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KATARINA @ PROFILE
PHOTOGRAPHED BY RICHARD GRASSIE
STYLING BY MICHELLE KELLY
HAIR AND MAKEUP BY GINNI BOGADO
RETOUCHING BY JAMES WOOTTON

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Editor's letter

May 2014 / Issue 228

Technology is not just for fixing a problem or giving in to distraction today, it's also about conjuring up a better tomorrow. Innovative gadgetry creates a conversation about where we're going, how we're going to get there, and why. We can rebuild us, we have the technology – but should we?

After all, we now wake, live and sleep to the tune of tech. So while it's easy to bemoan fledgling innovations such as fingerprint scanners, heart-rate monitors or motion sensors for being frivolous, under-utilised or even unnecessary, it's what they hint at, and the potential they offer to ever-eager developers, that is truly exciting. If you can't imagine a use for it, someone, somewhere will.

T3's Hot 100 has long been a torchbearer of this tech excitement and possibility; an ultimate wish list that's spent the last eight years counting down the gadgets set to steal tech-lovers hearts the world over, from the iPad to 3D printers. For its ninth outing, we've rebuffed the rules to not only reflect tech's ever-growing importance in every facet of our lives, but the fact that content is now every bit as important as the hardware it runs on.

So we're proud to present the new, improved Hot 100, featuring the products, people, pioneering media and burgeoning ideas that will change our world over the next 12 months. No rumours, no make believe, no wishful thinking – everything here is real and (almost) ready to roll, from wearable wannabes to autonomous autos, 4K this and VR that. Feel the warm tech glow begin on p52.

Sharing the heat with the Hot 100 are this month's big noises, starting on p15 with an exclusive hands-ons of soon-to-be-available smartphone stars, the HTC One M8 and Samsung Galaxy S5, then a full MOT of Apple's new CarPlay and a squad of maverick ideas from Manchester City, fast becoming the world's techiest football club.

We're also interested in the white-hot tech brains that don't just innovate but fight like hell to deliver their own unique visions of the future. We talk at length to two such firebrands, with Mega boss-cum-US fugitive Kim Dotcom's unique take on the NSA/Snowden debacle ("There will be public monuments built for him") on p58 and domestic-tech icon Sir James Dyson decrying the rise of patent trolling ("If a company can steal designs, invention becomes pointless") on p66. The Design Museum's Alex Newsom celebrates the similarly maverick Philippe Starck on p32.

However, if we're talking innovation and controversy, has there been a more divisive gadget, generating a more sci-fi-like buzz, in the last five years than Google Glass? With the US seemingly rewriting its state law books with every new Glass-related incident, we explore the search giant turned tech trendsetter's many, many research projects, each of them shaping our future, on p80.

After all, it's the Hot 100 issue, and sometimes there's nothing hotter than innovation itself.

Matt Hill, Editor
Twitter: @gethill / Email: matt.hill@futurenet.com

{CONTRIBUTORS}

1 TOM THOROGOOD

The Sun's expert on all things music and celeb used his contacts to do what the US Justice Department can't: get an hour's chat with Kim Dotcom, the hottest (legally speaking) man in tech. Read all on p58.

2 RAMI NIEMI

Award-winning Swedish illustrator Rami has worked with *GQ*, *Monocle*, Google and, interestingly, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland. This month he puts pictures to T3's Opinion, p49.

3 JIM HILL

Former *Wired* product editor and cinephile Jim has been revisiting his favourite films on the latest smart Blu-ray players. Did they add to his viewing pleasure? Find out in his full and frank test from p111.

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Future Publishing Ltd, 2 Balcombe Street, London, NW1 6NW
Website: T3.com Tel: +44 7043 4000 Fax: +44 7042 4819
Twitter: @t3dotcom Facebook: t3mag
General email: inbox@t3.com Email: firstname.lastname@futurenet.com

{EDITORIAL}

Editor-in-chief Kieran Alger
Editor, T3 Magazine & Digital Editions Matt Hill
Editor, T3.com Mark Mayne
Managing Editor Duncan Bell

Senior Art Editor Matthew Kendall
Production Editor Clare Sartin **Art Editor** Luke O'Neill
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Features Editor James Stables **News Editor** Jeff Parsons
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Digital Designer Amber Sinclair **Website Designer** Jane Wan

News Writer Thomas Tamblyn
Features Writers Peter Dreyer, Max Parker
Gaming Editor-at-large Nick Cowen
US Reporter Chris Smith

Contributors, Words
Derek Adams, Jeremy Laird, Rob Temple, Steve May, Tom Thorogood, Jim Hill, Chris Haslam

Contributors, Art, Photography and Styling
Richard Grassie, Neil Godwin, James Looker, Joseph Branston, Pixeleyes, Ginni Bogado, Michelle Kelly at Carol Hayes Management, Melanie Ribbe at Storm, Johanni Nel at Supernova

Contributors, Illustration and Design
Rami Niemi, Mark Critchell, Hicham Kasbi, Chris King at Illustrationweb.com

{PUBLISHING}

Head of T3 Ian Robson
Head of Digital Keith Walker
Group Marketing Manager Philippa Newman
Trade Marketing Manager Colin Hornby
Directing Marketing Executive Chris Day
Production Manager Mark Constance
Production Co-ordinator Roberta Lealand
Imagine Manipulation and Repro James Wootton
Creative Director Bob Abbott
Editorial Director Jim Douglas
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{CONTENT & PROJECT DELIVERY}

Head of Content Cassie Whittell
Senior Content Manager Marsha Jackson
Project Manager Emma Cull

{VIDEO}

Head of Video, Technology Raphael Warner
Videographer Matt King
Video Editors Andrew Donaldson, Maria Ciszynska, Alex Hancocks

{T3 WORLDWIDE}

International Director Regina Erak
regina.erak@futurenet.com

AUSTRALIA **ROB EDWARDS** +61 2 9955 2677
CHINA **JASON WANG** +86 25 8361 6661
CZECH REPUBLIC **JAROSLAV JAROLIM** +42 0775 6177 63
DENMARK **METTE EKLUND ANDERSEN** +45 2976 1278
GREECE **FILIPPOPOULOS THEOCHARIS** +30 21 0615 4200
INDIA **HATIM KANTAWALLA** +91 22 2423 2323
INDONESIA **GINO FEBRISA** +62 2163 3562 728
ITALY **CARLO CHERICONI** +39 0633 22 12 50
LEBANON **MICHELINE HARBIE** +961 1 215 977
MALAYSIA **KEVIN TAN** +03 5621 1911
PERSIA **PANTEA MADELAT** +97 1439 1328 8
POLAND **MARCIN KUBICKI** +48 22 257 84 32
PORTUGAL **FERNANDO MENDES** +35 1218 6215 30
SAUDI ARABIA **ROBERT SAYKALI** +96 1138 3888
SINGAPORE **JUSTIN CHOO** +65 6339 3083
SLOVENIA **ZIGA CEPIC** +386 1241 8902
THAILAND **KRIS SVADIBUNA** +66 2587 7046
TURKEY **CEM KIVIRCIK** +90 216 325 3919
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES **ANIL GEORGE** +97 1506 5469 83

{SUBSCRIPTIONS & BACK ISSUES}
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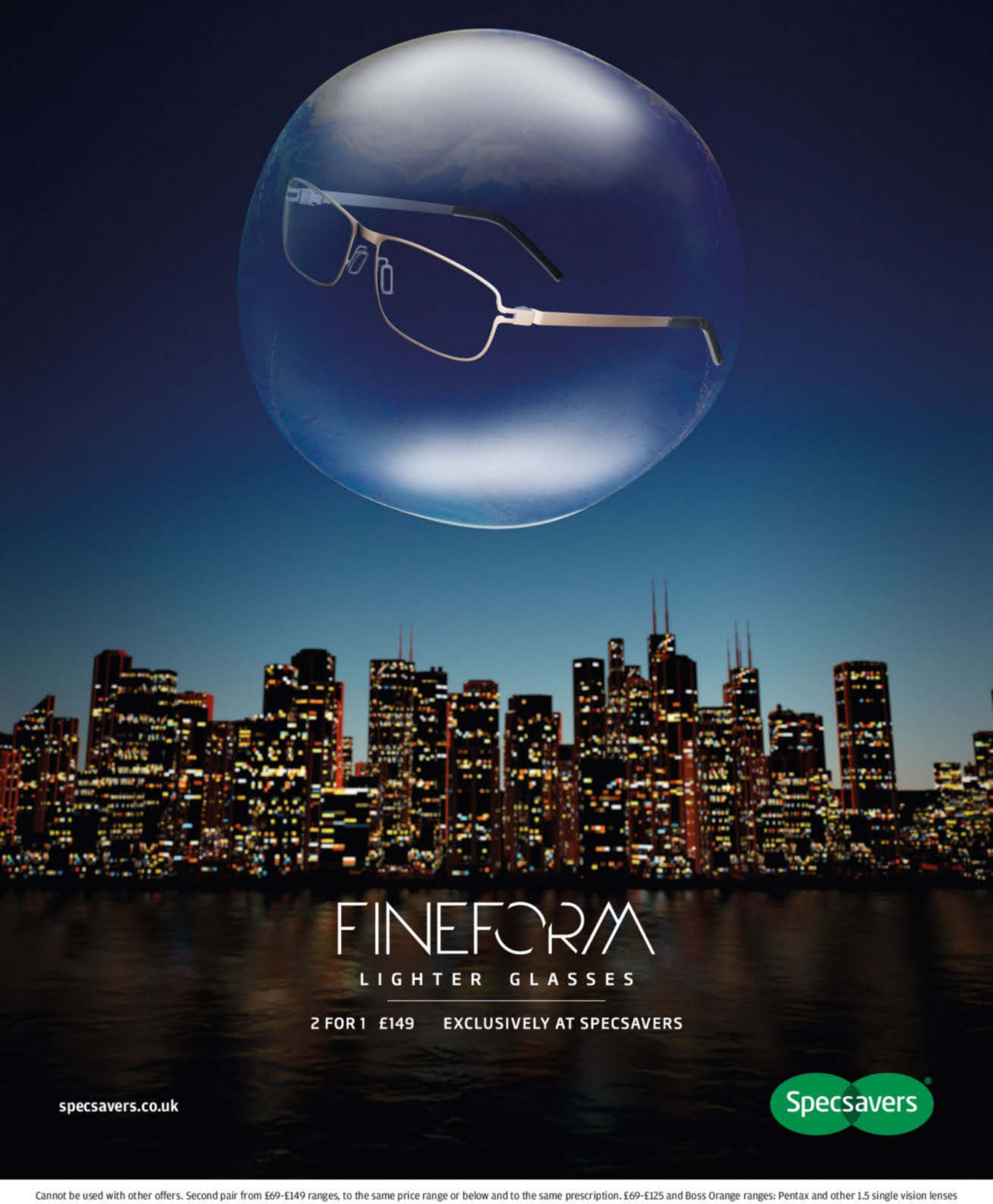

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Radar

ESSENTIAL NEWS FROM TECH'S FRONTLINE

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Edited by Jeff Parsons

MOST WANTED SPECIAL

Two new Android flagships, one very tough decision

{HTC ONE M8 VS SAMSUNG GALAXY S5}

SUPERPHONES RETURN

They're the Android upgrades you've been waiting for, but which handset has the edge? We get our mitts on the competition...

{HTC ONE M8}

YOUR NEW BEST M8

The HTC One was crowned T3's Gadget of the Year in 2013. How do you beat that kind of success? Evolution not revolution...

➜ THE MOST STYLISH SMARTPHONE outside of Cupertino, the HTC One had aesthetics at its core and, unsurprisingly, they're key to its successor, too. There's no rear dimples, faux leather or waterproofing here, just an oil-treated, finely brushed aluminium unibody wrapping right the way around the handset. So you might not want to drop it in the sink, but you'll place it on a table with pride.

Flipping the device over reveals a new depth sensor placed above the camera lens. By mapping info from the two inputs, the One M8 can triangulate how far away an object is. This hands you the ability to focus on specific objects, or distinguish between the foreground and background when applying filters. You can also refocus your shots, much like a Lytro, or add a parallax effect similar to the iOS 7 home screen. HTC has also rather bravely continued with its "less is more" pixels approach, boasting a four "ultrapixel" sensor and 1080p recording. While this means no 4K at your fingertips, it plays nice when shooting in low light.

The popular dual front-facing speakers have been retained and bolstered with a new internal digital signal processing chip offering a wider frequency range. Claims of a 25 per cent increase in volume are good, but please don't test that on public transport, thanks.

Inside, the One M8 remains a formidable Android blower, with Qualcomm's Snapdragon 801 processor running the show, accompanied by the latest version of Android, KitKat, and Sense 6.0 adding extra interface flair. The sixth iteration of this custom operating system skin builds on the excellent Blinkfeed, HTC's social media-and-news aggregator, with a nice paint job where you can select various colours to define your different feeds. HTC has, however, sidestepped 2014's biggest trend/fad with no fingerprint scanner in sight. Instead, it's added the ability to unlock your phone with a swipe or check the time with a screen double-tap.

Coming in the classic One silver hue, a very "on trend" gold, plus a buffed and beautiful gun metal number (pictured), the One M8 is undoubtedly one of the finest looking phones around. Whether its classic yet casual-friendly approach can take on Samsung's newly tricked-out Galaxy S5 remains to be seen.

£TBC, HTC.COM/UK, OUT APRIL

➜

{FOCUS}

The case is altered: enter the (Dot) Matrix

HTC's rather clever take on the phone case is covered in small perforations, which turn your notifications into glowing 8-bit-like retro missives. Best viewed in low light, the Dot Matrix accessory beams pixelated message, battery, weather and call alerts through the cover while the handset maintains a low power state. You don't even have to open it to answer, either, as the phone's accelerometer means a simple lift accepts the call. It's available at launch, although no word on price yet.

{DETAILS}

1. EXPAND AND CONQUER

If the 16GB built-in storage is too meagre for you, a microSD slot gives you the option to add 128GB more

2. SIXTH SENSE

The OS gives you shortcuts to key functions by swiping up, down or across when in standby. A double-tap shows notifications

3. PICTURE NEW DEPTHS

Above the four-ultrapixel rear camera there's a new depth sensor that lets you adjust the focus after you're finished shooting

4. HEALTH WATCH

There's no dedicated fitness software here, but Fitbit's app comes pre-installed and uses the accelerometer to track your exertions

Specification

OS Android 4.4
SCREEN 5-inch, 1920x1080, 441ppi
PROCESSOR/RAM 2.5GHz Quadcore Snapdragon 801/2GB
REAR CAMERA 4-ultrapixel/1080p
FRONT CAMERA 5-meg/1080p
STORAGE 16GB built-in, microSD expandable to 128GB
CONNECTIVITY AC Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, 4G LTE, USB
BATTERY 2600mAh
DIMENSIONS 146x70.6x9.3mm/160g

{SPEAK}

T3's Libby Plummer gets her hands on HTC's new hero

HTC has upped the ante of the already rather striking One with a sturdier body and bigger screen. It's easy to adjust to the M8's larger dimensions, though, as, while it's bigger and heavier than the original, the slightly curved and heavily polished M8 chassis sits well in your palm.

The Lytro-like ability to refocus photos easily after you've taken them is a smart party piece, as is the parallax mode, which creates stills that appear to move when tilted. With a quick-use "Selfie" mode and edit tools galore, you could find yourself spending all day just playing with the camera.

The cleaner and more colourful look of HTC's BlinkFeed aggregator, like Windows Metro meets Flipboard, is welcome, too, with the new quadcore processor ensuring it runs without any noticeable lag or lack of fluidity.

Throw in the decidedly funky Dot Matrix case and you have a thoroughly stylish smartphone with a neatly nostalgic edge. It won't be long before some bright spark creates some form of 8-bit game to go with it – my money's on *Pong*. While it's too soon for a final verdict, this bigger, slicker One is looking the part.

{SAMSUNG GALAXY S5}

BUNCH OF FIVES

Samsung's latest Galaxy is fighting off HTC while embracing the future, with fingerprint scanning, heart-rate monitoring and 4K filming in tow

➜ MUCH LIKE HTC'S ONE M8, THE Galaxy S5 is a carefully considered upgrade rather than a complete reboot, with Samsung running through a greatest hits of 2014's headline phone updates before sprinkling a few esoteric extras on for good measure.

Fronting the whole shebang is a big and bright 5.1-inch Super AMOLED full-HD screen, with the same 2.5GHz quadcore Qualcomm 801 processor found on the HTC One M8. The rear brings more upgrades, with the camera boosted from 13 to 16 megapixels and able to shoot video in 4K. You'll need a 4K TV to watch it, though, as the screen can't display 3840x2160 resolution.

Following the success of Apple's TouchID, Samsung has added a fingerprint scanner to the home button, providing extra security but also able to authenticate PayPal payments. Who takes advantage of this tech, much like Apple's Passbook, will depend on future deals, but we're hoping the convenience catches on.

Riding the fitness tech wave, Samsung's also packed the S5 with a heart-rate monitor, activated by holding your finger over a sensor next to the camera flash for eight seconds. We're not sure we'd trust it to be medically accurate, but it can assess the strenuousness of your workout (and bleep at you to do more). Imitation is the highest form of flattery elsewhere, too, with Samsung following Sony's lead by making the S5 water-resistant for thirty minutes in up to a metre of water.

Yet the most compelling feature here is seemingly the most basic: Ultra Power Saving. Answering the constant tech cry for longer battery life, this disables non-essential functions and switches your screen to black and white when you're running low. Put the S5 in this mode with ten per cent battery left and we're promised an extra 24 hours of calls and texts. Yotaphone, come in, your time is up...

The Galaxy range has rarely turned heads like the iPhone or One, but the faux leather back might change that for the wrong reasons. Look beyond aesthetics, though, and the S5 offers a strong mix of cutting-edge features and smarts to give it an edge in the Android battle. Which should win upgrade hearts and minds? Come back next month to find out...

£TBC, SAMSUNG.COM/UK, OUT APRIL

{DETAILS}

1. SPLASH DOWN

Drop the Galaxy S5 in a lake/toilet and it will live to tell the tale, its faux leather back practically unscathed

2. PAY PALS

The fingerprint scanner in the home button not only unlocks your phone but authorises PayPal transactions

3. CRYSTAL CLEAR

The size has increased to 5.1 inches, but Samsung has kept the same full-HD Super AMOLED display seen on the Galaxy S4

4. KILLER CAM

The 16-megapixel snapper boasts super-fast autofocus and a high-dynamic range (HDR) mode. It also shoots video in up to 4K

Specification

OS Android 4.4
SCREEN 5.1-inch, 1980x1080, 432ppi
PROCESSOR/RAM 2.5GHz quadcore Snapdragon 801/2GB
REAR CAM 16-meg/2988p
FRONT CAM 2-meg/1080p
STORAGE 32GB
CONNECTIVITY AC Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, 4G LTE, USB
BATTERY 2800mAh
DIMENSIONS 142x72.5x8.1mm/145g

{EXTRA}

Time to sync up a wearable

SAMSUNG GEAR 2

Arriving with the S5 a mere six months after the first Gear, this upgraded smartwatch packs a faster 1GHz dualcore processor, two-meg camera and 1.63-inch Super AMOLED screen for wrist alerts.

£TBC, SAMSUNG.COM/UK

SAMSUNG GEAR NEO

A scaled-down version of the above for more frivolous use. No camera here, but with the same screen and processor, plus the promise of a cheaper price tag, you might not mind too much.

£TBC, SAMSUNG.COM/UK

SAMSUNG GEAR FIT

This health tracker-cum-watch is the first wearable to boast a curved Super AMOLED touchscreen, which is almost too nice to cover in sweat. Strap it on and sync to your S5 for heart-rate fun.

£TBC, SAMSUNG.COM/UK

{SPEAK}

T3.com editor Mark Mayne braved Barcelona's bustling Mobile World Congress halls for hands-on time with the Galaxy S5...

When you're one of the most widely anticipated launches of the year, it's easy to underwhelm. But while the S5 is no major overhaul, there's lots here to get excited about.

The 5.1-inch-screened S5 is large by iPhone standards, but by no means "phablet enormous" if you're already in the supersize handsets club. Its 1080p AMOLED front really shines, unlike its back, which is covered in a grip-friendly faux leather.

Critics claim the new quadcore processor is "just good enough" rather than a quantum leap, but we found it plenty quick. The camera also boasts a variety of tweaks to keep it near the top of the snapper pile.

The fingerprint reader, partnered with NFC and PayPal hook-up is a genuinely interesting innovation, although we're less wowed by the heart-rate monitor on the back, especially when the more useful Gear Fit is on the way.

The S5 is full of ideas, it will be interesting to see which ones take off.

MOST WANTED PART 2

NEED LIST

The tech that's stealing other gadgets' lunch money this month

{1}

AIR, HELLAIR!

Smythson of Bond Street iPad Air case

Want to shield the shapely form of your suitably slimline tablet from steely/stealy gazes while in transit *and* show off your appreciation of posh tailoring? Smythson of Bond Street suits you, then, with its striking Panama collection of iPad sleeves. Using only the finest smooth and crossgrain calf leather and available in colour selections from fuschia to "nude", replete with "bombée" leather strip, this might just be the best thing your iPad's ever worn.

£225, SMYTHSON.COM, OUT NOW

{2}

L.E.D. ZEPPELIN

Toshiba L7 Series

If you want more visual clarity from your telly, squint no further than Toshiba's new top-of-the-liners. Available in a textbook selection of 42-, 47- and 55-inch models, they harness dualcore processors to power the company's CEVO image-swanking engine. Also aboard: Smart TV online content, 3D upscaling and "wider LEDs" to restore compressed broadcast images back to their natural splendour. The high-end sets also promise 75 per cent greater brightness, too. Too desperate for an upgrade to wait for its launch ? Try the Sony on p103...

£TBC, TOSHIBA.COM, OUT SUMMER

{3}

EARFORCE ONE

JBL Synchros S400

Wireless headphones aren't exactly new, but these let you control tracks, volume and call-answering via swiping gestures on the touch-sensitive surface of the left cup. Admittedly, that's not unlike the Parrot Zik by Philippe Starck, who's on p32. But did the French design baron think to add an LED ring that reacts to said gestures, effectively putting a Ministry of Sound-style light show on your left ear? *Mais non*, he did not. Bluetooth 3.0 with apt-X should ensure suitably impressive audio quality, while the battery "keeps the shit pumpin'" for a big 15 hours.

£250, UK.JBL.COM, OUT MARCH

{4}

BEST IN SHOW

Mobile World Congress corkers

Smartphone makers great and small descended on Barcelona en masse last month to flog their forthcoming wares at the annual Mobile World Congress. Among the reveals were (from left) the XL, Nokia's first stab at Android, LG's gigantic G Pro 2 sequel, and Russian firm Yotaphone's newie, which again has screens on either side including the pictured e-ink for low-energy-consuming text appreciation. Needless to say, we've got early hands-ons at T3.com right now.

NOKIA XL €109, NOKIA.CO.UK, OUT SUMMER; LG G PRO 2 £TBC, LG.COM, OUT TBC; YOTAPHONE 2 £TBC, YOTAPHONE.COM, OUT WINTER

{5}

SPEED FREQ

Omega Speedmaster Mark II

The premier watchsmith goes quite literally back in time with this updated edition of its legendary "piece" from 1969. To celebrate the 45th anniversary, Omega adds a luminous tachymetric scale – the number wheel around the rim that folk used to figure out their speed in the days before smartphones – and a column-wheel chronograph. Also in the new corner: a self-winding co-axial calibre 3330 winding movement with Si14 silicon balance spring. We're pretty sure that's good.

$6,250 (£3,700), OMEGAWATCHES.COM, OUT NOW

{6}

TURBO CHARGED

Koenigsegg Razer Blade

Supercar purveyor Koenigsegg and gaming accoutrement player Razer have both long taken great delight in punishing our senses with bleeding-edge design. But for the Geneva Motor Show they've put their easels together to create this ultra-exclusive laptop, with a screamingly fast Nvidia GeForce GTX 765M graphics card and a 3.2GHz Intel Core i7 quadcore sat in a case slashed with the supercar's livery. No, you can't have one.

£POA (VERY LIMITED NUMBERS), RAZERZONE.COM, OUT NOW

{7}

YOUR BIGGEST FAN

Dyson Cool Fan AM06

Sir James of Dyson has been personally working on this baby for three years and the result is a bladeless fan 75 per cent quieter than its predecessor, with a new base cavity to dissipate sound waves without affecting airflow. A sleep timer function also means you won't even need to wake up to switch it on or off. How cool is that? Read all about its development and the firm's future domestic plans on p66.

£219, DYSON.CO.UK, OUT NOW

{8}

HOME 2.0

Honeywell Evohome

Thanks to "Smart Zoning" tech, you can divide your abode into 12 different key areas with this home heating system. Each of those can be customised, so you can have the lounge toasty, the kitchen tepid and your AirBNB guest's room unheated until they stop that banging and go out for the evening. Naturally, control is all via an accompanying iOS or Android app, and there's also a dedicated touchscreen controller.

£249, HONEYWELL.COM, OUT NOW

{9}

WANT THE MOON ON A STICK?

Roku Streaming Stick

TV simplicity is the order of the day as the unpricey US TV firm beats Google's Chromecast to the UK. Plug in via HDMI and start streaming in 1080p from Roku's many apps or your mobile device. What it lacks in size it makes up for in quality, thanks to dual-band Wi-Fi.

£50, ROKU.COM, OUT APRIL 21

{10}

ELECTRIC BOOGALOO

Volkswagen Golf GTE

This looks like a new GTi, right? Think again. It's VW's supercharged hybrid hot hatch with a tuned 1.4l TSI petrol engine that pulls 148bhp. So far, so fumes. But there's also a 75KW, 100bhp electric motor that runs solo for up to 37 miles. A GTE button blends the two for a honking 248bhp, around the same as a Ford Mustang, and a 0-60 of 7.6 seconds. Not exactly a milk float, then.

£TBC, VOLKSWAGEN.CO.UK, OUT AUGUST

WINGS OF DESIRE

McLaren's new 650S is a souped-up supercar with a high-tech heart

IF GENEVA'S ANNUAL MOTOR SHOW IS Glastonbury for petrol-heads, McLaren's striking new 650S was this year's Rolling Stones, an excitable, crowd-pleasing headline act built on a flawless back catalogue.

Taking its design lead from the £866,000, *Forza 5*-championing P1, the 650 refers to the *pferdestärke* – or horsepower, for non-German speakers – that surges from its twin turbo V8.

Showstopping elements from the P1 remain, including gull-wing doors and blade LED headlights, while all-new bodywork creates 24 per cent more downforce than even the brutish 12C. Drool-worthy interior tech also includes a high-res touchscreen with IRIS satnav, wireless tethering and voice control. Want more speed demons? Park yourself at T3.com.

£TBC, MCLAREN.COM, OUT 2014

{EXTRA}

AUDI'S VIRTUAL COCKPIT CUTS A DASH

This spy plane-like virtual cockpit is the command centre you wish all cars had and turns the new Audi TT and TTS into wedges of supercharged silicon that will blitz the Autobahn, then take you to the shops. Behind the wheel, an LCD display is your high-res gateway to the car's Nvidia Tegra 3-powered system. Consequently, using the satnav now feels less school run and more

Death Star run, giant map filling your screen. "Stay on target" etc.

Meanwhile, the speedo and rev counters change size dependent on three preset modes. "Classic" hands both dials equal presence, "Infotainment" then minimises them, while those who buy the TTS also get "Sport" thrown in, with the speedo front and centre.

£TBC, AUDI.COM, OUT 2014

Microsoft

Honestly

I don't want to carry two devices.

HP Split x2

That's why I went with this Windows 2 in 1. It does all the fun stuff a tablet does, but it's also a laptop with the Desktop and Start button I'm used to. And with a touch screen, it makes everything better.

Windows.com

Internet connection required. Microsoft Office sold separately.

Windows

NEWS BLIP ASUS' CEO HAS REVEALED PLANS TO UNVEIL A SMARTWATCH IN JUNE

APPLE INTO FIRST GEAR

CarPlay's iPhone interactions turn your vehicle into an iMotor

It's been a long time coming, like the wait for the lights to change when you're particularly late for work, but Apple has finally shown its hand in the connected car war, upgrading iOSitC to the far more catchy CarPlay.

Unveiled at the Geneva Motor Show, the sync system lets the dash of compatible cars – Apple's inked deals with Ford, Jaguar, Mercedes, Volvo and Ferrari – play nice with your iPhone. As a result, you can use certain iOS apps on your car's touchscreen, or boss them about vocally, via your Siri sidekick.

"CarPlay lets drivers use their iPhone with minimised distraction," says Greg Joswiak, Apple's VP of iOS product marketing. "We have an amazing lineup of auto partners."

While the manufacturers are undoubtedly strong, a choice of Apple Maps, phone and messaging control, and a clutch of audio apps such as Spotify is less revolution, more the first step of a natural evolution. It's available as part of the free iOS 7.1 update, but not due to land in cars until later this year. So there's still plenty of time to save up for your most expensive upgrade ever.

APPLE.COM/IOS/CARPLAY, OUT 2014

{SPEAK}

T3's Kieran Alger plays with CarPlay

It's great to get some slick Apple design into a car's multimedia setup, but with all manufacturers running it alongside their own navigation, music and phone systems, it's not yet as clean as it could be. Mercedes' knob-based UI is poor, while Ferrari has shunned swipe controls altogether. Only Volvo has really made it look and feel like a true Apple touchscreen experience. Of course, this hybrid approach makes sense for the car giants – they need to sell motors to non-iPhone owners, too. Yet only when we start seeing apps developed or modded specifically for CarPlay will it really go full throttle.

{EXTRA}

SCOOT AROUND THE CITY

HERO MOTOCORP RNT

A pick-up truck on two wheels, you can strap just about anything to the RNT's rugged frame, with a 150cc diesel engine capable of dragging it all.

£TBC, HEROMOTORCORP.COM

URB-E

The Meccano-like aluminium frame is ultra-light, helping this Indiegogo-hopeful bike's electric motor hit 15mph and a 20-mile range.

$1,599 (£960), URB-E.COM

AEYO

Strap your feet into the back wheels then, using a rollerblading motion, propel yourself forwards. You'll be travelling too fast to hear the laughter.

€449 (£370), AEYO.COM

Microsoft

Honestly

I can work where I want.

Nokia Lumia 2520

My Windows tablet includes Microsoft Office, lets me do two things at once, and with OneDrive I can access my stuff everywhere I go.

Windows.com

Internet connection required. Microsoft Account required for OneDrive, terms apply.
Microsoft Office Home and Student 2013 RT included.

Windows

NEWS BLIP XBOX ONE PRICE CUT TO £399 – WITH *TITANFALL*. SORRY EARLY ADOPTERS

WE WATCH THE iWATCHMEN

Apple chief Tim Cook promised us a new product category this year and all rumours lead to wearables. Time for speculation to get Siri-ous...

{DETAILS}

1

A NIKE ALIKE

Apple has taken on Jay Blahnik, the fitness expert who advised on Nike's first Fuelband. Could an "iBand" be a new entry-level tech type to replace the iPod? Designer Todd Hamilton thinks so (see main pic).

2

THE BIG SLEEP

The Cupertino crew has also gone and hired sleep expert Dr. Roy J.E.M. Raymann from Philips Research. Could the wrist piece count your Zs as well as your steps?

3

HAPPY SHOPPER

iOS 7 gave us iBeacon and shops firing offers at us. With a new thirst for mobile payments, and TouchID fingerprint scanning on the iPhone 5S, could these combine on your wrist as the future of commerce?

4

ON THE ROAD

CarPlay is out of the garage (see p24), with maps and music flowing from your iPhone. Could this be the world's blingiest car key?

5

MEDIA MAESTRO

"Siri, play *True Detective*." Make like a lazy Michael Knight and never fear losing your Apple TV remote again.

6

RAINBOW WRIST

And the iPhone 5C's choice of colours would offer a Livestrong-style iBand for everyone, no? (See top).

{RUMOURS}

TECH CHATTER WIRED TO T3'S BULL-O-METER

OFFICE FOR IPAD?

Reports from tech business website ZDNet suggest Microsoft is primed to finally unveil a version of MS Office for Apple's iPad later this year. Took its time.

BLACK FROM THE DEAD?

BlackBerry's reported to be looking at the budget market to restore its fading fortunes, with the mid-range BlackBerry Z3 tipped to be on its way.

BEZOS IN THE GAME?

Following Amazon's acquisition of game studio Double Helix Games, the rumours are flying that the retail giant has a next-gen console in the works.

NOTE 4 LENDS A HAND?

A new Samsung patent suggests advanced handwriting recognition for the Galaxy Note 4, with the ability to unlock the phone using your signature.

TOWER OF CARDS?

Ron Howard is supposedly adapting Stephen King's *Dark Tower* opus as Netflix's next series with *Breaking Bad*'s Aaron Paul. Sure you've got the cash, chaps?

WHAT'S NEXUS?

Serial rumour-peddler DigiTimes has suggested Google could release an eight-inch, 64-bit Nexus 8 tablet in April. We'd say that's pretty likely...

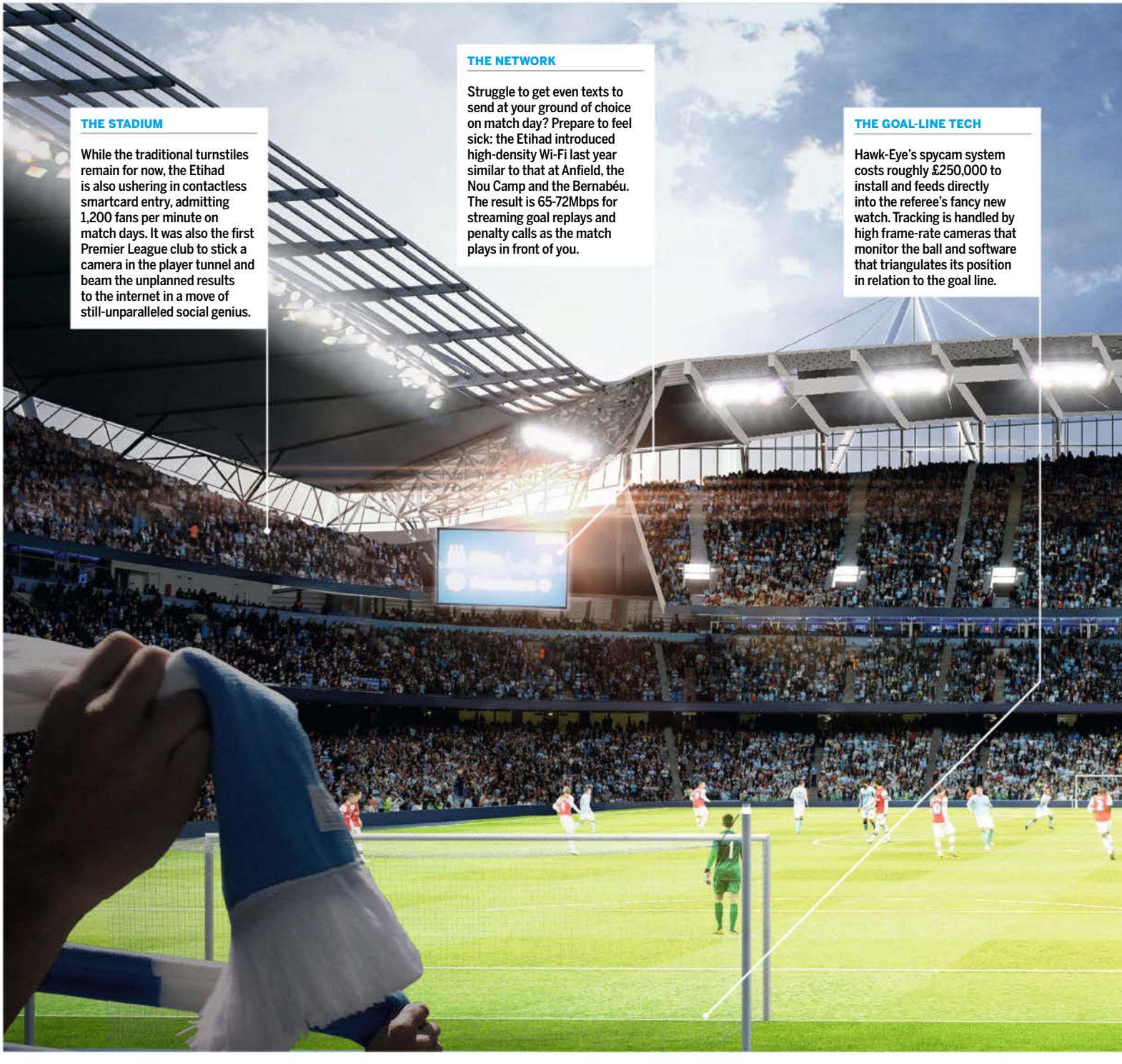
*1 BULL = NO BULL, 2-3 BULLS = SLIGHT WHIFF, 4-5 BULLS = STEAMING!

WWW FOR MORE NEWS GO TO T3.COM

PURE GOLD

4.8% PREMIUM LAGER

for the facts **drinkaware.co.uk** Brewed in the UK



TECH TAKES TO THE TERRACES

Manchester City's bottomless footie millions aren't just being splashed on superstar strikers, they're busy turning the Etihad into one the most high-tech sporting stages in the world, too

THE BILLIONAIRE, OIL-MAGNATE benefactor of Manchester United's "noisy neighbours", Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed al-Nahyan, certainly knows his gadgetry, and has been splashing the tech cash accordingly. Chuckling in the face of UEFA's incoming Financial Fair Play laws, an influx of funds has been used to not just hoover up all the best players into the Manchester City team bus but create the most tech-savvy football arena, too.

Last year, the club followed Liverpool's lead and installed high-density Wi-Fi at its Etihad stadium. But with the capacity being increased to 62,000 for the 2015-16 season, making it the second largest stadium in the UK behind Old Trafford, it's now raising the bar with a blitzkrieg of new media partnerships to define the future of kickball.

THE TRAINING

Having long utilised Prozone analysis tools, custom Coaching Data software and an entire fleet of in-house IT analysts to maintain their performance, City are building a state-of-the-art £100m academy with 16 training pitches for next season. Current innovations in training kit that could make an appearance are shirt sensors to record blood pressure, hydration and CO2 levels and boots that track ball impact and players' steps, pedometer-style.

THE APPS

The *Manchester City Connect* app already lets fans play a real-time multiplayer game based around the emerging match, part four-in-a-row, part *FIFA Ultimate Team*. However, Cisco Systems' *StadiumVision* app, already used by the Brooklyn Nets basketball team, is also incoming. It delivers in-game video on demand across Wi-Fi, letting you watch replays from a variety of angles.

{EXTRA}

FUTURIZON AND HTC DESIGN THE FUTURE OF FOOTIE FANDOM

AR player cards

Panini stickers with a high-tech twist, these will link to your smartphone and update automatically with the player's social media profile and stats.

PREDICTED DATE: 2018

Drone-based cams

Tech bugs may take to the air to film the action, with LED lights replacing the intense stadium floodlights for better and more natural visibility at night.

PREDICTED DATE: 2030

3D immersion tech

Watch the match via holograms beamed from your smartphone? It's just like being at the game, but sans lukewarm Bovril and dubious chanting.

PREDICTED DATE: 2045

FEELING SUPERSONIC

Spike's S-512 private jet trades windows for HD tellies, flies to New York in three hours

WHEN CONCORDE WAS RETIRED FROM our skies in 2003, the future of commercial supersonic flight looked fairly dim. Yet there's apparently still a market for a plane that can whisk you from London to New York City in three hours instead of eight, and US-based Spike Aerospace plans to fulfil that need with its S-512 jet, a super-luxe limo in the clouds.

The ultimate horizon-chaser, the S-512 can reach Mach 1.8 and up to 1,344mph thanks to a revolutionary aerodynamic design that boasts a completely windowless cabin. This doesn't mean no views, though, as a huge, curved HD display runs the entire length of the cabin, with live footage beamed from high-resolution cameras on the fuselage. Capable of carrying an 18-strong entourage, this future vision is still at the funding stage, but if impressed suits cough up, it could be navigating the heavens in four short years' time.

