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January 2015 / £4.99

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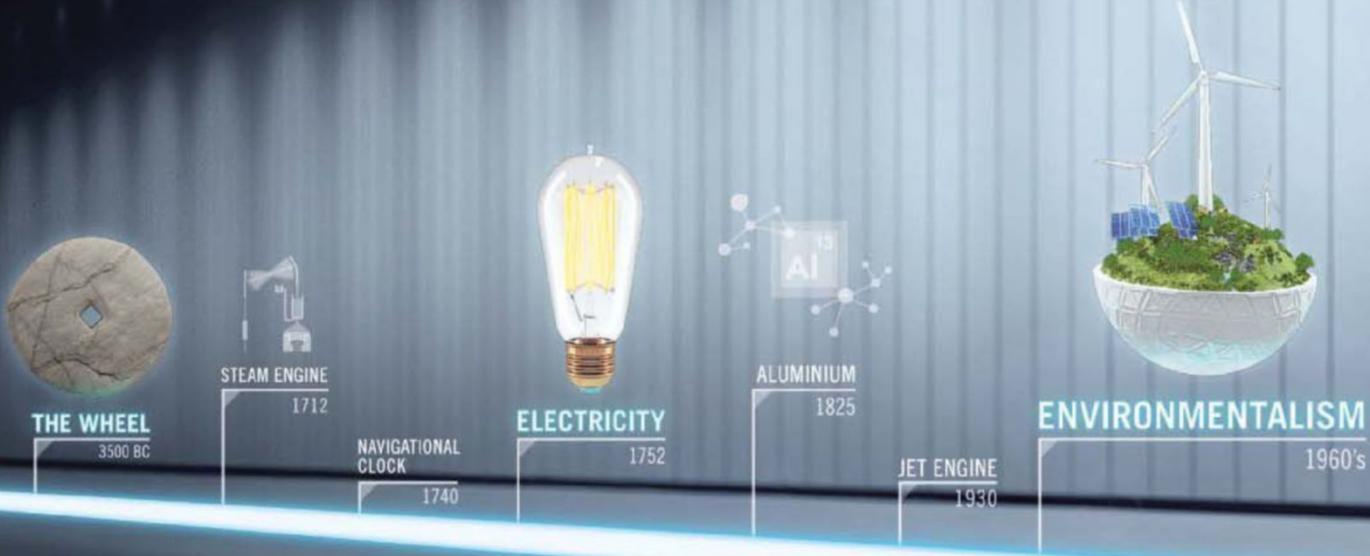
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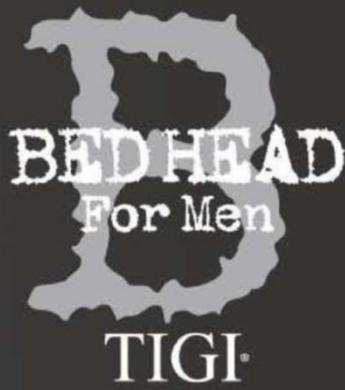
1. Official EU MPG test figure shown as a guide for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. 2. 5% BIK compared to average rate of 25%+. 3. 32 mile EV range achieved with full battery charge. 510 miles achieved with combined full battery and petrol tank. Actual range may vary depending on driving style and road conditions. 4. Low-cost British Gas plug-in vehicle charging package available – ask your dealer for more information. Offer ends 31st March 2015. 5. Domestic plug charge: 5 hours, 16 Amp home charge point: 3.5 hours, 80% rapid charge: 30mins. 6. Prices shown include VAT (at 20%), exclude VED and First Registration Fee. Metallic paint extra. Model shown is an Outlander PHEV GX4h at £33,399 including metallic paint. Prices correct at time of going to print. For more information about the Government Plug-in Car Grant please visit [www.gov.uk/plug-in-car-van-grants](http://www.gov.uk/plug-in-car-van-grants).

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Spend or save? Stick or upgrade? Every year come the same questions and concerns because, let's face it, no-one wants to be the one who bought the wrong phone too early, or splashed out on a smartwatch when an even smarter one was just around the corner. So we cast our considerable opinion and intellect over 2015 and pinpoint the hottest tech developments over the next 12 months.

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MARIA S @ FM  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY NEIL GOWIN

STYLING BY DEAN HAU

HAIR AND MAKE-UP BY CAROL MORLEY

RETOUCHING BY SIMON WINDSOR

MODEL WEARS: WHITE BODY SUIT: AQAOQ

SILVER LEGGINGS: AMERICAN APPAREL

BOOTS: PAUL ANDREW

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Together with 

# Editor's letter

January 2015 / Issue 238



**Each year it's the same for me. After crashing into Christmas and rolling through the other side more portly, partied-out and, frankly, poorer than at any other time of the year, I smash through the door of January promising to spend my hard-earned dollar more wisely, picking over the highlights of the 12 months ahead, priming my gadget-get-list for the year's must-buys.**

And then what? I bet all the remaining coppers in the depths of my pocket you're just like me. A year hence and you're left with a half-pile of disappointing dust-gatherers – maligned consoles; scorned mobiles; the crushed promises of a slimmer pair of unworn Levi's. I speak as a man who purchased not just a Sega Mega CD, but also held out over an N64 for a Dreamcast.

