lock gives you maximum control over who enters and when, as you can send virtual door keys to your guests.

Reinforce security with an AI system that learns your home's sound signature

ESSENTIAL KIT

- 1 COCOON** If something unusual is detected in your home, Cocoon alerts you. You can then tap to sound its 90+dB siren. **£159, cocoon.life**
- 2 HIVE WINDOW OR DOOR SENSORS** Get instant alerts of unexpected activity near specific doors and windows, or in case you've accidentally left one open. **£29, hivehome.com**
- 3 RING VIDEO DOORBELL 2** Let Ring find out who's outside first, then you can chat to your doorstep visitor via the doorbell's two-way audio **£179, en-uk.ring.com**
- 4 YALE CONEXIS SMART LOCK** The Conexis syncs with the Yale app, enabling you to unlock your front door with your smartphone and let others in remotely, even if you're at work. **£269.99, yale.co.uk**

Better smart home health

Giving your home an autumn and winter wellness overhaul will reap rewards for your health, and that of your family and pets too

If you don't clear out your gutters ahead of the seasonal onslaught of rain and colder temperatures, you risk creating drainage problems come winter. Gutters laden with frozen water could expand, leading to cracked guttering. Head it off at the pass with the iRobot Looj 330 Gutter Cleaning Robot. Fitted with a series of rotating brushes,

Damp is an issue for many homes, so use a dehumidifier to reduce condensation and spores

this remote controlled robot moves swiftly through guttering, dislodging debris as it pushes onwards.

Next, safeguard your water pipes with the Grohe Sense Guard smart water monitoring system. Fit it to your main water pipe and it'll monitor your supply and usage 24/7. If it detects a leak or worse, it'll shut off your water supply and instantly alert you.

Damp is another wellness issue for many homes. Using a dehumidifier helps by reducing mold spores and condensation, and for this we recommend Meaco's DD8L. It's ideal for small- to medium-sized houses, extracting up to eight litres of moisture daily.

We know that the air inside our homes is up to four times more polluted than the outside, and in the colder months, when we're indoors more, our exposure is amped. Why not invest in an air quality monitor to track levels of indoor pollutants? The Awair 2nd Edition is our top pick, thanks to its ability to track invisible fine dust and chemicals in the air, then give you personalised recommendations on how to improve it.

Speaking of air, do you have a smart smoke alarm? If not, Nest Protect is perfect for monitoring for smoke and carbon monoxide. It's designed to last a decade, giving you maximum protection for your money.

The winter blues start as early as October for some, so get a headstart on combatting it by outfitting your bedroom with LIFX's Mini Colour, a smart bulb that can be programmed to wake you up with a sunrise glow. Finally, make the colder months more palatable with SmarTap, a smart bathing system that creates custom bath and shower experiences for everyone in your home.



1

2



3



4



5





7



ESSENTIAL KIT

- 1 LIFX MINI COLOUR** Create lighting schedules to help combat the winter blues with this voice-controlled bulb. **£44.99, [uk.lifx](http://uk.lifx.com)** **2 MEACO DD8L DEHUMIDIFIER** Reduce stinky mold spores and condensation. **£199.99, meaco.com** **3 AWAIR 2ND EDITION** Track levels of fine dust, a cause of respiratory illness. **£179, getawair.co.uk** **4 SMARTAP** Warm up with a voice-activated shower or bath. **£699, victoriaplum.com** **5 GROHE SENSE GUARD** Monitor water pipes and appliances for leaks 24/7. **From £365.83, grohe.co.uk** **6 NEST PROTECT** Let this intelligent alarm monitor your home for smoke and CO. **£99, nest.com/uk** **7 iROBOT LOOJ 330 GUTTER CLEANING ROBOT** Dislodge gutter debris via remote control. **\$299.99 (£231.49), irobot.com**

DON'T FORGET THE GARDEN!



EGO POWER+ BLOWER

Your garden will soon begin its autumn transformation, dropping leaves and general debris onto the lawn and path. Blast it all into a neat pile, ready for composting, with EGO's powerful leaf blower. It runs on a 56V li-ion battery, equipping you with the clout of a petrol blower but without the noise.

£219.99, egopowerplus.co.uk



PHILIPS HUE TUAR OUTDOOR PEDESTAL

Connect the app-controlled Tuar to your existing Hue bridge and take advantage of its geofencing and scheduling smarts, so that it switches on when you're returning home in the darker evenings. Place one along your driveway to bathe you in light as you potter around outside.

£89.99, meethue.com



BOSCH EASYCUT 12

Use this mini chainsaw to pare back overgrown hedges and remove garden tree branches in danger of breaking off in harsher weather. The EasyCut 12's design enables you to get closer to the trunk for a clean cut, with cutting speed controlled via the responsive trigger switch.

£100, bosch-do-it.com

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FUTURE

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TESTED

Expert reviews and recommendations
to help you buy with confidence

Edited by Claire Davies



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SAMSUNG GALAXY
NOTE9

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JABRA ELITE
ACTIVE 65T VS. BOSE
SOUNDSPORT FREE

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THE BEST GAMING
HEADSETS

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APPLE MACBOOK PRO
15-INCH

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

OUR AWARDS



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



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



This accolade, and others like it, show you which gear is best for specific features



For kit with exceptional industrial design and refinement, in addition to being a great buy



SPECIFICATIONS

Screen 6.4-inch 1440x2960 AMOLED
Processor Qualcomm Snapdragon 845
Memory 6GB/8GB **Storage** 128GB/512GB
Cameras 12MP telephoto/12MP dual-aperture wide-angle rear, 8MP front **Battery** 4,000mAh **Dimensions** 76.4x161.9x8.8mm
Weight 201g

CLOUD9

Samsung Galaxy Note9

You'd think that smartphones with styluses would have died off by now, but Samsung keeps them alive by making them excellent



From £899
samsung.com

Samsung has always gone big with its Note handsets, and we don't just mean the 6.4-inch screen on offer in this year's model. They've always pushed ahead on features and premium build, and the result is a phone that comes close to the iPhone X's high price. So, is it worth it?

Built better

The Note9 feels dense and classy in the hand, without the plasticky feel some flagships have had this year.

ON THE BIG SCREEN

At 6.4 inches, it's only a tad bigger than the S9+'s 6.2-inch display, but that extra space is excellent for its split-screen app pairing shortcuts

PEN PAL

The S Pen's square shape is surprisingly comfortable to hold. This is great, since the intuitive software makes it much more tempting to use than you'd think



It's no surprise that it feels solid, considering just how much is packed into a thin 8.8mm frame and more substantial 201g weight.

That's no doubt thanks in part to its new 4,000mAh battery, which is a big increase over the 3,300mAh unit in the previous model, though we can't blame Samsung for having been cautious there, given the Note's colourful battery history...

It looks nearly identical to the Galaxy S9, meaning it's one of the few high-end handsets you can have without a notch. Of course, you get the added bonus of the S Pen here, which hides completely within the handset when not in use, popping out from the bottom-right corner.

The S Pen has had a nice upgrade this year: it's Bluetooth connected for the first time, meaning it can do more than simply tap and draw. There's a button on the stylus, which acts as a handy remote to play or pause music, for example, or to launch the camera app and take photos remotely. The S Pen works really well, making it an ideal addition on top of the drawing

prowess of the S Pen, which includes 4,096 levels of pressure sensitivity.

It feels natural in the hand during use, is totally accurate, and its ability to take notes, annotate screenshots and photos, translate foreign text (you select the words with the S Pen on the screen), and send Live Messages, are genuinely useful.

Infinity phwoar

Of course, all that note-taking and drawing prowess wouldn't feel as nice if the screen wasn't any good. But the 1440x2960 Infinity Display is (just) Samsung's best ever, with images that are just as vibrant as the ones on the S9 Plus, but in a slightly taller form.

From streaming HDR movies from Netflix, to enjoying a couple of rounds of combat in *Dragon Ball Legends*, to reading the fine content on T3.com, this phone's screen makes it all an absolute pleasure.

Everything you'll do on it feels utterly smooth too, which is just as important. The new entry-level Note9 comes with a Snapdragon 845 processor, 128GB of storage space

Some might say Samsung design has found its groove. Some might say it's in a rut. We expect big changes next year...

(a 512GB version costs more), and 6GB of RAM (this is increased to 8GB on the 512GB storage model). This is just about as high-end as phones get, especially the storage, which is colossal on that 512GB model. Bear in mind that it has a microSD card slot that can take another 512GB, meaning we've got a 1TB phone here. You really won't have to worry about running out of space for photos and videos.