$60 MILLION, SPIKEAEROSPACE.COM, OUT 2018

{EXTRA}

THE EVOLUTION OF PERSONAL FLIGHT

NOW
GULFSTREAM G650

The finest private jet in the world, boasting a top speed of Mach 0.9 and a 12,964km range. It's the Aston Martin of the skies.

GULFSTREAM.COM, OUT NOW

SOON
AERION SBJ

This Supersonic Business Jet (SBJ, see?) boasts a revolutionary titanium composite wing design so it hits Mach 1.6.

AERIONCORP.COM, OUT 2020

NEVER?
AWWA SKY WHALE

With three floors and an 88-metre wing span, this concept by Oscar Vinals would be powered by four electric engines.

BEHANCE.NET, OUT TBC

Studio quality wireless audio. **Anywhere.**

"Simply the best combination of audio quality and features we've seen in a portable speaker"*

The Samsung DA-F60 Portable Wireless Speaker brings you the next level in portable entertainment – featuring up to 12 hours of playback from the rechargeable battery, class leading lossless wireless audio and one touch pairing for ultra simple wireless playback from your mobile phone**.

To find out more visit: www.samsung.com/uk

Perfect for the Samsung GALAXY range of phones, including Samsung GALAXY S3 and S4.

expert REVIEWS BEST BUY

Trusted Reviews RECOMMENDED

AVforums HIGHLY RECOMMENDED AWARD

SAMSUNG

*Expert Reviews, 26.03.2013. **NFC required for one touch pairing. Manual pairing possible without NFC. Bluetooth required for wireless playback. apt-X compatibility required for lossless playback.

NEWS BLIP LINKEDIN HAS INTRODUCED A NEW MEMBER BLOCKING SYSTEM

#2

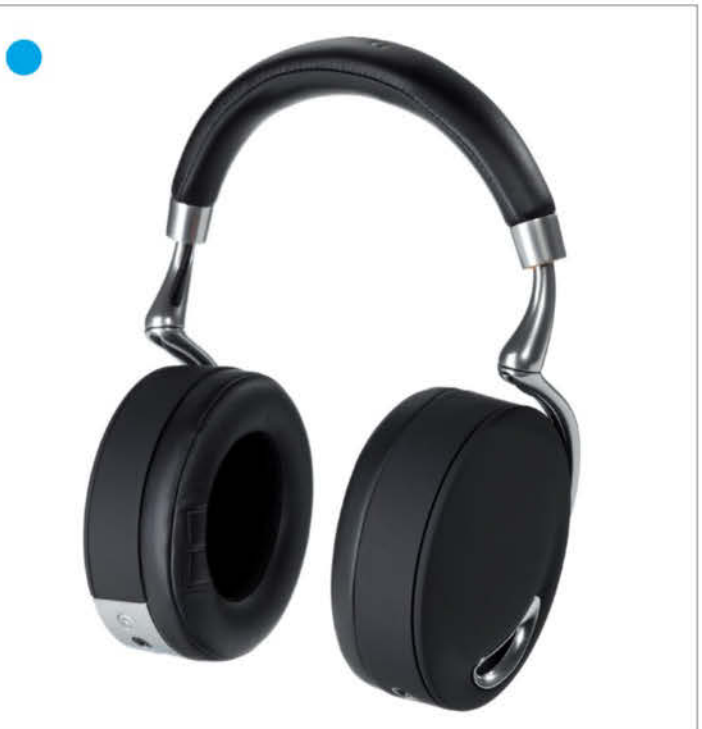
DESIGN DONS

PHILIPPE STARCK

The French design maverick with a very varied tech portfolio...

MODERN TECHNOLOGY MUST FULFIL MANY FUNCTIONS: it has to work well as a standalone purchase and complement your lifestyle, but also look suitably swish when you're "with company". That's why each month we're hailing the sketch-artist superheroes who have shaped our world through their fair hands.

This month, the spotlight falls on Philippe Starck, the ever-present gadget collaborator who has added his Gallic flair to everything from food-prep accessories to high-end audio, Uzi lounge lights and the world's most OTT yacht – no small task. Let's look closer at some of his technological tours de force...



PARROT ZIK 2012 PIONEERING IN BOTH DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY, THESE BLUETOOTH HEADPHONES HAVE AUDIO PROCESSORS BUILT INTO THE CANS AND TOUCH CONTROLS ON THE EAR CUPS. THEY'RE WEIGHTY AND PRICEY, BUT THIS PIECE OF STARCK KIT GETS A NOD IN OUR GUIDE PAGES.

PARROT ZIKMU SOLO 2012 THE SECOND COLLABORATION WITH THE FRENCH AUDIO LAB, THIS IS A SLEEK TOWER SPEAKER WHICH YOUR IPHONE OR IPOD SITS PRECARIOUSLY ATOP. PRACTICAL? PERHAPS NOT. STRIKING? BUT OF COURSE.

JUICY SALIF 1990 WANT TO EXTRACT JUICE FROM A LEMON? LOOK ELSEWHERE – STARCK'S CITRUS SQUEEZER IS ALMOST UNFIT FOR PURPOSE. YET ITS *WAR OF THE WORLDS*-LIKE, RETRO STYLING LOOKS SO IMPOSING ON YOUR KITCHEN COUNTER YOU MIGHT JUST FORGIVE IT THAT.

LA CIE BLADE RUNNER 2013 UNLIKE ANY OTHER EXTERNAL HARD DRIVE YOU'LL BE DEFRAGGING ANYTIME SOON, THIS USES MACHINED BLADES TO CUT THROUGH THE LIQUID METAL CORE, CREATING A STUNNING RIGID YET FLUID DESIGN. THOSE BLADES AREN'T MERE FLOURISHES, EITHER – THEY ACT AS HEAT SINKS TO DISSIPATE ENERGY AWAY FROM THE 4TB STORAGE INSIDE.

VENUS 2012 COSTING $100M+, THE LATE APPLE BOSS STEVE JOBS' SUPERYACHT IS A CROSS BETWEEN STARCK'S AESTHETIC AND JOBS' ATTENTION TO DETAIL, WITH A STATE-OF-THE-ART BRIDGE FULL OF APPLE IMACS, TOO.

W.W. STOOL 1992 A SURREALIST SEAT THAT IS DESIGN MUSEUM CURATOR ALEX NEWSON'S PERSONAL CLASSIC. TYPICALLY IMPRACTICAL BUT MEMORABLE.

{SPEAK}

Design Museum's Alex Newson: a Starck appraisal

Philippe Starck is a designer who truly divides opinion. While some deride his products as the epitome of style over substance – his Alessi kettle and juicer are basically useless when it comes to making a cup of tea or squeezing a lemon – others laud him as a subversive iconoclast.

My favourite Starck product is the W.W. stool, a three-legged design originally developed as a conceptual piece for a film by the German director Wim Wenders. The stool's impossibly slender and sinewy legs and the oddly shaped, tiny seat give the impression of being entirely unsuited to the purpose they are designed for. But to dismiss it as as unfit for purpose perhaps misses the point – it is not created with the traditional function of a stool in mind, rather to subvert it. Sit and ponder that...

WWW FOR MORE NEWS GO TO T3.COM

SAMSUNG

The Galaxy Note 3 and improved S Pen go hand-in-hand – helping you do everyday tasks quickly and easily. Add the Galaxy Gear into the mix and you'll be wearing clever technology. It connects seamlessly with the Note 3 so you never miss incoming calls, texts, emails and alerts. Now that's smart. Search **Note 3 Gear**

GALAXY Note 3 + Gear

©2013 Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd. Apps may require a fee. Screens simulated. Appearance of device may vary. Colour variants of the Galaxy Note 3 and Galaxy Gear are subject to availability.

NEWS BLIP INTEL BUYS FITNESS SMARTWATCH MAKER BASIS SCIENCE FOR £100M

STUFF

Welcome to the gadget periphery, where roller skates and paperback phones play nicely...

MONSTER POWERCARD A CREDIT CARD-SIZED BACK-UP BATTERY THAT CHARGES VIA MICRO USB AND GIVES MOST DEVICES A FIVE-HOUR BOOST. **£40, MONSTER.COM, OUT NOW**

CARDIFF SKATE S1 GET YOUR SKATES ON, LITERALLY. THESE CLIP-ON WHEELS ROLLERIZE ANY FOOTWEAR, LIKE HEELIES FOR WOULD-BE ADULTS. **£143, CARDIFFSKATE.COM, OUT NOW**

PLANTRONICS BACKBEAT FIT SWEAT-PROOF BLUETOOTH HEADPHONES WITH FLEXIBLE FIT, ON-EAR CONTROLS AND ENOUGH BATTERY FOR AN EIGHT-HOUR RUNNING SOUNDTRACK. **£109, PLANTRONICS.COM, OUT APRIL**

PAPERBACK ADHESIVE NOTES FOR iPHONE THERE ARE NOTE-TAKING APPS, TO-DO LIST APPS AND SIRI'S ALWAYS ON HAND TO SET A REMINDER, BUT SOMETIMES IT'S JUST EASIER TO SCRIBBLE A LIST AND STICK IT TO THE BACK OF YOUR PHONE. **£8, IWANTONEOFTHOSE.COM, OUT NOW**

MY KRONOZ ZEWATCH THE SWISS HAVE LONG BEEN THE WATCH-MAKING ELITE BUT NOW THEY'RE MUSCLING IN ON THE SMARTWATCH MARKET, TOO, WITH BLUETOOTH, CALLER ID AND A BUILT-IN MIC. **£70, FIREBOX.COM, OUT NOW**

NUDEAUDIO STUDIO 5 THIS STYLISH DESKTOP BLUETOOTH SPEAKER PACKS A THREE-INCH SUBWOOFER AND LIGHTNING CONNECTOR. **£149, NUDEAUDIO.COM, OUT NOW**

REVELL CONTROL XS NANOQUAD TINY GNAT OF A REMOTE-CONTROLLED 'COPTER WITH LEDS FOR NIGHT FLIGHTS. **£33, REVELL.DE/EN, OUT NOW**

ASUS
IN SEARCH OF INCREDIBLE

ASUS recommends Windows 8.

ASUS Transformer Book T100

Is it a laptop? Is it a tablet?

All-New 10.1" touchscreen laptop that transforms into a tablet.

ASUS Transformer Book T100 is a powerful 10.1" convertible device featuring Windows 8.1 – a notebook when docked into its keyboard base and a powerful tablet once detached.

On the software side, Office Home & Student 2013 is included so that documents, spreadsheets and presentations can be viewed and created easily.

Clever features deliver a fantastic entertainment experience. ASUS SonicMaster technology enhances audio quality whether listening to music or watching a film. A reading mode is also available to optimise screen brightness.

With Intel Inside®, ASUS Transformer Book T100 delivers Intel level performance for lightning-fast web browsing and extraordinary battery life (up to 11 hours).

Currys PC World STAPLES John Lewis

Product images simulated and for illustrative purposes only. ASUS Transformer Book T100 is also known as T100TA. Subject to availability.

THE BUZZ

News, noise and nefarious goings-on behind tech's net curtains

IMAGE: ISTOCK

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

Updates on the tech stories that do not go gently

{INNOVATION}

The robots are getting smarter

Then: Google's director of engineering, Ray Kurzweil, predicts that computers will outsmart humans by 2029.
Now: Japan's National Institute of Informatics and Fujitsu are building a robot that can pass the Todai university entry exam; it's been busy studying since 2011.

{LEGAL}

Facebook in more privacy hot water

Then: The Zuck paid a staggering $19bn for Whatsapp in February.
Now: Privacy groups have complained, claiming the deal breaches Whatsapp's pledge to not collect data for advertising purposes. Facebook says Whatsapp will continue to honour its promises.

{CONTENT}

Amazon steps in to save British TV

Then: Netflix resuscitated cult US favourite *Arrested Development* with a fourth season in 2013.
Now: Amazon Prime Instant is planning to gain similar kudos by funding a third season of Ripper Street *– the first UK show to get the on-demand kiss of life.*

WHAT WE'VE LEARNED THIS MONTH

PAY-TO-PEE IS THE NEW ONLINE CRAZE

Offer the use of your "facilities" online, charging desperate people anything upwards of a penny.

COMPUTER VIRUSES ARE NOW AIRBORNE

Researchers at the University of Liverpool have created a new PC virus capable of spreading over a Wi-Fi link, bypassing most firewalls.

YOU CAN USE GETTY IMAGES FOR FREE (ISH)

If you're embedding them on a website, there's no need to pay the fee. Just use their new embed tool providing you aren't using the pic for commercial purposes.

THIS STAR-STUDDED SELFIE

Coordinated by TV host Ellen DeGeneres, this Oscars love-in became the most retweeted post ever (two million in a night). Now let's never talk of it again.

INTERNET OF 'THINGS'

David Cameron has pledged £45 million of government cash to fund connected growth.

QUANTUM COMPUTING

The Quantum D-Wave 2 now thinks 3,600 times faster than the average supercomputer, using a huge, 512 qubit array.

{WINNING}

THE T3 WINDEX

What's going up and down in the land of tech

{FAILING}

MT GOX

The bitcoin exchange has filed for bankruptcy as CEO Mike Karpele admits that the money's gone – all 750,000 bitcoins (that's £251 million).

CLIMATE CHANGE DENIERS

Facing criticism of Apple's investment in renewable energy, Tim Cook advised investors with concerns to "get out of the stock".

BBC THREE

Despite 13 million viewers per week, the Beeb channel will now only be available online. We doubt its predominantly young audience will be that "bovvered".

IMAGE: REX FEATURES

YOUR MAILS, TWEETS AND POSTS

STAR LETTER

Fingerprint theft?

To all the people saying that Apple should sue Samsung for implementing a fingerprint scanner, you are idiots. If that was the case, then Motorola should sue Apple, since the Atrix, which came out years ago, had a fingerprint scanner.

DAVID SINGER VIA FACEBOOK

Someone else remembers the Atrix, too?! The fingerprint scanner isn't the only new trick up the S5's sleeve anyway, David. For full details on it and HTC's new One M8, head to p15.

iCars: the world speaks

Wow, now the NSA can have you drive yourself straight to jail.

GRANT PATERSON VIA FACEBOOK

Start car and wait until the 800GB update completes, before driving off in the wrong direction. I can't wait.

GARY SHAW VIA FACEBOOK

Now more people can get lost with Apple's awful Maps. I'll wait for Android cars myself, thanks.

MATT FRYATT VIA FACEBOOK

So much cynicism, chaps. For the full skinny on CarPlay from the Geneva Motor Show, head to p24.

Google takes over

Google + acquisition of artificial intelligence and robotics companies = "hasta la vista baby"

HAITCH JAY ASTBURY VIA FACEBOOK

Do Google's recent purchases herald the end of days or the beginning of a new exciting tech age? T3 investigates on p80...

SEND MAIL, WIN THIS

A Gioteck EX-06 Wired headset with excellent sound quality and removable mic boom. Foldable and fantastic.

£34.99, GIOTECK.COM

COOLER MASTER®

COMPATIBLE WITH PlayStation 4

500 Ceres

CM STORM

Reaper

MECH

the Gadget Show LIVE

Booth W65

coolermaster.co.uk

SCAN computers

amazon.co.uk

box.co.uk

NEWS BLIP NEW BBM UPDATE IMPROVES GROUP CHAT AND LETS YOU SHARE LARGER FILES

THE MONTH IN NUMBERS

Probability of enjoyment? It's a statistical certainty...

DON'T GET IN A FLAP

The winning eBay bid for an iPhone installed with now-defunct app phenomenon *Flappy Bird*. Unsurprisingly, they didn't pay up

(EBAY)

40KG

The weight you can apply to the LG G Flex without it breaking (like being sat on by the average adult male)

700MM

Radius of the curve on the G Flex, allegedly the "scientifically optimum curvature" for a phone". Hmm

(LG)

IDENTITY CRISIS!

1 IN 50,000

Likelihood of someone else's fingerprint matching yours

(APPLE)

36%

PERCENTAGE OF UK TABLET OWNERS WHO USE IT TO WATCH CATCH-UP TV

66%

PERCENTAGE OF UK TABLET OWNERS WHO USE IT TO READ AND SEND EMAILS

(IPSOS MEDIACT)

154dB

POWER OF THE SPEAKERS AT THE EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY'S ACOUSTIC FACILITY. SO, LOUD ENOUGH TO KILL YOU THEN...

(ESA)

POWDER FORCE!

THE AMOUNT OF G-FORCE AN OLYMPIC SNOWBOARDER'S FITNESS TRACKER CLOCKED WHEN LANDING A JUMP (THREE TIMES WHAT F1 DRIVERS FEEL WHEN BRAKING)

(POPULAR SCIENCE)

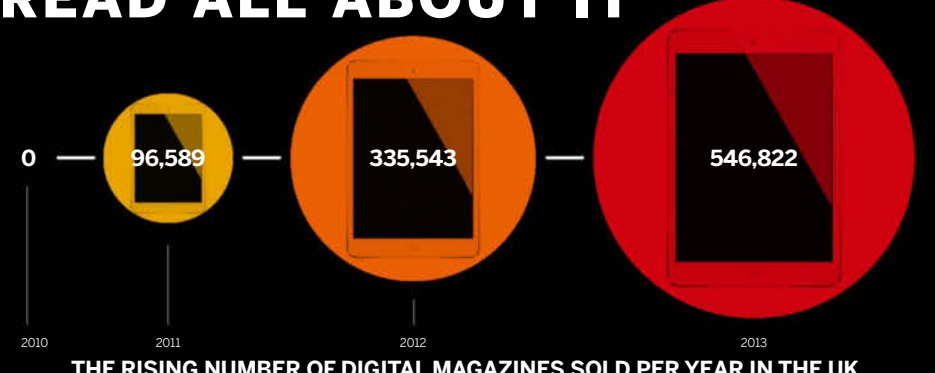
Time it took Japan's K Supercomputer to simulate one second of 1% human brain power

(TELEGRAPH)

1 in 4 Brits in a relationship claim dropping their phone in a toilet would be more upsetting than a break-up

(SQUARETRADE)

READ ALL ABOUT IT



THE RISING NUMBER OF DIGITAL MAGAZINES SOLD PER YEAR IN THE UK. WITH A CIRCULATION OF 22,319, T3 IS NOW THE BESTSELLER BY A FULL 5,262 ISSUES

(ABC)

WWW FOR MORE NEWS GO TO T3.COM

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WHAT'S ON YOUR RADAR?

Cease the "nothing to do" chorus and look forward to doing this...

3 Months away

TECH
Pono Player

Neil Young's brainchild, a PMP that allows you to listen to music "the way the artists intended", is now on pre-order at Kickstarter. Shaped like a Toblerone, it has 128GB storage – that'll fit 500 albums at studio quality.

FILM
The Inbetweeners Movie 2

Following their eventful sojourn to Crete in 2011, the Pussay Patrol are now heading Down Under for another big, boozy but embarrassment-filled adventure. Robot dancing into cinemas on August 6.

GAME
The Sims 4

The world's favourite life simulator will evolve even further this autumn, adding more emotional depth to gameplay and giving all characters the ability to multitask – gesticulating and eating pancakes at the same time, for instance.

EVENT
Tokyo Game Show

Triple-A blockbusters such as *Lightning Returns* and *Metal Gear Solid V* made a huge splash at last year's Japanese expo, as well as PS Vita TV's first airing. Let's hope 2014's TGS will be as exciting – the games begin on September 18.

6 Months away

TECH
Canon EOS 7D Mark II

A firmware update in 2012 improved Canon's aging 7D DSLR greatly, but now the Mark II is officially on the way. It's been road-tested at the Winter Olympics and will have another outing at the World Cup before landing in time for Chrimbo.

FILM
The Boxtrolls

From the talented 3D and CGI hands that brought us the excellent *Coraline*, this stop-motion animation family-pleaser features the distinctive voices of Ben Kingsley and Simon Pegg, plus Cee-Lo's warbling. On screens September 12.

GAME
Hyrule Warriors

With Wii U sales struggling, Nintendo is taking bolder decisions when it comes to overhauling its classic franchises. *Hyrule Warriors*, a mash-up of *Zelda* and Tecmo's *Dynasty Warriors*, will grace the GamePad before Christmas is here.

EVENT
London Science Festival

Our fair capital plays host to a wealth of scientific and technological talks on the subject of "life" from November 12. A lot to cover, then? The full programme, littered with free events, will be released in August.

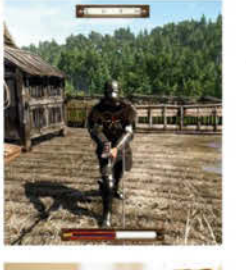
9 Months away

TECH
PlayStation VR headset

Reportedly in development for two years and planned for reveal at both last year's Gamescom and then TGS, Sony's take on Oculus's Rift face tech is a prototype, demoed with an immersive *DriveClub* cockpit. But when can we actually buy?

FILM
The Man from UNCLE

Henry "the latest in a long line of Supermen" Cavill loads up on spy gadgets and joins Guy "used to be married to Madonna and really needs another hit" Ritchie's tech-heavy TV series reboot. Sneaking into cinemas January 15.



GAME
Kingdom Come: Deliverance

This medieval open-world RPG title, described as "Dungeons, no dragons", took just two days to hit its £300,000 Kickstarter goal and is now being produced by Czech developer Warhorse Studios.

EVENT
BAFTAs

While the *Inbetweeners* boys are unlikely to walk away with one of these pre-Oscar nods, there's loads of time for Tinseltown to start working on some killer titles to scoop next year's mirth-free faces of filmic appreciation.

{THE HIGHS AND LOWS OF T3'S COMING MONTH}

YEAH!

Tech expo season is now in full swing. This time it's closer to home, with The Gadget Show Live taking over Birmingham's cavernous NEC from April. See you there?

The car calendar continues at maximum speed as we jet from Geneva straight to the New York International Auto Show for even more mind-blowing motors. It's a hard life...

MEH!

After all the recent tech over-excitement we'll be ready for a crash – time to spend a long bank holiday weekend eating 3D-printed chocolate eggs in sweatpants. Don't judge us.

Finally–The cure for Weak Wi-Fi Syndrome!

SHOCKING

Wi-Fi experts sound the alarm!

Weak Wi-Fi Syndrome has reached
epidemic levels in the UK. Countless
eople are already complaining of
mptoms such as poor reception
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The second rebellious member of the i-box family defies every norm of the portable audio world.

The Trax connects wirelessly to all of your favourite Bluetooth devices and keeps your playlist spinning for up to 10 hours.

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Play

THE CONTENT FOR YOUR KIT

This month... Elder Scrolls owns online / Grace Jones gets dirty / Hunger Games devours your screen / Dash back-seat drives

THE ESSENTIAL

TRIALS ON FIRE

RedLynx takes its acclaimed off-road racing series to the next level: next-gen consoles

You don't expect to get a warm, fuzzy feeling in a darkened bunker in a still-wintery Helsinki, but Lee Rowland's tale of landing his dream job at developer RedLynx is cosy on the cockles. Senior level designer on *Trials: Fusion*, the firm's first next-gen take on its addictive side-scrolling dirtbike platformer, Rowland found it was simply his series obsession that got him hired.

"I was making custom tracks at home for *Trials HD* when it first launched on Xbox Live about five years ago," he tells us, "One of the owners of RedLynx happened upon them, played them, liked them and so offered me a job." A few of his colleagues came through the same route, too.

But while not every *Trials* nut can land a shiny new gig, there's long been plenty of adoration for the series. Its audience has ballooned from hundreds of thousands to millions since its inception, this third console iteration completing its rise from downloadable Flash game on website Miniclip.com to a next-gen console essential.

The council *still* denied local road maintenance was becoming an issue

➜ *Trials: Fusion* keeps the franchise's two key features: the track editor, which allows the game's community to create and share obstacle courses; and the twitchy, physics-based gameplay, in which you guide a dirtbike rider around increasingly crazy race tracks.

With those in place, RedLynx has piled on the extras. Alongside dirtbikes, which vary in their heft and responsiveness, players can now ride quad-bikes – powerful, but tough to manoeuvre in the air – and bicycles, which are agile but hard work on steep inclines.

Fusion also introduces FMX races, where players earn points by pulling off outlandish trick combos. In the past these were just forward or backward somersaults, but now you can swing off the bike's handle bars in mid-air or hang from its rear-fender.

IT'S PACKED WITH MINI-GAMES AND CHALLENGES THAT SHIFT ON THE FLY

Yet it's worth putting in the practice before showboating too much because the riders' momentum and the speed at which they twirl through the air can make landing a trick difficult. So before headling online we recommend putting in some solo time on the new Infinite mode, in which players are presented with an endless series of randomly generated tracks to complete, with just three lives in their back pocket.

The biggest change, though, is the sheer breadth and scope of the world. Not only has RedLynx traded the game's junkyard aesthetic for sci-fi cityscapes, snow-covered vistas and rain-slicked swamps, it's packed the different levels with mini-games, Easter eggs and challenges that change dynamically on the fly.

Sporting enough of the new, without losing sight of what made gamers like Lee Rowland fall in love with the series in the first place, *Trials: Fusion* is now ready for the big leagues.

£50, REDLYNX.COM, OUT APRIL 18 ON PC, X1, PS4, X360 AND PC

Ye Olde Burning Man: festival of choice for medieval hipsters

THE ELDER SCROLLS ONLINE

Bethesda's massive fantasy adventure takes on World of Warcraft in a swords and sorcery fight to the death...

Whether by brute force or magic, the Elder Scrolls games specialise in sucking whole days from lives, and this latest sword and sorcery adventure is no exception. The last instalment, *The Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim*, took *T3* the best part of a full-time working week to complete, with action confined to the northern-most province of the in-game world of Tamriel.

The Elder Scrolls Online goes all out to up the epic. Set a millennium before *Skyrim*, its sprawling maps cover an entire continent, with all open to 100 online players at a time. Yes, this is the latest game to have a stab at unseating *World Of Warcraft* from its MMO (massively multiplayer online) throne, but wisely going about it in its own way.

Instead of borrowing gameplay ideas, *The Elder Scrolls* sticks closely to the first-person combat and story-heavy questing that made *Skyrim* a triumph, players dual-wielding swords and spells with attacks mapped to both triggers. But by combining an engaging storyline with the ability to head out with a posse of pals, this instalment is sure to steal more of your time than ever before. Start preparing your excuses now.

£40, ELDERSCROLLSONLINE.COM, OUT APRIL 4 ON PC

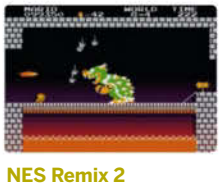
{FOCUS}

You can pick the race and class of your character, but make sure they're in the same faction as your mates' characters if you're planning team questing or dungeon raids.

{BEST OF THE REST}

Kick the ball, save the girl, survive to tell the tale

Kinect Sports Rivals
X1
Mash your inner couch potato and leap around your lounge. The improved Kinect module now judges your prowess with unnerving accuracy, even if you still look as silly.
£49, XBOX.COM, OUT APRIL 8



NES Remix 2
Wii U
Nintendo gives classic titles like *Super Mario 3*, *Kirby's Adventure* and *Metroid* the quick-blast, WarioWare treatment again. Frivolous but fun.
£TBC, NESREMIX.NINTENDO.COM, OUT APRIL 25

BioShock Infinite: Burial At Sea Part 2
PC, PS3, X360
This sombre conclusion to Ken Levine's final DLC story as Irrational closes puts players in Elizabeth's shoes for a Rapture finale.
£TBC, BIOSHOCKINFINITE.COM, OUT NOW

Outlast
PC, PS4
One of the most terrifying games we've endured. Stay alive in an asylum filled with killers, armed only with a camcorder, torch and not enough batteries.
£16, REDBARRELSGAMES.COM, OUT NOW

MUSIC

NIGHTCLUBBING

Grace Jones' sleazy mix of funk, dub and new wave reissued in style

A stew of all the best bits of '80s music, from hard-edged funk to dark-vibed, bass-heavy reggae, with a soupçon of scratchy, new-wave guitar, this is a stone-cold classic, fronted by a stone-cold singer in Grace Jones. Terrifyingly sexy, Jones' dominatrix persona makes resistance to songs like the filthsome *Pull Up to the Bumper* and her cover of Iggy Pop's *Nightclubbing* utterly futile. The second disc of extended mixes is also essential.

£11 CD, £5.49 MP3, OUT APRIL 14

{BEST OF THE REST}

Indie, hip-hop or dance for Sir?

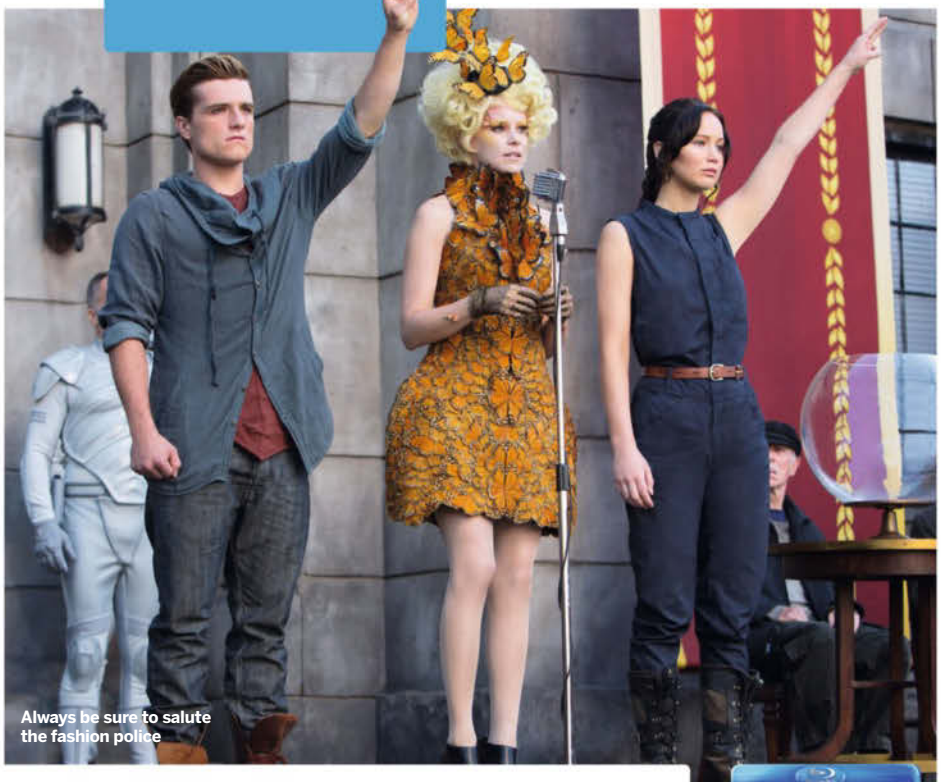
THE HOLD STEADY
Teeth Dreams
The heirs to Springsteen, back with more wordy peeks into small-town American life. Don your plaid shirt and prepare to rock, literately.
£10 CD, £8 MP3, OUT NOW

KAISER CHIEFS
Education, Education, Education and War
Back in favour after singer's stint on *The Voice*, cheeky indie chaps repeat wearisome "ooooh" Blur-lite thing.
£7 CD, £7 MP3, OUT NOW

NAS
Illmatic XX
This career-defining/ruining debut is reissued in remastered and extended form. It defined a certain strand of hip-hop for a decade; Nas never recovered.
£9 CD, £11 MP3, OUT APRIL 14

TODD TERJE
It's Album Time
Sweet house music, straight outta Norway. That Bryan Ferry adds vocals to one track gives you an idea of how far from, say, Disclosure it sounds.
£11 CD, £8 MP3, OUT APRIL 7

FILMS



Always be sure to salute the fashion police

THE HUNGER GAMES

'Catching Fire' sequel improves on predecessor in every way, even if it does look a little peculiar

This often gripping sequel builds on the first film's phenomenal success with almost *unnecessarily* strong acting from Jennifer Lawrence, Woody Harrelson and the late Philip Seymour Hoffman. We say unnecessary, because its teen and teen-at-heart audience would likely turn up even if the thesping was all of the "quality" of Liam Hemsworth and Josh Hutcherson as Lawrence's drippy love rivals. It's *very* similar to the first film structurally but everything is better, grittier and more satisfyingly paced, with the actual "Games" literally more adult – it's not kids fighting kids anymore, it's a grown-up champions' league of island homicide. Another plus: less of the action takes place in the Capital, which means less lava lamp-like pseudo-futuristicness in the costumes, props and mad hair – though, as the image above proves, there's still some.

£13 BD, £14 DL, OUT NOW

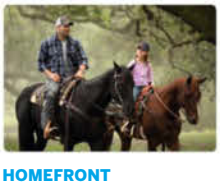
{HD MOMENT}

As in the first film, the battle scenes are thrilling, and ever-so-surprisingly violent for a 12 rating

{BEST OF THE REST}

Hijackers, hackers, assassins and bad apples

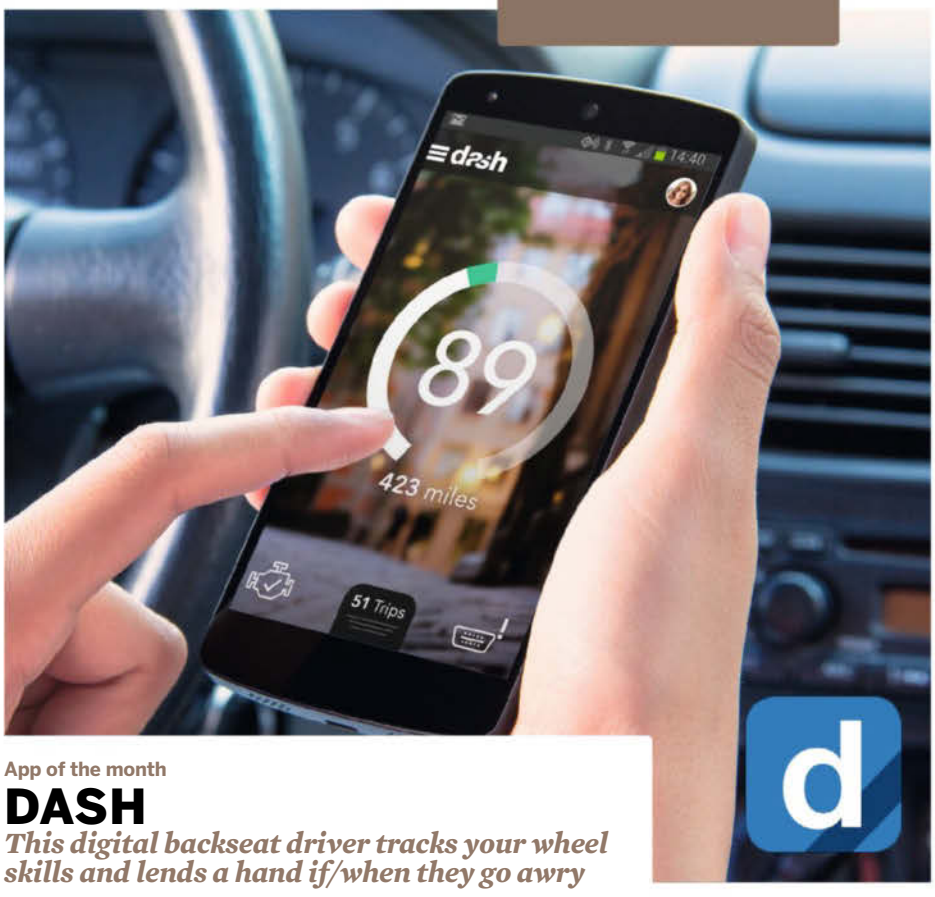
THE HOBBIT: THE DESOLATION OF SMAUG
BLU-RAY, HD DOWNLOAD
Overlong; draggy in places; dodgy ending. If you love the enveloping spectacle of Peter Jackson's Middle Earth, that presumably won't put you off, though.
£18 BD, £14 DL, OUT APRIL 7



HOMEFRONT
BLU-RAY, HD DOWNLOAD
Jason Statham takes on James Franco at fighting, while Winona Ryder takes part in a parallel contest of "Who can be most woefully miscast". The winner? Not the viewer, that's for sure.
£15 BD, £14 DL, OUT MARCH 31

NEBRASKA
BLU-RAY, HD DOWNLOAD
This award-botherer narrowly pips *Philomena* in the wordy/talky category thanks to a towering Bruce Dern turn as an old drunk on the hunt for a sweepstake win.
£18 BD, £14 DL OUT MARCH 31

PHILOMENA
BLU-RAY, HD DOWNLOAD
Bittersweet tale of an old woman trying to find the son she was forced to give away by, essentially, evil nuns. Coogan-in-Serious-Mode and Dench do their usual things reliably well.
£15 BD, £10 DL, OUT NOW



App of the month

DASH

This digital backseat driver tracks your wheel skills and lends a hand if/when they go awry

How's your driving? Now you can find out without witty bumper stickers with an Android and iOS app that provides you with statistical evidence of your Ryan Gosling-like cornering skills. *Dash* is remarkably simple to use: a small transmitter box plugs into a port under your steering wheel and monitors progress, from how many miles per gallon you're getting to the adeptness of your clutch control.

The app gathers all of this information silently, distilling it into regular notifications and awarding you a "Dash Score" out of 100 for driving competency – or lack thereof.

The app also has your safety in mind. If you crash, it alerts nominated friends and family immediately and dials emergency services. If you break down, it even runs a diagnostic of your car, giving you a rough idea of what's wrong and a ball-park figure for the inevitable repairs, keeping you safe, in theory, from cowboy mechanics, too.

Encouraging safer, cheaper and more efficient driving is worthy of a merit badge, but it's the social element that's surprisingly compelling. Forget drag racing at lights, it's time to get competitively safe. Who's with us?

FREE, DASH.BY, ON ANDROID 4.0+ AND IOS SOON

{IOS}

Our pick from the Apple cart

TomTom MySports
IOS 6.0+: IPAD, IPHONE, TOUCH
Sync to your TomTom Sport Watch and navigate all your running data on your phone in real time with ease. Also alerts you to timely firmware updates.
FREE, TOMTOM.COM

Faded
IOS 6.0+: IPAD, IPHONE, TOUCH
Just as powerful as *Mextures* and *Photoshop* for iPad, this image editor gives you a pro palette of tools and a selection of filters to play about with.
£0.69, MADEWITHFADED.COM

M&A Game
IOS 4.3+: IPAD, IPHONE, TOUCH
Wolf of Wall Street made you hanker for a career in finance? Practice your swindling expertise with this app that lets you buy and sell fake companies.
FREE, ANSARADA.COM

Octonius
IOS 7.0+: IPAD, IPHONE, TOUCH
Cloud storage means all your data is always accessible, but not if you can't remember where it is. This combines all your storage hubs in one place.
FREE, OCTONI.US

Platter
IOS 6.0+: IPAD, IPHONE, TOUCH
A useful tool for foodies. Record your own delights and expand your taste horizons, with recipes and tips from other chefs and food bloggers.
FREE, PLATTERHQ.COM

5by
IOS 7.0+: IPAD, IPHONE, TOUCH
Sifts through a YouTube-worth of video content while you sleep, looking for things you'll be interested in and learns your tastes over time, too.
FREE, APP.5BY.COM

KAMI
IOS 4.3+: IPAD, IPHONE, TOUCH
Puzzle apps can be stressful, but this one dispenses with time limits, giving you all the time in the world to solve its beautiful but dastardly problems.
£1.49, STATEOFPLAYGAMES.COM

{UPDATE}

Canon helps wannabe snappers with DSLR app

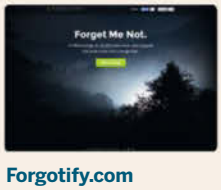
Learning the workings of a brand new camera can be tricky, even for more experienced photographers. So a high-handed clap for Canon's new interactive app guide for those upgrading to a DSLR.

The *Canon EOS Companion* app uses the firm's new EOS 1200D snapper to get you acquainted with the advanced controls, aiming to build your photographic aptitude.

Video tutorials and step-by-step exercises teach you new tricks, challenging you to try all options and making the already excellent 1200D seem like more of a wise investment.

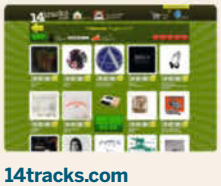
£350, CANON-EUROPE.COM

THREE WEBSITES FOR MUSICAL EXPLORERS



Forgotify.com
FOR UNDERDOGS
Over 20,000 songs are added to Spotify every day and 20 per cent of them never get a single play (big aww). Now you can come to their aid as Forgotify plays you a forgotten track at random. Like it? Share it!