Not so 2015. This year I shall spend wisely and timely. Because to me 2015 sounds like it should be one of those futuristic years that delivers on its promises. It's a year that at one point in my life seemed so distant, that by now I expected hoverboard-wielding teens to be terrorizing my neighbourhood while I warmed a tiny pizza in a

Black & Decker hydrator and video called my mum from my wristwatch. It's a fantasy year that's crept up on me. One which Hollywood has infused with... *the Future*. Years like this have potential, I reckon. They sound like they should be interesting years. I expect a lot from them – and 2015 looks set to deliver in buckets.

Why? Because if 2014 was the arrival of Glass, the pre-hype of wearables and the purported possibilities of the connected home, then 2015 is a catalytic year in which some of those promises will be delivered.

Don't read me entirely wrong. I am a sceptic – oh yes. There's a lot of seemingly shabby new 'connected' gadgets arriving – smart tat, if you will – and the reality of constant connectivity is patchiness and costliness. But 2015 looks like it might be a year that sees some of the products we so hotly anticipate as delivering 'the future' actually arrive.

And that's what our cover feature deals with this month. You'll read how Sony is opening up its SmartEyeGlass to bedroom developers in the hope that a fleet of original apps will kick-start its VR revolution. You'll learn how we expect to see LG selling even more bendable phones by the end of the year. We're even looking forward to the gadgets and gizmos that help us find out more about ourselves – whether that's at what point in the day I reach 'peak happiness', or how close my blood pressure is to anticyclonic. It all starts on page 58.

So there's a heck of a lot to look forward to, both in this issue and the year ahead in tech. Apple's Watch is still – still – whetting appetites; HTC will update its stunning One (M8). And I can tell you neither of them will be joining the Dreamcast and Mega CD in the understairs cupboard.

**Tom Dennis, editor**

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1

**JAMES STABLES**

Former T3 features editor James is the doyen of all things wearable at, er, Wareable.com. This issue he rounds-up the finest fitness trackers for us, which you can get stuck into on p112.

2

**BEARDYMAN**

The beatboxing, loop-fusing Beardyman has developed his own music creation software, Beardytron 5000 MkII. He shares his opinion on how technology begets creativity on p55.

3

**MARK BILLINGHAM**

The best-selling crime fiction writer, author, actor and stand-up comedian reveals his all-time favourite crime series in our round-up of affordable TVs (and boxsets worth hibernating for) on p75.

To subscribe to T3, point your browser at [myfavouritemagazines.co.uk](http://myfavouritemagazines.co.uk), or flick to p126. **The next T3 goes on sale January 22**



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# Radar

ESSENTIAL NEWS FROM TECH'S



## { ALSO ON OUR RADAR }

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Edited by Nick Odantzis

## MOST WANTED



Measuring just 66x104x127mm, the PlayStation TV will fit neatly into your existing media set-up

### { PLAYSTATION TV }

## TV WINNER

*The PlayStation TV lets you stream PlayStation 4 to (and play PSVita games on) another TV in your house, so you no longer need to argue over the remote with your significant other*



→ SONY HAS BEEN ON A ROLL SINCE the PlayStation 4 was released, lapping up plaudits for its console and beating Microsoft in both the numbers and the PR game.

One of the most interesting things about the PS4 is its Remote Play functionality. Anyone with a PS Vita can currently take advantage of this, by mirroring the PS4's OS to their device. It's fun and, unlike when it was first announced for the PS3, it really works.

It's this functionality that sits at the heart of the PlayStation TV – a tiny box that's designed for your second television. Simply connect it up and it allows you to play the PS4 on another screen, when your primary telly has been taken over by someone else.

One thing we can't fault is its look and design – it's tiny, but a beautiful piece of kit. Measuring just 66x104x127mm, this is one of the dinkiest micro-consoles on the market, and something that will slot into any existing media set-up. The majority of the inputs are situated on the back – you'll find HDMI in, an ethernet port, a power switch and an expandable memory slot.

## PLUG IN A DUALSHOCK AND YOU'VE GOT A MINI GAMES MACHINE AS CAPABLE AS MANY LARGER CONSOLES

The uses for Remote Play are exciting. Not only does it enable you to stream your PS4 around your house, but you can also take the PlayStation TV out and about with you. Simply pack it up and hook it up to Wi-Fi.