Aside from all that extra space, it basically matches the best of what else is currently out there for speed. This means that using the Note9 is a rapid, fluid experience: we met zero slow-down or lag while opening and using apps, playing games, switching usage modes (such as when using the S Pen), downloading content and browsing the internet. It's what you'd expect for £899, though.

It helps that Android 8.1 is nice and mature now, running like a bug-free dream here. The Samsung Experience software, which replaced the crude and unpopular Samsung TouchWiz from earlier Galaxy devices, has also reached an incredibly refined level on





TOUCH HERE

The fingerprint sensor is easier to reach than the Note8's annoying position. The Note9 also has a face unlock feature built in



the Note9, with it guiding you at all times with useful hints and pointers in how you can navigate the open and often complex operating system.

The software partnering the Note9's S Pen digital stylus also syncs seamlessly with Oreo. Extracting the S Pen when the phone is unlocked causes an overlay to appear with a customisable app wheel, enabling you to quickly make a note, or run an app. We have to confess that we added *Football Manager Mobile 2018* to this almost immediately (the S Pen is perfect for configuring your false 9 formation). And, talking of gaming,

The Note9 comes in four colours: black, blue, pink and purple

you'll be delighted to know that *Fornite* runs smoothly on the Note9, and looks glorious on the big bright screen too. You have to install using the awkward route outside of the Google Play store, but then you can't argue with the end results.

Artificial idiocy

There is one area of software where the Note9 stumbles, and inevitably it's Samsung's Bixby smart assistant, which returns to the Note9 with its own dedicated, physical button, located on the left side underneath the volume keys. A single press opens

the AI assistant's home screen, where you can enter your text commands, configure settings, and run through its tutorials. A long press takes you directly to voice command input.

Providing you enable the option, Bixby can also be raised with a "Hi, Bixby" voice command, which worked for us most of the time.

Samsung says Bixby is smarter and better than ever, and it does feature extra smarts such as learning to tailor its responses and suggestions for you better (like which eateries to suggest based on your past preferences). That said, we still found it as patchy as ever

THE COMPETITION



SAMSUNG GALAXY S9+

Samsung's second-biggest, second-flashiest phone of 2018 has an equally good display, is equally fast, and has essentially the same camera system. You don't get the S Pen, but you can find the S9+ for close to £600 online.
£869, samsung.com



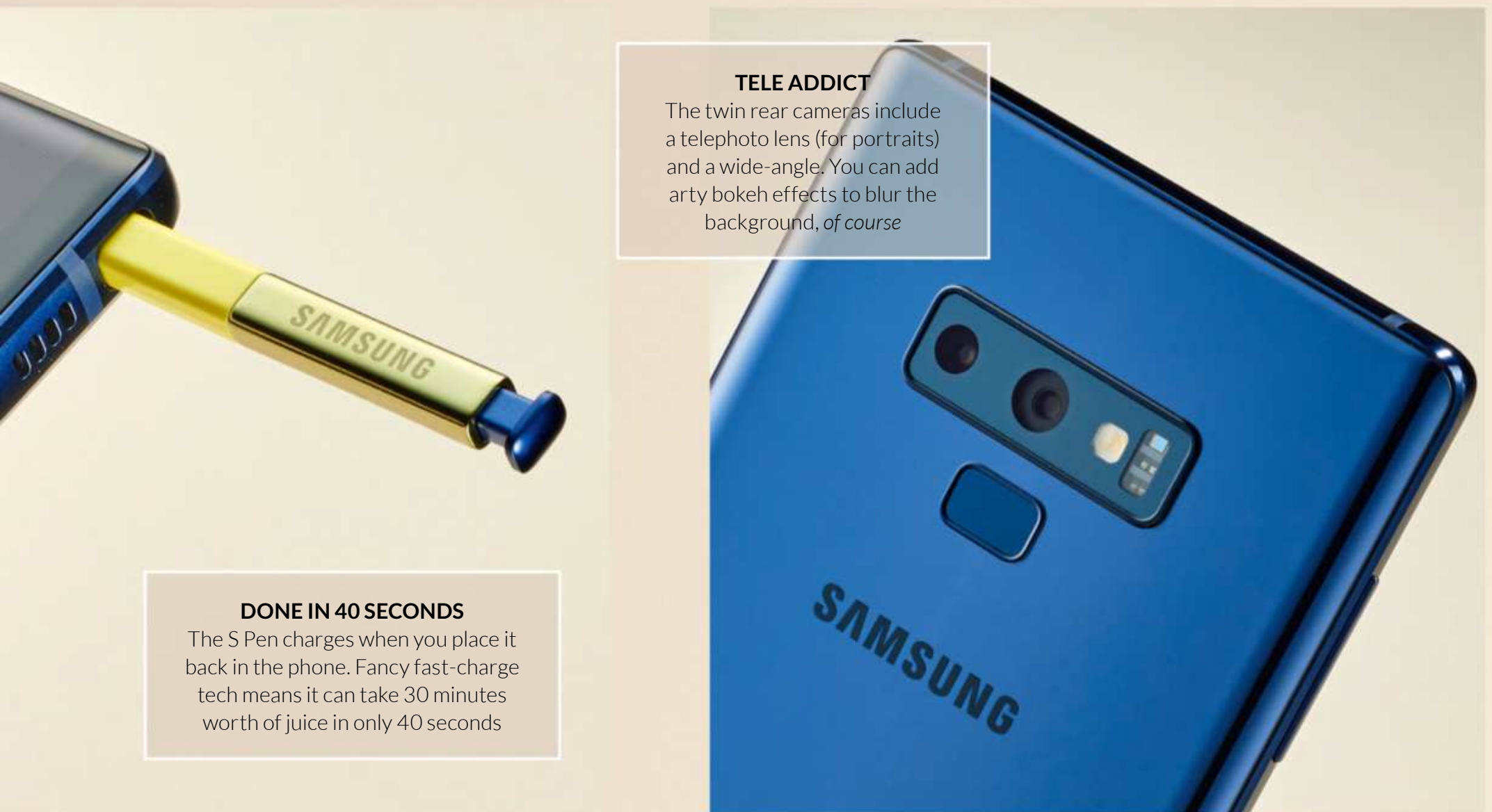
APPLE iPhone X

It's not as big as the Note, and there's no stylus or split-screen apps, but this is the only phone that has it beat for premium feel and speed, thanks to the stainless steel and glass body, plus Apple's blistering A11 processor.
£999, apple.com/uk



HUAWEI P20 PRO

Again, not as big as the Note 9, and not as focused on productivity, but if you want the best Android camera system we've tested yet, you need this triple-lens system. The rest of the phone is also excellent, of course.
£669, consumer.huawei.com



TELE ADDICT

The twin rear cameras include a telephoto lens (for portraits) and a wide-angle. You can add arty bokeh effects to blur the background, of course

DONE IN 40 SECONDS

The S Pen charges when you place it back in the phone. Fancy fast-charge tech means it can take 30 minutes worth of juice in only 40 seconds

when on test. Many requests that we felt it would be able to handle didn't register, or if it did register them, sometimes it would do random things that weren't useful. Asking, for example, "How long will it take me to get home today?" saw Bixby open The Weather Channel, stating, "I couldn't find the specific weather condition you asked for, here's the overall weather instead".

Ask Google Assistant, which is also available on the Note9, the exact same question and within a second a Google Maps box has opened with a time estimate to your house and a recommended route. Alas, Samsung doesn't let you change the Bixby button to Google Assistant instead...

Always focused

One area Samsung always gets right is the camera. The Note9 inherits the dual-lens, dual-aperture system from the S9+, meaning it can let in different levels of light for different types of shot, more like a proper camera than its phone rivals (only on the wide-angle lens, though). Both 12MP rear lenses are image stabilised too, so it's easy to get crisp and clear shots.

Moving round to the front of the Note9, the 8MP front camera now

comes loaded with a first for the Note series: a front-facing camera with autofocus, which is perfect for using the remote trigger in the S Pen.

All the cameras take excellent bright pictures, helped with new intelligent scene optimisation, which adjust contrast and colours depending on what you're shooting.

One day at a time

The boosted battery is another success story. The Note8's battery was fine, but no more, really. The Note9 now delivers a battery that can meet the 'all-day' experience being touted by Samsung, and with medium mixed usage too. But you'll still need to only be using it lightly if you want to get a full two days of use out of it.