Concertvault.com
FOR LIVE MUSIC
A huge collection of classic gigs, captured on film and lovingly upscaled to HD. Membership ($4 a month or $40 for the year) earns you two free downloads and extra content never costs more than $5.



14tracks.com
FOR ELECTRONICA
Miss mix-tapes? These digital downloads, limited to 14 tracks as standard, are a great way to discover new electro and dance artists. At 99p a pop, they're a bargain – and delivered in 320Kbps and DRM-free.

{ANDROID}

Google top guns worth a try

App in-depth

The Room Two

ANDROID 2.3+

When *The Room* was first unlocked back in 2012, Fireproof's head-scratcher captured imaginations and eventually a gaming BAFTA with its intoxicating cocktail of intricate puzzles and eerie atmosphere. Worried that the sequel may have lost some of its intrigue? Don't be, it's better, bigger and even more involving. Again there's a touch of *Myst* and *Riven* to the environmental teasers (also out now on iOS), while the visuals are upped and the spine-tingling soundtrack reacts nicely to your actions.

£1.99, FIREPROOFGAMES.COM

Talon

ANDROID 4.0+

A Twitter client built specifically for Android KitKat and packed with features, supporting multiple feeds and accounts. Looks swish, too.

£1.19, KLINKERAPPS.COM

NOW TV Beta

ANDROID 4.0+

Wi-Fi and 3G access to ten of Now TV's channels, plus all of Sky's Movie and Sports programming. You need to have paid for access, of course.

FREE, NOWTV.COM

Pump Up

ANDROID 4.1+

Step-by-step coaching, customised workouts and schedules, with a very well- designed interface and *Endomondo*-like social interactions.

FREE, PUMPUP.CO

Stack Exchange

ANDROID 4.0+

Huge forum of experts in every field, from gaming and tech to cooking and gardening. Search for answers, or just post your own, Mr Know-It-All.

FREE, STACKEXCHANGE.COM

Dailymotion

VARIES BY DEVICE

In the shadow of YouTube, it's easy to forget the 30 million videos hosted on this visual hub. The new app is great, too, with offline viewing in HD.

FREE, DAILYMOTION.COM

{WINDOWS PHONE}

Live tiles to up your ante

Barclays Mobile Banking

WINDOWS PHONE 8

Keep tabs on accounts, check your balances, transfer money and even find your nearest Barclays branch. Useful... if you bank with Barclays.

FREE, BARCLAYS.CO.UK

Momento

WINDOWS PHONE 8

Effectively diary writing made easy, this sources pics, status updates, check-ins and vids from your social feeds to create a report of your day.

FREE, MOMENTOAPP.COM

Trial Xtreme 3

WINDOWS PHONE 8

Get your bike through 112 perilous courses and take friends on head to head. Without an official *Trials* game on WP8, this is a very good stand-in.

FREE, DEEMEDYA.COM

2020: My Country

WINDOWS PHONE 8

Design and build your own sprawling, futuristic metropolis, working tirelessly to keep citizens happy and defend against earthquakes/aliens.

FREE, GAME-INSIGHT.COM

Poki

WINDOWS PHONE 8

Saves any website and blog content you wish for perusing offline. It's like the much-lauded *Pocket* for iOS and Android, ie extremely useful.

£1.49, POKIAPP.COM

Path Beta

WINDOWS PHONE 8

A purposefully walled social network that lets you be as social as you want. Now on WP8 with optional Facebook integration, which defeats the point, no?

FREE, PATH.COM

Weather Hound

WINDOWS PHONE 8

The simplest yet best-looking weather app on Windows Phone bar none. Daily reports are particularly good, as are the live updates.

£1.29, FAILEDINSIDER.COM

{BLACKBERRY}

The finest hand-picked Berries

Fire Chest Usage

BLACKBERRY 10.0.0+

Tracks six months of your phone usage, including data, calls, mobile and roaming access, with alerts to warn you of impending limits.

FREE, FIRECHEST.COM

Rapid Reminders

BLACKBERRY 10.0.0+

Set alerts and alarms more quickly and conveniently than your handset usually allows. Still far from completely simple, though.

£0.75, APPWORLD.BLACKBERRY.COM

SuperTube

BLACKBERRY 10.0.0+

The ultimate BB YouTube app arrives. As well as usual hub stuff, you can reload videos for offline watching and it also supports HD clips.

FREE, APPWORLD.BLACKBERRY.COM

Whine

BLACKBERRY 10.0.0+

At last! An actually quite-decent Vine client for BlackBerry. Collates clips and lets you record your own Vines to share with online buddies.

FREE, APPWORLD.BLACKBERRY.COM

Geomatrix

BLACKBERRY 10.0.0+

Glitzy *Tron*-esque graphics meet *Asteroids*-style gameplay for shits and giggles. Shoot down enemies to collect the vital bits of code you need.

£0.75, CHAPIRA.NET

Geekbench 3

BLACKBERRY 10.0.0+

Wonder how your handset compares against other BlackBerry devices? Now measure processor or memory performance with reliable results.

FREE, PRIMATELABS.COM

Mega

BLACKBERRY 10.0.0+

New cloud venture of Kim Dotcom (see p58) gets its own app: 50GB of secure storage that you can access anywhere plus video streaming.

FREE, MEGA.CO.NZ

FOUR EBOOKS TO READ

Bird Box

JOSH MALERMAN

The most terrifying element of any horror story is what you can't see. This tale plays on that fear: the world is ending, but you may be okay, as long as you don't look...

£4.72, OUT MARCH 27

The First Fifteen Lives of Harry August

CLAIRE NORTH

Time travel romp with a hint of *Doctor Who*-style regeneration that begins at the end (of the world).

£7.49, OUT APRIL 8

Decoded: A Novel

MAI JIA

Originally published in 2002, *Decoded* charts Chinese code breaker Rong Jinzhwen's progress from the heights of espionage to the depths of paranoia.

£6.64, OUT NOW

Who Is Tom Ditto?

DANNY WALLACE

Tom's girlfriend has written a note: "I have not left you. But I am gone." His search for answers will take some very strange turns...

£6.49, OUT APRIL 24

GAMES: NICK COWEN; MUSIC & MOVIES: DUNCAN BELL; BOOKS & WEBSITES: CLARE SARTIN; APPS: PETE DREYER

ZOTAC ZBOX

SMALL YET MIGHTY

The ZOTAC ZBOX mini-PC - Small in size, big in performance

Experience outstanding computing that's small in size yet delivers mighty performance and superb energy-efficiency with the ZOTAC ZBOX mini-PCs. By harnessing the power of 4th Generation Intel Core processors, the ZOTAC ZBOX ID91, ID92 and IQ01 series deliver world-class processing power for lightning-fast responsiveness and performance that rivals larger form factor systems.

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ZOTAC ZBOX ID91, ID92 and IQ01 mini-PCs are available with Windows 8, 128GB solid-state storage and DDR3 memory at the etailers listed below.

Available from...

CCL SCAN dabs.com ebuyer.com

Windows 8

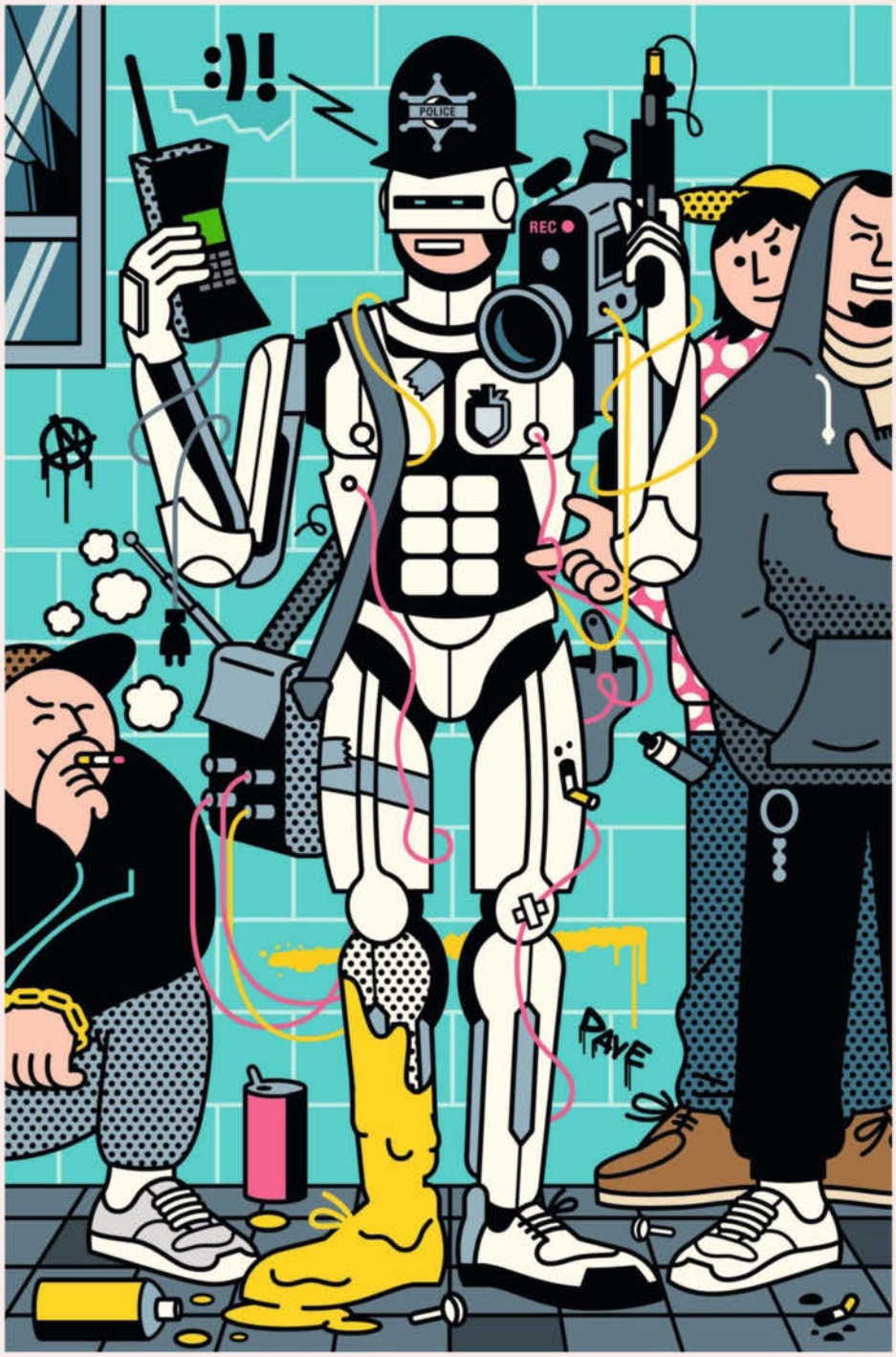
To learn more, visit ZOTAC.COM

Opinion

TALKING TECH WITH T3'S EXPERT ALLIES

T3

{THIS MONTH}
The Secret Policeman is no Robocop
Chris Smith is Bogarting that tech joint
Duncan Bell *really* don't wanna talk to you
Nick Cowen is being watched
Edited by Duncan Bell



THE SECRET POLICEMAN

{INSIGHT}

ROBOCOPS WILL FLOP

Our anonymous police insider doubts the move to officers carrying cameras on duty will work out well. Tech and the law just don't get on...

If you've even a passing interest in news, the police, or your own human rights, you've probably read about the Government's latest brainwave for British coppers: that officers on duty are to wear cameras at all times, for both their own protection and that of the public. You probably think that, as a copper myself, I'm dead against it, and you'd be right – but not for the reason you think.

It's because, to put it in layman's terms, the tech used by the UK's police services is crap. Tiny cameras beaming hi-def images securely to a massive array of monitors for viewing live, or to central servers for catching up on at a later date, which will be admissible in court? Take it from me, it's about as likely that we'll be issued with phasers and patrol on hoverboards.

Let me give you an example of what police tech is like. Last year, we got a brand new, "state of the art" computer system for databasing arrest warrants, criminal records checks, intel and all the other things a modern police service needs. What do you think this multimillion-pound system runs on? Perhaps shiny new Mac Pros, with officers receiving updates via BlackBerrys – they should be available cheaply enough by now, even for the Home Office, right? ➜

ILLUSTRATION **RAMI NIEMI**

➜ Nope. We're talking beige boxes that may have sat in PC World circa 2003. The cutting-edge OS it runs on? Windows XP. That's right: the OS Microsoft just announced it no longer supports. Turn on one of these futuristic boxes and you've got enough time to fill in a miss-per and half an arrest report before it's fired up.

Now, contrary to popular belief, police officers are not Luddites; well, not all of us. We own mobile phones and tablets, we know how modern gadgets work. We dream of a day that officers are equipped with modded smartphones. All of a sudden we'd have web access for intel, we'd be able to photograph crime scenes and share them with colleagues instantly, using GPS and mapping apps to assist with pursuits and allocating resources on the fly more efficiently. Instead, a small number of us have PDAs – remember them? – and most of us have a radio and a notepad; Dixon's of Dock Green, anyone? Although we can at least say that we had fingerprint readers on our person before Apple did.

There are 101 things that modern tech could theoretically make easier for the police, but a theory is exactly what that will remain for the foreseeable. Sure, there are plenty of good reasons relating to security for that, but there are also bad reasons – like lack of funding, planning and purchasing competence. Huge public bodies like the police take years to make procurement decisions and years more to bring them to fruition. Result: Windows XP in yer "state of the art" computers.

CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF, COPS ARE NOT LUDDITES. WELL, NOT ALL OF US

If we're issued with cameras, here's my prediction of what they'll be like: something like an old webcam, attached to our stab vests, with some sort of unwieldy frame – or maybe perched on top of our helmets for extra coolness. They'll communicate unreliably with a central database via a form of radio link that's unused by anyone else in the world, with files stored in a video format unheard of since 1997.

That's not the only way tech holds back the long arm of the law, though. Millions of hours of police time are also wasted on people reporting "stolen" phones, tablets and laptops to get a crime reference number and claim it back. How did the police come to be an arm of the insurance industry? Well, that's one for another column. Be safe now. Evening all.

The Secret Policeman works for one of the UK's major police services

CHRIS SMITH

{STATESIDE}

NEW WEED ORDER

Marijuana's legal in several US states and, yes, there's an app for that. It's not like tech and grass haven't crossed over before...

Growing and smoking pot seems like a pretty organic endeavour, doesn't it? However, no industry is exempt from a healthy infusion of tech these days and the legalisation of marijuana is presenting green-fingered US start-ups with plenty of opportunities to reach new highs.

The legal cannabis market will shoot up, if you'll forgive the expression, by 64 per cent to $2.34 billion this year, and tech companies want to be part of this joint enterprise. At the forefront of making green from green is TriQ Systems. Its comprehensive cultivation and processing software manages all aspects of the legal grow, from planting to pruning. Its products are like a more baked version of the apps used by the plant sensors in T3's Tech Life this month (p87), basically. TriQ's also built the world's first intelligent cannabis-drying machine – the £10,000 CannTrol Vulcan50 – which can dry out the average American's body weight in weed in almost a week.

Apps are also playing their part for dope consumers. *WeedMaps*, which promises to assist those seeking legal highs to "Find their bud", is basically Yelp for cannabis, and part of a $25 million-per-year empire. *MassRoots* recently blazed $150,000 in funding and is set to become Instagram for stoners.

The popular *Leafly* rolls up 80,000 user reviews of strains, allowing result filtering by flavours, effects and medicinal qualities, while *Strains Pro 2* offers tonnes of info – well, many, many ounces of info – on 420 different strains direct from breeders. HydroNerds offers a "direct line to the best professional growers in California".

So have the pot-smoking hippies of yesteryear been replaced by techy hipsters? Yes and no. Truth is, there's long been an overlap between tech and drugs. The original instigators of the modern computer and tech industries weren't all averse to a toke, with Steve Jobs being a notable enthusiast in his younger days. Hippies and tech-heads have more in common than ill-advised beards and a tendency to live in San Francisco.

That's not to say a career in weed tech is easy pickings. It's heavily taxed and still illegal at Federal level, while Google and Facebook still ban spliff-centric advertising, even in states where the drug is legal.

Nor is this necessarily an example of tech's wild fringes. It might seem odd in Britain, but like the 3D gun-printers, the dope-tech pioneers fit with the tapestry of American life. With even President Barack "I inhaled frequently" Obama saying pot is no more dangerous than booze – that's not the same as saying it's safe, of course – cultural attitudes are shifting over here. Yet one thing never changes: the urge to find creative new ways to make money.

Chris is a British journalist desperately seeking tech, tea and Marmite in the US of A

{GET INVOLVED}

HAVE YOUR SAY...

To read more of our views on tech, the web, life and more, head to the regularly updated thought-hub that is T3.com/opinion.

You want to add your voice to the debate? Look no further than: Facebook.com/t3mag or Twitter.com/t3dotcom

DUNCAN BELL

{TRUTH}

DIAL M FOR IRRITATION

Irksome customer-service encounters lead to one startling realisation: nobody really wants to speak to anyone anymore

Is there anything cheaper for a columnist to write about than bad customer service they've had? No. But sadly, a glance at my invoices for writing services will show that I am a *very* cheap columnist, so too bad.

Now, like many of you I expect, I don't use my phone much for talking these days. My comms outlets are SMS, iMessage, email, Whatsapp (for friends abroad) and the like.

A lot of companies have realised this and offer customer assistance via email or, even better, web chat. Even my previous mobile service provider, whose website seems to have been put together as some sort of school project, offers this facility. Very useful it was too when I needed to say I was leaving to use Giffgaff instead.

Imagine my horror, then, when I had to deal with Another Major Telecomm Firm's "customer services" this month. Long story short: I changed to someone else and they continued to bill me. Hey, these things happen. So I phoned up and found myself part of some sort of Kafka-esque program of mental disintegration.

First up, I was asked by a machine to explain what my problem was. Seriously. You know how automated services like this will usually say, "Are you phoning about your bill?" and then you say, "No," and then it says, "I'm sorry I didn't catch that," and then you shout, "No!" while the rest of the office looks at you like you've taken leave of your senses? Well this was way worse than that.

I couldn't bring myself to say, "You are continuing to bill me for an account I've cancelled," to a machine because I knew perfectly well it wouldn't understand me. And whoever installed this system must have known this perfectly well, too. These things aren't there as greeters; they're bouncers. By making random noises, swearing and then remaining silent, like a sulking child, I eventually made the machine give up on me, stick me on hold for half the duration of a Killers track, then put me through to a person.

This chap listened very patiently to my problem, took my details, made reassuring noises then announced he couldn't help as he didn't have access to that particular part of the computer system. However, he could put me through to another person who'd sort me out, no trouble.

Several minutes of *Mr Brightside* later, I spoke to another person who had to have everything explained to them all over again. They couldn't really help either but they did assure me that the account I'd closed a month before was now almost certainly closed and I'd only get one more bill, which might even be a credit, although it was hard to be sure as they also couldn't look at that bit of the computer system. So I gave up at that point.

The reason this was hell is that I'm now totally adapted to text-only interaction. With text, you ask a question, then you can go away and do something else while your call-centre helper comes up with a solution. No word of a lie, I once counselled someone on the death of a relative via MSN Messenger whilst doing the washing up and making a cup of tea. They didn't know, and it was convenient for me. It's so liberating compared to, in the immortal words of Blondie, hanging on the telephone.

It's a sad state of affairs in some ways that verbal communication with strangers – and, indeed, non-strangers – has come to seem like a massive imposition to me. However, it's a sad state of affairs I can live with.

Duncan is T3's managing editor

NICK COWEN

{FINALLY...}

SPIES ON OUR THIGHS

GCHQ isn't just monitoring our browsing habits and emails, it's watching us get down and dirty. It's the final straw for our man...

When the PRISM story broke last year, it was greeted with media drama but general indifference. Oh sure, the usual public interest groups and pundits expressed horror that the NSA and GCHQ had a back channel into our emails, but nobody I knew changed their tech habits. People didn't desert Facebook en masse, they didn't cancel their Gmail accounts, they didn't hurl their MacBooks off of the nearest roof.

Why not, though? PRISM is positively Orwellian. It's like the authorities are entering your house uninvited, reading all of your correspondence and swabbing a DNA sample from your mouth "just in case".

Of course, the official line is that these intrusions into our lives are necessary for our own safety. After all, the stated purpose of PRISM is to aid in counter-terrorism efforts. If it keeps us safe, it must be okay, right?

But that argument should have fallen by the wayside on the revelation of Optic Nerve, a GCHQ program that's been running since 2008. In reports that sound like something Chris Morris would've read off his notes in *Brass Eye*, it's claimed spooks were intercepting and storing video from the webcams of millions of people who weren't suspected of committing any crime. Surprise surprise, many of these images were sexually explicit and, according to leaked GCHQ documents, keeping the more saucy vids away from staff members became, shall we say, problematic.

But despite this, *still* nobody seems to be bothered. Maybe it's because the very British fear that Big Brother is watching you is outweighed by the much worse British fear that *anyone* might find out the shameful fact that we have sex. "Unless we can get naked on webcams, the terrorists win"? That's really not a slogan we can all get behind.

Nick is T3's gaming editor at large

SAMSUNG GALAXY S5, £TBC, OUT APRIL; HTC ONE M8, £TBC, OUT APRIL

MODEL WEARS: WHITE DRESS BY ASOS

THE HOT 100

Welcome to *T3*'s ninth annual celebration of the tech movers and shakers that we expect to burn brightest this year – and beyond. It's the ultimate cutting-edge wish list, unveiling the gadgets, innovations, trends, brands and burgeoning iTalents that are igniting our imagination and preparing to take over the world. No rumours, no speculation – everything on the list is confirmed and coming for you, either right now, this year or next, from superphones to space tourism. We didn't start the fire, it was always burning since the tech world's been turning, but join us, as the smoke settles and our countdown begins...

WORDS **JAMES STABLES, PETE DREYER, ROB TEMPLE, CHRIS HASLAM** PHOTOGRAPHY **RICHARD GRASSIE** STYLING **MICHELLE KELLY**
HAIR AND MAKE-UP **JOHANNI NEL @SUPERNOVA** MODEL **HANNELIE @VISION MODELS** PRODUCT PHOTOGRAPHY **PIXELEYES PHOTOGRAPHY**

100

BEATS STUDIO BY ALEXANDER WANG

Time to wear your fashion credentials on your head. These limited-edition Beats cans have been given a muted matte black and pale gold overhaul by American designer Alexander Wang. Their adaptive noise-cancelling tech drowns out the jealous mutterings of fellow commuters for up to twenty hours on one charge and sound quality, tweaked by Dr Dre and Jimmy Iovine, is reliably punchy.
£390, uk.beatsbydre.com, out now

99

4MOMS ORIGAMI MINI

Until your sprog is old enough to walk you're forced to push them through crowded streets. What do *you* get out of it? In the case of the Origami Mini, a fully charged smartphone. Each of this pushchair's wheels has a built-in generator, which create electricity as you stroll. It will also provide power for the built-in headlights and clever self-folding mechanism.
£tbc, 4moms.com, out winter

98

HASSELBLAD HV

The iconic camera brand has sprinkled some design magic on Sony's A99 DSLR. The specs are the same: 24.3-megapixel full-frame sensor, an advanced BIONZ image processing engine and a Carl Zeiss lens with a 24-70mm focal range. But, of course, Hasselblad's added a diamond-tough powder coating, titanium controls, its much sought-after logo and an extra five grand on the price tag.
£6,900, hasselblad.com, out now

97

OLIVE ONE

This Wi-Fi connected speaker has a built-in screen for viewing the latest music videos, plays tracks in any file format and streams from Spotify. It's the open-source operating system that wows, though, learning your listening habits and making suggestions accordingly. You can generate a profile for every family member, too, and link up Ones for a smart, multi-room setup.
£298, myoliveone.com, out now

96

NORD LEAD A1

In 2014 we're all going to stay home and play synthesisers, so embrace your inner Eno with this analogue modelling sound engine synth. It can reproduce both vintage prog and Chvrches-esque soundscapes faithfully, all using a much improved user interface that makes programming intuitive for beginners. The sonics are as hot as the red paint job as well.
£1,299, nordkeyboards.com, out now

95

RAZER PROJECT CHRISTINE

This easily upgradeable tower PC may be just a concept at present, but what a tantalising one. Your CPU, GPU, power supply and hard drive all arrive as modules that plug neatly into a central stem, syncing and piping coolant around automatically. Need more power? No problem, just plug in an upgrade – no intricate desktop surgery required.
£tbc, razerone.com, out tbc

94

NINTENDO Wii U

No, don't laugh. For those thinking this third horse in the next-gen gaming race has fallen at the sales hurdle, you'd be right, but that doesn't mean it's not a great games hub on its own terms. It's also finally getting the quality it deserves, with *Donkey Kong* here, plus *Mario Kart 8* and *Watch Dogs* due soon. With a price tag that's half an Xbox One, its second-console time has come.
£220, nintendo.co.uk, out now ➜

93

CANON G1X MARK II

This classy compact has been given a spec boost, with its improved 24-120mm zoom lens packing a manual control ring, a 1.5-inch, 12.8-megapixel CMOS sensor and a faster DIGIC 6 processor. The optical viewfinder has been removed for a more streamlined look, while Wi-Fi and NFC are onboard, completing this modern snapper.
£749, canon.co.uk, out now

MODEL WEARS: DRESS BY AQUA, CAPE BY THE COSTUME STUDIO

92

EYELOCK MYRIS

There's a one in 50,000 chance of anyone matching your fingerprint ID; safe, but not safe enough. Add the Myris iris recognition cam and there's a one in two trillion chance of defences being breached. Better.
£tbc, eyelock.com, out winter

91

BLETCHLEY PARK

Hut 11, home to the electro-mechanical Bombe that decrypted up to 3,000 German military messages a day during the Second World War, has been reopened to the public. A must-see for patriotic tech fans.
£15 entry, bletchleypark.org.uk

90

EDELRID BEAST LIGHT CRAMPON

At 340g per foot, these give amazing grip on ice without weighing you down and are made using a new process that punches the aluminium into thin, but totally sturdy, spikes.
£240, edelrid.de, out winter

89

WITHINGS SLEEP MONITOR

This under-pillow sensor tracks movement, breathing and heart rate, while the lamp monitors noise, room temperature and light, sharing info to wake you at the optimum moment.
£tbc, withings.com, out spring

88

BIYO

Iris scanning (above) still not secure enough? The artist formerly known as PulseWallet links an infrared scan of the vein pattern in your palm to your credit card, allowing you to pay with a simple wave.
free app, pulsewallet.com, out tbc

87

OCCIPITAL STRUCTURE SENSOR

This slice of pure tech magic scans your surroundings, turning them into virtual, 3D environments to interact with. It works with the Oculus Rift virtual reality headset to boot.
£209, structure.io, out spring

86

CONSOLE WARS

Superbad duo Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg are busy adding their stoner humour slant to Blake Harris's behind-the-scenes account of the Sega vs Nintendo gaming war, ready for a boss battle in cinemas.
sonypictures.com, out tbc

85

KÄRCHER RAIN BOX AND SENSOTIMER

Prod the sensor into your flowerbed and it will monitor moisture and humidity levels, automatically switching on the sprinkler system when your plants are getting thirsty.
£80, karcher.com, out now

84

KOLIBREE

The gamification of cleanliness starts here. This Bluetooth-connected toothbrush tracks the oral hygiene of you and up to four others, using an app to compare the length and effectiveness of your polishing.
$199, kolibree.com, out winter

83

AEG PROCOMBI SOUSVIDE

There's no hotter – or, for that matter, wetter – kitchen gadget in 2014. Vacuum-pack food then slow cook it in a water bath for mouthwatering results.
Oven £1,400, vacuum sealer £1,600, aeg.co.uk, out now

82

BRAUN COOLTEC CT5CC

The trauma of shaving rash is almost reason enough to cultivate a hipster beard, but press the ceramic cooling element on Braun's CT5CC to your face to keep redness at bay.
£230, braun.com, out now

81

ROLAND ARIA TR-8

The legendary rhythm machine line gets a modern upgrade, combining the classic drum sounds of the TR-808 and TR-909 into one device, then adding modern tweaking options and a USB connection.
£399, roland.co.uk, out spring ➜

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PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

Nº 80 KIM HOTCOM

Cloud businessman, pro-gamer, perpetual fugitive. *T3* catches up with the Mega boss, one of tech's most controversial polymaths

INTERVIEW: TOM THOROGOOD

Life is never dull in the world of internet entrepreneur Kim Dotcom. Currently based in New Zealand fighting extradition to the US on piracy charges, the German-Finnish 40-year-old created file-sharing behemoths Mega Upload and Mega, launched an EDM album on his own music network Baboom, and also found time to become the world's top-ranked Modern Warfare 3 player. He's hot property, but not too busy to talk to us...

T3 You have a flair for services that, shall we say, toe the line of legality – is that a conscious decision? Couldn't you have just created a social network and retired a rich man?

KIM Haha! I'm not designing things to be that way. When I created Mega Upload it was a simple thought process. I was trying to email a large file and I got a message back which said, "File too big, you can't attach it." So I went, "What the hell? That's stupid!" And Mega Upload was born. It just took off, it was a super-viral success. There was no consideration of grey areas or anything dark. It was just a solution to a problem that still exists today.

T3 And now you've created Mega, which encrypts all of those big files before uploading to avoid prying eyes. Are we all really being watched constantly?

KIM Everyone is. I mean, our Skype conversation right now is going to be recorded and will end up in an National Security Agency spy cloud and a data centre in Utah, whether it has any relevance to public security or not. They do that with all Skype conversations, chats and emails.

They have software that turns speech into text and runs it against an algorithm that searches for keywords, then an analyst looks at it to see if they find any that are relevant. So if we talk about "nuclear launch codes" or "an attack on Barack Obama, let's kill him tomorrow", your face is going to be in front of an NSA analyst within the hour. For real, that's how it works.

T3 Good to know. So who in the tech world is OK to trust?

KIM You cannot expect privacy or trustworthiness from any service based in the US. The laws allow governments to install back doors and they have made use of them – all of these services are trojan-ised. Every email you write that traverses the US network is guaranteed to end up in a spy cloud. There are a lot of start-ups in the privacy space that are going to do really well from people looking for alternatives to Gmail, Skype and the like.

That's what I'm currently working on with Mega. I've created a Skype-type application that is web-based and functions within your web browser, but with which you can have fully encrypted conversations without anyone having the ability to access it. Even us within Mega can't see what you're doing.

T3 What would you say to people who think, "I'm not doing anything wrong, so I've got nothing to worry about"?

KIM They're wrong. Everyone has private moments – you don't leave the door open when you go to the bathroom, you don't walk around in public naked. Everyone has this built-in need for privacy. I'm really suspicious of anyone who says, "I've got nothing to fear, nothing to hide." If you knew that every bit of communication in your life was being stored somewhere and was available for instant access and review, then you would be unhappy. People who say these things, generally, haven't thought them through properly.

T3 How has the demand for Mega changed since the revelations of the NSA's Prism snooping?

KIM It's huge. We grow three per cent every week and we're now a Top 500 site. It's probably the fastest-growing internet start-up right now. Every day we have seven million users visiting our site and twice as much traffic as the entirety of New Zealand; there are four and a half million people living here.

T3 Could the NSA not find a way to break Mega's encryption if it really wanted to?

KIM No chance. Not a chance in hell.

T3 But are you worried that they're looking at Mega?

KIM I think after what happened to Mega Upload, even the US Department of Justice is a bit more careful now. They got it totally wrong on this one; all the experts were in our favour. The Mega Upload case was a civil case that the Department of Justice turned into a criminal one so that Obama could win another election. If you remember the SOPA [Stop Online Piracy Act] bill that failed in the US, it was the same guy that was behind that. Chris Dodd created that bill and is now working for the Motion Picture Association of America; he was a senator for thirty years, he's the best friend of [US vice president] Joe Biden and he got the White House to do this aggressive prosecution of me. It was a contract prosecution for Hollywood.

T3 Do you agree with what Edward Snowden did when he blew the whistle on the NSA's Prism program?

KIM He's a hero, no question about it. In a decade from now he's going to be one of the biggest American heroes of all time. There will be statues of him erected and streets named after him. That guy has given the whole world a window into all this illegal conduct that's happening under our noses. It's unconstitutional what's happening in the US right now – it's a basic human right to have privacy. What Edward Snowden has achieved is to launch a massive debate about online privacy and I genuinely think it will lead to change, which is ultimately good for mankind.

79

ADIDAS SAMBA PRIMEKNIT

Two years in development, the world's first knitted football boot is as strong and water-resistant as conventional kicks, but incredibly light (just 165g) with a properly sock-like fit. *£220, adidas.com, out now*

78

NISSAN E-NV200 ELECTRIC CAB

In central London cars never travel above 30mph, so why aren't taxis electric? Well, they soon will be. Nissan's 100% electric black cab plans to pass The Knowledge by next year. *£tbc, nissan.co.uk, out 2015*

77

LIQUID METAL

This extra-tough material is twice the strength of titanium. Apple's next iPhone is reported to be made out of this stuff, but it's already used it to make the SIM ejector tool in the iPhone 3GS. An early test, perhaps? *liquidmetal.com, out now*

76

CHINA

Pouring an estimated $284bn into R&D this year, the Chinese tech giants are on fire. Lenovo buying Motorola is a statement of intent, while Huawei, ZTE and Oppo are all innovating. *lenovo.com, huawei.com, zteuk.co.uk, en.oppo.com*

75

OLIVER SPENCER X VULPINE CYCLING BLAZER

Infinitely cooler than your damp cagoule, with a classic fit, downpour-proof coating, reflective lining and armpit vents to avoid whiffiness. *£295, oliverspencer.co.uk, out now*

74

QUALCOMM SNAPDRAGON 805

The chip that will shape 2014's smartphone upgrades boasts timely ultra-HD support. It's a 4K-ready screen-processing green light for top-end Netflix streaming and next-gen games. *qualcomm.eu, out spring*

73

MiP BY WOWWEE

Wave at this gesture-controlled robot and it will rush to your side; push it over and it'll be grumpy for a bit. It won't be long before it's back to dancing and performing one of its 100 programmable tricks, mind. *£71, wowwee.com, out now*

72

RADIOHEAD POLYFAUNA APP

The most interesting digital music venture since Björk's *Biophilia*, follow the red dot as you enter an ever-evolving world based around sounds from the song *Bloom*. *free, out now on iOS/Android*

71

GARMIN FORERUNNER 620

This touchscreen sportswatch doesn't just track your current progress, it predicts your future recovery time by calculating your cadence, ground contact and vertical oscillation. *£330, garmin.com, out now*

70

FACEBOOK PAPER

Like a more sociable *Flipboard*, this turns your feed into a mag-like scrapbook of updates, links and full-screen snaps. Tell it your interests and it includes web stories you might like, too. US-only so far, but on the way. *free, facebook.com/paper*

69

TOSHIBA KIRA

An ultrabook of rare beauty outside Apple's Airs, hewn from a zero flex magnesium alloy that's tough but oh-so light at 1.35kg. It's gunning for your MacBook, with a 13.3-inch screen and nine-hour battery. *£1,299, toshiba.co.uk, out now*

68

GEONAUTE 360

Three eight-meg cameras, each with a wide-angle lens, peer out of this shock-proof action cam, giving a 360-degree view. It can be used up to 100 metres underwater and controlled by a wrist-mounted remote. *£399, geonaute.com, out now* ➜

67

B&W 685 S2

A long overdue reworking of B&W's 685 speakers borrows technology developed for the British firm's flagship CM10, including a decoupled double dome tweeter. This is housed in its own section of the cabinet, encased in a ring of gel that protects it from vibrations, resulting in exceptional clarity and spacious treble, whether hooked up to a home-cinema system or stereo.
£500, bowers-wilkins.com, out now

MIELE CM6

This hulking bean-to-cup coffee machine can make your favourite double-shot, non-fat, no-foam latte without breaking sweat. It's all pre-programmed, too, so there's little-to-no possibility of human error – essential for a gadget that's the first thing you switch on in the morning.
£1,299, miele.co.uk, out now

65

SMARTGLASSES

With Glass being trialled by the NYPD and expected to get a full release later this year, Google's prepared an etiquette guide. We hope wearers of the Vuzix M100 (*£800, vuzix.com*), Epson Moverio BT-200 (*£tbc, epson.co.uk*), Recon Jet (*£360, reconinstruments.com*), Lumus' Meta Pro (*£2,180, lumus-optical.com*) and Epiphany Eyewear (*£175, epiphanyeyewear.com*) are paying attention to the rules.

64

VIRGIN GALACTIC

In the words of DJ Jean, get ready for the launch. Richard Branson maintains that the first Virgin Galactic commercial space flight will launch from the Virgin Spaceport in New Mexico this year. Some 680 tickets have already been sold to would-be astronauts – you got yours yet? ***$250,000 per ticket, virgingalactic.com, autumn***

63

BLACKPHONE

The NSA snorts in disgust as private comms firm Silent Circle and Spanish start-up Geeksphone unveil the world's first security-centric handset. Blackphone is a 2GHz quadcore processor, 4.7-inch HD-screened blower built from the ground up to protect your privacy and installed with PrivatOS, a tweaked version of Android for off-grid browsing and communicating.
£376, blackphone.ch, out now

62

ROTH NEO 6.2 SOUNDBASE

Forget soundbars, Brit audio specialist Roth's new telly sound package acts as a base for your TV, using its larger surface area to pump out a more wholesome racket. It's well connected, too, with a 6.2 3D sound speaker system, plus analogue and digital inputs, HDMI and NFC. You can even output to a separate subwoofer for extra movie-quality boom.
£349, rothaudio.co.uk, out april

61

AIRIA ONE RUNNING SHOE

This odd-looking trainer with the skyward-facing toe claims to improve your running speed by up to seven per cent. Designed by Swedish fitness fanatics, the Airia One may be near-impossible to walk in, but it's dedicated to generating the maximum possible forward motion from every stride, turning you into a perpetual motion machine.
$170, airiarunning.com, out april

60

LG WEB OS

Smart TV interfaces tend to be cluttered and difficult to navigate. Not LG's new WebOS, which will be built into a lot of the brand's tellies this year. It displays apps – Netflix, Amazon, Skype, etc – as a series of stacked cards in its own skin. So rather than heading to the homepage to access a new app, your options pop up handily over whatever you happen to be watching.
lg.com/uk, out 2014

59

ADIDAS BRAZUKA OFFICIAL MATCH BALL

Get "World Cup ready" by taking the official kickball down to Goals of an evening. The tournament's bladder of choice is constructed from six polyurethane panels for supreme roundness, with a seamless surface for a more predictable trajectory. It's solidly built to withstand constant battering against the back of England's net.
£100, adidas.co.uk, out now

58

MATTERFORM 3D SCANNER

The price and size of 3D printers is coming down, but what are you going to print? Well, there are free CAD blueprints online, but once you tire of spitting out miniature Eiffel Towers we suggest you invest in this clever, shoebox-sized scanner. It uses lasers and cameras to scan every nook and cranny of any object to 0.25mm accuracy, building a 3D image on your PC that's ready to print.
£348, matterform.net, out now

57

AVEGANT GLYPH

When are headphones more than just headphones? When they have a Virtual Retina Display built into the headband, beaming the equivalent of a full-HD cinema screen directly on to your eyeballs, with a smooth 120Hz refresh rate, that's when. Originating on Kickstarter, the idea has Netflix interested, and it's not the only ones. A future long-haul flight must-have.
£322, avegant.com, out december

56

ECLIPSE TD-M1 HIGH-RES AIRPLAY SYSTEM

These iconic, jet engine-shaped desktop speakers have been given a wireless upgrade. Soaring into modernity, they now include built-in digital audio conversion, plus AirPlay for streaming audio from your Apple devices. With a booming amplifier built into the base of each individual speaker, they guarantee sonic lift-off.
£999, eclipse-td.net, out now

55

ASUS TRANSFORMER BOOK TRIO

We've seen hybrid devices from Asus that work as both a laptop and a tablet before. What we haven't seen, until now, is one that also moonlights as a desktop PC: the holy trinity. The Transformer Book Trio's 11.6-inch touchscreen and Core i7 processor tap into two operating systems – Android 4.2 and Windows 8 – and switch in a flash.
£900, asus.com, out now

54

TOMTOM GO 5000

The rise of the mapping app has not swayed the navigation giant from its mission, it's simply made it more bullish. This latest device has interactive, pinch-to-zoom 2D and 3D routes, directions in 45 European countries (you get four updates every year, completely free) and free live traffic data. With its big brother reviewed on p121, the standalone satnav comeback starts here.
£260, tomtom.com, out now

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facebook.com/Vitabiotics

ADWELMXATP 16-12-13E

Nº 53

SIR JAMES DYSON

Knight of the realm, robo-pioneer, patent defender. *T3* talks to the domestic tech trailblazer about engineering the future

INTERVIEW: DUNCAN BELL

With super-smart domestic tech a towering trend for 2014, Dyson is gearing up for another vintage year. Its new Cinetic bagless and filterless vac is revolutionising home cleaning – again – the AM06 fan is quieter but still just as breezily stylish, while a range of robo-products sit teasingly on the horizon. The 66-year-old Sir gave us some of his time to talk R&D, JCB and "Helmhotz resonators" (posh for "a bottle you blow across the lip of").

