

**WIN! A £3500 PHILIPS 4K OLED TV**

# stuff



**OUR TV OF THE YEAR**

GADGETS / GAMES / GEAR



**iPAD PRO**  
Apple's suited and rebooted supertab



Fave  
flagship  
phone

**WITNESS THE FITNESS**  
Connected kit for workout 2.0

Fitbit  
wrists its  
case

Fuji  
filming  
in 4K

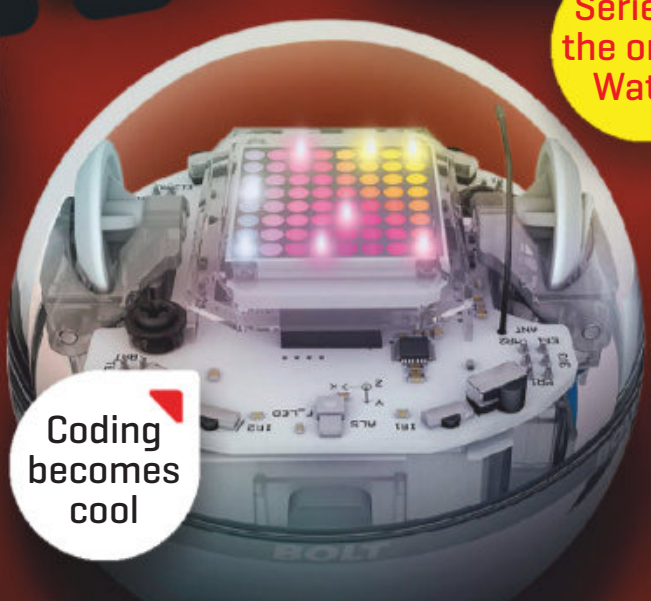
Best  
budget  
blower

# THE GADGET AWARDS

**WINNING TECH YOU'LL WANT IN YOUR LIFE**



£4.99 Jan 2019 [www.stuff.tv](http://www.stuff.tv)  
  
9 771364 963195



Coding  
becomes  
cool

Series 4:  
the one to  
Watch



**PLUS!**  
OnePlus 6T McLaren  
PlayStation Classic  
Apple MacBook Air  
Super Smash Bros



# The Smart Home Sound System

with Amazon Alexa



**SONOS**





# S CONTENTS



ON THE  
COVER



**p30**  
Race for  
the prizes



**p55**  
Slate  
bloomer



**p71**  
Fettle  
guru



**p90**  
Smashy  
and nicey



**p62**

## HOT STUFF

### 8 The Hot Four

- DJI Osmo Pocket
- Razer Blade Stealth 2019
- OnePlus 6T McLaren Edition
- Puma RS-Computer Shoe

### 14 Vital stats Arlo Ultra

It keeps its beady 4K eye on crims and cats

### 16 Icon Arc Vector

An electric cafe racer (coffee not included)

### 18 Stream

True Detective, now truer and more detecty

### 20 Apps

Fun with fog, fluid and Fowlst

### 22 Games

Is it really a new dawn for *Far Cry*?

### 24 Wheels

Just in time, a Jeep for the zombie apocalypse

### 25 Start menu

Wood you like to Kickstart something?

### 27 Your month

OK, it's mostly games... but isn't your life?

## TESTS

### 55 First test Apple iPad Pro (2018)

Top of the tabs for arty imagineers?

### 62 Tested Marshall Stanmore II Voice

And the wind cries Alexa...

### 64 Tested Amazon Fire TV Stick 4K

Faster, sharper, Alexa-erer

### 65 Tested Izotope Spire

The world's cutest recording studio

### 80 Tested Sony PlayStation Classic

Honey, they shrunk another console

### 84 Tested KEF LSX

High-end hi-fi for your highly classy desk

### 87 Tested Volkswagen Polo GTI

Hot hatch plays Golf

### 88 Long-term test Apple MacBook Air 13in

The full skinny on the fully skinny laptop

### 90 Tested Games

*Super Smash Bros. Ultimate*,  
*Fallout 76*, *Just Cause 4*



# 01.19



**WIN!**  
p28



## FEATURES

- 30 Cover feature The Stuff Gadget Awards**  
So here it is: the very best tech of 2018, definitively decided through the medium of having a big argument in a pub
- 52 Mini meme Quickfire video apps**  
Shoot, edit, share, bask in worldwide acclaim
- 60 Upvoted Gloves**  
Find a new home for your quivering paws
- 66 Beta yourself Snapseed**  
Your guide to the top mobile picture tweaker
- 71 Fitness tech**  
Made a new year's resolution to be 0.1% less dismally unfit? This lot will help...
- 82 Instant upgrades Google Home Max**  
Give your smart speaker a brain boost
- 114 Next big thing? The red light tamer**  
How a car can pace itself to avoid jams



## TOP TENS

- 96 Smartphones, tablets, mobile games**  
What's the handiest, handsomest handset?
- 98 Headphones, wearables**  
In-ears, on-ears, smartwatches, trackers
- 100 Laptops, hi-fi**  
Porta-powerhouses and super speakers
- 102 TVs, soundbars, smart speakers**  
All you need for a lazy night/day/year in
- 104 Home cinema, consoles, games**  
Streaming gadgets and gaming goodies
- 106 Tech toys, electric cars, VR**  
Playing, driving, escaping from reality
- 108 Smart home, drones, compact cameras**  
Comfort when you're in, fun when you're out
- 110 System cameras, budget buys**  
'Proper' cameras and the best tech bargains
- 112 How to buy... cash-saving home kit**

**SAVE!**



Subscribe to *Stuff* and get 3 issues for just £5!

p68

# WELCOME



For 11 months of the year, the *Stuff* team wouldn't say boo to a robo-goose. But then we get to our annual Gadget Awards issue, and they become more hyped up than a pre-fight Conor McGregor. Whether it's Apple vs Huawei, Netflix vs Now TV or *Red Dead vs God of War*, there's no shortage of passionate debates to be had over the winners. Thankfully, though, the only things bruised were a few egos, and everyone on the team can agree that each of our 21 categories has a winner that represents the very best in tech. It all starts on page 30 – and also includes some great choices for Phone and Gadget of the Year from you, our readers.

With another Christmas over, thoughts turn to improving ourselves in the coming year. Instead of signing up to gym classes you'll never attend, let *Stuff* remake you. Our nine-page guide to the best fitness gadgets, apps and gear (p71) will have you feeling better and conquering your health goals in no time. Just don't try to rope us in when you go off climbing Kilimanjaro.

Finally, on p28, we have an amazing 65-inch 4K Philips OLED TV worth £3499 to give away in this month's competition. As I said last month, it's the best telly I've ever laid eyes and ears on. Now stop listening to me and go and enter!

Guy Cocker, Global Brand Director / @guycocker



## GET THIS MONTH'S DIGITAL EDITION

*Stuff* is also available in digital form – download it from the App Store or Google Play, or turn to p68 for this month's subscription offer.

You can also get *Stuff* from **Pocketmags** for reading on PC, on Kindle Fire or online.

**Advertising**  
020 8267 5493  
Commercial Manager  
Natalie Carter  
Account Manager  
Michelle Flowers  
Ad Operations Manager  
Martin Williams

**Production:**  
**AT Graphics**  
Team Leader  
Melanie Cooper

**Management**  
Managing Director  
Phil Weeden  
Chief Executive  
Steve Wright  
Chairman  
Steve Annetts  
Finance Director  
Joyce Parker-Sarioglu  
Publishing Director  
Kevin McCormick  
Publishing Operations  
Manager  
Charlotte Whittaker  
Retail Distribution  
Managers  
Eleanor Brown,  
Steve Brown  
Audience Development  
Manager  
Andy Cotton  
Head of Events  
Kat Chappell  
Print Production  
Manager  
Nicola Pollard  
Print Production  
Controller  
Georgina Harris  
Subscriptions  
Retention  
Development Manager  
Nick McIntosh

• Volume 23 issue 1  
• ISSN: 1364-963  
• On sale 27 Dec 2018  
• Audit Bureau of  
Circulations: 54,492  
(Jan-Dec 2017)

**DISTRIBUTION**  
Seymour Distribution Ltd, 2 East  
Poultry Avenue, London, EC1A 9PT  
www.seymour.co.uk  
Tel: 020 7429 4000  
**PRINTING**  
William Gibbons & Sons Ltd

Kelsey Media 2018 © All rights reserved.  
Kelsey Media is a trading name of Kelsey  
Publishing Ltd. Reproduction in whole  
or in part is forbidden except with  
permission in writing from the  
publishers. Note to contributors: articles  
submitted for consideration by the  
editor must be the original work of the  
author and not previously published.  
Where photographs are included, which  
are not the property of the contributor,  
permission to reproduce them must  
have been obtained from the owner  
of the copyright. The Editor cannot  
guarantee a personal response to all  
letters and emails received. The views  
expressed in the magazine are not  
necessarily those of the Editor or the  
Publisher. Kelsey Publishing Ltd accepts  
no liability for products and services  
offered by third parties.

Kelsey Media takes your personal data  
very seriously. For more information  
on our privacy policy, please visit  
[www.kelsey.co.uk/privacy-policy/](http://www.kelsey.co.uk/privacy-policy/)  
If at any point you have any queries  
regarding Kelsey's data policy you can  
email our Data Protection Officer at  
[dpo@kelsey.co.uk](mailto:dpo@kelsey.co.uk)

[www.stuff.tv](http://www.stuff.tv) [facebook.com/joinstuff](https://www.facebook.com/joinstuff) [twitter.com/stufftv](https://twitter.com/stufftv) [instagram.com/stuffmag](https://www.instagram.com/stuffmag)



### Making Stuff up

#### Managing Editor

Richard Purvis

#### Contributing Editor

James Day

#### Hot Stuff Editor

Matt Tate

#### Online Editor

Natalya Paul

#### Content Editor

Heather Wald

#### Global Brand Director

Guy Cocker

#### Contributors

Andrew Williams,  
Craig Grannell, Andrew  
Hayward, Sam  
Kieldsen, Tom Wiggins,  
Tom Morgan, Adam  
Cook, Kieran Alger,  
Simon Lucas, Amy  
Davies, Becca Caddy,  
Matt Cabral, Leon  
Poultney, Libby  
Plummer, Rob Keenan,  
Matthew Beedle,  
Ross Presly

#### Contact us

[stuff@kelsey.co.uk](mailto:stuff@kelsey.co.uk)

UK subscription and back  
issue orderline: 01959 543747  
Overseas subscription  
orderline:  
0044 (0)1959 543747  
Toll-free USA subscription  
orderline: 1-888-777-0275  
UK customer service team:  
01959 543747  
Customer service email  
address: [subs@kelsey.co.uk](mailto:subs@kelsey.co.uk)  
Customer service and  
subscription postal address:  
Stuff Customer Service Team,  
Kelsey Publishing Ltd,  
Cudham Tithe Barn, Berry's Hill,  
Cudham, Kent TN16 3AG

#### Subscriptions

**13 issues of Stuff are  
published per annum**

UK annual subscription

price: £64.87

(offer on p68)

Europe annual

subscription price: £78

USA & Canada annual

subscription price: £78

Rest of world annual

subscription price: £85

Find current  
subscription offers at  
[shop.kelsey.co.uk/stuff](http://shop.kelsey.co.uk/stuff)  
Buy back issues at [shop.kelsey.co.uk/stuffback](http://shop.kelsey.co.uk/stuffback)

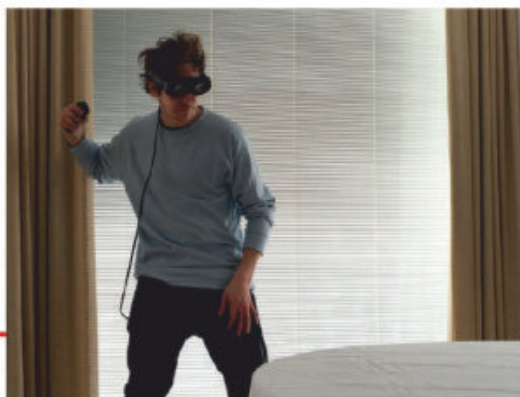
Already a subscriber?  
Manage your  
subscription online at  
[shop.kelsey.co.uk/  
myaccount](http://shop.kelsey.co.uk/myaccount)



### I TOOK A MAGIC LEAP INTO THE FUTURE

You can't see it, but on the table in the photo below sits a fortress manned by green pigs, and I'm carefully aiming a slingshot at a box of TNT in the hope I can blow it to smithereens. Rovio's *Angry Birds* is the first game I've played on the Magic Leap One, an as-yet unreleased mixed reality headset. Unlike VR, which takes you somewhere else entirely, MR projects reactive 3D objects onto the real world, so I'm fully aware of how daft I look.

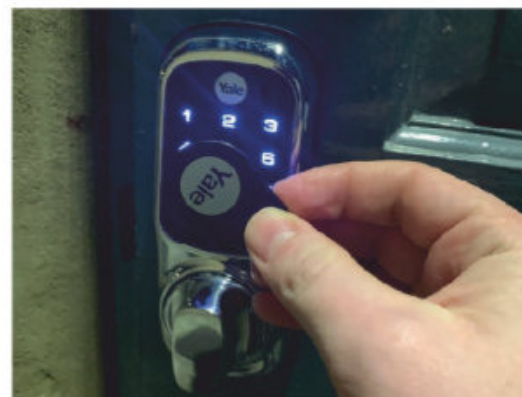
**Matt Tate, Hot Stuff Editor**



### I LET STRANGERS FERRET THROUGH MY FRIDGE

I moved into my new home this month, and immediately set about installing all of *Stuff*'s top-rated smart home tech from Nest, Netatmo and Philips Hue. But my favourite upgrade has unexpectedly been Yale's Smart Door Lock. Why? Because Waitrose is trialling 'While You're Away' in South London, and Yale's lock allows their delivery team temporary access to my home – and my fridge. Trips to the local supermarket are already feeling so 2017.

**Guy Cocker, Global Brand Director**



## ● OUR MONTH

VR pigs and poker chips, real egg and frozen chips



### I PLAYED VR POKER AND DIDN'T GO BROKE

I look about as out of place in Las Vegas as Spurs do in the Champions League knockout stages. So *PokerStars VR* brought the experience to me on an Oculus Rift. Virtual gambling dens such as Macau 2050 and an old-west saloon bar feel more fairground than casino... and though it's not playing with real money, getting people hooked by gamifying gambling in such a way could be considered morally questionable. Confession: it was ridiculous fun. But, as they say, when the fun stops... stop.

**James Day, Contributing Editor**



### I BUILT THE GAMING PC OF MY DREAMS

Is assembling your own PC a mission impossible for mere mortals? Nope. With so much know-how available online, it's actually pretty simple these days. I should know, because I've just built my own... and wouldn't you just love to see some specs for my 5GHz beast? It has an Asus ROG Maximus X Code motherboard, an Intel Core i3-8350K CPU, 8GB of DDR4 HyperX RAM, a Corsair Hydro Series H75 cooler, two Nvidia GTX 980 4GB graphics cards... I could go on, but I can hear you snoring already.

**Martin Williams, Ad Operations Manager**





H

O

T

S

T

### Pock's away

A waterproof case (with which you can take the Pocket down to 60m) and extension rod are just two of many accessories on offer; it's pretty clear DJI is aiming for GoPro levels of versatility.

### Pock shots

While the Osmo Pocket is predominantly for video, you can also shoot 12MP stills at the touch of a button. The free DJI Mimo app (Android and iOS) also lets you snap and view panoramic shots.



U

F

F

19 PAGES  
OF THE BIGGEST  
STORIES FROM  
PLANET TECH



#### Pock star

The DJI Mimo app is designed specifically with the Osmo Pocket in mind. It makes it easy to add templates, filters and music to your videos before sharing them to social media.

HOT  
FOUR  
#1

## WORTH THE GIMBAL

### DJI OSMO POCKET

A super-powerful video camera in your pocket?! You've had one of those for ages, it's true. But a smartphone can't capture gloriously judder-free 4K footage like DJI's new Osmo Pocket can. The Pocket is the smallest three-axis-stabilised handheld camera DJI has ever made, barely more obtrusive than a Mars bar and weighing in at just 116g (exactly two Mars bars!). The mechanical gimbal automatically counters your shaky hands with movements of its own, ensuring your video is always buttery-smooth. It's paired with a 1/2.3in CMOS sensor that can shoot 4K at 60fps for up to 140 minutes, although you're likely to get closer to that at 30fps. There's a little touchscreen for lining up your shot and switching between modes – such as ActiveTrack (follow a subject) and FaceTrack (follow your mush) – but if that's all a bit awkward you can just use your phone for that. It's no surprise that DJI's diminutive device is being pitched as the perfect tool for vloggers, but you don't need to be an overly excitable YouTube sensation to appreciate its talents.

**As hot as... your next gimbal-ified home cooking video**  
£329 / [dji.com](https://dji.com)

## Graphic grovel

The entry-level Stealth isn't blessed with the Nvidia GeForce MX150 graphics card. Instead it has a less zippy Intel UHD 620. Nah – you're going to want to go mid-range.

HOT FOUR  
#2RAZE YOUR GAME AGAIN  
RAZER BLADE STEALTH 2019

If you're after a super-slim laptop that looks as good as it performs, you're probably tempted to plump for a MacBook Air, especially now it's got with the times and gained a Retina display (see p88). But what if you also want the ability to play some of your favourite games on the fly?

As much as we love Apple's wafer-thin lappy, it's hardly known for its abilities as a gaming rig. And although the Razer Blade Stealth has traditionally been the Razer laptop that isn't primarily designed for games, its specced-up 2019 refresh is more than capable of hosting some lunchtime *Fortnite*. The Nvidia GeForce MX150 (25W 4GB GDDR5) graphics card in the mid-range model and above is a big step up on the Blade Stealth it's replacing, especially when the pixels are paired with an 8th-generation Whiskey Lake Intel Core i7 quad-core processor. There's a 4K version too. Throw in some high-end extras such as Dolby Atmos support, anti-ghosting tech on the RGB keyboard and a super-sleek aluminium chassis, and the new Stealth emerges as a mighty impressive machine.

**As hot as... pan-fried processors**  
from £1299 / [razer.com](http://razer.com)

HANDS-ON  
WITH THE  
NEW STEALTH

**GUY COCKER**  
GLOBAL BRAND  
DIRECTOR

*Overwatch*, *Fortnite* and *Rocket League* all play at a silky 60fps with the MX150 graphics card installed. If your gaming tastes are a bit more *Crysis* you can plug in an external graphics card via a Razer Core enclosure and you'll have a 4K gaming powerhouse. Or, if you're more of a creative type, go for the £1899 4K touchscreen version. Razer has also managed to pack four speakers and a smart amp into that tiny chassis; the Stealth supports Dolby Atmos, and it delivers impossibly rich 3D sound that's more immersive than a bucket of water over the head.







### Hue goes there

Razer's laptops usually have pleasingly punchy displays, and the Stealth is said to offer 100% sRGB-compatible colours. You'll be the envy of the train carriage.



HOT  
FOUR  
#3

## THE EXTRA MILE

### ONEPLUS 6T McLAREN EDITION

When your smartphone needs a burst of juice before you head out, you'd ideally want it to channel a Formula 1 car rather than a tortoise. This is why OnePlus has partnered up with McLaren, and not Pets At Home, to bring us a souped-up version of the already superb OnePlus 6T.

The headline feature here, as you'd expect, concerns speed – namely a new fast-charging tech called Warp Charge 30, which gives you 50% battery capacity in just 20 minutes. McLaren's 'Fearlessly Forward' philosophy would ordinarily make you think of Fernando Alonso winning GPs (a long time ago), but here it's about getting on with your day without fear of a 'low battery' warning. McLaren's influence also extends to the design, with this special-edition blower sporting a gradually fading tint of papaya orange (the team's signature colour) around its bottom edge, as well as a carbon-fibre-inspired pattern on the back. It's got all the gubbins from the regular 6T, including 4K video at 60fps, an in-screen print scanner, the 845 chip and that droplet notch, but also offers a gigantic 10GB of RAM. In case it wasn't clear, nothing is slowing this thing down.

**Ashot as... a record lap of the  
Pets At Home car park**  
£649 / [oneplus.com](https://oneplus.com)

### Animating ritual

While it still runs on Android 9, the OnePlus 6T McLaren Edition has its own custom software that features exclusive startup animations and wallpapers.



### Plus phwoars

Like the OnePlus 6T, you get a 16MP + 20MP dual camera setup here, with a 20MP selfie snapper on the front. It's still an impressive all-round performer.

### Logo with the flow

If you're buying the McLaren Edition, you're presumably happy to advertise it as such. The McLaren badge on the back shifts depending on lighting.

McLaren



HOT  
FOUR  
#4

## HEEL TALK PUMA RS-COMPUTER SHOE

We've got smartphones, smartwatches and even smart toasters, but have you ever heard of a smart shoe? Fair to say they haven't exactly cracked the mainstream yet, but it turns out that Puma released a revolutionary pair of smart sneakers back in the '80s, when Mario was still kicking it in 8-bit. Dubbed the RS-Computer Shoe, the intelligent footwear was way ahead of its time when it first launched, and used a computer chip built into the chunky heel to let runners track calories, distance and time during their workout – as long as they could connect to an Apple IIE or Commodore 64. Now, for those of us who might not have a Commodore in the attic, Puma has updated its retro sneaks for the modern age, equipping them with a miniature 3-axis accelerometer, a USB-rechargeable lithium-polymer battery and a Bluetooth 4.0 radio transceiver that can be paired with Android or iOS. Puma wisely hasn't tinkered with the RS-Computer Shoe's glorious vintage finish, so there's nothing stopping you from sticking on a bit of Depeche Mode for your morning jog and pretending it's 1986 all over again.

**Ashot as...** you, after a half-marathon you didn't train for  
**£160** / [eu.puma.com](http://eu.puma.com)

# ARLO! IS IT ME YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?

Arlo Ultra

£369 / arlo.com

You get Arlo Smart Premier's features free for the first 365 days, but it costs £64 a year after that.



## Arlo's latest Wi-Fi security camera keeps an Ultra HD eye on your gaff

### ● Shadow play

Netflix and Sky Q might have decent-sized catalogues of 4K movies... but if you want to make your own Ultra HD version of *Crimewatch*, *Winterwatch*, *You've Been Framed* and *Big Brother* all rolled into one, you need one of Arlo's new wireless security cameras. Not only does the Ultra record in 4K, but it supports HDR as well – so even if someone tries to hide in the shadows there'll still be plenty of detail in the darker bits of the footage. Not that there

will be many shadows to hide in, because the Ultra has a bright, motion-activated spotlight, plus a siren to scare off any intruders.

### ● The devil's in the detail

Some might wonder what the point is of recording your garden goings-on in 4K, but capturing it all in as much detail as possible makes a lot of sense. If you do catch something untoward happening, being able to pick out details such as logos and car number plates could make all the difference further down the line, not to mention making it easier to recognise faces. The 180° view also means the Ultra can see as much of

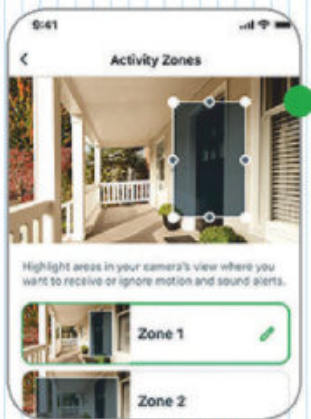
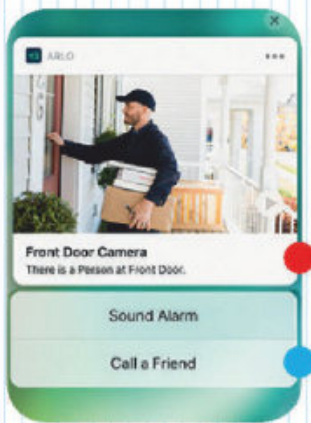
your manor as possible, plus it automatically adjusts to follow movement when detected.

### ● Wire we waiting

The Arlo Ultra is weatherproof, so you can mount it outside without worrying about the rain, plus it's battery-powered so you don't need to call an electrician to wire it in for you – saving both cash and tradesman-related embarrassment/emasculation. Once it's up you can keep an eye on things via the Arlo app, but it'll also work with all kinds of third-party kit including your Apple Watch, Google Home Hub and Amazon Echo Show.

IT FOLLOWS  
MOVEMENT  
SO YOU'LL  
NEVER MISS  
THE HEDGEHOG  
ACTION





## ULTRA APP FEATURES

### ● Scare tactics

If the Ultra detects something, you'll get an alert on your phone showing who or what is outside. Don't like what you see? Trigger the siren to scare them off.

### ● Who goes there?

The Arlo Ultra also has a speaker and two noise-cancelling mics, so you can speak to whoever set it off via your phone. What you choose to say will probably depend on what they're up to...

### ● Zonal marking

Sick of next door's cat triggering your camera? You can use the app to set specific zones for the camera to monitor or ignore, so Tiddles' night-time capers will no longer spark endless alerts.



## Film my life HOVER 2

So you've reached that point where selfies just aren't enough. Now you want cinematic video selfies that look like they've been ejected from Hollywood's movie mincer. Enter the Hover 2. Tap a button and this drone whizzes into the air, cunningly avoiding obstacles with its spatial awareness, keeping track of you with auto-frame technology and performing amazing camera sweeps by way of AI algorithmic smarts.

It'll output 4K video and 12MP photos, and in the controller-based BlastOff mode will stay aloft for up to 23 minutes, over a 5km range. That's more than enough for standing at the top of a hill, staring at the sky, because you've decided you're the new Brian Cox.

**\$399 / [hover.ai](https://hover.ai)**



## Top of the (mid)range NOKIA 8.1

They say you get what you pay for in life, but we can think of at least three crisp brands that aren't generous enough for their pricing. Nokia, meanwhile, would argue that you're getting more than what you're paying for with its new 8.1. The latest addition to the company's 'value flagship' line, this phone weighs in at a modest £380, but there's a 6.18in FHD+ edge-to-edge display with a hideable notch and HDR10 support. The dual-camera setup consists of a 12MP main snapper with a 13MP depth sensor beneath, while you get 20MP worth of selfie on the front. There's a Snapdragon 710 doing the heavy lifting and the phone runs on the fat-free Android One programme.

**£380 / [nokia.com](https://nokia.com)**



# ARC VECTOR

from £90,000 / [ourroadis.com](http://ourroadis.com)

## Elon Musk at it again?

Actually no, but we're pretty sure the billionaire flamethrower manufacturer and future Mars resident would love to see a Tesla logo on this two-wheeled marvel, and RoboCop would no doubt love to ride it. This is the Arc Vector (no relation to the Anki Vector, as far as we're aware). It is, according to its maker, the world's first fully electric cafe racer.

## Sweet. Now give me numbers.

This futuristic motorcycle can do 0-60mph in the precise time it takes us to execute three star jumps (3.1 seconds) and has a top speed of just over 124mph. And with an urban range of 200 miles, or 120 if you've really got the throttle opened up, there's no need to constantly be worrying about where your next charge is coming from. The whole bike weighs in at just 220kg.

## It can go really fast for ages, got it. But something tells me you haven't even got to the best part yet.

Amazing how we're always on the same page. While the Vector itself is a magnificent creation, there's an argument to be made that the kit you get with it is even more impressive. The connected Arc Zenith helmet has a head-up display (HUD) that can show you the speedometer, sat-nav prompts and whatever its rear camera wants to alert you about. You can access its different modes with a controller or just by using your voice. Then there's the haptic Origin armour, which can use gentle vibrations to warn you about potential blind-spot hazards. It's sci-fi made real.

## Should come in nice and cheap...

The package starts at £90,000, but Arc will install a 45-minute charger at your home as part of the deal.

THE VECTOR IS BILLED AS THE WORLD'S FIRST FULLY ELECTRIC CAFE RACER







### Together we can(s) ASTELL&KERN T5P (2018)

Whether it's all that time they spend hanging around strong magnets, some sort of static charge generated by the constant chin-stroking, or something else that only they can hear, audiophiles gravitate towards each other. That must be how headphone experts Beyerdynamic teamed up with hi-res audio kings Astell&Kern for these new cans, tuned for the latter's portable music players. The second-gen AK T5p headphones also have a specially made eight-conductor braided cable – no Bluetooth here. Only 1000 pairs are being made, with a hefty asking price of \$1199, but you can guarantee that wearing a pair will be like a siren call to other frowning finger-tappers.

US\$1199 / [astellnkern.com](http://astellnkern.com)



### Coff up COSTA CLEVER CUP

As people wisely start to think more about their rampant wastage, reusable coffee cups are becoming increasingly popular. As you can see, Costa's Clever Cup won't be winning any design awards, but it's got something much better than a funky pattern: an embedded NFC chip that lets you pay for your mocha with the cup. Powered by Barclaycard's bPay technology, it lets you top up your balance and track payments via the bPay app. And it's not just for the brown stuff either: if you see the contactless symbol at a till, you can pay with the cup. Costa offers a 25p discount to anyone using a reusable cup, so if you're a big coffee drinker it's a money-saving, planet-loving no-brainer.

£15 / [costa.co.uk](http://costa.co.uk)



## NEWS FEED

### APPLE GETS ECHO-FRIENDLY

If you've been paying any attention to the war of the cylindrical smart speakers, you'll know that operating Apple Music with your voice has been a feature exclusive to Apple's own HomePod. But no longer will greedy DJ Siri get to hog all your tunes, as the service is now available as a skill on Amazon Echo devices.

### BOSE REVEALS TECH SPECS

When you think of AR, you think of Pikachu, Ikea sofas and spaceships, right? Well, Bose sees (or hears) it a little differently. Its \$200 Frames, available for pre-order in the USA, use motion sensors and your phone's GPS to provide audio feedback, via tiny speakers, on what your peepers are peeping at.

### ALEXA HOOKS A BASS

Alexa gets everywhere these days, doesn't she? Phones, cars, toilets... and now novelty toys we all thought had been left in the '90s. Yep, Big Mouth Billy Bass is back with a new talent: he now works with Amazon's voice assistant. Just use Bluetooth to pair him to your preferred Echo device and the fish will answer your queries.

### MANA FROM SYNTH HEAVEN

After a new staring-out-of-windows soundtrack? How about the latest from Will Patterson, aka Switched On SNES? After recreating the iconic *A Link to the Past* soundtrack with analogue synths, he's now given 1993 RPG *Secret of Mana* the same treatment. You'll find both on his Bandcamp page.







These men have some questions to ask you.  
Like, "Which new films and TV series are you going to be streaming in the new year?"



### Tin Star

Just watched series one of *Tin Star* on Channel 4 and feel ready for more small-town Canadian thrills? The second season is heading to Now TV to pick up where it left Tim Roth's Sheriff Jim Worth. With his past as an undercover Met Police officer having caught up with him, it doesn't look as if things are going to get any less bloody.

**Season 2 / Now TV/Sky**



### You

It doesn't take much to be annoying on social media, but whatever you do, don't take any tips from Joe Goldberg in this new 10-part series. After meeting an aspiring writer, he looks her up online and begins a pursuit that's obsessive at best and potentially murderous at worst. Might be time to check your Facebook privacy settings...

**Season 1 / Netflix**



### Avengers: Infinity War

Like a greatest-hits compilation in film form, *Infinity War* sees the Avengers and the Guardians of the Galaxy team up against Thanos, who is on a mission to accrue the Marvel Universe's all-powerful Infinity Stones – a bit like when C-3PO and R2-D2 turned up on *Sesame Street*, although probably not as much fun.

**Film / Now TV/Sky**



### The Grand Tour

TV's most Marmite trio return for a third series of globetrotting auto antics that are definitely not in any way scripted. Expect more foul-mouthed japes and scrapes from Banter Claus, Antony Hopkins and the Archbishop of Banterbury as they drive through locations including Mongolia, Colombia, China, Detroit and, er, Scotland.

**Season 3 / Amazon Prime Video**



### Ready Player One

Spielberg's adaptation of Ernest Cline's book tells the story of an orphaned teen who goes in search of a Golden Easter Egg that will grant him control over a VR world. If you like remembering *Back to the Future*, *Street Fighter*, *Duke Nukem* and various other geek culture touchstones from the past 40 years, you're going to love this.

**Film / Now TV/Sky**



### The Good Place

What happens after we die? If this sitcom is to be believed there are two options: the Good Place and the Bad Place. Eleanor Shellstrop (Kristen Bell) has accidentally ended up in the former and tries to make up for it by becoming a better person. The first half of season three is already available, with these final few episodes completing the set.

**Season 3 (complete) / Netflix**



DON'T MISS THIS

### True Detective **Season 3 / Now TV**

After a damp squib of a second series, early signs suggest the third run of *True Detective* could be a real return to form. Switching back to the era-hopping style of storytelling that made its debut series so compelling, it centres on the case of two children who went missing in Arkansas in the early '80s. Leading the investigation are Mahershala Ali, the Oscar-winning star of *Moonlight*, and '90s survivor Stephen Dorff, with the excellently named Scoot McNairy also featuring. There should be more Scoots.



# ↓ APPS

This month's mobile must-downloads



## 1 Fog of World

£4.49 / Android • £6.99 / iOS

Now on Android, this game encourages you to explore the globe by removing fog from the map as you move about. No *Stuff* reader's going to 100% this one, unless you're a massive cheat.

## 4 Spitkiss

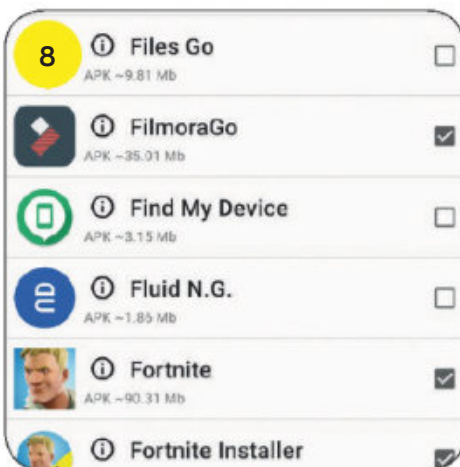
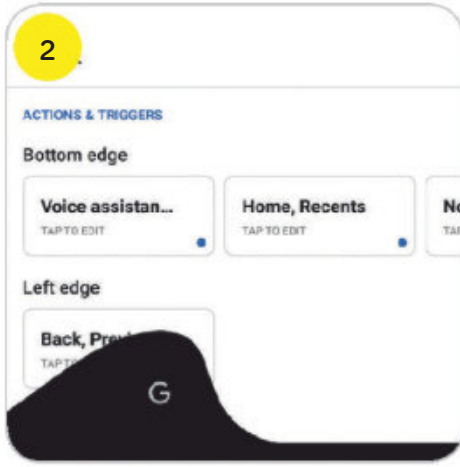
£1.99 / Android, iOS

This indie mobile fare shows that not every concept has been done before. *Spitkiss* has little critters within bodily organs lobbing blobs of gob at each other as signs of boundless love. It's all very... fluid.

## 7 Persephone

£3.60 / Android • 3.99 / iOS

You see games where your 'ghosts' litter the landscape. Here you get the actual corpses, and must shove or trample on your previous selves to access hard-to-reach exits. Amusingly dark stuff.



## 2 Fluid Navigation Gestures

£free / Android

Fluid turns your screen's entire border into a kind of draggable goop. That's fun enough, but you can then assign actions to a bunch of swipe-and-hold gestures.