That's no problem – it's standard among smartphones – but for a phone that prides itself on going big in everything, and being a productivity powerhouse, ideally we'd want an even larger battery to be slotted in here. Other phones already meet (or are set to exceed) the 4,000mAh size used here. You do get both Fast Charging and Fast Wireless Charging capabilities in the Note9, though, so at least refilling the phone's tank is a rapid experience.

The rich blue phone and gold/yellow pen combination is our favourite of Samsung's options

The Note9's final trick is its audio credentials, including AKG-tuned speakers (which are noticeably better than the Note8's), plus an Adapt Sound system and Dolby Atmos support. Using these with headphones provides much richer audio quality than normal.

All of this adds up to the Galaxy Note9 being our newly crowned king of the Android phones, and Samsung's best device yet.



VERDICT

WE'D IMPRESSED Glorious, huge screen; excellent cameras; new S Pen is very handy; lots of power and speed.

WE'D IMPROVE Battery life is still just average; Bixby simply isn't a contender yet.

THE LAST WORD Another top phone from Samsung. It's expensive, but earns that price by oozing quality from (almost) every feature.



Discover the best prices for the Note9:
bit.ly/galaxynote9



SPORTY TRUE WIRELESS 'PHONES

Jabra Elite Active 65t

£149.99, jabra.co.uk

Vs

Bose SoundSport Free

£175.99, bose.co.uk

FIT & COMFORT ★★★★★

These are seemingly unshakeable without being uncomfortable, which is no small feat. Stick them in and do whatever you want – running, weights, spin, Greco-Roman wrestling – and they'll still be there, feeling like you're wearing nothing at all.

FEATURES ★★★★★

Five hours battery life, plus 10 hours with the charging case. Wind-reduction tech boosts sound for runners, and IP55 rating means they can take a beating from lousy weather if you're exercising outside. Voice assistant support is here too.

CONNECTIVITY ★★★★★

The connection on the Jabras was good, but we had a couple of moments where it broke down, which is always more confusing with true wireless. The app enables you to customise the EQ to get more out of their sound, which is useful, as you'll see...

SOUND QUALITY ★★★★★

For workout purposes, the 65t are fine, even though they're not the most musical of headphones. They're more like a very good Bluetooth headset than a hi-fi product, but with the volume up, they're perfectly okay for workouts.

VERDICT

WE'RE IMPRESSED Unbeatable comfort and fit for any physical activity; great wind reduction tech for outdoors use; good battery life.

WE'D IMPROVE Sound is weaker than the Bose.

★★★★★

FIT & COMFORT ★★★★★

These are perfectly comfortable for use in the gym or at home, but aren't so good for running or cycling – they're noticeably less stable than the Jabras in the ear. The way they protrude catches on hoods far too often, and looks a bit cyborg-y.

FEATURES ★★★★★

Like the Jabras, you get five hours of battery, plus 10 hours from the case – though a quick-charge feature gives 45 mins of juice from a 15-minute charge. IPX4 rating makes them sweat- and rain-resistant. Voice control is also here.

CONNECTIVITY ★★★★★

We found the connectivity on the Bose totally unbreakable in normal sport use – quick to connect, solid through a session, and always super clear. If you lose a bud, the app makes it easy to find where you last had it. Very nice.

SOUND QUALITY ★★★★★

You get notably better audio from the Bose headphones than the Jabra – good enough to be your everyday headphones too. However, the protruding design catches a lot of wind noise, so they aren't ideal for outdoor activity at times.

VERDICT

WE'RE IMPRESSED Good audio quality; comfortable; top connectivity and app.

WE'D IMPROVE Sticky-out design looks a little odd, catches, and is less stable for running or cycling.

★★★★★

2nd

1st

Get the best prices on these headphones at: bit.ly/wirelesscans

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Discover the next gadget that will change your life,
in a technology magazine custom-designed for iPad

GET A FREE TRIAL IN OUR APP
Search the iOS App Store for 'T3'



ALSO ON





SPECIFICATIONS

OS Wear OS **Display** dual, AMOLED (400x400) and FSTN **Size** 45mm
Battery two-30 days (depending on usage) **Water and dust resistance** IP68 **Heart rate** Yes **Connectivity** Bluetooth, Wi-Fi
Works with iOS, Android

TIME FOR MORE

TicWatch Pro

Is affordability and increased battery life a better swap for quality?

£219.99
mobvoi.com

When a company moves from making entry-level smartwatches to top-end wrist real estate, it can be quite a risk, but that's exactly what Chinese AI company Mobvoi is doing. A new entrant on the wearable space, Mobvoi's been making waves with its wrist innovations and now it has

unleashed the TicWatch Pro. Aimed at being the affordable top-end to its current Wear OS (née Android Wear) offerings, the Pro's main selling points are price and big battery life.

The Pro's quoted battery life is five days (mixed use) to 30 days (Essential Mode), thanks to dual display tech that extends usage. Battery life drops to two days if you use the watch exclusively in Smart Mode. Basically, there are two 1.39-inch screens layered on top of one another. There's the 400x400 OLED display, with ace resolution for the size that ensures

The Pro's dial is available in silver or matte black, with a strap to match

text is legible and the pixels are barely visible. But it doesn't fare well in bright sunlight, washing out colours and making the time harder to read.

Screen time

There is, however, the inclusion of that second screen. It lies in wait above the other – a transparent LCD layer – and comes to life whenever the other screen is off. This secondary, low-powered display still shows the time, date, your step count, the watch's current battery level, and even your heart rate, with one touch



of a button. It's a simple version of the Pro aesthetic, but it does mean you're getting more out of the battery than you would on the Apple Watch.

In reality, the smart screen lasts around two days, but it can limp on using that LCD display for another week or so – just without most of the actual smartwatch functionality and the pretty watch faces. Plus, that low-power screen just doesn't look attractive, making the TicWatch Pro feel cheaper than it should, especially considering its aesthetics elsewhere.

Style matters

You see, despite the price tag, this feels like a premium product. It's a blend of matte black plastic and a brushed metal bezel, paired with a hybrid strap that wraps a heavily textured silicone underlay with a fine layer of leather. Comfortable, flexible and remarkably light, the Pro looks and feels expensive. It's just a shame that the size of the body won't appeal to all. Some of us love a big watch, but the TicWatch Pro is massive, thick and definitely not subtle. The majority of people we showed it to weren't a fan of its size, and for slimmer wrists

it looks almost ridiculous. It doesn't help that there are two sizeable metal hardware buttons on the right-hand-side, which you use to navigate the watch in between swipes and prods of the touchscreen.

All that heft packs in a lot of features, thanks to the fact it runs on Wear OS. It's incredibly easy to set up, the software is easy to use and there are plenty of apps available. There's a plethora of highly customisable faces to choose from too, and it supports Google Pay. You can even programme the lower of the two buttons, which we assigned to toggle Google Pay. Unlike the Samsung Gear Sport, for example, the TicWatch Pro doesn't take advantage of the Wear OS support for a bezel or buttons, so this button is fairly handy. It's just a shame that the software on the watch can often stutter and lag as you move between notifications or apps—it's never quite as smooth as you'd hope.

It's also frustrating that you need to use a combination of the Wear OS and Mobvoi apps on your phone to make the most of everything the TicWatch has to offer. Mobvoi doesn't add much to the Wear OS experience,

The strap's design means it's business on the front and totally sweatproof on the back

and the app is particularly limited, but its activity tracking provides useful data. The Mobvoi app (iOS, Android) shows your progression across steps, exercise and active hours in a series of rings, with the aim of closing all three by the end of the day.

It's not designed specifically as a fitness tracker, so the software isn't going to provide highly detailed exercise breakdowns, but it's enough for those who aren't fitness freaks. We used it at the gym several times and found it more than substantial in terms of recording our workouts, especially in the accuracy of its heart rate tracker. Though if you're looking for advanced tracking, you'll need to be looking at a Garmin.



VERDICT

WE'RE IMPRESSED

Excellent longevity; premium build quality; affordable price tag.

WE'D IMPROVE

Unsightly CD display; overly chunky design; software performance isn't smooth.

THE FINAL WORD

Despite its thick-set size and a few software issues, the innovative display and lengthy battery life turn this into the best smartwatch you haven't heard of.