If you don't have a PS4 yet you can still play games. The PlayStation TV can play PS Vita games too – either from the disc or downloaded. This gives you a huge library of games to play. Even better, the PlayStation TV comes bundled with three games. That's not all though. As with Sony's upcoming PlayStation Now service, you'll be able to stream PlayStation 1, 2 and 3 games too.

All this makes the PlayStation TV a great gaming machine. Plug in a DualShock and you've got a mini gaming machine that's capable of playing more games than many larger, and more expensive, consoles.

You can rent and buy films and TV shows through the Sony Entertainment Network. Hopefully Sony will include apps for Netflix and Amazon Prime in the future too, which will make the PlayStation TV the ultimate media box to sit neatly under your telly.

**£84.99, UK.PLAYSTATION.COM, OUT NOW**

### { DETAILS }

#### 1. PS NOW

PS Now is another service from Sony that lets you stream PlayStation, PlayStation 2 and PlayStation 3 games to the PS TV.

#### 2. DUALSHOCK

The TouchPad on the DualShock 4 controller apes the touchscreen of the PSVita handheld, letting you control games on the PS TV.

#### 3. PLAYSTATION 4 REMOTE PLAY

One of the biggest selling points of the PS TV is its ability to stream PS4 games over your home network.

#### 4. COMPACT

One of the best things about the PS TV is just how small it is. You'll have no problem stashing it under your TV.

#### Specification

##### WEIGHT 111g

##### DIMENSIONS 66x104x127mm

##### CONNECTORS/PORTS PlayStation Vita card slot,

USB port, memory card slot, HDMI, Ethernet

##### WIRELESS Wi-Fi

PlayStation Vita card slot, USB port, memory card slot, HDMI, Ethernet

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## { SPEAK }

**PS TV could become the ultimate media streamer, says Nick Odantzis**

Sony is keen to stress that PlayStation TV is not an alternative for a media streamer – not yet, at least. Instead it's being marketed as a PS4 accessory – Remote Play being the biggest sell. That's no bad thing. Extending PS4 playing to another part of your home is a really great idea, and something Microsoft has yet to deliver with the Xbox One.

Even though it lacks the television temerity of Amazon's and Sky's media streamers, Netflix apps and the like will eventually become available. And news of PlayStation Vue certainly hints at what's to come. This is yet another Sony service that will bring TV and films direct to the PlayStation TV.

If PlayStation Vue lives up to its promise, PlayStation TV will be a very compelling mini box for your living room, enabling you to play hundreds of PlayStation games and potentially ditch your Sky and Virgin media boxes altogether.

# NEED LIST

*Start the year as you mean to go on, lustng after cool new tech*



## {1} FLIGHT PLAN

*DJI Inspire 1*

Early attempts at drones have been hit-and-miss affairs: they miss whatever you were trying to film and hit a pylon. And explode. But DJI's Inspire 1 gets a lot of things right: it folds up on lift-off so your shots aren't impeded by a pair of dangling legs, it shoots in 4K resolution at 60 frames per second, and it packs Adobe DNG RAW support for its 12-megapixel snaps. Add in its iOS and Android app, which includes camera controls and flight telemetry, and it seems that drones have finally taken off.

FROM £2,380, DJI.COM, OUT NOW



## {2} KUNG-FU KICKSTART

*Kawasaki Ninja H2R*

The Ninja H2R boasts a variable-speed centrifugal-type supercharger, which Kawasaki says is capable of 300 horsepower. That's 50% more than its rival, the Suzuki Hayabusa, and 30,000% more than a single horse. The bike is designed explicitly for track use only, and doesn't even include a warranty.

£25,000, KAWASAKI.COM, OUT TBC



## {3} STREAM DREAM

*Denon CEOL N9*

Denon's original CEOL network Hi-Fi wowed us back in 2011, and now it's doing the same again with its CEOL N9, which includes support for streaming from just about every source you can imagine, from high-tech internet services such as Spotify to a humble ol' FM radio signal. Audiophiles will appreciate FLAC playback, while hyperactive kids will love its instant Bluetooth pairing via NFC. It looks nicely futuristic, too.

£399, DENON.EU, OUT NOW



**{4}**  
**FLYING TWEETER**  
*Mars Levitating Speaker*

Levitating speakers may sound like little more than sci-fi whimsy, but there's some pretty grounded physics behind them – sound waves are absorbed by whatever's supporting a conventional speaker, so a magnetically hovering speaker should deliver a fuller, richer sound. The Mars integrates a subwoofer into the base, so you can get sweet trebles and floorboard-throbbing basslines at the same time.