## 5 Pako Forever

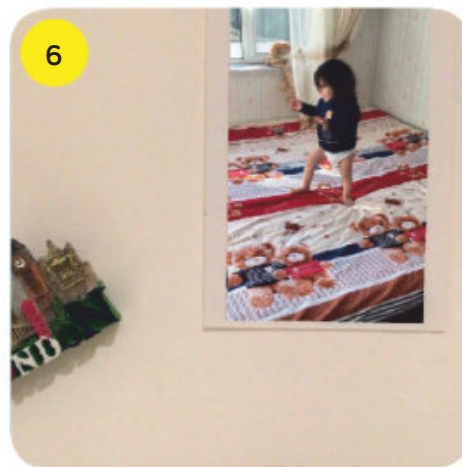
£free / Android, iOS

Remember that deranged last level in *Driver*, where swarms of police cars hurl themselves at you? That's all you get in this top-down survival game, set in the world's most demented car park.

## 8 UnApp

£free / Android

If your Android device is choking under the weight of installed apps and games, get rid of them fast with UnApp. Tick checkboxes. Tap 'confirm' dialogues at speed. Beam at your new minimal apps list.



## 3 Super Fowlst

£free / Android, iOS

*Fowlst* shoved *Flappy Bird* in a box and turned it into an arena shooter. This sequel spreads its wings, with SNES-style flap/smack/shoot/escape larks that marry twitchy controls with smart level design.

## 6 Magic Photos - AR

99p / iOS

Shoot a video, print its first frame, slap that on the wall and have it play in AR when you point your phone at it. Magical...ish. Well, Harry Potter never has to faff about like this to get animated pics.

## 9 Tesla vs Lovecraft

£8.99 / iOS

We want a Hollywood blockbuster with this title. Until then, we'll make do with Nikola Tesla taking out his fury on HP Lovecraft's legions of minions after they unsportingly destroy his lab.

3 OF THE BEST

RETRO iOS SYNTHS

AUDIOKIT DIGITAL D1 SYNTH

£9.99 / iPad

The team behind open-source masterpiece AudioKit Synth One goes pro, infusing your iPad with gorgeous '80s and '90s sounds.

SQUARE SYNTH 2

£4.99 / iOS

Reckon retro audio is about gaming sounds? This analogue synth bathes your ears with noise that could once have blasted forth from a NES.

ZX PLECTRUM

99p / iOS

If those apps seem like too much effort, this one presents eye-searing loading bars from the ZX Spectrum... and then lets you play them.

D1





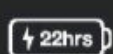
50 years of award-winning  
sound built into every pair



Responds  
naturally to you



Wireless adaptive  
noise cancellation



Smart power with  
a 22-hour battery life

Bowers & Wilkins

[bowers-wilkins.co.uk/PX](https://bowers-wilkins.co.uk/PX)



OUT  
15 FEB

## FIRST LOOK FAR CRY: NEW DAWN

PS4, Xbox One, PC

*Far Cry 5* concluded with a literal bang, as the cult-controlled town of Hope County was consumed by a massive mushroom cloud. Fast forward 17 years and spin-off *Far Cry: New Dawn* finds a small group of survivors trying to rebuild the rural community.

While Joseph Seed's fanatical followers are no longer a threat, World War III's harsh aftermath brings its own challenges and obstacles. For starters, weapons are scarce in *New Dawn*'s post-apocalyptic world, forcing players to scavenge for

resources and craft their own gear. On the plus side, this means a focus on fun homemade weapons such as the saw blade launcher.

When not slinging circular blades of destruction, players can command brand new Guns and Fangs for hire, from a sniping senior citizen named Nana to an over-sized boar capable of knocking multiple baddies on their backsides simultaneously. Players will need all the help they can get, though, because *New Dawn* also welcomes a fresh faction of foes. Dubbed the

Highwaymen, this group is led by twin sisters Mickey and Lou, a take-no-prisoners pair who are determined to dominate.

Anyone looking to survive against this deadly duo will want to seek out the best resources for weapon-crafting. Thankfully, *New Dawn* also introduces Expeditions, missions to far-off places where you fight in biomes and score loot.

The cult might be history, but based on our peek at *New Dawn*, it seems Hope County still has plenty of post-apocalypse surprises in store.





## FIRST LOOK HELLO GAMES' FIRST 'SHORT' SPARKS INTO LIFE

## THE LAST CAMPFIRE

(platform tbc)

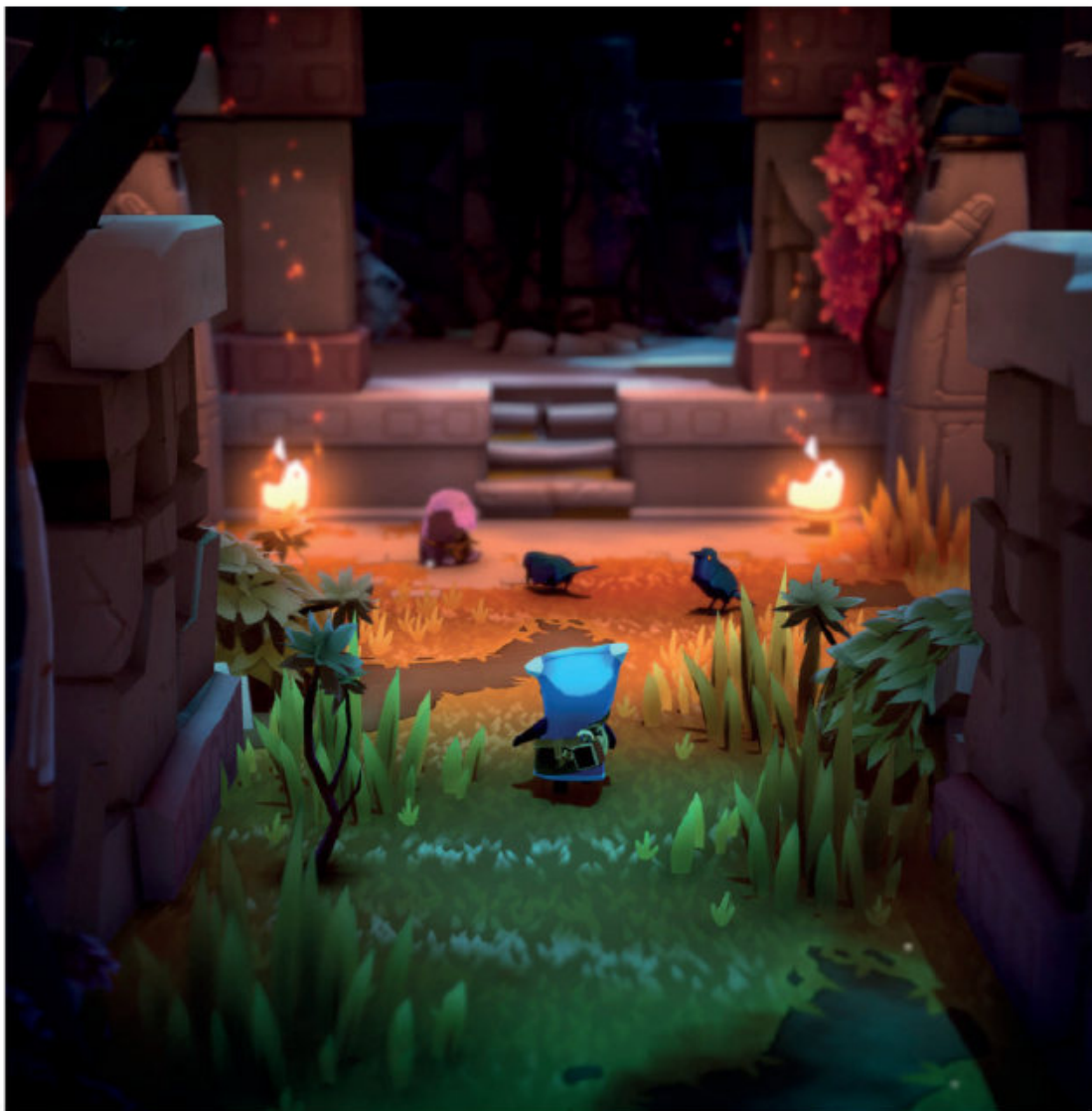
It's been quite the journey for Hello Games. The Guildford developer's last project was *No Man's Sky*, the procedurally generated space exploration game with 18 quintillion planets to explore.

Problem was, when the game launched, players quickly realised that occasionally alien-inhabited planets aren't much fun if there's nothing to do on them, and a backlash ensued... which rolled on for weeks.

Hello has since added a ton of new content to *No Man's Sky*, enough to bring a lot of the community back in; but the studio has decided to rein in the scale a bit for its new title, *The Last Campfire*.

It's a colourful adventure game about a lost ember trying to work out how to get home (presumably to a fire). Judging by the trailer, we can expect to explore mysterious ruins on land and water.

They're calling this the first 'Hello Games Short'. The idea is to let employees unleash their creativity between the development of bigger titles. If they all look as lovely as this one, we say unleash away.



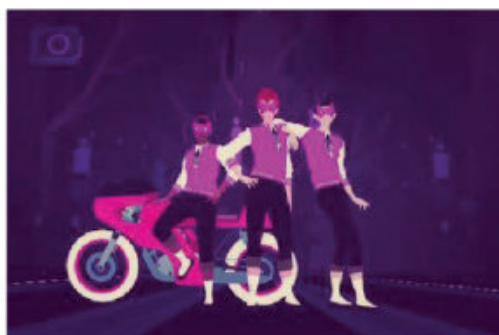
## BEST OF THE GAME AWARDS 2018 ANNOUNCEMENTS



## CRASH TEAM RACING NITRO-FUELED

Xbox One, PS4, Switch

Given the frankly ridiculous success of the remastered *Crash Bandicoot* trilogy, this one was about as inevitable as a sore head on New Year's Day. Those who played it back in the '90s will recall a quite decent *Mario Kart* alternative.



## SAYONARA WILD HEARTS

Switch

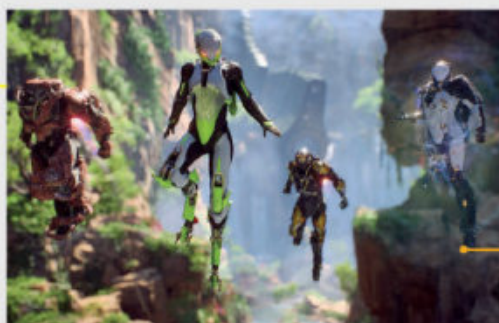
As pitches for a video game go, 'Enjoy a euphoric music video dream about being awesome, riding motorcycles, skateboarding, dance battling, shooting lasers, wielding swords and breaking hearts at 200mph' is definitely up there. *Wild Hearts* looks brilliantly bonkers.



## THE OUTER WORLDS

Xbox One, PS4, PC

If you hate interacting with people, you might well be left a little cold by the multiplayer-only *Fallout 76* (see p92). Obsidian's new sci-fi RPG is here to appease all the single-player-favourers. From the studio that made *Fallout: New Vegas*, it looks like that game, but in space.



## INCOMING

## JANUARY

- NEW SUPER MARIO BROS. DELUXE
- YAKUZA 4
- RESIDENT EVIL 2

## FEBRUARY

- CRACKDOWN 3 ● DEAD OR ALIVE 6
- ANTHEM
- METRO EXODUS

## MARCH

- DEVIL MAY CRY 5 ● THE DIVISION 2



Jeep Gladiator

# FIGHTING TORQUE

The front grille is pure Wrangler. Stand nose-on and you might not even notice the honking great truck bed at the back.



\$60,000 (est) / [jeep.co.uk](http://jeep.co.uk)

NEWS DASHBOARD

## Woah, has Jeep been feeding its cars performance-enhancing drugs instead of petrol?

The monstrous hunk of metal before you certainly seems to have been sipping something special. The Gladiator, Jeep's first pickup truck in nearly 25 years, is so chest-thumpingly masculine it could probably grow a beard if it wanted to.

### Let's off-road!

With pleasure. It might dwarf the average family hatchback, but the Gladiator should be able to go pretty much anywhere, and it'll hold more than 700kg of your gear in the truck bed while it does it. The doors can be unbolted and swapped for rally-raid swaybars, the windscreen can be flipped down, and you can detach the roof for open-to-the-elements exploring. It's a true off-roader, just like every other Jeep, with a body-on-frame chassis,

front and rear axle locks, a limited slip differential and low-range four-wheel-drive gearbox.

### Must have a pretty epic motor to manage that, surely?

Naturally. The Gladiator has the same 3.6-litre V6 as the Wrangler hiding under its bonnet, with 285bhp and 260lb-ft of torque on tap. Now that doesn't translate to crazy-quick speeds on the road, but means steady progress on just about any surface. Plus, all that pulling power means it'll happily tow four metric tonnes.

### So when can I take one for a test drive?

Not any time soon if you live in the UK – Jeep isn't planning to bring it here. American off-road fans get a taste late next year. If you're really keen you could try importing one, but good luck squeezing it down the average British B-road.



### TOO PORSCHE TO PUSH

OK, the all-new eighth-generation 911 looks a lot like all the others, but slick styling upgrades make it look every bit the modern marvel. It'll go like stink, thanks to a revised six-cylinder turbo motor, and rear-wheel steering means it's even more agile than a Cirque du Soleil acrobat.



### THIRD TIME PLUCKY

It's not often a car maker shows off a crazy concept car and then the real thing looks just as good. But that's just what you get with the Mazda 3. It might be a family hatchback, but the sculpted curves mean you'll have Gigi Hadid tapping on the window asking for style advice.



### TAKE IT FOR AN ELEC-TREK

Forget V8 motors: Rivian is trying something different for its first pickup. The R1T is battery-powered and good for a Tesla-baiting 400 miles of range. An electric motor at each wheel means no complex 4WD kit is required, leaving room for hidden storage. No-one's stealing your golf clubs from this.



# START MENU

The latest startups, crowdfunded projects and plain crazy ideas

KICK-STARTER

## Thank the plank MUI

The superstitious touch wood to bring them luck. Touch Mui's wood surface, though, and you get the internet – or at least bits of it. That's because this unassuming wall-mounted wooden panel temporarily becomes a smart controller when caressed, but fades back to being a refined hunk of tree when you're done. In a world of glowing glass displays, the notion of making tech invisible is a welcome twist. And via IFTTT, Mui can connect to smart home services – over and above its built-in messaging, news and weather forecast capabilities. One for getting yourself a bit more connected to nature.

\$599 / mui.jp



BACK IT

STACK IT

SACK IT

KICK-STARTER

KICK-STARTER

KICK-STARTER

KICK-STARTER



## Cheer your ear SOUNDBRENNER CORE

Musicians waste far too much time dealing with annoying metronomes, tuners, wonky bandmates and battered ears. The Soundbrenner Core is a 4-in-1 wearable that combines a decibel meter, a removable tuner and a metronome that you can even sync with your bandmates' Cores.

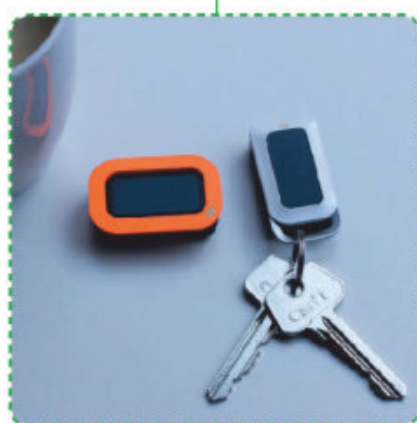
\$99 / soundbrenner.com



## Outfox the box IRL GLASSES

When you're hypnotised by any nearby telly rather than the glowing conversation of your friends, IRL Glasses can help. Pop them over your peepers and every TV in the vicinity becomes a boring slab of black. The specs don't work with phones, though, so you'll still have to ensure you don't end up glued to your blower.

\$49 / ivan.cash



## Back it to track it PYGO

This tiny wearable attaches to clothes, bike clips, even dog collars. With mesh networking and an app, it then enables you to track whatever it's connected to, up to a distance of 12km – whether or not there's internet connectivity. And there's fall detection and GPS tracking too, for when Uncle Joe falls into a canyon.

from €46 / pycom.io



## Clap and snap INSTA RING

The best camera is the one you have on you – and Insta Ring takes that idea literally, given that it's a ring. This wearable packs a punch with 12MP stills, 4K video, OIS, a built-in mic and 128GB of storage. It's shockproof, waterproof, and can even beep loudly if you drop it while piffing about taking your billionth daily selfie.

£68 / insta-ring.com

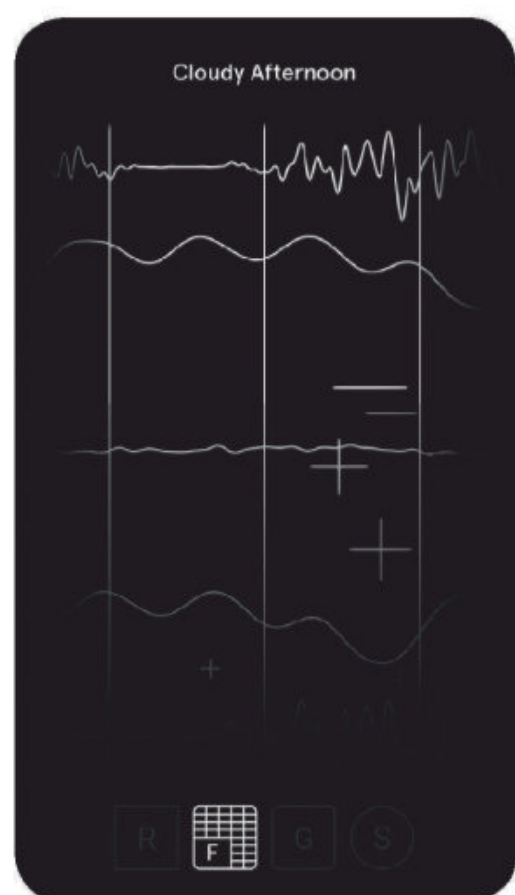




## ↓ DROP EVERYTHING & DOWNLOAD

**Endel** £free / iOS

Calm down, dear! Endel is a beautiful app that creates 'adaptive soundscapes' to help you focus and relax on the go. The ambient sounds are algorithm-powered and respond to conditions such as weather, heart rate and, for example, whether you're walking or on the train. Mesmerising white linear spirals and patterns dance across a black backdrop, and if you tap the screen it'll create some squiggly circles that expand and then fade. Nice. And when you're bored to tears of your 'work music' playlist, the focus mode is surprisingly helpful at getting you to knuckle down. The sleep mode, meanwhile, allows you to set a timer to give yourself enough time to zone out. It's all very nice, and it's... all nice and... it's... all... zzzzzzzzzz.



**Bot's the time?**

## CASIO G-SHOCK DW6900TF-SET

Ever fancied slapping a sentient robot from another planet on your wrist?

We've got a feeling the new collaboration between G-Shock and Transformers is going to be right up your street. The DW-6900TF-SET (catchy, we know) serves as a shock-resistant, waterproof digital wristwatch by day, and the leader of the Autobots by night. The watch itself sits at the centre of a collector-tempting Optimus Prime figurine, which can convert back and forth between two modes – neat pedestal or full-blown Transformer – and sports a slick Prime-inspired finish that should make your inner 10-year-old more excitable than Michael Bay filming an action sequence with extra explosions.

£300 / [g-shock.co.uk](http://g-shock.co.uk)



**Cast of thousands**

## RODE RODECASTER PRO

Want to create a properly professional podcast without splashing out on a bucketload of equipment? Rode knows you do, and that's why it's introducing the RodeCaster Pro. Pitched as 'the world's first fully integrated podcast production studio', it somehow crams all the features you need to create a pro-level recording into a single device.

The unit has four microphone channels with XLR inputs, separate Bluetooth and USB inputs, programmable FX pads, four headphone outputs, direct microSD recording, and livestreaming capability. All you need is a few Adam Buxton-style jingles and an ad deal with a mattress company, and you're on your way to the big time.

£569 / [rode.com](http://rode.com)



● **NEXT ISSUE**  
February  
Appwardly  
mobile  
On sale  
24/1/19



29<sup>th</sup>

### KINGDOM HEARTS III

We gave up trying to understand what the hell is going on in Square Enix's bonkers Disneyfied crossover RPG ages ago. But that doesn't mean we're not interested in seeing Donald Duck and Buzz Lightyear on the same team.



25<sup>th</sup>

### VICE

We haven't seen a massive amount of Christian Bale recently. That's probably because he's been busy making himself unrecognisable to play Dick Cheney in *Vice*. The film charts Cheney's tenure as Vice President to George W Bush, and how he came to wield such enormous power.

#### ALSO IN CINEMAS:

*The Favourite*  
*Glass*  
*The Mule*  
Stan & Ollie

YOUR MONTH

# JAN

First resolution: don't miss all this

21 years ago  
Pokemon trading  
cards launch  
in the US

THEN

NOW

Official  
Pokemon  
Tamagotchi  
comes to  
Japan



25<sup>th</sup>

### RESIDENT EVIL 2

Nope, you haven't just been strapped into a time machine and fired back to 1998. *Resident Evil 2* is a ground-up remake of Capcom's horror classic that uses the same engine as *Resident Evil 7*. So you'll scream exclusively because you're scared, rather than because of the wonky old controls.

#### EVIL EYE

The remake swaps fixed camera angles for the over-the-shoulder view popularised by *RE4*.

14<sup>th</sup>

### AMERICAN ANIMALS (BLU-RAY)

This is a heist movie that tells the true story of four students who hatched a plot to steal some rare books – and weaves in on-screen interviews with the once-criminals themselves.

THEN

11 years ago  
*No More Heroes*  
launches in North  
America

NOW

Play Travis  
*Strikes Again:*  
*No More Heroes*  
on Switch



8<sup>th</sup>

THEN

11 years ago  
*No More Heroes*  
launches in North  
America

NOW

Play Travis  
*Strikes Again:*  
*No More Heroes*  
on Switch



### CES 2019

The tech industry hits Las Vegas to show us what's in store. Last year it was 8K TVs, in-display fingerprint sensors and voice assistants in everything. This year? Who knows, but Alexa is bound to be there in force. Follow the big launches at [stuff.tv](http://stuff.tv)



# WIN A PHILIPS 65-INCH OLED+903 TV WITH AMBILIGHT WORTH £3499!

If you're a regular *Stuff* reader, you'll be well aware of our love for the Philips OLED+903, a stunning TV with Ambilight tech and Bowers & Wilkins audio skills. If you're not a regular *Stuff* reader... WELL, YOU CHUFFING WELL SHOULD BE!

No matter. The first thing you need to know, in case you have been living in a chicken coop with nothing but *Practical Poultry* to keep you entertained, is that we reviewed the 55in version of this Philips in the last issue and called it "a TV that sounds as good as it looks – which is very good indeed". The second thing you need to know is that the OLED+903 makes an appearance in the 2018 Stuff Awards, just over the page. And while we don't want to drop any spoilers, let's just say Philips is going to be needing a slightly bigger trophy cabinet...

So, with all that in mind, how do you fancy winning a 65in Philips OLED+903 for yourself?

## HOW TO ENTER

For the chance to turn your living room into a glowing-walled cinematic paradise, go to [stuff.tv/win](http://stuff.tv/win) and answer this question:

**WHICH OF THESE BREEDS MIGHT WIN CHICKEN OF THE YEAR, IF THERE IS SUCH A THING?**

**A ...** The Norfolk Grey (hint: this is a breed of chicken)

**B ...** The Berkshire Pig

**C ...** The Highland Cow

**HURRY!**  
COMPETITION  
CLOSES  
**31 JANUARY  
2019**

**Terms & conditions:** **1** Open to UK residents aged 18 or over. **2** Entries close 11.59pm, 31 Jan 2019. **3** Prizes are as stated. **4** Prizes are non-transferable. **5** Only one entry per person.  
**Full Ts & Cs:** [kelsey.co.uk/competition-terms-conditions/](http://kelsey.co.uk/competition-terms-conditions/)  
**Promoter:** Kelsey Media Ltd, Cudham Tithe Barn, Berry's Hill, Cudham, Kent TN16 3AG





"It's a handsome device, lavishly specified and capable of stunning video and audio quality. You have to see it."  
(Xmas 2018 issue)

STUFF SAYS  
★★★★★





# STUFF AWARDS 2018

Call us traditional, but we thought we'd wait until the end of the year to pick our favourite gadgets of 2018. It's this sort of sensible, pragmatic thinking that helped us agree on the cream of the tech crop from the past 12 months with only one group counselling session...

[ Words James Day Photography Matt Beedle ]









## BUDGET PHONE OF THE YEAR

# HONOR 8X

£230 / [hihonor.com](http://hihonor.com)

Woop-woop! That's the sound of da police! The rozzers are after us because the Honor 8X is an absolute steal of a smartphone. You might be tempted to run a mile when you see the word 'budget,' but don't be fooled by the Honor 8X's tiny price tag, because this bad boy packs a helluva punch.

Compared to rivals like the Moto One and Nokia 7.1, the Honor 8X is streets ahead, sporting a bigger screen (6.5in) than both, a Kirin 710 processor with noticeably more power, a beefier battery and more megapixels for detailed pictures.

We love getting more for less, and that's precisely why we adore the Honor 8X.

### NOMINEES

- Nokia 7.1 • Moto G6 Plus
- Xiaomi Mi 8 Pro • Honor 9 Lite

## PHONE OF THE YEAR

# HUAWEI MATE 20 PRO

£899 / [huawei.com](http://huawei.com)

We've raved about the Huawei P20 Pro for what seems like an eternity, so it was high time something knocked it off its perch. And from the moment we grasped this feature-packed mobile in our mitts, the *Stuff* team were smitten by the obscene amount of tech squeezed into its slender frame.

That spec is stunning in its own right: a 6.39in curved OLED display; in-screen fingerprint scanner; IR-based face recognition; and a whip-smart Kirin 980 processor. But the star is the three-lens camera array. With the 40MP main RGB lens, a 8MP telephoto and a 20MP Leica ultra-wide-angle, the Mate 20 Pro becomes a playground for photographers.

### NOMINEES

- Apple iPhone XS • Sony Xperia XZ3
- Samsung Galaxy Note 9 • OnePlus 6T

### Chip and win

The Pro packs arguably the most advanced processor in an Android phone: the Kirin 980 does better in benchmarks than its Snapdragon 845 rival.



**Mobby friction**

Swooped glass makes the Mate 20 Pro feel slimmer and more dynamic. Choose the micro-etched finish and the friction stops it slipping off surfaces.

**NOW  
ADD THIS**

**HUAWEI  
MATE 20 PRO  
WIRELESS  
SUPER  
CHARGER  
15W**

This Qi pad boosts juice at a rapid rate of 15W. Most phones with Qi charging can muster only a paltry 9-10W. **£60 / amazon.co.uk**



**READERS'  
PHONE OF  
THE YEAR**

**APPLE  
iPhone XS**

Here's a bit of a spoiler: Apple's missed out on the nod for your overall gadget of the year (see p51). But that doesn't stop the ace iPhone XS being a worthy winner here. **from £999 / apple.com**





### Inspector Norse

Oddmar embarks on a mercy mission to find his missing tribe by blazing through forests at high speeds and experiencing deranged dream sequences.



## MOBILE GAME OF THE YEAR

# ODDMAR

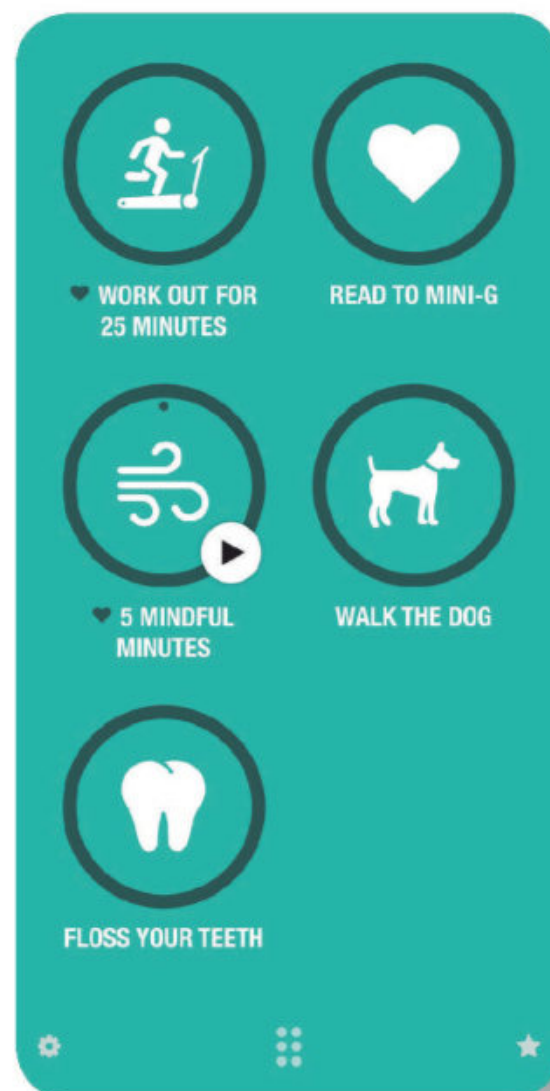
£4.99 / iOS

And it's hi ho cartoon Viking, anywhere you go now baby! We've had that song stuck in our heads ever since we picked up *Oddmar*, the beautifully animated, endlessly charming mobile platformer about a rather lazy warrior imbued with magical powers.

Admittedly it all sounds a bit strange, but underneath that wonderfully wacky paint job is a game with enough substance to match its effortless style. This is a tour de force that rarely hits the brakes, and a magnificent example of how unforgettable mobile gaming can be when everything just slots into place.

### NOMINEES

- Florence • Euclidean Skies
- Alto's Odyssey • Super Cat Tales 2



## APP OF THE YEAR

# STREAKS

£4.99 / iOS

Streaks is a nifty to-do list for forming good habits and worrying less about bad ones. Unlike traditional to-do managers and calendars, which often conflate what you have to do with what you want to do, Streaks helps you prioritise tasks that actually improve your wellbeing – whether it's brushing your teeth, reading or eating a healthy meal.

The main thing working in Streaks' favour is how it efficiently isolates habit-forming into a dedicated app by combining a friendly interface with graphs for those people who need a wiggly line to look at. Ultimately, this is an intelligent app with a noble mission – and that's something we can all get behind.

### NOMINEES

- Bear Focus Timer • Obscura 2
- AudioKit Synth One • Retrospecs





Budget Smartphone  
of the Year  
**Honor 8X**

# honor 8X<sup>AI</sup>

BEYOND LIMITS



20MP AI CAMERA

6.5"

FULL HD+ DISPLAY



3750 mAh BATTERY

£229.99

GREAT VALUE

AVAILABLE FROM THREE, ARGOS, AMAZON, AO.COM, CARPHONE WAREHOUSE, JOHN LEWIS & PARTNERS AND VERY.CO.UK





## STREAMING SERVICE OF THE YEAR

### NETFLIX

from £5.99/month / [netflix.com](https://netflix.com)

If you're wondering why Netflix is our streaming service of the year again, we can only imagine you've somehow binged your way through the entire gargantuan catalogue already. That's a lot of 'chilling'.

Getting serious for a moment, you might subscribe for the award-winning movies, effects-heavy blockbusters and jaw-dropping documentaries. But one thing Netflix excels at compared to its competitors is creating stellar original programming that embeds itself in the public consciousness. From *Stranger Things* and *BoJack Horseman* to *Daredevil* and *The Chilling Adventures of Sabrina*, Netflix knocked it out of the park time and time again in 2018.

#### NOMINEES

- Now TV • Amazon Prime
- Spotify • Apple Music



#### Talk is cheap

The Alexa Voice Remote combines Bluetooth and IR tech with far-field voice recognition to control your TV. It works best with Prime Video, natch.



## TV GADGET OF THE YEAR

### AMAZON FIRE TV STICK 4K

£50 / [amazon.co.uk](https://amazon.co.uk)

Congratulations if you joined the 4K revolution this year – but while having a wondrous TV is one thing, having plenty of Ultra HD content to show it off is another. Enter Amazon's Fire TV Stick 4K, complete with a fresh-faced Alexa remote that makes finding all those super-sharp shows and movies a doddle.

It's also the first Fire TV Stick to support Dolby Vision and HDR10+, helped by a hefty quad-core 1.7GHz processor for faster streaming. Oh, and did we mention that all that power can be nabbed for just 50 quid? In a category filled with fierce competition, the Fire TV Stick 4K wins out for leaving us with some extra cash to buy the best content.

#### NOMINEES

- Apple TV 4K • Roku Ultra
- Sky Q • Google Chromecast (2018)



### You've been unframed

Apart from the beautifully integrated (and sensationally punchy) soundbar at the bottom, this TV is basically all screen, which is exactly how you want it to be.

TV OF THE YEAR

PHILIPS  
OLED  
+903

from £2499 / [philips.co.uk](http://philips.co.uk)

In what was the most potent tech partnership of 2018, Philips and Bowers & Wilkins achieved great things with the +903. This is a lavishly specified, handsome devil of a 4K OLED TV capable of producing a stellar Ultra HD picture and ear-melting audio.

Indeed, there's no mistaking the +903's position at the top of the current Philips TV range. We'd suggest that, if you're looking to spend a pretty penny on a gogglebox, this one should be at the summit of your shopping list... or you could try winning one – the £3499 65in version – in our exclusive giveaway on p28.

#### NOMINEES

- Panasonic FZ802B ● LG C8
- Samsung QE65Q9FN ● Sony KD-65XF9005





## GAMING GADGET OF THE YEAR

# SONY PS4 PRO

£350 / [playstation.com](http://playstation.com)

Substantial hardware under the hood — including a rapid CPU, a powerful graphics chip and bags of memory for game developers to play with — always made the PS4 Pro an enticing proposition, but now Sony's supercharged console has really got into its stride thanks to the delicious range of games available. Sure, the Xbox One X might be more powerful, but beyond the likes of *Forza*, *Gears of War* and *Halo*, Microsoft can't compete with the exclusives offered by its arch-rival right now. *Marvel's Spider-Man*, *Tetris Effect*, *Detroit: Become Human*, *Ni No Kuni II*, *Shadow of the Colossus*... the list goes on. Our only wish is that Sony could magic up more play time.

### NOMINEES

- Nintendo Switch
- Xbox One X
- Oculus Go
- Razer Phone 2



## GAME OF THE YEAR

# RED DEAD REDEMPTION 2

£50 / [rockstargames.com](http://rockstargames.com)

After some seriously heated debates, *Red Dead Redemption 2* beats *God of War* to this title — because it's one of the best games we've played this console generation.

Rockstar's sprawling Western captivated us from start to finish, with its sweeping scale, preposterous attention to detail and gripping narrative raising the bar for open-world gaming at every available opportunity. Striking realism, combined with meaningful side quests and countless random encounters, make it impossible to spend a minute in this wild west without getting engrossed in a real spectacle.

### NOMINEES

- *Forza Horizon 4*
- *God of War*
- *Marvel's Spider-Man*
- *Assassin's Creed Odyssey*



**PHILIPS**

OLED+ 903



# There's OLED and there's **OLED+**



- + Sound by Bowers & Wilkins for audio that lives up our OLED standard.
- + Second generation of P5 picture processor for an even punchier picture.
- + Room-filling Ambilight to take the action beyond the screen.

Sound by  
**Bowers & Wilkins**

[www.philips.com/oled+](http://www.philips.com/oled+)



Breezy  
listening

Five far-field mics do a decent job of attracting Alexa's attention even above the noise of rowdy music or TV shows, but you may have to shout a bit.

ARC de  
triomphe

This is HDMI's first appearance on a Sonos product – it supports ARC so your Beam can talk to your TV (and vice versa) to turn it on and off and adjust volume.