T3 Okay James, you have 30 seconds to sell us the Cynetic...

JAMES Well, since inventing the bagless vacuum cleaner our engineers have been refining cyclonic technology, making it smaller and more efficient. Smaller cyclones generate higher centrifugal forces, but you need more of them, which risks clogging apertures. In the Cinetic, our engineers have developed 54 cyclones with a very specific geometry so they never lose suction over their lifetime.

T3 You can't argue with that. If you'd had Kickstarter when you started out, do you think you would have crowdfunded cash for ideas like the Cinetic?

JAMES I don't think crowdfunders would stomach my 5,127 prototypes somehow. The internet isn't always the kindest friend to patience and perseverance, not least because big leaps forward in tech and engineering require foresight and long-termism.

T3 You made an abortive move into home automation a few years back with your robo-vac prototype. Why did you pull out?

JAMES We only launch new tech when it's ready, and we knew it could be better. We've been developing our mechanical, electronic and robotic capabilities for 15 years, so we're getting closer. But existing robot vacs just don't do their job properly. They've got inefficient motors with weak airflow, so struggle to deal with dust; some rely on "whiskers" to flick dirt around but this doesn't dig deep into carpets. As for navigation, many aren't methodical, meaning they miss patches. We fund a robotics lab at Imperial College London, developing vision systems for a new generation of robots capable of understanding the world around them. The tech could have wide-ranging application, but we'll see where it leads and won't set strict dates. R&D tends to be a slow burn.

T3 You protect your intellectual property with suitable rigour. Is there a way the patent system could work better?

JAMES We need to give inventors much wider protection on new designs and a chance to recoup the time and money they've invested. Too many copycat companies are being disingenuous to persuade the courts they've not infringed any patents. If a company can come along and steal designs, invention becomes pointless. Plagiarists in general ought to be punished: mimicking packaging, slogans or materials is wrong. We also need a rigorous patent search system so all prior art comes to light at an early stage. Let's reward inventors, not the copycats and their armies of lawyers.

T3 Has the way you approach the process of product design and development changed much over the years?

JAMES It remains the same: using tech to solve problems and frustrations. The difference is that our engineers are developing more technologies than ever before, and tackling a larger number of everyday challenges. Dyson machines look the way they do because of what's inside – we don't separate design and engineering, the two are intricately linked; form follows function.

T3 Are you still involved every day at Dyson?

JAMES Yes, I spend the majority of my day in our Wiltshire-based R&D facilities with our engineers. Engineering is really addictive. It's not like I don't have spare time, though – I like to spend it watching rugby mainly.

T3 We've noticed your tech is getting less noisy. Is peace and quiet something you feel increasingly strongly about?

JAMES Well, we are investing heavily in acoustic research, developing ingenious devices, like Helmholtz resonators, to reduce both the volume and improve the sound quality of our machines. But it's a challenge, because we refuse to compromise performance. Too many simply turn the motor down, or stick foam inside their device and kill the airflow, in order to make them "quiet". Unfortunately, this is lazy engineering and kills performance.

T3 Which comes first for you now, then: ideas and inventions or the needs of the business?

JAMES It begins with developing new technology to solve everyday problems. I'm an engineer and am keen to raise the profile of engineering to show how exciting it can be as a career. We must show bright young minds that it's not all greasy overalls, wrenches and ball bearings; it's about invention and cutting-edge technology. The James Dyson Foundation works with students at all levels to address the UK's engineer deficit.

T3 So which tech firms do you think are getting it right?

JAMES I've always admired JCB, actually – so much so that I have a JCB Backhoe Loader in my garden. The hydraulic engineering behind the machine is fascinating, you can sculpt a landscape effortlessly. Its Loader is so efficient at grabbing and moving dirt, it's like an extension of your body.

52

INTEL EDISON

A giant computing brain that fits on the back of an SD card. To use Intel's words, its new chip is "small enough to drop into just about anything" making it ideal for a new generation of wearable tech.
intel.com, out summer

51

CORNING ANTIMICROBIAL GORILLA GLASS

You filthy git! There are more germs on your phone's screen than the average toilet seat. Luckily this new protective glass inhibits bacteria growth.
corninggorillaglass.com, out now

50

POLAROID SOCIALMATIC

This retro-modern clash of a cam takes 14-megapixel snaps with the option to print out a 2x3-inch version instantly or share your pics via social sites. Instagram will eat itself.
£tbc, polaroid.com, out autumn

49

DESTINY

The first major release from *Halo* developer Bungie since it left Microsoft is a Star Warsian epic with fully customisable characters, an always-online world and, of course, guns.
£tbc, destinythegame.com, out september

48

ZERO THEOREM

In Terry Gilliam's finale to the dystopian trilogy that includes *Brazil* and *Twelve Monkeys*, Christoph Waltz is tasked with finding a formula for the meaning of life. Hint: it's not 42.
thezerotheoremmovie.com, out summer

47

BEATS MUSIC

Fashionably late to the party, Dre bothers Spotify in serious style with a little help from Trent Reznor, 20 million tunes and a playlist compiler based on location and mood.
$10 a month, beatsmusic.com, out now in US, uk release tbc

46

SOUTH KOREA

Psy's homeland has ploughed billions into establishing itself as a tech leader, with Samsung and LG leading the world in patent wars and R&D, average broadband speed at 50mbps, and 5G being financed by the government already. Jealous.

45

MCLAREN 650S

The most drool-worthy supercar to pull into view during the Geneva Motor Show: 3.8-litre, twin-turbo V8 engine, 641bhp and a top speed of 207mph, plus 0-60 in under three seconds. See more on p22.
£190,000, mclaren.com, out tbc

44

PLASTIC LOGIC AMOLED

These Cambridge tech wizards are preparing to demonstrate the first fully flexible AMOLED display. No thicker than a piece of paper, it's sure to shape the future of wearable technology.
plasticlogic.com, out winter

43

MANCHESTER CITY

The club's scoring freely in the tech leagues as well as the real one, expanding its Twitter channel into 160 languages, installing high-density Wi-Fi and releasing an app that lets fans interact with live games.
mcfc.co.uk

42

DELL 28 ULTRA-HD P2815Q MONITOR

Trust us: you've never seen spreadsheets this super-sharp. While 4K content may be slim, displayed on this 3840x2160 resolution screen, even the dullest work/FPS looks exciting.
$700 (£420), dell.com, out now

41

SAMSUNG WW9000

The connected home has reached your laundry room. This washing machine allows you to pause or start a cycle from your smartphone and receive notifications as to the state of your delicates.
£tbc, samsung.com/uk, out may ➜

MODEL WEARS: DRESS BY COSTUME STUDIO

40

SONY XPERIA Z2 DUO

They can both record 4K video underwater and then display the results in full-HD glory afterwards. The openly element-shunning, Android-toting Xperia Z2 smartphone and tablet partnership is impressive, with the latter (pictured) the slimmest tablet in the world right now.

Xperia Z2 £599, Xperia Z2 Tablet £499, sony.co.uk, out now

39

NIKE FREE 3.0 FLYKNIT

The FuelBand firm's free-running trainers are incredibly supple and flexible, with a sole designed to grip any surface as you scale the urban jungle like a parkour king. But this one's completely seamless, too, Flyknit tech giving a sock-like feel without trading in stability. *£tbc, nike.com, out summer*

38

FITNESS BANDS

As the world awaits an iWatch (for *T3*'s hopes head to p26), seemingly every tech brand is busying itself making a wearable fitness tracker. There's the LG Lifeband Touch (*£tbc, lg.com*), Samsung Gear Fit (*£tbc, samsung.com/uk*), Polar Loop (*£77, polarloop.com*) and Sony Smartband (*£80, sony.co.uk*). Even gaming king Razer is prepping the Nabu *(pictured, £tbc, razerzone.com)*. Anyone out there *not* making one?

37

NVIDIA TEGRA K1

This 192-core processor is built using the same architecture as the fastest supercomputer in the US. Developed to grace the next generation of Android smartphones, televisions and even cars, this mini muscle will power next-gen console-standard graphics (it's the first mobile chip to run Epic's Unreal Engine 4) and improve power efficiency in much of what you touch this year. *nvidia.com, out summer*

36

TOM CLANCY'S THE DIVISION

Ubisoft's stunning-looking apocalyptic next-genner has been on a low boil since its E3 reveal last year. Yet expectation for this PS4 and Xbox One title, in which you explore an open-world New York in a state of collapse following a city-wide pandemic, across big screen and tablet, has escalated to a full rolling bubble. The whiff of delays is strong with this one... *£55, ubi.com, out winter*

35

ANGELA AHRENDTS

Apple's recently appointed senior vice president of retail was nabbed from Burberry, after making a name for herself pulling the iconic British fashion brand out of its slump and tripling the company's worth in the process. Named by *Forbes* as the 53rd most powerful woman in the world, Ahrendts' honed fashion eye is likely to be laser-focused on a global Apple Store overhaul. *@AngelaAhrendts, apple.com*

34

NIKON D4S

Not a complete reworking of the flagship DSLR, but a carefully considered tweak. The 16.2-megapixel CMOS sensor is still one of the best in the business, but added to that you get faster, more accurate autofocus and the new Expeed 4 image processor with an ISO range stretching from 50 to 25,600 (you can further that to 409,600 if you must). This camera is not afraid of the dark. *£5,200, nikon.co.uk, out now*

33

TWITCH

The rise of e-sports and the success of next-gen consoles has ushered in a whole new generation of pathological gameplay sharers. Some 45 million people watch live gaming streams on Twitch each month, from pro tournies to playthroughs and comic commentaries, making it, unbelievably, the fourth largest source of internet traffic after Netflix, Google and Apple. *twitch.tv, out now*

32

VOLT ALPINE X

Planning to master the mountainous section of the Tour de France? Take along the Volt Alpine X, but be sure not to tell your fellow riders about the ridiculously powerful, super-high torque 250W motor and 36V battery stashed away in its 24kg frame; that baby will drag you up the steepest of inclines for over 80 miles.
£1,899, voltbikes.co.uk, out now

31

LG HRM EARPHONES

Unsightly heart-rate monitors strapped around your chest begone – these wireless Bluetooth buds can check your pulse by measuring the blood flow through your auricle alone. They also measure how much oxygen you're taking onboard, sharing that vital data with the LG Lifeband Touch fitness band or, failing that, any iOS or Android mobile device.
£tbc, lg.com/uk, out tbc

30

APPLE IPAD MINI WITH RETINA DISPLAY

The smallest iPad ever may be getting on in tech terms, but with a 7.9-inch screen of almost unrivalled beauty, boasting more pixels per inch than your average HD TV, it's still the best. The A7 processor is super speedy and 128GB storage holds more apps, books and videos than ever. Without a successor on the way, it's the hottest tablet on planet Earth.
from £319, apple.com/uk, out

29

PEBBLE STEEL

Still the only smartwatch to really earn its stripes, this Pebble sequel is almost unrecognisable from its e-ink-screened, Kickstartered forebear. A Corning Gorilla Glass-coated LED display joins a far less chunky strap available in both steel and leather, while the recently launched Pebble app store is full of plaything potential. Most importantly, though, its call, messaging and social alerts works with both Apple and Android devices. ***£151, getpebble.com, out now***

MODEL WEARS: GOLD COLLAR FROM TUBE GALLERY

28

EE 300MBPS 4G

Silicon Roundabout, London's tech start-up home, was the first to benefit from the "world's fastest 4G network", boasting 300Mbps speeds. Praise the connected overlords that a wider UK rollout is a-coming.
various, ee.co.uk, out summer

27

SONY 4K SHORT THROW PROJECTOR

No need to perch this film thrower in the rafters, just place it unassumingly on the floor and it shoots a 147-inch, 4096x2160 resolution image up your wall in 3D 1080p. Handy.
£24,000, sony.co.uk, out summer

26

LI-FI

Could this be the future of connectivity? Where Wi-Fi transmits via radio waves, Li-Fi uses visible light to carry data from micro-LED bulbs. It's hit speeds of 10Gbit/s, 250 times faster than superfast broadband.
up-vlc.photonics.ac.uk

25

CURVED TECH

Following in the gently arched footsteps of Samsung's Round and LG's G Flex smartphones are the sweeping screens of the KE55S9C (*£7,000 samsung.com*) and LG OLED (*£5,000, lg.com*) tellies. For when you need to be quite literally wrapped in HD.

24

LOTUS C-01 SUPERBIKE

Tron: Legacy lightcycle designer Daniel Simon has conjured up this similar looking but actually purchasable 200hp, V-Twin-engine beast for Lotus. A Daft Punk crashhat next, please.
£82,100, lotuscars.com, out now

23

TIZEN

The much-anticipated, Linux-based mobile operating system that Samsung's keen to embrace made a high-profile debut on the Gear 2 watch at Mobile World Congress and, away from the public gaze, on phones, too.
tizen.org, out now

22

SATYA NADELLA

Stepping into Steve Ballmer's shoes as Microsoft CEO, cloud pioneer Nadella has a history of connected hits, from Xbox Live to Bing. Could a Windows and Nokia smartwatch hook-up be one of his first moves?
microsoft.com/en

21

FUJITSU HAPTIC SENSORY TABLET

Using ultrasonic vibrations to create the feel of different touchscreen textures, this clever tech feels a bit like being gently zapped by a rural electric fence – in a good way.
fujitsu.com/uk, out tbc

20

FORD SELF-DRIVING CONCEPT CAR

With four light sensors taking 2.5 million measurements a second to create a real-time 3D map around it, this research motor is pioneering the future of affordable driving autonomy.
ford.co.uk

19

PANASONIC GH4

This 16-megapixel compact system camera's new Venus Engine sports a quadcore processor that boosts speed (autofocus takes just 0.07 seconds) and image quality. It shoots 4K video at 24fps, too.
£1,750, panasonic.co.uk, out now

18

AMAZON PRIME AIR

Jeff Bezos wants to deliver DVDs and cat food direct to your door using drones in as little as 30 minutes – and he's testing already. All that stands in the way is Federal Aviation Association regulations.
amazon.co.uk, out tbc

17

MICROSOFT XBOX ONE

Helped by Kinect 2.0, this next-gen console wants to control all your fun, from vocally ordering your TV around to connected HD shooters on digital tap.
£400, xbox.com, out now

16

TOYOTA FUEL CELL VEHICLE

Replacing the engine with a lightweight hydrogen cell and battery, this effectively runs on air. More specifically, it uses the oxygen in our atmosphere to mix with the hydrogen in its fuel source, creating enough energy to travel up to 300 miles. The only emissions are a few dribbles of water and it will refuel in under three minutes, charging automatically when you brake.
£tbc, toyota-global.com, out 2015

15

SONY PS NOW

The purchase of cloud firm Gaikai in 2012 is finally coming to fruition for Sony with this new overhauled OnLive-like gaming service that lets you stream PlayStation games as you would on-demand TV and film. With support for PS4, PS3, PS Vita, Xperia devices and even Bravia TVs, it could revolutionise the way we play. The current US beta can't extend to Blightly soon enough.
£tbc, sony.co.uk, out tbc

14

THE INTERNET OF THINGS

This year your home is going to become a lot more communicative, from connected fridges to heating that you can tweak from the bath. Perhaps the biggest success story so far is Nest Labs, the makers of app-controlled thermostats and alarms. Purchased by Google for $3.2bn, it's an indicator of the future of home tech, as well as the future of big-money investment.
Nest Protect £109, nest.com/uk, out now

13

TITANFALL

It's official: this Xbox One exclusive is even hotter than the next-gen console it's landing on. The mix of hulking robotic mechs and wall-running jetpacked Pilots, locked in furious battle, hits you with a never-ending barrage of jaw-dropping moments. But there are no set pieces, no scripts: *Titanfall*'s online-only chaos is completely organic; the shooter rebooted for the masses.
£40, respawn.com, out now

12

AFFORDABLE 4K TELEVISIONS

Now that Netflix has confirmed it will be streaming 4K content, there's finally a reason to bite. As interest peaks, thankfully, prices are beginning to drop, too. You can now pick up three-figure 4K TVs from Vizio and Polaroid. Want a 4K telly from a more, ahem, mainstream manufacturer? John Lewis tells us prices will become more palatable by next year.
Vizio P Series $999, vizio.com, Polaroid 50GSR9000 $1,000, polaroid.com

11

APPLE MAC PRO

We know we don't need one. We know most people won't even scratch the surface of its power. But boy do we want one. With its Vader helmet-like tower sliding up to reveal a perfectly cylindrical nest of pure computing grunt, this is Apple design at its best, with the hole in the middle dispersing heat as well as looking cool. ***from £2,499, apple.com/uk, out now***

MODEL WEARS: SHIRT BY ASOS

10

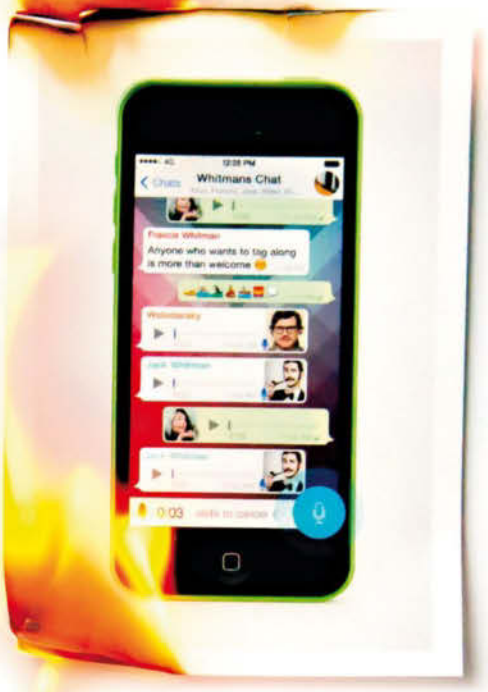
OCULUS RIFT

Virtual reality is officially hot again, so it's only right the Kickstarter hit that fuelled the resurgence is warming its hands on the glow. The latest iteration of Oculus VR's prototype Rift headset, codenamed "Crystal Cove", not only delivers a 110-degree field-of-view 3D world, but now utilises a camera so you can actually inhabit 3D space/feel less nauseous. Epic shoot 'em up *Eve Valkyrie* still reigns the gaming demos, but NASA is planning to create walking tours of Mars, too.
£tbc, oculusvr.com, out winter

9

STEAM MACHINES

Portal developer Valve has a vision: to take PC gaming out of the back room and splash it on your big telly. Its hugely popular Steam gaming service was the start, but now its army of licensed gaming PC/console hybrids (including Alienware's effort, pictured) are bringing a range of specs and styles to the party, all running a bespoke SteamOS and haptic controller.
steampowered.com, out now



8

INTERNET.ORG

Over 60 per cent of the world's population has yet to experience the full wonders of the Web's cat video and Nicolas Cage meme archive. That's all about to change, though, as tech's big names are striving to expand its reach with the Internet.org movement. Facebook chief Mark Zuckerberg said his $19bn *Whatsapp* messaging buy and Titan Aerospace dealings (solar-drones to fly routers into remote areas anyone?) are all part of the plan. But what will the world access it all on? Budget blowers, such as Nokia's Asha and Mozilla's $25 Firefox phones. *internet.org*

7

MAKERBOT REPLICATOR MINI

This is the 3D printer's Deskjet moment: it's now possible to make tiny, plastic models of absolutely anything without having to give up a whole room to the process. There's more than ever to print, too (we prefer furniture to guns, ourselves), so check out the options at the free *MakerBot Printshop* app and send them direct to your machine. *$1,375, makerbot.com, out now*

6

SAMSUNG MOBILE

The tech giant is reasserting its on-the-go authority with a new trinity of red-hot tech that shares the same connected vision. The fingerprint scanner-packing Galaxy S5 phone (more on p18), Gear 2 smartwatch and curved AMOLED-screened Gear Fit tracker band join the Note series in ticking off all work, rest and play checkboxes. *£tbc, samsung.com/uk, out april*

5

PLAYSTATION'S FAMILY TREE

Having shifted six million consoles in four months, the PS4 is the next-gen console to beat. Yet it's the inter-connectedness of Sony's gaming division that's its real strength, with PS4 Remote Play on the new Vita handheld and PS Plus's subscription games service dishing out great offers across all devices, including PS3. Throw in the Vita TV set-top box winking from Japan and a VR headset in development, and it's the hottest name in games.
PS4 £350, PS Vita £180, PS Vita TV £64, PS Plus £5.49 a month or £39.99 for the year, uk.playstation.com, all out now bar Vita TV (Japan only)

4

THE NEW AGE OF TELLY

Last year's biggest TV events weren't on stuffy old live channels, but on-demand providers. Be it scoring exclusive access to *Breaking Bad's* final season or funding the ace *House of Cards*, Netflix spent big and pulled in the viewers, like HBO had in the US. This year it faces tough competition from Amazon, which is also financing its own shows, and the Beeb, which is taking BBC3 online-only as well as commissioning iPlayer exclusives. Netflix's response? Why 4K streaming, of course.
netflix.com, amazon.co.uk *(see streaming showdown on p118)*

3

THE CONNECTED CAR

In-car innovation has at last hit critical mass, Ford's Sync leader being joined by Apple and Android in a hands-free fight to gain driver-assisting dashboard dominance. While the Open Automotive Alliance sees Audi, Honda and General Motors sign up to hardwire in the latter, Apple's just-announced iOS integration hub CarPlay (pictured, see more on p24) is rolling out to Ferrari, Mercedes and Jaguar. With 4G contracts soon a desirable option and "smart roads" in development, every motor is set to be a four-wheeled extension of your smartphone – but hopefully with a better battery.
openautoalliance.net, apple.com/ios/carplay

2

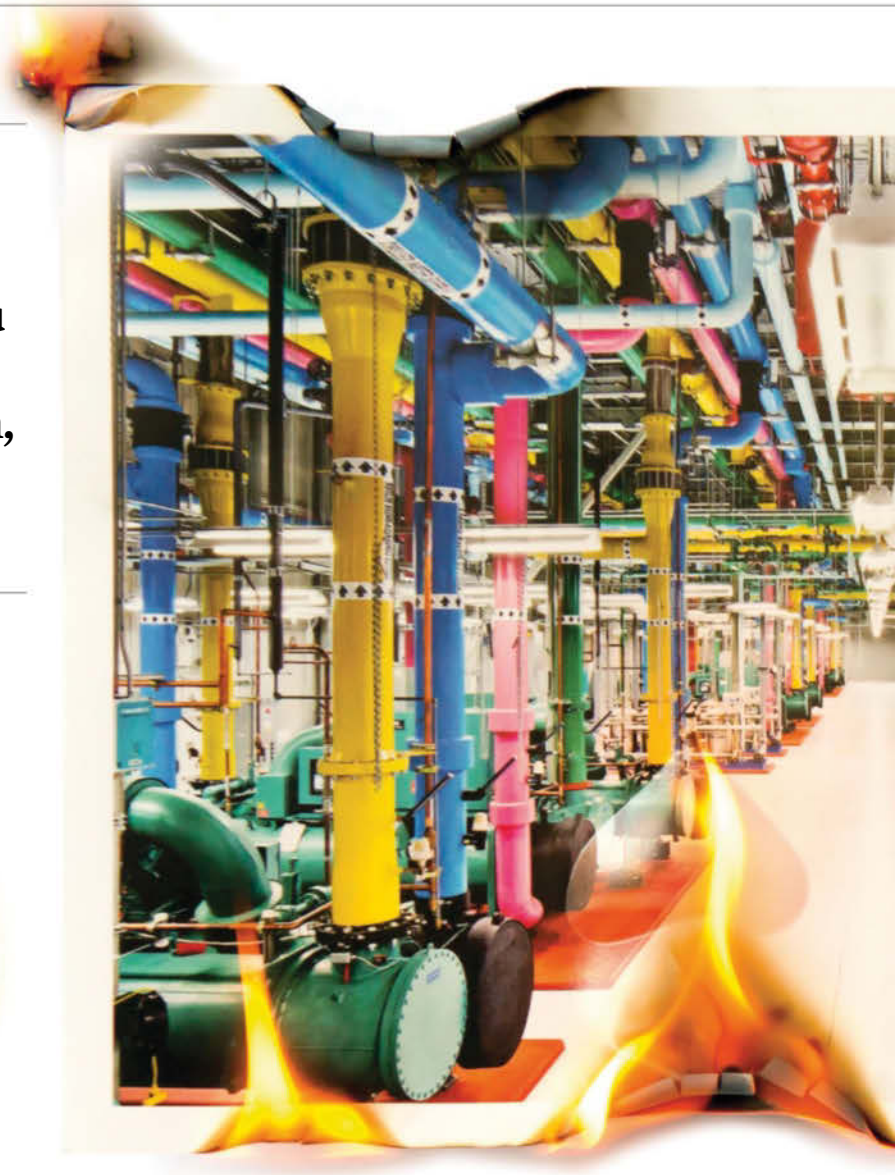
HTC ONE M8

How do you make *T3*'s Phone of the Year 2013 even better? Well, first you add the power of Qualcomm's latest Snapdragon 801 chip, bump the screen size to five inches and include a depth sensor with the camera so you can refocus your snaps after you've taken them, that's how. Wrap it in an even more carefully crafted aluminium body brushed within an inch of its life and add the option of clever dot matrix-style cases and you have hands down the hottest phone of the year.
£tbc, htc.com, out april (full details on p15)

1

GOOGLE

It's the first brand ever to top *T3*'s Hot 100, but everything you do this year will be touched by the omnipresent tech behemoth, with its web-enabled fingers in a host of increasingly hot pies...

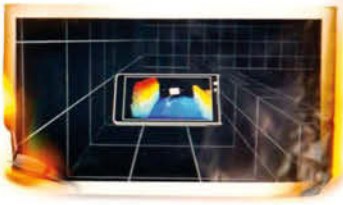


GOOGLE GLASS

Despite not actually being available to consumers, Glass is still *the* wearable on everyone's lips (well, ears, eventually). Indeed, there hasn't been a more divisive major tech product in years, with laws and social etiquette being reconsidered on the fly. But the best tech innovations always ignite heated debate, and Glass's extremely thorough beta testing is reaping real-time rewards. The Glass 2.0 update is expected on sale this year, with a mono earbud for audio, Google Now integration, a selection of more traditional rounded frames and apps you might actually want to use (you listening, smartglass copycats?), as well as lenses that work for real spec wearers.

GOOGLE TANGO

Could this be the future of smartphones? The first of the big G's new research projects is a five-inch handset that maps your surroundings while inside using infrared sensors to build an accurate 3D picture like the Google Maps of interiors. It's ground-breaking stuff, with developers already working on apps to utilise its smarts – may we suggest a "find your way out of a Las Vegas casino" app in time for CES 2015 please?



GOOGLE AT HOME

The "internet of things", so hot it had its own entry this year, has Google at the forefront, having bought Nest, the app-controlled thermostat and smoke alarm purveyor that was struggling to expand out of the US; no more. There's also the Chromecast TV dongle that will be making UK tellies more internet-ready soon.

GOOGLE AT WORK

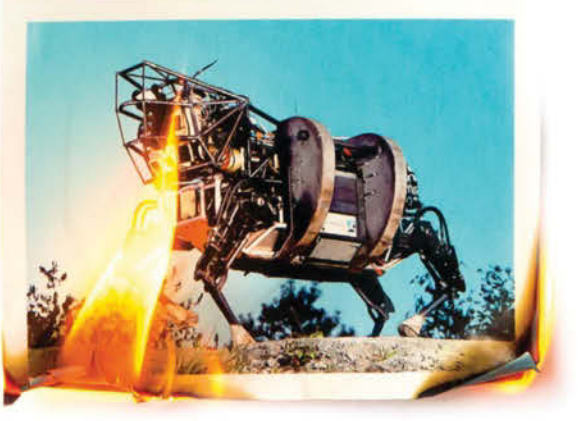
With the maturation of Google Docs workflow and its Drive cloud services, browser-based Chrome OS laptops are making a lot more sense; the Samsung Chromebook 2 was a steal for under 200 notes. Yet it's the new range of easy-setup, low-cost Chromeboxes that will be the real office saviours.

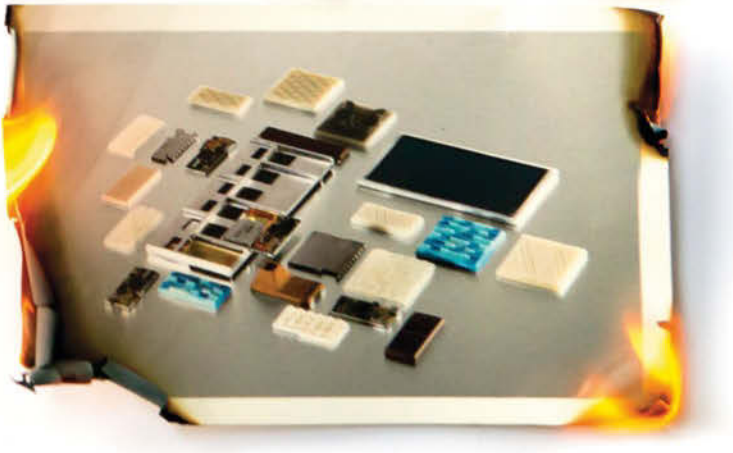
GOOGLE ANDROID

Not content with the majority of the phone market, Android tablets outsold iPads for the first time this March. With Android 5.0 promising a new look, and the Galaxy S5 and HTC One M8 signed up, the heat's really on.

GOOGLE CARS

It's more than likely that your next drive will be Android-powered. After all, the Open Automotive Alliance, which saw Google sign a deal with the likes of General Motors and Audi, aims for seamless integration with their mobile operating system starting this year. With the firm's own autonomous car project also underway, how long before you're calling your Android drone car to come and pick you up from the pub rather than your irate partner?





GOOGLE ARA

Playing Frankenstein with the phone again, this modular, open-hardware project lets people build their own handset from bits they can afford. It's not a dream, either: developer conferences begin soon, with handsets expected to cost $50.

GOOGLE POLITICS

The search doodle is no longer just fun, it's a statement, with the Sochi Olympics banner rainbow taking a stand against Russia's gay-rights record. What's next?

GOOGLE FUTURES

Director of engineering Ray Kurzweil reckons computers will outsmart us puny humans by 2029. He's well on his way to finding out, too, with the firm buying military 'bot makers Boston Dynamics and AI firm Deep Mind. Currently in the Google X Lab: floating Wi-Fi routers built into balloons and contact lens-sized heads-up displays. Meanwhile, Google big-wigs Brin, Page and Schmidt are getting in on the hottest of future trends: asteroid mining.

NEXT MONTH

INFINITY AND BEYOND!

FROM VIRGIN'S SPACE TOURISM TAKE-OFF TO HOW TO BUILD YOUR OWN CUBESAT, T3 INVESTIGATES...

T3

SPACE YEAR

2014

WE'RE ALL ASTRONAUTS NOW

GALAXY S5 REVIEWED

SAMSUNG'S NEW SPACE-AGE SUPERPHONE ENTERS THE T3 LAB TO SEE IF IT CAN RULE THE MOBILE WORLD AGAIN

WOLVES OF TECH STREET

THE TRUTH BEHIND INTERGALACTIC IPO OFFERINGS AND PLAYING THE SILICON STOCK MARKET

ON SALE

22-05-14

Edited by James Stables

TECH life MANUAL

YOUR MONTHLY EXISTENCE ENHANCER

This month...

HOW TO
PLAY N64 ON THE GO P84

OBSESSION: BURGERS
FLAME-GRILLED TECH P85

TECH DAD
MINI MONSTER TRUCK P86

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AUTOMATIC GREEN FINGERS P87

UPGRADE
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PULSE
CRICKETING GEAR AND SCUBA ESSENTIALS P89

HOME
GRAND SHED DESIGNS P94

DRIVE
VAUXHALL ADAM; FERRARI CALIFORNIA T P96

f y i

SARAH CADJI FROM ROOTS AND BULBS, LONDON'S FIRST COLD-PRESSED JUICE BAR, HELPS YOU MAKE THE ULTIMATE FEEL-GOOD MORNING BEVERAGE

THE RECIPE
HALF AN ORGANIC PINEAPPLE
250ML FILTERED WATER
(IF BLENDING; NO WATER IF JUICING!)
250G ORGANIC SPINACH
TWO MEDIUM-SIZED CUCUMBERS
(PREFERABLY ORGANIC, TOO)
ICE CUBES

"PINEAPPLE CONTAINS A LOT OF BROMELAIN, A RICH SOURCE OF ENZYMES THAT AID DIGESTION AND EASE SORE THROATS. THE BIGGEST CONCENTRATION OF BROMELAIN CAN BE FOUND IN THE CORE AND STEM OF THE FRUIT, SO BE SURE TO THROW THOSE INTO THE MIX."
ROOTSANDBULBS.COM

HEALTHY HITMAN

The juice extractor that treats your five-a-day with suitable respect

Food scientists declared recently that blending your smoothies actually does to nutrients what a flamethrower does to kobe steak – which is why juice "extractors" like the NutriBullet are a fitness fanatic's new best friend. Minimising the amount of heat and oxygen – the sworn enemies of vitamins – added to your spirulina smoothie, it uses special blades and a lower powered 600W motor that teases the goodness out of your fruit and veg rather than smashing it into submission. *£99, nutribullet.com*

PHOTOGRAPHY **PIXELEYES**

HOW TO
HACK YOUR LIFE WITH TECH

1

PLAY NINTENDO 64 GAMES ON THE GO

Retro titles direct to your mobile

1/ **Download** an emulator for your Android device from the Google Play Store. For N64 games try out Mupen64Plus (*£0.62*) or SuperN64 (*free*).
2/ **Source** game ROMs to run. Downloading ones you don't own is illegal, so hunt down files of your cartridge archive with .n64, .v64, or .z64 extensions.
3/ **Plug** your device into your computer via USB and copy your ROMs across to the internal storage. Alternatively, upload them to a service like Dropbox (*free, dropbox.com*).
4/ **Open** the emulator and select the folder you copied the ROMs to. It will begin to load up automatically and you can start playing.
5/ **Check** out Project64 for PC (*free, pj64-emu.com*) or OpenEmu for Mac (*free, openemu.org*) if you'd like to do the same on your desktop.

2

MASTER A MARATHON

Let running coach Tom Craggs help you out with London's big 26-miler (April 13)

1/ **Bin the warm up**. Don't waste those precious energy stores before the race starts, preserve them. Take warm clothes to the start and ease into your pace over the first two to three miles instead.
2/ **Build your positive bubble**. Think back to your best training runs, when you nailed your paces and felt like you were running on clouds – and carry those thoughts to the start line.
3/ **Kit yourself for success**. Your feet will strike the ground over 30,000 times in a marathon, so your race day shoe choice is critical. Head to p88.
4/ **Eat right**. Get a high-quality complex carb breakfast in two to three hours before the start of the race and top up your glycogen stores regularly with energy gels every 30-40 minutes throughout.
5/ **Plan your pace**. The marathon starts at 20 miles – it's a cliché but it's true. When you get half way, hold yourself back, as this way you'll be ready to throw everything at that last 10km.

3

BOWL IN TWENTY20 CRICKET

Somerset paceman Steve Kirby's tips on bowling under time constraints

1/ **Bowl to your field** – sure, set a field based on the batsman's strengths and weaknesses, the layout of the ground and weather, but actually bowl to that field. And don't be predictable, keep the batsman guessing.
2/ **Know your balls** – you only need three to be an effective T20 bowler: a bouncer, a consistent yorker and a disguised slower ball. The bouncer should be unpredictable and aggressive, keeping a batsman on his toes. The yorker is angled in, giving the batsman no room to manoeuvre, while a wide crease yorker will beat a batsman who is giving himself hitting room. The last one is great for slower pitches, to trick a batsman who has gauged the pace of the wicket; time for an unexpected pinpoint yorker.
3/ **Practice under pressure** – recreate tense match situations in training. Create a likely scenario, set your field and bowl to it; put something on the line to create a bit more pressure if you like. More than anything, always practice your yorker – it's better to be a master of the yorker than a jack of all trades.
The ICC World Twenty20 features the Kookaburra Turf White Official ball (£100, kookaburra.biz)

TOOL OF THE MONTH

NAX 2.0

Designed with the help of Special Forces soldiers, this is the world's most lethal penknife, containing three blades in one: a machete, a hatchet and a kukri knife. Leave the bottle opener and tweezers to amateurs. *$150, uncrate.com*

4

THE TECHQUATION

Spring clean your computer

CCleaner
Mass delete all the junk clogging up your PC or Mac.
£20, piriform.com

EcoMoist Cleaning Kit
Rid your screen of unsightly smudges.
£6, ecomoist.com

Lacie Fuel
Store and sync files wirelessly, freeing up space. *£169, lacie.com*

A cleaner, faster desktop PC
Sometimes a spring clean is as good as an upgrade

5

POWER-UP OF THE MONTH

Hive by British Gas

Control the climate of your homestead via iOS or Android devices in a not-unlike-Nest fashion. A wireless controller fitted to your boiler links to a router and thermostat on the wall, enabling you to heat your home to a specific, constant temperature or override that careful planning and blast out the hot air when travelling home on chilly days. British Gas reckons it could save you up to £150 a year on bills.
£199 including installation, hivehome.com

fyi

I TRIED THIS!
James Stables, features editor
LIVING IN A DRAUGHTY PROPERTY, MY HEATING USED TO FLUCTUATE BETWEEN BITING COLD AND A TROPICAL PARADISE; I ONCE SAW A PARROT IN THE BATHROOM. HIVE HAS HELPED KEEP THINGS ON A MORE EVEN KEEL, TEMPERATURE-WISE. IT'S HANDY TO BE ABLE TO TURN OFF THE BOILER'S TIMER WHEN AWAY AND, ALTHOUGH IT HAS FEWER FEATURES THAN NEST, THE FREE APP IS SO SIMPLE TO USE YOU'LL SOON BECOME ADDICTED TO CHECKING IT.

WORDS **MAX PARKER** ILLUSTRATIONS **MARK MITCHELL**

OBSESSION
BECOME THE KING OF...

#32 BURGERS

This all-American staple has made the leap from fast-food fix to gourmet staple in recent times. With every gastropub across the land working on its own secret recipe, it's time to perfect your own...

PRIME TIPS

Tom Barton from Honestburgers.co.uk helps you master your meat

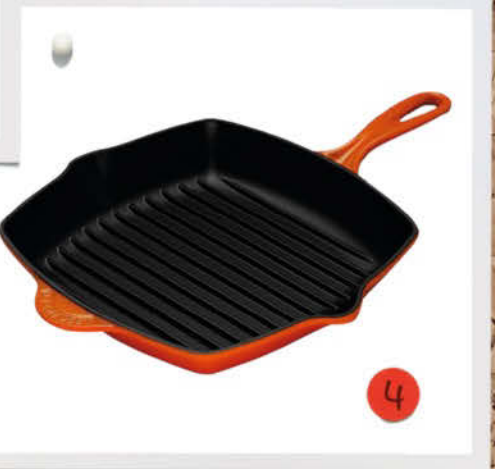
1/ Perfect the patty
Fat is key – you want well-sourced, well-aged beef with around a 25% fat content. I also prefer a coarse mince for texture.