Find your perfect smartwatch:
bit.ly/t3smartwatches

SLIMLINE ALTERNATIVES



LG WATCH STYLE

The clue is in the name for this one, as while the LG Watch style isn't be the best fitness tracker on the Wear OS lineup, it's sleek, slim and desirable. It also offers a neat rotating crown for additional functionality.
£189.99, lg.com/uk



APPLE WATCH 3

Although all Wear OS devices work with an iPhone, you can't get past the fact the Apple Watch is still the most complete smartwatch package, and it won't attract the wrong kind of style attention, either.
From £329, apple.com/uk

Best headsets for gaming

Hear it all, hear it loud – and make yourself heard while you're getting into the game

Words: Alex Cox Photography: Olly Curtis



01

A HEAD-FILLING SOUNDSTAGE

SENNHEISER GSP 600
£219, sennheiser.com

If bouncy sound is your thing, Sennheiser's bombastic wired cans should be top of your list. They're loud, brash and the closed-back ear cups absolutely swaddle your ears in audio. They're lighter than they look, although the strong headband means they quickly start to feel tight no matter how much you've adjusted the pressure settings on top. Even the mic is strong; it auto-mutes when you swing it up, seems to cancel noise well and, while it's not as strong as, say, that of the Arctis Pro, it's perfectly decent.

★★★★☆

02

AWESOME AUDIO, AT A PRICE

V-MODA CROSSFADE WIRELESS II ROSE GOLD
£330, v-moda.com

The design of V-Moda's foldable headset won't be for everyone, with its rose gold trim and hexagonal cups. Its headband isn't the comfiest, either. But the Crossfade II is a huge success in terms of sound quality. The Hi-Res certification is deserved: as aptX Bluetooth cans, or plugged in, these sound amazing. It's a shame wireless doesn't extend to use as a headset, but the cabled V-Moda BoomPro (£30 extra) probably captures audio the best of any headset here.

★★★★☆

03

GAMER-FRIENDLY, BUT LAGGING

PLANTRONICS RIG 800HS
£160, plantronics.com

Plantronics has pedigree, so this should deliver, right? Wireless strength is commendable, angular gamer design is on point (with an onboard team chat/game audio mixer if you're using it on the PS4) and some concession has been made to comfort. But not enough. The self-adjusting headband, à la the Arctis line, doesn't distribute the weight as well as its rival, and the mesh-covered cups are tight. The sound is also a letdown: while there's a good rumble, it's hollow, and the mic is lacking.

★★★★☆

If you're a dedicated gamer, your headset is probably the most important peripheral in your arsenal. Forget that pinpoint mouse and clacky mechanical keyboard, as neither of those things is

strapped to your head for hours, and neither is interacting with you quite as intimately. So it pays to get it right. We're not just talking great sound, although that's a big plus: the perfect headset needs to be light to save neckache, and

contain your ears without crushing them. It also needs a quality mic to ensure you're heard clearly when admonishing rubbish teammates. And, let's face it, style is important, especially if you're going to be on the business end of a webcam.



04

A TREAT FOR YOUR EARS

STEELSERIES ARCTIS PRO WIRELESS
£300, steelseries.com

This is the gold standard of wireless headsets. The Arctis Pro Wireless's ski-goggle headband, which distributes the headset's minimal weight over the top of your skull, adds to supremely soft ear cups to make it incredibly comfortable. The base station deals with volume control and battery charging, as well as accepting optical and line-ins and outs, so signal never falters. And the sound is top-of-the-line. Only the price lets it down, but it's worth it.

★★★★★

05

COMFORTABLE AND CHEAP

SOUND BLASTERX H7 TOURNAMENT EDITION
£90, soundblaster.com

Despite being near the bottom for price, this does a huge number of things that some higher-end headsets can't get right. The audio, with a convincing 7.1 effect, is decent – perhaps lacking mids and pushing the treble, but not distractingly so – and the mic is rich and sensitive. It's also comfortable and you have options, with USB or 3.5mm connectors equally viable. Really, the H7 is a bit of a jewel. Don't miss this one if you're on a tighter budget.

★★★★★

06

SIMPLE BUT SUMPTUOUS

CORSAIR HS70 SE
£100, corsair.com

Headsets usually come in black or black, so we appreciate Corsair's beige leather. Forgoing fancy designs or elaborately hinged earpieces has worked well, as this is one of the more secure-feeling headsets on test, and the software-tweakable audio, while brash on the low end, is exciting. Its 2.4GHz wireless receiver is the smallest dedicated USB dongle here, yet manages 7.1 surround emulation – only the mic, clear but limited in terms of frequencies, pulls the HS70 SE down a few pegs.

★★★★★



SIX APPEAL

Apple MacBook Pro 15-inch

With six cores of processing power in a 1.5cm body, this is a pocket(-ish) rocket

From £2,349 (£4,049 as tested)
apple.com/uk

Apple's high-end laptop finally gets a big leap forward in power this year, putting six-core processors in as standard (the 13-inch model gets a tidy quad-core processor). The basic £2,349 model (2.2GHz Core i7 processor, 16GB of RAM, 256GB of ultra-fast flash storage) is pretty handy itself, and compares well to the T3-favourite 15-inch Surface Book 2: for the same price, you get the same storage (but faster), the same RAM, two extra processor cores, but a weaker GPU. We got the XXXXTREME version to test the MacBook Pro, a machine that comes in at tear-inducing £4,049, kitted out with a 2.9GHz Core i9 chip, 32GB of RAM, AMD Radeon Pro 560X 4GB graphics card and 2TB storage.

Small change

Outside of a big boost in processor power, the only other changes of note in the new MacBook Pros from last year's model are a new keyboard that Apple promises is quieter (but others say should be more reliable too, as several people had issues with the previous generation) and a

True Tone screen, which changes its colour temperature to match the ambient light in the room, making it more comfortable to use. This is one of our favourite features on iPad and iPhone, and once you try it, every computer without it will feel horrible to use.

The good news, then, is that the beastly processor proves to be as much of a bonus as expected – compared to last year's model (which had a similar processor to the Surface Book 2), hardcore video encoding was nearly 30 per cent faster in our tests. For pro stuff that taxes the processor, this is the performance machine, even at the more basic end. However, gaming performance doesn't compare to the likes of Nvidia 1060 in the Surface Book 2 (especially since macOS isn't good at it).

The MacBook Pro still has other advantages, including being thinner and lighter than anything else in its power range. The screen is also sharp and really vibrant, with wide-colour support. Keep in mind that there are four Thunderbolt 3 ports here, a headphone jack, and nothing else. No regular USB, no SD card reader, no HDMI – it lacks flexibility. It's also strictly a laptop, so no touchscreen or 2-in-1 shenanigans.

That troublesome keyboard is also divisive: it's very low-travel, and feels 'clicky'. We really like it, but some *detest* it. You've been warned.



VERDICT

WE'RE IMPRESSED So much processing power; True Tone is brilliant; highly portable.

WE'D IMPROVE Some won't like the lack of touchscreen; graphics aren't great; limited port options.

THE LAST WORD You can't argue with the sheer processor grunt here – and in that thin, light package – but it's not as flexible as some Windows-based rivals.



Find the best MacBook Pro deals: bit.ly/mbpdeals

WIN!

1 OF 2 BOSCH BCS122GB UNLIMITED CORDLESS VACUUMS!

Clean absolutely everywhere with this super powerful,
highly portable, battery-powered vac!



Could this be the perfect vacuum cleaner? The Bosch BCS122GB Unlimited is totally cordless, giving you the flexibility to clean anywhere, any time – and it has the longevity for huge jobs because it comes with two easy-swappable battery packs and a fast-charging dock. When one battery runs out, just pop in the second and you can keep going, while the first gets back to full charge within just 60 minutes.

Unlike cordless vacs of the past, you don't need to miss out on suction power by going mobile either. The BCS122GB Unlimited has two strength settings: for less intensive or longer jobs, use the Normal mode, which lasts for an hour's use per battery. Or when you really need to get that dust busted, you can engage Turbo mode, which gives you seven minutes of seriously high-strength cleaning prowess.

You're not just relying on vacuum power for results, though: the HighPower AllFloor brush attachment spins at 5,000rpm, meaning it gets every piece of dirt out of tough carpets. Crucially, it's easy to take apart and clean the brushes of the system too, so you always get a top-quality clean.

The BCS122GB is clever in other ways, too. For a start, its exhaust air is actually cleaner than the air around it, because it passes through a Pure Air membrane and hygienic filter on its way out of the vac. The 0.4-litre dust container is easy to pop out and empty tidily, and the addition of a wall-mounted docking station keeps the vac out of the way when you're not using it.

You can get more information about the excellent Bosch BCS122GB Unlimited at bosch-home.co.uk – but we've got two vacs, worth £499 each, to give away!