£TBC, CRAZYBABY.COM, OUT TBC

**{5}**  
**HEAR THE RAINBOW**  
*Bose Soundlink Color*

Bose's name tends to conjure up images of conservatively-designed but well-tuned audio appliances that look more suited to the cockpit of a WWII bomber than a trendy bedsit. The SoundLink takes a more colourful approach, coming in blue, mint, red, black and white. It also packs Bluetooth, so you can connect two devices at once, an auxiliary input if you fear wireless networking, and a battery that'll give up to eight hours of non-stop tunes.

£120, BOSE.CO.UK, OUT NOW



**{6}**  
**ANSWER MACHINE**  
*Amazon Echo*

Amazon's Echo speaker-cum-personal-assistant is designed to sit at the centre of your tech abode and listen for your questions, reminders and requests. It includes some smart tech, such as seven uni-directional beam-forming microphones so it can understand your voice even when you've got some devastating dub on, and it embraces the cloud, so it always gets smarter – though hopefully not to the extent that it has a HAL-style meltdown.

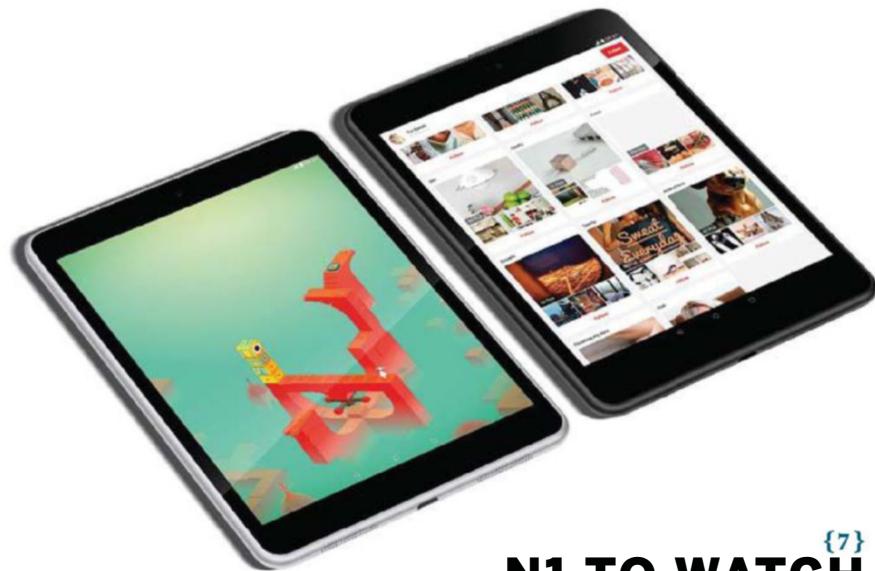
\$199, AMAZON.COM, OUT NOW



**{8}**  
**LORD KITCHENER**  
*Drop Smart Scale*

This device connects to your iPad and talks you through recipes, adapting them if you're running low on flour or add too much milk. There's also a Next button so you can progress through recipes without leaving your iPad like a plasterer's radio, and an in-built timer so you don't burn your cakes. It's like having Gordon Ramsay in your kitchen, only without the inventive swearing.

£100, GETDROP.COM, OUT NOW



**{7}**  
**N1 TO WATCH**  
*Nokia N1*

Like *The Sixth Sense*, Nokia's incorporation into Microsoft comes with a hefty plot twist: its first product since the takeover is powered by Android. The N1 is a premium tablet with an Atom processor and a 7.9-inch 2,048x1,536 resolution screen. Nokia will launch the N1 in China, with other countries following later. It's just like when Sonic started showing up in Mario games, only more boring.

\$250, NOKIA.COM, TBC



## {9} WIRELESS WONDERS

**Beats Solo2 Wireless**

Wireless headphones are pretty tricky to get right – as well as making sure you don't hear Russian long-wave radio transmissions alongside your music, the cans need to be light and well-balanced. Beats is pretty good on the design front, though, and the Solo2 Wireless headphones are basically a revision of its decent Solo2 headphones, without the wires and with the necessary Bluetooth gubbins to transmit your tunes. These are likely to be the last Beats headphones without Apple branding, so get 'em while they're hot.

\$300, BEATSBYDRE.COM, OUT NOW



## {10} TRACTOR RAPTOR

**EE Buzzard 2**

The only reliable way to get in-car Wi-Fi we've found is to ram raid your local Starbucks. EE's Buzzard 2 promises to end this highly dangerous practice by adding a Wi-Fi hotspot to your automobile of choice. The device plugs into your cigarette lighter and broadcasts a 4G Wi-Fi connection to the interior of your vehicle, so you can break up the monotony of a journey by watching films, sending emails and downloading music.