2/ Shape it in style
Weigh out 150g of beef and slap it around in your hands to shape into a smooth ball – any cracks and the patty can overcook.

3/ Cooking and seasoning
A high heat is essential for a deep sear. Press the burger to the pan carefully and season generously with salt and pepper. Flip after 2mins for medium rare or 2.5mins for medium, then into a 180-degree oven for 2mins and rest.

4/ Load up on fillings
Crispy bacon, mild cheddar, sweet onion relish and dill pickles is the way forward – by coincidence that's basically an Honest Burger.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED...



1/ Weber MasterTouch Charcoal BBQ If the sun's out, you should be, too. This adds a distinctive taste and a fetching char mark on top and bottom. *£250, weberbbq.co.uk*

2/ Kenwood Meat Grinder MG510 Grinds up to two kilos of fresh meat in little under a minute, letting you pick the desired texture. *£99, kenwoodworld.com*

3/ Thermo Chef Measuring Fork Stick this fork in it, it's done. Alerts displayed on the small LCD screen will tell you when you tip from rare into medium rare. *£15, lakeland.com*

4/ Le Creuset square Grillit Weather not perfect for barbecuing? Take it inside. This heavyweight griddle pan adds authentic flavour and enticing scorch lines. *£80, lecreuset.co.uk*

5/ Hamburger Press Molding Machine A bit OCD, or not willing to get your hands dirty? This gizmo ensures your patties are the perfect shape and size every time. *$62, webstaurantstore.com*

fyi

THE MAIN EVENT: A BURGER IS ALL ABOUT THE MEAT THAT MAKES IT...

CHUCK STEAK
A GOOD PATTY STARTING POINT DUE TO THE HIGH FAT CONTENT AND WELL-ROUNDED FLAVOUR. ADD IN SOME SIRLOIN FOR EXTRA OOMPH.
£7.98/500G, GODFREYS.CO

FEATHERBLADE
RICH IN FLAVOUR, WITH GOOD MARBLING. NORMALLY FOR STEWS, BUT ADDS PUNCH TO BURGERS.
£6/400G, ALLENSOFMAYFAIR.CO.UK

WAGYU RUMP
REARED IN AUSTRALIA, THIS CUT IS FULL OF FLAVOUR, WITH AMAZING, MELT-IN-THE-MOUTH TEXTURE.
£35/550G, FINEFOODSPECIALIST.CO.UK

WORDS **MAX PARKER**

TECH DAD
IT'S FOR THE KIDS, HONEST

MONSTER TRUCK

It may look tough, but the RC Hälix Vaterra is built to avoid a ruckus

Most radio-controlled runarounds are so over-powered they're almost impossible to keep on the straight and narrow, a throttle blip too far seeing them career off against a kerb. But not this four-wheel-drive, waterproof, sensor-laden, off-road beast. The battery-fuelled **Hälix Vaterra** is equipped with a unique stability control system called Active Vehicle Control, which keeps the car's eyes on the road and clear of the moors, no matter how reckless your cornering style. *£339, horizonhobby.co.uk*

THE TECH

The Hälix Vaterra in detail

1/ In control
Using onboard sensors and some clever software, the Vaterra can adjust its steering and throttle output automatically to prevent a crash. You'll really feel its helping hand as you line up for jumps; it even adjusts the steering in the air so that the car lands at the correct angle.

2/ Bullish battery
Fully charged, you'll manage around 25 minutes of continuous high-speed derring-do from the Vaterra's waterproof lithium-ion battery.

3/ The need for speed
This mini marauder hits 50mph with ease and acceleration is aggressive enough to pop wheelies at almost any speed.

TECH DAD SELECTS

More remote-controlled madness

SmartPlane
Pair with your smartphone and fly using touchscreen controls. Incredibly simple. *€69, smartplane.net*

Griffin Moto TC
One for aggressive drivers, with bump sensors that let you inflict virtual damage on your opponent's vehicle, screwing up its handling. *£75, griffintechnology.co.uk*

I'LL ONLY TELL YOU ONCE!

With decades of gadgeteering behind him, Tech Dad has the answers to all your parental conundrums

Dear Tech Dad,
Making baby milk formula on the go is a palaver. Know any alternatives to carting a whole tin of SMA around with me?
SEAN/DERRY
The adjustable Bibi Formula Dispenser does away with large tins and spoons. Its four pre-measured containers screw together to form the shape of a baby's milk bottle. *£8, gadgetbaby.co.uk*

Dear Tech Dad,
A spoon full of sugar isn't working. How can I make my kids take their medicine?
LAUREN/CAMBRIDGE
Shift over Mary Poppins, you need Ava the Elephant. Fill up with medicine, press the button and she gives a countdown before squirting an exact measure out of her trunk. *£15, avatheelephant.co.uk*

Dear Tech Dad,
How can I dissuade my daughter from drawing all over her bedroom wall without scotching her creative impulses?
JUDE/INVERNESS
Channel those artistic endeavours away from the bedroom walls by introducing the crafty Doodle Duvet Cover. The trick? It comes with ten special pens that contain ink guaranteed to come out in the wash. *£45, notonthehighstreet.com*

WORDS **DEREK ADAMS**

PLANT MONITORS

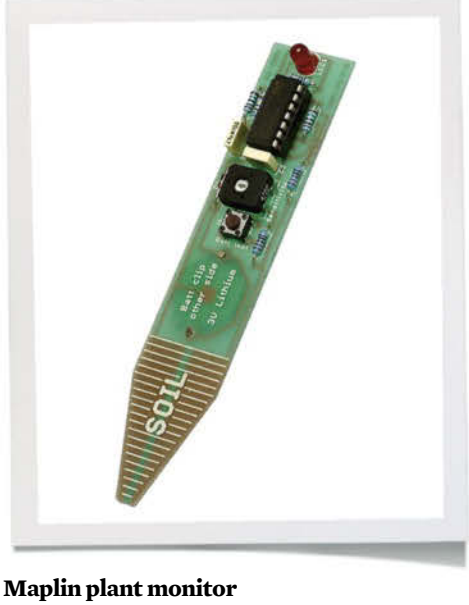
Are you a serial pot-plant killer? These handy devices keep an eye on water, sunshine and heat levels so you can have healthy foliage without knowing your azalea from your elbow

TEST LIFE GEAR ON TECH TRIAL

Parrot Flower Power
Analysing soil moisture content, fertilizer level, temperature and sunlight, then presenting the stats in real time on the screen of any iOS device, this is a doddle to use. Even better, it's good for both indoors and out.
5/5 *£50, parrot.com*

Koubachi
On the one hand, this is more stylish than the Flower Power. On the other, it's pricier, has a slightly more confusing interface and analysis that's slightly less in-depth. Oh, and this one is indoor only – the outdoor version costs £100.
4/5 *£80, store.koubachi.com*

Inovalley weather/plant monitor station
Operation couldn't be easier here. When your plant needs a drink, an alarm sounds – useful if you're literally clueless about plantcare. As the name suggests, it also keeps you abreast of weather developments. Cheap, too...
3/5 *£35, inovalley.co.uk*



Maplin plant monitor
Monitors soil moisture content accurately, flashing a little red LED whenever your plant is in need of liquid sustenance. Two slight issues: it requires a soldering iron to assemble and is by no means sexy in appearance.
3/5 *£8.50, maplin.co.uk*

fyi

Registered horticulturist Sally Long reveals pot-plant-tending secrets

FAT SUCCULENTS LIKE CACTI ARE THE EASIEST INDOOR PLANTS TO MAINTAIN. **FLOWERING AND VARIEGATED PLANTS (THOSE WITH DIFFERENT COLOURED LEAVES) NEED MORE LIGHT THAN OTHERS, SO POSITION THEM IN A CONSERVATORY OR NEAR A WINDOW.** MORE PLANTS ARE KILLED BY OVERWATERING THAN UNDERWATERING, AND MOST DON'T LIKE DIRECT SUNLIGHT. **YOU CAN DOWNLOAD AND USE PARROT AND KOUBACHI'S COMPREHENSIVE PLANT DATABASES WITHOUT NEEDING TO BUY THEIR SENSORS.** IF PLANTING UP A TERRACOTTA POT, TEAR A HOLE IN THE BOTTOM OF A CARRIER BAG AND USE IT AS A LINER BEFORE ADDING SOIL. **GOING ON HOLIDAY? FILL THE KITCHEN SINK WITH WATER, DRAPE A TOWEL OVER THE DRAINING BOARD WITH ONE END IN THE WATER. SIT YOUR PLANT POTS ON THE TOWEL, WITH A COTTON WOOL BALL IN THE HOLE IN THE BASE OF THE POT. THIS WILL ACT AS A WICK, DRAWING WATER UP TO THE ROOTS.**

AND FOR *REALLY* LAZY GARDENERS

Automate your plant and lawncare...

Hozelock Sophisticated Water Timer Pro
Automatic watering timer. Just add tap and hose to keep your garden in tip-top condition, with minimal effort.
£60, hozelock.com

Gardena Micro-Drip System
Elaborate drip-feed system could be just the thing for jungle-bound patios.
£64, gardena.com/uk

WORDS **DEREK ADAMS**

BORN TO RUN

Trainers built to carry you across the 26 (and a bit) mile mark

1/ Mizuno Wave Inspire 10 At just 250g, these marathon-ready runners won't weigh you down, but with impressive cushioning, support and a specially designed sole with a rocking heel-to-toe motion that helps you keep your rhythm, they may improve your time. *£105, mizuno.eu*

2/ Asics Gel Kinsei 5 The top choice for habitual heel strikers, these prevent pronation with an exoskeleton that improves fit and support. A FluiFit mesh upper ensures they're light and comfortable, while a Propulsion Trusstic sole gives you extra bounce in those vital last miles. *£160, asics.co.uk*

3/ Saucony Kinvara 4 FlexFilm material locks your foot into position but minimises skin irritation on long runs, while PowerGrid heel support adds protection. Finally, it has heel pods crafted from memory foam to make it feel like you're running on fluffy clouds rather than filthy, uneven pavements. *£105, saucony.com*

4/ Puma Mobium Elite The pads on the soles mimic the paw of a cat (think cheetah rather than tabby), cushioning your foot when you stride. An elasticated band running the length of the trainers' outsoles also adds extra spring in your step the harder you pound the pavement. *£95, puma.co.uk*

5/ Adidas Supernova Glide Boost An update to the original Boost, this model ramps up the tech with responsive cushioning that puts extra spring in your step and a stability bar that runs the length of the sole, allowing your heel to move in a more natural way while your foot remains stable. *£100, adidas.co.uk*

6/ Nike Flyknit Lunar2 The Fuelband creator compares its Flyknit polyester upper to a spider's web: strong, but super flexible and light. It hugs your feet, providing support where you most need it, while Lunarlon cushioning in the sole is on hand to guarantee a soft ride. *£135, store.nike.com*

ACCESSORISE: NORTH FACE M FEATHER LITE STORM BLOCKER

THE US OUTDOOR FIRM'S LIGHTEST EVER RUNNING JACKET WEIGHS JUST 140G AND PACKS DOWN SMALL ENOUGH TO STASH IN A POCKET WHEN CONDITIONS LOOK UP. POCKETS HAVE ALSO BEEN DITCHED IN FAVOUR OF A STREAMLINED LOOK, WHICH IS BOTH WATERPROOF AND IMMUNE TO SQUALLY WINDS. *£160, THENORTHFACE.CO.UK*

BATTER'S DELIGHT

Get the Ali Cook look and drown out chin music all season long

Whether you're facing a bowling machine in the nets, fielding at silly mid on, or simply walking through Croydon, the headgear revolution that is the **Ayrtek Adipower Rawtek Titanium** helmet is here to save you. A high-grade titanium grille protects your face, while the specially sculpted carbon-fibre shell deflects the rest of the short stuff. Finally, there's the ACIS (Air Cushion Impact System to friends), an inflatable inner lining that absorbs and disperses energy from impacts as well as giving a perfect fit around your head. Result: your brains stay on the interior of your skull, where God intended them to be. *£250, barringtonsports.com*

PULSE
TECH PUT THROUGH ITS PACES

fyi

THE ULTIMATE CRICKET TECH KIT

BAT: GUNN & MOORE OCTANE F2
BUILT USING COMPUTER-AIDED DESIGN TO YOUR EXACT SPECIFICATIONS.
£292, GM-CRICKET.COM

BAG: TRIFIBRE CRICKET COFFIN
HARD-WEARING POLYPROPYLENE AND AN ALUMINIUM EXO-SKELETON MAKE THIS CARRY TRUNK ALL BUT BOMBPROOF.
£76, TRIFIBRE.CO.UK

GLOVES: SALIX POD CHROME
HIGH-DENSITY PLASTAZOTE PROTECTS YOUR HANDS FROM ANGRY PACEMEN.
£85, SALIXCRICKETBATS.COM

PADS: MILLICHAMP & HALL CK22
MOISTURE-WICKING MEMORY FOAM LENDS COMFORT DURING MARATHON CREASE-OCCUPATION STINTS.
£110, MILLICHAMPANDHALL.CO.UK

SHOES: ASICS GEL-SPEED MENACE
AS USED BY MITCHELL JOHNSON, OBVS.
£95, BARRINGTONSPORTS.COM

APP ATTACK

Mobile ammo for those who know better than to put their legs before their wickets

1/ Stick Cricket Partnerships
Pick a cricketing legend or a mate as a partner and chase down hefty targets.
Free, iOS & Android, sticksports.com

2/ ESPNcricinfo
Live ball-by-ball commentary, scores, news and scorecards. Best of its kind.
Free, iOS & Android, espncricinfo.com

3/ Cricket Australia Live
Aptly, this whitewashes the ECB's equivalent, with streamed internationals and more. *Free, iOS, cricket.com.au*

WORDS **PETE DREYER** PHOTOGRAPHY **PIXELEYES**

PULSE
TECH PUT THROUGH ITS PACES

THE LIFE AQUATIC

Let's dive deep and trawl the tech ocean for the finest underwater kit for aquamen and women alike...

01/

02/

04/

03/

10/

1/ Kowalski Select 1250 LED Arguably the most popular dive torch in the world, this is capable of shedding light on even the darkest and murkiest of depths. It's pretty bulky, but splashes up to 1,800 LED lumens across the ocean bed. *£475, kowalski-uk.com*

2/ Atomic Aquatics T3 Regulator Key to feeling at home underwater is keeping your breathing steady. This fantastically named regulator is precision-milled from titanium and helps out at any depth. *£1,042, atomicaquatics.com*

3/ Suunto DX Titanium Information is vital when you're under the sea. The world's first watch-sized dive computer is compatible with re-breathers, has a 3D compass built-in and a decompression algorithm for safe, bends-free ascents. *£1,195, suunto.com*

4/ Waterproof W4 This innovative wetsuit's revolutionary Microcell Neoprene material claims to be twenty per cent more crush-resistant – and, therefore, warmer under pressure. Bonus: it makes you look like the new recruit on the Starship Enterprise. *£269, waterproof.eu*

5/ C4 Red Falcon 40 Constructed from Megaforce T700 carbon fibre, these flippers are built to add extra oomph to every kick, helping you cut through water like a greased narwahl. *£304, c4-usa.com*

6/ Seadoo RS1 Alternatively, if even kicking your flippers is too much effort, there's this 500W sea scooter that hits underwater speeds of up to 4mph. A self-filling ballast hull makes the scooter neutrally buoyant and a cinch to manoeuvre, too. *£1,175, sea-doo.com*

7/ Octomask A diving mask with tempered glass lenses to ensure you have a clear, unfogged, underwater view. Even includes a GoPro mount for hands-free filming in the drink. *£48, octomask.com*

8/ ScubaPro Evertec Diving in colder climes? A drysuit will warm your cockles. This one's heavy-duty tri-laminate skin is super-durable but still light, and has easy-access valves to help you manage your buoyancy. *£1,012, scubapro.com*

9/ Subal Housings These trustworthy camera housings are machined from a single block of aluminium. The result is a perfect fit and a splutter-worthy price-tag. Only suitable for those sporting some serious camera kit. *£2,000+, subal.com*

10/ Atomic Ti6 Titanium Dive Knife Now *this* is a knife: a corrosion-resistant titanium blade to stay sharp in fresh and salt water. There's a serrated edge and a line-cutting notch for slicing nets, plus a big, pointy end for scaring off sealife. *£88, oceanleisure.co.uk*

05/

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09/

fyi

UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHER ELENA KALIS'S TOP TIPS FOR PERFECTING YOUR NEXT DEEP SEA PHOTOSHOOT...

1/ FIRSTLY, YOU NEED CLEAR WATER, AS IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO TAKE A GOOD IMAGE IF IT'S MURKY. HEAD SOMEWHERE EXOTIC.

2/ START WITH A WIDE-ANGLE, FISHEYE LENSE AS THIS WILL GET YOU CLOSER TO YOUR SUBJECT, WHICH IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE WATER REDUCES COLOUR, CONTRAST AND SHARPNESS OF IMAGES.

3/ UNDERWATER FILTERS WILL HELP YOUR IMAGE QUALITY, ENHANCING COLOUR AND CONTRAST, AND GIVING YOU A MORE NATURAL TONE.

4/ ARTIFICIAL LIGHT, TYPICALLY ONE STROBE OR MULTIPLE STROBES, CAN GIVE YOU MORE CREATIVE CONTROL. IT FILLS IN SHADOWS AND ADDS BACK COLOUR THAT HAS BEEN ABSORBED BY THE WATER. TO MINIMISE BACKSCATTER FROM THE LIGHTS, BE SURE TO ANGLE YOUR STROBES OUTWARDS SLIGHTLY.

5/ YOU DON'T HAVE TO HAVE THE MOST EXPENSIVE DSLR OR LOADS OF PRO KIT TO GET AN INTERESTING RESULT, BUT MY TOOLS OF CHOICE ARE A WATERPROOF CAMERA HOUSING, STROBES AND FILTERS ALL FROM IKELITE.COM.

LET'S GO SPEARFISHING!

Specialist tech to stalk your prey like a pro

1/ Aqualung Teknika
The techno-polymer frame on this mask is strong and gives a wider-than-average field of view, essential when trying to spear yourself a fish supper.
£50, aqualung.com

2/ Tilos Saber Fin
Unlike the C4 Red Falcon 40s, left, these are built for nippy manouvering and stalking instead of all-out speed.
£43, tilos.com

3/ Cressi Geronimo Elite
The deadliest underwater weapon, this harpoon lets you tinker with your grip and sensitivity before taking out frogmen, *Thunderball*-style.
£159, cressisubusa.com

XPERIA Z2: DOUBLE THE AWESOME

SONY'S LATEST SMARTPHONE AND TABLET ARE REDEFINING WHAT YOU DEMAND FROM YOUR MOBILE DEVICE...

{XPERIA Z2 TABLET}

Specification

OS Android 4.4
PROCESSOR/RAM 2.3GHz quadcore/3GB
SCREEN 10.1-inch, 1980x1200
REAR CAM 8.1-meg/1080p
FRONT CAM 2.2-meg/1080p
STORAGE 16GB
CONNECTIVITY N Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, 3.5mm audio, 4G LTE option available
QUOTED BATTERY 10 hours multimedia use
SIZE/WEIGHT 172x266x6.4mm/426g (for Wi-Fi) 439g (for LTE/3G)

XPERIA Z2 AND XPERIA Z2 TABLET FROM SONY HAVE A JOINT mission: to be the best and to exceed your expectations. You wouldn't expect a smartphone to be able to shoot video underwater without being carefully trussed-up in an expensive waterproof case, but Xperia Z2 can. And it shoots in 4K! It's that kind of can-do, be-the-best attitude that T3 applauds.

Xperia Z2 now boasts a bigger, 5.2-inch full-HD screen, taking full advantage of Live Colour LED technology borrowed from BRAVIA TVs, that delivers incredibly realistic hues. That vibrancy remains no matter what angle you look at it from, thanks to Xperia Z2's stunning IPS display. We've already mentioned that Xperia Z2 can shoot video in 4K and its skills don't end there. Its 20.7-megapixel Exmor RS sensor delivers top-quality pictures in double-quick time.

Xperia Z2 Tablet is breaking records, too. It's the world's thinnest and lightest waterproof tablet, at just 6.4mm and weighing 426g for the Wi-Fi model – 436g if you plump for LTE/3G. Its 10.1-inch, full-HD Triluminos display uses an X-Reality picture engine, as well as the same Live Colour LED tech employed to such great affect in its smartphone sibling. Inside the innovations continue, with the world's fastest tablet processor, the 2.3GHz Snapdragon 801 with 3GB of RAM. Whether you're playing next-gen console-quality games or 1080p video, you won't hear Xperia Z2 Tablet complaining.

Both the smartphone and tablet also share an affinity with the water – able to withstand a dip in up to 1.5m of the wet stuff for up to thirty minutes. Let's hear it for this unsinkable duo.

XPERIA Z2 £599, XPERIA Z2 TABLET £499, SONYMOBILE.COM

{XPERIA Z2}

Specification

OS Android 4.4
PROCESSOR/RAM 2.3GHz quadcore/3GB
SCREEN 5.2-inch, 1920x1080
REAR CAM 20.7-meg/4K
FRONT CAM 2.2-meg/1080p
STORAGE 16GB
CONNECTIVITY N Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, NFC, DLNA, 4G LTE option available
QUOTED BATTERY 19 hours talk time
SIZE/WEIGHT 146.8x73.3x8.2mm/163g

{THERE'S MORE}

SMARTBAND

This waterproof wearable uses NFC and Bluetooth to log your achievements, like beating your personal best in the swimming pool.
£79.99, SONY.CO.UK

XPERIA M

A vibrant 4.8-inch display, quadcore processor and eight-megapixel camera. This is Xperia Z2's more affordable cousin.
£179, SONY.CO.UK

ENTERTAINMENT NETWORK

Thousands of songs, the most addictive games and the latest blockbusters all available on demand, to rent or to buy, from one do-it-all fun hub.

HOME
BETTER LIVING THROUGH TECH

HEAD FOR THE SHED

With summer imminent, it's time to clear your outhouse of clutter and restock it with manly tools

1/ **Honda Versatool** Take one four-stroke petrol engine head, add seven attachments (brushcutter, short and long hedgetrimmers, pruner, edger, cultivator and leafblower) and hey presto: the eldritch aisles of B&Q's garden tool section need ne'er lure ye in again. "Eez-E Hang" hooks leave shed floorspace free, too. *Main unit £299, attachments from £109, honda.co.uk/garden*

2/ **ShackUp sheds** Wayne Hemingway of Red or Dead is behind this range; clearly these days he's more Red or *Shed* (ahem). The compact Tridoor storage area and the gorgeous Porthole man-shed are pictured here, but he also makes water butts shaped like actual buttocks. *From £300, hemingwaydesign.co.uk*

3/ **Topeak OneUp and Hoy Sa Calobra .004** A stylish wallmount to keep your cycle out of the way. And to hang from it? Sir Chris Hoy's new road bike, which blends Olympic pizzazz and high-end parts with easy rideability. *Mount £32, topeak.com, bike £1,300, evanscycles.com*

4/ **Bosch Isio** This lightweight and versatile 3.6v shrub-meister has a choice of two blades, plus a spray attachment for water, pesticides, fertilisers, gravy, etc. A telescopic handle helps tall people trim grass and shorties do hedge-tops. *£65, bosch-garden.com*

5/ **Al-Ko Robolinho 3000** This year's robo-mower of choice cuts and mulches most efficaciously. *The Daily Telegraph* hailed it as "very neat"; a good option for medium-sized lawns. *£1,699, al-ko.com*

6/ **Black and Decker MTC220** The do-it-all devices keep coming. This 20v cordless one goes from strimmer to lawnmower to edger, like a not-so-shiny Transformer, all for the giveaway price of... *£140, blackanddecker.com*

7/ **Gtech HT04** This is a hedgetrimmer and branch cutter, with a 315mm clipper blade for topiary stems up to 15mm thick, and a 100mm circular saw for bringing the pain to trees. As with all of Gtech's stuff, the styling is as fun as the using. *£150, gtechonline.co.uk*

8/ **Verycook Plancha Grill** No, not a high-end stereo but a barbecue with a steel flat top – fewer flare-ups and great for burgers. On top of that, the Verypizz pizza oven attachment, offers perfect dough and tomato-based snackage every time. *Plancha Grill £319, Verypizz £169, verycook.co.uk*

NOW TIDY UP!

No fun for you this month: it's spring-cleaning time. So wield a vacuum-cum-mop, a moon-program-styled handheld and an intelligent cylinder vac to get that mess cleaned up

1/ **Dyson Hard DC56**
£250, dyson.co.uk

2/ **Vorwerk Kobold VC100**
£149, vkdirect.co.uk

3/ **Samsung Motion Sync Sensor F700**
£230, samsung.com/uk

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APPY LANDINGS

Reward your shed-declutterment and home-cleansing efforts by letting your mobile devices handle tricky tasks, from garage door-opening and sprinkler activation to lounge AV mastery

1/ **GoGogate**
$179, iOS and Android, gogogate.com

2/ **iWaterWizard**
$130, iOS, iwaterwizard.com

3/ **Roomie Remote**
From £40, iOS, roomieremote.com

DRIVE
TECH TO TAKE YOU PLACES

ONE VERY MOBILE PHONE

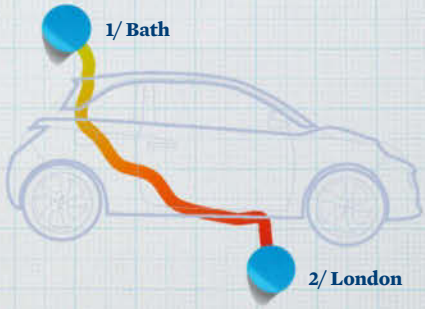
Fancy driving something a little different? Meet the Vauxhall ADAM, a Siri-ed up, smartphone-aping city runaround that's leading the connected-car revolution

f y i

TOP SPEED **109MPH**
0-62MPH **12.5 SECONDS**
ENGINE **1,398CC FOUR CYLINDER PETROL**
GEARBOX **5-SPEED MANUAL**
POWER **97BHP**
TORQUE **96LB/FT**
FUEL CONSUMPTION **51.4MPG**
CARBON EMISSIONS **130G/KM**
WEIGHT **1,555KG**
PRICE AS TESTED **£14,995**

ROUTE MASTER

The Future Publishing glory route from HQ to home, Bath to Soho via back roads and the M4, puts the ADAM to the test. Back roads are a blast, then fire up Stitcher on the motorway, catch some *This American Life* and have Siri read out texts. Before you know it, you're in the big smoke, enjoying the car's compact proportions.



It's slick, available in a limited choice of colours, packs a techtastic punch despite puny proportions and even packs Siri voice control. We give you the latest Apple iPho... actually, no – it's a limited-edition model of **Vauxhall's ADAM** super-mini.

In any colour you like so long as it's black or white, ADAM takes the "smartphone on wheels" concept to the next level. First up, handset integration is courtesy of Vauxhall's snazzy Intellilink multimedia system, with its seven-inch touchscreen control. This adds audio playback via analogue, digital and web radio – TuneIn Radio and Stitcher apps supply the latter – USB and Bluetooth, plus a load more (see box, right).

Navigation comes via the *BringGo* app on Intellilink. Like the web radio apps it displays in-car but actually runs on your smartphone, with both iOS and Android devices supported (iPhones connect via USB and Androids via Bluetooth). Apple fans also get full Siri integration with steering wheel controls.

The more old-school techy elements boil down to a trim package based on the existing 1.4-litre petrol model, with extensive colour coding, standard sports seats and 18-inch alloy wheels – the usual limited-edition drill.

As a driving experience, this is pretty much off the peg. Like every ADAM, the chassis is much grippier, much more responsive than you expect and while, with just 87hp, it's not exactly a piping hot hatch, this thing really handles.

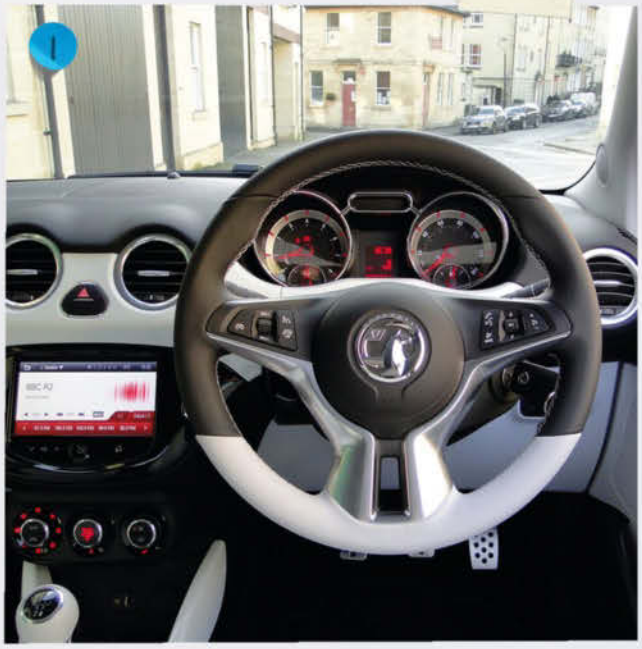
MULTIMEDIA AND NAV SYSTEMS ARE EASILY AMONG THE BEST AT THIS LEVEL

That means you can have a barrel of laughs on your favourite B-road without busting too many speed barriers, but like a lot of the latest small cars, it's also a surprisingly comfy and refined long-distance cruiser. You can definitely live with an ADAM as your only car.

Vauxhall's car-as-iPhone sales pitch is maybe asking for trouble, with expectations for integrated tech unrealistically high from the off. But the Vauxhall ADAM, for the most part, manages it with aplomb.

Intellilink's app functionality is limited so far, and new ones have to be added at your local Vauxhall dealership, but what's there works well. The multimedia and nav systems are easily among the best in this part of the market, though having to pay at least £38 extra for the latter sucks. Everything else about ADAM is nippy, zippy and a lot of fun.

FROM £14,995, VAUXHALL.CO.UK



THE TECH INSIDE

1/ Touchscreen-tastic
ADAM's Intellilink system is fronted by a nice little seven-incher. Resolution is good, though touch response should be snappier really

2/ Appy days
Only a trio of apps is available so far. The two web radio ones give a huge range of listening options while *BringGo* navigation offers HD traffic updates and millions of POIs

3/ By your command
Steering wheel controls give iPhone users instant access to full Siri functionality including reading and composing texts and emails

THREE TO TEST DRIVE

Spring forward with these high-gloss rides

1/ Mercedes S500 Coupe
Old-school elegance is reborn in this pillarless beauty. With a ton of tech, it's proof Mercs really are special again.
£100,000, MERCEDES-BENZ.CO.UK

2/ Audi S1
Take a tiny supermini shell, shoehorn in a 228bhp turbo engine and garnish with four-wheel drive. Result? Pure, concentrated hot hatch.
£24,900, AUDI.CO.UK

3/ Citroën Cactus
It looks like a concept car that escaped the show floor but you really can buy this Golf-sized, super-light, innovation-packed ride.
£13,000, CITROEN.CO.UK

WORDS **JEREMY LAIRD**

DRIVE TECH TO TAKE YOU PLACES

FEEL THE CHARGE

Yes, eco-fans, it's a "wind-powered" Ferrari. Well, it's got a turbocharger, anyway. Similar principle...

There have been turbocharged Fezzas before, but the 552bhp, 196mph **Ferrari California T** is the first truly modern model with turbos. On paper, everything is better: it's more powerful, faster and miles more efficient than the old, naturally aspirated model, without losing the blood-curdling, life-affirming, high-rev thrills that make Ferraris so special. With *Rush* on Blu-ray and turbos back in Formula 1 as well, it's like the '70s all over again. *£150,000, ferrari.com*

TECH HIGHLIGHTS

1/ Low-carbon life
Carbon emissions matter, even on supercars, and turbos are the only way to keep upping performance while cutting pollution. Case in point: the California T is 15 per cent more efficient but hits 60mph in just 3.6 seconds.

2/ Self-drifting?
Well, almost. The California T gets Ferrari's latest F1-Trac traction control system. Combined with a computer-controlled diff, F1-Trac's brain-box algorithms allow you to "do an Alonso" and dance on the very edge of adhesion as the new twin-turbo V8 flings you bodily out of corners.

3/ Traction and reaction action
So there's the turbo engine, a new set of sculpted aluminium threads and some clever traction control. But what else is there to the California T? How about next-gen computer-controlled Magnaride suspension with body-motion sensors that reacts 50 per cent faster than before? Yes, that.

{CONCEPT}

KIA GT4 STINGER

Crikey, is that really a Kia?

1/ Rear-wheel drive. Just as BMW announces its first front-wheel drive car, former eco-box maker Kia steps in with this brawny, 315hp beast.
2/ Killer looks. In an age of in-your-face design and LED everything, the Stinger's clean, uncluttered lines are a relief.
3/ Tailpipe tunes. Speaking of "uncluttered", there's no audio system. Kia reckons the free-flow exhaust provides all the music you'll need.
£TBC, kia.co.uk

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Canon

SNAP UP A BARGAIN

WANT TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP IN PHOTOGRAPHY? MAKE THAT STEP GO FURTHER WITH CANON CASHBACK* UP TO £210 ON SELECTED GEAR

Spring is here. If you've decided it's time to give your photography a great leap forward, Canon is here to help you make the jump. Whether you're after a premium compact such as the PowerShot G16 (main pic), a pro-quality DSLR like the EOS 5D MkIII or even a new printer to immortalise your work, there's never been a better time to upgrade.

Why? One word, sir: cashback! Or is that two words? No, it's one portmanteau word.

All you need to do to get cashback on Canon's range of fine products is choose what you want at canon.co.uk/springcashback, then follow its directions to find your nearest approved Canon vendor. Once you've bought your chosen bit of tech, fill in the Spring Cashback form on the same link – see the website for full details – and get a chunk of cash paid back.

The PowerShot series has long been the weapon of choice for photographers moving up from point-and-shoot, or pros in search of a second camera, and the sturdy flagship that is the G16 is no exception.

Need to grab a picture without having to worry about settings? The G16 is your baby, thanks to speedy nine-point autofocus. The high-speed, 9.3fps burst rate is ideal for shooting sports and children. Built-in Wi-Fi means that you can upload and back up images without needing a computer.

Full-HD 1080p video makes it great for shooting home movies, while an impressive ISO range of 80-12,800 makes it a prime choice for low-light conditions like a gig or party. For when you're *really* in the dark, the Star Mode lets you grab stunning images of the night sky, including time lapse photos.

There are plenty of other options available, from DSLRs to printers to lenses, with cashback hitting a whopping £210 on the EF 24-70mm f/2.8L II USM zoom lens – see right for details.

CANON.CO.UK/SPRINGCASHBACK

CANON.CO.UK/SPRINGCASHBACK

CASHBACK!

£30 CASHBACK

POWERSHOT SX50

Perfect for telephoto shots thanks to its 50x ultra-wide angle lens

£50 CASHBACK

PIXMA PRO-100

Produces quality prints of your works, up to A3 size, in just 90 seconds

£100 CASHBACK

LEGRIA HF G30

Canon's flagship camcorder includes a 20x zoom and remote control by app

£150 CASHBACK

EOS 5D MkIII

Captures pro-quality shots thanks to speedy 61-point AF and 22-meg sensor

£210 CASHBACK

EF 24-70MM f/2.8L II USM

Packs a f/2.8 aperture for depth of field control and beautiful bokeh

TERMS AND CONDITIONS
*OFFER SUBJECT TO FULL TERMS AND CONDITIONS – SEE CANON.CO.UK/SPRINGCASHBACK. AVAILABLE ON SELECTED EUROPEAN PRODUCTS PURCHASED BETWEEN 01.03.14 AND 07.05.14 FROM UK RETAILERS EXCLUDING EBAY, AMAZON THIRD-PARTY SELLERS (IE NOT FROM AMAZON DIRECTLY), WHETHER FULFILLED BY AMAZON OR NOT.

GET YOUR CASHBACK ON CANON GEAR UNTIL MAY 7

£30 CASHBACK

POWERSHOT G16

Treat yourself to this high-end compact. Great for low-light shots and sporting a zippy burst rate of 9.3fps, it's a solid DSLR alternative

audioengine

ENJOY BETTER MUSIC FROM YOUR COMPUTER

from desktop to coffee shop

THE NEW D3!

From music streaming to high-resolution audio downloads, hear so much more from your Mac or PC with this pocket-sized powerhouse. Set up in seconds – no software or mains power required - the D3 24bit DAC is a truly plug and play boost for headphones, powered speakers or home hi-fi.

Plus!

Wireless-ready powered speakers

A2+ The perfect desktop companion

A5+ Upgrade to room-filling audio

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amazon.co.uk

Edited by Libby Plummer

RATED

THE LATEST TECH FROM THE T3 TEST LAB

{RATINGS}

★★★★★ MUST BUY

★★★★☆ VERY GOOD

★★★☆☆ DECENT

★★☆☆☆ BELOW AVERAGE

★☆☆☆☆ OH DEAR

{ALSO REVIEWED THIS MONTH}

Big-screen projectors p108
Blu-ray deck supertest p111
Video on-demand clash p118
Samsung Note Pro 12.2 p120
TomTom Go 6000 p121
Panasonic TZ60 p121

HOME CINEMA SPECIAL

All hail the HD master

WHO NEEDS A 4K TV WHEN YOU CAN HAVE 1080P IMAGES BUFFED TO PERFECTION BY THE SONY W8?

WORDS **STEVE MAY** PHOTOGRAPHY **NEIL GODWIN**

4K tellies might be this year's big tech story, but with little or nothing to watch on them, they're far from the top of most people's to-buy list. That spot should be reserved for the Sony W8, a TV set that's sticking with a 1080p resolution but making it shine, with improved quality and a perfect storm of smart features.

Firstly, the W8's home screen has become a wall of apps. We rather miss the more stripped down approach of last season's screens, but the new One Flick menu system – a misnomer given that there's no flicking involved, at least not using the supplied remote – is brilliant. Built around the Discover recommendation engine, it comprises a horizontal content bar of thumbnails that rolls up from the bottom of the screen, offering curated content suggestions for TV, radio, YouTube and Sony's own Video Unlimited movie streaming service. You can create customised Discovery bars using keywords – try typing in "technology" or "gadgets" to be presented with an onslaught of relevant video content from TV channels and the web. It's a very powerful search tool indeed.

Sony has also given its Twitter implementation a rethink. The result is Social View, deemed so important it has its own button on the remote. Social View conjures up a tweet stream that can run beneath an image or as an overlap, adding the show you're watching as a keyword automatically so you are presented with a slow-moving river of online commentary. We're not sure if such frivolity will actually find favour, given that second-screen devices do the social job a lot better, but it's a strong attempt.

There's a solid selection of apps available, although catch-up remains limited to BBC iPlayer and Demand 5, Sony still seemingly unable to secure the services of ITV Player or 4OD. It does boast Netflix – also deemed important enough to get a dedicated button on the remote – Amazon Prime Instant Video, Crackle and sundry other media-related bits and bobs.

{SPECIFICATION}

SCREEN 50-inch, 1920x1080
TUNER Freeview HD/satellite
3D Active, with 2x specs
WEB TV BBC iPlayer, Netflix, Amazon Instant Video, Demand 5 and more
CONNECTIONS 4x HDMI, 2x USB, Wi-Fi, Ethernet, Scart, component, digital optical audio out

{DIMENSIONS}

HEIGHT 656mm
WIDTH 1116mm
DEPTH 162mm
WEIGHT 13.6kg

{DETAILS}

1 THIN WHIZZY
The brushed aluminium bezel of Sony's new W8 is barely there, making this 50-inch telly look less imposing in your lounge

2 DREAM SCREEN
The 1080p picture is boosted by top image processing and seamless motion handling

3 HDMI GANG
With four HDMI inputs there's enough space for a console, Blu-ray deck, set-top box and A Nother

4 ON THE RECORD
Want to pause live TV or record shows without a set-top box? Just connect an external USB hard drive

It's not all gravy, though – our, admittedly early, review model crashed consistently when asked to access a networked media server. It fared better with USB content, but in both cases presented us with an alphabet soup of file names that was practically impossible to make any sense of. If you can understand it, multimedia support is at least comprehensive, covering all of the major file codecs, but not user-friendly. Yet all this added functionality and flashy content is merely window dressing, of course, for the one undeniable reason to shortlist this newcomer: picture quality.