NOW  
ADD THIS

**SONOS  
PLAY:5**

The largest home speaker in the Sonos range is predictably the most powerful, and a special Beastie Boys edition gives you extra cause to fight for your right to party in case you needed it. **£499 / [sonos.com](https://www.sonos.com)**

Beam there,  
done that

The Beam is 60% smaller than its sibling, the Playbar, but still shoehorns in four full-range woofers and a tweeter with five digital amplifiers for terrific sound.



HI-FI GADGET  
OF THE YEAR

# SONOS BEAM

£399 / [sonos.com](https://sonos.com)

There's no harm in admitting Sonos's hi-fi and home cinema gear has always been a bit on the expensive side, but the Beam is a top-notch wireless soundbar that doesn't break the bank and has the added bonus of Alexa built in.

It sounds ace, looks slick, comes with a bucketload of smarts and is compact enough to fit into the average living-room AV setup without taking over. Better still, it can form part of a larger multiroom system with other speakers, striking just the right balance between audio quality and style. That makes it easy to recommend the Beam to anyone looking to give the sound of their television, or their home music setup, an adrenaline injection.

## NOMINEES

- Marshall Stanmore II Voice
- Amazon Echo Plus Stereo System
- Apple HomePod
- B&O Edge



HEADPHONES  
OF THE YEAR

# SONY WH-1000XM3

£330 / [sony.co.uk](https://sony.co.uk)

Sony already had form for making some of the best active noise-cancelling headphones for relieving tortured ears, but somehow it's created an even more compelling package with the WH-1000XM3s. They're sofa-comfortable, sound fantastic and zap an even wider array of frequencies than Bose's QC35 IIs.

Sound purists may want to tweak the settings, and there are admittedly some sonic advantages to leaving noise-cancellation off, but we promise you the WH-1000XM3s will transport you to audio heaven, with or without backing vocals from screaming babies.

## NOMINEES

- SoundMagic E11C
- Jabra Elite Active 65t
- Nuraphone
- AKG Y50BT



**Emission impossible**

The two electric motors produce a combined 395bhp, and 0-62mph takes less than five seconds. The range tops out at 292 miles.



## CAR OF THE YEAR

# JAGUAR I-PACE

from £60,995 / [jaguar.com](http://jaguar.com)

It's with a sense of patriotic pride and *Land of Hope and Glory* emanating from the infotainment system that we can announce Jag's electric whip takes top prize here.

As you would expect from a car company with racing pedigree, the I-Pace is desirable and fun to drive. It's also impressively capable when tackling challenges greater than locating a charging point.

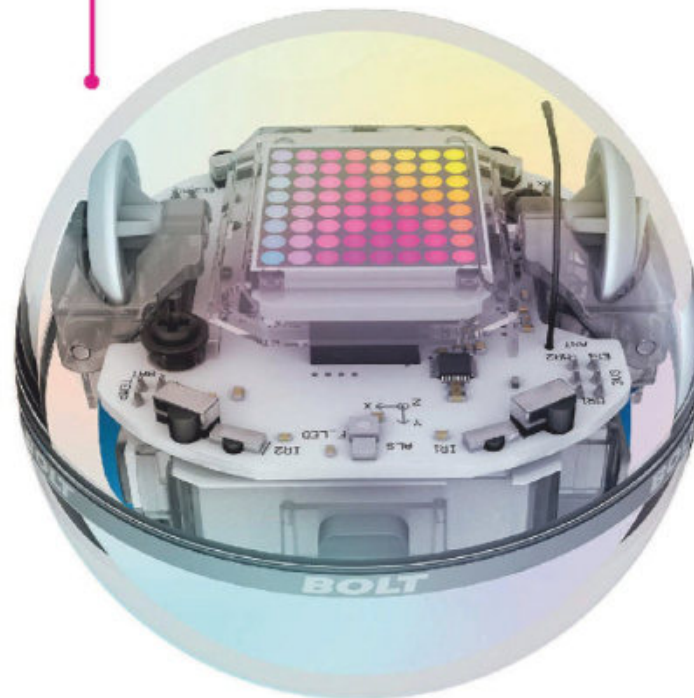
With all-electric SUVs on the way from Audi, Mercedes-Benz and Volvo, Jag has competition to come, but for now it's the first to give Tesla something to worry about – and we love the fact that Coventry couldn't be further from San Francisco if it tried.

**NOMINEES**

- BMW i8 Roadster • Audi Q8
- VW Touareg • Alpine A110

**Big-time baller**

The accompanying Sphero Edu app lets you programme a set of manoeuvres, sounds and light patterns, then hit Start and watch it go.



## TECH TOY OF THE YEAR

# SPHERO BOLT

£150 / [sphero.com](http://sphero.com)

News flash: children know straight away if a trip to the toy department has been compromised by 'educational toys'. So rather than introducing extra-curricular studies by stealth, Sphero's Bolt fronts up about its seriously adept coding abilities – which is just one of the reasons we've given it an A+.

Designed by the folks responsible for the awesome BB-8 and Spider-Man toys, this robotic ball features an LED matrix and advanced sensors that can be programmed to do everything from showing characters and vector graphics to running games on the display. It's an ingenious piece of kit with the capability to open minds and inspire the next generation.

**NOMINEES**

- Anki Vector • Harry Potter Kano Coding Kit
- Ryze Tello • Lego Batmobile



**Bar humbug?**

The Touch Bar isn't to everyone's taste, but the context-sensitive strip comes into its own with Apple apps, providing shortcuts for the likes of Logic Pro X.

COMPUTER OF THE YEAR

APPLE  
MACBOOK  
PROfrom £1249 / [apple.com](https://apple.com)

Windows advocates will be quick to point out that the Apple MacBook Pro won't win any value-for-money awards, but as an everyday laptop that's portable, capable and desirable, it has no peers. The 2018 model might look familiar, but it's packed with the latest Apple tech, such as Touch ID and the T2 Security Chip. There's plenty of power, an improved display, a quieter keyboard and a battery good for a full day of use. For professionals, it gets the job done in the most unassuming way and with the cleanest profile of any high-performance laptop out there.

## NOMINEES

- Microsoft Surface 2 • Dell XPS 15 2-in-1
- iPad (2018) • Huawei MateBook X Pro

## Port authority

Even the 13-inch Pro packs four Thunderbolt 3 ports, the endangered species of a headphone jack, 8th-generation Intel processors and blazing-fast SSD storage.



Thin end of  
the edge

The Series 4 is slimmer than its predecessor but its screen has grown by at least 30%, with rounded corners going right to the edge.



SMARTWATCH  
OF THE YEAR

# APPLE WATCH SERIES 4

from £399 / [apple.com](https://apple.com)

It's taken Apple four attempts to really find its wearable feet, but what you're looking at is the best smartwatch in the world.

Whether you want to use it for fitness or daily tasks as simple as unlocking your MacBook, the Apple Watch is now more feature-strong than ever – and everything has a purpose. Its health credentials have passed with flying colours too, thanks to ECG smarts and fall-detection gyroscopes.

But all that cutting-edge tech aside, it's the larger display for accommodating more data, making apps increasingly user-friendly and helping watch faces pop, that really sold the Series 4 for us.

#### NOMINEES

- Samsung Galaxy Watch • Suunto 9
- Garmin Forerunner 645 Music • Fitbit Versa





Sync  
plunger

A touchscreen OLED display remains easy to read in different environments, even when you're in the pool – just as well it's waterproof to 50m, then.



NOW  
ADD THIS

ANDEN  
VALET FOR  
APPLE  
WATCH

The Valet is made to order in London and gives your connected timepiece a classy place to lay its head while charging.  
**from £90 /  
madebyanden.  
co.uk**



FITNESS TRACKER  
OF THE YEAR

FITBIT  
CHARGE 3

£130 / [fitbit.com](https://www.fitbit.com)

With smartwatches becoming commonplace, you may have been wondering whether dedicated fitness trackers are still worth your time. The Fitbit Charge 3 answers that with a resounding 'yes'. An easy-to-use workout companion that's subtle and comfortable, the Charge 3 hits the sweet spot in that zone between super-slim trackers and bigger devices with wrist-dominating displays.

It's packed with a smorgasbord of fitness tech, such as SpO2 and optical heart-rate sensors keeping tabs on calories, steps, sleep patterns and more.

NOMINEES

- Garmin Vivosmart 4 • Huawei Band 2 Pro
- Withings Sport HR Steel • Xiaomi Fitness Band



## Stand and deliver

Everything is focused on a 7-inch touchscreen display sitting perched on its stand – with a choice of grey, black, green or pink fabric.



NOW  
ADD THIS

## LIFX A60

LIFX bulbs don't require hardware to be set up with Google Home and Google Assistant. And they also play with Alexa and Apple HomeKit. **£44 / [uk.lifx.com](http://uk.lifx.com)**

## SMART HOME GADGET OF THE YEAR

# GOOGLE HOME HUB

**£139 / [store.google.com](http://store.google.com)**

Google played it modest with the Home Hub, building a smart home slate more compact and stylish than Amazon's Echo Show for a significantly lower price. If Google Assistant is your AI butler of choice, this thing is unbeatable for controlling connected devices.

Whether it's morning briefings in bed or reading recipes in the kitchen, and switching on the heating somewhere between, home is where the Hub is – and its usefulness becomes increasingly apparent the more you invest in Google's ecosystem. Almost as if they designed it that way...

## NOMINEES

- Amazon Echo Dot (2018)
- Nest Hello
- Nest Thermostat E
- Lenovo Smart Display





This isn't  
half 'blad

The Mavic 2 Pro features a 20MP 4K camera developed by camera legends Hasselblad – no surprise given DJI owns a major stake in the firm.

DRONE/  
ACTION CAM  
OF THE YEAR

# DJI MAVIC 2 PRO

£1349 / [dji.com](https://dji.com)

When we reviewed DJI's Mavic Air at the start of the year, we hailed it as a breakthrough in drone tech. We certainly weren't expecting it to be bumped out of the sky by another DJI model before 2018 was out – but that's exactly what happened when the Mavic 2 Pro appeared.

We described this as a drone with no real weaknesses. Its image quality, flight time, speed, omnidirectional obstacle sensing, intelligent flight modes and unique Hyperlapse mode for timelapses on the move are all nothing short of glorious.

#### NOMINEES

- GoPro Hero7 Black
- Garmin Dash Cam 65W
- Parrot Anafi
- GoPro Fusion



SYSTEM CAMERA  
OF THE YEAR

# FUJIFILM X-T3

£1299 / [fujifilm.com](http://fujifilm.com)

It really didn't take us long to pick a winner for this category. Well, why would it when one of the contenders is the best APS-C camera on the planet? We were already big fans of the X-T2; and rather than reinventing the wheel, Fuji took every feature on that outstanding device and subtly upgraded it. The result is an all-round cracker that astounds in just about every way.

From the huggable body and superb manual controls to the pristine 4K video, the high-res EVF and the zippy autofocus and burst shooting, there's nothing here that hasn't been refined to something like perfection. Prepare to take some wonderful photos.

#### NOMINEES

- Nikon Z7 • Canon EOS R
- Sony Alpha A7 III
- Panasonic Lumix G9

The fast and  
the Fujious

This Fuji shoots 4K at 60fps and super-slow-mo in Full HD at 120fps, with simultaneous outputs via HDMI and to an SD card for fancy multitaskers.

Range rover  
discovery

Inside is a 26MP X-Trans BSI sensor that allows for cleaner images across the ISO range; in our tests the X-T3 knocked it out of the park at high settings.





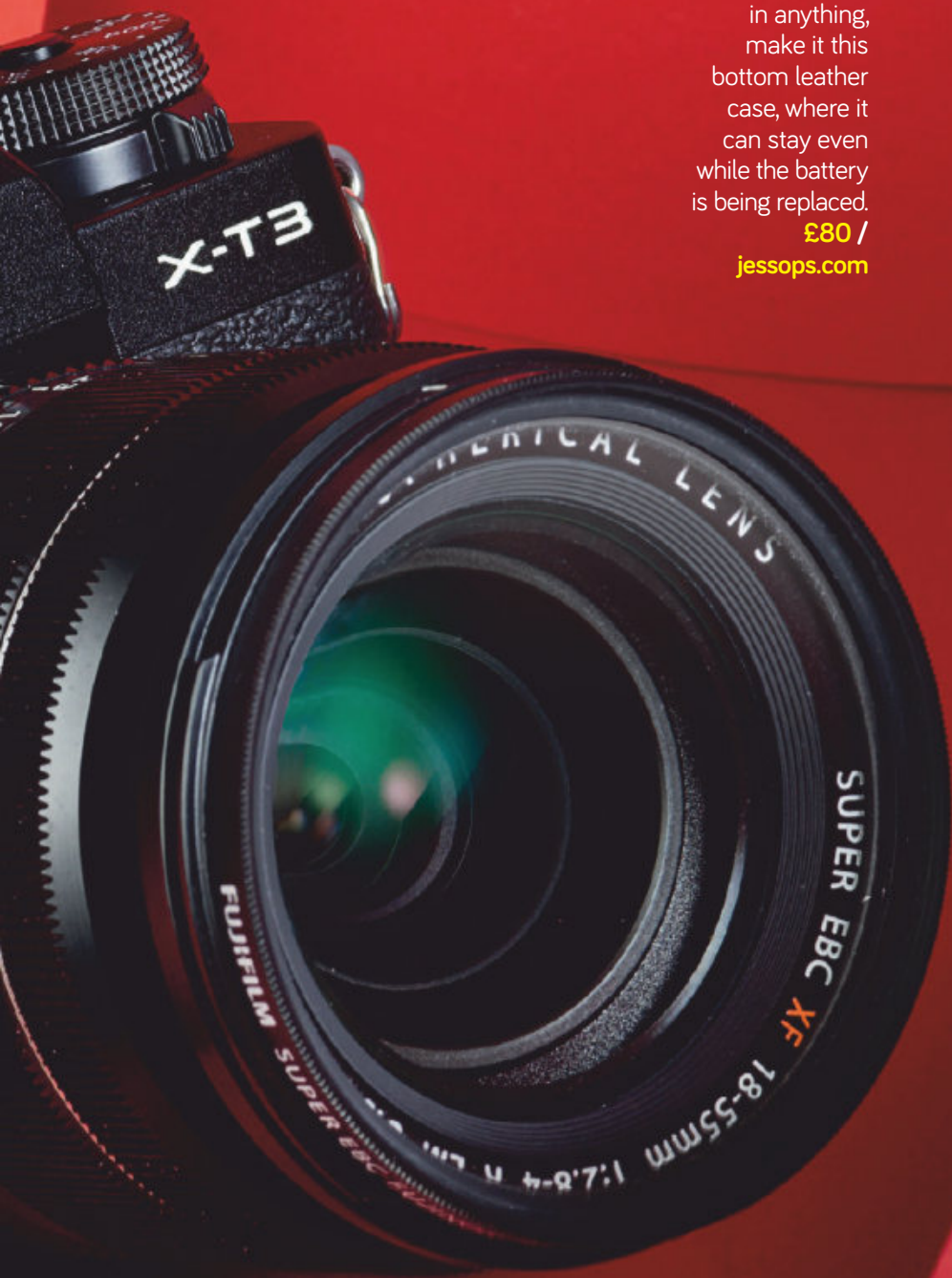


NOW  
ADD THIS

**FUJIFILM  
BLC-XT3  
BOTTOM  
LEATHER  
CASE**

If you're going to mount your Fuji in anything, make it this bottom leather case, where it can stay even while the battery is being replaced.

£80 /  
[jessops.com](http://jessops.com)



COMPACT CAMERA  
OF THE YEAR

## PANASONIC LUMIX TZ200

£629 / [panasonic.com](http://panasonic.com)

The perfect travel compact should capture memories at a moment's notice. It's designed to be yanked out of your pocket and take the perfect holiday snap, be flexible enough to get close to the action and – crucially – all while delivering better results than your phone.

Panasonic's TZ200 does all these things and more with 15x optical zoom, an uprated viewfinder and Bluetooth photo sharing. More capable than the old TZ100, it offers extra reach with that zoom lens, improved colour reproduction and a better experience when using the electronic viewfinder.

### NOMINEES

- Sony RX100 VI ● Canon SX740
- Leica CL ● Fujifilm X100F



**Beam  
me up**

While the Beam can't quite match the Playbar when it comes to sound quality, it blows its older brother out of the water when it comes to features.

**Stuff**  
GADGET AWARDS  
**WINNER 2018**

SONOS

**Tangle  
teaser**

For absolute stability, or for households with patchy Wi-Fi, using wired over wireless is recommended; but we never had any trouble with the Beam's connectivity.



GADGET  
OF THE YEAR

# SONOS BEAM

£399 / [sonos.com](https://sonos.com)

Fresh out of food-based projectiles and suffering from a collective loss of voice, we wondered if the Gadget of the Year Award would have to be decided by some sort of mute Royal Rumble... before one Stuffing used the Notes app to remind us we should settle this like adults. Sadly, with the N64 Mini not yet confirmed, a *GoldenEye 007* contest was out, so we came to a decision on Slack instead. Despite being pushed close by the Apple Watch Series 4, Huawei Mate 20 Pro, Sony WH-1000XM3 and Philips OLED+903, the Sonos Beam emerged victorious. The Beam won us over by squeezing Sonos's celebrated sound into a device 60% smaller and also significantly cheaper than the Playbar, all with Amazon Alexa and AirPlay 2 smarts. It's a formidable sound upgrade to any flat-screen TV, and a worthy hi-fi speaker for any home.



READERS' GADGET  
OF THE YEAR

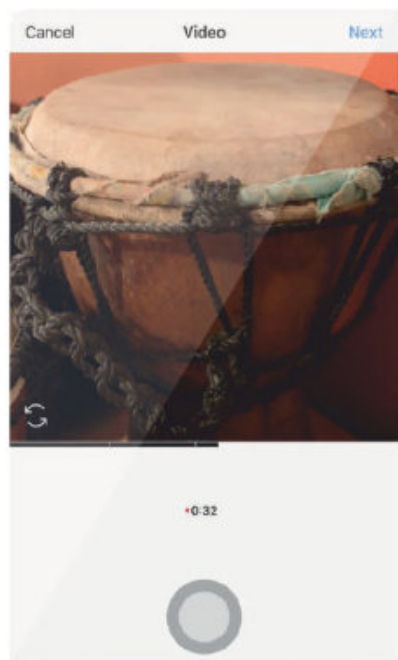
# HUAWEI MATE 20 PRO

£899 / [huawei.com](https://huawei.com)

With the country seemingly more divided than ever, it's taken a Chinese super-company to unite a nation of gadget lovers. The people have spoken, there will be no second referendum, because you've voted the Huawei Mate 20 Pro your gadget of 2018.

After opting for the Sonos Beam ourselves, we should be bitter, right? Nah, because to be brutally honest we were always seriously torn between these two – and any number of other innovative devices that made the various Stuff Awards shortlists. In many respects, the Mate 20 Pro is the ultimate mobile phone, combining cutting-edge security tech, the fastest phone processor on the planet, and a thrilling OLED display for consuming content... and for showing off the pictures taken by the best smartphone snapper in the business.



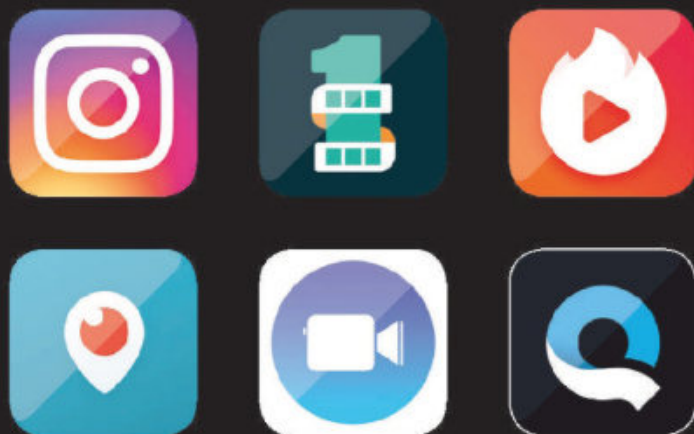


### Instagram

If you want bare-bones and no-fuss video, Instagram provides it. Prod 'record' a few times to capture your masterpiece, slap on a filter, upload and cross your fingers in the hope that you'll become an internet sensation – or at least, that everyone doesn't leave a load of snooty comments about how little effort you've clearly made.

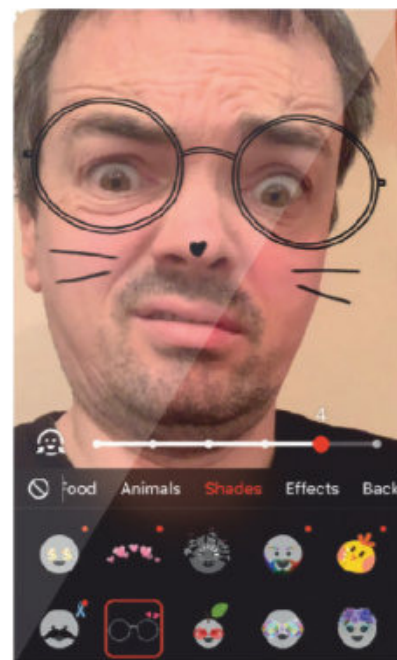
**Stuff says** ★★★★★  
£free / Android, iOS

# Mini meme



# SHARPER SHOOTERS & SHARERS

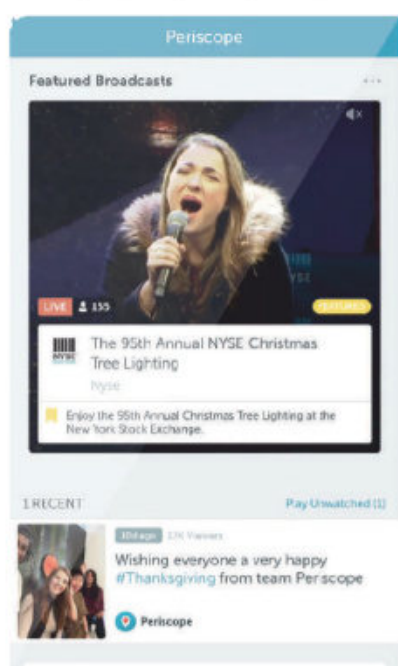
Broadcast yourself into social media stardom with this selection of speedy video apps – they'll make you look like a proper director with minimal effort



### Vigo Video

Warhol's 15 minutes of fame has been compressed into 15 seconds in Vigo. But it's packed with animated stickers that move with your noggin, music overlays and face-smoothing and reshaping that transforms you into a CGI abomination. When you're done, add oddball special effects (Cloned! Vibrate! Slo-mo!) before collapsing in a sweaty, exhausted heap.

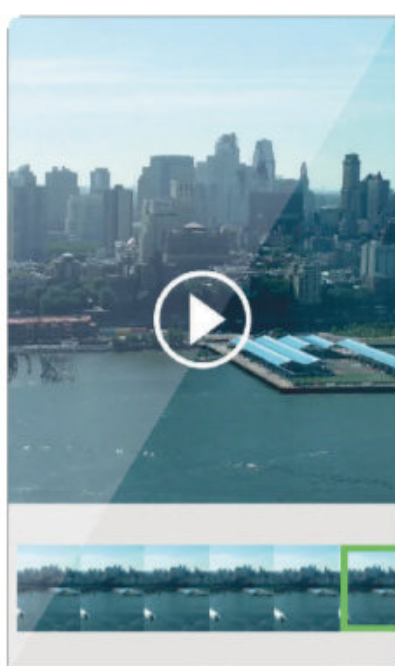
**Stuff says** ★★★★★  
£free / Android, iOS



### Periscope

You can, of course, broadcast live on Facebook, but Twitter seems to be at least 11% less evil – and Periscope is its livestreaming app. Go live and for a short while you're a tiny TV show in which every viewer can immediately let you know how much they hate you via an endless stream of comments. Terry Wogan, bless him, never had to put up with this sort of thing.

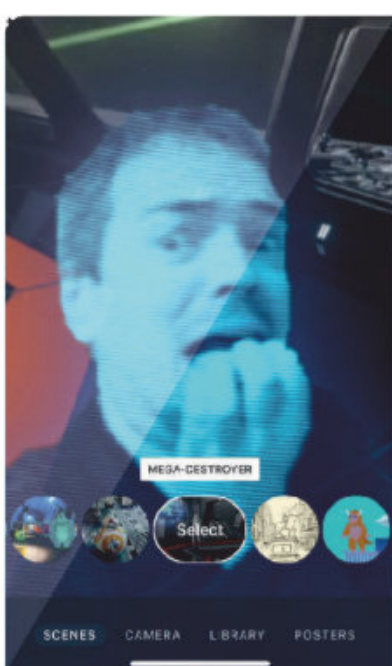
**Stuff says** ★★★★★  
£free / Android, iOS



### 1 Second Everyday

If you spend more time shooting video than you do analysing the purpose of your life, let this app show you who you really are. It'll compress an entire month into 30 seconds, or a decade into an hour of jump cuts. Of course, you might need to hang on to the phone you're using now into the late 2020s to be able to keep playing your life highlights.

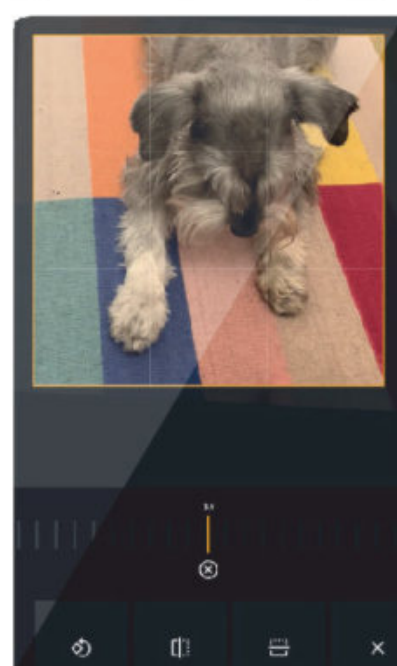
**Stuff says** ★★★★★  
£free (IAPs) / Android  
£4.99 (IAPs) / iOS



### Clips

Part impulse-shoot, part editor, part special effects rig, Clips is Apple's take on super-fast video. It encourages you to shoot rather than think, gives you animated posters and stickers to liven things up, and if you've a TrueDepth camera it enables you to insert yourself into scenes from *Star Wars* – because you weren't already enough of a geek.

**Stuff says** ★★★★★  
£free / iOS



### Quik

You've got a billion videos knocking around on your phone, and you really should do something with them. But editing's so tedious. So have Quik do all the hard work for you: select clips and a theme, and the app spits out a beautiful film. If you're not keen, tweak it. Do nothing at all and it'll still shove a new edit your way every weekend.

**Stuff says** ★★★★★  
£free / Android, iOS





# LSX

GIVE YOUR MUSIC THE SPACE IT DESERVES



## True Stereo Wireless Music System

Two speakers have always been better than one. That's why we developed the dynamic LSX, a fully wireless stereo system. 50 years of KEF acoustic innovation with all the convenience and connectivity of wireless. Unleash your music and give it the space to dance around the room. Don't just hear music, feel it.



KEF.COM

AirPlay 2 | Spotify Connect | TIDAL | Roon | Bluetooth

**KEF**



# Stuff

## DIGITAL EDITION



Available from the App Store, Google Play  
Newsstand and Kindle Newsstand



# Pro evolution dock

Apple's torn up the iPad design template for its new Pro flagship, complete with faster chip and magnetic Pencil dock. Enough to make it the GOAT?

from E769 / [stuff.tv/iPadPro2018](http://stuff.tv/iPadPro2018)



**A**pple reckons its new iPad Pro is the device's biggest shake-up since the original – and it has a point.

There's no home button. It's got a swanky 'all screen' design, and has the kind of powerful innards that have notebooks glancing nervously at each other. It remains a slab of glass

and metal, but still feels a bit radical. The bezel is even on both sides, and the display's curves mirror those of the device's frame – an arguably bigger feat here than with the iPhone XR's LCD. It makes the outgoing 10.5in model look comparatively archaic.

The A12X Bionic chip at the heart of the Pro is reportedly

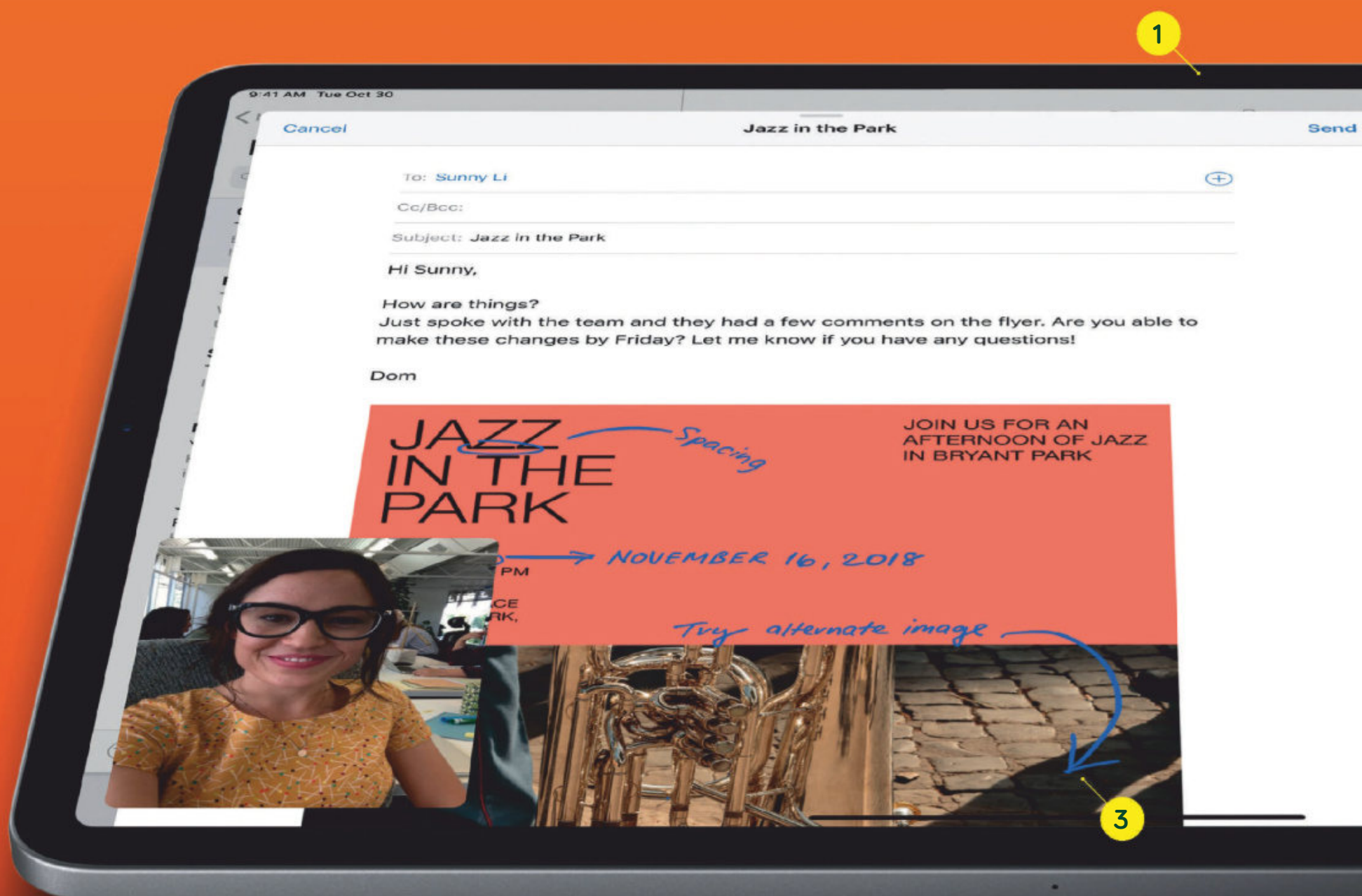
faster than the CPUs in 92% of portable PCs sold during the past 12 months, and significantly outperforms last year's iPad Pro (which was no slouch).

Both the 11in and 12.9in models' displays have 264ppi resolution, which is less sharp than your average phone but fine at tablet-viewing distances. The optional Folio keyboard/case

and Pencil have also been revamped and, inevitably, the headphone port has gone; but the Lightning connectivity has also been ditched, in favour of USB-C.

Well, all new Apple products have to be controversial in one way or another. The question is whether it's worth punching your wallet in the face to buy this one...





### 1 His latest frame

Calling the new iPad 'all screen' is a bit of a stretch, given that there's still that bezel all the way around. But the black frame isn't a problem, and actually helps you focus on content — plus Apple has stuffed the new, improved Face ID camera into it.

### 2 Baby I don't glare

Yes, it's a fingerprint magnet, but the display coating makes this screen more usable in bright rooms than the plain old iPad. Apple's ProMotion and True Tone technologies ensure the display is super-responsive and adapts to your viewing environment.

### 3 Love me render

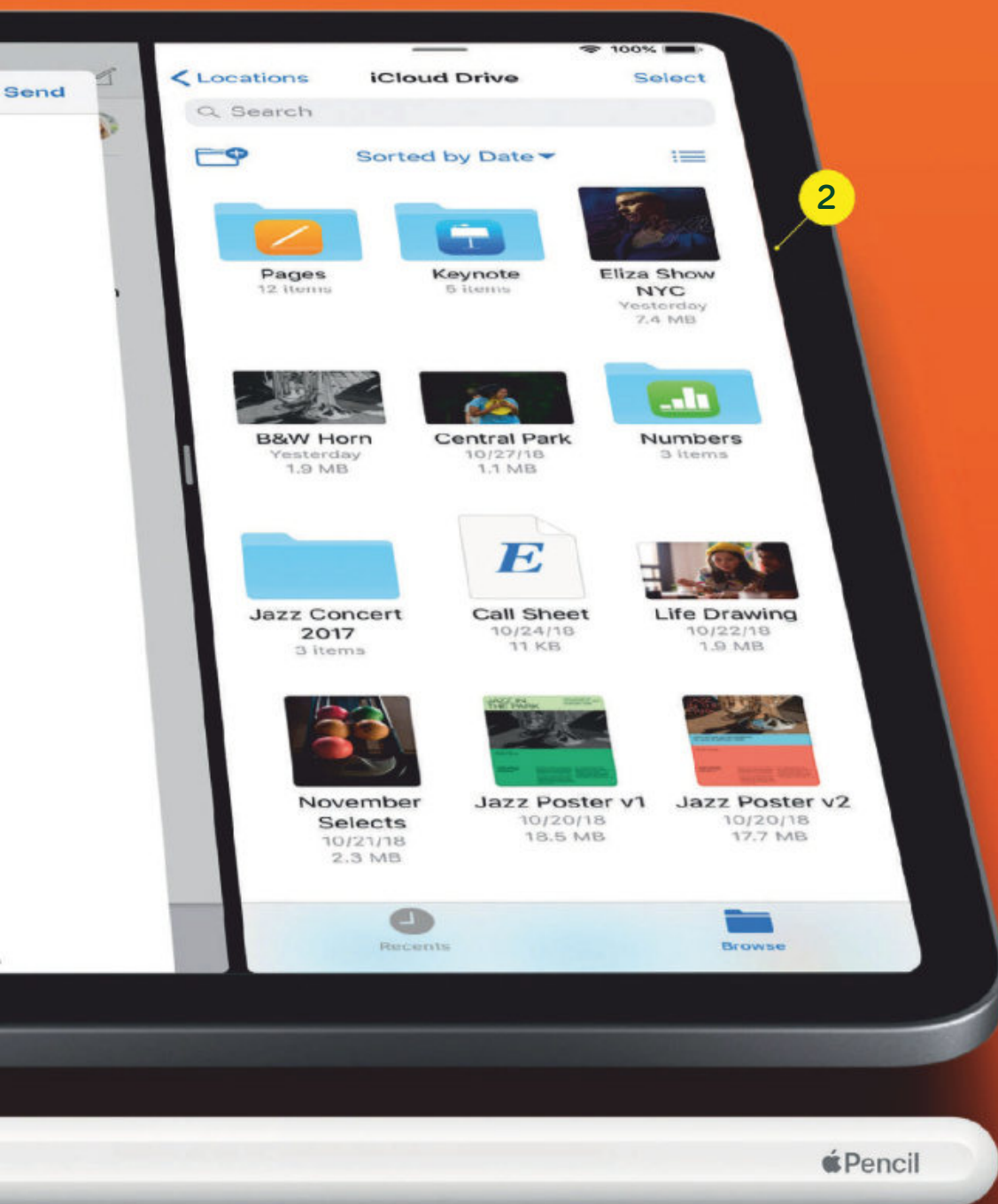
The A12X chip copes well with complex multi-layered imagery in Affinity Photo and synth-heavy Korg Gadget compositions. Geekbench scores our 11in Pro at around 5000 for single-core and 18,000 for multi-core. That's 15in MacBook Pro territory.