To enter, simply answer the following question:

**HOW MANY BATTERIES
DOES THE BOSCH BCS122GB
UNLIMITED COME WITH?**

- A** 1
- B** 2
- C** 3

Enter today at: bit.ly/t3boschcomp

The competition closes 29 September 2018.
By taking part, you agree to be bound by the competition rules:
futureplc.com/competition-rules.
Entries must be received by midnight on 29 September 2018 (UK time). Open to UK residents aged 18 years and over. There will be two winners, entitled to one Bosch BCS122GB Unlimited unit each. The prize is non-transferable and non-refundable. There is no cash alternative.



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AWARDS 2018

Meet the greatest tech of the last year,
all in one place, in the world's most
prestigious gadget awards



— The next iPhone is coming... —

— Meet a life-size Lego supercar —

— The first useful home robot you can buy —

— Panasonic's most amazing TV yet —



BEST OF THE BEST

The world's best tech, all in one place

Edited by Matthew Bolton



If you're looking for the very best tech available today, you have definitely come to the right place.

Best of the Best is the most useful gadget-buying guide you will ever encounter. To create it, we've ruthlessly filtered down to the biggest groups, to bring you rock-solid recommendations for your home life, daily commute and the tech you use all the time.

Within each of those groups, we've got a dozen categories for key tech buys. We've picked one product for every category that we think is the best you can get on balance, taking into account price, quality and features, so it's easy to know what you need in your life.

You should also check out T3.com, where you'll find even more categories, if you're looking for something that isn't here. From big-budget buys to the little (but essential) accessories, we've got you covered.

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BEST OF... ENTERTAINMENT

However serious you are about your TV, movies and gaming setups, we've got the perfect buys for a tricked-out living room

OLED 4K TV



SONY AF8

Sony's next-gen 4K HDR TV looks fantastic thanks to its OLED display and advanced image processing. Because of ingenious tech that uses the screen itself as a speaker, it also sounds superb.

From £2,499, sony.co.uk

VALUE 4K TV



HISENSE U7A

This is a superior mid-range TV that over-delivers for the modest asking price. A smart design and excellent 4K image clarity are its best features, but the Vidaa U smart platform is also easy to live with.

From £649, hisense.co.uk

TOP-END 4K TV



B&O ECLIPSE

Bang & Olufsen's fantastic TV features a gorgeous OLED panel and a colossal 450 watts of speaker through its integrated soundbar. The Eclipse comes in different finishes to match your room perfectly.

From £7,495, bang-olufsen.com

4K HDR PROJECTOR



OPTOMA UHZ65

This projector brings cinema-like laser 4K projector to the home for an affordable price, meaning giant-screen Ultra HD detail with the richness of HDR. It's unbeatable for home movie magic.

£4,999, optoma.co.uk

VALUE 4K BLU-RAY PLAYER



XBOX ONE S

Yes, this is primarily a games console, but it's a damn good UHD Blu-ray player too. Budget 4K players from other brands still cost around the same as this, but you can't stick a game in them.

£199, microsoft.com

TOP-END 4K BLU-RAY PLAYER



PANASONIC DMP-UB900

The 4K and HDR pictures from this unit are out of this world, packing incredible colour depth and detail in Ultra HD (and making everything else look fantastic, too) to elevate your home cinema experience.

£399, panasonic.com

4K STREAMER



APPLE TV 4K

The only streaming box capable of high-end Dolby Vision HDR and 4K, and has the biggest library of 4K HDR movies via iTunes, as well as streaming from Amazon, iPlayer, Now TV and loads more.

£179, amazon.co.uk

UNIVERSAL REMOTE



LOGITECH HARMONY ELITE

A dual-purpose remote, as at home in your hands as it is sat in the corner of your living room, controlling everything from your TV to your lighting. You can even control it from a phone app!

£279, logitech.com

TV SOUNDBAR



SONOS BEAM

Not only is this a superb-sounding TV speaker, with an excellent mode for enhancing dialogue, it's multi-room ready with Sonos' other products, supports Apple AirPlay, and has Alexa built-in.

£399, sonos.com

AV RECEIVER



MARANTZ NR1608

Small enough for any setup but packing in features, this receiver offers 7.2-channel surround, Dolby Atmos and DTS:X 3D audio, eight 4K 60Hz HDMI ports, Wi-Fi music playback and smart 4K upscaling.

£595, marantz.co.uk

PORTABLE GAMES CONSOLE



NINTENDO SWITCH

Not the most powerful current-gen console, but with Nintendo's legendary games line-up and the flexibility to play in stacks of different control configurations, it's the best portable machine you can buy.

£279, nintendo.com

4K GAMES CONSOLE



XBOX ONE X

The most powerful console ever is a true technical marvel, capable of astonishing graphics in native 4K and HDR, and Dolby Atmos 3D sound. It even includes high-quality 4K Blu-ray playback.

£449, xbox.com/en-gb

BEST OF... AUDIO

From wireless convenience to audiophile heaven, this is the gear you need to make the most of your favourite music

MULTI-ROOM SPEAKERS



SONOS ONE

Pound for pound, this is a hell of a lot of speaker for your money, easily filling a room, and expandable through the versatile Sonos speaker range. Built-in Alexa support clinches it for Sonos.

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

WI-FI SPEAKER



NAIM MU-SO

It's expensive, but there just isn't a better sounding or looking wireless speaker for the price. The sound is monumentally excellent, and it supports a solid range of streaming options.

£1,199, [naimaudio.com](https://www.naimaudio.com)

PORTABLE BLUETOOTH SPEAKER



CAMBRIDGE AUDIO YOYO M

These portable speakers are made for wireless stereo sound and come as a pair (though you can use one on its own). They offer punchy audio in an impressively wide sound field, and look great, too.

£249, [cambridgeaudio.com](https://www.cambridgeaudio.com)

WIRELESS OVER-EAR HEADPHONES



BOWERS & WILKINS PX

These stylish headphones are also technical marvels, boasting adjustable noise cancellation via an app. They pause automatically when you take them off, last ages, and sound absolutely fantastic.

£329, [bowers-wilkins.co.uk](https://www.bowers-wilkins.co.uk)

WIRELESS IN-EAR HEADPHONES



BOSE SOUNDSPORT FREE

These are great all-rounder headphones, with the bonus of true wireless freedom. They sound great, are sweat-proof for exercise, have a healthy five-hour battery life per charge, and are a good price.

£179, [bose.co.uk](https://www.bose.co.uk)

WIRED OVER-EAR HEADPHONES



BOWERS & WILKINS P9 SIGNATURE

These are open-backed headphones, so they let sound in and out, but the quality is astounding, especially through a serious headphone DAC/amp setup – and they're wonderful with compressed music too.

£699, [bowers-wilkins.co.uk](https://www.bowers-wilkins.co.uk)

WIRED IN-EAR HEADPHONES



KEF M100

This blend of KEF's traditional audiophile instincts with comfortable contemporary styling is a fantastic product, great value, and the best in-ear headphones, pound for pound, that you can get.

£89, [uk.kef.com](https://www.uk.kef.com)

PORTABLE HIGH-RES PLAYER



ASTELL & KERN KANN

A substantial audio device at nearly 300g, but one that does incredible things. It's a DAC in its own right, it's an astonishing hi-res player, and its massive battery will keep you rocking for days on end.

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

HI-FI STREAMER



NAIM UNITI ATOM

An immensely stylish streamer with a great screen, that's compatible with a host of music streaming services. It'll play anything on your network and via Chromecast, AirPlay and Bluetooth aptX.

£1,999, [naimaudio.com](https://www.naimaudio.com)

BOOKSHELF SPEAKERS



WHARFEDALE DIAMOND 220

These are great value, yet offer up 13cm Kevlar mid/bass drivers, deep-dish tweeters and outstandingly punchy sound. Place them next to a wall for the strongest output from the rear-set bass port.

£119 (pair), [wharfedale.co.uk](https://www.wharfedale.co.uk)

HI-FI STEREO AMP



CAMBRIDGE AUDIO AZUR 851A

Nine easily selected inputs and Cambridge Audio's own patented Class XD amplifier design combine to make this a truly unique and special amp, one that can stand up to any musical test.

£1,400, [cambridgeaudio.com](https://www.cambridgeaudio.com)

TURNTABLE



AUDIO-TECHNICA AT-LP5

Pouring 60 years of turntable expertise into one device, Audio-Technica's AT-LP5 will give you vinyl pleasure for years, thanks to its glorious audio quality, tank-like build and USB-output future-proofing.