The W8's HD picture performance is sensational. Sony's X-Reality Pro picture algorithm siphons an astonishing amount of fine detail from all sources. More heavy-handed image processors often struggle to tell the difference between image noise and close detail, but that's not the case here. Images bristle with clarity, yet there's no sense of artifice or over-stressed edge enhancement. The W8 offers a level of tangible depth which is almost 3D-like in its look.

Colour rendering is vivid and black levels reassuringly deep. Even LED edge-lighting is pleasingly even. Off-axis viewing has also been improved – there's no big drop in contrast and colour if you pull up late and get the worst seat in the house. Adding to our enthusiasm for the set's performance, motion resolution handling is second to none, with a variety of proprietary Motionflow XR modes on offer. Normally we'd highlight which of these you should pick for the best overall performance, but on this set they all shine, delivering maximum motion resolution with very few or no artefacts. Sporting action is handled with real aplomb. If you're in the market for a new telly in preparation for this year's World Cup, you won't go wrong here.

The set is, of course, 3D compatible, employing active shutter tech. Generally, the cheaper passive glasses are more comfortable for lengthy viewing, but watching *Gravity* or Sky's smattering of 3D content wearing the two bundled specs won't disappoint.

Design is minimalist in the extreme, with the black brushed-aluminium bezel barely having room to accommodate the Bravia logo. Despite its skinny 8.7mm profile the W8 still manages to pack in a generous amount of connectivity. It sports four HDMIs, plus two USBs – one of which can be connected to an external hard drive for timeshifting – and legacy Scart and component/phono AV inputs. There's no issue getting online to access all of the smart features, either, as it comes with integrated Wi-Fi and Ethernet. In addition to the Freeview HD tuner, there's even a HD satellite – think of it as Freesat Lite if you're sans set-top box.

Sony's World Cup-ready 50-incher scores highly

➜ Sound performance is not this set's strongest point, with a little over-reliance on the top notes and a lack of mid-bass, so we'd add Sony's optional wireless subwoofer (£250, sony.co.uk) for significantly deeper sound. If you are buying the W8 in preparation for Brazil's footballing festivities, you should take note of the "Football" sound mode, too. It's FIFA-sanctioned, offering a virtual surround-sound acoustic recreation of São Paulo's unfortunately-no-longer-in-the-World-Cup Morumbi stadium, based on actual measurements. It's certainly atmospheric and we're assured it's just like being there, but without the tear gas and rubber bullets.

SONY'S W8 DELIVERS SHINIER HD AND SMARTER FEATURES FOR UNDER A GRAND

Finally, we come to the real clincher: the W8 is yours for under a grand. Making HD look better than ever and smart features easier to navigate, this TV is the people's champion. Yes, there are a few minor niggles, but if you're considering investing in a new TV this year, we'd highly recommend this all-star ace.

£900, SONY.CO.UK

LOVE Superb image quality. Fabulous motion handling. Top discovery engine for online content
HATE Limited catch-up services. Media playback is overly awkward. Social View's a bit of a gimmick
T3 SAYS **Polished 1080p pictures and smarter features, all for a very reasonable price. Sold**

{KILLER FEATURES}

THREE WAYS THE W8 BOOSTS YOUR VIEWING

1
ONE FLICK DISCOVERY
Call up the search bar to simply and easily scan all TV channels, catch-up and on-demand services, plus the likes of YouTube to find shows and content that interest you. Just type in keywords to get an instant selection of relevant content. It actually works.

2
NEW APP PORTAL
Sony's home screen puts all of its smart TV services together in one place. The result is an app wall that's unoriginal but effective, with picture settings and shortcuts for movies and music sitting along the top. There's a lot on offer, but still no ITV Player or 4OD.

3
FOOTBALL MODE
As befits its sponsorship of the FIFA World Cup, this DSP audio treatment was recorded out in Brazil for realistic acoustics. The service also offers footie content from YouTube and the FIFA website. It's undoubtedly a gimmick, but a very well-timed one.

{RIVALS}

The Champions League of telly-watching

	SONY KDL-50W829	SAMSUNG UE50F6200	LG 47LA860W
PRICE, URL	£900, SONY.CO.UK	£1,049, SAMSUNG.COM/UK	£999, LG.COM/UK
DESIGN	Minimalism is the order of the day here, with an incredibly thin bezel and brushed aluminium look.	Not as slick as the W8, but Samsung's Series 6 silver frame is still thin and attractive. Classic looks.	The bezel may not draw too much attention, but that large ribbon pedestal makes this TV awkward to situate.
PICTURE	Solid blacks, bold colours, fantastic motion handling and great wide-angle viewing. Active 3D is well-handled, too.	Vibrant colours and reasonable dynamics, but there's no 3D support here – odd for the priciest option.	Passive 3D support. Luminous and crisp 2D images across the 47-inch screen, plus Dual Play split-screen gaming.
AUDIO	Well-engineered downward-firing speakers and novelty World Cup audio mode.	Boasts a 10W RMS sound system. Not big on volume, but it is at least clear.	This TV sounds better than it has any right to, thanks to two 12W built-in speakers.
FEATURES	The Discover engine nails search, helping you find new content across TV and web.	S-Recommendation learns what programmes you like, offering tailored suggestions.	LG's intuitive Magic Remote brings cursor-like convenience to big-screen app scrolling.
WEB SMARTS	Netflix, BBC iPlayer and Amazon Instant Video, but 4OD is still AWOL.	A full complement of catch-up and an impressive selection of on-demand services.	All the usual suspects, plus Sky's Now TV streaming. No WebOS yet, though
T3 VERDICT	A stunning picture performer for the price, Sony's well-heeled W8 is a bona fide steal for under a grand.	If you're happy to live without 3D, this set offers the best selection of catch-up and on-demand telly.	A solid HD telly with above-par sound and the bonus of Now TV. It's smaller than the rest, but no less impressive.

{THE FINAL WORD}

LIBBY PLUMMER, REVIEWS EDITOR

Sony's TVs made a great comeback last year, so we were expecting big things from the 2014 line-up and the W8 doesn't disappoint. With 4K upgrades still costing the earth and content in short supply, an HD combination of stunning design, superb picture quality and solid smarts with an affordable price tag is the televisual upgrade we'd recommend in time for this summer's action.

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AND DIGITAL FORMATS

Projection perfection

FROM BLOCKBUSTER MOVIES TO NEXT-GEN GAMING, PROJECTORS DELIVER BIG VISUAL THRILLS WITH A KNOWING TECH WINK

WITH GIANT TVS NOW THE NORM, YOU NEED to look elsewhere for that special viewing/peer-jealousy-inducement experience. Enter the projector. It'll splatter TV, Blu-ray and games majestically across any lounge wall, giving a "screen" of 100 inches plus. With high-quality video processing and first-class optics, today's machines blow older ones out of the water, and the price needn't be too painful.

01 THIS SPORTING LIFE

BENQ W1300

£900, BENQ.CO.UK

Handsome, compact and bright, BenQ's stylish single chip DLP W1300 is a jack of all trades. The 1080p resolution and 10,000:1 dynamics make it a solid option, whether you're looking to indulge in a big-screen multiplayer bloodbath, stage a popcorn night in or host a pop-up sports bar. With 2,200 lumens brightness you'll be able to watch the match without banter-killing blacking-out of the room.

Build quality is excellent, too, and the machine runs reassuringly quiet in eco mode. However, opt for 3D and it goes into washed-out overdrive, so maybe avoid that.

T3 SAYS **Dynamic images make this a sporting winner**

02 HOME CINEMA HERO

SONY VPL-HW55ES

£2,800, SONY.CO.UK

A chunky, curvaceous design and inevitably chunky accompanying price tag really makes this a ceiling install for a dedicated cinema room. You'll want to use it with a proper screen, too, although Sony has left off the 12v trigger used to sync with them, for some unknown reason.

However, image quality in both 2D and active 3D is reliably eye-popping, with massive detail, sizes up to 300 inches across and a 120,000:1 dynamic contrast offering deep blacks. It's sensational with high-end consoles too, although at 1700 lumens you'll need to play in a coal-dark room.

T3 SAYS **Awesome full-HD projector justifies lumpy price**

WORDS **STEVE MAY** PHOTOGRAPHY **DARIA DANOWSKA@PIXELEYES**

03 CORPORATE ENTERTAINER

VIVITEK H1185HD

£850, VIVITEK.EU

Combining an impressive 2,500 lumens brightness with 10,000:1 dynamic contrast, this single-chip DLP model impresses day or night. Hi-def images are supremely sharp and colour reproduction vibrant. The staid livery and onboard speaker indicate that the H1185HD will be as comfortable with boardroom/classroom gravitas as it is projecting *Gravity*, but it's certainly house trained, running quietly in eco mode.

Admittedly, high-contrast images suffer occasionally from DLP rainbow fringing, but for the most part video is as crisp and clean as you like. A real steal.

T3 SAYS **Projects a great image for business and pleasure**

04 GAMER'S CHOICE

EPSON EH-TW490

£549, EPSON.CO.UK

Clearly conceived with joypad fans in mind, this 720p, 3,000 lumens LCD light cannon throws a massive image (up to 318 inches) from a relatively short distance and works well in rooms with high ambient light. It's perfect for popping on a coffee table and kicking back with *FIFA 14*.

While the 1280x800 resolution isn't enough to do next-gen consoles justice, the EH-TW490 looks pretty peachy with Xbox 360/PS3 era kit. It can be used for movies as well, naturally, but dark blacks are beyond it, which rather limits authentic cinematic contrast. It's still great value nonetheless.

T3 SAYS **A 720p cheapie that's good for gamers on a budget**

05 HI-DEF VALUE CHAMP

OPTOMA HD30

£999, OPTOMA.CO.UK

If you're seeking a scintillating full-HD projector that confidently belies its price tag, Optoma's 1600 lumens HD30 is nigh-on unbeatable, excelling on everything from Blu-ray to next-gen consoles.

Colours are deep, details pin-sharp and a 25,000:1 dynamic range translates to plunging, nuanced blacks. There's no DLP rainbow fringing evident either. Heck, even 3D looks decent. The white cabinetry with silver grey accents is easy on the eye, too, but this slickness is a tad undermined by a clunky interface. Still, we're in a forgiving mood: the HD30 is a barnstormer.

T3 SAYS **Breathtaking 1080p and VFM make this very hard to resist**

{FOCUS}

GAMES TO SHARPEN YOUR SETUP

Killzone: Shadow Fall
Sony's next-gen shooter is filled with stunning sci-fi vistas, striking light effects and action set pieces best viewed big.
£40, OUT NOW ON PS4

Thief
This steampunk steal-'em-up's gameplay may be divisive, but its beautiful graphics deserve the very best visual tech.
FROM £28, OUT NOW ON PS4, PS3, XBOX ONE, XBOX 360 AND PC

Ryse: Son of Rome
The combat in this sword and sandals hack 'n' slash is a little rusty, but the killer visuals are a test for any system.
£34.97, OUT NOW ON XBOX ONE

MAD CATZ
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The brand new F.R.E.Q.3 Stereo Gaming Headset delivers winning performance, time after time. Battle-proven on the biggest international stages, the isolation, clarity and the rugged build are without equal in their class - Available alongside the full range of Mad Catz PC Gaming accessories at a PC World near you.
Currys PC World
www.madcatz.com / #allaboutthegame

ILLUSTRATION **LUKE O'NEILL**

Don't hate the player

WITH THEIR WEB CONNECTIONS AND SMART APPS, THESE SET-TOPS OFFER MORE THAN JUST BLU-RAY. BUT THEY'RE PRETTY GOOD AT THAT, TOO

The Blu-ray player has had to evolve to fend off entertainment attacks from consoles and TVs themselves as they get ever smarter. Apps, film streaming, catch-up telly and Wi-Fi for mirroring your PC and mobile are the rather agreeable results.

What else do these decks do? Oh yeah, they play 2D and 3D Blu-rays, too, with some even upscaling the discs' full-HD video to 4K. Priced in the much-sought-after £100 to £225 bracket, these IQ boosts for your TV or projector are thoroughly affordable to boot...

➜

{CONTENDERS}
And in the Blu corner...

PIONEER BDP-450 £225

TOSHIBA BDX5400KB £100

SAMSUNG BD-F7500 £220

SONY BDP-S5100 £150

PANASONIC BDX5400KB £200

PIONEER BDP-450

£225, PIONEER.EU

{SPECIFICATION}
SMART TV Picasa, YouTube
VIDEO Up to 1080p 2D & 3D
CONNECTIVITY
Ethernet, coaxial digital, 2x HDMI, 2x USB
AUDIO DECODING
Dolby TrueHD, DTS-HD MA
MEDIA STREAMING DLNA

{DIMENSIONS}

HEIGHT 90mm
WIDTH 435mm
DEPTH 252mm
WEIGHT 2.7kg

{DETAILS}

1 **VIBRATION BEGONE**
Feet lift and isolate the deck for accurate playback

2 **AUDIOPHILE HEAVEN**
Super Audio CD and DVD-Audio! Alas, no 7.1

3 **USB UP FRONT**
And there's another 'round the back, too, to cater for media on external drives

4 **REMOTE**
You're better off using Pioneer's mobile app

Ironclad deck goes back to basics with fair-to-middling results

Pioneer's all-metal player looks like it could crush its puny plastic rivals, but the truth is there's very little inside that steel casing: this is a stripped-down machine.

It feels well made with a sturdy chassis and vibration-absorbing feet intended to improve performance by spinning discs more smoothly. Completing its audiophile credentials, there's Super Audio CD and DVD-Audio playback, too. If you can find these vanishing formats, you're in for a treat because this deck makes a fine musical source, and stereo and multichannel sound both benefit from its open and expressive qualities. There's no 7.1 analogue output, though, so you'll need to utilise one of the two HDMI ports to hear it all at its best.

Clearly aimed at the old-school hardcore who have no need of networking fripperies, this is without Wi-Fi – it's Ethernet only – and just a few key apps such as YouTube and Picasa.

As long as your router has Wi-Fi, you can at least control nearly all the BDP-450's functions via a slick mobile app for iOS and Android, though. That's a plus, as it means you can ditch the clumsy and none-too-responsive remote that comes in the box. The onscreen interface is no great shakes, either.

But while it may lack extras, Blu-ray images are refreshingly natural and realistic. The bright reds of F1 film *Rush* stand out, without looking artificially dialed up. There's an element of video noise around the moving cars during the more frenetic scenes, but no serious motion problems. The 3D footage in *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey* is similarly believable.

So the Pioneer scores where it really counts, with its picture and sound skills offering reassuring quality. But with few smart features and no 4K, this hulking deck looks a little dated alongside the feature-packed, future-resistant players that follow.

{CONTENT}
Rush
With vibrant racing reds and fast moving images, this could trip up a player with slow video processing, but not our Pioneer. The reckless rivalry plays out in spectacular fashion.
£13, FACEBOOK.COM/RUSHMOVIE

LOVE Natural, jitter-free Blu-ray images and great audio. Vibration-damping feet and steely carapace
HATE No Wi-Fi or catch-up TV. The unsophisticated interface and clumsy remote annoy
T3 SAYS **Classic deck that delivers a decent picture and a highly musical sonic performance, but not much else. One for old-school heads only**

WWW FOR MORE BLU-RAY PLAYER REVIEWS GO TO T3.COM

SAMSUNG BD-F7500

£220, SAMSUNG.COM/UK

{SPECIFICATION}
SMART TV Smart Hub
VIDEO Up to 4K 2D, 1080p 3D
CONNECTIVITY
Wi-Fi, Ethernet, optical digital, 2x HDMI, 7.1 analogue, USB
AUDIO DECODING
Dolby TrueHD, DTS-HD MA
MEDIA STREAMING
Anynet+, AllShare, Wi-Fi Direct

{DIMENSIONS}

HEIGHT 46mm
WIDTH 430mm
DEPTH 201mm
WEIGHT 1.7kg

{DETAILS}

1 **IT'S A WRAP**
A band of brushed steel protects the top-end player

2 **KEYS TO THE KINGDOM**
Top-down, touch-sensitive control for those times the remote is in hiding

3 **AUDIO FEST**
There's 7.1 analogue, HDMI and optical digital out back

4 **REMOTE**
Luminous buttons aid night-time location

A really great smart TV upgrade disguised as a good Blu-ray player

Samsung has, frankly, thrown everything at this handsome flagship Blu-ray player, loading it with every feature you could possibly need (and a few that you probably won't). It certainly looks great on paper, thanks to a nippy dualcore processor and is pretty damn fine in the flesh, courtesy of a brushed steel exterior and slick, snappy user interface.

Perhaps most impressively, it doesn't just upscale SD to HD, it boosts HD to near-4K – so now there's no reason not to shell out on that next-gen telly. Less flashy but arguably more useful is the plethora of apps on offer here, and the intuitive UI that helps you access them. All the catch-up TV and on-demand services we could think of are here in handy app form; if not pre-installed, they're free to download. There are literally hundreds more weather, social networking and news apps on hand to decorate the Smart Hub home page with.

You also get a decent fistful of AV connections, with two HDMI ports and 7.1 analogue outputs alongside optical digital audio. Overkill perhaps, but Samsung is keen to leave nothing out of its top-end deck. Disc loading times have long been a bugbear of Blu-ray, though, and this is no faster than average, taking 28 seconds from opening the disc tray to an onscreen image.

More surprisingly, video is marred by noise. It's just a slight background graininess and the occasional flicker, but it's enough to hand the advantage to the incoming Sony and Panasonic. Some might prefer the Samsung's bolder colours; we found the bright tones unnatural, but you can adjust these parameters in the settings menu. Sonically it's a similar story, with the Samsung a little forward in the treble and heavy in the bass.

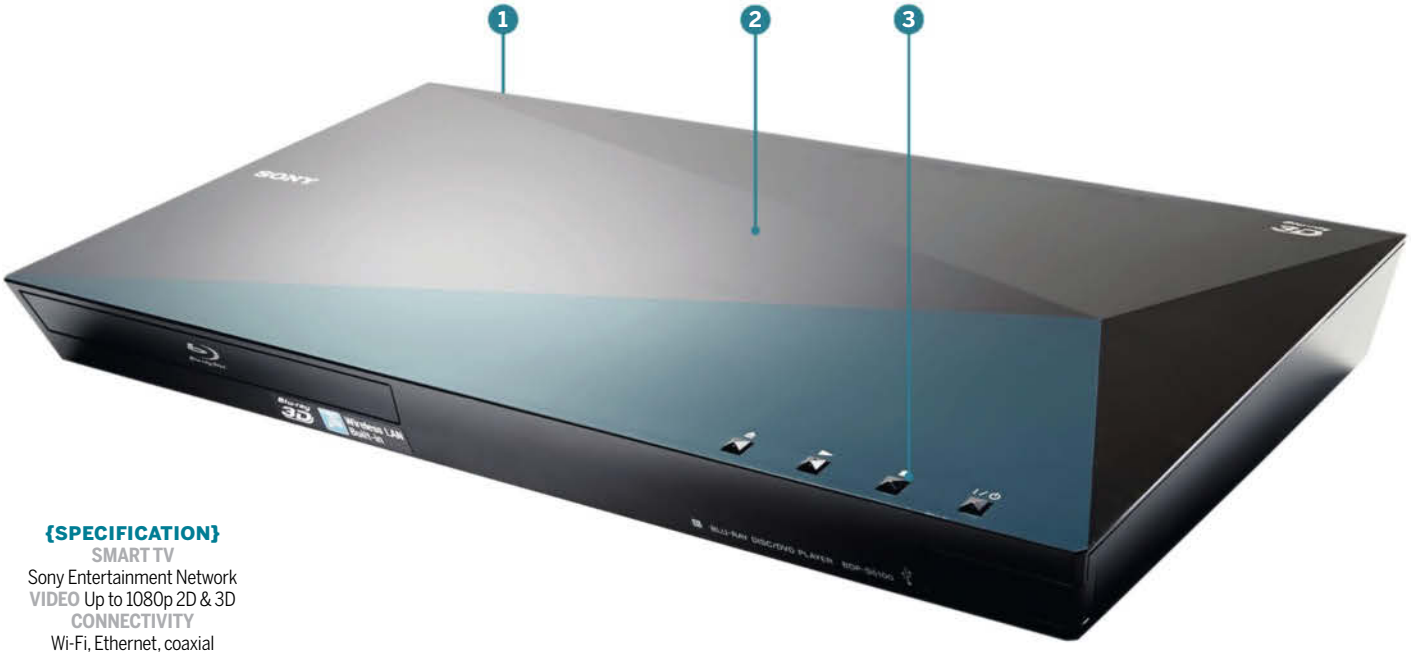
It all adds up to a deck that, like a puppy or the Chuckle Brothers, is eager to please but lacks a certain refinement.

{CONTENT}
Game Of Thrones 1-3
The warring kingdoms of Westeros battle it out and the blood flows redder thanks to Samsung's extra bold colour processing.
£55, HBO.COM/GAME-OF-THRONES

LOVE Apps galore, with a full complement of catch-up TV services offered. Comprehensive connectivity. Speedy menu navigation
HATE Many of the apps are fillers. Some video noise and judder mars the image. Closed-in soundstage
T3 SAYS **Blu-ray playback isn't bad, but it's the smart extras that steal the show here**

SONY BDP-S5100

£150, SONY.CO.UK



{SPECIFICATION}
SMART TV
Sony Entertainment Network
VIDEO Up to 1080p 2D & 3D
CONNECTIVITY
Wi-Fi, Ethernet, coaxial digital, HDMI, 2x USB
AUDIO DECODING
Dolby TrueHD, DTS-HD MA
MEDIA STREAMING DLNA

{DIMENSIONS}

HEIGHT 43mm
WIDTH 360mm
DEPTH 199mm
WEIGHT 1.3kg

{DETAILS}

1 PLUG AND PLAY
The single HDMI port could limit your options, though

2 ANGLE, POISE
The diamond-shaped body continues Sony's "Sense of quartz" design concept

3 PORTS APLENTY
USBs front and rear, again, for plugging in "media"

4 REMOTE
It takes mere moments to get to grips with this

Great visuals, once you get past the "interesting" outer casing

Even if this deck's tinted, angular bodywork doesn't float your boat, its features are worth your attention. In addition to 3D playback and conversion, there's a wealth of free online content, piped in via Wi-Fi. The only notable miss is no 4K upscaling, but then if you can afford a 4K TV, you're probably not interested in mid-range players like this. Oh, and there's Super Audio CD compatibility – score.

The, ahem "Sense of Quartz" design philosophy that runs through Sony's current home cinema components means you can forget about stacking anything on top of the sloping surface. Still, its angular geometrics look sharp in their own way and Blu-rays offer similarly crisp edges, with bold colours.

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey beguiles in 3D, with a depth and accuracy that makes objects in the foreground appear solid, and the background stable and unaffected by grain or flicker. Blu-rays in 2D also look grand, and DVDs are smartly upscaled, despite some distortion around the edges of moving images.

Sonically, the Sony impresses, with crisply decoded DTS HD Master Audio via its single HDMI port; shame there 's only one, though. In other respects the Sony is well connected with wide video-format support via USB and, for serious cable-phobics, DLNA over Wi-Fi.

Extra viewing material comes courtesy of Sony Entertainment Network, with its wealth of apps and Sony's own films in SD and HD, plus the usual on-demand content.

The onscreen menu is the now familiar Sony XMB cross bar, which cleverly puts all of the options on a single screen, so you don't have to scroll through pages of options to find what you're looking for. Completing this deck's all round appeal is a free mobile app, available for iOS and Android devices, that looks very slick indeed on a tablet. A quartz-themed diamond, in short.

{CONTENT}
Gravity 3D
With its wholly convincing 3D, the Sony deck is ideal for sending Bullock and Clooney bouncing slowly through space and hence your living room.
£17, GRAVITYMOVIE.WARNERBROS.COM

LOVE Vivid Blu-ray images and smooth upscaling from DVD. A useful assortment of apps and features
HATE The single HDMI port could be limiting. 2D to 3D conversion is unconvincing. Aesthetically divisive
T3 SAYS **The "distinctive" design houses an impressive Blu-ray spinner that serves up striking 3D visuals and cinematic sound**

★★★★★

WWW FOR MORE BLU-RAY PLAYER REVIEWS GO TO T3.COM

TOSHIBA BDX5400KB

£100, TOSHIBA.CO.UK

{SPECIFICATION}
SMART TV Cloud TV apps
VIDEO Up to 1080p 2D & 3D
CONNECTIVITY
Wi-Fi, Ethernet, coaxial digital, HDMI, USB
AUDIO DECODING
Dolby TrueHD, DTS-HD MA
MEDIA STREAMING
DLNA, Miracast

{DIMENSIONS}

HEIGHT 36mm
WIDTH 290mm
DEPTH 180mm
WEIGHT 0.9kg

{DETAILS}

1 **SMALL FRY**
Pleasingly compact but doesn't stint on features

2 **BACKLIT BUTTONS**
Invisible until the power is switched on, cunningly

3 **USB GOES SOLO**
But handily it reads almost any media you throw at it

4 **REMOTE**
A right handful littered with inessential buttons

Cute, low-cost player offers value-for-money performance

Toshiba's Blu-ray biscuit tin may be small, but it leaves nothing out. Aside from 4K upscaling, which as noted seems irrelevant at this price anyway, all the boxes are ticked. There's 3D, USB media-sucking and Wi-Fi with DLNA, so you can access further video, photos and tunes from your network's devices.

The Cloud TV app portal doesn't offer as much choice as Samsung, Sony or Panasonic, but the core stuff is here from content providers, such as Skype and Facebook. In fact, signing in with your Facebook ID saves a lot of tedious typing with the remote and provides a handy social news feed; just remember to politely decline to allow Toshiba to contact friends "on your behalf".

Saving time is a key factor, because this deck is slow, lagging behind rivals whether you're loading a disc or opening an app. Throw too many demands at the processor and the whole thing crashes – that's what happened to us anyway; maybe we're just too demanding.

Playing a Blu-ray comes more naturally, though, with no serious problems. However, if you look hard and you will notice some background noise; colours are a little muted and it lacks the punchy whites and dynamic spectrum of the more expensive machines on test.

Upscaling DVD is handled more clumsily, too, causing moving objects such as cars to smudge around the edges. As a CD player it performs a little better, with track names pulled from an online database to remind you what's on, and the quality in stereo is fine. Multichannel soundtracks, however, sound slightly more brittle.

This definitely meets the requirements of the "smart" category and is dirt cheap. Is the overall experience fantastic? Not on your nelly. But the Blu-ray playback is acceptable and the connectivity good enough for less demanding viewers or as a second-room telly solution.

{CONTENT}
Captain Phillips
As tension mounts aboard the Maersk Alabama, the Toshiba reveals all the gritty detail of the vessel and Tom Hanks' wizened visage. Strong audio, too.
£13, CAPTAINPHILLIPSMOVIE.COM

LOVE Conveniently compact. Facebook integration. Passable visuals. A smattering of useful apps
HATE Sluggish disc mechanism and even slower online access. Messy DVD upscaling
T3 SAYS **A modest player offering crisp-enough Blu-ray pictures. The slowness of it does grate at times but, come on, it's only 100 notes**

★★★☆☆

PANASONIC DMP-BDT330

£200, PANASONIC.CO.UK

T3 TEST WINNER

T3 ★★★★★

{SPECIFICATION}

SMART TV Viera Connect
VIDEO Up to 4K 2D, 1080p 3D
CONNECTIVITY Wi-Fi, Ethernet, optical digital, 2x HDMI, SD Card, 2x USB
AUDIO DECODING Dolby TrueHD, DTS-HD MA
MEDIA STREAMING DLNA, Mediacast

{DIMENSIONS}

HEIGHT 41mm
WIDTH 430mm
DEPTH 181mm
WEIGHT 1.6kg

{DETAILS}

1 **PLAY YOUR CARD RIGHT**
SD card slots are rare on Blu-rays but a real bonus here for camera users

2 **"AH, *THERE* THEY ARE!"**
The controls and disc tray are behind this panel

3 **"ER... BUTTONS?"**
This polished plastic box is the king of minimalism

4 **REMOTE**
Netflix button is useful as a shortcut to the app menu

Great 4K upscaling tops off this top-drawer HD box of tricks

Preparing you for the Ultra High Definition dawn, this forward-thinking player can upscale Blu-ray movies four-fold to 4K resolution. Not got a 4K TV yet? It's okay, Panasonic has more tech treats hidden behind that mirrored fascia.

Blu-ray playback is as good as you'll get on a mid-range machine like this, with 3D content faring especially well. The lavish extended Blu-ray release of *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey* unfurls before you with remarkable depth and detail. This deck achieves a particularly vibrant and realistic colour palette, too, whether with 3D films or the adrenaline-rush of, er, *Rush* on boring old 2D Blu-ray. DVDs are also upscaled very smoothly to give a less smudgy appearance on your HD telly.

After apps? From the crisp home page, you'll find a whole host of pre-loaded ones: the usual BBC iPlayer, Netflix et al, with the latter having a dedicated button on the remote, for some corporate synergy reason or other. Samsung and Sony offer even better connected extras, but this is very solid.

There are some slightly luxe touches as well. With two HDMI ports you're free to send a 3D picture direct to your TV, while a decoded 7.1 DTS HD Master Audio soundtrack feeds your AV receiver. This is good news for anyone with an older amp whose HDMI ports cannot handle both data streams at the same time.

There's wireless DLNA compliance, twin USB ports to cram in yet more media, and a zippy interface that lets you access all your files fairly quickly, albeit with a fair few button presses. It's also the only device on test with an SD port, warming the cockles of digital camera enthusiasts everywhere.

In short, this Blu-ray player is an all-rounder that sets a formidable benchmark for others to follow – and it's future-proofed to boot. If only the user interface were a little friendlier, it'd be pretty much perfect.

{CONTENT}

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey

Let Panasonic's highly lifelike 3D pictures transport you to Middle Earth for dwarf banter and laboured CGI fighting.
£18, THEHOBBIT.COM

LOVE Vibrant colours and striking detail. Snappy app access. Handy SD card slot. Luxe extras
HATE Convoluted interface
T3 SAYS **A future-proof Blu-ray player with cracking picture quality, 4K upscaling and all the trimmings. It's a steal**

T3 ★★★★★

WWW FOR MORE BLU-RAY PLAYER REVIEWS GO TO T3.COM

SPEC SHOT

MAKE AND MODEL	PIONEER BDP-450	SAMSUNG BD-F7500	SONY BDP-S5100	TOSHIBA BDX5400KB	PANASONIC DMP-BDT330
PRICE, URL	£225, PIONEER.EU	£220, SAMSUNG.COM/UK	£150, SONY.CO.UK	£100 TOSHIBA.CO.UK	£200, PANASONIC.CO.UK
SMART TV	Picasa, YouTube	Smart Hub	Sony Entertainment Network	Cloud TV	Viera Connect
VIDEO	Up to 1080p 2D and 3D	Up to 4K 2D, 1080p 3D	Up to 1080p 2D and 3D	Up to 1080p 2D and 3D	Up to 4K 2D, 1080p 3D
CONNECTIVITY	Ethernet, coaxial digital, 2x HDMI, 2x USB	Wi-Fi, Ethernet, optical digital, 2x HDMI, 7.1 analogue, USB	Wi-Fi, Ethernet, coaxial digital, HDMI, 2x USB	Wi-Fi, Ethernet, coaxial digital, HDMI, USB	Wi-Fi, Ethernet, optical digital, 2x HDMI, SD Card, 2x USB
AUDIO DECODING	Dolby TrueHD, DTS-HD MA	Dolby TrueHD, DTS-HD MA	Dolby TrueHD, DTS-HD MA	Dolby TrueHD, DTS-HD MA	Dolby TrueHD, DTS-HD MA
MEDIA STREAMING	DLNA	Anynet+, AllShare, Wi-Fi Direct	DLNA	DLNA, Miracast	DLNA, Mediacast
DIMENSIONS	435x252x90mm/2.7kg	430x201x46mm/1.7kg	360x199x43mm/1.3kg	290x180x36mm/0.9kg	430x181x41mm/1.6kg
LOVE	Natural, jitter-free Blu-ray images and great audio. Vibration-damping feet and a steely carapace	Apps galore, with a full complement of catch-up TV services. Comprehensive connectivity. Speedy menu	Vivid Blu-ray images and smooth upscaling from DVD. A useful assortment of apps and features	Conveniently compact. Facebook integration. Passable visuals. A smattering of handy apps	Vibrant colours and striking detail with 3D, 2D and even DVD. Snappy app access. Good connectivity
HATE	No Wi-Fi or catch-up TV. The unsophisticated interface and clumsy remote annoy	Some filler apps. A smidge of video noise and judder mars images. Closed-in soundstage	Single HDMI could limit you. Unconvincing 2D to 3D conversion. Aesthetic iffiness	Sluggish disc mechanism and even slower online access. Messy DVD upscaling	Convoluted interface. The Netflix button on the remote is of questionable usefulness
T3 SAYS	Classic deck delivers a decent picture and a highly musical sonic performance, but not very much else	Blu-ray playback isn't bad, but the connected extras steal the show here. Great if your TV lacks "smartness"	"Distinctive" design houses a diamond of a Blu-ray spinner with striking 3D visuals and cinematic sound	A modest player offering crisp-enough pictures. The slowness grates at times but, come on, it's only 100 notes	A future-proof player with cracking picture quality, 4K scaling and all the trimmings. King of the mid-range decks
RATING	★★★☆☆	★★★★☆	★★★★☆	★★★☆☆	★★★★★

{WHY TO BUY}

Eight reasons to put all hands on our winning deck

1
Picture quality – above all else, you're buying into Blu-ray for its superior images. This deck achieves depth, detail and solid black levels that its rivals cannot match.

2
Connectivity – two HDMI ports are better than one, especially if your old AV amp lacks HDMI 1.4 switching and can't cope with 3D video and DTS-HD Master Audio at once.

3
Solid sound – nothing comes close to Blu-ray's lossless multichannel soundtracks. Now, all of the decks on test can decode Dolby TrueHD and DTS HD Master Audio mixes, but the Panasonic sounds the most dynamic of the lot.

4
Smart features – the suite of apps and media streaming abilities here will genuinely enhance your viewing pleasure. If you lack a smart TV, console or set-top box, it's another great reason to buy the Panasonic. You don't lack one? Well, not so much, then.

5
Easy operation – some players become bogged down by their bloated feature list. Not so the Panasonic, which has a relatively intuitive interface and also offers brisk disc loading times.

6
4K upscaling – really want to buy a 4K TV before there's anything to watch on it? Admittedly, 4K TVs all upscale anyway, but this deck's scaler may prove more intelligent at guessing where all those extra pixels should sit.

7
SD Card port – Wi-Fi is slicker, but SD is quicker if you want to admire your photos on the big screen. Only Panasonic's deck has a slot for it.

8
VFM – it's not the priciest deck on test, and you do feel the benefit of cresting the £200 barrier over a real budget player.

{EXTRA}

Want to blow your Blu-ray budget?

ARCAM FMJ BDP300
Experts at wringing the last drop of detail from audio discs, Arcam's Blu-ray deck guarantees awesome sound quality.
£1,000, ARCAM.CO.UK

CAMBRIDGE AUDIO AZUR 752BD
This excellent BD player now has streaming services, so plays virtually any format with panache.
£800, CAMBRIDGEAUDIO.COM

MARANTZ UD7007
This high-end heavyweight uses its bulk to eliminate vibration while it reads your discs, so you see and hear all of the data.
£630, MARANTZ.CO.UK

THETA DIGITAL COMPLI BLU
Has audio to please the most fastidious hi-fi buff, with precision Blu-ray playback an added bonus.
£2,995, THETADIGITAL.COM

{FINAL WORD}

SO, WHICH SHADE OF BLU?

There's an elephant in this test room, a ghost at the feast, and it's the popularity of games consoles with Blu-ray drives already on board. But while you may be inclined to skim this test if you already own a PS3, PS4 or Xbox One, you should still check out our winner.

The Panasonic's stellar visuals, audio and added connectivity (external media files!) mean it's the only one worth considering as an upgrade to your console and one of the only mid-rangers to edge into the kind of obvious visual boost you get with high-end decks.

If you're not a console owner, however, all the players here have something to offer you. The Toshiba is cheap and easy on the eye in terms of both looks and video output. It can't really hold a candle to the rest of the players here, but it's easy to forgive at its meagre cost.

If you're also not a smart TV owner, Samsung's player serves up a great mix of web and home-network features and apps, then adds solid Blu-ray playback with 4K upscaling.

Sony's deck is even better, thanks to superior visuals and sound, no shortage of apps and entrance to the Sony Entertainment Network. It's particularly attractive if you like your lounge tech to have a pointy, angular look.

Finally, if you like your gadgets to have a certain old-fashioned heft, the polished video and metallic casing of the Pioneer may turn your eye. In our view it's the weakest machine here, but it's by no means poor and its sheer weight means it could be used to stun an intruder in an emergency situation. Just make sure it's "reasonable force", okay?

Stars of film and TV

FORGET THE OSCARS, THE BATTLE FOR ON-DEMAND SUPREMACY IS 2014'S MAIN FEATURE...

	NETFLIX £5.99 PER MONTH, NETFLIX.CO.UK	AMAZON PRIME INSTANT VIDEO £5.99 PER MONTH OR £79 PER YEAR (INCLUDING AMAZON PRIME), AMAZON.CO.UK
SPECIFICATION	MINIMUM WEB SPEED 1.5mbps (5mbps for HD) CONTENT "Thousands of hours" ORIGINAL SHOWS Yes COMPATIBILITY Mac, PC, iOS, Android, Win 8, PS4, PS3, X1, X360, Wii, Wii U, Apple TV, Roku, most set-tops/TVs	MINIMUM WEB SPEED 2Mbps CONTENT Over 15,000 films and TV shows ORIGINAL SHOWS Yes COMPATIBILITY Mac, PC, iOS, Kindle Fire, PS4, PS3, X1, X360, Wii, Wii U, Roku, some Blu-ray players/set-tops/TVs
STREAMING	Netflix's Auto mode adapts the streaming data rate to match your bandwidth. The result is consistent and smooth playback. If you want to stream in HD you will need at least a 5mbps connection – good preparation for when 4K hits Netflix before the end of 2014.	Formerly Lovefilm Instant, Amazon Prime Instant Video now offers HD as well as standard-def streaming, with speedy buffering and smooth pictures. Amazon's "Whispersync" sounds swish, but it just lets you sync seamlessly between multiple devices a la Netflix.
COMPATIBILITY	Supported on one of the widest ranges of devices, with a reliably similar interface and good search function across them all. Content is synced seamlessly between devices, too, so you can start watching on a TV and switch to a tablet or smartphone.	You can watch on iOS devices or Amazon's own Kindle Fire tablets, but Android users are left out in the cold. The interface differs slightly between devices, but has been cleaned up and simplified across the board – a necessity as Lovefilm Instant was a bit of a mess.
CONTENT	Netflix has more than doubled the content available at its 2012 launch and impresses with its own hit shows, like *House of Cards*. Nabbing exclusive access to the final season of *Breaking Bad* was a boon, too, but there's still work to be done on the film choice, though.	A good selection, including its own *Vikings* and *Alpha House*, if no *House of Cards*. Newer titles require you to pay extra on top of your subscription. A 30-day rental (you have 48 hours from the minute you press play) will set you back £2.49, or buy it for £3.99.
T3 VERDICT	LOVE Simple interface and excellent syncing across devices. Genuinely great TV options, original content and exclusives HATE Limited film selection with few recent blockbusters T3 SAYS **A fantastic on-demand service with superb TV offerings, but seriously in need of more blockbusters**	LOVE Good selection of TV. Better film selection than Netflix HATE The pricing structure, including a subscription and extra payments on top, is confusing. No Android support T3 SAYS **Amazon's given Lovefilm Instant a much-needed facelift. Great content, but the cost can soon add up**
RATING	T3 ★★★★☆	T3 ★★★★☆

WORDS **LIBBY PLUMMER** PHOTOGRAPHY **NEIL GODWIN**

BLINKBOX

NO SUBSCRIPTION (RENT MOVIES £3.49, £10.99 IN HD), BLINKBOX.COM

MINIMUM WEB SPEED 2.25Mbps **CONTENT** Over 20,000 **ORIGINAL SHOWS** No **COMPATIBILITY** Mac, PC, iOS, Android, Win 8, PS3, X360, some Blu-ray players/set-tops/TVs

You need a basic 2.25Mbps connection for standard def, boosting that to 5Mbps if you want HD. Keep to those rules and images often look soft and pixellated anyway. The number of HD titles is expanding, hopefully the quality of streaming will follow.