## 24 hours with the new iPad Pro

- Good
- Meh
- Evil







## Techspecs

**Screen** 11in 2388x1668 / 12.9in 2732x2048 LCD

**Processor** A12X Bionic octa-core

**OS** iOS 12 **Storage** 64/256/512GB/1TB

**Battery life** Up to 10hrs **Cameras** 12MP rear, 7MP front

**Dimensions** 248x179x5.9mm/468g (11in); 281x215x5.9mm, 633g (12.9in)

## A little more conversation

You can use the iPad Pro as a solo performer or, if it's lonesome tonight, introduce it to a few peripherals



### ■ That's all write

The new Pencil (£119) lets you configure its double-tap gesture per app: in Procreate it can launch the radial menu; in LiquidText it can slide a linked excerpt from your workspace. This is brilliant.



### ■ Do the clamp

The Folio (£179/£199) connects instantly and is a snap to set up, but there's some wobble when the iPad's screen is tapped. Also, fold it back and you end up gripping the keys, which is weird.



### ■ The wonder of U

USB-C connectivity opens up a world of potential, but right now there are some odd limitations. For example, you can't connect USB-C storage and rummage through it in Files.



### ■ Sound dog

There's no standard headphone port, which we're not thrilled about. There's an easy-to-lose dongle, but hopefully you asked ol' beardy to bring you some AirPods (£159) for Christmas.

## 4 All shook app

Many apps aren't quite ready for these new iPads: during testing, most games played with borders on the 11in model. And in Split View, only the 12.9in Pro will show two iPad-sized apps side by side. Consider paying the extra if you do a lot of two-up multitasking.

## 5 Suspicious grinds

For the most part, iOS 12 is very impressive. We've heard people bellyaching about this tablet lacking pro apps, but that depends on your definition of 'pro'. It's a fine tool for creative productivity... but no, we wouldn't want to manage spreadsheets on the thing.

Tap the screen with a Pencil and you go straight to Notes – a nice touch...  
...although it's a pity you can't switch it for another app.  
The old Pencil won't work on the new iPad Pro, and vice versa.  
Apple's failure to include a USB-C dongle for Lightning kit is curious.  
Never mind. The old iPad Pro suddenly feels strangely old-fashioned...

7hrs 8hrs 10hrs 17hrs 24hrs



The new Pro is a mobile powerhouse like no other, with a diverse and rich app ecosystem, a gorgeous screen and the kind of focus on creativity and productivity that just doesn't exist on other tablets. If you only want to faff on Facebook, it's clearly massive overkill... but play with it for five minutes and you're probably going to want one anyway. @CraigGrannell

## STUFF SAYS ★★★★★

Apple blasts ahead of the pack with a stylish, powerful tablet full of creative potential



# The alternatives: 3 more high-end tablets

Apples are not the only fruit... here are the other great weighty slates, rated



## Samsung Galaxy Tab S4

£599 / [samsung.com](http://samsung.com)

### What's the story?

Samsung's aim with the Tab S4 is to steal iPad Pro customers by offering the most versatile tablet with Android inside, and at a more palatable price. A plain-looking sheet of Gorilla Glass and aluminium, it has a 10.5in Super AMOLED screen similar to Samsung's top-end phones, and DeX for a more PC-like experience if you're replacing a laptop.

### Is it any good?

While the revolution will not be tabletised, the S4 is still a solid slate that makes doing real work in Android easier than ever before. A lack of AR support is a shame, and the S-Pen isn't as good as the Apple Pencil 2; but attach a keyboard, flex your DeX muscles and this becomes a great business tool with immense battery life that undercuts Apple's prices.

### KEY SPECS

**Screen** 10.5in 2560x1600 Super AMOLED  
**Processor** Snapdragon 835  
**OS** Android Oreo **Storage** 64GB  
**Battery life** Up to 16hrs  
**Cameras** 13MP rear, 8MP front  
**Dimensions** 249x164x7.1mm, 483g

Stuff says ★★★★★

The best Android alternative to the iPad Pro

## Google Pixel Slate

from £549 / [store.google.com](http://store.google.com)

### What's the story?

Google's aluminium answer to the iPad Pro looks and feels every bit as expensive. There are five variously-specced models to choose from, all with a massive 12.3in display, brilliant speakers and a choice of additional keyboards for all-day typing. Rather than rocking Android it uses Google's own stripped-back Chrome OS for apps.

### Is it any good?

The Pixel Slate is a sweet piece of hardware with confused software. The paucity of Chrome apps limits its possibilities, and that grates. Everything else is seriously superb – the display, keyboard, stylus etc – but spend a grand or more on 'pro' specs and you'll wish you'd hadn't bought something that has all the power but can't put it down.

### KEY SPECS

**Screen** 12.3in 3000x2000 Molecular  
**Processor** Celeron/m3/i5/i7 (8th gen)  
**OS** Chrome **Storage** 32/64/128/256GB  
**Battery life** Up to 12hrs  
**Cameras** 8MP rear and front  
**Dimensions** 291x202x7mm, 731g

Stuff says ★★★★★

Top-tier hardware let down by some software shortages

## Microsoft Surface Pro 6

from £879 / [microsoft.com](http://microsoft.com)

### What's the story?

The Pro 6 is a modest upgrade on last year's Pro 5, and the 12.3in PixelSense resolution hasn't altered since the Pro 4. So why consider the upgrade? Because of a spec boost to 8th-gen Intel Core processors, complete with a claim it's 67% more powerful than its predecessor. Oh, and there's a new fancy-pants black aluminium finish.

### Is it any good?

Time to get out the *Stuff* scales of justice: while it's well over 100g heavier than a 12.9 iPad Pro, this Surface does boast a better pixel count. Whether you plump for the quad-core i5 or the pricier i7, it'll handle multiple apps with aplomb, while the Surface Pen and super-smooth typing complete an impressively versatile creative powerhouse.

### KEY SPECS

**Screen** 12.3in 2736x1824 PixelSense  
**Processor** i5/i7 (8th gen)  
**OS** Windows 10 Home **Storage** 128/256/512GB/1TB SSD **Battery life** Up to 13.5hrs  
**Cameras** 8MP rear, 5MP front  
**Dimensions** 292x201x8.5mm, 784g

Stuff says ★★★★★

Not for everyone, but a very capable 2-in-1 tablet



# Stuff

## Everywhere you are

Read it, like it, share it



facebook.com/joinstuff  
youtube.com/stuffmagazine  
twitter.com/stuffTV  
Apple News  
instagram.com/stuffmag



WINTER WARMERS



**The wind whackers**  
**Ronhill Unisex Wind Block**

Whipping Arctic gales are made a lot more bearable when you're kitted out with some wind-resistant gloves. These lightweight thermal jobs will keep your hands cosy, with the added touch of a towelling thumb to wipe away sweat in case the temperature ever creeps above 'horrible'.

£22 / [cotswoldoutdoor.com](http://cotswoldoutdoor.com)



**The rain repellers**  
**Dexshell Touchfit**

Preparing you for every damp eventuality, from drizzly misery to torrential torment via showery annoyance, these waterproof knitted hand-huggers are breathable, grippy in the palms and easy to find in a pile of navy blue parkas. They're also available in black, but where's the fun in that?

£32 / [dexshell.co.uk](http://dexshell.co.uk)



**The snow stoppers**  
**Arc'teryx Venta**

Your hands need serious protection when you're building a life-size snow Noel Edmonds. The newly improved Ventas have hi-loft fleece fabric on the inside to stop your hands freezing to the bone, while the outer fabric is resistant to snow and rain, with cuffs for easy removal.

£60 / [arcteryx.com](http://arcteryx.com)

TOASTY TOUCHSCREENERS



**The tippy tweeters**  
**North Face Etip**

Available for both men and women, but not cats, these low-key numbers from North Face have touchscreen-conductive technology on all four fingers and thumb. They also feature a silicone layer on the palm for extra grip, and four-way stretch fleece linings for added warmth.

£35 / [thenorthface.co.uk](http://thenorthface.co.uk)

**UPVOTED  
GLOVES**

Is the cold weather getting to you? Don't worry, it'll soon be much worse – but **Heather Wald** has got you covered with the perfect fits for your mitts...



**The grippy 'grammers**  
**Moshi Digits Touchscreen**

Soft and functional, Moshi's touchscreen gloves have a swirly GripTrak pattern to help you avoid dropping your phone. They're knitted with a dual-layered microfleece lining to keep you warm while you're sharing those as-it-happens images of ducks falling over on a frozen pond.

£25 / [moshi.com](http://moshi.com)

SPORTY SNUGLERS



**The jolly joggers**  
**SealSkinz Stretch Lite**

These ultra-light SealSkinz are designed for getting the blood pumping on dark and chilly nights, whether you're running, walking or just doing push-ups in the snow like a maniac. They have fast-wicking tech to take the sweat away from your hands, and are NOT made out of actual seals.

£15 / [runnersneed.com](http://runnersneed.com)



**The swanky swimmers**  
**Lomo Triathlon & Swimming**

Triathletes don't let a bit of rain, snow, ice and apocalypse get in their way. If you're up for some winter swimming, or are just worried about slipping in a really big puddle, Lomo's gloves will save you. Made from stretchy neoprene, they're glued and double-stitched with a wrist gasket.

£19 / [lomo.co.uk](http://lomo.co.uk)



**The rugged riders**  
**Castelli Estremo Winter Cycling**

You've just pedalled home through a blizzard and now you need help to peel your frozen fingers off the handlebars. Not with these cycling gloves, designed to handle the coldest conditions. Windstopper fabric blocks out wind-chill and a silicone outer layer gives extra grip and durability.

£67 / [wiggles.co.uk](http://wiggles.co.uk)

**NOW ADD  
THESE...**



**1 The North Face Women's Evolution II Triclimate Jacket**

Respond to anything nature throws at you with this 3-in-1 coat with two zip-in layers.

£210 / [thenorthface.co.uk](http://thenorthface.co.uk)



**2 Patagonia Men's Down Sweater Hoody**

Its water-resistant finish and insulative lining will keep you warm; its colour will make you easier to find after you sledge into a 30ft snowdrift.

£220 / [cotswoldoutdoor.com](http://cotswoldoutdoor.com)





### The dapper tappers

#### Mujjo Touchscreen Gloves (2018)

You've got to hand it to them: Mujjo's latest touchscreen gloves are seriously sleek-looking. Your fingers, now as stylish as they are warm, will be able to scroll through social media feeds with ease in mid-snowball fight. These newly upgraded gloves are made out of a stretch-knit fleece fabric that adapts to the shape of your hands, and are engineered to withstand wind and rain. We're in (g)love.

£45 / [mujjo.com](http://mujjo.com)



#### 3 Icebreaker Unisex Pocket Hat

Made from breathable merino jersey, this hat can fold down to fit in any pocket and is reversible for unforeseen fashion swings.

£25 / [uk.icebreaker.com](http://uk.icebreaker.com)



#### 4 Uniqlo Heattech Fringed Scarf

Heattech, we're told, uses moisture released by the body to retain warmth. No, we don't understand how, but... nice scarf.

£13 / [uniqlo.com](http://uniqlo.com)



# Alexa's bold as love

Legendary guitar amp maker Marshall has mixed iconic style with modern gubbins to create a rocking wireless speaker, complete with badly behaved Alexa

£350 / [stuff.tv/Stammore2Voice](http://stuff.tv/Stammore2Voice)

You're spoiled for choice if you've got £350 or so to spend on a smart speaker — all shapes, sizes, colours and performance levels are available to you.

So then, what if your new smart speaker has to speak to your inner guitar hero? What if you want it to invoke images of Pete Townshend writing off another night's profits as he trashes his equipment? Of Lemmy standing impassively in front of a wall of roaring amps? Of Jimi laying his guitar on the stage and fishing in his pockets for a lighter?

Well, what you want is the new Marshall Stanmore II Voice. It's got the wireless convenience you crave, and an Alexa interface that makes it as intelligent as the smartest speakers around. Plus it looks so much like a little Marshall guitar amp you'll be tempted to rush to the edge of your (imaginary) stage and throw the Devil's horns hand-shapes at your imaginary audience. Just don't go crowd surfing. The coffee table's not up to it.

1

2



## 1 Are you Alexperienced?

The Stanmore II Voice looks exactly like you'd expect a Marshall speaker to look: big, wrapped in textured vinyl, with rotary controls on the top panel and salt-and-pepper acoustic cloth across the front. Plus, of course, that iconic logo.

## 2 Voodoo dial

Everything is put together smoothly and sturdily. As well as nicely weighted volume, bass and treble dials with LED indicators, the control plate also includes a 3.5mm aux input, a source selector button plus play/pause and mic mute.

## 3 Rad house

Around the back are a pair of RCA analogue inputs and a bass reflex port. Wireless connectivity extends as far as Bluetooth, Wi-Fi and Spotify Connect. Future options include the ability to form an Alexa-controlled multiroom system.

GOOD  
MEH  
EVIL

Classic  
rock'n'roll  
looks

Really  
nice app  
interface

Superbly  
detailed  
treble...

...and clear,  
snappy  
bass

Looks might  
not be for  
everyone

Needs  
mains  
power



**4 Burning of the midnight amp**

The Stanmore II Voice features a couple of 19mm tweeters flanking a 13cm mid/bass driver. The tweeters each get 15W of Class D amplification, while the woofer is fuelled by 50W. That's enough to drive this Marshall to quite antisocial volume levels.

**5 Gypsy highs**

There's plenty of finesse to accompany all this grunt. Its soundstage is open and clear, and the low-end response is not the blunt instrument those rocking looks might suggest: it's textured, loaded with detail and well controlled.

**Tech specs**

**Output** 50W for woofer, 2x 15W for tweeters

**Controls** Volume, bass, treble, play/pause, microphone mute/unmute, source switch

**Connectivity** Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, 3.5mm, RCA, mains power

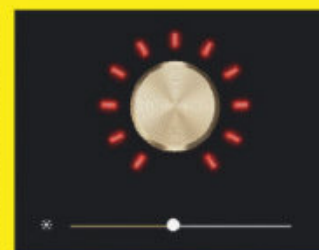
**Dimensions** 350x195x185mm, 4.75kg

**App from the skies**

You can tweak the controls on the top, but that feels a bit old when you could use the Voice app instead...

**■ Tone free**

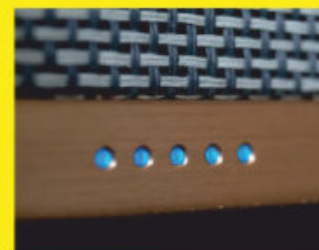
Marshall Voice is clean, stable and useful – in other words, everything an app should be. Use it and it'll only take a moment to set up the Stanmore II Voice, and you get instant access to a number of EQ presets.

**■ Electric lady banned**

You can also adjust the intensity of the LEDs on the top plate and mute the music-interrupting Alexa sounds. If you do this, your only indication she's listening will be the row of blue lights at the bottom left of the fascia.

**■ One brainy wish**

Thanks to two far-field microphones on the control panel, Alexa can hear you even when the speaker is really kicking it out. She does seem a little more cloth-eared here than in some other devices, though.

**■ Ain't no telling**

Enunciating slowly and deliberately seems the only way to get Alexa to admit she does know who Loyle Carner is – the 'casual chat' option that she seems happy with in some smart speakers won't get you far here.



No matter what you choose to listen to, the Stanmore II Voice can handle it. As long as you can make yourself understood when interacting with Alexa – and as long as you don't find it too bulky, or just a bit too all-out rock'n'roll to blend in with the rest of your decor – this is a smart speaker worth a place on anyone's shortlist. @OnlySimonLucas

**STUFF SAYS ★★★★★**

Small for a Marshall, big by anyone else's standards – but the Stanmore II Voice is an even bigger listen



# Sharpened stick

Amazon's compact new dongle offers 4K HDR streaming, an Alexa-powered remote, and zippier performance than ever before

£50 / [stuff.tv/FireStick4K](http://stuff.tv/FireStick4K)

■ Amazon has put 4K in a streaming device before but that was a box, not a stick. Now it's crammed 4K, Dolby Vision and HDR10+ support into this little twiglet – which has a faster processor and comes with the new Alexa Voice Remote.

■ The remote's sleek form factor makes getting the battery cover off an exasperating swear-fest, but that aside, setup is just about idiot-proof. Plug the stick into an HDMI port and hook up the USB power cable to the mains. Instructions on the TV then guide you through the rest.

■ Amazon says its new 1.7GHz processor makes this unit 80% more powerful than the standard Fire TV Stick. You can zip around the on-screen interface at speed, and it's very quick to respond.

■ The Alexa Voice Remote combines Bluetooth and IR tech with far-field voice recognition, so you can control your TV with Alexa's help. It works well with Prime Video, at least for basic commands, but support for other apps is limited. You can also use it to control your other smart home gadgets, though.

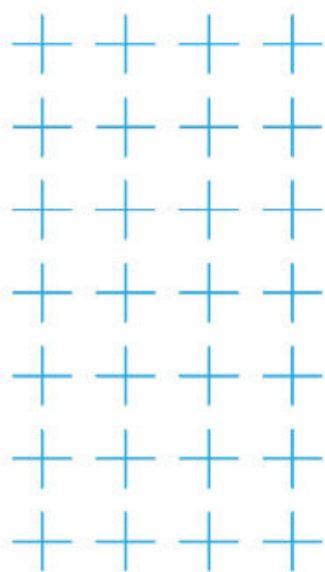
■ The good news is that 4K content looks sharp. The bad news is that the selection of 4K HDR stuff still feels quite sparse: most of it is Prime and Netflix original content, which isn't all great television. But this stick does a decent job of displaying lower-res picture feeds.

## Tech specs

**Connectivity** Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, HDMI, Ethernet, microUSB power

**Max resolution** 4K HDR

**Dimensions** 99x30x14mm, 54g



## Prime position

Unsurprisingly, Prime Video content is front and centre, but you also get access to Netflix, BBC iPlayer, ITV Hub, All4, My5 and Disney Life, along with Amazon Music, TuneIn and Spotify.



## Not Now, Cato!

If you want Now TV, you're out of luck. Also, as on Amazon's previous efforts, the YouTube app is infuriatingly lame. It forces you to watch videos through Amazon's Silk browser or Firefox – a clunky experience.

**STUFF SAYS** The fastest – and best – 4K streaming stick you can buy ★★★★★

**This has to be the Prime candidate for all Amazon subscribers**

Libby Plummer



Amazon has produced another excellent little streamer. Because it's so Prime-centric, you'd be bonkers to buy it if you're not a subscriber; but the selection of third-party apps is excellent if you ignore Now TV (as indeed Amazon has). For the expanded HDR support, it's worth stepping up from the previous 4K streamer – and, for obvious reasons, it's also worth upgrading from the non-4K Fire TV Stick.



# Recorder solo

It might look like a **sawn-off Christmas pudding**, but the **Izotope Spire** claims to be a **pro-quality recording studio in a box**

£349 / [stuff.tv/Spire](http://stuff.tv/Spire)

■ You're a genius, aren't you? Course you are. If only you had some way of getting down your brilliant, multi-layered ideas in hi-fi quality before you forget them. If only you had a mini mobile studio, complete with built-in condenser microphone, one-button recording and instant overdubbing...

■ There are already plenty of pocket audio interfaces and apps for mobile multitracking, but the Izotope Spire has a few secret weapons: that 'studio-grade' microphone, a clever soundcheck function for setting input levels, a pair of mic/instrument inputs for recording two tracks at once, and the ability to work with or without a smartphone.

■ Yep, the Spire will record as a standalone device. You could come up with a six-part barbershop masterpiece while absailing down El Capitan and have it all recorded by the time you reach the bottom and get eaten by a bear.

■ You'll want to hook it up with a tablet or phone for mixing and song management, though. Wi-Fi pairing and syncing are quick, and the app is simple enough for novices.

■ The audio quality from that mic (and the Grace Design preamps) is excellent. And once you're done, it's an easy job to export the tracks to your regular DAW as wav files for pro-standard mixing. Well, easy as long as you're an Apple fan: you can't export individual tracks via Android. That's almost as annoying as being eaten by a bear.

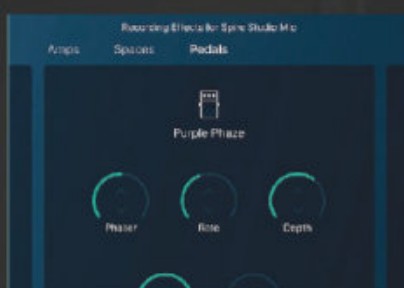
## Tech specs

**Connectivity** Mic/line/instrument in x2, headphones out x2, Wi-Fi  
**Battery life** 4hrs **Dimensions** 123x111x87.4mm, 625g



### Trail mix

The mixing interface has each track (up to eight) represented by a colour-coded blob. Drag a blob up or down for level, left or right for panning, and that's your mix. It's instantly responsive and totally intuitive.



### Side effects

Now, shall we add some reverb to that banjo? Oh... too late. Yes, there are some basic effects, but you can only apply these as you record, and can't remove or even adjust them afterwards. Best keep your powder dry, then.



**STUFF SAYS** Great sound, great design – you'll never forget a song idea again ★★★★★

**Sketch it down now, flesh it out into an actual record later**

*Richard Purvis*



The Izotope Spire is a brilliant idea well executed. There are two snags with the system – the on-board effects are of little use, and the Android app is bafflingly limited – but if you're an iPhone or iPad user looking for a portable sketchbook that can record multiple tracks, with audio quality good enough for turning those sketches into finished mixes in Logic or Pro Tools afterwards, it's a stumpy little gem.



# BETA YOURSELF SNAPSEED



Google's photo editor for Android and iOS is free. It's also brilliant, and if you're not already using it you should be. To convince you, **Craig Grannell** explores its best bits...

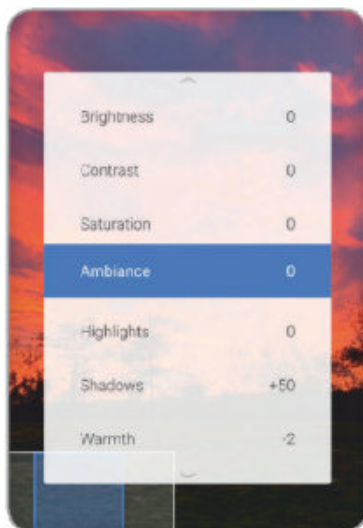
## THE BASICS

### ■ Twizzle your tabs

The Snapseed interface is split between three tabs: Looks, Tools and Export. You'll also see several buttons at the top of the screen. Open is used to open a new image. To the right, there's a square with an arrow over it, for accessing undo/redo/revert and your edit history. Next to that are the image details button and the menu for tutorials.

### ■ Try some tools

Snapseed's interface is context-sensitive, and changes with the selected tool. However, there are commonalities, such as being able to cancel or confirm edits. Tools with presets have them appear above the bottom toolbar. Those where you can fine-tune parameters have a



slider button. Tap it or just drag up/down on the image to choose a parameter, and then drag left/right to assign it a new value.

### ■ Start croppin'

With the crop tool, the grid helps you compose your snap using the rule of thirds. Tap the ratios button (rectangle) for presets if you don't want to go freeform. Elsewhere, the

rotate tool initially attempts to automatically straighten your photos. If you don't like the results, drag to adjust.

### ■ Get up close

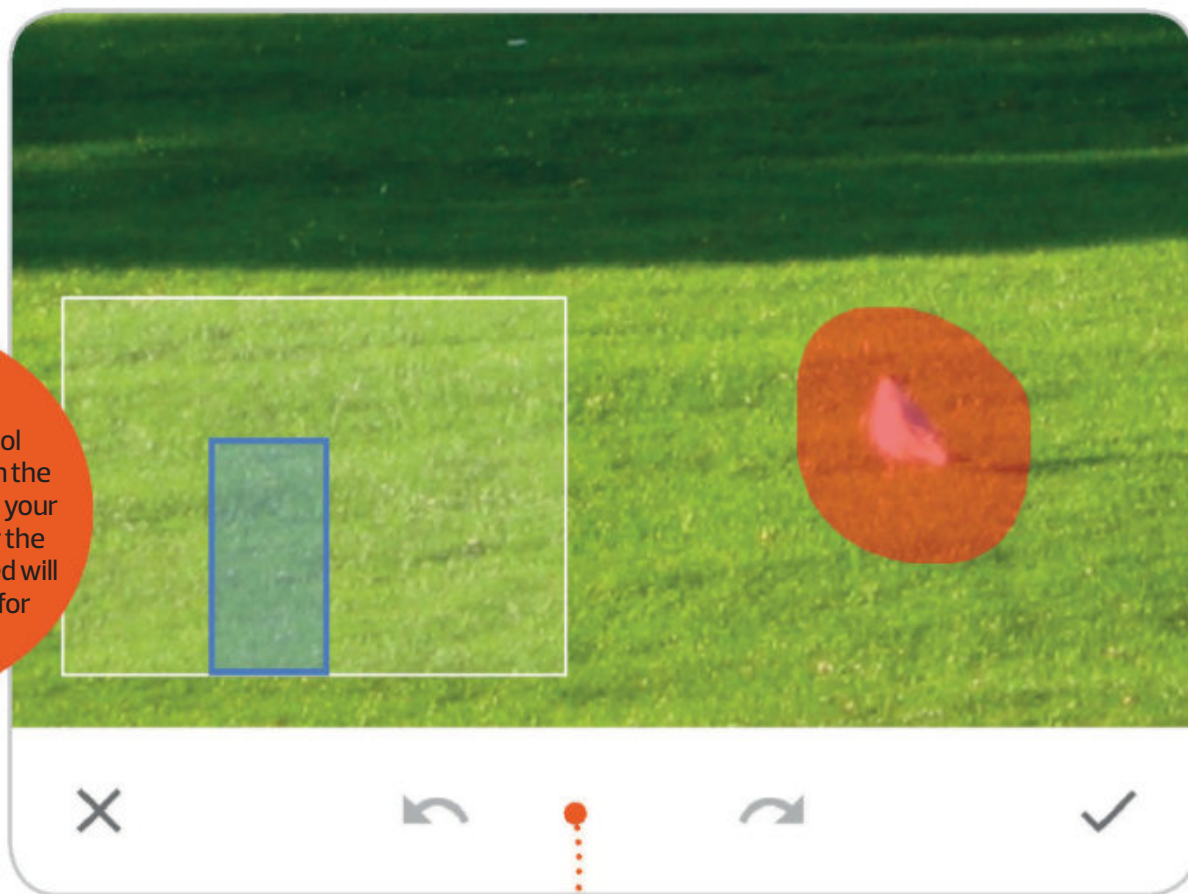
By default, Snapseed will display your entire image within the confines of your device's screen, even if it's massive. Pinch to zoom in. Snapseed's navigator will then show which bit of your image you're looking at by marking it in blue; you can drag this section around to more easily navigate your image.

### ■ Add text and frames

Snapseed is primarily an app for retouching and adding filters, so you don't get freeform drawing brushes. However, there are text and frames tools. You can use the text tool multiple times to add separate and individually styled pieces of text.

### Blem blam!

Use the Healing tool to banish clouds from the sky and pimples from your nose. Just draw over the blemish and Snapseed will remove it. Zoom in for best results.



Neutral



Soft Contrast



Hard Contrast



## PICTURE PERFECT

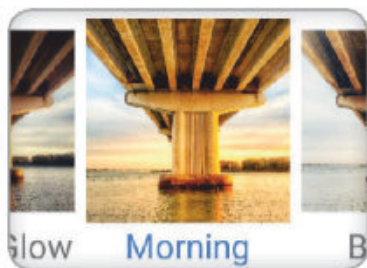
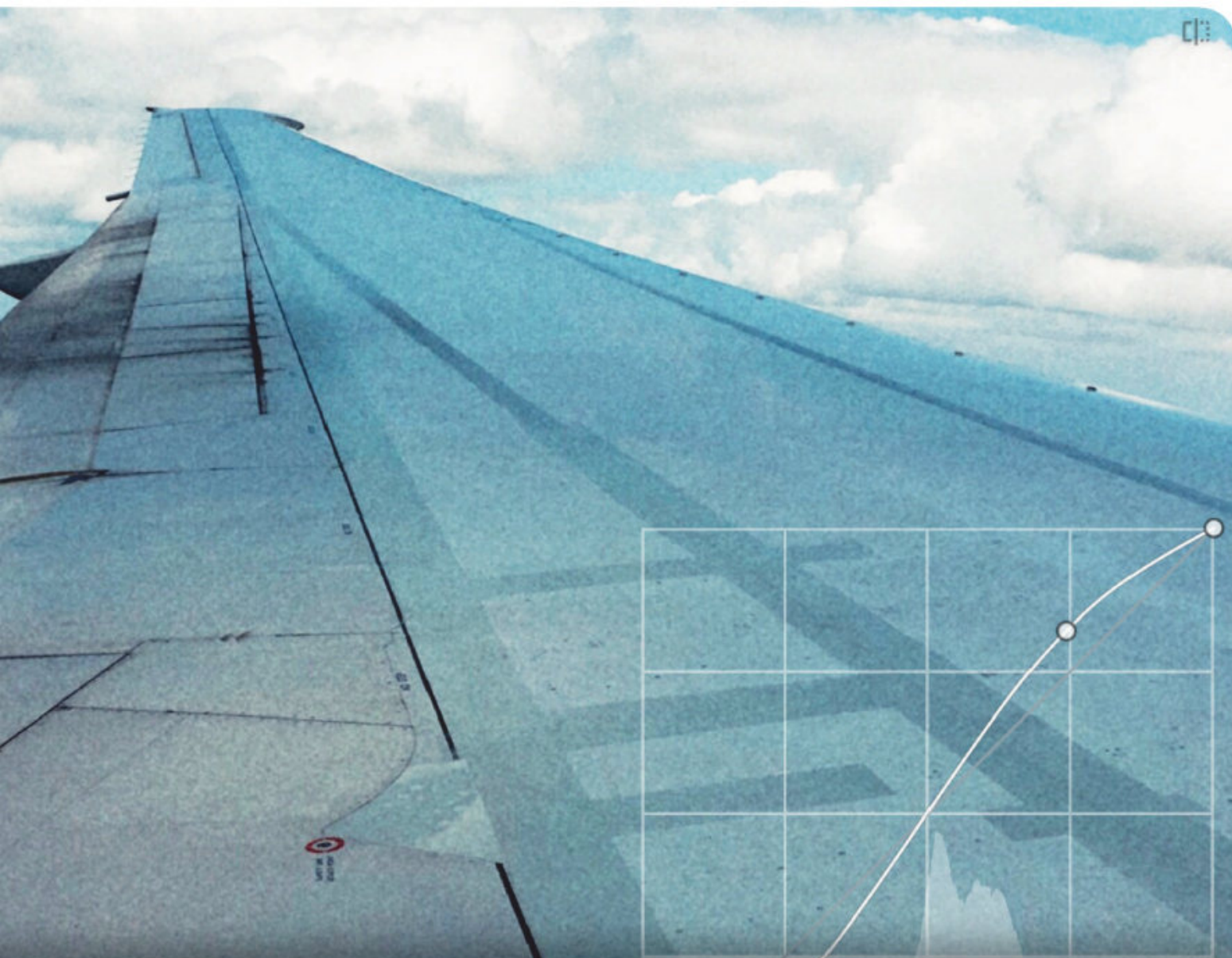
### ■ Tune your image

If you want a quick colour and lighting fix for an image, use Tune Image and tap the wand. For a more manual solution, tap the sliders button to see the seven parameters you can individually adjust; fiddle until your pic is how you want it.

### ■ Adjust curves

The curves tool used to be the preserve of Photoshop, but Snapseed has one – and a bunch of presets behind the card button. Select one and edit it by tapping the curve to add an edit point and then dragging it. Use the button next to 'x' to limit changes.





## YOU'VE GOT THE LOOK

### ■ Check out Looks

Looks are Snapseed at its most accessible. Tap one to change your photo's appearance. Easy! Now select 'View edits' from the undo/edits menu. You'll see the tools/edits used to construct the Look. Tap one for a flyout menu; here you can trash, mask or adjust the edit.

### ■ Save a Look

If you edit a Look and like what you've ended up with, head to the Looks tab, scroll to the end of the list and tap '+'. Name your Look and it's now stored in Snapseed, ready to apply to other images.



## ALL IN THE EDIT

### ■ Tweak without fear

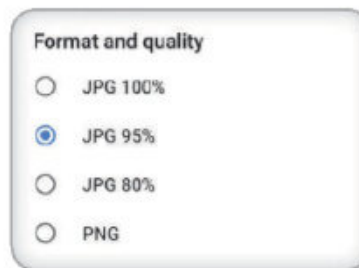
Edits you make in Snapseed are non-destructive. This means they aren't burned into the image when you confirm them, and can be removed or adjusted at any time. The only time they're effectively fixed for good is during export.

### ■ Add a mask

Tap the mask (pencil) button from an edit menu. That 'layer' will be masked out. Draw across it and areas marked in red will become visible again. To erase part of your mask, tap the down arrow to set the tool value to zero and paint over red bits.

### ■ Disable layers

On tapping an edit, you temporarily disable everything above it. Tap 'Original' and the topmost edit to switch between your original image and what you've done to it.



## GET IT OUT

### ■ Set export options

Access Snapseed's settings in the three-dots menu. Under 'Image sizing', you can optionally define a maximum length for images. Format and quality is by default set to jpg and 95%. Tap for other options: 100% will mean no quality loss, but of course larger files.

### ■ Export your images

Tap 'Export' (or the share button in iOS on landscape) to send your saved image elsewhere. Only on Android can you export to specific folders; but on iOS you can save an image with changes that you can later undo.



## OR TRY ONE OF THESE



### AFFINITY PHOTO

People got all excited about Adobe launching a 'real' Photoshop for iOS when the new iPad Pro made its debut, but Affinity Photo has been keeping iPad owners happy since 2017. For high-end editing larks on the go, it can't be beaten.

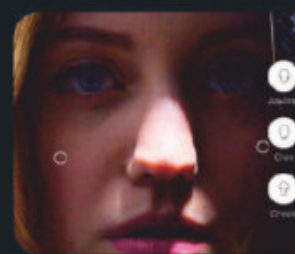
**£19.99 / iPad**  
[affinity.serif.com](http://affinity.serif.com)



### PIXELMATOR

If you want a step up from Snapseed on your phone, Pixelmator's the best bet — assuming that phone is Apple-flavoured. It's packed full of Photoshop-like features and includes a comprehensive layer system.