£329, [eu.audio-technica.com](https://www.eu.audio-technica.com)

BEST OF... LIFESTYLE

Kit yourself out with the ultimate in personal technology. This is the stuff you use every day, so make sure you get it spot on with our picks

ANDROID PHONE



SAMSUNG GALAXY NOTE9

The huge 6.4-inch screen on this phone is perfect for productivity, thanks to split-screen apps and the S-Pen. It's really fast, has great battery life, a fantastic camera, and you can fill it with 1TB of storage!

From £899, samsung.com

PREMIUM PHONE



APPLE IPHONE X

Somehow earning its colossal price tag, this is a masterpiece of design and engineering. The screen is the best out there, the camera is fantastic, and it feels like a device from the near future.

£999, apple.com/uk

MID-RANGE PHONE



HONOR VIEW 10

The Honor View 10, essentially, is the very well-reviewed Huawei Mate 10 Pro, which costs almost twice as much. For this amazing price you get a high-end display, fast processor and great camera.

£419, hihonor.com/uk

VALUE PHONE



MOTOROLA MOTO G6

The G6 continues Motorola's run of packing exactly the tech you need into a bargain package. There are no obvious compromises either, making this a really capable phone at a brilliant price.

£219, motorola.co.uk

SMARTWATCH



APPLE WATCH SERIES 3

Nothing in the smartwatch market does more than the Apple Watch, and this third generation can do it all without a tethered phone – perfect for keeping your life in order whatever you happen to be doing.

From £329, apple.com/uk

HYBRID WATCH



MISFIT PHASE

Smartwatch functionality without the screen – all the alerts, connectivity and activity tracking you desire, packed into a stunning and completely inconspicuous analogue watch with a six-month battery.

From £135, misfit.com

ANALOGUE WATCH



MONDAINE STOP2GO

Mondaine's classic design features a second hand that takes 58 seconds to go around, then pauses for two, mimicking the Swiss railway station clocks it's based on. A classy and timeless piece.

£479, mondaine.com

FITNESS TRACKER



FITBIT CHARGE 2

It's not the most feature-packed tracker on the market, but it wins out for comfort and amazing app support that can make it part of a complete fitness program as it tracks sleep, steps, distance and more.

£99, fitbit.com

BLUETOOTH TRACKER



TILE SLIM

A tiny keyring-sized square that helps your phone keep tabs on your wallet and vice versa, with a selection of ringtones, a year's battery life, and the endurance to last a lifetime sitting in your back pocket.

£30, thetileapp.com

EREADER



KINDLE OASIS

Ultra-thin, lighter than a flimsy paperback, and weighted to be held in one hand, the Oasis takes digital reading to the next level. Clip on the leather charging cover and you're set for months of books.

£269, amazon.co.uk

ELECTRIC RAZOR



PHILIPS 9000 SERIES PRESIGE

This razor is incredibly comfortable to use, almost feeling like it's just wishing the stubble away as it goes over your face – but the hair definitely goes, even when you're dealing with a few days of growth.

£210, philips.co.uk

ELECTRIC TOOTHBRUSH



PHILIPS SONICARE DIAMONDCLEAN SONIC

Whiten and polish with the vibrations from this versatile brush, which whips your toothpaste into a bubbly frenzy to get between your teeth more effectively.

£149, philips.co.uk

BEST OF... AUTO

Get the best driving experience possible. No matter whether you tend to go for two wheels or four, these are the top vehicles and accessories around

FAMILY CAR



VOLVO XC60

Well-appointed and exquisitely designed, this mid-size hybrid SUV has all the entertainment options you need, the poise to make those long journeys smooth and enjoyable, and is safe as houses.

From £35,655, volvocars.com/uk

FUN CAR



JAGUAR F-TYPE

In coupé or convertible form, the latest F-Type rules the road. Fine lines, amazing agility and a two-litre, four-cylinder turbo engine that kicks hard without costing the earth. You'll be grinning behind the wheel.

From £48,830, jaguar.co.uk

CITY ELECTRIC CAR



BMW i3

The i3 is a responsive, highly practical electric runabout packed with connectivity options and enough power in its 170bhp motor to hit 62mph in just 7.3 seconds. Perfect for a daily commute.

From £30,250, bmw.co.uk

LONG-RANGE ELECTRIC CAR



TESLA MODEL S 100D

Safe, super-smart and speedy, Tesla's all-electric saloon has everything you'd expect and more. It's a true technological marvel, with a range of over 350 miles, so even long journeys are no problem.

From £93,388, tesla.com

SMART CONNECTOR



LOGITECH ZEROTOUCH

Transform your Android phone into an Alexa-powered voice assistant for your car. This car holder connects to your phone over Bluetooth to provide voice and gesture control when driving.

£49, logitech.com

SAT-NAV



TOMTOM GO 6200

Sat-nav brought bang up to date, with pin-perfect mapping joined by on-board Wi-Fi, a data SIM to keep you up to date with the traffic, and full hands-free facilities for your phone, including narrated alerts.

£239, tomtom.com

DASH CAM



GARMIN DASH CAM 55

Constantly watching the road, the Dash Cam 55 does more than record footage and save it in case of an incident. Driver-awareness warnings will tell you if you're too close or veering out of your lane.

£109, garmin.com

IN-CAR CHARGING



BELKIN ROAD ROCKSTAR

Plug this into your car charger to create two USB ports for juicing up your devices at the front... And with a six-foot cable that extends to the back with another two USB ports, everyone can charge up.

£29.99, belkin.com/uk

ELECTRIC BIKE



GTECH EBIKE CITY

A budget-friendly ebike that's impressively lightweight. There are two levels of assist to help you power up hills, or to speed up your journey if you're in a hurry. Hands-down, this is a great commuter bike.

£995, gtech.co.uk

ELECTRIC FOLDING BIKE



BROMPTON ELECTRIC

Brompton's expertise means this folds down super small, but still gives you that ebike oomph. Adaptive power level tech means it automatically gives you the amount of assistance you need.

From £2,595, brompton.com

SMART HELMET



LIVALL SMART HELMET

A connected helmet with turn signals, speakers for safe Bluetooth calling, ride-tracking facilities to keep you pushing harder, and an SOS alert which detects impacts and shares your location.

£90, livall.com

BIKE-NAV



BEELINE BIKE COMPASS

More of a traditional navigation device than a modern one, the backlit E-Ink display of the Beeline constantly points to your destination and tells you how far precisely you have left to ride.

£99, beeline.co

BEST OF... SMART HOME

Upgrade your house with the best tech for monitoring security, saving energy and controlling everything from one place

VOICE ASSISTANT



AMAZON ECHO

Alexa is everywhere these days, but nowhere is Amazon's AI more at home than in its Echo. It couples an awesome array microphone with pleasing design for the perfect assistant experience.

£90, amazon.co.uk

SMART LIGHTING SYSTEM



PHILIPS HUE

Philips is the big name in smart lighting, thanks to a flexible, expandable system. Great app control, clever lighting options and integrations with other smart home devices make it the brightest of the bunch.

From £50 (starter kit), philips.co.uk

SMART DOORBELL

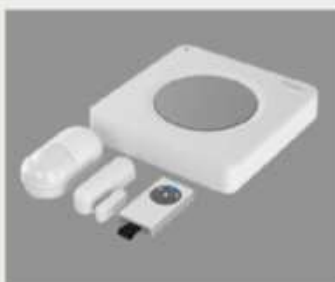


RING VIDEO DOORBELL 2

Part motion-detecting security camera, part ring-anywhere doorbell, the Video Doorbell 2 alerts you via your smartphone when you have a visitor – and you can two-way talk even if you're not home.

£179, ring.com

SMART SECURITY



Y-CAM PROTECT

Y-Cam's smart networked alarm supports up to 32 sensors and alerts your phone if it detects motion, or doors or windows are breached – and the built-in battery and phone SIM means it works in a blackout.

£149, y-cam.com

LIFESTYLE WI-FI CAMERA



LOGITECH CIRCLE 2 WIRED

No smart home cam is as fun to use as this – instead of CCTV, it's more like a Fitbit of home monitoring. It provides a sped-up 'brief' of the day, two-way communication, has a 180° camera and Alexa control.

£149, logitech.com

SMART SECURITY CAMERA



NETGEAR ARLO PRO

With a battery lasting months inside each camera, the Arlo system does away with the painful process of wiring your security cameras, and you get seven-day cloud storage of motion-detected recordings.