£79.99, EE.CO.UK, OUT NOW

## {11} CRAZY FUEL

**Toyota Mirai**

Back in 1997 Toyota made electric vehicles feasible with its Prius hybrid cars, and now it aims to do the same for hydrogen-powered vehicles. The Mirai runs on fuel cells that turn compressed hydrogen gas into pure electricity, which in turn drives the front wheels via a motor. Toyota reckons the car will be capable of going 300 miles on a full tank of compressed hydrogen, and its only emission will be water vapour. Toyota's also invested in building hydrogen fuelling stations across the US, so you won't get caught short on a road trip to San Antonio.

\$50,000, TOYOTA.COM, TBC





# make a **STRONG** **IMPRESSION**

Get your swagger back with the Hair Endurance Collection from Head & Shoulders – scalp care experts for over 60 years.

This 2-step programme not only keeps you flake free\* for a healthier scalp condition, but the new tonic with caffeine also strengthens each strand, effectively reducing hair fall† for full and strong hair.

Find out more at [headandshoulders.co.uk](http://headandshoulders.co.uk)

 **head & shoulders**

LIVE  
HEAD  
FIRST



\*Visible flakes seen at 2ft with regular use.  
†Due to breakage.



## FUTURE SHOCK!

*The Electrolux Design Lab winners include concept tech straight outta Star Trek*

**1**

### FUTURE HUNTER GATHERER

Challenges you to hunt 3D holographic fish and animals in your home with a Wii-style controller. Drop the produce into a virtual pot and it's brought to your door via the miracles of e-commerce.

DESIGNER: PAN WANG, CHINA

PLACING: FIRST, SCOOPING £5,000

**2**

### LOTUS

The "petals" of this app-controlled air purifier open to reveal three more purifiers, for dehumidifying, odour removal and general atmospheric cleansing. Return the balls to the Lotus to recharge 'em.

DESIGNER: FULDEN DEHNELI, TURKEY

PLACING: SECOND

**3**

### URBANCONE

UrbanCone is a semi-autonomous hover-drone designed to fly around and suck up industrial air pollution, capturing it under its "wings". For our money, the most aesthetically-pleasing concept.

DESIGNER: MICHAL POSPIECH, POLAND

PLACING: THIRD

**4**

### PURE TOWEL

Dries and purifies towels by means of a circular, bladeless fan and UV lights, which lower and raise automatically on a magnetic rail. This way, "all the family can use the same towel". Hmm.

DESIGNER: LEOBARDO ARMENTA, MEXICO

PLACING: RUNNER-UP

**5**

### PETE

Fleeces are made from recycled plastic bottles; PETE takes that concept to sci-fi heights. Feed bottles in and it crushes and melts them, then "prints" any garment you like from the resultant polyester mulch.

DESIGNER: KOVÁCS APÓR, HUNGARY

PLACING: RUNNER-UP

**6**

### SET TO MIMIC

Our favourite, "connects wirelessly to your brain" in order to fool it into thinking that boring-but-healthy food is actually yummy trifle or steak. Forget willpower; future-dieting will be all about mind warping!

DESIGNER: SORINA RASTEANU, ROMANIA

PLACING: RUNNER-UP



## SUPERCHARGE your hair

Effectively reduces hair fall\*  
for full and strong hair.



“ I have been using  
the product daily for  
over a week now and  
I am already amazed  
at the results. ”

nivagni, boots.com, Jan 2014



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FILL SCREEN  
WITH PAGE



GET YOUR 50ml  
TRAVEL PACK

10 YEARS IN UK & ROI

\*Due to breakage

\*Winner Shampoo & Hair Treatment Category. Survey of 11,941 people in UK & ROI by TNS

# FUTURE CARS

The Los Angeles Auto Show may well be one of the last motor shows on the 2014 calendar, but the world's best car manufacturers saved plenty of treats for it. In fact, it was bursting at the seams with spiffing automotive tech, stylish new rides and a smattering of madcap concepts. Which were our favourites? Read on to find out...

2



4



## 1. BENTLEY GRAND CONVERTIBLE

Have you got a few hundred thousand smackers burning a hole in your pocket? Based on the Mulsanne saloon, the Grand Convertible features a retractable hood that reveals a beautifully handcrafted walnut cover. Inside there's plenty of leather, wood and chrome trim covering surfaces that are typically plastic in lesser vehicles. Underneath the polished metal bonnet sits a whopping 6.75-litre twin-turbo V8 that develops a heady 530bhp, which is said to offer "effortless performance". No word on price or a release date, but start saving.

## 2. MERCEDES MAYBACH S600

The ultra-luxurious Maybach marque has been resurrected and will appear on a top-of-the-line, V12-powered Mercedes-Benz S600 model next year. The flagship vehicle is 200mm longer than the standard – and already pretty spacious – S Class. Every single surface and panel is lavished in leather, while niceties like seat-back TV screens for rear passengers, mood lighting, massaging seats, heated elbow rests and storage compartments for Champagne flutes all come as standard. Expect to part with at least £130,000 if you fancy cruising with this high roller.