**£4.99 / iOS**  
[pixelmator.com/ios](http://pixelmator.com/ios)



### ADOBE PHOTOSHOP FIX

If you want to squirt Adobe goodness into a mere phone, full-fat Photoshop doesn't exist, but apps that carve off bits of its functionality do. Fix is especially good for improving selfies.

**£free / Android, iOS**  
[adobe.com/uk](http://adobe.com/uk)



**WIN! A £3500 PHILIPS 4K OLED TV**

**Stuff**

OUR TV OF  
THE YEAR

GADGETS / GAMES / GEAR



**iPAD PRO**

Apple's suited  
and rebooted  
supertab

Fitbit  
wrists its  
case



Fave  
flagship  
phone

**WITNESS  
THE FITNESS**

Connected kit  
for workout 2.0



Fuji  
filming  
in 4K

Best  
budget  
blower

**THE  
GADGET  
AWARDS**

**WINNING TECH YOU'LL WANT IN YOUR LIFE**

Series 4:  
the one to  
Watch



Coding  
becomes  
cool

**PLUS!**

OnePlus 6T McLaren  
PlayStation Classic  
Apple MacBook Air  
Super Smash Bros

Just £1.66  
per issue!

**JANUARY SALE**

**TRY 3 ISSUES  
FOR JUST £5**

**YOUR SUBSCRIPTION WILL THEN CONTINUE  
AT £19.99 EVERY 6 MONTHS, SAVING 38%\***



## SPECIAL SUBSCRIPTION OFFER



Receive your first 3 issues for just £5

Continue to save 38%\* off the cover price

Have each issue delivered directly to your door

Never miss an issue of the world's greatest gadget mag

## SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

**ONLINE** [shop.kelsey.co.uk/STU006](http://shop.kelsey.co.uk/STU006)

**CALL US** 01959 543747

Please quote STU006

Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-6pm (calls charged at your standard network rate)

Offer ends 31 January



## DIGITAL

Pay just £13.99 for a  
6-month digital subscription:  
[pocketmags.com/stuff](http://pocketmags.com/stuff)

 **pocketmags.com**  
Discover Read Enjoy

**Terms and conditions:** Offer available for UK Direct Debit customers only. You will pay £5 for your first 3 issues then continue to pay £19.99 every 6 months. For overseas rates please visit [shop.kelsey.co.uk/stuff](http://shop.kelsey.co.uk/stuff). Offer closes 31 January 2019. \*Full UK subscription rate for 13 issues is £64.87, USA & EU £78, RoW £85. Here at Kelsey Publishing we take your privacy seriously and will only use your personal information to administer your account and to provide the products and services you have requested from us. We will only contact you about our special offers via the preferences you have indicated, and you can update these at any time by emailing us at [subs@kelsey.co.uk](mailto:subs@kelsey.co.uk) or by calling us on 01959 543747.



# GET THE BEST GADGET DEALS WITH STUFF

TESTED MARSHALL STANMORE II VOICE

TESTED MARSHALL STANMORE II VOICE

## Alexa's bold as love

Legendary guitar amp maker Marshall has mixed iconic style with modern gubbins to create a rocking wireless speaker, complete with badly behaved Alexa

E350 / stuff.tv / Stanmore2Voice

You're spoiled for choice if you've got E350 or so to spend on a smart speaker – all shapes, sizes, colours and performance levels are available to you.

So then what if your new smart speaker has to speak to your inner guitar hero? What if you want it to invoke images of Pete Townshend writing off another night's profits as he trashes his equipment? Of Lemmy standing impossibly in front of a wall of roaring amps? Of Jimi playing his guitar on the stage and taking it to his pockets for a lighter?

Well, what you want is the new Marshall Stanmore II Voice. It's got the wireless convenience you crave, and an Alexa interface that makes it as intelligent as the smartest speakers around. Plus it looks so much like a little Marshall guitar amp you'll be tempted to rush to the edge of your imaginary stage and throw the Devil's horns hand-shapes at your imaginary audience. Just don't go crowd surfing. The coffee table's not up to it.

1 Are you Alexaperiented?

The Stanmore II Voice looks exactly like you'd expect a Marshall speaker to look: big, wrapped in textured vinyl, with rotary controls on the top panel and ear-and-pepper acoustic cloth across the front. Plus, of course, that iconic logo.

2 Voodoo dial

Everything is put together smoothly and sturdily. As well as nicely weighted volume, bass and treble dials, which have red LED indicators, the control plate also includes a 3.5mm aux input, a source selector button plus play/pause and mic mute.

3 Red house

On the back are a pair of RCA analogue inputs and a bass reflex port. Wireless connectivity extends as far as Bluetooth, Wi-Fi and Spotify Connect. Future options include the ability to form an Alexa-controlled multi-room system.

4 Boxing of the midnight amp  
The Stanmore II Voice features a couple of 19mm tweeters flanking a 13cm mid/bass driver. The tweeters each get 15W of Class D amplification, while the woofer is fuelled by 50W. That's enough to drive this Marshall to quite antisocial volume levels.

5 Gypsy highs  
There's plenty of finesse to accompany all this grunt. Its soundstage is open and clear, and the low-end response is not the blunt instrument those rocking looks might suggest. It's textured, doted with detail and well controlled.

### Techspecs

Output 50W for woofer, 2x 15W for tweeters  
Controls Volume, bass, treble, play/pause, microphone mute / unmute, source switch  
Connectivity Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, 3.5mm, RCA, mains power  
Dimensions 350 x 195 x 185mm, 4.75kg

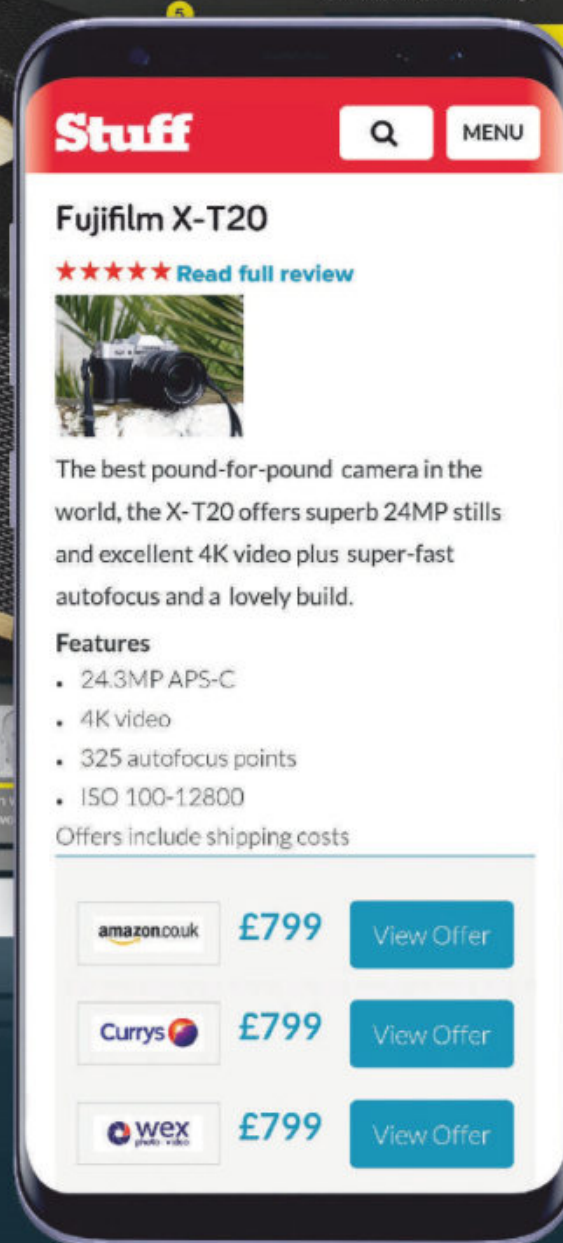
GOOD MEH EVIL

### In the mag

We pick out the best price for every featured product

### Online

Choose from our roster of great-value retailers



Ever wondered what's up with the links in Stuff? We've got a team of retail pros who scour the web to find you the best gadget deals – visit any [stuff.tv](https://stuff.tv) link in this issue and you'll be taken to the best deal for that product. If you make a purchase, we may get a small commission. It's that simple, and has no impact on how much you pay.



# FIT AND YOU'LL KNOW IT

RUNNING, SWIMMING, CYCLING, ROWING, CHEESE ROLLING... NO MATTER HOW YOU GET YOUR FITNESS KICKS, WE'VE PICKED THE BEST KIT, APPS AND EXPERT ADVICE TO HELP YOU GO THE EXTRA MILE



Stay indoors p72



Get outdoors p74



Go swimming p76



Feel great p78

KEEP  
ON  
MOVING

**Dave Wright,**  
creator of  
the Myzone  
fitness  
wearable  
and advisor  
to Ukactive,  
on staying fit  
past January

1

#### Goal machine

The key to exercise sustainability is setting realistic expectations. You need to set longer-term targets and try to connect socially with like-minded people. Fitness tech with online communities can be really effective here.

2

#### Track star

There are loads of fitness trackers out there, but before buying, identify the problem you are trying to solve and what exactly you want to track. If it's purely about recording steps, smartphone apps do that for nothing.

3

#### Cheer leader

If you get lonely working from home, exercise can be a powerful depression fighter. It promotes neural growth, reduced inflammation and activity patterns promoting calm and wellbeing. It also releases nice endorphins.



# STAY INDOORS

DON'T LET WINTER WIN: THIS KIT LETS YOU SHAPE UP AT HOME

## Safely in the pack

It's heavy, so make sure you lift with your knees, but it folds down to reasonable size for storage when it's nice outside.

## Fans in the road

Riding indoors is very sweaty. The Kickr Headwind fan (£199) cools and simulates the windspeed you'd be feeling riding outdoors.



VERSUS

NOW ADD THIS

## Wahoo Kickr 2018 from £999 / [uk.wahoofitness.com](http://uk.wahoofitness.com)

**Winter's here and it's far too cold and wet to go out on the bike. Time to start racking up the virtual miles so you're not at the back of the pack when spring comes.**

Right out of the box, you'll notice the Wahoo Kickr is considerably heavier than your fancy carbon bike, but that just makes it stable and confidence-inspiring while you're trying to push 400 Watts for that bit of interval training.

It can be used with all types of bikes too, with

height adjustments for those with wheels from 24 to 29in and hub options for traditional QR skewers or more modern Thru Axles. As your bike is mounted directly to the trainer, it's almost silent while you're pedalling – great if you're watching TV or listening to podcasts while working out.

Setting up is as easy as riding a bike: download the Wahoo fitness app and it connects to the Kickr via Bluetooth; a quick calibration and you're ready to ride. The

app also acts as a workout hub, showing your speed, distance, time and cadence, shouting out information for the last km. It also supports heart-rate monitoring, as long as you've sprung for extra sensors.

Training inside on your own can be sorta dull, but pairing with Zwift (or similar software) it really starts to shine, varying the resistance to simulate going up or down hills – and racing randoms around Watopia is huge amounts of fun.

## Wahoo Kickr Climb

Add the Climb to your setup and it'll match the angle of the bike you're actually riding indoors to the virtual gradient you're grinding up or whizzing down in Zwift. **£499 / [uk.wahoofitness.com](http://uk.wahoofitness.com)**



**Stuff says** As good as riding your proper bike outside ★★★★★





# GET APPTIVE



## Tacx Neo 2 Smart

from £1199 / [tacx.com](https://tacx.com)

**If the Wahoo Kickr sounds too noisy for you (though it's not particularly), then you might want to consider the Neo 2, which is absolutely silent.**

First things first: it doesn't come with a cassette for the rear wheel, so you'll have to buy one separately or take the one you've already got off your wheel and switch it over. If you happen to be running Campagnolo, you'll also need an extra adapter: £45. Ouch.

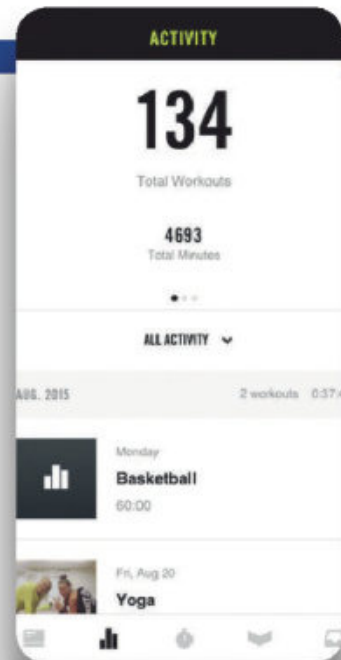
In use, the Neo 2 is similar to the Kickr, with the same sensors and compatibility with the same training apps. But the big difference is its ability to simulate road response, which can make it feel like you're riding on the cobbles of Roubaix.

You can also use it while it's not plugged in – handy if you're planning on taking it racing for the warm-up or warm-down.

### Stuff says

A worthy addition to your pain cave

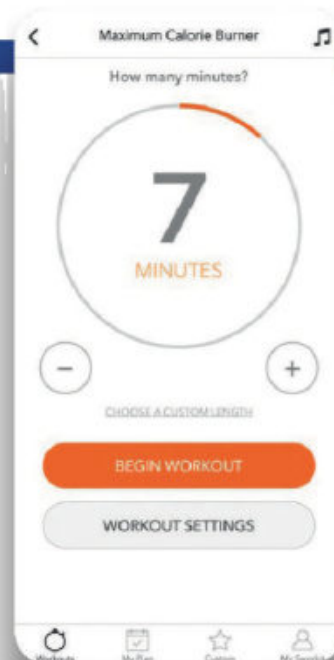
★★★★★



## Nike+ Training Club

Nike's personal training app offers more than 185 free workouts covering strength, endurance, mobility and yoga, and it's had a helping hand from top sportspeople such as Serena Williams. We really like the swift 15-minute sessions for a quick 'club pump' before you hit the local in your best disco pants.

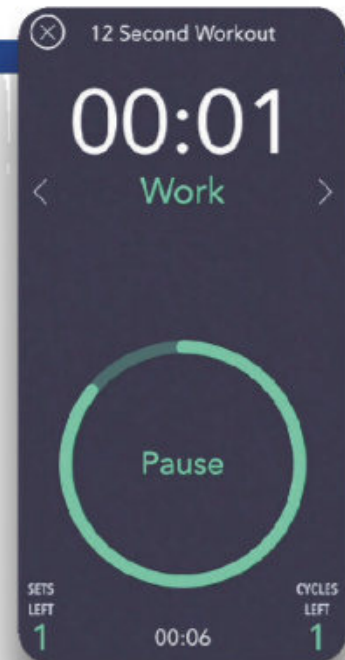
**£free / Android, iOS**



## SworKit

SworKit also knows training is a drain on time as well as energy, so its video tutorials meet specific home workout needs to match your hectic schedule. Tell it what you want and how long you've got, from five minutes to an hour, and up pops a suggestion. Upgrade to the monthly plan for greater personalisation.

**from £free / Android, iOS**



## Intervals Pro

Hey Siri, HIIT me baby one more time. This colourful, customisable interval timer for iPhone or Apple Watch includes voice-assistant support for hands-free workouts so you can switch from lunges to situps with seamless efficiency. There's also Apple Music integration for Britney's biggest bangers.

**£free, Android / £4.99, iOS**

## FIT KIT



## Mirror

"Mirror, mirror on the wall, who's the sweatiest of them all?" You, of course, confirmed by the gym instructor and classmates in this workout portal.

**\$1495 + \$39/month / [mirror.co](https://mirror.co)**



## Waterrower

Handcrafted in sustainably sourced solid wood and fitted with a monitor for heart rate, calorie burn, distance and stroke data. Use with the Smartrow app.

**from £799 / [waterrower.co.uk](https://waterrower.co.uk)**



## Sixpad Abs Fit 2

Cristiano Ronaldo uses these nifty electric muscle stimulation pads to get ripped. Time to shoot 20Hz frequency pulses through your torso.

**£230 / [sixpad.uk](https://sixpad.uk)**



## Peloton Bike

Peloton's spinning bike links you to live and on-demand classes, streamed to a 21.5in HD screen. A camera ensures everyone can witness the fitness.

**£1990 / [onepeloton.co.uk](https://onepeloton.co.uk)**





# GET APPTIVE

## TIPS FROM WICKS

*The Body Coach, Joe Wicks, shares three pieces of fitness wisdom to help us all get lean*

### 1 Prep like a boss

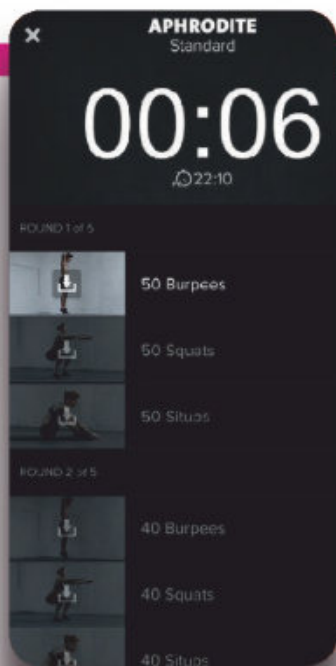
Preparation is essential when it comes to eating well, and good organisation in the kitchen is key for fuelling your body. Prepping your meals in advance will help you avoid unhealthy foods on the go and help you take control of your nutrition.

### 2 HIIT the floor

If you're short on time, smash a HIIT (high-intensity interval training) workout. This is not only incredible for burning fat, but also sends your energy levels through the roof and makes you feel awesome. You only need 20 minutes and you can do it anywhere.

### 3 Take to the water

Drinking plenty of water really is one of the easiest steps a healthier body. A lot of people underestimate it. Aim to drink 2-4 litres per day... but the amount depends on a number of things, such as your body type and your activity levels.



## Freeletics Coach

Free yourself from the tyranny of the gym: every one of the 900-plus HIIT-focused bodyweight workouts on this app is designed to be done equipment-free, anywhere you can find 4m<sup>2</sup> of space: parks, gardens, rooftops, bus stops. OK, maybe not bus stops, but you get the gist.

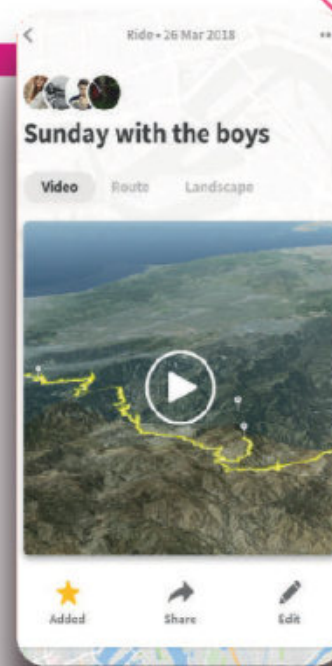
£75/yr / Android, iOS



## Run an Empire

If power and competition are what motivates you then this app transforms otherwise boring pavement-plodding into one big AR strategy battle. You conquer virtual lands, steal territory from other runners and ultimately build an empire. Getting fit is just a bonus.

£free (IAPs) / Android, iOS



## Relive

Science has proved that sharing workout wins on social media makes us more likely to come back for more. Relive turns your GPS-tracked runs, rides and outdoor adventures into short 3D flyby videos. Ideal for milking some like-induced dopamine hits on Insta.

£free / Android, iOS

## FIT KIT



### Polar Vantage V

This injury-beating multi-sport watch is as serious about recovery as it is about performance. Advanced training load-tracking reveals the strain a workout puts on your body.

£439 / polar.com



### Jaybird Tarah Pro

With 14hr battery life and high-quality, customisable sound, these endurance Bluetooth 'buds are perfect for those who love to go long.

£140 / jaybirdsport.com



### TRX Tactical Gym

Invented by a Navy Seal, TRX weaponises your bodyweight in the battle to get ripped. Push, pull, squat and lunge your way to fitness.

£200 / trxtraining.co.uk



### Garmin Edge 1030

The smartest fitness tool on two wheels, Garmin's range-topping bike computer records every cycling metric you care to name for up to 20 hours.

£500 / garmin.com



# GET OUTDOORS

BE RUNNING UP THAT  
ROAD, BE RUNNING  
UP THAT HILL, WITH  
NO PROBLEMS



## Pace maker

The footpod accelerometer works with your phone's GPS to improve the tracking accuracy of your real-time distance and pace.

## Hot chip

Inside the right shoe there's a tiny chip with an accelerometer and Bluetooth sensor to track and sync every step with MapMyRun.

NOW  
ADD  
THIS

## UA Hovr Infinite £120 / [underarmour.co.uk](http://underarmour.co.uk)

**Despite attempts from Nike and Adidas, no one has yet convinced runners they really need chips in their trainers.** After all, with GPS apps, watches, footpods and heart-reading headphones, there's no shortage of tracking options.

But if you want to monitor important running form metrics beyond pace and distance, there's arguably no better place to stick sensors than in your shoes.

Under Armour's latest connected running footwear

range does just that. The Hovr line-up features five styles that cater for everything from speedy track sessions to long, steady road runs. Easily the brand's best running shoes to date, they look and feel normal, only they're much smarter than your average kicks.

Embedded sensors sync seamlessly with the MapMyRun app and deliver real-time readouts for pace, distance, duration and speed, along with cadence and

stride length. Post-run you can see if you've hit your targets while basic coaching tips offer advice on improving your technique.

You can run phone-free and sync data later, although you won't get the mid-run updates and sadly there's no way to share data with your running watch. The sensor's battery is built to outlast your shoes so you'll never have to charge it. The fact that these cost the same as normal running shoes means they're well worth lacing up.

**Stuff says** Adds brilliantly simple insights to your runs ★★★★★☆

## Wahoo Tickr X

The most advanced heart-rate chest strap you can buy tracks your BPM in real time, along with running form stats such as bounce and cadence. It plays nice with over 50 apps.

**£65 /**  
**[uk.wahoofitness.com](http://uk.wahoofitness.com)**





# GO SWIMMING

COME ON IN, THE WATER'S LOVELIER WITH OUR PICK OF POOL-FRIENDLY WORKOUT TECH

## Pooling resources

The Marlin's motion sensors track distance, lap time, lap count, total strokes, stroke rate and rest time for up to 10 hours.



## Water good idea

Load the Marlin with step-based stroke rates, rest time, on-time and target stroke rates for a guided workout.

NOW  
ADD  
THESE

## Platysens Marlin £140 / [platysens.co.uk](http://platysens.co.uk)

**The Platysens Marlin is a swim tracker like no other, particularly when it comes to open water.** It uses motion sensors and GPS to accurately track longer swims outdoors, delivers real-time audio feedback and directions via bone conduction technology, and can communicate to you even when you're underwater.

Weighing just 27g, the two devices attach to the back of your swim cap and goggle straps (just

in front of your right or left ear) without being too cumbersome. By sitting on your head, instead of around your wrist like most other watery activity trackers, the GPS module faces the sky during swimming. This ensures much better accuracy over algorithms from smartwatches, which attempt to pin your location via data from your wrist between strokes.

The Marlin gives you instant feedback via bone conduction on strokes, pace,

distance and time, so you can adjust your technique mid-swim rather than reviewing your performance post-session and trying to apply (and remember) what you learn next time.

You can also use the partner app to create swim routes before you dip your toe in the big blue and then get audio alerts to keep you on course, leaving you free to focus on technique rather than worrying if you're front-crawling your way into a shipping lane.

## Speedo Biofuse Fitness Fins

Slip on some of these pure silicone fins, with their combination of stiff blades and flexible foot pockets, to increase resistance and make your legs work harder in the water.

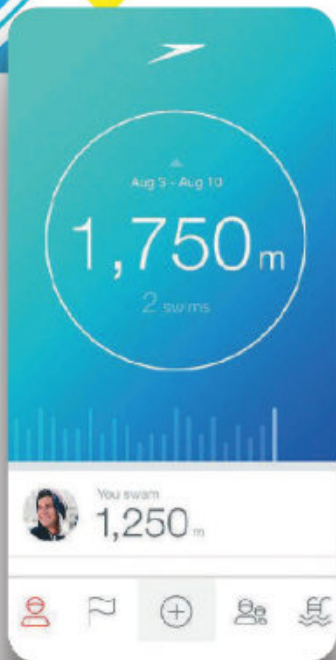
**£26 / [speedo.com](http://speedo.com)**



**Stuff says** Swim trackers don't come smarter than this ★★★★★



# GET APPTIVE



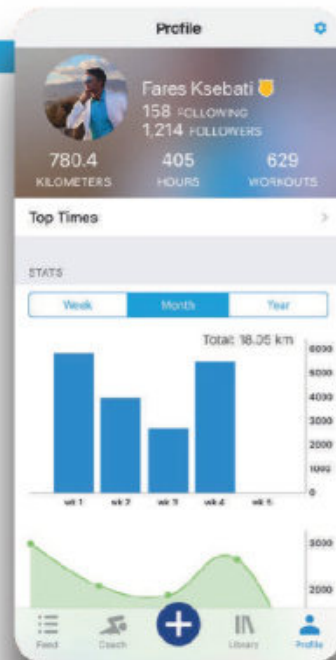
## Speedo On

From the kings of all-revealing trunks, this app sucks up swim data – pace, speed, distance, stroke count and SWOLF – from Garmin, Apple and Samsung watches to create a training history of your in-pool performance. You can even see where you rank on a local leaderboard. [Efree](#) / [Android, iOS](#)



## Wild Swimming

Bring a bit of wild inspiration to your fitness with this dreamy app serving up details on 400 amazing outdoor dips across the UK. It comes complete with Ordnance Survey maps of every location, detailed directions of how to get there and stunning snaps so you can see exactly what awaits. [£3.99](#) / [Android, iOS](#)



## MySwimPro

A virtual swim coach on your smartphone, MySwimPro provides personalised training plans for a huge range of pool and open-water goals, all tailored to your speed and skill level. Training videos walk you through workouts and drills to help you improve technique and swim faster. [from Efree](#) / [Android, iOS](#)

## WET 'N' WILD WISDOM

**Luke Tyburski**, author of the book *Chasing Extreme*, shares tips for your first swim challenge

### 1 Learn your lesson

A little advice can go along way to improve technique. Alongside being a more efficient swimmer, you'll enjoy your time in the water more after being taught a few pro tips; you may even become faster without extra effort.

### 2 Join a squad

The swimming community is very sociable and inclusive. Being part of a community makes things more fun and is a chance to meet others on a similar path. You'll train in a lane with swimmers of similar speed and ability, so you all can progress together.

### 3 Track your progress

Keeping track of some simple statistics from your swim training is a simple way to observe your swimming fitness improving. Start by comparing pace from previous swim sets, or how long it takes you to swim a certain distance.

## FIT KIT



### Finis Duo

This waterproof mp3 player uses bone conduction technology to pipe motivational power songs with decent underwater clarity. There's 4GB storage for 1000 songs. [£140](#) / [finisswim.com](#)



### Garmin Fenix 5 Plus

This Garmin's swim skills include stroke count and type, and a SWOLF swimming efficiency score. Add heart-rate data via ANT+ HRM-Tri or HRM chest straps. [£600](#) / [garmin.com](#)



### Sony WF-SP900

These fully wireless headphones are hiding a built-in player that stores 1000 songs. They offer six hours of playback and have a charging case. [£250](#) / [sony.co.uk](#)



### TritonWear

This head-worn swim tracker provides an impressive range of features, including distance, stroke type and count, lap splits, distance per stroke, push-off strength and breaths per length. [£299](#) / [tritonwear.com](#)





# GET APPY

## TOP TIPS TO FEEL TIP-TOP

**Paul Winsper,**  
VP of athlete performance at Under Armour, explains how to sleep better

### 1 Sack the snacks

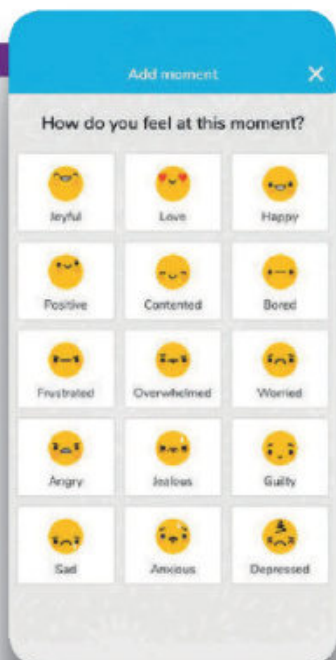
Sleep is governed by hormones, and what you eat can affect how these work. Make sure you're eating the right things in the evening and avoid eating foods that are likely to create a huge sugar rush, or take hours to digest.

### 2 Build a routine

Children's bedtime routines – bathtime, milk and stories, etc – create brain associations that signal to the body: 'OK we're going to calm down' in preparation for sleep. This works for adults too. Find a [booze-free] grown-up ritual for dropping off.

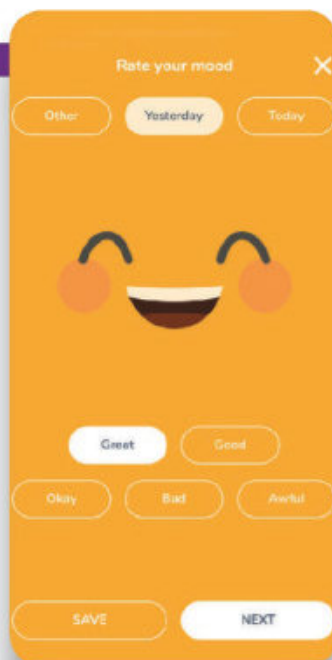
### 3 Spray that again

We now understand the positive effect magnesium can have on enhancing restful sleep. Invest in a magnesium spray or magnesium lotion, and apply it to the skin every evening before bed for a rapid improvement in your sleep quality.



## My Possible Self

A portable self-help toolkit based on established, clinically proven forms of therapy, My Possible Self's modules include managing stress and overload, solving problems, building happiness and wellbeing, and tackling unhelpful thinking. You can also keep track of moods.  
**£5.99/month / Android, iOS**



## Headspace

The best guided meditation app you can download, Headspace is a great way for beginners to try a spot of mindfulness. There's a free 10-day basic intro for beginners with bite-sized sessions and simple exercises, plus meditations for everything from stress to sleep.  
**£71.88/yr / Android, iOS**



## MyLevels.ai

Piggybacking the data collected by cutting-edge real-time blood glucose monitors, MyLevels gives diabetics and non-diabetics a window into the effects of what they scoff on blood sugar levels. See in real time if certain foods spike your levels more than others.  
**from £99 / Android, iOS**

## FIT KIT



### Modius Health

This neuroscience headset is designed to reduce body fat while you sit on the sofa. Handy! Electrical pulses override the body's set point to quell food cravings.  
**£369 / modiushealth.com**



### Apple Watch Series 4

Apple's timepiece is now as serious about health as it is about fitness. Its sensors take ECG readings and spot irregular heart rhythms and abnormal BPM rates.  
**£399 / apple.com**



### Pivot Yoga

Struggling with your downward dog? This smart fitness gear has small embedded motion sensors that wirelessly control an on-screen avatar so you can see if you're hitting the right form.  
**\$99 / pivot.yoga**



### Oura Ring

This smart ring's wellness skills include tracking basics such as steps, calories and move reminders. Body temperature sensors and infrared LEDs measure sleep and recovery signs.  
**€314 / ouraring.com**



# FEEL GREAT

BECAUSE MENTAL  
HEALTH IS JUST  
AS IMPORTANT  
AS FITNESS



## Feeling good

The Muse smartphone app sets meditation challenges, such as completing four sessions in a week.

## Thought contagion

Seven finely calibrated sensors measure your brain activity and fire readings via Bluetooth to the app.

NOW  
ADD  
THIS

## Muse 2 £239 / [choosemuse.com](https://choosemuse.com)

**Meditation can help you sleep better, stress less and focus more; but unless you've relocated to a Tibetan yoga retreat, dropping into a zen state these days can be tough.**

The second-generation Muse 2 headset is here to help you find your inner calm. A research-grade EEG device, it passively senses brain activity and translates it into soothing sounds such as rain and birdsong – rather than a panic of flash flooding and an escaped parrot – to

ease you into a state of mindfulness.

For v2, Muse has added to its array of sensors to give you different routes into a calmer state. Motion sensors now track body movement and breathing rate, while an optical sensor measures heart rate. These enable meditations with real-time audio feedback via Bluetooth headphones to tell you if your posture, breathing and heart rate are on point. And despite those additions, the headset is

lighter, more compact and more comfortable than the original Muse.

The partner app is excellent at holding your hand through all the early stages of meditation, and brings some cold hard data to tell you how you're progressing. There are also reminders to meditate, a built-in journal tool so you can note down good and bad things that have affected your mood, and goal-setting to give you something to aim at.

**Stuff says** The ultimate tool for restoring calm ★★★★★

## Under Armour Recovery Sleepwear

This super-cosy sleepwear features a soft bioceramic print that reflects far infrared energy back into the muscles.

from £42 / [underarmour.co.uk](https://underarmour.co.uk)





# Tekken us right back

Climb aboard Sony's time machine and let it pull you into an alternative version of 1995, where everything's smaller and CDs never existed

£90 / stuff.tv/PSClassic

It might have beaten Nintendo to the CD-ROM era of gaming in the '90s, but Sony is playing catchup in the current retro console wars. The PlayStation Classic follows in the footsteps of Nintendo's Classic Mini NES and SNES, recreating the original PS in a bite-sized new version stocked with built-in classics from the era. *Final Fantasy VII*? *Metal Gear Solid*? *Tekken 3*? All present and accounted for.

As with the NES and SNES updates, the PlayStation Classic is a miniaturised edition of the classic 1995 console. It retains all of the original details, right down to the (now non-opening) expansion port on the back – but everything is 45% smaller.

It's all enough to drown you in loving nostalgia; and much of the PlayStation Classic experience is artfully crafted. But the holes start to appear once you dig into the 20-game line-up and find a number of major omissions... and then realise that many early 3D games just don't hold up all that well today.

## 1 Ghost in the shell

The Classic doesn't run CDs – the top doesn't pop up – but at least the power button works as it used to. Tap reset to head back to the game selection menu, and use the 'open' button to 'switch discs' in games that originally shipped on multiple CD-ROMs.

## 2 The lost world

The controllers remain full-size. There's no vibration, but they feel just as sturdy and responsive as ever, although the cables are rather short at just 1.5m. At least they connect via standard USB, so finding extension cables is easy enough.

GOOD  
MEH  
EVIL

Revives  
some  
legendary  
games

Sturdy and  
responsive  
controllers

Very short  
controller  
cables

Some  
baffling  
picks in the  
line-up...

...and some  
equally  
baffling  
omissions

Still, it's an  
adorable  
console







## Tech specs

**Accessories included** 2x PS controllers, HDMI cable, microUSB cable

**Connectivity** 2x controller ports, HDMI output, USB power in

**Dimensions** 149x105x33 mm, 170g

## Get your game face on

OK, so the Classic misses out on a few gems, but this quartet should keep you busy for a good while:



### Final Fantasy VII

This transformed the niche role-playing genre into a dazzling cinematic experience, packing in jaw-dropping CG and a compelling campaign. And more than 20 years later, it's still considered an all-time great.



### Tekken 3

Arguably the pinnacle of Namco's fighting franchise, *Tekken 3* features a large, diverse cast of combatants and is incredibly good fun. Later games are certainly slicker, but this instalment is still mightily addictive.



### Super Puzzle Fighter II Turbo

Connect large chains of coloured gems. When you clear them, it sends a large pile of junk onto your opponent's screen as your fighter launches an attack. Tense, brainy, and massive fun.



### Metal Gear Solid

One of the most innovative and influential games of the 32-bit era, *Metal Gear Solid* established the modern stealth-action playbook as you guided Solid Snake through a nuclear weapons facility.

### 4 Resident evil

How about the games? There are some serious heavy hitters from the 32-bit era (see right), but also some real head-scratchers. *Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six* is the most baffling of the bunch – it was a crummy port when it shipped almost two decades back.