£470 (two cameras), netgear.co.uk

DOOR & WINDOW SENSORS



HIVE WINDOW OR DOOR SENSOR

Super-simple to install, reasonably priced, and highly inconspicuous once they're up, Hive's sensors are a great addition to an existing Hive set-up and there's even one in the Hive starter pack.

£29 each, hivehome.com

SMART LOCK



YALE CONEXIS L1

Unlock your front door with a key fob, a phone tag or using Yale's cool Bluetooth Twist and Go tech – just turn your phone 90 degrees and you're in. PA24-certified for security, and tamper-proof, too.

£230, yale.co.uk

SMART PLUG



BELKIN WEMO INSIGHT

This isn't just a way to switch your devices on and off (though it does do that); the WeMo also keeps close tabs on your energy usage, so you can see just how much that tumble dryer is costing you.

£29, belkin.com/uk

WEATHER STATION



NETATMO WEATHER STATION

Netatmo's outdoor sensor pulls in metrics about temperature, humidity and more, but it's the indoor sensor, which keeps tabs on the air quality and CO₂ levels in your home, completes the package.

£120, netatmo.com/en-GB

THERMOSTAT



NEST LEARNING THERMOSTAT

This is a crowded market, but Nest's quality app, clever preference-learning tech and automatic energy-saving options push it to the top for us. Plus the 3rd-gen Nest looks amazing on the wall.

£200, nest.com

SMART HUB



AMAZON ECHO PLUS

The Echo Plus isn't just Alexa – its built-in hub can discover and control tech from Philips Hue, Samsung SmartThings, Hive and others directly, so you don't need a hub for every different home tech brand.

£139, amazon.co.uk

BEST OF... LIVING

The home and garden technology that makes life easier, from cooking and cleaning to lifestyle luxuries

COFFEE MAKER



SAGE BY HESTON BLUMENTHAL THE ORACLE TOUCH

A sleek machine bringing barista-level coffee making to your home, with the hard part handled automatically. You can also go manual and the results are just as tasty. **£1,999, sageappliances.co.uk**

KETTLE



SAGE BY HESTON BLUMENTHAL SMART KETTLE

The perfect cup of tea requires careful temperature control. The Sage kettle offers five options, and can keep itself nicely warm for 20 minutes. **£89, sageappliances.co.uk**

COOKER



RANGEMASTER ELISE 110

Want the versatility of gas hobs and the reliability of an electric oven? This dual-fuel range is the ultimate in kitchen convenience, with six solid burners, two ovens and a grill with glide-out action. **£2,379, rangemaster.co.uk**

MICROWAVE



SAMSUNG MS28J5215AS

The most attractive metal box your kitchen counter has ever seen – it almost looks like a Galaxy S8 – with a host of settings, such as a deodorisation blast for purging the scent of last night's meal. **£139, samsung.com/uk**

DEHUMIDIFIER



MEACO 25L ULTRA LOW ENERGY DEHUMIDIFIER

This small unit can drag 25 litres of water out of the air in a day, perfect for drying clothes indoors without the risk of mould or condensation ruining your windows. **£299, meaco.com**

PURIFIER



PHILIPS AC3256 AIR PURIFIER

Philips' device doesn't just do a great job of cleaning the air in your room, it lets you know the current quality at a glance with its glowing coloured ring. If it turns red, it's time to clear out for a while... **£339, philips.com**

WASHING MACHINE



AEG 9000 SERIES L9FEC966R

This fantastic cleaner introduces a salt dispenser to clothes washing, softening the water for better results. It also runs quietly and is rated A+++ energy efficient. All for a very reasonable price, too. **£929, aeg.co.uk**

DISHWASHER



AEG COMFORTLIFT FSS62800P

ComfortLift means just that. Pull out the bottom rack and it rises up to meet you, meaning you won't need to bend to fill this A++ rated washer. It even opens the door at the end of the cycle to let off steam. **£989, aeg.co.uk**

ROBOT VACUUM



NEATO BOTVAC CONNECTED D5

This rapidly clears hard floors and carpets, its D shape helping it get into corners well. It sends your phone a map of where it's managed to clean, and can be triggered from the app, through Alexa, or manually. **£399, amazon.co.uk**

MANUAL VACUUM



DYSON BIG BALL ANIMAL 2

What Dyson has got spot on here is the weight of the Big Ball cylinder and how it navigates and balances – righting itself, even. Suction is exemplary, and there's a variant for pet hair, if you need it. **£299, dyson.co.uk**

ROBOT LAWNMOWER



ROBOMOW RS635

Not a blade of grass out of place, particularly once the Robomow activates its edge mode. With 56cm cutting width and up to 100 minutes' work time on a charge, it'll cover even the largest lawns. **From £2,199, robomow.com**

PRESSURE WASHER



KÄRCHER K7

By using multiple pressure layers and an adjustable spray lance, Kärcher's premium water blaster cleans efficiently and quickly, with enough options available to scrub just about any surface or vehicle. **£569, kaercher.com**

BEST OF... COMPUTING

From gaming paradise to mobile workhorses to tablets with laptop power, these computer and accessory picks will increase your productivity

ULTRAPORTABLE LAPTOP



HP SPECTRE 13 4K

An incredibly thin, light and beautiful laptop, with a dense, high-end 4K panel. Despite being 1cm thick, it doesn't skimp on the power either, thanks to an Intel Core i7 processor.

From £1,599, hp.com

PRO LAPTOP



MICROSOFT SURFACE BOOK 2 15

This super-flexible laptop brings huge Intel quad-core power and Nvidia GTX 1060 graphics to a thin frame, but also the ability to detach the screen and use it as a generously sized 15-inch tablet.

£2,349, microsoft.com

GAMING LAPTOP



ASUS ROG ZEPHYRUS GX501

This is an amazing piece of engineering. Despite being incredibly thin and light (2.2kg), it packs insanely powerful Nvidia GeForce GTX 1080 graphics, a quad-core processor, and a 120Hz 1080p display.

£2,799, asus.com

GAMING PC



ALIENWARE AREA 51 THREADRIPPER

Enjoy a colossal performance with up to a 16-core overclocked CPU and Dual AMD Radeon RX Vega 64 graphics (top-end model) in this unusual casing, which holds parts at 45° angles for better airflow.

From £2,149, dell.com

ALL-IN-ONE



APPLE iMAC WITH 5K RETINA DISPLAY

There's never been a screen like this. Big enough for every task, detailed, bright, colourful, and it happens to have a Mac stuffed in the back of it as well.

From £1,749, apple.com/uk

4K MONITOR



SAMSUNG U28E590D

Everyone's getting in on the 4K game, but Samsung's 28-inch panel is yet to be bested. A 1ms response time means it's perfect for even twitchy games, and 60Hz 4K action is just a DisplayPort away.

£300, samsung.com/uk

GAMING HEADSET



STEELSERIES ARCTIS PRO WIRELESS

This brilliant PC and PS4 headset supports dual wireless streaming over Bluetooth and 2.4GHz simultaneously, lossless audio, has swappable batteries, and is super lightweight and comfortable.

£139, steelseries.dk

MECHANICAL KEYBOARD



RAZER BLACKWIDOW CHROMA V2

Razer's special own mechanical switches (promised to last for 80 million hits) make this ideal for gaming or typing. It comes with fully programmable keys, and five custom media keys. A premium package.

£165, razer.com

GAMING MOUSE



RAZER DEATHADDER ELITE

Razer's Chroma-lit mouse is ultra-ergonomic for even the most awkward hands, and its Omron switches (good for 50 million clicks, apparently) are only bested by the 16,000 CPI optical sensor.

£69, razerzone.com/gb-en

PREMIUM TABLET



APPLE iPad PRO

The iPad Pro is more than a tablet. It's a creative toolkit, a processing powerhouse, and an essential addition to any mobile workflow, whether you opt for the 10.5-inch or 12.9-inch model.

From £619, apple.com/uk

MID-RANGE TABLET



APPLE iPad 9.7

Apple's cheaper iPad has a super-fast A10 processor, a vibrant 9.7-inch 2048x1536 display, and a wealth of tablet-specific apps and games that run great. It also supports the excellent Apple Pencil stylus.

From £319, apple.com/uk

VALUE TABLET



AMAZON FIRE HD 8

While it's a budget device, don't expect budget performance. The Fire HD 8 offers up everything you need for a smooth experience, and enough muscle to deal with anything you can throw at it.