## 3. BMW X5 AND X6 M

It was two for the price of one on molten hot SUVs this year, as BMW unveiled sporty M versions of both its X5 and X6 crossover vehicles. Both get all-new 4.4-litre twin-turbo V8 engines that develop a staggering 567bhp, resulting in a 0-62mph sprint time of just 4.2 seconds. A BMW rep said the potent Sports Activity Vehicles are "Nordschleife fit", hinting they've both spent time pounding the Nürburgring. BMW's intelligent xDrive all-wheel drive system also features, just in case customers also fancy a spot of off-roading, and the interiors get a serious shot of luxury to boot.

## 4. AUDI PROLOGUE

The razor sharp lines, striking wheel design and ultra-futuristic interior of Audi's Prologue concept showcase what the A6, A7 and A8 might look like in future. The 4.0-litre TFSI turbocharged petrol engine develops a mighty 587bhp, but the Prologue also packs some seriously neat tech. The dashboard takes the recent Audi TT's Virtual Cockpit design to a new level, encasing most of the cabin in touchscreen displays. The driver can control many functions with swipes and gestures, while the front passenger can enjoy multimedia functionality via the interactive screens.

## 5. JAGUAR F-TYPE AWD

Four-wheel drive and a manual gearbox are both coming to the ferocious F-Type next year, as the British marque hopes to tempt buyers away from Porsche. There will also be the option of a six-speed manual gearbox on V6-powered F-Type and F-Type S, to appeal to those wanting a more 'involving' driving experience. A new infotainment system boasts Jaguar's excellent InControl apps, enabling text and email messages to be read out on the move and select car data to be beamed to smartphones remotely. There's even a new eight-inch touchscreen display with gesture control.



#### 6. LEXUS LF-C2 ROADSTER

The Japanese marque's LF-C2 Roadster concept is a topless version of the RC coupe powered by the same snarling V8 engine. The concept does away with a roof completely, though a production model will likely have a retractable fabric hood in case of downpours. The interior is sleek and sparse, with two central touchscreen displays that take care of most functions and a smart set of digital instrument binnacles. There's more than a touch of BMW M4 about the exterior, and if the Lexus comes packing the rumoured 450bhp 5.0-litre V8, things could get very interesting.

#### 7. AUDI A7 H-TRON

Hydrogen-powered vehicles: the future or a dead end? Audi is pushing for the former, by unveiling arguably the first high performance fuel cell vehicle. The A7 h-tron employs a fancy low-temperature proton exchange membrane (LT PEM) fuel cell stack and carbonfibre hydrogen tanks, a lithium-ion battery pack and electric motors to create an alternative drive vehicle that really shifts. Audi says the weighty machine can accelerate from 0 to 62mph in 7.8 seconds, reach a top speed of 113mph and achieve a theoretical range of 311 miles before refuelling is required.

#### 8. TOYOTA MIRAI

Despite seriously angular concept car looks, the Toyota Mirai will actually go into production. Its innovative hydrogen powerplant also looks set to shake up the way we fuel vehicles. Twin high-pressure hydrogen tanks mounted under the car power a permanent electric magnet motor, which drives the front wheels. A range of 300 miles is possible, the only emissions are water vapour, and refuelling takes only five minutes.

The expected cost is around £40,000 and hydrogen fuelling stations are currently extremely rare, but this could be the future of green personal mobility.

#### 9. PORSCHE 911 CARRERA GTS

Porsche has been slapping the GTS badge on its ever expanding range, so it was only a matter of time before the brilliant 911 got the race-ready treatment. The GTS tune-up means this latest 911 sits somewhere between the everyday practicality of a Carrera S and the all-out madness of the 911 GT3.

Additions include a revised seven-speed manual gearbox, an extra 30bhp, wider bodywork and a sports exhaust system for annoying the neighbours.

It's basically a pre-selected options package with a power hike, but it takes the 911 from really good to ruddy excellent.

#### {FOCUS}

#### In-car tech



JAGUAR JUSTDRIVE

Created with Silicon Valley firm CloudCar, the justDrive app enables you to use Yelp, Spotify, Twitter, Google Maps and more via natural speech. Just ask where the nearest petrol station is and get guided there.



MERCEDES BENZ SELF-DRIVING CONCEPT

This concept interior allows passengers to interact with the car and outside world via touchscreens (replacing windows) and gesture control, detecting eye, hand and finger movements.



TOYOTA SAFETY TECH

Intelligent Clearance Sonar detects obstacles, braking if it senses an imminent collision. The Panoramic View Monitor overhead view also adds See-through View, showing the surroundings as if the car is transparent.