The interface is incredibly simple, almost to the point of being a bit too pared down. It works across multiple devices, but the tablet app is merely a portal for watching the stuff you've already bought or rented; you can't even browse the store from it.

Rent a title and you have it for 30 days (48 hours once you press play). Buy it, and it's yours to view on up to five devices – although, weirdly, it can only be streamed not downloaded, so you will need a web connection to watch it. Still, plenty of big blockbuster movies.

LOVE Good selection of new blockbusters. No subscription
HATE Buffering issues.Picture quality isn't great. Bought content can't be downloaded, only streamed. App interface overly basic
T3 SAYS **Offers blockbuster movies before most subscription services, but quality is so poor at present we'd suggest waiting**

★★☆☆☆

NOW TV

£4.99 A MONTH (ENTERTAINMENT), £8.99 A MONTH (SKY MOVIES), £9.99 A DAY (SKY SPORTS), NOWTV.COM

MINIMUM WEB SPEED 2Mbps **CONTENT** Over 800 movies **ORIGINAL SHOWS** Yes **COMPATIBILITY** Mac, PC, iOS, Android, PS3, X360, Apple TV, YouView, Roku, some Blu-ray players/set-tops/TVs

All content currently streams at a maximum of 720p. Even with that lower picture quality we still experienced issues, with a few films and TV shows freezing during buffering and sometimes even randomly rewinding – hopefully a comprehensive fix is coming soon.

Now TV works on most platforms and you can register up to four devices, watching on two at the same time using a single account – perfect for families that can't agree on a film. The interface looks good, but is a little clunky with a weak search function.

The Sky Movie pass grants access to a small but curated selection of films, while the Entertainment pass is worth it for Sky Atlantic alone, which includes *Girls* and *True Detective*. You can watch live or via catch-up. The Sky Sports day pass is pricey, but handy for big events.

LOVE Great TV content. The £10 Now TV box includes access to all of the above, plus BBC iPlayer and 4OD
HATE Small movie selection. Poor search function. Buffering issues
T3 SAYS **Useful pick-and-mix style way to access Sky's abundant content. More films and less buffering, though, please**

★★★☆☆

{DETAILS}

1 **SCREEN** The 12.2-inch screen's 1600x2560 resolution is sharp and there's enough space for multitasking

2 **S-PEN** Slip this stylus out of its home in the back of the Note Pro 12.2 to scribble notes and annotate PDFs

3 **DESIGN** The fake leather back with stitching detail isn't our idea of an executive look. It does aid grip, though

Need a bigger tab?

SAMSUNG'S NOTE PRO 12.2 UPS THE SCREEN SIZE FOR CREATIVE PROS, DEMANDING WORKAHOLICS, MULTITASKERS, AND MAYBE YOU

Bigger can be better, if you're looking for the power and the space to run multiple apps at once, but will the Note Pro 12.2 really be a hit in the workplace?

The 12.2-inch, 1600x2560 resolution screen will certainly attract attention in meetings, with real depth of colour and brilliantly crisp text. The Android OS, KitKat, is also onboard, although it's been dressed in Samsung's TouchWiz UI, which is starting to show its age.

Adding a touch of modern spice to that interface, though, is the new Magazine UX. It's a cross between Flipboard and HTC's Blinkfeed, with a nice Windows 8-style tile-based look, but you're restricted to using Samsung's own limited selection of apps.

Multitasking between those apps is seamless, though – you can have up to four open simultaneously, choosing how much screen space each one occupies (even if they don't all resize properly). The reason for those slick multitasking abilities? Not one but two quadcore processors: the first, at 1.9GHz, deals with demanding tasks while the second, at 1.3GHz, concerns itself with the mundane stuff. It's this division of labour that allows the Pro 12.2 to boast a 13-hour battery life.

This is undoubtedly a powerful tablet and will find an audience, but we're not convinced that a bigger screen actually makes for a more productive you; a more cash-poor you with less space in your bag, perhaps.

£649 (32GB), SAMSUNG.COM/UK

LOVE Bright, big-screened display. Plenty of storage and long battery life. S-Pen and accompanying apps
HATE Touchwiz interface. Limited app choice
T3 SAYS **That 12.2-inch screen looks fantastic, but unless you really need to go large, there's little other incentive for paying more**

{SAMSUNG NOTE PRO 12.2}
POINTS OF INTEREST

{SPECIFICATIONS}

OS Android 4.4
SCREEN 12.2-inch, 1600x2560 LCD
PROCESSOR Octa-core (1.9GHz quadcore + 1.3GHz quadcore)/3GB
STORAGE 32GB
FRONT CAM 2-meg/1080p
REAR CAM 8-meg/1080p
CONNECTIONS USB 3.0, Bluetooth 4.0, N Wi-Fi
BATTERY LIFE 13 hours

{DIMENSIONS}

DIMENSIONS 204x295x8mm
WEIGHT 750g

{FOCUS}
Rough guide to Samsung slates

Pop quiz: do you know the difference between Samsung's Note Pro 12.2 and the similarly named Tab Pro 12.2? It's small, but crucial. No, you give up? Only the Note Pro 12.2 has a built-in S Pen; elsewhere, they are exactly the same: same processor, screen resolution and software. With so many Samsung tablets on the market, it's easy to get confused.

So here's a few helpful pointers: anything with Note in the name has an S Pen – for note-taking, see? Likewise, any tablet with Pro in its monicker guarantees you access to Samsung's new multitasking-friendly Magazine UX. Looking purely for a cheap slate option? The Galaxy Tab 3's for you.

WORDS **MAX PARKER**

TOMTOM GO 6000

£300, TOMTOM.COM

With smartphone mapping apps helping you from A to B, is there still a market out there for dedicated satnavs? With the Go 6000, TomTom proves that there is – as long as they offer more than ever before...

{SPECIFICATIONS}
SCREEN 6-inch, 800x480
CONNECTIVITY MicroSD
MAPS 45 EU countries
UPDATES Free for life (up to four countries per year)
LIVE TRAFFIC DATA Free for life across 25 countries
BATTERY LIFE 2 hours
DIMENSIONS 169x105x20mm/292g

Design-wise, there's very little change here. The Go 6000 is still a chunky device, but you're never going to use it outside of your motor, so who cares? The six-inch, 800x480 screen wouldn't cut the mustard for displaying HD videos, but is perfectly up to the task of showing a truckload of easy-to-follow maps, in both 2D and 3D.

There is a data connection, but it's there for essential chores like updating live traffic info and checking for speed cameras in your area, not updating Twitter. Live traffic data is free, forever – no catch – but if you want speed camera data past the three-month free trial it will cost you a nominal £19.99 a year.

With a newly de-cluttered interface and TomTom's signature accurate mapping, covering 45 European countries, this wisely concentrates on driving essentials. It's pricey and lacks some of the more creative features you'd find on apps, but by the fourth hour of that road trip we're sure you'll appreciate its straightforward approach.

LOVE Cleaner, quicker new interface. Responsive touchscreen. TomTom's reliable accuracy and mapping excellence
HATE It's a bit pricey. Premium charged for speed camera data
T3 SAYS **TomTom's delivered its best satnav yet. If you travel regularly, this is a more reliable option than any app**

★★★★☆

FOR THE EXTENDED REVIEW HEAD TO T3.COM

PANASONIC TZ60

£350, PANASONIC.CO.UK

This travel snapper has been upgraded to business class, with a bigger zoom lens and premium-style manual controls.

{SPECIFICATIONS}
SENSOR 18.1-megapixel
SCREEN 3-inch, 920k-dot
ZOOM 30x
VIDEO 1080p at 50fps
CONNECTIONS N Wi-Fi, USB, microHDMI, AV, GPS/GLONASS
BATTERY LIFE 300 shots
DIMENSIONS 64x110x34mm/240g

The 18.1-megapixel MOS sensor at the heart of the TZ60 remains unchanged, but this time it comes with a new 30x zoom lens for picking out landmarks from afar.

There's no longer a rear touchscreen, but the 920K-dot, three-inch screen is bright and clear. An electronic viewfinder has been added and there's built-in Wi-Fi, but it's the customisable manual control ring, a feature that's filtered down from DSLRs and premium compacts, which impresses, letting you tweak settings, from ISO to white balance, on the fly.

Picture quality is excellent for a compact, with extremely realistic colour reproduction, especially on skin tones. There are plenty of artistic filters on hand to jazz up snaps and a new range of composition guides that offer a little more than the classic "rule of thirds" advice.

The full-HD recording is especially effective thanks to the hybrid image stabilisation, which even works when zooming. The new level shot function will straighten up your videos, too.

It's not the perfect compact camera, but it's attractively priced and holiday-ready.

LOVE Excellent picture quality. Manual control ring is excellent. Larger zoom lens
HATE No touchscreen. Wi-Fi setup could be easier
T3 SAYS **A first-class travel camera at a premium economy price. Certainly not excess baggage...**

★★★★☆

FOR THE EXTENDED REVIEW HEAD TO T3.COM

WORDS **JEREMY LAIRD** AND **LIBBY PLUMMER**

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T3 TheGuide

{THE BEST OF EVERYTHING}

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Top tens THE place to start researching your next gadget-buying jaunt. For an even more up-to-the-minute snapshot of our latest wish lists, check out t3.com/best-gadgets.
Scores The products featured in The Guide are reassessed regularly against what's new, hip and happening. As a result, we will re-rate older products to reflect the current market.
Prices We scour the web for the best prices we can find at trusted retailers. Even so, check the most up-to-date deals before getting out your Solo, Access or Diner's Club card.

AVAILABLE ONLINE @ T3.COM THE ULTIMATE BUYER'S GUIDE

Smartphones

{BUYING TIPS}

Phablets that punch their weight

1
SAMSUNG GALAXY NOTE 3
An array of clever, stylus-focused extras give this 5.7-incher the edge.
£470, SAMSUNG.COM/UK

2
SONY XPERIA Z ULTRA
A stellar 6.4-inch screen, a mighty fine camera and impressive slimness.
£460, SONYMOBILE.COM

3
LG G FLEX
A slightly curved variant on the phablet theme, with six inches of screen girth.
£590, LG.COM/UK

4
NOKIA 1520
Hulking yet sexy slab carries the Windows Phone flag in its enlarged fist. Fast, apart from the camera.
£400, NOKIA.CO.UK

01

APPLE iPHONE 5S

FROM £549, APPLE.COM/UK, TESTED DECEMBER 2013

LOVE Powerful processor. Slick iOS 7. Looks premium, even in gold. Touch ID. One of the best smartphone cameras around
HATE Pricing on higher-storage models is crazy
T3 SAYS **The innovations and improvements here justify the price gap over Android rivals – just about – for now**

SPECIFICATIONS
PROCESSOR A7 SCREEN 4-inch, 1136x640
CAMERA 8-meg/1080p STORAGE 16GB, 32GB or 64GB

02

GOOGLE NEXUS 5

FROM £229, GOOGLE.CO.UK, TESTED JANUARY 2014

LOVE Incredible 1080p display. Android KitKat operating system. Staggeringly affordable price tag
HATE Average camera. No 64GB option
T3 SAYS **The best ever Nexus phone is a top Android blower, offering a heck of a lot for not much dosh**

SPECIFICATIONS
PROCESSOR 2.3GHz quadcore SCREEN 4.95-inch, 1920x1080
CAMERA 8-meg/1080p STORAGE 16GB or 32GB

03

HTC ONE

£485, HTC.COM, TESTED JUNE 2013

LOVE Chic metallic design. A fantastic, innovative camera. Great audio, with front-facing speakers
HATE Average battery life. No expandable storage
T3 SAYS **A thing of beauty with brains to match. T3's Gadget of the Year 2013 and still a top Android**

SPECIFICATIONS
PROCESSOR 1.7GHz quadcore SCREEN 4.7-inch, 1920x1080
CAMERA 4-meg/1080p STORAGE 32GB or 64GB

04

SONY XPERIA Z1

£570, SONYMOBILE.COM, TESTED DECEMBER 2013

LOVE Powerful, stylish and well built. Superb camera and a large, high-quality screen. Oh, and it's waterproof to boot
HATE Too large and pricey for some, potentially
T3 SAYS **With awesome power in a slimline, sexy, water-shunning case, this is Sony's best smartphone ever**

SPECIFICATIONS
PROCESSOR 2.2GHz quadcore SCREEN 5-inch, 1920x1080
CAMERA 20.7-meg/1080p STORAGE 16GB, microSD

05

SAMSUNG GALAXY S4

£407, SAMSUNG.COM/UK, TESTED JULY 2013

LOVE Spectacular, high-resolution display. Cool gesture features. New camera tricks. Generally sound all round
HATE Bit plasticky. Some features are a tad gimmicky
T3 SAYS **Samsung's best smartphone yet, even if it's no longer quite the best Android money can buy**

SPECIFICATIONS
PROCESSOR 1.9GHz quadcore SCREEN 5-inch, 1920x1080
CAMERA 13-meg/1080p STORAGE 16GB, microSD

06

LG G2

£475, LG.COM/UK, TESTED CHRISTMAS 2013

LOVE Bright, detailed screen. Quadcore power
HATE Power/volume button on the back has dubious usefulness. Android isn't as slick on this LG phone
T3 SAYS **Offers a quadcore processor and top camera at a lower-than-average price**

SPECIFICATIONS
PROCESSOR 2.26GHz quadcore SCREEN 5.2-inch, 1920x1080
CAMERA 13-meg/1080p STORAGE 16GB or 32GB

07

SONY XPERIA Z1 COMPACT

FROM £450, SONYMOBILE.COM, TESTED APRIL 2014

LOVE Premium waterproof design, just like its big brother. Brilliant 4.3-inch display. Powerful processor
HATE Lack of Android 4.4. Sony's own interface feels dated
T3 SAYS **The scaled-down version of the Xperia Z1 loses very little of the original's appeal**

SPECIFICATIONS
PROCESSOR 2.2GHz quadcore SCREEN 4.3-inch, 1280x720
CAMERA 20.7-meg/1080p STORAGE 16GB, microSD

08

APPLE iPHONE 5C

FROM £469, APPLE.COM/UK, TESTED DECEMBER 2013

LOVE Improved camera and 4G capability. iOS 7 looks good, works well and continues to improve. Cute colours
HATE Not "cheap", as anticipated
T3 SAYS **It's the iPhone 5 with a coloured back, at a very slightly lower price – and there's not a lot wrong with that**

SPECIFICATIONS
PROCESSOR A6 SCREEN 4-inch, 1136x640
CAMERA 8-meg/1080p STORAGE 16GB or 32GB

09

MOTOROLA MOTO G

FROM £135, MOTOROLA.CO.UK, TESTED FEBRUARY

LOVE Brilliant 4.5-inch HD display. Google app suite is excellent. Stylish, sturdy build quality
HATE No 4G. Lacks storage, with no micro SD slot
T3 SAYS **Proof that innovation needn't mean a high price, this is comfortably the best budget smartphone**

SPECIFICATIONS
PROCESSOR 1.2GHz quadcore SCREEN 4.5-inch, 1280x720
CAMERA 5-meg/1080p STORAGE 8GB or 16GB

10

NOKIA LUMIA 925

£354, NOKIA.COM, TESTED SEPTEMBER 2013

LOVE A pared down, cool, stylish phone with a pared down, cool, stylish OS. Excellent camera
HATE WP8 still lacks apps. Battery could be better
T3 SAYS **Nokia's best Windows Phone to date. A few more apps and this would be a real contender**

SPECIFICATIONS
PROCESSOR 1.5GHz dualcore SCREEN 4.5-inch, 1280x720
CAMERA 8.7-meg/1080p STORAGE 16GB

AVAILABLE ONLINE @ T3.COM THE ULTIMATE BUYER'S GUIDE

Tablets

{BUYING TIPS}

E-readers deserving attention

1
AMAZON KINDLE PAPERWHITE
The best e-reader screen around, now backlit for late-night edification.
FROM £109, AMAZON.CO.UK

2
BARNES AND NOBLE NOOK GLOWLIGHT
Great, backlit screen. Book store rivals Amazon's.
£49, BARNESANDNOBLE.COM

3
AMAZON KINDLE
The cheaper, lighter Kindle with an improved screen is a nailed-on bargain.
£69, AMAZON.CO.UK

4
KOBO AURA
A top-quality e-ink screen with added touch control and backlighting. Easy Facebook/Twitter sharing.
£120, WHSMITH.CO.UK

01 APPLE IPAD MINI WITH RETINA

FROM £319, APPLE.COM/UK, TESTED JANUARY 2014

LOVE Retina screen. Speedy and sleek. More LTE bands and 128GB option. Best app store going. Perfect size for everyday use
HATE Touch ID would have been nice, but not essential
T3 SAYS **Apple's smallest iPad is still its best, for us, with specs that match the larger iPad Air**
SPECIFICATIONS
OS iOS 7 PROCESSOR A7 SCREEN 7.9-inch, 2048x1536
STORAGE 16GB, 32GB, 64GB or 128GB

02 APPLE IPAD AIR

FROM £399, APPLE.COM/UK, TESTED JANUARY 2014

LOVE Stunning design. Blazing performance from the new A7 processor. Incredibly thin and lightweight
HATE No fingerprint sensor. Camera remains unchanged
T3 SAYS **That big Retina screen. Those sleek, slimline looks. This is Apple's best full-sized iPad yet**
SPECIFICATIONS
OS iOS7 PROCESSOR A7 SCREEN 9.7-inch, 2048x1536
STORAGE 16GB, 32GB, 64GB or 128GB

03 GOOGLE NEXUS 7

FROM £199, GOOGLE.CO.UK, TESTED NOVEMBER 2013

LOVE Beautiful, high-res screen. Processing power boosted to 1.5GHz. Lightweight, compact build. Very affordable
HATE Lack of tablet-optimised apps
T3 SAYS **The hardware is excellent, but there are too few tablet-specific Android apps to topple Apple yet**
SPECIFICATIONS
OS Android 4.3 PROCESSOR 1.5GHz quadcore
SCREEN 7.2-inch, 1920x1200 STORAGE 16GB or 32GB

04 APPLE IPAD MINI

FROM £249, APPLE.COM/UK, TESTED JANUARY 2013

LOVE The pocket-friendly, 7.9-inch screen with ultra-slim bezel looks fantastic and works great. 4G LTE. Very good value now
HATE No Retina Display. Now only in 16GB version
T3 SAYS **Apple's first miniature tablet can still turn heads, but it's been beaten on specs of late**
SPECIFICATIONS
OS iOS 7 PROCESSOR 1GHz dualcore
SCREEN 7.9-inch, 1024x768 STORAGE 16GB

05 NOKIA LUMIA 2520

£399, NOKIA.CO.UK, TESTED JANUARY 2014

LOVE Tactile, attractive design. Speedy performance. Nokia's own-brand apps add to Windows 8.1
HATE Runs watered-down version of Windows 8.1
T3 SAYS **This is not the most powerful Windows tablet on the market, but it is the nicest to use**
SPECIFICATIONS
OS Windows 8.1 PROCESSOR 2.2GHz quadcore
SCREEN 10.1-inch, 1920x1080 STORAGE 32GB

06 KINDLE FIRE HDX

FROM £199, AMAZON.CO.UK, TESTED JANUARY 2014

LOVE Simple operating system. Seven-inch display has very high pixel density for crisp images. Mayday is on hand to help
HATE Only approved apps (not many). No rear camera
T3 SAYS **Amazon's closed-system tablet is smarter than ever, but still incredibly simple. A good family all-rounder**
SPECIFICATIONS
OS Android 4.0, by Amazon PROCESSOR 2.2GHz quadcore
SCREEN 7-inch, 1920x1200 STORAGE 16GB, 32GB or 64GB

07 APPLE IPAD 2

FROM £299, APPLE.COM/UK, TESTED CHRISTMAS 2011

LOVE Decent battery, power and graphical oomph for its slightly reduced price, with apps galore available. Thin, too
HATE Rear camera is poor. Surpassed by powerful alternatives
T3 SAYS **Still hanging in there and still appealing, this is now the cheapest way to get a full-sized iPad**
SPECIFICATIONS
OS iOS 7 PROCESSOR 1GHz dualcore
SCREEN 9.7-inch, 1024x768 STORAGE 16GB, 32GB or 64GB

08 AMAZON KINDLE HDX 8.9

FROM £329, AMAZON.CO.UK, TESTED APRIL 2014

LOVE Larger, but still incredibly sharp screen. Quadcore processor and Amazon's skinned Android fly. 4G option
HATE Limited app selection as ever
T3 SAYS **It's big, nippy and incredibly simple to use, although not quite as portable as its smaller sibling**
SPECIFICATIONS
OS Android 4.0, customised by Amazon PROCESSOR 2.2GHz quadcore SCREEN 8.9-inch, 2560x1600 STORAGE 16/32/64GB

09 GOOGLE NEXUS 10

£319, GOOGLE.COM/NEXUS, TESTED JANUARY 2013

LOVE Outstanding, super-HD display. Jelly Bean OS is excellent. Smooth operation. Solid build
HATE Lack of dedicated tablet apps. No 3G option yet
T3 SAYS **Like the Nexus 7 this gives power on the cheap, but lack of tablet-specific apps makes it less desirable**
SPECIFICATIONS
OS Android 4.2 PROCESSOR 1.7GHz quadcore
SCREEN 10.1-inch, 2560x1600 STORAGE16GB or 32GB

10 SAMSUNG GALAXY NOTE 10.1

£400, SAMSUNG.COM, TESTED APRIL 2014

LOVE This 2014 Edition has been upgraded to a 2.3GHz quadcore processor, snazzy leather back and top-notch cam
HATE Expensive compared to Android rivals
T3 SAYS **A good-looking Android tablet with outstanding camera skills and added S-pen action**
SPECIFICATIONS
OS Android 4.3 PROCESSOR 2.3GHz quadcore
SCREEN 10.1-inch, 2560x1600 STORAGE 16/32/64GB

AVAILABLE ONLINE @ T3.COM THE ULTIMATE BUYER'S GUIDE

Laptops

{BUYING TIPS}

Desktop PCs of plenty

1
APPLE iMAC
Optimum combo of style and spec. A 2.7GHz i5 and 1TB HDD come as standard.
FROM £1,099, APPLE.COM/UK

2
SONY VAIO TAP 20
A touchscreen Windows 8 all-in-one whose screen detaches to become a hulking, 20-inch tablet.
£1,000, SONY.CO.UK

3
DELL XPS ONE 27
Windows 8 looks great on the 27-inch touchscreen. Apple-rivalling spec and a Blu-ray drive thrown in.
FROM £1,399, DELL.CO.UK

4
TOSHIBA LX830-11D
Solid all-in-one that moonlights as a Freeview recorder and DVD player.
£759, TOSHIBA.CO.UK

01

APPLE MACBOOK AIR

FROM £849, APPLE.COM/UK, TESTED SEPTEMBER 2013

LOVE Slimline looks, great battery life, cheaper than last year's model, comes in 11- and 13-inch sizes. Now with Mavericks.
HATE No Retina Display
T3 SAYS **The world's best, ultra-portable laptop**
SPECIFICATIONS
SCREEN 11.6-inch, 1366x768/13.3-inch, 1440x900 PROCESSOR/RAM Core i5 1.3GHz/4GB STORAGE 128GB or 256GB SSD QUOTED BATTERY 9 hours/12 hours

02

DELL XPS 15

FROM £759, DELL.CO.UK, TESTED OCTOBER 2012

LOVE Amazing screen. Excellent build quality. Top performer thanks to powerful processor and graphics card. Good VFM
HATE Weighty. No SSD
T3 SAYS **An incredibly powerful laptop for the price. Still gives most MacBooks a run for their money**
SPECIFICATIONS
SCREEN 15.3-inch, 1920x1080 PROCESSOR/RAM Core i7 2.1GHz/8GB STORAGE 1TB HDD QUOTED BATTERY 8hrs

03

APPLE MACBOOK PRO WITH RETINA DISPLAY 13-INCH

£1,249, APPLE.COM/UK, TESTED JANUARY 2014

LOVE Thinner, lighter, with more storage space packed inside
HATE Prone to overheating. Battery life's not brilliant
T3 SAYS **The new Pro is better and cheaper than ever**
SPECIFICATIONS
SCREEN 13-inch, 2560x1600 PROCESSOR/RAM Core i5 2.4GHz/8GB STORAGE 256GB SSD QUOTED BATTERY 9hrs

04

HP SPECTRE XT

£770, HP.COM/UK, TESTED MARCH 2013

LOVE Attractive and sturdy all-metal design. Seriously thin and portable. Great battery life. Beats Audio. Reasonably priced
HATE Tricky touchpad. Screen could be better
T3 SAYS **The smartest ultrabook. What it lacks in power it makes up for with style and portability**
SPECIFICATIONS
SCREEN 13.3-inch, 1366x768 PROCESSOR/RAM Core i5 1.7GHz/4GB STORAGE 128GB SSD QUOTED BATTERY 7.5hrs

05

ACER C7 CHROMEBOOK

£199, ACER.CO.UK, TESTED MARCH 2013

LOVE Incredible price tag. Decent screen and acceptable processor. 100GB of cloud storage
HATE Chrome OS lacks support. Requires web connection
T3 SAYS **The sheer cheapness makes this a very good second machine, or one for undemanding users**
SPECIFICATIONS
SCREEN 11.6-inch, 1366x768 PROCESSOR/RAM 1.1GHz Intel dualcore/2GB STORAGE 320GB HDD QUOTED BATTERY 3hrs

06

SONY VAIO DUO 13

£1,299, SONY.CO.UK, TESTED DECEMBER 2013

LOVE Slimline Windows 8 hybrid. Stylishly designed. Fantastic touchscreen and enough battery to make it through the day
HATE Lack of storage for that crazy price tag
T3 SAYS **Got money to burn on an overpriced Windows 8 hybrid? You could do a lot worse than this**
SPECIFICATIONS
SCREEN 13.3-inch, 1920x1080 PROCESSOR/RAM 1.6GHz i5/4GB STORAGE 128GB SSD QUOTED BATTERY 10hrs

07

HP CHROMEBOOK 11

£229, GOOGLE.CO.UK, TESTED APRIL 2014

LOVE Elegant styling. Very light, yet sturdy. Reduced spec is still up to most day-to-day tasks
HATE Reliance on a web connection
T3 SAYS **It's no power player, but this budget, web-dependent laptop is a steal for the spec**
SPECIFICATIONS
SCREEN 11.6-inch, 1366x768 PROCESSOR/RAM 1.7GHz dualcore/2GB STORAGE 16GB SSD QUOTED BATTERY 6hrs

08

LENOVO IDEAPAD YOGA 11S

£550, SHOP.LENOVO.COM, TESTED APRIL 2014

LOVE Tactile finish and good looks. More well thought through than most hybrid devices
HATE Weaker spec than proper laptops on test
T3 SAYS **A smart Windows 8 contortionist that offers more than most hybrid devices**
SPECIFICATIONS
SCREEN 11.6-inch, 1366x768 PROCESSOR/RAM 1.4GHz Core i3/4GB STORAGE 128GB SSD QUOTED BATTERY 6hrs

09

TOSHIBA SATELLITE NB10T A-102

£349, TOSHIBA.CO.UK, TESTED APRIL 2014

LOVE Bargain price for an ultra-portable with a touchscreen. Plenty of ports provided
HATE Non-descript styling. Washed-out screen
T3 SAYS **Not exciting, but a sensible option with an added touchscreen for not very much dosh**
SPECIFICATIONS
SCREEN 11.6-inch, 1366x768 PROCESSOR/RAM 2GHz Intel Pentium/4GB STORAGE 500GB HDD QUOTED BATTERY 3.5hrs

10

ASUS VIVOBOOK S200

£400, ASUS.CO.UK, TESTED JANUARY 2013

LOVE Responsive touchscreen. Compact design
HATE Overly heavy, underpowered and the screen looks dull. Battery manages just three hours of heavy use
T3 SAYS **An affordable Windows 8 laptop, but corners have been cut here**
SPECIFICATIONS
SCREEN 11.6-inch, 1366x768 PROCESSOR/RAM 1.8GHz i3/2GB STORAGE 500GB HDD QUOTED BATTERY Not quoted

AVAILABLE ONLINE @ T3.COM THE ULTIMATE BUYER'S GUIDE

Cameras

{BUYING TIPS}

Cam carry-alls to bag

1
INCASE DSLR PRO PACK SLING PACK
Sling design gives easy DSLR access without removing the bag, and there's room for a laptop.
£140, GOINCASE.CO.UK

2
BILLINGHAM F/STOP
Explorer-style compact bag with pockets galore.
£145, BILLINGHAM.CO.UK

3
LOWEPRO URBAN REPORTER
Messenger bag with enough room for your DSLR and a complement of extra lenses.
£120, LOWEPRO.COM

4
MANFROTTO ADVANCED ACTIVE
Structurally toughened backpack protects in style.
£79, MANFROTTO.CO.UK

01

CANON EOS 700D

£566, CANON.CO.UK, TESTED OCTOBER 2013

LOVE APS-C CMOS sensor delivers cracking images. Jack-of-all-trades zoom kit lens. Touchscreen LCD
HATE Relatively bulky and pricey
T3 SAYS **An excellent beginner's DSLR that takes semi-pro shots with reliable quality**
SPECIFICATIONS
SENSOR 18.5-megapixel/1080p KIT LENS 18-55mm
SCREEN 3-inch touchscreen WEIGHT 580g

02

SONY SLT-A58

£317, SONY.CO.UK, TESTED OCTOBER 2013

LOVE Great value for money. Translucent mirror allows you to film video in a flash. Decent lens choice
HATE Smaller LCD screen, but a fairly bulky look
T3 SAYS **Sony's not-a-DSLR is feature-packed with great performance and a low price**
SPECIFICATIONS
SENSOR 20.1-megapixel/1080p KIT LENS 18-55mm
SCREEN 2.7-inch WEIGHT 492g

03

CANON EOS 650D

£530, CANON.CO.UK, TESTED OCTOBER 2012

LOVE Superb image quality and great low-light shooting thanks to fine high ISO performance
HATE No longer Canon's top dog
T3 SAYS **Still an impressive DSLR with great image quality and swift, touchscreen control**
SPECIFICATIONS
SENSOR 18-megapixel/1080p KIT LENS 18-55mm
SCREEN 3-inch touchscreen WEIGHT 575g

04

SAMSUNG NX300

£492, SAMSUNG.COM/UK, TESTED JUNE 2013

LOVE DSLR-quality photos. Tiltable AMOLED touchscreen. Manual controls aplenty. Built-in Wi-Fi
HATE No viewfinder or built-in flash
T3 SAYS **Cutting-edge camera features in an attractive, compact package; a winner**
SPECIFICATIONS
SENSOR 21.6-megapixel/1080p KIT LENS 18-55mm
SCREEN 3.31-inch touchscreen WEIGHT 284g

05

CANON IXUS 255HS

£181, CANON.CO.UK, TESTED SEPTEMBER 2013

LOVE Detailed, noise-free shots and built-in Wi-Fi mean this properly compact cam, with a 10x zoom, is a real winner
HATE Rather boring, "classic" design
T3 SAYS **Modern, feature-packed point-and-shoot delivers top-quality pictures for not too much dosh**
SPECIFICATIONS
SENSOR 12.1-megapixel/1080p KIT LENS 24-240mm
SCREEN 3-inch WEIGHT 144g

06

OLYMPUS STYLUS SP-820UZ

£159, OLYMPUS.CO.UK, TESTED SEPTEMBER 2013

LOVE Massive 40x zoom, detailed snaps and excellent video at a more-than-reasonable price
HATE Plasticky. Too chunky to really be described as a looker
T3 SAYS **A bargain, powerhouse camera with a show-stealing zoom, but it's no looker**
SPECIFICATIONS
SENSOR 14-megapixel/1080p KIT LENS 22.4-896mm
SCREEN 3-inch WEIGHT 485g

07

SONY RX100 II

£649, SONY.CO.UK, TESTED MARCH 2014

LOVE Rock solid construction. Tilting LCD and hotshoe (a rarity on a compact). Carl Zeiss lens
HATE Tiny buttons. No handgrip. Expensive for a compact
T3 SAYS **An A-grade combination of optics and features crammed cleverly into a pocket snapper**
SPECIFICATIONS
SENSOR 20.2-megapixel/1080p LENS 28-200mm in 35mm terms SCREEN 3-inch WEIGHT 281g

08

PANASONIC LUMIX DMC-GX7

£899, PANASONIC.CO.UK, TESTED DECEMBER 2013

LOVE Great, hi-res viewfinder and tiltable screen. Takes excellent photos and HD video. Reliable Wi-Fi for instant sharing
HATE On the premium end of "mid-priced"
T3 SAYS **Panasonic's best CSC yet performs to a very high level, then ticks connectivity boxes just to show off**
SPECIFICATIONS
SENSOR 16-megapixel/1080p KIT LENS 14-42mm
SCREEN 3-inch WEIGHT 490g

09

OLYMPUS STYLUS 1

£550, OLYMPUS.CO.UK, TESTED MARCH 2014

LOVE Longer lens reach. Constant fast f/2.8 aperture throughout the zoom range. Classy, DSLR-like design
HATE Largest compact cam on test. High price tag
T3 SAYS **Not the smallest or cheapest compact around, but it is a proper grown-up option**
SPECIFICATIONS
SENSOR 12-megapixel/1080p LENS 28-300mm in 35mm terms SCREEN 3-inch touchscreen WEIGHT 240g

10

CANON POWERSHOT S120

£450, CANON.CO.UK, TESTED MARCH 2014

LOVE Truly compact size. Easy manual control using the lens ring. Above-average picture quality
HATE Pricey for its size. Lacks a handgrip
T3 SAYS **A seriously compact cam with features and picture quality that punch above its weight**
SPECIFICATIONS
SENSOR 12.1-megapixel/1080p KIT LENS 24-120mm in 35mm terms SCREEN 3-inch touchscreen WEIGHT 217g

AVAILABLE ONLINE @ T3.COM THE ULTIMATE BUYER'S GUIDE

Home audio

{BUYING TIPS}

Portable speakers with punch

1
JAWBONE JAMBOX AND JAMBOX MINI
Small, brightly hued, great audio, easy Bluetooth pairing. Winners, both.
£124, £150 MINI, JAWBONE.COM

2
LOEWE SPEAKER 2GO
Incredible sound quality with size-defying bass and top clarity. Pricey, though.
£269, LOEWE.TV/UK

3
JABRA SOLEMATE
Trainer-like design won't suit all tastes but this sure is a loud, brash, room-filling speaker-cum-shoe.
£100, JABRA.COM

4
DAMSON OYSTER
A 3D speaker that pushes the bass to the fore. Ideal for rave dads on the Costa.
£180, DAMSONAUDIO.COM

01 DENON COCOON STREAM

£249, DENON.CO.UK, TESTED MARCH 2014

LOVE AirPlay-enabled streaming speaker that also plays nicely with NAS storage and DLNA for Android devices via smart app
HATE Jelly bean-style design not to all tastes
T3 SAYS **A crowd-pleasing streaming speaker that, sonically speaking, punches well above its price point**
SPECIFICATIONS
POWER 4x 25W CONNECTIVITY Wi-Fi, USB, AirPlay, DLNA, 3.5mm out SIZE 451x236x170mm

02 CAMBRIDGE AUDIO MINX AIR 100

£330, CAMBRIDGEAUDIO.COM, TESTED MAY 2013

LOVE Powerful, detailed sound quality. AirPlay and Bluetooth connectivity. Rugged, sleek design. Handy web radio buttons
HATE Multi-room is less straightforward than on Sonos
T3 SAYS **Sounds great and packs more features than any other wireless speaker system on the market**
SPECIFICATIONS
POWER 100W CONNECTIVITY Wi-Fi, AirPlay, Bluetooth, RCA, 3.5mm SIZE 354x182x118mm

03 DENON CEOL PICCOLO

£269 WITHOUT SPEAKERS, £319 WITH, DENON.CO.UK, TESTED FEBRUARY 2013

LOVE The original all-in-one Ceol has ditched the CD player but kept AirPlay, an iPod dock, 24-bit support and web radio
HATE Slightly dull looks
T3 SAYS **Multi-format mini marvel at a decent price**
SPECIFICATIONS
POWER 2x 65W CONNECTIVITY Wi-Fi, USB, optical in, audio in, AirPlay, 3.5mm out SIZE 180x90x234mm

04 PHILIPS FIDELIO SOUNDSPHERE

£430, PHILIPS.CO.UK, TESTED JANUARY 2012

LOVE Powerful and articulate 100W sound, a classy design and a strong wireless connection for AirPlay streaming. Add the free *Fidelio* app and you get internet radio, too
HATE No LCD display means awkward setup. Not cheap
T3 SAYS **Quality speakers with added AirPlay? Love 'em**
SPECIFICATIONS
POWER 2x 50W CONNECTIVITY Line in, AirPlay
SIZE 265x410mm

05 SONOS PLAY:5

£349 EACH, SONOS.COM, TESTED MARCH 2010

LOVE Superb, multi-room sound. Spotify and Last.FM support. You can control it all using your smartphone
HATE Go properly multi-room and the costs pile up
T3 SAYS **A simple, effective but costly way to pump well-rounded audio into every room**
SPECIFICATIONS
POWER N/A CONNECTIVITY Wireless, ethernet (Sonos proprietary streaming), line in SIZE 217x365x123mm

06 BOWERS & WILKINS A5

£399, BOWERS-WILKINS.CO.UK, TESTED FEBRUARY 2013

LOVE Unfussy design and highly impressive sound. New app makes iTunes syncing easy
HATE Bass wobbles at higher volumes
T3 SAYS **Elegant audio executed excellently, the A5 is the little black dress of speakers**
SPECIFICATIONS
POWER 4x 20W CONNECTIVITY Wi-Fi, auxiliary analogue, ethernet, AirPlay, 3.5mm out SIZE 300x180x120mm

07 PHILIPS AW9000

£450, PHILIPS.CO.UK, TESTED FEBRUARY 2013

LOVE Six high-class drivers deliver outstanding sound quality, while the wood veneer speakers look classy
HATE DLNA set-up needs to be made simpler
T3 SAYS **Buxom chunks of wireless sonic bliss. A fine alternative to the one-box streaming norm**
SPECIFICATIONS
POWER 100W CONNECTIVITY N Wi-Fi, analogue, digital coaxial, digital optical, 3.5mm in SIZE 300x210x350mm

08 SONOS PLAY:1

£169, SONOS.COM, TESTED CHRISTMAS 2013

LOVE Great design and good sound. An affordable way to begin your Sonos multi-room setup
HATE It's mono. Adding more zones can get pricey
T3 SAYS **The cheapest way to get Sonos sounds good, but you'll want more than one for better-than-good audio**
SPECIFICATIONS
POWER Not quoted CONNECTIVITY Ethernet, SonosNet 2.0 wireless, power SIZE 120x120x161mm

09 PURE JONGO T4

£199, PURE.COM, TESTED MARCH 2014

LOVE Multi-room wireless streaming on a budget (hello Sonos). Link two and you can achieve proper stereo sound, too
HATE Connectivity can be glitchy
T3 SAYS **The affordable way to play digital DJ for the whole house, with results that sound very good indeed**
SPECIFICATIONS
POWER 50W CONNECTIVITY Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, ethernet, 3.5mm in SIZE 305x146x165mm