### 3 Magical drop

What you don't get is a mains adaptor. Granted, just about any power brick you have handy from a smartphone or tablet should work, and the console comes with microUSB and HDMI cables. But still, that's an odd little cost-cutting measure.

### 5 Odd world

Perhaps it's down to licensing issues, but the Classic feels incomplete without gems like *Wipeout 2097*, *PaRappa the Rapper* and *Gran Turismo*. And what about *Crash Bandicoot*, *Tomb Raider* and *Tony Hawk's Pro Skater*?



Sony's PlayStation Classic nails all of the aesthetic details while reviving some of the most legendary games of all time. But some of the most popular titles are missing, and a few that have been included really shouldn't have been. It's not nearly as impressive of a collection as last year's brilliant Nintendo Classic Mini SNES. @ahaywa

## STUFF SAYS ★★★★★

The game selection is hit and miss, but Sony has still got a lot right with this latest hit of retro gaming revival



# INSTANT UPGRADES GOOGLE HOME MAX



**FIRST ADD  
THESE...**



## ONE NEST THERMOSTAT E

Google's Home Max smart speaker might be all about getting the place rocking, but it's no good having your guests overheating through vigorous shape-cutting and aggressive radiators. Use the built-in Google Assistant to turn the central heating down on a paired Nest smart thermostat using just the power of your vocal cords. £199 / [nest.com](http://nest.com)

## TWO SAMSUNG SMARTTHINGS HUB

Synchronising the Home Max with Samsung's centralised hub transforms your connected smart home into a voice-controlled abode of the future. Turn on lights with a simple command, create an ambience with a connected dimmer, unlock doors and activate a security camera when leaving the house. £75 / [amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk)

## THREE SONY BRAVIA ZF9 SERIES 4K HDR TV

Not only does this slender television produce vivid, clear and stupendously realistic pictures, but the operating system also handily includes Google's Chromecast. So you can watch your favourite Netflix boxset via the Home Max or call up that YouTube clip of a cat playing a piano – without touching the remote control. from £2799 / [sony.co.uk](http://sony.co.uk)



NOW DO THIS...



1 TURN IT UP TO ELEVEN

OK, so uttering the seminal line from *This Is Spinal Tap* doesn't result in face-melting volume, but pumping the Home Max up to silly decibel levels via a slide of your finger on the touch controls, or through voice prompts, is advised at least once during ownership. This thing goes loud, like *really* loud, and the two 4.5in woofers do a great job of producing crisp, quality audio.



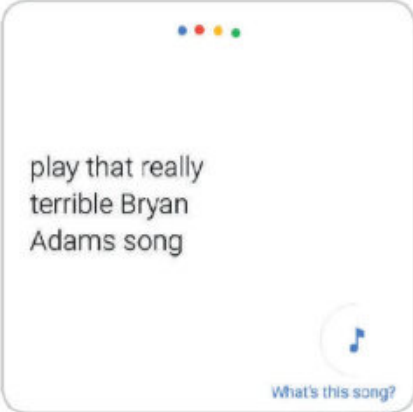
2 PLUG IN YOUR TELLY

Its design might be minimalistic but the Home Max bucks the trend for limited inputs and features a good old-fashioned analogue stereo cable. Of course, you can connect devices via Bluetooth, but even older televisions can benefit from an improved soundtrack when Home Max is hard-wired in. Its unobtrusive design means it complements most modern walls too.



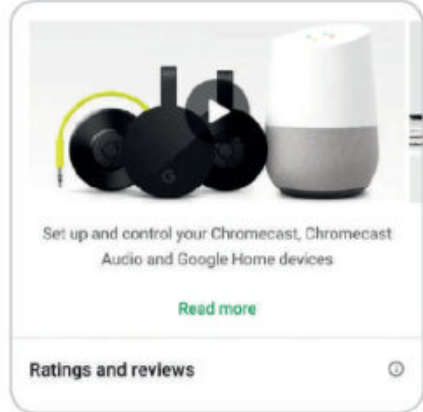
3 PUT IT ANYWHERE

Google has introduced what it calls Smart Sound technology with the Home Max. It uses advanced AI to cleverly tune the speaker's output to its environment. Shove it in a tight corner and the software will iron out any excess bass response to stop things getting boomy. Expect the sound to improve over time too, because Google releases updates to tweak its algorithms.



4 SET IT A POP QUIZ

Google Assistant is one clever cookie – and the fact that it's built into this chunky boombox means you don't even have to know the name of your new favourite tune to hear it played. Use voice commands to say stuff like: "Hey Google, play the song that goes, 'I got my first real six-string!'" Hey presto, classic Adams. Sadly, you won't get the same results if you try humming the melody.



5 FIND YOUR VOICE

To save the family fighting over tunes, the Home Max recognises up to five different voices and matches the listening experience to each user. Result? Happy family. Set up Voice Match via the Google Home smartphone app and marvel as Google Assistant actually plays your favourite punk playlist when you ask for it, rather than the *Frozen* soundtrack for the 100th time.



6 SPREAD THE LOVE

Linking other Chromecast-ready speakers is a piece of cake. Simply create a multiroom group in the Google Home app and you can play tunes throughout the household. Connect two Home Max speakers together and they'll automatically pump stereo sound. Best of all, you can get Google to broadcast through all Home devices in the household at the same time.

THEN LISTEN TO THESE...



THE PRODIGY NO TOURISTS

From the soaring keys of *Need Some1* to the gut-busting bass of *Boom Boom Tap*, the latest album from the UK's finest dance act is a great test of the Home Max.



THE 1975 A BRIEF INQUIRY INTO ONLINE RELATIONSHIPS

This experimental electro-pop beauty sounds blisteringly good through Google's monster speaker.



MUSE SIMULATION THEORY

Pulsing synths and strong themes of a dystopian future... but some of the *Black Mirror*-ish concepts might make you want to turn off the Max's built-in microphone.



# DJ jazzy KEF

Behind the bold colours, these wireless desktop speakers promise high-end hi-fi sound at a non-ridiculous price

## Tiny temper(ature)

The use of Class D amplification throughout means the LSX doesn't need the heatsink of its larger sibling.



£999 (pair) / [stuff.tv/KEFLSX](http://stuff.tv/KEFLSX)

■ You know the saying: if it ain't broke, keep your filthy hands off it. But if you can make it smaller and cheaper without breaking it in the process, go right ahead. So KEF has taken everything it's learned from the runaway success of its LS50 Wireless speakers and made something... well, the same, but less so.

■ The LSX's design is on a much more compact scale than its £2000 sibling. Each speaker is just 24cm high, making this an authentic desktop proposition.

■ There's a host of colour options, and all but the gloss-white finish are wrapped in hard-wearing Kvadrat fabric. Overall build quality is impeccable – just as well, because their sheer portability means they may well end up being carried about like cups of tea.

■ It's quite obvious these things are closely related to the LS50 Wireless: they have the same detail and poise; treble is crisp without getting hard unless you really wind up the volume; the midrange is sweetly expressive; and for such little boxes they even manage respectable bass. There's a subwoofer pre-out, but for most musical needs you won't need it.

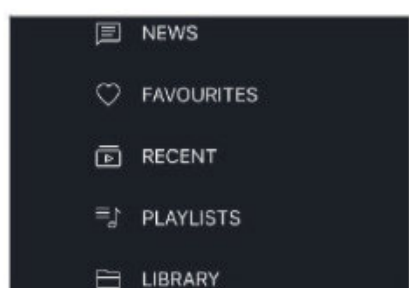
■ The only areas where the LSXs don't truly smash it are pretty predictable, given their size: outright scale and dynamic reach. In most home situations they're plenty hefty enough, though.

## Tech specs

**Drivers** 4.5in low / mid (70W), 0.75in in tweeter (30W)

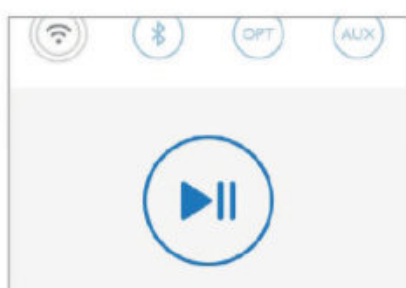
**Connectivity** Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, Ethernet, aux in, subwoofer out

**Dimensions** 240x180x155mm, 3.6/3.5kg



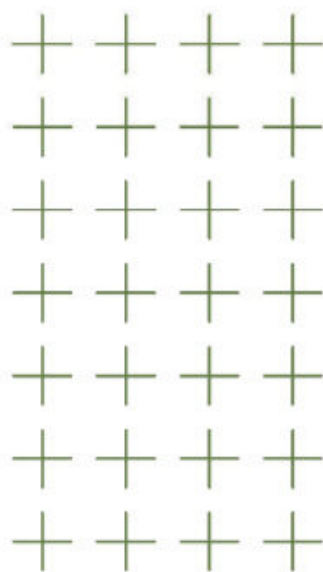
## Stream engine

There's a basic remote, but it's not very well laid out and feels a lot cheaper than the speakers it's controlling. Far better to use the two apps that KEF has developed for these speakers: KEF Stream and KEF Control.



## Phat controller

KEF Stream allows you to access networked music via DLNA, Tidal or Spotify, while KEF Control handles setup, EQ, firmware updates and source selection. Both apps are stable enough, and free of silly design flourishes.



**STUFF SAYS** Nice colour options, even better sound – and at a real-world price ★★★★★

**There's more to these KEFs than cost-cutting and pretty colours**

Simon Lucas



What the LSX speakers represent is more far-reaching, and less steely-eyed, than KEF simply stripping features out of a proven product to drive costs down. It's taken a good speaker and carefully redesigned it – to the point that it looks, feels and sounds like something costing far more than half the price of the LS50 Wireless. It's about as impressive an all-round system as we've heard for this kind of money.





# Stuff

You can also fill in the survey at [stuff.tv/readersurvey](http://stuff.tv/readersurvey)

We want to know what you think of *Stuff*. Let us know by completing this survey and you'll be entered into a draw to win one of two Roxi music systems.

## ● ABOUT YOU AND STUFF

### How often do you read *Stuff*?

- ☐ Every month  
☐ Regularly (6-13 issues per year)  
☐ Occasionally (1-5 issues per year)  
☐ I'm a *Stuff* virgin

### Do you read the print or digital version?

- ☐ Print (standard size)  
☐ Print (nano size)  
☐ Digital

### How do you obtain your copy of *Stuff*?

- ☐ Subscription  
☐ Newsagent  
☐ WH Smith high-street shop  
☐ WH Smith travel outlet  
☐ Supermarket  
☐ From a friend/colleague  
☐ Given away free  
☐ Other (please state, unless 'shoplifting')

### Which of the following factors do you use to decide whether to buy *Stuff*? (please tick any that apply)

- ☐ The front cover image  
☐ Whether I'm interested in the contents described on the cover  
☐ Browsing through the pages in a shop  
☐ If I'm planning to purchase tech gear  
☐ Price  
☐ Cover mount or supplement  
☐ Other (please state)

### How long have you read *Stuff*?

- ☐ Less than a year  
☐ Between one and three years  
☐ I remember the '90s

### If you are not a subscriber, what is your main reason for not taking out a subscription?

- ☐ Not wanting to commit to a subscription payment up front  
☐ Habit – I don't subscribe to any magazines  
☐ I haven't got round to it  
☐ Not aware of subscription offers  
☐ I already subscribe  
☐ Other (please state)

### Do you keep your copies of *Stuff* for reference?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

### On average, how many people read your copy?

- ☐ 1 (just me) ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 or more

### Please indicate how important you consider these features by scoring 1-5 (where 1 is 'not important' and 5 is 'very important')

	1	2	3	4	5
New product news	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Two-page reviews	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
One-page reviews	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Group tests	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Features	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tips and tricks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Top 10s	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## ● PURCHASING HABITS & DECISIONS

### How likely are you to buy any of the following products in the next 12 months, on a scale of 1-5? (from 1 being 'not likely at all' to 5 being 'very likely')

	1	2	3	4	5
Smartphone	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tablet	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mobile game	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Headphones	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wearable	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Laptop	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hi-fi	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
TV	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Soundbar	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Smart speaker	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Home cinema	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Console	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Game	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tech toy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Electric/hybrid car	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Car	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
E-bike/e-scooter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Smart home	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Drone	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Compact camera	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
System camera	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please state)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### Do our reviews positively influence your next purchasing decision? (where 1 means 'not at all' and 5 means 'very influential')

- ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

### Do our star ratings positively influence your next purchasing decision? (where 1 means 'not at all' and 5 means 'very influential')

- ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

### How confident are you that our reviews are comprehensive, impartial and written by experts? (where 1 means 'not confident at all' and 5 means 'very confident')

- ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

### Which topics / product categories interest you most or would you like to read more about? (choose all that apply)

- ☐ Long reads (eg: history of tech)  
☐ Celebrity interviews  
☐ Tech inventor interviews  
☐ Tech designer interviews  
☐ Travel features  
☐ In-depth how-to guides  
☐ Lifestyle/fashion features

### Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements (Strongly agree, Agree, Disagree, Unsure)

S A D U

- If I could only buy one tech magazine it would be *Stuff* ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐  
 I trust the information I read in *Stuff* ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐  
 I have purchased tech or equipment I've seen in *Stuff* ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐  
 The first place I look for information on gear is *Stuff* ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐  
 I'm more likely to buy something if it has featured in *Stuff* ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

### Which of these words would you use to describe *Stuff* magazine? (choose all that apply)

- ☐ Accessible ☐ Authoritative  
☐ Contemporary ☐ Different  
☐ Friendly ☐ Fun ☐ Helpful  
☐ Humorous ☐ Informative  
☐ Insightful ☐ Relevant  
☐ Useful ☐ Too serious  
☐ Other (please state)

### What do you like about *Stuff*?

### What do you dislike about *Stuff*?

### What is the one thing you would change if you were Editor?







## ● ABOUT STUFF.TV

### How often do you visit our site, stuff.tv?

- ☐ Daily  
☐ More than once a week  
☐ About once a week  
☐ A few times a month  
☐ Once a month  
☐ Less frequently  
☐ What's the internet?

### Which of the following have you used the website for?

- ☐ Product reviews  
☐ News (Hot Stuff)  
☐ Buying guides  
☐ Features  
☐ 'What to watch' guides (eg: Netflix, Amazon Prime, NowTV)

### What content would you like to see more of on our website?

### Do you engage with Stuff on social media?

- ☐ Facebook  
☐ Twitter  
☐ Instagram  
☐ Google Plus  
☐ Other  
☐ No

## ● YOU AND YOUR TECH

### How often do you buy tech/gadgets?

- ☐ More than once a week  
☐ Once a week  
☐ Between two and four times a month  
☐ Once a month  
☐ Less often

### Do you read any of the following magazines?

(Subscribe / Buy every issue at a shop / Regularly / Occasionally / Never)

	S	B	O	R	N
T3	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wired	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How It Works	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
BBC Focus	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Esquire	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
GQ	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Men's Health	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## ● PLEASE FILL IN THE SURVEY AT STUFF.TV/READERSURVEY

Or send this form to: FREEPOST RTKZ-HYRL-CCZX, Stuff Reader Survey, Kelsey Publishing Ltd, Cudham Tithe Barn, Berry's Hill, Cudham, Kent TN16 3AG (no stamp needed)

### Do you use any of the following sites?

(Daily / Weekly / Monthly / Rarely / Never)

	D	W	M	R	N
stuff.tv	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
T3	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tech Radar	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trusted Reviews	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pocket Lint	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wareable	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tom's Guide	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CNET	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tech Advisor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wired	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Verge	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## ● ABOUT YOUR TECH

### Where do you usually buy your kit? (choose all that apply)

- ☐ Amazon  
☐ Ebay  
☐ Other major online retailer  
☐ John Lewis  
☐ Currys PC World  
☐ Argos

### How often do you buy tech? (choose one)

- ☐ Never  
☐ Every month  
☐ Every two to three months  
☐ Every three to six months  
☐ Once a year

### Approximately how much have you spent on tech in the past 12 months?

- ☐ Up to £100  
☐ £100-£200  
☐ £200-£500  
☐ £500-£750  
☐ £750-£1000  
☐ £1000-£2000  
☐ More than £2000

### When buying tech, do you do any of the following? (choose all that apply)

- ☐ Research on the internet  
☐ Read magazine reviews  
☐ Read online reviews  
☐ Read customer reviews  
☐ Visit a local shop  
☐ Ask other people for advice  
☐ Use social media channels (eg: Facebook or Twitter) to ask for advice  
☐ Stick with the same brand

## ● ABOUT YOU

### Gender

- ☐ Male ☐ Female

### Age

- ☐ Under 18 ☐ 18-24 ☐ 25-34  
☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64  
☐ 65 or over

### Occupation

- ☐ Professional / managerial  
☐ Office / clerical  
☐ Skilled / unskilled manual  
☐ In full-time education  
☐ Retired  
☐ Other

### How many children do you have?

- ☐ None ☐ One ☐ Two ☐ Three or more

### What is your gross household income (before tax)?

- ☐ Less than £14,999  
☐ £15,000-£19,999  
☐ £20,000-£24,999  
☐ £25,000-£29,999  
☐ £30,000-£39,999  
☐ £40,000-£49,999  
☐ £50,000-£100,000  
☐ Who cares, I'm minted  
☐ I'd rather not say

To be entered into the prize draw, please supply us with your name and contact details. Two prizes of a Roxi home music system (RRP £149.95) are available. The winners will be drawn by the editors of Stuff. No cash alternative. Prizes are available for UK residents only. Find full terms and conditions at kelsey.co.uk.

Name:

Email:

Phone number:

Address:

### How can we get in touch for further research about Stuff? (choose all that apply)

- ☐ Email ☐ Phone ☐ Letter

We (Kelsey Media Ltd, publishers of Stuff) will not pass your details to third parties. We may contact you with information and offers from third parties. Please tick here if you would like to receive these:

- ☐ Email ☐ Phone ☐ Letter





# Hot hatchling

VW's Polo is trying to wrest the 'ultimate GTI' tag from its bigger brother... but is this little nipper feisty enough to be a Golf-clubber?

## Do the ride thing

The suspension can be stiffened up by engaging Sport mode, while an electronic differential helps power delivery.

from £21,520 / [stuff.tv/PoloGTI](http://stuff.tv/PoloGTI)

■ Ask any dedicated petrolhead and they'll tell you the Golf GTI has been legendary in hot hatch circles since first arriving on these shores in 1979... but as it approaches its 40th anniversary, its tech-packed smaller sibling, the Polo, is coming of age as the car of choice for the sophisticated boy racer.

■ Making this car physically bigger than many previous models is a bold move – because while most manufacturers are downsizing hot hatches with smaller, eco-focused engines, the German company has upped the stakes by swapping the 1.8-litre petrol powertrain for a new 2.0-litre lump producing 197bhp and good for a 0–62mph time of 6.7 seconds.

■ The new Polo has a superbly user-friendly second-generation 10.5in Active Info Display. This is a digital dashboard that replaces the analogue dials with high-resolution colour graphics.

■ The cabin is dominated by a redesigned and repositioned 8in touchscreen infotainment display. This looks after everything from your preferred DAB station to the Bluetooth connection with your smartphone – for sat-nav, or using Android Auto, Apple CarPlay or MirrorLink.

■ Add the Volkswagen Connect Dataplug and a free app adds more futuristic smarts: telling you when your car needs a service, analysing your driving style and more.

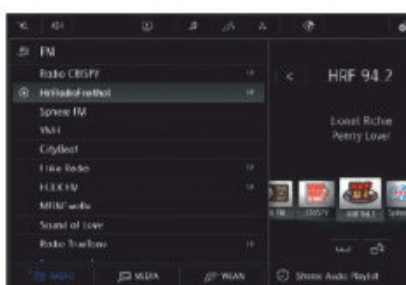
## Tech specs

**Screens** 10.5in Active Info Display, 8in infotainment touchscreen

**Connectivity** Bluetooth, USB, Qi wireless charging

**Engine** 2.0-litre petrol (197bhp)

**Gearbox** 6-speed DSG



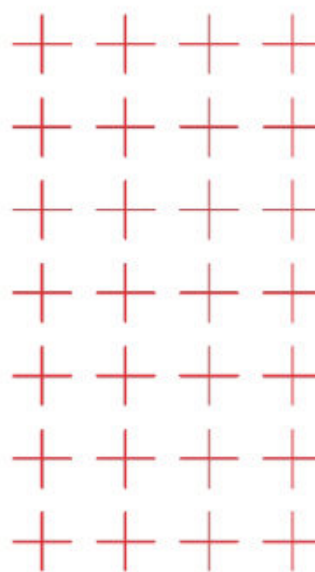
## Open app

Volkswagen Media Control allows anyone to use the infotainment system through their phone or tablet. Handy when those in the rear seats want to take over the music or sat-nav, so you can keep your eyes on the road.



## Them's the brakes

Safety tech as standard includes a distance-monitoring system called Front Assist and Predictive Pedestrian Protection, which warns you when someone is in your path and automatically hits the brakes if you don't.



**STUFF SAYS** This is one Polo without holes – and worthy of the GTI moniker ★★★★★☆

**A slick and sporty performer with some extremely tasty in-car tech**

James Day



Hot hatches can be brutal beasts bouncing around on Britain's roads – but while this Polo can shift when it wants, acting like a rabid dog and making a pleasing din in the process, it's also got a softer side, offering an eminently sophisticated and comfortable ride quality on longer journeys. The tech spec is hugely impressive for the price and wouldn't look out of place on an Audi twice its price.



# Airy monster

Apple has revamped its entry-level MacBook with a Retina display, a new keyboard and a choice of three classy colours... **Natalya Paul** enjoys a fortnight of fresh Air

from £1199 / [stuff.tv/MacBookAir13](https://stuff.tv/MacBookAir13)

Force Touch lets you apply extra pressure to activate new menu options or shortcuts.



## ● DAY 01

Fans have been waiting years for Apple to show some love to its most affordable laptop, and now, a whole decade after the Air was first revealed, the new generation has arrived.

Design, hardware and software have received significant updates that bring the company's most popular MacBook bang up to date. It also rocks a 100% recycled aluminium alloy shell – but the price has skyrocketed. Factor in

the increasingly blurred lines between MacBook, MacBook Air and MacBook Pro models, and buying a new Apple laptop has quickly turned into something of a minefield. So let's find out if the Air is still the MacBook for the masses.

This new model borrows just about every design cue it can from Apple's premium laptops, and comes in a choice of space grey, gold or silver. And the 13in

Air is undeniably sleek. It's slimmer than a ballpoint pen at the rear and only 4mm at the front – there's no backpack that won't have room for one of these inside it, and it barely wakes up the scales at 1.25kg.

Lift the lid and you'll find a MacBook Pro-matching keyboard that's bookended by stereo speakers, plus a giant glass touchpad and skinny black screen bezels.

The Air stands out from the base 13in Pro thanks to a Touch ID button in the top right corner of the keyboard, which lets you log in to macOS Mojave with a

digit. It works just as quickly here as it did on any iPhone before Face ID took over.

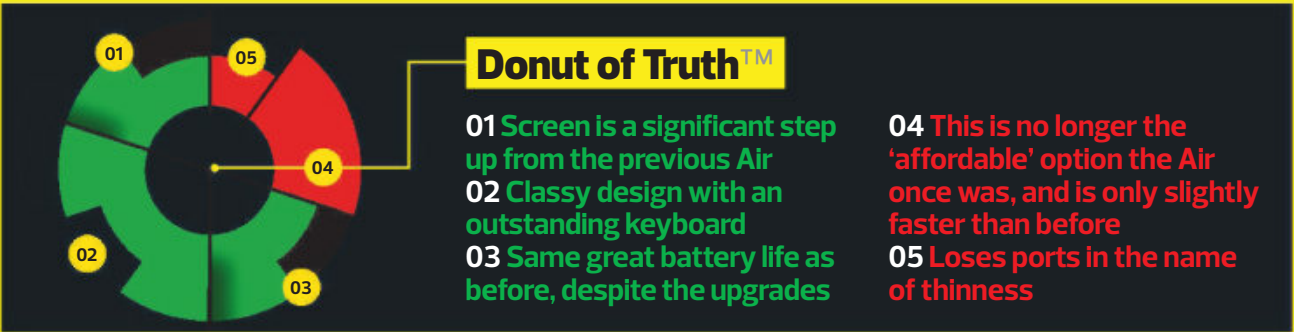
This is the first MacBook Air to charge over USB-C, which means the old MagSafe connector has gone. You get two USB-C ports, and either can recharge the laptop, but they're rather close together: plug in a chunky peripheral and you might obscure the other port.

Photographers won't like the lack of a built-in SD card reader, which means they'll need to use a dongle, but at least you get a headphone jack on the right side, if that's any consolation.



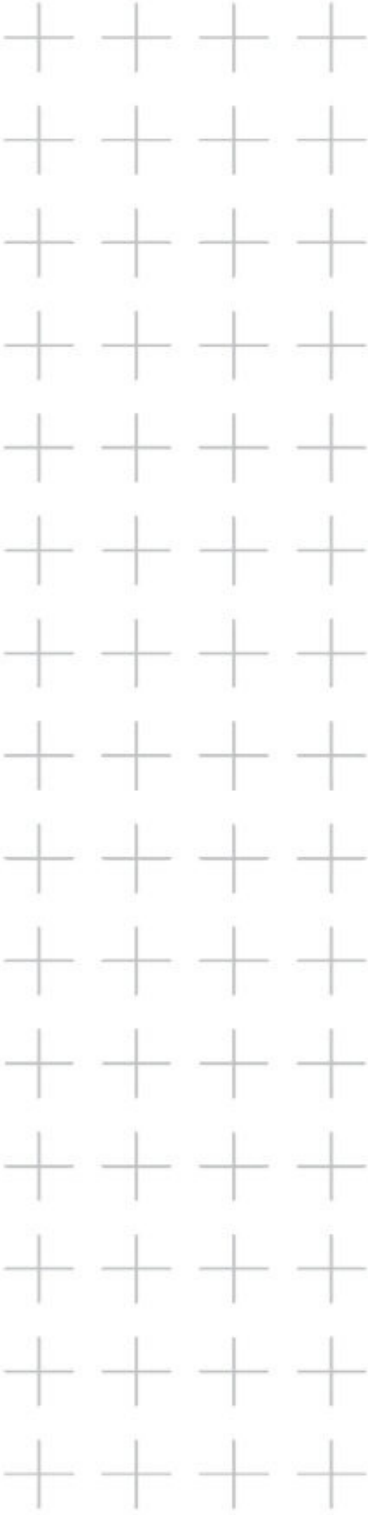
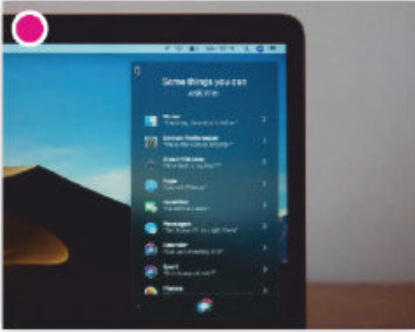
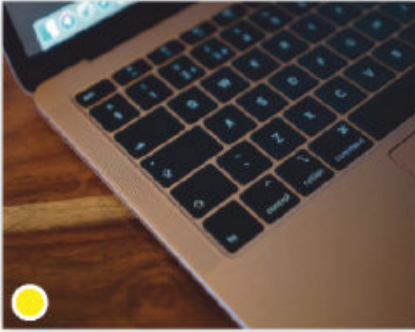
**The battery should give you 13 hours of video playback or 12 hours of 'wireless web working' – a mix of typical tasks**





Tech specs

**Display** 13.3in  
2560x1600 Retina  
**Processor**  
1.6GHz dual-core  
Intel Core i5  
**RAM** 8GB  
**Storage**  
128/256GB SSD  
**OS** 10.14 Mojave  
**Battery life**  
Up to 13hrs  
**Connectivity**  
2x Thunderbolt 3  
(USB-C),  
headphone jack  
**Dimensions** 304x  
212x15.6mm,  
1.25kg



DAY 02

The old Air's 1440x900 screen resolution was decidedly old hat in 2018. At 2560x1600, this Retina display treads a sensible middle ground between 1080p and 4K. The chunky bezels are gone too, and side by side with the old Air there's a big step up in detail.

DAY 04

The keyboard uses the same butterfly design as the 12in MacBook and MacBook Pro, which is much slimmer and with far less key travel than before. Yes, there've been issues, but a new silicone barrier should keep dirt from getting under the keys here.

DAY 06

The new Air has a dual-core i5 CPU ticking along at 1.6GHz. That's slower than the 1.8GHz chip in the old Air, but these processors are more efficient at lower speeds. So performance is on a par, but battery drain is lower.

There's more than enough power here to run a handful of apps at once. I've been working on some sizeable Photoshop files today and it's always felt responsive. Even *Fortnite* is playable, as long as you're

prepared to drop the details, accept frame rates in the 30s and put up with some fan noise.

DAY 09

The last-gen Air could comfortably outlast the Pro model away from the mains, and this new version can do the same. Today I've thrown in some more picture editing, a bit of gaming and some Netflix, and the Air still topped 11 hours.

DAY 12

Time to explore some of the extra macOS Mojave goodies. These include an eye-friendly Dark theme, a tweaked App Store that makes finding new apps that much easier, desktop stacks for organising messy files and folders, and the improved gallery view for Finder. You also get Siri, and it's not the airhead it used to be.

DAY 14

This Air makes the 12in MacBook feel slightly redundant and looks every bit as premium as the Pro. It's not cheap, though: the Air is now almost the same price as the entry-level Pro, which has much more power. Still, for anyone who doesn't need that extra grunt, it's got to be the go-to MacBook.

STUFF SAYS

The latest Air justifies the added expense with a stunning design, screen and features





Switch /  
stuff.tv/SSBUltimate

# Super Smash Bros. Ultimate

Good news if you're up for a rumble: *Smash* makes a triumphant comeback on the Switch, and every character's invited in the biggest roster of fighters you've ever seen

**F**rom its beginnings on the N64 up to *Super Smash Bros* on the Wii U, *Smash* has become one of Nintendo's hallmark series.

But it's also one giant love letter to all the franchises Nintendo has put out over the years — and this feeling comes across tenfold in the aptly named *Ultimate*.

With its gargantuan roster of characters, which includes every *Smash* fighter from all the past iterations as well as 11 new ones, you have 74 playable fighters to

try out in this Switch title. Yep, that's a lot of smashing.

The biggest new addition is the new adventure mode, Spirit. Set in a giant hub world, what's truly great about this mode is the role of the Spirits themselves. Some improve your fighting stats, others have special skills that attach to the primary ones. This adds a new level of strategy to the fighting, as different spirit combinations can help you in different duels.

But Classic mode is back too. Each character has a unique run

of opponents and maps, tailored to fit their own franchise or fighting style. You'll find five or six stages to get through, including one bonus map stage that's a side-scrolling platformer. Here you have to outrun a black hole and collect as many coins as possible along the way.

Smash mode is of course a mainstay, and several other familiar modes also make a comeback. There's plenty here to keep you entertained, and it's a feast for veterans of the series

who enjoyed these challenges in previous games.

It's no exaggeration to say *Super Smash Bros. Ultimate* is hands-down the best *Smash* game yet. There's so much going on, with something for everyone to dip into, while the huge array of fighters certainly makes it feel like you're getting your money's worth and then some.

This is a fantastic way to get into the world of *Smash*, and long-time fans will not be disappointed.

**Heather Wald**

**STUFF SAYS** *Smash* is well and truly back, and it's bigger and better than ever before ★★★★★





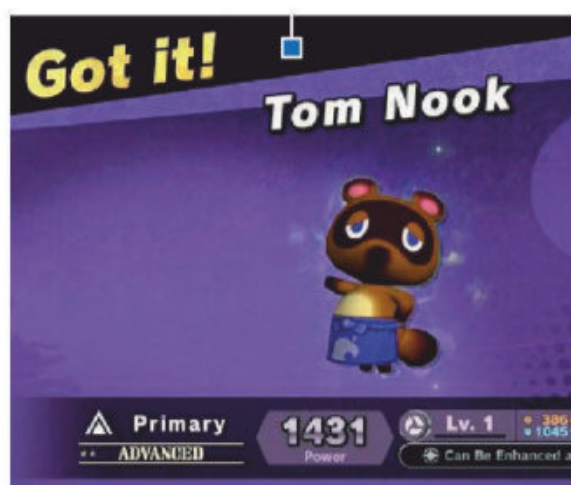
## Character building

With such a massive roster of combatants, it'll take some time to unlock every character in this game. In the same way as previous *Smash* titles in the series worked, you get challenged by a new fighter every once in a while. If you win, you then unlock that character.

Whoever you were fighting as prior to that challenge will be the fighter you have to try to defeat them with, which can sometimes hinder you if you're not fully accustomed to that character.

In the past, if you lost one of these challenges you'd just have to hope your conqueror would pop up again at random. But *Ultimate* has a rather nice new feature called the Challenger's Approach, accessed via a door that pops up once in a while in the corner of the Games & More selection menu. This lets you challenge fighters you lost to previously, so you can have another stab at unlocking them – with the crucial perk of being able to choose which fighter you want to face them with.

It's a great little addition that means you don't have to feel quite so disheartened when you lose against a fighter you're desperate to take on.





PS4, Xbox One, PC / [stuff.tv/Fallout76](http://stuff.tv/Fallout76)

# Fallout 76

Bethesda's prequel pitches you into a post-apocalyptic West Virginia... but is it a little too post-apocalyptic for its own good?

**T**he latest entry in Bethesda's open-world RPG still sports a bit of a dated, detail-starved visual presentation – especially compared to polygon-pushing pioneers like *God of War* and *Red Dead Redemption 2*. But the pretty paint-job does a decent job of overshadowing this game's graphical shortcomings.

While the West Virginian scenery might put you in the mood to pick apples, that perky sentiment will be severely crushed the first time you come across a group of folks who apparently woke up on the wrong side of the apocalypse. A backstory-centric narrative approach, combined with the fact that your character is part of a group of recently emerged vault-dwellers tasked with reclaiming the post-war world, really sells the story.

Sadly though, this approach also inherently means the game's massive map is devoid of human life – aside from other online players – to interact with. There's certainly no shortage of quests to

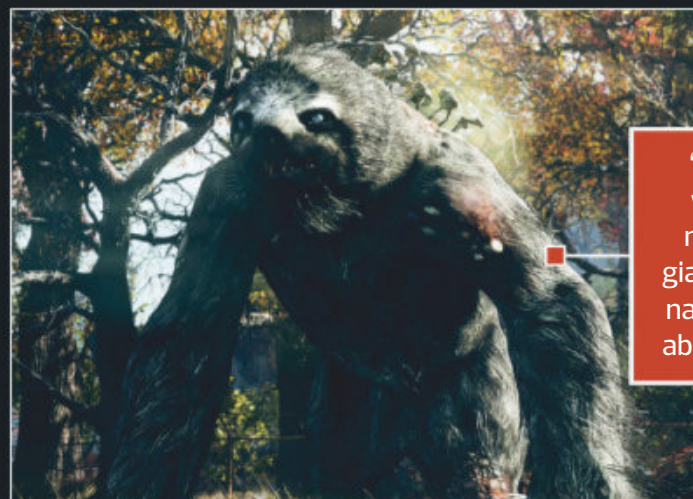
tackle, but they're typically tied to deceased humans or robots, and are generally found in terminals, notes, holotapes, letters and other objects you can't have a conversation with.

Many of these quests are also of the 'fetch' variety. There are some absorbing missions to take on and, more so, engaging stories to uncover about the world that once was; but much of it feels like the sort of lore-expanding side content that would support a meatier main plot.

