

## Youtuber makes budget Steam Deck for \$30, sort of

A YouTuber has created a budget Steam Deck alternative for only \$30, and it can actually run games like Skyrim and Minecraft without looking like a slideshow



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Published: Sep 7, 2022

**Gaming hardware** | **Steam Deck**

A YouTuber has cobbled together a Steam Deck alternative for \$30, and the improvised handheld [cheap gaming PC](#) is better than you'd think. While its creator describes the portable rig as "sketchy and cheap," but it's surprisingly capable considering it costs less than a newly released game.

Shared by low-spec gaming PC enthusiast [Budget Builds](#), the improvised **Steam Deck** is actually an old Windows tablet. The creator transforms the low-spec device into a faux Deck by pairing it with a "weird and rare" Microsoft-certified Xbox controller dock and using Steam big picture, which sort of emulates Valve's official handheld experience.

Budget Builds admits the low-spec tablet is not as sleek as a Steam Deck, and its specs aren't a patch on the real portable deal. However, it can run older favourites like Skyrim and [Minecraft](#) without turning into a



The budget Steam Deck undeniably lacks oomph in terms of hardware, but it's actually possible play Red Dead Redemption 2 at 1440p using the device. The catch? Well, you'll have to harness the power of cloud gaming by streaming games from your gaming PC. That might sound like a cop out, but it could technically give the upcoming [Logitech and Tencent handheld](#) a run for its money.

Naturally, if you're looking for a portable powerhouse that runs the latest games with ease, we'd recommend buying an actual Steam Deck. [Valve just nudged outstanding reservations forward](#), so you probably won't have to wait long to get your mitts on one.

That said, Budget Builds' experiment is a testament to the viability of low-spec gaming, both as a platform and a hobby in its own right. Sure, even your gran won't be fooled into thinking this is a [Steam Deck 2](#), but it'd be neat to see more alternatives like this pop up in the future.

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Phil longs for the bleeps and bloops of old gaming PCs but is happy to remove his retro-tinted glasses to cover the latest Nvidia, AMD, and Intel GPUs and CPUs. He also covers the Oculus Quest 2.

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