10 LIBRATONE LOOP

£399, LIBRATONE.COM, TESTED MARCH 2014

LOVE Fuzzy, circular deisgn appeal. The choice of an iDock and AirPlay connectivity, plus PlayDirect and DLNA for Android
HATE Pricey for what it is. Bass sounds stodgy at high volumes
T3 SAYS **A design classic-cum-quirk of a dock, but the sound quality doesn't totally justify that price tag**
SPECIFICATIONS
POWER 120W CONNECTIVITY Wi-Fi, AirPlay, USB, DLNA, PlayDirect, 3.5mm in SIZE 333mm circumference

AVAILABLE ONLINE @ T3.COM THE ULTIMATE BUYER'S GUIDE

Gaming

{BUYING TIPS}

Gaming PC laptops with skills

1
ALIENWARE 14
Powerful, high-performing, military-styled slab of portable-ish gaming.
£1,099, ALIENWARE.CO.UK

2
CHILLBLAST DEFIANT MINI
A considerable quantity of gaming oomph, topped with a bright screen, for not too much dosh.
£899, CHILLBLAST.CO.UK

3
GIGABYTE P27K
Hulking 17-incher offers full-HD, big-screen gaming, with a Blu-ray drive. Not elegant, but effective.
£1,300, GIGABYTE.COM

4
SCAN 3XS GRAPHITE LG155
A high-spec, cool-running machine at a great price.
£870, 3XS.SCAN.COM

01

MICROSOFT XBOX 360 250GB

£165, XBOX.CO.UK, TESTED NOVEMBER 2011

LOVE Affordable but powerful gaming machine. A feast of big games, indie gems and media. Sky support. Ace online service.
HATE No Blu-ray. About 97 in gadget years. Ad-laden interface
T3 SAYS **A slick and powerful games and media machine. It's been outgunned, but it's still hanging on for now**
SPECIFICATIONS
STORAGE 4GB BLU-RAY/DVD No/Yes
CONNECTIVITY HDMI, 5x USB, ethernet, N Wi-Fi, AV out

02

SONY PS3 SUPER SLIM

£209, UK.PLAYSTATION.COM, TESTED JANUARY 2013

LOVE A Blu-ray player and media server that's 3D-ready and supports the rather nifty Move controller (£24). Oh, and you can play games on it, too, with some very good exclusives
HATE Horrid plasticky quality to latest model
T3 SAYS **A top gaming/film option if you can bear the build**
SPECIFICATIONS
STORAGE 320GB BLU-RAY/DVD Yes/Yes
CONNECTIVITY HDMI, 2x USB, ethernet, G Wi-Fi, AV out

03

NINTENDO 3DS XL

£190, NINTENDO.CO.UK, TESTED OCTOBER 2012

LOVE Bigger screens look great. Ergonomic curved design. Boosted battery life. Increasingly impressive game selection
HATE Looks a bit cheap. No AC adaptor. 3D is a gimmick
T3 SAYS **Look past the kiddie graphics and you'll find an ace handheld with arguably the best game line-up of 2013**
SPECIFICATIONS
SCREEN 4.88-inch 800x240 3D/4.18-inch 320x240 touch
CONNECTIVITY G Wi-Fi, 3.5mm audio BATTERY 4 hours

04

SONY PLAYSTATION 4

£350, UK.PLAYSTATION.COM, TESTED JANUARY 2014

LOVE Most powerful next-gen console. Ergonomic new controller. Stylish design. Remote Play with PS Vita is ace. Decent price
HATE Light on games and media. Interface basic. Camera extra
T3 SAYS **Stunningly powerful and stylishly built. The PS4's potential is there, even if the games currently aren't**
SPECIFICATIONS
STORAGE 500GB BLU-RAY/DVD Yes/Yes CONNECTIVITY 2x USB 3.0, N Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 2.1, HDMI, optical audio, ethernet

05

MICROSOFT XBOX ONE

£430, XBOX.COM, TESTED JANUARY 2014

LOVE Powerful spec. Vastly improved functionality. Kinect 2.0 impresses. Gameplay sharing easy. Oodles of media potential
HATE Brutish design. Lack of games. Eye-watering price
T3 SAYS **This completely outguns the Xbox 360 in terms of spec but won't overtake it till better games arrive**
SPECIFICATIONS
STORAGE 500GB BLU-RAY/DVD Yes/Yes CONNECTIVITY 3x USB 3.0, N Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 2.1, HDMI, ethernet, optical

06

PLAYSTATION VITA

£180, UK.PLAYSTATION.COM, TESTED APRIL 2014

LOVE Lighter and thinner that the original Vita, with slightly more storage. Improved battery life. Growing game library
HATE OLED screen replaced by LCD. Less premium build
T3 SAYS **Not an upgrade, but a more enticing starting point for would-be PS Vita players**
SPECIFICATIONS
SCREEN 5-inch, 960x544 LCD touchscreen CONNECTIVITY N Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 2.1, USB, SD, NFC BATTERY 4-6 hours

07

APPLE IPOD TOUCH

FROM £199, APPLE.COM/UK, TESTED CHRISTMAS 2012

LOVE Beautifully designed and now packing iOS 7. Bigger, bolder Retina Display. A5 processor. Tonnes of cheap games
HATE Pricey. Lacks physical controls. Closed system
T3 SAYS **A modern portable that's spawned a new gen of gamers who don't consider themselves gamers**
SPECIFICATIONS
SCREEN 4-inch, 1136x640 touchscreen CONNECTIVITY N Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0 BATTERY 8hrs (video), 40 hrs (audio)

08

NINTENDO WII U

£220, NINTENDO.CO.UK, TESTED CHRISTMAS 2012

LOVE Genuinely innovative platform. Full-HD graphics at last for Mario and co. Some very good, unique games from Nintendo
HATE Pricey. Touch screen an afterthought. Game options slim
T3 SAYS **Nintendo again reinvented the way we play, yet unfortunately few developers fancy joining in the fun**
SPECIFICATIONS
STORAGE 32GB CONNECTIVITY N Wi-Fi, 4x USB, HDMI, NFC GAMEPAD Touchcreen 6.2-inch, 854x480 BATTERY 3-5 hours

09

NINTENDO 2DS

£110, NINTENDO.CO.UK, TESTED DECEMBER 2013

LOVE Nintendo's vast catalogue of AAA-quality games, now available for you at special price
HATE Possibly the ugliest gaming gadget ever
T3 SAYS **If you're a gamer or parent who doesn't own a DS platform, this is a very smart purchase**
SPECIFICATIONS
SCREEN 4-inch, 1136x640 touchscreen CONNECTIVITY N Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0 BATTERY 8hrs (video), 40 hrs (audio)

10

NVIDIA SHIELD

£270, NVIDIA.COM, TESTED NOVEMBER 2013

LOVE Excellent screen and Tegra 4-powered graphics. Streams high-end PC games to a portable device
HATE Bulky design. Technical restrictions. Kerr-azy UK pricing
T3 SAYS **Real graphical punch, even if bulk, price and a lack of game support dampen spirits**
SPECIFICATIONS
SCREEN 5-inch 1280x720 CONNECTIVITY N Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 3.0, GPS, HDMI, USB 2.0, MicroSD, 3.5mm BATTERY 5 hours

AVAILABLE ONLINE @ T3.COM THE ULTIMATE BUYER'S GUIDE

P3 Bowers & Wilkins have been established as masters of sound engineering for almost 50 years. We are now able to bring that same expertise to the world of headphones; the same precision, the same care, the same extraordinary range and depth of detail is now available from an ultra-light, highly portable set of headphones superbly designed to fit into your life.

Headphones

01

B&W P3

£169, BOWERS-WILKINS.CO.UK, TESTED SEPTEMBER 2012

LOVE Compact and lightweight, but undeniably premium. Comes in huge colour range: black or white
HATE Head grippage could be overly firm for some
T3 SAYS **Highly refined headphones with stunning sound quality. The sign of a true audio gent...**

SPECIFICATIONS
IMPEDANCE 34 Ohms FREQUENCY RANGE 10-20,000Hz
CORD LENGTH 1.2m

02

KEF M500

£250, KEF.COM, TESTED AUGUST 2013

LOVE Detailed sound quality. Memory foam increases comfort and minimises sound leakage. Classic look
HATE Pricey. Occasional headband slippage
T3 SAYS **Accomplished audio + high-end materials + restrained design = cans worthy of a £250 price tag**

SPECIFICATIONS
IMPEDANCE 32 Ohms FREQUENCY RANGE 20-20,000Hz
CORD LENGTH 1.3m

03

SENNHEISER MOMENTUM

£260, SENNHEISER.COM, TESTED OCTOBER 2013

LOVE Great sound. Excellent build quality. Very comfortable indeed with minimal sound leakage
HATE Monster carry case. Hefty size and price
T3 SAYS **Robust build, lightweight design and comfy earcups make these great for music lovers on the move**

SPECIFICATIONS
IMPEDANCE 18 Ohms FREQUENCY RANGE 16-22,000KHz
CORD LENGTH 1.4m

04

PHILIPS FIDELIO S2

£130, PHILIPS.CO.UK, TESTED JANUARY 2014

LOVE Tight in-ear buds, impressive bass and superb sound isolation. Comfortable fit/stylish design
HATE Expensive for in-ear headphones
T3 SAYS **Top styling, sound and comfort make these in-ears worth spending a bit more on**

SPECIFICATIONS
IMPEDANCE 22 Ohms FREQUENCY RANGE 15-24,000Hz
CORD LENGTH 1.2m

05

FOCAL SPIRIT ONE

£139, FOCAL.COM, TESTED SEPTEMBER 2013

LOVE Punchy sound with well-balanced bass. Compact, foldable design. Minimum sound leakage
HATE Chunky looks, premium price
T3 SAYS **Balanced sound, beautiful style and tough enough to travel, too. Great all-round cans**

SPECIFICATIONS
IMPEDANCE 32 Ohms FREQUENCY RANGE 6-22KHz
CORD LENGTH 1.2m

{BUYING TIPS}

Portable media-playing pals

1
APPLE IPOD TOUCH
A quality combo of music, apps and games. Latest version is better than ever, and more colourful.
FROM £249, APPLE.COM/UK

2
APPLE IPOD NANO
New, larger 2.5-inch touchscreen. Now only available as 16GB model.
£129, APPLE.COM/UK

3
ASTELL AND KERN AK100
Audiophile option for lossless lovers. Sound impresses; price distresses.
£570, AMP3.CO.UK

4
SONY WALKMAN NWZ-E474
Clear audio and 36 hours playback. Just 8GB storage and a dated look, though.
£95, SONY.CO.UK

06

B&W P7

£330, BOWERS-WILKINS.CO.UK, TESTED CHRISTMAS 2013

LOVE Superb sound reproduction modelled on high-end hi-fi speakers. Comfortable, premium build
HATE Bit big for regular commuting
T3 SAYS **B&W's over-ears are luxurious in both sound and build quality, but a touch too pricey**
SPECIFICATIONS
IMPEDANCE 22 Ohms FREQUENCY RANGE 10Hz-20KHz
CORD LENGTH 1.2m

07

BOSE SIE21 SPORTS

£104, BOSE.CO.UK, TESTED JANUARY 2014

LOVE A sporty fit that refuses to budge. Free armband for storing your phone on runs. Sweat resistant
HATE Open backed design not ideal for commuters
T3 SAYS **A top choice for joggers and gym goers and the best way to listen to your "active" playlist**
SPECIFICATIONS
IMPEDANCE Not quoted FREQUENCY RANGE Not quoted
CORD LENGTH Not quoted

08

PARROT ZIK DESIGN BY STARCK

£240, PARROT.COM, TESTED NOVEMBER 2012

LOVE Great audio. Swift, reliable Bluetooth pairing and active noise-cancelling. Excellent on-ear touch controls
HATE Battery life not brilliant. On the heavy/expensive side
T3 SAYS **With innovative controls and excellent sound these wireless cans are a bit of a tech design classic**
SPECIFICATIONS
IMPEDANCE 32 Ohms FREQUENCY RANGE 10-20,000Hz
CORD LENGTH Wireless

09

PHILIPS FIDELIO L1

£140, PHILIPS.CO.UK, TESTED JUNE 2012

LOVE Clear, transparent audio with meaty bass and nicely retro stylings. An anti-tangle cord adds further niceness
HATE Easy-going sound may not please everyone
T3 SAYS **Super comfort and the highest audio quality, now available greatly discounted from original RRP**
SPECIFICATIONS
IMPEDANCE 26 Ohms FREQUENCY RANGE 10-25 000Hz
CORD LENGTH 1.1m

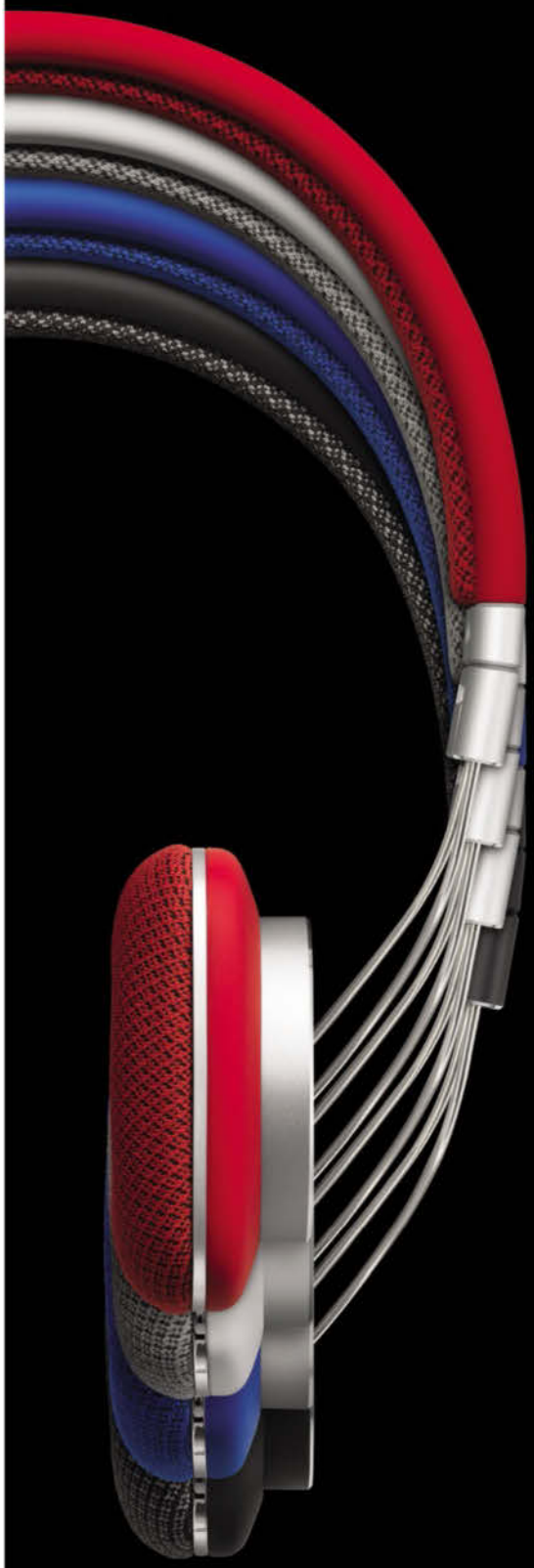
10

EI8HTBALL EX811

£30, EI8HTBALL.CO.UK, TESTED JANUARY 2014

LOVE All-metal build is stylish but low cost. Heavy bass. Microphone for hands-free calls
HATE Not the most well-rounded sound
T3 SAYS **Great value bass monsters for pumping out dancefloor fillers and R&B flavas**
SPECIFICATIONS
IMPEDANCE 16 Ohms FREQUENCY RANGE 19-21,000Hz
CORD LENGTH Not quoted

Hear the full spectrum



Bowers & Wilkins

Televisions

{BUYING TIPS}

Top projectors in the spotlight

1
OPTOMA HD30
Breathtaking 1080p with nuanced blacks and impressive 3D playback. Very good VFM, too.
£999, OPTOMA.CO.UK

2
SONY VPL-HW55ES
Awesome full-HD projector for screen sizes up to 300 inches. Pricey, but worth it.
£2,800, SONY.CO.UK

3
BENQ W1300
Dynamic images and 2,200 Lumens brightness make this a punchy choice for big-screen sports fans.
£900, BENQ.CO.UK

4
VIVITEK H1185HD
A single-chip DLP projector that's sharp and vibrant for business and pleasure.
£850, VIVITEK.EU

01

SONY KDL-50W829

£900, SONY.CO.UK, TESTED MAY 2014

LOVE Superb HD image quality. Fabulous motion handling. Top discovery engine for online content
HATE Limited catch-up – no ITV Player or 40D
T3 SAYS **Polished 1080p pictures and smarter features, all for a very reasonable price**
SPECIFICATIONS
SCREEN 50-inch, 1920x1080 CONNECTIONS 4x HDMI, Wi-Fi, Scart, 2x USB, digital optical, digital audio, Ethernet

NEW ENTRY

02

LG 55LA740

£1,199, LG.COM, TESTED FEBRUARY 2014

LOVE Strong on-demand and catch-up offering. Strong high-def performance. Top value for money
HATE Slightly muted blacks. Only one tuner
T3 SAYS **The perfect balance between killer tech, abundant content and affordability**
SPECIFICATIONS
SCREEN 55-inch, 1920x1080 CONNECTIONS 3x HDMI, Wi-Fi, Scart, 3x USB, digital optical, digital audio, Ethernet

03

SONY BRAVIA KDL-55W905A

£1,810, SONY.CO.UK, TESTED FEBRUARY 2014

LOVE Excellent picture performance. Distinctive design. Well connected. Top file support
HATE Limited catch-up TV. Single tuner
T3 SAYS **A great-looking screen with outstanding image quality and few flashy extras**
SPECIFICATIONS
SCREEN 55-inch, 1920x1080 CONNECTIONS 4x HDMI, Wi-Fi, 3x USB, Ethernet, NFC, Scart, component

04

SAMSUNG UE46F8000

£1,289, SAMSUNG.COM/UK, TESTED JULY 2013

LOVE Smartphone apps, twin tuners and the new Smart Portal 2.0 mean immediate content is abound
HATE The design is striking but also a little impractical
T3 SAYS **Samsung's slickest smart TV yet; fantastic picture quality and plenty to watch, anytime**
SPECIFICATIONS
SCREEN 46-inch, 1920x1080 CONNECTIONS 4x HDMI, Wi-Fi, Ethernet, DLAN, 3x USB, component

05

PANASONIC VIERA TX-P60ZT65

£3,199, PANASONIC.CO.UK, TESTED JULY 2013

LOVE Beautiful 1080p images from the plasma screen. Equally peachy design. My Home Screen interface
HATE Expensive. Some fan noise
T3 SAYS **It's big, brash and expensive, but this plasma telly delivers a tip-top HD performance**
SPECIFICATIONS
SCREEN 60-inch, 1920x1080 CONNECTIONS 3x HDMI, WLAN, DLNA, Bluetooth, USB, digital audio, RCA, SD

06

PANASONIC VIERA TX-55DT65

£1,599, PANASONIC.CO.UK, TESTED FEBRUARY 2014

LOVE Customisable smart TV interface. Twin tuners for viewing and use as a PVR. Looks highly stylish
HATE Lacklustre blacks. Limited catch-up TV selection
T3 SAYS **On-demand TV organised the way you want it. Great! Now we just need more content...**
SPECIFICATIONS
SCREEN 55-inch, 1920x1080 CONNECTIONS 3x HDMI, Wi-Fi, 3x USB, digital optical/audio, Ethernet, component via adaptor

07

PHILIPS 55PFL8008S

£2,072, PHILIPS.CO.UK, TESTED FEBRUARY 2014

LOVE Three-sided Ambilight. Simple, minimalist design. Good audio performance
HATE Complicated picture modes challenge your patience
T3 SAYS **A fantastic light show and a pretty good smart TV if you ignore the picture modes**
SPECIFICATIONS
SCREEN 55-inch, 1920x1080 CONNECTIONS 4x HDMI, Wi-Fi, 3x USB, Scart, digital optical/audio, Ethernet

08

PANASONIC VIERA TX-L42ET60

£599, PANASONIC.CO.UK, TESTED SEPTEMBER 2013

LOVE Smooth pictures, even when streamed from poorer sources. Well-designed interface
HATE Passive 3D suffers when not sat square on. Weak audio
T3 SAYS **Classic mid-range telly, covering all the fundamentals. Overall performance is solid as a rock**
SPECIFICATIONS
SCREEN 42-inch, 1920x1080 CONNECTIONS 3x HDMI, 2x USB, Wi-Fi, Ethernet, Scart, component, composite, optical, SD

09

PHILIPS 42PFL5008

£700, PHILIPS.CO.UK, TESTED SEPTEMBER 2013

LOVE Crisp, frameless design with Ambilight. Kick-ass audio performance. Decent visuals, too. Simple as pie
HATE Limited web TV content. Basic user interface
T3 SAYS **A good telly for movie fans and those with an eye for design. Not ideal for lovers of sport/catch-up TV**
SPECIFICATIONS
SCREEN 42-inch, 1920x1080 CONNECTIONS 3x HDMI, 2x USB, Wi-Fi, Ethernet, Scart, component, optical digital out

10

PANASONIC TX-L65WT600 4K

£5,499, PANASONIC.CO.UK, TESTED APRIL 2014

LOVE Stunning 2160p high frame rate 4K performance. My Home interface. Twin tuners
HATE Weedy audio performance. Very limited content
T3 SAYS **4K telly with knobs on, at a price that few can afford. That said, it is truly impressive**
SPECIFICATIONS
SCREEN 65-inch, 3840x2160 CONNECTIONS Wi-Fi, 4x HDMI, 3x USB, DisplayPort, AV adaptor, digital optical audio, SD

AVAILABLE ONLINE @ T3.COM THE ULTIMATE BUYER'S GUIDE

Home entertainment

{CONTENT}

March's Blu-rays for real men

1
THE PROFESSIONALS
Bloke-fest from the 70s, on disc, at last. The guns! The chases through derelict factories! Lewis Collins and Martin Shaw's palpable sexual tension! Classic.
£25, OUT MARCH 31

2
OUTPOST 3
"Scotland's leading horror franchise" pits Russian special forces against zombie Nazis in a battle to see who can do the worst accents, and also in actual battle, with decapitations.
£13, OUT NOW

3
DOM HEMINGWAY
Basically Jude Law swearing and breaking things for two hours.
£15, OUT MARCH 31

01 SKY+ HD 2TB WI-FI

£180, SKY.COM, TESTED CHRISTMAS 2013

LOVE Seamless integration of Wi-Fi. Rapidly expanding on-demand content. Excellent all-round performance
HATE 250GB usable hard drive space. Still only two tuners
T3 SAYS **Our Entertainment Gadget of the Year is also the best PVR choice, now with added Wi-Fi**
SPECIFICATIONS
TYPE Satellite HD CHANNELS 67 TUNERS 2
STORAGE 2TB/350hrs HD recording

02 SONY BDV-N590

£399, SONY.CO.UK, TESTED DECEMBER 2012

LOVE Five satellite speakers, a sub and net-connected, 3D Blu-ray player with great performance, at a groovy price
HATE Satellites are a touch on the small side
T3 SAYS **A full 5.1 cinema system and Blu-ray deck for £400? That's a bargain in anyone's book...**
SPECIFICATIONS
POWER 1,000W CHANNELS 5.1 CONNECTIONS 2x HDMI, Wi-Fi, 2x USB, optical, audio, composite, ethernet

03 HUMAX HB-1000S FREESAT HD

£99, HUMAXDIGITAL.CO.UK, TESTED APRIL 2014

LOVE Easy-to-use Freetime platform, blends catch-up and live TV. Integrated on-demand services. Cheap and sub-free
HATE No built-in storage. Only a single tuner
T3 SAYS **Inexpensive and slick way to get your satellite telly fix without a subscription**
SPECIFICATIONS
TYPE Satellite HD CHANNELS 11 TUNERS 1
STORAGE None, compatible with USB drives

04 MAXELL MXSP-SB3000

£179, UK.MAXELL.EU, TESTED JANUARY 2014

LOVE Robust and well-balanced sound from a good-looking soundbar and meaty 100W wireless sub
HATE No Dolby Digital decoder
T3 SAYS **Maxell's first soundbar is a corker, delivering on performance and value for money**
SPECIFICATIONS
POWER 2x 30W + 100W sub CHANNELS 2.1 CONNECTIONS 3x HDMI, Bluetooth, Optical, Coaxial, RCA, 3.5mm

05 PANASONIC DMP-BDT330

£200, PANASONIC.CO.UK, TESTED MAY 2014

LOVE Vibrant colours, striking detail. 4K upscaling on hand for proper encouragement to buy 4K telly
HATE Rather convoluted interface
T3 SAYS **Future-proof Blu-ray player with cracking image quality, 4K scaling and decent smart TV trimmings**
SPECIFICATIONS
CONNECTIONS Wi-Fi, ethernet, 2x HDMI, optical digital out, 2x USB, SD card, ethernet SIZE 430x183x41mm

NEW ENTRY

06 ONKYO TX-NR515

£290, UK.ONKYO.COM, TESTED APRIL 2013

LOVE Bombastic, 130W-per-channel oomph. Slick interface. Eight HDMI inputs. Can upscale images to 4K resolution
HATE No AirPlay, unlike some rival receivers
T3 SAYS **A polished multichannel AV receiver with all the modern trimmings, at an affordable price**
SPECIFICATIONS
POWER 130W per channel CONNECTIONS 8x HDMI, 2x USB, 5x composite, 4x digital audio, 5x analogue audio. Wi-Fi via dongle

07 VIRGIN MEDIA TIVO

£199, VIRGINMEDIA.COM, TESTED NOVEMBER 2012

LOVE Built-in modem. Recommends shows you might like
HATE Expensive. Interface not completely intuitive. Occasional buffering and box glitches
T3 SAYS **State-of-the-art hardware, Tivo's intelligent programming, a huge content library and three tuners**
SPECIFICATIONS
TYPE Cable HD CHANNELS 50 TUNERS 3
STORAGE 1TB/250hrs HD recording

08 YOUVIEW HUMAX DTR-T1000

£229, YOUVIEW.COM, TESTED NOVEMBER 2012

LOVE Retrospective EPG mixes catch-up and live telly. Excellent image quality and ease of use. All the big UK channels on board
HATE No integrated Wi-Fi. Noisy running. Pricey
T3 SAYS **Making this much content available without a subscription is a winning deal**
SPECIFICATIONS
TYPE Freeview HD HD CHANNELS 5 TUNERS 2
STORAGE 500GB/125hrs HD recording

09 SONY BDP-S5100

£140, SONY.CO.UK, TESTED MAY 2014

LOVE Appealing and compact design. Vivid Blu-ray images and smooth upscaling from DVD. Useful apps and features
HATE Just one HDMI. Iffy 2D-to-3D conversion
T3 SAYS **"Distinctive" design houses high-class Blu-ray-ness. Striking 3D visuals and cinematic sound guaranteed**
SPECIFICATIONS
CONNECTIONS Wi-Fi, ethernet, HDMI, 2x USB, coaxial digital audio out SIZE 360x199x43mm

NEW ENTRY

10 SAMSUNG BD-F7500

£220, SAMSUNG.COM/UK, TESTED MAY 2014

LOVE Apps abound, providing a full set of catch-up TV services. Comprehensive connectivity. Speedy menus. 4K upscaling
HATE Occasional video noise and judder
T3 SAYS **The actual Blu-ray playback is good rather than great, but the apps and additional features rock**
SPECIFICATIONS
CONNECTIONS Wi-Fi, ethernet, 2x HDMI, USB, optical digital audio out, analogue audio out SIZE 430x201x46mm

NEW ENTRY

AVAILABLE ONLINE @ T3.COM THE ULTIMATE BUYER'S GUIDE

Accessories

{BUYING TIPS}

Routin' tootin' (ie: some routers)

1
BT HOME HUB 4R
Now available to non-BT punters, this offers dual-band N Wi-Fi.
£100, BT.CO.UK

2
D-LINK AC750
World's first portable router with AC Wi-Fi. Its battery can be used to charge your other kit, too.
£160, ETSY.COM

3
APPLE AIRPORT EXTREME
AC Wi-Fi, six antennae, dual bands plus smart tech to further boost wireless speeds. Usual Apple style and pricing levels apply.
£169, APPLE.COM/UK

4
NETGEAR R7000 NIGHTHAWK
Like the above, but hideous.
£190, NETGEAR.COM

01

TOMTOM GO 6000

£260, TOMTOM.COM/UK, TESTED MAY 2014

LOVE Clean, quick interface. HD traffic info, with no additional charges for service or data connectivity throughout Europe
HATE Speed cam tips-offs cost £20 per year. Pricey
T3 SAYS **Slightly better than the Garmin below, for our money. Pop to Halfords and make your own mind up...**
SPECIFICATIONS
SCREEN 5 inches CONNECTIVITY Bluetooth
SIZE 169x105x20mm

02

GARMIN NÜVI 3598 LMT-D

£235, GARMIN.COM/UK, TESTED OCTOBER 2013

LOVE Real-time traffic updates without a data connection – it uses your car's DAB radio. Free map updates for life
HATE It's accurate, but also a tad costly
T3 SAYS **Expensive, but accurate, attractive and smart. Have you reached your satnav destination of choice?**
SPECIFICATIONS
SCREEN 5 inches CONNECTIVITY Bluetooth
SIZE 138x77x13mm

03

TURTLE BEACH EAR FORCE XP510

£230, TURTLEBEACH.COM, TESTED CHRISTMAS 2013

LOVE Full, 360-degree pseudo surround sound without the wires. Sound quality worthy of music as well as games
HATE Slightly light, plasticky build
T3 SAYS **Top-quality wireless gaming headset**
SPECIFICATIONS
CONNECTIVITY Wi-Fi, USB, Bluetooth, 3.5mm

04

FITBIT ONE

£60, FITBIT.COM, TESTED MARCH 2013

LOVE A pedometer on steroids with added sleep assessment and compatibility with other apps and Aria scales
HATE Not one for pro athletes, clearly
T3 SAYS **Growing app support gives the Fitbit the edge over its equally sporty competitors**
SPECIFICATIONS
CONNECTIVITY Bluetooth 4.0 BATTERY LIFE 5-7 days
SIZE 48x19x10mm WEIGHT 8g

05

JOBY GORILLAPOD SLR-ZOOM

£44, JOBY.COM, TESTED SEPTEMBER 2011

LOVE Flexibility adds creative freedom. Lightweight enough to carry anywhere. Reliably stable
HATE Lacks height
T3 SAYS **A solid yet flexible tripod for every imaginable surface, this grips and bends to suit your needs**
SPECIFICATIONS
SUPPORTS Up to 3kg SIZE 250x60x60mm
WEIGHT 241g

06

LOGITECH K360 WIRELESS KEYBOARD

£22, LOGITECH.COM, TESTED SEPTEMBER 2011

LOVE Works with PC and Mac. Good key spacing and battery life
HATE Some might find the designs a bit garish
T3 SAYS **Place the USB receiver in your desktop and type from anywhere on this comfortable keyboard**
SPECIFICATIONS
REQUIREMENT USB port, 2x AA batteries

07

LOGITECH PERFORMANCE MOUSE MX

£58, LOGITECH.COM, TESTED JULY 2011

LOVE Great build quality. Customisable. Very comfortable. There are two ways of charging it
HATE A little expensive
T3 SAYS **A versatile mouse that's built like a tank**
SPECIFICATIONS
REQUIREMENTS Windows 7, XP, Vista, Mac OS X 10.3.9 or later

08

MOGA PRO CONTROLLER

£47, MOGAANYWHERE.COM, TESTED NOVEMBER 2013

LOVE Well designed X360-style controller that works with most Android devices. Long battery life and fast recharging
HATE Slow Bluetooth connection. Limited game support. Doesn't match the X360 controller's feel
T3 SAYS **Now the controller to beat for a proper console feel on your smartphone or tablet**
SPECIFICATIONS
OS Android 2.3+ CONNECTIVITY USB, Bluetooth 4.0

09

NIKE+ FUELBAND

£129, NIKE.COM/PLUS, TESTED MARCH 2013

LOVE Free iPhone app. Ups your activity all-day, giving you motivational Fuel to burn
HATE Not as good as Fitbit, although arguably more "blokey"
T3 SAYS **This snazzy bangle does exactly what is says on the tin: reminds you to be more active on a daily basis**
SPECIFICATIONS
CONNECTIVITY Bluetooth 4.0, USB 2.0 BATTERY LIFE 4 days
SIZE 147-197mm circumference WEIGHT From 27g

10

SUUNTO AMBIT 2 HR

FROM £320, SUUNTO.COM, TESTED AUGUST 2013

LOVE Rugged styling. Accurate, fast GPS. Customisation via apps makes it endlessly versatile
HATE Epic price. Weedy battery. Considerable complexity
T3 SAYS **Heading out on an adventure? Save up, then make sure you pack this do-it-all GPS watch**
SPECIFICATIONS
CONNECTIVITY USB, GPS, ANT+ BATTERY LIFE Up to 50 hours tracking DISPLAY 1.97-inch, 128x128 WEIGHT 92g

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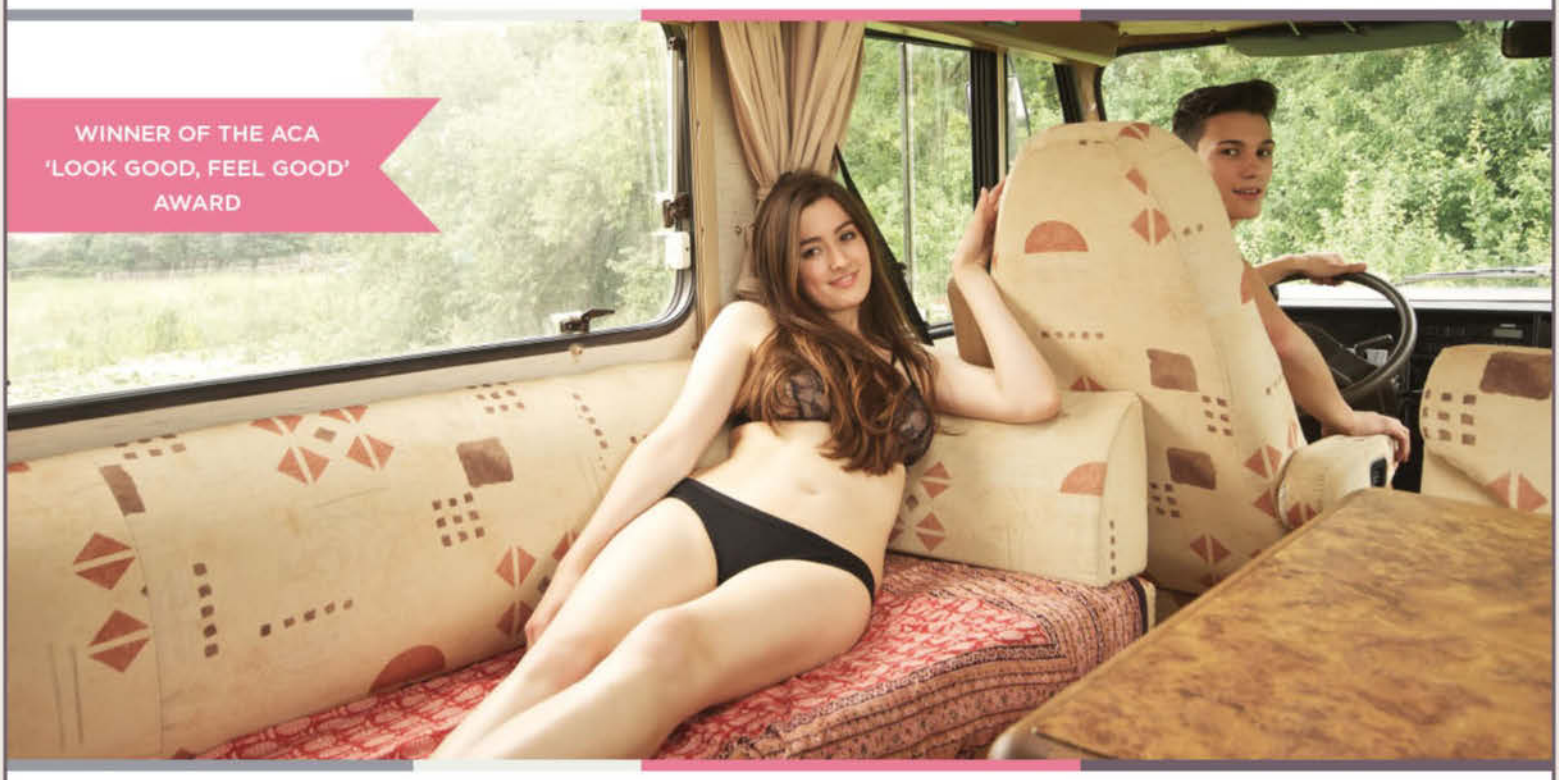

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NO.64

The 10 tech... Style mistakes to sidestep

1/ Over-ear headphones with a suit

At best, you resemble a League Two footballer wandering around trying to find the team bus; at worst, you look like you've gone out for your lunch break and forgotten to leave your headset at the call centre. Discreet in-ears tend to be the best choice with formal wear, but don't thread them underneath your clothes – you're not in Sixth Form anymore.

2/ Nike FuelBand at a funeral

We know you're locked in a constant fitness battle with yourself, but even though each time you put your arm around a crying relative you burn a fifth of a Mars Bar-worth of calories, it's still bad form to lifelog while Uncle Bill's in a box. Yes, even though you've got the black one.

3/ E-cigarettes

Of which there are two main types: ones that look like giant plastic cigars and ones that look like Dr Who's Sonic Screwdriver. Both look absurd. Of course, the real rub will come in twenty years' time, when all the tests come back to reveal that one electronic fag is more dangerous than being trapped in a windowless room with Dot Cotton for a decade. Just say no, kids.

4/ Drunken hair clipping

Returning late after a few down the local, you're brushing your teeth and notice you've developed the unruly eyebrows of an elderly vicar. But logic deserting you, you fire up your clippers in the dim, post-closing time light, and... Zzzzzp. You've East 17'd yourself. Again.

5/ Carry non-Apple tech in a trendy café

Your local, ethically sourced coffee shop may look the perfect place to get a bit of work done, but pull something other than a MacBook from your rucksack and you feel like you've drawn a banana in a gunfight. You'd be less conspicuous if you jogged into PETA's HQ covered in whale blood and eating a fox.

6/ Heart-rate monitors

The Velcro straps are pulled tightly across your fleshy moobs, making your body a double for a string of plump sausages. A bulky sensor slab rests just above your blood-pumper, hidden enough under your shirt so that passers-by think you just have a hugely inflamed left nipple. You're only planning a 15-minute jog around the block, too, as anything more than that causes it to start bleeping furiously and threatening to ring the paramedics.

7/ Techy specs

We've all, at some point, had a go at wearing 3D glasses outdoors, only to come to the crushing realisation that we look less like Kanye West dueting with Daft Punk and more like an IMAX thief scoping his next big score. Soon, we'll all have Google Glass, or one of its many imitators, the burgeoning Bluetooth headsets of the next generation. Can these make us look cool? If cool is looking like a futuristic dentist, then yes, yes they can.

8/ Hands-free kits

You're sat on the train, face pressed nervously against the window as an escaped psychiatric patient next to you natters away to themselves maniacally. Turning to seek a nod of sympathy from someone, anyone, you realise it's just a City type too busy to hold their phone. Note to self: never be too busy to hold your phone.

9/ Own-brand supermarket tablets

Here's how the design meetings go for the flood of cut-price slates: "We're selling them for £12, so have a materials and manufacturing budget of 50p. Any ideas?" "How about another chunky, plastic rectangle? The sort of plastic they make watering and petrol cans out of, with a screen stolen from an old Etch-A-Sketch?" And no matter what cover you buy, nobody will be fooled into thinking it's an iPad, even if you...

10/ Put an Apple sticker on non-Apple tech

Why stop there? Why not take a marker pen and scrawl "Ferrari" on your hatchback, stitch "Calvin Klein" into all of your Poundshop pants and scratch "Alessi" into the side of the kettle you picked up in the Argos sale? After all, there's a reason why all of the cool people in *House of Cards* have Macs, rather than Mac-branded rucksacks.

WORDS **ROB TEMPLE** ILLUSTRATION **CHRIS KING @ ILLUSTRATIONWEB.COM**

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Bowers & Wilkins

9001

9000