**N 65° 19' 6.7" - W 137° 20' 14"**

**SEVERAL DAYS' WALK FROM ANY TRACE OF MANKIND**

Suffused with the pioneering spirit of the far North and the epic journeys of sled dogs across the frozen expanse of the Arctic, the TUDOR Heritage Ranger is the reinterpretation of a classic, a fusion of sophistication with the demands of an untamed environment. The epitome of functionality, its broad strap, satin-smooth finish and understated dial are just some of the features through which the modern city dweller can glimpse a mythical bygone world. And hear the call of the wild.

**TUDOR HERITAGE RANGER**

Self-winding mechanical movement, waterproof to 150 m, steel case 41 mm.  
Visit [tudorwatch.com](http://tudorwatch.com) and explore more.



**TUDOR**  
WATCH YOUR STYLE

# TO INFINITY, AND BEYOND...

**Samsung's 17-camera 3D video capture system is set to shake up the world of virtual reality**

IF THERE'S GOING TO BE A PROBLEM WITH Samsung's Galaxy Gear VR headset it's a lack of content. While there are some pretty decent-looking custom made games in the pipeline, they lack the clarity and definition you'll get on an Oculus Rift or PlayStation's Project Morpheus. And you may be able to view 3D photos and movies with the headset, but these are still going to be fairly limited by the way this content is created.

To combat this, and to create great-looking 3D visuals for the Gear VR, Samsung has created Project Beyond. This small disc-like gadget contains 16 cameras – plus one

on top – arranged to capture wherever it is in stereoscopic 3D. Once the videos are captured they're stitched together into a seamless whole, which can be explored via a Gear headset. You could place the camera anywhere – on stage during a U2 concert, for example – and whoever's wearing the headset will feel like they're there. Which is great, until Bono bounces his leathery crotch all over it.

Samsung hasn't actually confirmed who the device is aimed at, or whether it'll even be available for purchase by the general public. But if it plays its cards right Project Beyond could become the Gear VR's killer feature.





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I WILL.

RYAN MATHEWS  
PRO AMERICAN FOOTBALL PLAYER

THE STEALTH PATTERN INSIDE  
IS THE SECRET TO WARMTH.

UA.COM

# SEXY TIME

*Clever timepieces that will transform your wrist into a centre of sexual energy*

## Cogito Classic

Straddling the line between watch and connected device, this offers an analogue face mixed with hi-tech underpinnings. It'll connect to an Android or iOS smartphone, so you can handle incoming calls and check for new messages. Looks comes courtesy of French designer Xavier Houy.

£130, COGITOWATCH.COM, OUT NOW

## Casio G-Shock GBA-400-1A9ER

G-Shocks are renowned for their toughness, but they're quite smart too – this one comes with G-Mix, which allows you to connect over Bluetooth, via an app, to your music, enabling you to control settings and see the name of anything that's being played nearby.

£180, G-SHOCK.CO.UK, OUT NOW

## Withings Activité

This classy, contemporary piece gets its modernist lines from the French design house Activité, but it's actually Swiss made. The thin bezel is on trend, and its features include fitness trackers for running and swimming that link with an iPhone app. It'll monitor your sleeping patterns, and dive to 50m too.

£320, WITHTHINGS.COM, OUT NOW

## Névo Watch

With its understated design and narrow bezel, this watch looks contemporary and will talk to your iPhone or Android mobile using Bluetooth. Put together by designers from France, Switzerland and Hong Kong, it has step, run and swim-tracking functions when linked with your smartphone.

£199, NEVOWATCH.COM, PREORDER NOW



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by HARMAN



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**AWARDS 2014**

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## RESEARCH AND DESIGN

*Audio Research introduces its latest and greatest valve-based amplifiers*

<b>NICE. BUT WHAT ARE THEY, EXACTLY?</b>	<b>WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THEM?</b>	<b>WHAT ARE THOSE LIGHT BULB THINGS?</b>	<b>AREN'T VALVES ANCIENT TECHNOLOGY NOW?</b>	<b>GO ON THEN, WHAT'S THE DAMAGE?</b>
Named after Renaissance stargazer Galileo, Audio Research's G Series consists of three high-grade Hi-Fi amplifiers – the GSPre preamplifier, the GS150 power amplifier and the GS175 integrated amplifier.	The GSPre preamplifier and the GS150 power amplifier are designed to be used together for ultimate audio performance. The GS175 combines elements of both into one unit, but drops the power.	Those are valves, dear. They make a big difference when it comes to preserving the finer details of an analogue signal, but the G Series can also deliver enough power for high volumes and punchy sounds.	Their fundamental design is over 100 years old, but they're still admired by audiophiles. The G Series are Audio Research's first products to use Tung-Sol's KT150 valve, which was only developed last year.	The GSPre preamplifier will set you back £12,250, while the GS150 power amplifier costs an additional £16,998. Not cheap, so you might want to upgrade your Aiwa speakers and tape deck while you're at it.