Of course, the always-online multiplayer format encourages players to author their own adventures with other real-life survivors. And to its credit, the game is at its best when you've met up with a mate to scavenge: it feels genuinely rewarding to help a fellow survivor in need.

We have no doubt Bethesda will improve the experience through upcoming patches. But whether it can convert single-player fans to an always-online wasteland remains to be seen.

**Matt Cabral**



"...and here we see the man-eating giant sloth in its natural habitat, about to feast."



Join forces to bring down the bat-dragon Scorchbeasts and Grafton monsters.

**STUFF SAYS** Like a vault-dweller on Reclamation Day, best proceed with caution ★★★★★



PS4, Xbox One, PC / [stuff.tv/JustCause4](http://stuff.tv/JustCause4)

# Just Cause 4

Flying people, lightning storms and many, many explosions: *Just Cause* is back. But is the latest in the OTT action-adventure series just winging it?

Every lightning bolt is a reminder that, while Rico is tough, he isn't immortal.

Performance is smooth, loading is quick and the explosions look fantastic.

**D**ie Hard's John McClane might think he had it bad, but he was never asked to liberate entire islands from evil overlords with weather-controlling machines. Thankfully, as Rico Rodriguez, you have a grappling hook, a parachute and a wingsuit to keep you out of harm's way as you pull off ludicrous stunts and manoeuvres in this crazy open-world sandbox.

The movement in *Just Cause 4* is exceptional. Chaining a grapple into the wingsuit to gain speed and altitude is exhilarating, while scaling mountains and skydiving through chasms or skimming rooftops as you pass villages and towns is simply brilliant.

As with previous games, the grappling hook is the star. But new to this title is the ability to mod your tools and add a *Metal Gear* Fulton-style balloon to lift people and things into the air. Not enough? Fine, you can also add a jet-boost to the balloon.

Still not enough? How about tweaking those tools to withstand enemy damage, or make a balloon

full of helium, or even change the rate at which your jets accelerate? This is a ridiculous game that revels in the insanity you can create with its toolset.

The weather effects are stunning, the weaponry is creative, and the helicopters remain a highlight... but all that isn't quite enough for us to recommend you rush out and buy *Just Cause 4*. Because the story missions are just terrible.

It's bizarre that a game with such chaotic content plays it so safe with the missions and structure. As you're leading a rebellion, you progress the story by doing a mission in a controlled zone, upgrading your army and pushing forward. But goodness, those missions are sorely lacking in ideas and variation.

And while this is a huge open world, it's a little empty of curated content. What remains is a feeling that you should 'make your own fun' – and that's great while it lasts, but you're left wanting that creativity in the rest of the game.

**Adam Cook**

**STUFF SAYS** A weak story stops this game delivering on what it could have been ★★☆☆☆





# We're looking to the future.

You upgrade in all areas of your life, and it's no different with technology. From phones to smart watches, laptops to iPads, we can ensure all of your gadgets are covered.

## With Gadget Cover

you get a policy that is great value for money, including:

- 1 month free on annual policies
- Instant Cover
- Accidental & Liquid Damage
- Unlimited Claims
- Worldwide Cover
- Theft
- Unauthorised Usage

Terms Apply

## Get a Quote Today!

[www.gadget-cover.com](http://www.gadget-cover.com)

**0203 794 9294**



Gadget Cover is a trading name of Supercover Insurance Ltd.  
Registered in England and Wales no. 03058631. Registered Office:  
45 Westerham Road, Bessels Green, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 2QB.  
Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (No. 313806).  
Supercover is part of the Markerstudy Group of Companies.





**Stuff**

# TOP TEN

OF EVERYTHING

This gadget has leapt straight outta testing and into our rankings.

**NEW**

**HOT  
BUY**

Searing with techy genius, a product that's set our hearts aflame.

**BARGAIN  
BUY**

A solid gold bargain. Worth owning, regardless of cashflow.

**UPDATE**

Time changes everything, including *Stuff* Top Ten placings.

IN  
ASSOCIATION  
WITH



Smartphones	96
Tablets, mobile games	97
Headphones	98
Wearables	99
Laptops	100
Hi-fi	101
TVs	102
Soundbars, smart speakers	103
Home cinema, consoles	104

Games	105
Tech toys, electric cars	106
VR headsets & games	107
Smart home	108
Drones, compact cameras	109
System cameras	110
Budget buys	111
How to buy... cash-saving home kit	112



1

HOT  
BUY**Huawei Mate 20 Pro**£899 / [stuff.tv/Mate20Pro](http://stuff.tv/Mate20Pro)

Huawei bumped its own magnificent P20 Pro off the top spot with another flagship phone that's left Apple and Samsung scrabbling to catch up. The Mate 20 Pro brings back the triple-lens camera of the P20 Pro, only now it's got a 20MP ultra-wide-angle camera with a new version of its predecessor's AI-assisted night mode. It's the most tech-packed phone in the world, yet battery life is a match for any of its rivals. No contest.

**Stuff says ★★★★★****A stunning smartphone that makes the competition look lazy in comparison****NOW ADD THIS****Huawei Smart View Flip Cover**

This case has a transparent window that will display your Mate 20 Pro's notifications, time and weather.

£16.95 / [amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk)**TIPS & TRICKS**

- The phone itself doubles as a wireless charger, so you can share juice with any Qi-enabled device.
- An AI-assisted video trick lets you create colour portraits with black and white backgrounds.
- The 3D Face Unlock security feature lets you wake up the Mate 20 Pro with just a glance.



● Prices quoted are for handset only unless otherwise stated

2

**OnePlus 6T**from £499 / [stuff.tv/OnePlus6T](http://stuff.tv/OnePlus6T)

This is the gentlest of upgrades on the OnePlus 6. It gains an in-screen fingerprint sensor but loses the headphone jack; its selfie camera and screen are tweaked but the cost nudges up yet again. If only the legit top-end vibe will do, the 6T is still killer value.

**Stuff says ★★★★★****The best way to avoid spending £800 or more on a phone**

3

**Apple iPhone XS**from £999 / [stuff.tv/iPhoneXS](http://stuff.tv/iPhoneXS)

This is the iPhone X with some new bits crammed in. But there's enough going on here to make the XS a significantly better phone. Namely, it can take better pictures and there's more power on tap. It's fast, smart and full of fun features... and a better deal than the XS Max.

**Stuff says ★★★★★****Familiar on the outside, hiding treats on the inside: this is the X but better**

4

**Samsung Galaxy S9**★★★★★ £599 / [stuff.tv/S9](http://stuff.tv/S9)

Samsung's flagship isn't a huge upgrade on the Galaxy S8, but it's still a very welcome one.

5

**Honor 9 Lite**★★★★★ from £119 / [stuff.tv/Honor9Lite](http://stuff.tv/Honor9Lite)

Cutting-edge design at a price that won't shred your wallet: this is an excellent budget phone.

6

**Moto G6 Plus**★★★★★ £269 / [stuff.tv/MotoG6Plus](http://stuff.tv/MotoG6Plus)

Superb both on paper and in use, the G6 Plus raises the bar when it comes to affordable phones.

7

**Honor 8X**★★★★★ £230 / [stuff.tv/Honor8X](http://stuff.tv/Honor8X)

A bigger, better screen, more power and serious camera upgrades make this a steal for the price.

8

**Sony Xperia XZ3**★★★★★ from £699 / [stuff.tv/XZ3](http://stuff.tv/XZ3)

Sony's best contender to date combines a fine display, a great camera and slick performance.

9

**Samsung Galaxy Note9**★★★★☆ from £799 / [stuff.tv/Note9](http://stuff.tv/Note9)

You'll have to pay a premium for the S-Pen and extra screen, but this is a superb phone for creatives.

10

**Google Pixel 3 XL**★★★★☆ from £869 / [stuff.tv/Pixel3XL](http://stuff.tv/Pixel3XL)

The latest Pixel isn't a dramatic revolution, but it's still one of the best Androids around.



1

HOT  
BUY NEW

## Apple iPad Pro (2018)

from £769 / [stuff.tv/iPadPro2018](http://stuff.tv/iPadPro2018)

The latest iPad Pro isn't cheap, but it's a mobile powerhouse like no other, with a diverse and rich app ecosystem, tons of power, a gorgeous screen, and the kind of focus on creativity and productivity that just doesn't exist on other tablets. If you just want to faff on Facebook or Netflix it's massive overkill, but then there's the standard iPad or a slew of other tablets for doing that. Still, even if you don't actually need the new iPad Pro, you're going to want one if you have it in your mitts for five minutes.

**Stuff says** ★★★★★

Once again Apple blasts ahead of the pack, with a stylish, powerful tablet full of creative potential

2



## Microsoft Surface Go

from £379 / [stuff.tv/SurfaceGo](http://stuff.tv/SurfaceGo)

Having this slinky Windows tab up your sleeve (not quite literally) is like carrying a mini PC on you at all times. The processor is adequate for everyday tasks and the 10in screen is lovely.

**Stuff says** ★★★★★

An affordable, ultra-portable workmate

3



## Apple iPad (2018)

from £319 / [stuff.tv/iPad2018](http://stuff.tv/iPad2018)

There might not be a whole lot different here compared to the previous iteration of the standard iPad, but subtle improvements and a relatively affordable price mean this is the best tablet for most people.

**Stuff says** ★★★★★

A versatile tablet for both work and play

4



## Amazon Fire HD 8

★★★★★ £80 / [stuff.tv/FireHD8](http://stuff.tv/FireHD8)

For the price, you get a stonkingly capable tablet that doubles as an Echo Show.

5

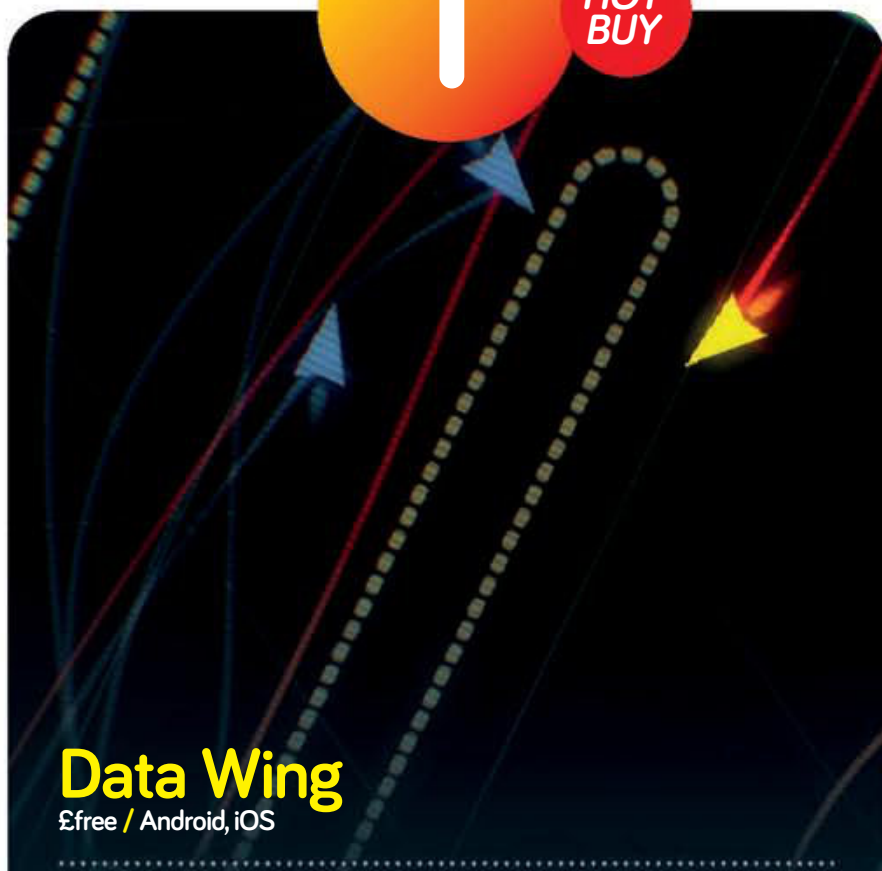


## Huawei MediaPad M5 Pro 10.8

★★★★☆ from £500 / [stuff.tv/M5Pro](http://stuff.tv/M5Pro)

This may not beat the iPad Pro, but it gets you similar skills for much less cash.

1

HOT  
BUY

## Data Wing

£free / Android, iOS

This game starts off as if *Asteroids* had a baby with a top-down racer: your triangular craft blasts around circuits, gaining speed when its bum scrapes neon track edges. Soon you discover you're part of an OS ruled by a deranged AI. Story and game quickly expand, as you glimpse the world beyond the screen and battle gravity in cavern-based sections that recall 8-bit classic *Thrust*. Rarely do mobile titles pack in so many hours of clever, thoughtful narrative. Pretty much never are such games free.

**Stuff says** ★★★★★

A mobile game we'd happily recommend if it cost a fiver – for nowt, it's an absurdly generous bargain

2



## Euclidean Skies

£4.99 / iOS

This is a challenging mobile game that pulls off quite the achievement in managing to create demanding and labyrinthine pathways from what are essentially single-screen puzzles.

**Stuff says** ★★★★★

A sequel packed with brilliant new ideas

3



## Oddmar

£4.99 / iOS

*Oddmar* looks like it could have breezed in from a PS4. It's packed full of superb level design, arresting set-pieces and lush animated visuals, as a bearded Viking oaf sets out to save his tribe.

**Stuff says** ★★★★★

Touchscreen platformers can be great after all

HOT  
BUY

4



## The Room: Old Sins

★★★★★ £4.99 / Android, iOS

Get sucked into an impossible dolls' house for *Myst*-like exploration and tactile puzzling.

5



## Super Cat Tales 2

★★★★★ £free / Android, iOS

A pawsome slice of touchscreen-optimised platforming magic with multiple moggies.



1

HOT  
BUY

BARGAIN  
BUY


## Beyerdynamic Byron

£42 / [stuff.tv/Byron](http://stuff.tv/Byron)

A strong argument for the idea that you don't really need to spend more than £50 on earphones, the Byrons have a sound we defy you not to like. They're not like the company's studio headphones, designed for sound engineers looking for extreme accuracy – they're for everyday folk – but these humble-looking buds do come with a shot of that special Beyer sauce. They're some of the truest-sounding in-ears we've heard, with great midrange detail and good punch to the bass.

**Stuff says ★★★★★**

Seriously classy in-ear headphones with the detail to outdo the competition

2



## Sony WF-1000X

£129 / [stuff.tv/SonyWF](http://stuff.tv/SonyWF)

Impressive levels of detail and clarity, a decent amount of bass weight to the mix, and active noise-cancelling that works as well as you can expect for a pair of in-ears: we like these Sony buds a lot.

**Stuff says ★★★★★**

The best fully wireless in-ears we've heard

3



## SoundMagic E11C

£50 / [stuff.tv/E11C](http://stuff.tv/E11C)

Super-light and incredibly comfortable, the E11Cs have a slightly more premium look than their predecessors. For budget earphones, pretty much everything you chuck at them sounds great.

**Stuff says ★★★★★**

Capable, durable and affordable

4



## Jabra Elite Sport

★★★★★ from £199 / [stuff.tv/EliteSport](http://stuff.tv/EliteSport)

Superb-sounding wireless in-ears with some fitness-boosting features.

5



## Bose SoundSport Pulse Wireless

★★★★★ £180 / [stuff.tv/SoundSportPulse](http://stuff.tv/SoundSportPulse)

Fine sound and heart-rate tracking make these worth the price if you can afford it.

1

HOT  
BUY


## Sony WH-1000XM3

£330 / [stuff.tv/SonyXM3](http://stuff.tv/SonyXM3)

Sony's WH-1000 series was already a top performer, and the WH-1000XM3s make for an even more compelling package. With Bluetooth wireless and great noise-cancellation, they're the ultimate public transport stress killer... well, aside from a chauffeur or a lottery win that lets you retire. The leather pads make them incredibly easy to wear, not unlike sitting in one of those ultra-comfy leather chairs, and most importantly of all the sound quality is fantastic.

**Stuff says ★★★★★**

Great wireless headphones with effective ANC and a sound that nails just about everything

2



## Urbanista Seattle Wireless

£70 / [stuff.tv/SeattleWireless](http://stuff.tv/SeattleWireless)

The Seattles are some of the best-sounding affordable wireless cans around. They're full and rich-sounding, with the sort of tasteful bass drive that will please the masses without turning off the chin-stroking crowd.

**Stuff says ★★★★★**

Bags of style and fantastic sound quality

3



## AKG Y50BT

from £79 / [stuff.tv/Y50BT](http://stuff.tv/Y50BT)

These wireless AKGs serve up truckloads of detail with a cleaner, more refined and agile listen than many Bluetooth cans. And the garish colour options of the old wired Y50s have been toned down, which is a bonus.

**Stuff says ★★★★★**

Great Bluetooth 'phones for well under £100

4



## Sennheiser Momentum 2.0

★★★★★ £170 / [stuff.tv/Momentum2](http://stuff.tv/Momentum2)

Pricy but just about worth the outlay, the Momentum 2.0s will have you smitten.

5



## Bose QuietComfort 35

★★★★★ £330 / [stuff.tv/QC35](http://stuff.tv/QC35)

Frequent flyers and long-range commuters: these are the headphones for you.



1

HOT  
BUY

## Apple Watch Series 4

from £399 / [stuff.tv/WatchS4](http://stuff.tv/WatchS4)

The Apple Watch Series 4 has everything going for it – the larger screen, improved processor and louder speaker mean it's easier to actually do stuff on it than any previous Watch, and it has a load of health features that just aren't on other wearables. Whether you're navigating somewhere using Maps, going for a run without your phone, or just wanting to keep track of your activity during the day, this Apple Watch does a great job of handling all these things and more.

**Stuff says ★★★★★**

**Best wearable ever: a sleek, sophisticated redesign of the previous generation with some hearty upgrades**

1

HOT  
BUY

## Moov Now

£60 / [stuff.tv/MoovNow](http://stuff.tv/MoovNow)

Slow and steady wins the race, and the Now has gone on to prove that with a marathon-like pace helping it finally make it to the top of this list. We've long considered this tracker a bargain, but further reductions have helped it enter the realm of 'downright steal'. OK, so it doesn't have a screen or smartphone skills, but with guided voice coaching, a six-month battery and solid waterproofing, it has everything you'd ever want in your perfect fitness tracker.

**Stuff says ★★★★★**

**A bargain-tastic fitness band that does more than just track your steps**

2



## Samsung Galaxy Watch

from £279 / [stuff.tv/GalaxyWatch](http://stuff.tv/GalaxyWatch)

A sturdy and stylish smartwatch with plenty of power and a truly lovely user interface. Those with an iPhone are still likely to get a better experience and more functionality from an Apple Watch, though.

**Stuff says ★★★★★**

**The best smartwatch for Android users**

2



## Fitbit Alta HR

★★★★☆ £130 / [stuff.tv/AltaHR](http://stuff.tv/AltaHR)

The Alta HR is one of the most motivational health monitors around. The heart-rate tracking adds some insightful meat to your stats, and it has an uncanny ability to tune into the type of exercise you're doing.

**Stuff says ★★★★★**

**A fine all-rounder with great autopilot tracking**

3



## Garmin Vivoactive 3

£280 / [stuff.tv/Vivoactive3](http://stuff.tv/Vivoactive3)

It looks good, isn't a wrist-dominator, outlasts just about all normal smartwatches and gets you the same kind of tracking as the Fenix 5 at barely half the price. We just wish it had more smart features up its sleeve.

**Stuff says ★★★★★**

**A fine smartwatch for sporty types**

3



## Withings Steel HR Sport

£190 / [stuff.tv/SteelHRSport](http://stuff.tv/SteelHRSport)

Like Paul McCartney's career, the Steel HR Sport can keep on going and going... and going. With a subtle, stylish design, it promises to last for 25 days on a single charge. This is one hybrid that won't burn out even when you do.

**Stuff says ★★★★★**

**One of the most well-rounded, stylish hybrids**

4



## Garmin Fenix 5

★★★★★ from £480 / [stuff.tv/Fenix5](http://stuff.tv/Fenix5)

Like the annoying kid in school who's both super-smart and great at every sport.

4



## Fitbit Charge 3

★★★★☆ £130 / [stuff.tv/Charge3](http://stuff.tv/Charge3)

A capable tracker with an easy-to-wear design and long battery life.

5



## Fitbit Versa

★★★★☆ £200 / [stuff.tv/Versa](http://stuff.tv/Versa)

Decent battery life and a smattering of smarts make this an attractive watch.

5



## Suunto 9

★★★★☆ £525 / [stuff.tv/Suunto9](http://stuff.tv/Suunto9)

Epic battery life and accurate tracking make this a great – if pricey – option.



1

HOT  
BUY

## TIPS &amp; TRICKS

Who needs a Touch Bar? You can log into your Mac with your iPhone's Touch ID using the MacID app.

The universal clipboard lets you copy text on your iPhone and paste it directly to your Mac.



## Apple MacBook Pro

from £1249 (13in) / [stuff.tv/MacBookPro](http://stuff.tv/MacBookPro)

While the Touch Bar versions of the MacBook Pro have been treated to an internal shake-up, most notably with speedy 8th-gen Intel Core chips, the basic Pro is still running on last year's specs. But with a Kaby Lake processor under the hood, this is still a monster of a machine. And when you factor in the gorgeous display, fantastic keyboard/touchpad and slick design, there's no doubt this affordable option still deserves its place at the top of our list.

Stuff says ★★★★★

Performance, portability and a sensible price make this the king of laptops



## ● NOW ADD THIS

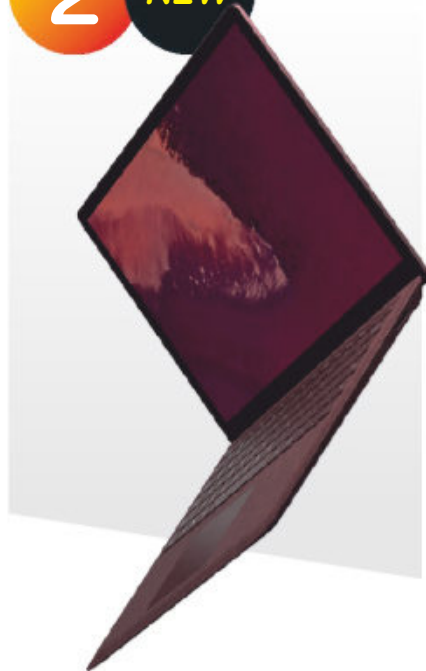
## Satechi Type-C USB 3 Hub

Two ports not enough? This hub adds loads more and sits snugly against the MacBook Pro's side.

£31 / [satechi.net](http://satechi.net)

2

NEW



## Microsoft Surface Laptop 2

from £979 / [stuff.tv/SurfaceLaptop2](http://stuff.tv/SurfaceLaptop2)

While there's little that's truly new about the Surface Laptop 2, that also means this computer has kept everything that made it such a phenomenal device in the first place. The additions of Intel's latest processors and the full version of Windows 10 ensure it's even better.

Stuff says ★★★★★

An even stronger all-round workhorse than its predecessor

3



## Dell XPS 13 (2018)

from £1149 / [stuff.tv/XPS13](http://stuff.tv/XPS13)

The Dell XPS 13 is one of the best, most consistent Windows laptops in the world. There are no gimmicks, no flimsy parts: every element is top-quality. You get style, portability, performance and great battery life. And every part of it just feels, well, good.

Stuff says ★★★★★

Royalty among Windows laptops: everything about this is top-notch

NEW

4



## Apple MacBook Air 13in (2018)

★★★★★ from £1199 / [stuff.tv/MacBookAir13](http://stuff.tv/MacBookAir13)

With a stunning design, screen and features, this is more than enough MacBook for most people.

5



## Apple MacBook

★★★★★ from £1249 / [stuff.tv/MacBook](http://stuff.tv/MacBook)

A Kaby Lake processor keeps the standard MacBook competitively brilliant.

6



## Huawei MateBook X Pro

★★★★★ from £779 / [stuff.tv/MateBookXPro](http://stuff.tv/MateBookXPro)

A stylish Windows laptop with some clever ideas to get the maximum display for your dollar.

7



## Dell XPS 15 2-in-1

★★★★★ from £1749 / [stuff.tv/XPS2in1](http://stuff.tv/XPS2in1)

A powerful, portable and versatile hybrid, but with a hefty price tag to match.

BARGAIN  
BUY

8



## Lenovo IdeaPad 320S

★★★★☆ from £279 / [stuff.tv/IdeaPad320S](http://stuff.tv/IdeaPad320S)

Cheap and cheerful makes for a refreshing combination, especially if you're on a budget.

9



## Razer Blade 15

★★★★☆ from £1480 / [stuff.tv/Blade15](http://stuff.tv/Blade15)

This ultra-portable is a super-powered gaming behemoth, but gets very hot under pressure.

10



## Apple MacBook Pro 13in with Touch Bar

★★★★☆ from £1749 / [stuff.tv/MacBook](http://stuff.tv/MacBook)

This 2018 revamp shakes up the laptop's insides, giving it enough power to justify its Pro moniker.



1

HOT  
BUY**TIPS & TRICKS**

With iPhones and Android devices, you can control your Sonos speakers from your lock screen.

Sonos speakers use a feature called Trueplay that tunes the sound to your room's acoustics.



## Sonos multiroom system

from £199 / [stuff.tv/SonosOne](http://stuff.tv/SonosOne)

If you want to pretend your favourite band is playing in your living room, there's no better option than a Sonos wireless speaker. They look great, work with your smartphone and boom out your tunes with dazzling finesse – from the compact and Alexa-compatible One (£199) to the flagship Play:5 (£499) and the TV-friendly Beam (£399).

**Stuff says ★★★★★**

Infinite music in every room without the need for custom installers? Sign us up!



● **NOW ADD THIS Spotify Premium**

Sick of playing your iTunes library on repeat? Sign up to Spotify for more new music than you could ever possibly listen to.  
£9.99/month / [spotify.com](http://spotify.com)

2



### Naim Mu-so

£995 / [stuff.tv/Mu-so](http://stuff.tv/Mu-so)

How much for a wireless speaker?! Well, yes, but what a wireless speaker it is. Naim has ploughed all of its high-end hi-fi experience into delivering a beautifully made, great-sounding device with AirPlay, Spotify Connect and aptX Bluetooth all on board.

**Stuff says ★★★★★**

A wireless speaker that can make a valid claim to be genuine hi-fi

3



### Riva S

£119 / [stuff.tv/RivaS](http://stuff.tv/RivaS)

With six drivers pumping out music with a tonal fidelity unrivalled by similarly priced speakers, this Riva is a must-have for sound nerds. Take into consideration the 13-hour battery life and a USB port on the back to charge other devices, and it's also a great travel companion.

**Stuff says ★★★★★**

The top small wireless speaker for real sound-hounds

HOT  
BUY

4



### Naim Mu-so Qb

★★★★★ £599 / [stuff.tv/Mu-soQb](http://stuff.tv/Mu-soQb)

Complements its big brother's more refined character with a confident presentation.

NEW

5



### KEF LSX

★★★★★ £999 (pair) / [stuff.tv/KEFLSX](http://stuff.tv/KEFLSX)

Convenience and fine sound at a real-world price, and in some vivid colours.

6



### Loewe Klang M1

★★★★★ £169 / [stuff.tv/KlangM1](http://stuff.tv/KlangM1)

Exceptional build quality and sound in a comprehensive compact speaker.

7



### Jam Heavy Metal

★★★★★ £60 / [stuff.tv/JamHM](http://stuff.tv/JamHM)

Classy sound and design at a bargain price: this is the best affordable Bluetooth speaker.

8



### UE Wonderboom

★★★★★ £65 / [stuff.tv/Wonderboom](http://stuff.tv/Wonderboom)

This little speaker might look cute, but it's a sonic grenade – one you can deploy anywhere.

9



### UE Megaboom 3

★★★★★ £170 / [stuff.tv/Megaboom3](http://stuff.tv/Megaboom3)

You'll struggle to find a better, or more fun, portable Bluetooth speaker.

NEW

10



### Marshall Stanmore II Voice

★★★★★ £350 / [stuff.tv/Stanmore2Voice](http://stuff.tv/Stanmore2Voice)

A multi-use speaker with rock'n'roll looks, great sound, wireless convenience... and Alexa.



1

HOT  
BUY

## TIPS &amp; TRICKS

Pick one of the expert preset modes and you won't have to do too much tweaking to get a fantastic picture.

First turn off any extra processing, then bring it back bit by bit to see if you like the changes.

Looking for some HDR10+ content? Warner Bros, Fox and Amazon are on board with the format.



## Panasonic FZ802B

£1799 / [stuff.tv/FZ802B](http://stuff.tv/FZ802B)

As 4K TV prices start to tumble, there's been a mad dash from manufacturers to convince the world their OLED panels looks better than everyone else's. So which one really does? This Panasonic, showcasing one of the best 4K HDR displays on the market for a pretty affordable price. OK, so the design looks plain and the lack of Dolby Vision might surprise a few, but when the picture looks so detailed and natural, who really gives a damn?

Stuff says ★★★★★

You won't find a better OLED for the money than this talented Panasonic



## ● NOW ADD THIS Sky Q

Once you've got a 4K TV, you'll want access to the best 4K content. Sky Q is a good bet for watching and recording all your favourite shows and films. from £20 + £20/month / [sky.com](http://sky.com)

2

HOT  
BUY

## LG 65 C8

£1699 / [stuff.tv/LGC8](http://stuff.tv/LGC8)

This year's LG flagship television doesn't appear to be a huge upgrade on 2017's model, but some clever tweaks to the processor have turned this into one of the finest OLED screens you can get. Sure, the E8 has a more jaw-dropping design and more immersive audio, but the C8 offers the exact same picture quality at a less premium price. For this reason, it's our top pick from LG's impressive 2018 range.

Stuff says ★★★★★

Small improvements make this LG's best OLED television yet

3



## Philips 55OLED+903

£2499 / [stuff.tv/55OLED903](http://stuff.tv/55OLED903)

This handsome device is capable of stunning video and audio – the latter thanks to the contribution of British hi-fi kings Bowers & Wilkins. You won't confuse the sound this telly makes for that of a dedicated audio system, but it's superior to any other TV you've heard – and by a considerable margin. The price keeps it off top spot, but if you have this sort of money to spend on a new TV, you have to see (and hear) this one.

Stuff says ★★★★★

Philips enlists the hi-fi specialists to deliver a stylish TV with great sound

4



## Samsung QE55Q8DN

★★★★★ from £1599 / [stuff.tv/SamsungQ8D](http://stuff.tv/SamsungQ8D)  
OLED still rules, but this QLED is a brilliantly accomplished TV and worth every penny.

5



## Samsung QE65Q9FN

★★★★★ £2399 / [stuff.tv/QE65Q9FN](http://stuff.tv/QE65Q9FN)  
This ultra-pricey 4K QLED is good enough to compete with the best OLEDs.

6



## Philips 55POS9002

★★★★★ £1199 / [stuff.tv/55POS9002](http://stuff.tv/55POS9002)  
Available at a relatively affordable price for an OLED 4K HDR set, this Philips is an ace bargain.

7



## LG OLED55C7V

★★★★★ from £1499 / [stuff.tv/55C7V](http://stuff.tv/55C7V)  
After a number of price cuts, this LG is now one of the most affordable OLEDs you can buy.

8



## Philips 50PUS6272

★★★★★ from £550 / [stuff.tv/50PUS6272](http://stuff.tv/50PUS6272)  
Not only does it have HDR and 4K support, but this cheap Philips also has the fab Ambilight.

9



## Sony KD-65XF9005

★★★★★ £1599 / [stuff.tv/KD65XF9005](http://stuff.tv/KD65XF9005)  
It may have a mid-range price, but this Sony's 4K LCD panel is still a proper belter.

NEW

BARGAIN  
BUY

10



## Philips 55PUS6753

★★★★☆ £549 / [stuff.tv/55PUS6753](http://stuff.tv/55PUS6753)  
A bargain Ambilight TV that offers an awful lot of 4K HDR screen for the price.



1

HOT  
BUY

## Sonos Beam

£399 / [stuff.tv/SonosBeam](http://stuff.tv/SonosBeam)

Sonos's home cinema gear has always been a little expensive, but with the Beam it's created a great-value soundbar. It sounds ace, comes with loads of features and is compact enough to fit into the average living-room AV setup without taking over. If you want the best-sounding system then the Playbar or Playbase are still the products to go for, but they're a lot more money, they don't have Alexa, and they don't control your TV in the same slick way the Beam does.

**Stuff says ★★★★★**

Smaller and cheaper than the already excellent Playbar, and packed full of smarts

2



## Q Acoustics Media 4

£199 / [stuff.tv/Media4](http://stuff.tv/Media4)

The justifiably multi-award-winning Media 4 combines subtle detail with precise surround effects to be one of the best-sounding and best-value soundbars you can buy.

**Stuff says ★★★★★**

A whole lot of under-telly hi-fi for the money

3



## Sky Soundbox

from £299 / [stuff.tv/SkySoundbox](http://stuff.tv/SkySoundbox)

If you already have a Sky Q subscription, you can get this fantastic audio booster on the cheap. If you haven't, it's really too expensive to be worth considering ahead of the class-leading Dali Kubik One.

**Stuff says ★★★★★**

The best-value upgrade ever... if you've got Sky

4



## Dali Kubik One

★★★★★ £799 / [stuff.tv/KubikOne](http://stuff.tv/KubikOne)

Gorgeous high-end performance for a not so gorgeous high-end price.

5



## Philips Fidelio B5

★★★★☆ £599 / [stuff.tv/FidelioB5](http://stuff.tv/FidelioB5)

A tech-packed soundbar that sounds as exciting as it looks.

1

HOT  
BUY

## Sonos One

£199 / [stuff.tv/SonosOne](http://stuff.tv/SonosOne)

Making an amazing speaker was an easy job for the multiroom champs, but getting Amazon's Alexa voice assistant to dance along in time with it... well, that wasn't such a simple task. But the One is now an altogether more well-rounded device than it was at launch, supporting Spotify with voice control as well as Amazon Music and TuneIn Radio, while the early Alexa hiccups seem to have been fixed by a series of software updates. The only issue? It's a little hard of hearing compared to Amazon's Echo.

**Stuff says ★★★★★**

Sonos's Alexa-powered speaker remains a class apart from the competition

2



## Amazon Echo Dot

£40 / [stuff.tv/EchoDot](http://stuff.tv/EchoDot)

The massive price difference means that, for many people, this is a much better bet than the full-size Echo. The only real downside is its poor-quality speaker, but the 3.5mm audio output will solve that problem for most.

**Stuff says ★★★★★**

One of the best bargains in tech right now

3



## Google Home Max

£399 / [stuff.tv/HomeMax](http://stuff.tv/HomeMax)

If you want a smart speaker that can blow the doors off a party, this is the best you can get right now. All the smarts of the basic Home speaker are here, naturally, and the larger drivers offer much more powerful bass.

**Stuff says ★★★★★**

A smart speaker that's ready to party

4



## Apple HomePod

★★★★☆ £299 / [stuff.tv/HomePod](http://stuff.tv/HomePod)

For Apple Music users who want a high-end smart speaker, this is a cracking choice.

5



## Amazon Echo (2nd gen)

★★★★☆ £80 / [stuff.tv/AmazonEcho](http://stuff.tv/AmazonEcho)

Nothing else in this price range looks quite as good or gets the job done quite as well.