From £80, amazon.co.uk

BEST OF...**TRAVEL & OUTDOORS**

Whether you're off for a holiday or just hitting the running trail, get the most from your trips with these amazing tech buys

ENTRY-LEVEL DSLR**NIKON D5600**

The 24-megapixel camera here takes top shots, supported by a snappy 39-point autofocus system. Snapbridge wireless support beams photos to your phone for sharing, and it's flexible and easy to use.

From £569, nikon.co.uk

FULL-FRAME DSLR**NIKON D850**

This 45.7-megapixel camera takes full advantage of its big full-frame sensor to produce truly astounding images. On top of that, it's packed with great features, and is easy to handle. Pretty much perfect.

£3,499, nikon.com

MIRRORLESS CAMERA**SONY A9**

It's so expensive, but it earns every penny by packing an incredible 24.2-megapixel full-frame sensor, with 20fps shooting while tracking autofocus the whole way. It's a technical and imaging marvel.

£4,299, sony.co.uk

COMPACT CAMERA**SONY RX100 V**

Speed runs in the Sony family, and if you're pointing and shooting, you want your pocket camera to perform. The RX100 V really does, with 4K video, 0.05 second autofocus and a Bionz X processor.

£659, sony.co.uk

ACTION CAMERA**GOPRO HERO6 BLACK**

The most advanced action camera on the planet can shoot stunning 4K video at 60fps, with advanced stabilisation making footage super-smooth and realistic. It's also waterproof to 10m without a case.

£399, gopro.com

CAMERA DRONE**DJI MAVIC AIR**

Enjoy pro-level aerial photos and video, regardless of your skill level. A three-axis gimbal keeps the Mavic Air's 4K camera stable, with a range of auto flight and tracking modes delivering brilliant results.

£769, dji.com

RUNNING WATCH**GARMIN FORERUNNER 645 MUSIC**

Garmin is the king of sports watches. Fast GPS and oodles of useful data (especially with a connected Garmin chest strap), plus music storage and playback to Bluetooth headphones, make this a winner.

£399, garmin.com

WATERPROOF PORTABLE SPEAKER**UE WONDERBOOM**

As at home on the beach or floating in the pool than it would be in your kitchen, the UE Wonderboom generates a 360-degree sound from its tiny IPX7-rated shell. Up to ten hours of battery life is great, too.

£79, ultimateears.com

BATTERY PACK**ANKER POWERCORE 20000**

Being away from a power socket doesn't mean you're away from power. Anker's battery pack can charge an iPhone 7 seven times, determine the best way to charge your devices, and weighs only 350g.

£29, anker.com/uk

CHARGING CABLE**STK BINARY 3**

There's no universal charging port on modern gadgets, but there is a universal cable – this has adapters for compatibility with micro-USB, USB-C and Lightning, with brilliant braiding so it won't fray.

£30, stklife.com

BACK-UP PHONE**NOKIA 3310**

The 3310 will win no awards for its tech, that's true. But for a bargain price like this, with a battery that goes on and on, it's the perfect second phone to chuck in a bag when you're hitting the great outdoors.

£49, nokia.com

UNIVERSAL CHARGER**MU WORLDWIDE TRAVELLER DUO**

Two ports for a pair of devices that can charge at once, a range of foldable plug pin connectors for different countries, and the thinnest design we've seen for a USB wall charger.

£34, themu.co.uk



VICES

Guilty pleasures to seriously spoil yourself

TO'AK VINTAGE 2015 ISLAY CASK CHOCOLATE

There are times when nothing hits the spot quite like a Mars bar, but there are times when wickedly decadent chocolate, so tantalising it could have been harvested by the gods, is the only way to go. To'ak's seductively smooth 73 per cent cacao chocolate is a culinary work of art. Sourced from organic cacao growers in the valley of Piedra de Plata, Ecuador, then matured for two years in an Islay whisky cask, everything about this slab is purposefully slow – and that's how it should be enjoyed: slowly. Do so to savour notes of caramelised fruit, honey, sea grass and peat smoke.

£375 (50g),
harrods.com



NEXT ISSUE IS ON SALE FRIDAY 28 SEPTEMBER

The T3 Awards crowns the best gadgets of the year in 50 tech categories!

TIME TO STEP OFF THAT TREADMILL

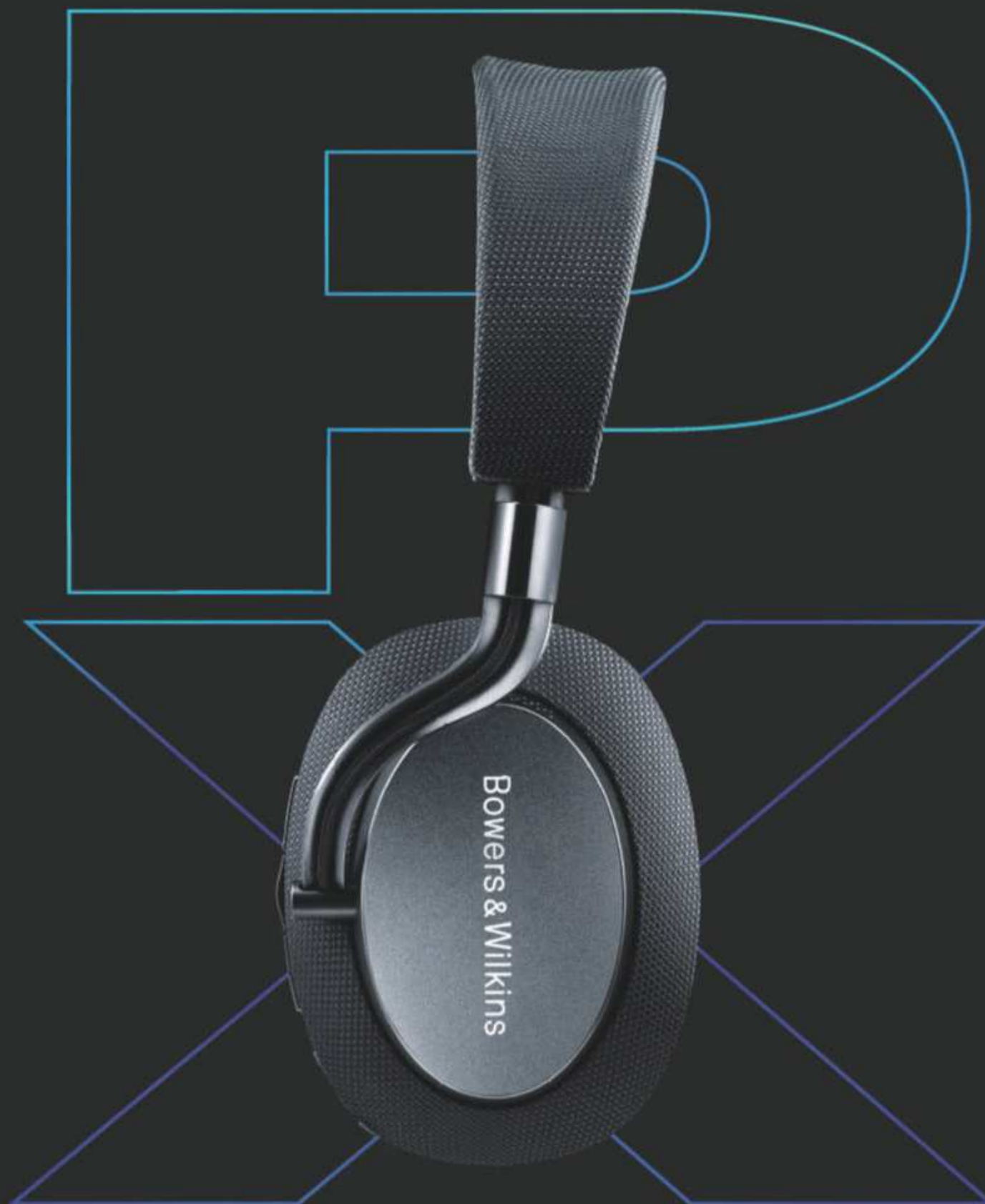
With so many demands from work, home and family, there never seem to be enough hours in the day for you. Why not press pause once in a while, curl up with your favourite magazine and put a little oasis of 'you' in your day.



PRESS PAUSE
ENJOY A MAGAZINE MOMENT

To find out more about Press Pause, visit:
pauseyourday.co.uk

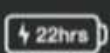
50 years of award-winning
sound built into every pair



Responds
naturally to you



Wireless adaptive
noise cancellation



Smart power with
a 22-hour battery life

Bowers & Wilkins

bowers-wilkins.co.uk/PX