1

HOT  
BUY

## Sky Q

from £20 + £20/month / [stuff.tv/SkyQ](http://stuff.tv/SkyQ)

Sky Q works flawlessly and could change the way you watch TV – especially now 4K's arrived. With Sky Movies' huge range of films and Sky Sports' frequent doses of football and F1 now all in stunning Ultra HD, there's something for everyone to treat their eyes with. And 2TB of storage means you can record 350 hours' worth of entertainment, so you're unlikely to be sweating over which show needs deleting. Factor in its multiroom skills, and Sky Q is undoubtedly the best TV experience you can get.

**Stuff says ★★★★★**

You'll have to cough up for a subscription, but this is the best box for watching both live and recorded shows

1

HOT  
BUY

## Sony PlayStation 4 Pro

£350 / [stuff.tv/PS4Pro](http://stuff.tv/PS4Pro)

As a gaming platform, PlayStation 4 is the best around – which makes the PS4 Pro the best of the best. Games optimised for the new console look stunning on a 4K HDR TV, and are substantially improved by the extra grunt inside this slightly bigger machine. Sure, it can't match the Xbox One X for sheer power or resolution, but it makes up for that with an impressive line-up of games – including *Uncharted 4*, *Horizon Zero Dawn* and *Bloodborne* – and virtual reality support.

**Stuff says ★★★★★**

The system for console gamers who have a 4K TV and want the best catalogue of games on offer

NEW

2



## Amazon Fire TV Stick 4K

£50 / [stuff.tv/FireStick4K](http://stuff.tv/FireStick4K)

Amazon's latest streaming stick offers 4K plus a faster processor than its predecessor, and comes with the new Alexa Voice Remote. It is very Prime-centric, but the selection of third-party apps is excellent.

**Stuff says ★★★★★**

The best 4K streaming stick you can buy

2



## Nintendo Switch

£280 / [stuff.tv/NintendoSwitch](http://stuff.tv/NintendoSwitch)

Nintendo's console earned a promotion in our list after it impressed us with a growing list of fantastic games. Plus, no other device here offers the joy of portable gaming. Train journeys will never be boring again.

**Stuff says ★★★★★**

This 2-in-1 console is the real deal

BARGAIN  
BUY

3



## Google Chromecast (3rd gen)

£30 / [stuff.tv/Chromecast](http://stuff.tv/Chromecast)

The latest Chromecast is an incredibly neat little gadget that will let you watch almost all of your favourite streaming and catch-up services on a television that doesn't have the apps built in.

**Stuff says ★★★★★**

The cheapest way to smarten up your TV

3



## Microsoft Xbox One X

£450 / [stuff.tv/XboxOneX](http://stuff.tv/XboxOneX)

There's no doubt the Xbox One X is the most powerful console here, capable of producing stunning 4K visuals... but it simply doesn't have the line-up of games to usurp the PS4 Pro from top spot.

**Stuff says ★★★★★**

A 4K monster held back by its game catalogue

4



## Roku Streaming Stick+

★★★★☆ £80 / [stuff.tv/RokuPlus](http://stuff.tv/RokuPlus)

This simple all-rounder is a great choice for the open-minded telly watcher.

4



## Sony PlayStation 4 Slim

★★★★★ £250 / [stuff.tv/PS4Slim](http://stuff.tv/PS4Slim)

Haven't got a 4K TV? This is the best way to enjoy PlayStation's brilliant exclusives.

5



## Apple TV 4K

★★★★☆ £179 / [stuff.tv/AppleTV4K](http://stuff.tv/AppleTV4K)

Streaming boxes might be on the way out, but Apple's 4K version still has its uses.

5



## Microsoft Xbox One S

★★★★★ from £250 / [stuff.tv/XboxOneS](http://stuff.tv/XboxOneS)

No longer our Xbox of choice, but the One S remains a serious affordable option.



1

HOT  
BUY

## Red Dead Redemption 2

£50 / PS4, Xbox One

Believable characters, a world to lose yourself in, top-class voice acting and a story that intrigues all the way through. Warts and all, with improvements from other games ignored, this is Rockstar at its most arrogant but also its most powerful. *Red Dead Redemption 2* trusts you to explore, to grow, and to let its world seep into your consciousness. This is a special game and one that was entirely worth the wait.

Stuff says ★★★★★

Ultra-addictive gameplay in one of the greatest open worlds ever created

### TIPS & TRICKS

- Make sure you talk to strangers more than once – you never know what they'll reveal.
- Regularly brushing and feeding Arthur's horse will increase their bond. It's what all good cowboys should do anyway.

### OR PLAY THIS

**Zelda: Breath of the Wild**

If you're after a different kind of open-world experience that's just as expansive and has a lot of heart, this is the one for you.

£40 / Switch

2



**God of War**  
from £40 / PS4

A lot has changed for PlayStation's god-slaying champion, Kratos. He's acquired a beard and a new magic axe... but while the action is as breathtaking as ever, it's the surprisingly mature storyline that's the draw here, with Kratos learning the ropes of parenting.

Stuff says ★★★★★

The epic return of Kratos is yet another phenomenal PS4 offering

3

NEW



**Super Smash Bros. Ultimate**  
£48 / Switch

It's no exaggeration to say this is hands-down the best *Smash* game yet. There's just so much going on, with a huge array of fighters – it's a fantastic way to enter into the world of *Smash*, and long-time fans of the series will not be disappointed.

Stuff says ★★★★★

*Smash* is well and truly back, and it's bigger and better than ever before

4



**Forza Horizon 4**

★★★★★ £41 / Xbox One, PC

This is a bar-raising sandbox-racing game experience that's worth buckling up for.

5



**Monster Hunter: World**

★★★★★ from £23 / PS4, Xbox One, PC

Fun for veterans and newcomers alike, *World* is one monster of a game.

6



**Dragon Ball FighterZ**

★★★★★ from £46 / PS4, Xbox One, Switch, PC

Now available on the Switch, this Super Saiyan fighter is a blast to play and looks great too.

7



**Marvel's Spider-Man**

★★★★★ £48 / PS4

One of the Marvel icon's absolute best interactive adventures to date.

8



**Assassin's Creed Odyssey**

★★★★★ £48 / PS4, Xbox One, PC

Get ready to dive into one of the series' biggest, best and most ambitious entries yet.

9



**FIFA 19**

★★★★★ from £50 / PS4, Xbox One, Switch, PC

Defensively suspect but full of moments that'll get you out of your seat. Just like real football.

10



**Hitman 2**

★★★★★ from £45 / PS4, Xbox One, PC

Low on fresh ideas, but the absurd comedy makes this sequel hard to resist.





## Lego Boost Creative Toolbox

£150 / [stuff.tv/LegoCreativeToolbox](http://stuff.tv/LegoCreativeToolbox)

Building Lego models is already ridiculously good fun, so think what great a time you'll have when the completed model turns into a functioning robot. With the accompanying tablet app, you can use simple coding to make the robot move, fire projectiles and play various games. And rather than retiring it to the dusty shelf once you're bored, you can rebuild him into four other programmable models: a harmonica-playing cat, a driveable rover, a working robot-builder and a playable guitar.

**Stuff says ★★★★★**

All hail Vernie and friends – for value and sheer fun, it's hard to beat this programmable Lego kit



## Jaguar I-Pace

from £60,995 (with PiCG) / [stuff.tv/ipace](http://stuff.tv/ipace)

Not content with simply making an electric vehicle that can get you from A to B with minimal fuss (and fuel bills), Jaguar has created something desirable, fun to drive and impressively capable when the going gets tough. This car offers Amazon Alexa integration, smartphone connectivity and a 10in touchscreen on the upper deck. With the I-Pace, Jaguar can happily claim to be the first mainstream brand to really give Tesla something to worry about.

**Stuff says ★★★★★**

Fun, fast and practical, the I-Pace is the greatest thing to happen to electric cars in a long time



## Sphero BB-8 with Force Band

£130 / [stuff.tv/BB8](http://stuff.tv/BB8)

BB-8 was fun even without the Force Band. Now it will make you feel like a proper Jedi, letting you control it with gestures – and that's worth more than all the snow on Hoth. See also the BB-9E model.

**Stuff says ★★★★★**

BB-8 is a bona fide Force sensation



## Propel Star Wars X-Wing Battling Drone

from £60 / [stuff.tv/SWDrone](http://stuff.tv/SWDrone)

The Star Wars Battling Drone works indoors and outdoors, and doesn't require a licence or CAA permit to fly. It's a total blast... just a shame there's no camera or app.

**Stuff says ★★★★★**

Is the Force strong with this one? You betcha!



## Sphero Bolt

★★★★★ £150 / [stuff.tv/SpheroBolt](http://stuff.tv/SpheroBolt)

Even if coding isn't your thing, there's a lot to enjoy here for kids both big and small.



## Anki Cozmo

★★★★☆ £130 / [stuff.tv/Cozmo](http://stuff.tv/Cozmo)

He's a bit pricey, but Cozmo's a great laugh and has buckets of personality.



## Volvo XC90 T8

from £57,783 / [stuff.tv/XC90T8](http://stuff.tv/XC90T8)

The latest XC90 is a monster 4x4 that features some of the most impressive interior tech seen on any car today, hybrid or not. It also looks great, rides beautifully and can tackle the twistiest routes.

**Stuff says ★★★★★**

A luxury SUV hybrid that happens to be green



## BMW i8 Roadster

from £124,735 / [stuff.tv/i8Roadster](http://stuff.tv/i8Roadster)

It has a tiny engine borrowed from a Mini Cooper, but the added contribution of an electric motor driving the front wheels turns this stunningly futuristic convertible into a genuine supercar.

**Stuff says ★★★★★**

There's no other convertible like this hybrid



## Tesla Model X

★★★★☆ from £75,000 / [stuff.tv/TeslaX](http://stuff.tv/TeslaX)

An incredible, extravagant fully electric car that's more practical than the Model S.



## VW Golf GTE

★★★★☆ from £26,479 / [stuff.tv/VWGolfGTE](http://stuff.tv/VWGolfGTE)

Volkswagen keeps the Golf's heritage alive with a plug-in hybrid that's a breeze to drive.



1

HOT  
BUY

## Oculus Rift

£399 / [stuff.tv/OculusTouch](http://stuff.tv/OculusTouch)

The Oculus Rift has been playing catch-up for a while; but now that it's got the fantastic Touch Controllers, has boosted its room-tracking capabilities to match the Vive and has had a price drop to undercut HTC's standard headset by £100, it finally deserves to top our VR headset rankings. Its library of exclusive games has grown considerably since launch too, with the likes of *Robo Recall*, *Lucky's Tale* and *Lone Echo* all added. This is now the best VR headset available that doesn't cost the world.

**Stuff says** ★★★★★☆

Thanks to the price cut and much-needed updates, the Rift is now the best reasonably-priced VR headset

2



## HTC Vive

£499 / [stuff.tv/HTCVive](http://stuff.tv/HTCVive)

Barring a £100 price difference, there isn't much difference between the HTC Vive and Oculus Rift in all honesty. But if you're thinking of upgrading to the Vive Pro in the future, this is a great gateway headset.

**Stuff says** ★★★★★☆

A solid choice for immersive virtual reality

3



## HTC Vive Pro

£799 (headset only) / [stuff.tv/HTCVive](http://stuff.tv/HTCVive)

This high-end headset offers the best virtual reality experience by a long way, but its sky-high price means you should only really buy it if you're a VR obsessive with a super-powerful gaming PC.

**Stuff says** ★★★★★☆

This hardcore headset is overkill for most

4



## Google Daydream View

★★★★☆ £99 / [stuff.tv/DaydreamView](http://stuff.tv/DaydreamView)

This budget-friendly option is the best way of bringing VR to the masses.

5

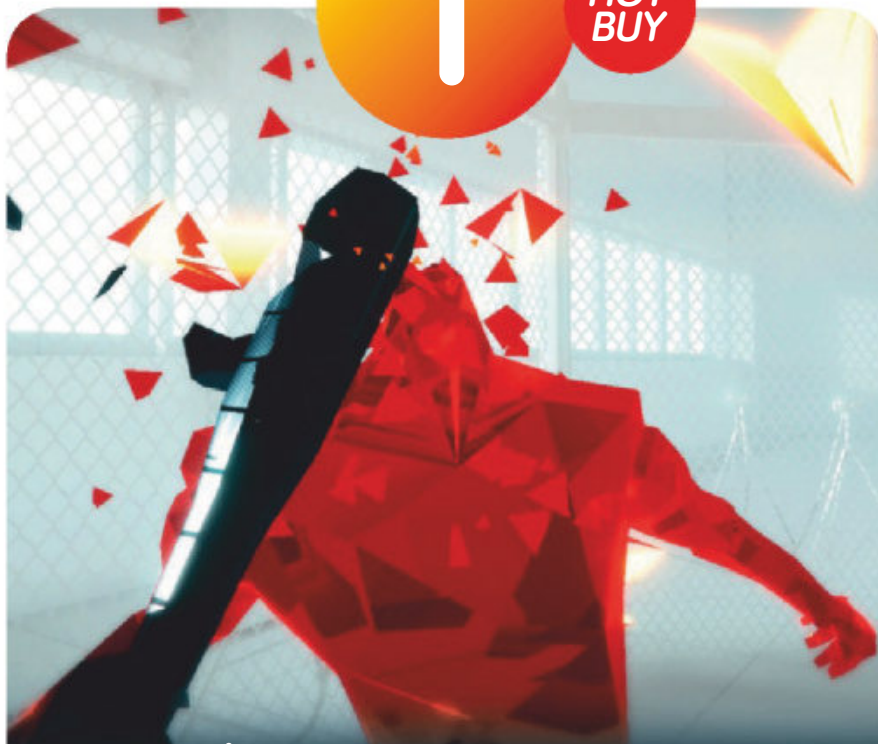


## PlayStation VR

★★★★☆ from £200 / [stuff.tv/PlayStationVR](http://stuff.tv/PlayStationVR)

It can deliver incredible experiences, but the PSVR is held back by teething issues.

1

HOT  
BUY

## Superhot VR

£20 / [Oculus Rift](http://stuff.tv/OculusRift), [Vive](http://stuff.tv/Vive), [PSVR](http://stuff.tv/PSVR)

*Superhot* has found its home in VR – just watch those slow-mo bullets skim the tip of your nose. The enemy will only move when you do, so time your attacks to perfection and dodge, duck and dive to survive. There's something really cool about hiding behind a desk before blitzing your opponents with streams of bullets as if you were starring in your very own *Matrix* movie. And with *Superhot* soon arriving on PSVR, more players will be able to experience this wonderfully action-packed title.

**Stuff says** ★★★★★☆

If you have a VR headset, this 2-in-1 puzzler and shooter should be right at the top of your shopping list

BARGAIN  
BUY

2



## Farpoint

£16 (£55 with Aim Controller) / [PSVR](http://stuff.tv/PSVR)

If it weren't in VR, *Farpoint* would be a distinctly average space-based FPS. But the PSVR headset and Aim Controller lift it above the pack and make it a must-play, not just for VR fans but also for FPS addicts.

**Stuff says** ★★★★★☆

Simply a thrilling VR experience

3



## Moss

£25 / [PSVR](http://stuff.tv/PSVR)

This platform puzzler has a storybook charm to it, as you guide an adorable little mouse through all sorts of obstacles. It's one of the best titles to really utilise VR's unique controls.

**Stuff says** ★★★★★☆

A one-of-a-kind fable that's perfect for VR

BARGAIN  
BUY

4



## Thumper

★★★★☆ £16 / [Oculus Rift](http://stuff.tv/OculusRift), [Vive](http://stuff.tv/Vive), [PSVR](http://stuff.tv/PSVR)

This mesmerising rhythm game is best played in VR, despite the lack of tracking.

5



## Doom VFR

★★★★☆ £20 / [Vive](http://stuff.tv/Vive), [PSVR](http://stuff.tv/PSVR)

Movement can be awkward, but this shooter is still bloody good fun.



1

HOT  
BUY

## Tado Smart Thermostat

from £199 + installation / [stuff.tv/Tado](http://stuff.tv/Tado)

It might not be as pretty as the Nest 3.0, but Tado has quietly evolved into the best all-round smart heating system around. Like autopilot for your boiler, it senses when you're leaving home or coming back thanks to the app's geolocation. And Tado's gadgety goodness is second to none, with the option of zonal control for individual rooms and voice smarts from the likes Alexa and Google Assistant.

Stuff says ★★★★★

**Tado roasts the competition with its combination of simplicity and smarts**



### ● NOW ADD THIS

#### Tado Smart Radiator Thermostats

Once you've tasted the joys of zonal smart heating, you and your wallet will never go back.

£70 each / [tado.com](http://tado.com)

### ● TIPS & TRICKS

- Check out the app's Energy Savings Report to see how well you're doing each month.
- Crank up the nerdery by tinkering with Tado's IFTTT channel or adding it to your HomeKit setup.
- Hook up an Amazon Echo or Google Home to change the temperature with your voice.



2

BARGAIN  
BUY

### Netatmo Welcome

£163 / [stuff.tv/NetatmoWelcome](http://stuff.tv/NetatmoWelcome)

Netatmo's smart cam has face recognition capability, which works well once it's got to know you, and the usual motion and noise detection is easy to control. You can also remotely monitor your house to keep the paranoia at bay while on holiday.

Stuff says ★★★★★

**A neat security cam with loads of features and storage options**

3



### Nest 3.0

£199 + installation / [stuff.tv/Nest3](http://stuff.tv/Nest3)

This is one of the cleverest (and best-looking) smart thermostats on the market. Nest learns your habits – when you're in, when you're likely to need a lot of hot water and so on – so it can control the boiler to save energy and keep that shower nice and toasty.

Stuff says ★★★★★

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

4



### Philips Hue Starter Kit

★★★★★ from £60 (white) / [stuff.tv/PhilipsHue](http://stuff.tv/PhilipsHue)  
Become an indoor god with the smartest way of lighting up your home remotely.

5



### Arlo Pro

★★★★★ £234 / [stuff.tv/ArloPro](http://stuff.tv/ArloPro)  
A good home cam that becomes a great one outdoors. Your shed has never been so secure.

6



### Google Wifi

★★★★★ £129 / [stuff.tv/GoogleWifi](http://stuff.tv/GoogleWifi)  
A signal-spreading wonder that'll make your old router look like a tech dinosaur.

7



### Google Home Hub

★★★★☆ £139 / [stuff.tv/HomeHub](http://stuff.tv/HomeHub)  
Google's first screen-based smart helper works well and offers real value for money.

8



### Nest Hello

★★★★☆ £229 / [stuff.tv/NestHello](http://stuff.tv/NestHello)  
Not only is this a nifty smart doorbell, but it also doubles as a useful outdoor security camera.

9



### Hive Active Heating

★★★★☆ from £179 / [stuff.tv/HiveActive](http://stuff.tv/HiveActive)  
This heating system is simple enough for anyone to use and powerful enough to be truly useful.

10



### Nanoleaf Aurora + Rhythm

★★★★☆ from £180 / [stuff.tv/NanoleafRhythm](http://stuff.tv/NanoleafRhythm)  
The most dazzling smart lights around, with some impressive sonic skills added.



1

HOT  
BUY

## DJI Mavic 2 Pro

£1349 / [stuff.tv/Mavic2Pro](http://stuff.tv/Mavic2Pro)

The Mavic 2 Pro keeps all the good bits of the old Mavic Pro while making genuine improvements in almost every area. Aimed at the enthusiast willing to spend a little more to fly and film a little further, it's undeniably pricey – but we think said enthusiasts will find it's worth every penny. It's a fantastic flier that feels superbly responsive in the air. It's not as small or affordable as the Mavic Air, but the battery life, safety features and Hasselblad image quality more than make up for it.

**Stuff says ★★★★★**

A drone with no real weaknesses, this is the new gold standard in portable drones

2



## DJI Mavic Air

£669 / [stuff.tv/MavicAir](http://stuff.tv/MavicAir)

By combining the best bits from the Spark and Mavic Pro, DJI has made a cracking gadget for both beginners who want stunning ariel travel videos and those who just want to fly a nimble drone at full pelt around the park.

**Stuff says ★★★★★**

The best non-professional drone you can buy

3



## DJI Spark

£399 / [stuff.tv/DJISpark](http://stuff.tv/DJISpark)

The Spark is the most user-friendly drone on this list. You control it via hand gestures or a smartphone, while it's so dinky it will easily fit in your bag for a day out in the park. The 15-minute fly time is short, though.

**Stuff says ★★★★★**

The perfect drone for beginners

4



## Parrot Anafi

★★★★★ £469 / [stuff.tv/Anafi](http://stuff.tv/Anafi)

The Anafi is a compact, (relatively) affordable and 4K-capable high-flyer.

5



## Ryze Tello

★★★★☆ £89 / [stuff.tv/Tello](http://stuff.tv/Tello)

Not without its technical shortcomings, but there's no better £100 toy drone.

1

HOT  
BUY

## Sony DSC-RX100 V

£870 / [stuff.tv/RX100V](http://stuff.tv/RX100V)

We wouldn't recommend buying this camera if you already own the old IV model, but a few improvements have ensured Sony remains the top dog in our compacts list – and we're keeping this model above the new RX100 VI simply because of the huge price difference. It remains one of the finest point-and-shoots we've ever seen, with a flexibility that few pocket cameras can muster. While it's still not exactly cheap, we reckon this is the cam to buy if you want fantastic-looking snaps from your holidays.

**Stuff says ★★★★★**

A small improvement over the RX100 IV, but this Sony is close to premium point-and-shoot perfection

2



## Panasonic Lumix TZ200

£629 / [stuff.tv/TZ200](http://stuff.tv/TZ200)

This Panasonic compact is a significant upgrade from the TZ100, offering extra reach with the zoom lens, better colour reproduction, and an improved experience when using the electronic viewfinder.

**Stuff says ★★★★★**

Small, neat and not dramatically overpriced

3



## Sony DSC-RX100 VI

£649 / [stuff.tv/RX100VI](http://stuff.tv/RX100VI)

A true all-rounder that shoots 24fps at full resolution and has stunningly fast autofocus, topped off with a whopping 8x zoom lens that's quite spectacular for such a tiny camera.

**Stuff says ★★★★★**

A dinky yet luxurious point-and-shoot

4



## Panasonic Lumix LX100

★★★★★ £529 / [stuff.tv/LX100](http://stuff.tv/LX100)

One of the most capable compacts on the market, with superb stills and HD video.

5



## Fujifilm X100F

★★★★★ £1199 / [stuff.tv/X100F](http://stuff.tv/X100F)

The best street shooter around if you don't need the flexibility of interchangeable lenses.



1

HOT  
BUY

## Fujifilm X-T3

£1299 / [stuff.tv/FujifilmXT3](http://stuff.tv/FujifilmXT3)

It's really hard to find anything bad to say about the X-T3 – it's just consistently great in so many ways. Fuji has looked at virtually every feature on the X-T2 and upgraded it. With substantial tweaks made to the pro-level video options, the high-res EVF, the super-fast autofocus and the burst shooting, what you're left with is an all-round beast of a camera in a small, beautiful form. As APS-C shooters go, it's the best there is.

Stuff says ★★★★★

**An incredible stills shooter with video smarts to match**



### ● NOW ADD THIS

**Manfrotto 190 Go! Carbon Fibre Tripod**

You no longer have an excuse for wobbly photos with this carbon-fibre tripod. It weighs just 1.65kg.

£235 / [manfrotto.co.uk](http://manfrotto.co.uk)

2

HOT  
BUY

### Sony A7 III

£1849 / [stuff.tv/SonyA7iii](http://stuff.tv/SonyA7iii)

The A7 III manages to pack in a lot of technology and desirability for less than £2000. It's a fantastic all-rounder that's well suited to a bunch of shooting scenarios, coping well with landscapes, portraits, and even a little bit of high-speed sport shooting. As a camera design it's admittedly not the prettiest thing we've ever seen, but it handles well for its compact size.

Stuff says ★★★★★

**A fantastic all-rounder that excels in low-light conditions**

3



### Fujifilm X-T20

£889 / [stuff.tv/XT20](http://stuff.tv/XT20)

With its 24.3MP APS-C sensor, plus a touchscreen, the X-T20 will deliver results that are in some cases just as good as you'll get from Fuji's pricier models – and will leave you with a lot more spare cash in your account. With well-laid-out controls, a huge viewfinder, excellent AF and access to superb lenses, the X-T20 is just one more fantastic mirrorless camera from Fuji.

Stuff says ★★★★★

**The X-T20 nails the sweet spot between price and performance**

4



### Panasonic Lumix G9

★★★★★ £999 / [stuff.tv/LumixG9](http://stuff.tv/LumixG9)

The G9 is the best Lumix camera to date and a fine choice for wildlife or action photography.

5



### Sony A6500

★★★★★ £1279 / [stuff.tv/A6500](http://stuff.tv/A6500)

A cracking system cam for action photography, but stick with the A6300 if your budget is tight.

6



### Fujifilm X-H1

★★★★★ £1699 / [stuff.tv/XH1](http://stuff.tv/XH1)

By adding in-body image stabilisation, Fuji has created a wonderful all-rounder.

7



### Canon EOS 80D

★★★★★ £799 / [stuff.tv/80D](http://stuff.tv/80D)

The 80D is so easy to use that even a toddler would get some great shots with it.

8



### Nikon D500

★★★★★ £1759 / [stuff.tv/D500](http://stuff.tv/D500)

One of the best APS-C cameras you can buy, and well worth its slightly painful price tag.

9



### Nikon D850

★★★★★ from £3299 / [stuff.tv/D850](http://stuff.tv/D850)

This super-cam has enough fantastic features to excel in pretty much any situation.

10



### Fujifilm GFX 50S

★★★★★ £4999 / [stuff.tv/GFX50S](http://stuff.tv/GFX50S)

It's not cheap, but no camera we've tested takes better photos than this.



1

HOT  
BUY

## SNES Classic Mini

£80 / [stuff.tv/ClassicMini](http://stuff.tv/ClassicMini)

Why bother splashing out over £200 on a games console when you can get the SNES Classic Mini for a fraction of that? Especially when you get 21 classic titles pre-installed on this nostalgia-inducing machine, including the likes of *Super Metroid*, *A Link to the Past*, *Super Mario World* and the never-before-released *Star Fox 2*. And with two controllers bundled in the box, you'll be able to start the *Super Mario Kart* action right away.

**Stuff says ★★★★★**

**With 21 classic games installed, gamers won't find better value anywhere**



### ● NOW ADD THIS

#### 8Bitdo Bluetooth Retro Receiver

Fed up of those short cables? Use this clever device to connect most modern controllers wirelessly. £16.14 / [8bitdo.com](http://8bitdo.com)

2



### Raspberry Pi Zero W

from £9.16 / [stuff.tv/PiZeroW](http://stuff.tv/PiZeroW)

It might be nearly twice the price of the original Pi Zero, but when you're still getting change from a tenner the wireless Pi is fantastic value. Simplicity is key, with no need to mess about with dongles or hubs. This also means your Pi projects can be squeezed into smaller places.

**Stuff says ★★★★★**

**The Pi Zero was already brilliant; wireless add-ons make it better**

3

HOT  
BUYBARGAIN  
BUY

### UE Wonderboom

£68 / [stuff.tv/Wonderboom](http://stuff.tv/Wonderboom)

If you want a cheap portable Bluetooth speaker, you can't go wrong with either the Jam Heavy Metal or the UE Wonderboom. But the latter makes this list for its funky design and waterproofing. As it's *Stuff's* reigning hi-fi gadget of the year, this is a super bargain.

**Stuff says ★★★★★**

**Our absolute favourite hi-fi gadget, and for well under £100**

4



### Moov Now

★★★★★ £60 / [stuff.tv/MoovNow](http://stuff.tv/MoovNow)

The best budget tracker you can buy – gives most Fitbits a run for their money.

5



### Beyerdynamic Byron

★★★★★ £42 / [stuff.tv/Byron](http://stuff.tv/Byron)

The best-sounding earphones you'll be able to find at this bargain price.

6



### Moto G6 Play

★★★★★ £150 / [stuff.tv/G6Play](http://stuff.tv/G6Play)

A cracking smartphone we'd happily pay twice as much for.

7



### Google Home Mini

★★★★☆ £49 / [stuff.tv/HomeMini](http://stuff.tv/HomeMini)

The friendliest and most knowledgeable miniature smart speaker around.

8



### Ryze Tello

★★★★☆ £89 / [stuff.tv/Tello](http://stuff.tv/Tello)

Rule the skies without breaking the bank with this affordable toy drone.

9



### Ikea Tradfri

★★★★☆ from £15 / [stuff.tv/IkeaSmartLights](http://stuff.tv/IkeaSmartLights)

Philips Hue might have colour-changing bulbs, but Ikea's Tradfri smart lights are crazy cheap.

10



### Mobvoi Ticwatch E

★★★★☆ £146 / [stuff.tv/Ticwatch](http://stuff.tv/Ticwatch)

Fancy a watch that's both smart and good at fitness tracking? This is our bargain ticker pick.



# HOW TO BUY CASH-SAVING HOME KIT

Joining the smart home revolution isn't just about lazy shortcuts: some of these gadgets can actually help you save energy and money

## HOT HIVE TIPS

### COOL IDEA

The Hive can use geolocation to detect when you're out, and tell you if you've left the heating on.



## LIGHT WORK

Hive Active Light lets you control your home's lights via the same hub that runs your heating.

## WARM WORDS

This thermostat is compatible with Alexa and Google Assistant, so you can control it with your voice.



## MARVELLOUS MONEY-SAVERS

### 1 Bit of a turn-off

So you've woken up late and catapulted yourself out of the door to get to work on time. And just as your train pulls out, you realise you've left the kitchen radio on. To save yourself from wasting all that electricity, a Belkin smart plug lets you shut off the power at any mains socket remotely via its app. It also shows how much energy a device is using.

● Get this: **WeMo Insight Switch** £50 / belkin.com

### 2 Beginning to see the light

You can do the same disaster-averting trick with smart lights – whose long-lasting, energy-efficient LED bulbs might also save you a lot of pennies. The Philips Hue Starter Kit can last up to 25,000 hours and is remotely controlled via an app that lets you set timers, adjust lights' brightness... and turn them off from that train.

● Get this: **Philips Hue Starter Kit** £60 / meethue.com

### 3 Smarten up your meter

Every energy supplier in the UK is obliged to install smart meters free of charge by the end of 2020 – and some will happily do it now. This can be worth asking for if you want to keep an eye on how much money your gas and leccy are racking up in real time. Not only will this give you an insight into where and when you're spending the most money in your home, but it also means you can do away with estimate-based bills.

### 4 Impressive stats

Investing in a smart thermostat is a great way to cut heating bills. Multiroom systems are best for maximum efficiency in larger homes, but for people in flats a single Hive unit will do the job. It'll work with any boiler, and is controlled using a simple app. You can schedule up to six time slots per day for when you want the heating on.

● Get this: **Hive Active Heating** from £179 / hivehome.com

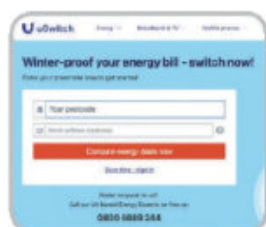
### 5 Water waste

It's easy to lose track of time when you're singing power ballads in the shower. So an eco head that regulates the flow will save you from pouring money down the plughole.

● Get this: **Mira Eco 3-Spray** £56 / amazon.co.uk



## OR GET A NEW SUPPLIER



### ● SWITCH IT UP

If you think you're paying too much on your energy bills, **uswitch.com** is a handy site that compares all the providers and helps you switch over to the best deal.

### ● GET SUPER POWERS

You probably know it as the site for comparing exciting stuff like mortgages and car insurance, but **moneysupermarket.com** also checks energy tariffs.



# IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF **Stuff**



## THE APPS YOU NEED FOR 2019



LIBRATONE'S  
SMART SPEAKER



NEW KINDLE  
PAPERWHITE

ON SALE  
24 JANUARY



SUBSCRIBE ONLINE NOW...  
HAVE STUFF DELIVERED FOR FREE  
& GET THREE ISSUES FOR A FIVER!

Call 01959 543747

Full details on p68

ADVERTISEMENT

**Benefitting from over 20 years' experience, Gadget Cover is an award winning mobile phone and gadget insurance specialist.**

Arranging cover for a wide range of products from laptops to cameras and smartwatches to iPhones, we put our customers and their needs at the heart of everything we do.

With the soaring price of technology, insurance for your gadget has never been more important. With the latest top of the range iPhone XS Max selling for £1,449, more and more customers are looking for ways to protect their prized possessions in case they have an accident. Policies with us which start immediately ensure, that should you need it, you can relax knowing a repaired or replaced gadget is on the way.

Aside from the normal benefits you'd expect, our policies come with the added value such as:

- Defaqto 5 star rated
- One month's free insurance with any annual policy
- Unlimited replacement and repairs
- Replacement of any accessories (up to the value of £150) if they are lost, stolen or damaged with your gadget.

To find out more information or to get a quote, visit [www.gadget-cover.com](http://www.gadget-cover.com) or call 0203 794 9294 to speak to the team.







## NEXT BIG THING?



## THE RED LIGHT TAMER

**S**

**ounds risqué. Does it have anything to do with Amsterdam?**

Tsk, not those kind of red lights. We're talking traffic lights. Did you know the first set was installed outside the Houses of Parliament 150 years ago? Just think how much time people have spent waiting at red lights ever since. Even back then there were probably people in stagecoaches just wishing someone would invent something they could beep in frustration. But if Jaguar's latest innovation takes off, horn-blasting traffic jams could become a thing of the past.

**Like stagecoaches?**

Exactly like stagecoaches. Everyone knows how good it feels when every set of lights you encounter seems to magically turn green as you approach. Well, what if that wasn't magic at all? Jaguar has developed something called a Green Light Optimal Speed Advisory (GLOSA) system that communicates with traffic lights on a car's route and tells the driver the optimum speed they should travel at in order to avoid waiting at a red light when they arrive at each junction. It's currently being tested out in one of the company's excellent F-Pace SUVs.

**But not every light can be green all the time. It'd be chaos!**

You're missing the point. When drivers speed up to beat the lights, or brake suddenly when they realise they're not going to make it, this creates more pollution and potentially causes accidents (as well as the aforementioned frustration). This isn't going to make red lights obsolete, but waiting times will be reduced. Add in Intersection Collision Warning (ICW), which helps to prevent crashes and advises who should go next at junction stand-offs, and commuting could be about to get just a bit less painful.

[ Words Tom Wiggins ]

# DON'T MISS THE NEXT ISSUE! ON SALE 24 JAN





online, by phone or in store



# New Osmo Pocket

The smallest Osmo Camera ever

Pre-order your Osmo Pocket at [wex.co.uk/osmopocket](https://wex.co.uk/osmopocket)

Alternatively call 01603 486413 or visit your nearest Wex Photo Video store



# M I R R O R L E S S R E I N V E N T E D

A NEW BENCHMARK  
IN OPTICAL PERFORMANCE



**CAPTURE TOMORROW**

**Z series**

Whether shooting stills or videos, the new full-frame Z series pushes the boundaries in imaging quality and lens capabilities, enabled by the all-new Z mount. Unleash full creative freedom with the newly designed NIKKOR Z lenses, or choose from over 90 fully AF/AE compatible NIKKOR F lenses\*. Experience revolutionary optical performance in a compact form factor today.

ALL-NEW FULL-FRAME SYSTEM | QUAD VGA EVF |  
NEW Z MOUNT & NIKKOR Z LENSES | IN-CAMERA 5 AXIS VR |  
FULLY AF/AE COMPATIBLE WITH OVER 90 NIKKOR F LENSES\*

\*When paired with the optional FTZ mount adapter

For more information visit [www.nikon.co.uk](http://www.nikon.co.uk)