{ SAY WHAT? }  
**WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU DON'T KNOW HOW A VALVE AMPLIFIER WORKS?**

Although valves contain nothing but a vacuum and a few components, they're still filled with electrical wonder. Original valve tubes consist of a central cathode pole, which itself contains a heated coil,

and an anode, which surrounds the cathode. Pass the input signal through the cathode and electrons fly out of it; pass a bigger current through the anode and these electrons will be drawn out in greater



numbers, unimpeded thanks to the vacuum nature of the valve.

In 1906 Lee de Forest found that by adding a third component with a negative charge, known as the grid, he could control the flow of

current through the component. Increase the grid's negative charge and the output decreases, resulting in lower volumes; decreasing it makes things louder. And all this happens with just a touch of the dial.

#11

## DESIGN DONS

**HARALD BELKER**

*Want a flying car for your big-budget movie? Belker's your man*



WHEN YOU'RE ENGROSSED IN AN ACTION SEQUENCE in a blockbuster movie it's easy to forget that every object you can see on screen has been designed by someone, somewhere. And chief among these invisible artists is Harald Belker, who has become a go-to designer for futuristic vehicles. Beginning with *Batman and Robin*, Belker has since designed automobiles for sci-fi blockbusters *Minority Report*, *Oblivion*, *Total Recall* and *Tron*, blending an in-depth working knowledge of cars with vehicles that utterly inhabit the worlds they've been created for. Belker's not limited to cars, though, having created a variety of objects of desire, including sunglasses, furniture, fuel stations and toys.



**ANKI 2013**  
TWENTY YEARS OF CAR DESIGN NOUS COMPRESSED INTO 70MM. THESE AI RACERS LOOK A WORLD AWAY FROM YOUR AVERAGE SCALEXTRIC SET. UNLIKE THE REST OF THE DESIGNS ON SHOW HERE, YOU CAN ACTUALLY BUY WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING AT.

**PULSE: THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO FUTURE RACING 2011**  
THIS WEIGHTY TOME IMAGINES A FUTURE OF FRICTION-FREE RACING, WITH WIPE-OUT-ESQUE VEHICLES THAT LOOK LIKE THEY COULD FEASIBLY COMPETE WITH ONE ANOTHER IN 2035.

**TRON LIGHTCYCLE 2010**  
THIS DESIGN FOR THE SCI-FI FANTASY MOVIE *TRON* WAS ULTIMATELY REJECTED, BUT IT CERTAINLY CAPTURED THE FILM'S UPDATED COMBINATION OF GLOSSY BLACK SURFACES AND BRIGHT NEON LIGHTS.

**MAXELLE CHAIR 2000**  
THE ULTIMATE IN CONTEMPORARY SEATING, THIS FUTURISTIC THRONE WAS INFLUENCED BY THE FAMOUS MAXELL 'BLOWN AWAY' CASSETTE ADVERTS OF THE 1980S, AND CLEVERLY FUSES FURNITURE DESIGN WITH THE SLEEKNESS OF A HIGH-END AUTOMOBILE.



**{SPEAK}**  
**Design Studio Press's Scott Robertson on Belker's brilliance**



Harald Belker's body of work is impressive in several ways. His styling and design skills remain relevant and contemporary no matter what the project, whether he's applying his design skills to a toy, a movie vehicle, a piece of furniture, a book or a pair of glasses.

His level of surfacing ability and attention to the finest details communicates a love of craft and a deep understanding of industrial design so often lacking in many of the products manufactured today. It is this depth of knowledge that enables him to design such a wide range of objects, which always feel original and authentic.

Harald's work is so varied that it's hard to pick my favourites. I'd probably have to choose his books *Ride* and *Pulse*, but as publisher of these I might be a bit biased!



# THE AMAZING

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October 2014



August 2012



January 2012



September 2011



July 2013



JUNE 2014



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# STUFF

*Money talks, money talks, dirty tech we want you, dirty tech we need you. Wa-oh*



**PARROT BEBOP** PLUG AN OCULUS RIFT INTO THIS DRONE'S CONTROLLER AND ENJOY A FIRST-PERSON VIEW OF WHATEVER YOU'RE SPY-ER, FILMING.  
\$500, PARROT.COM, OUT NOW

**STEELSERIES SIBERIA RAW PRISM HEADSET** HEAR ANY GAME'S MANY EXPLOSIONS IN EXTREME CLARITY, WITHOUT SPENDING A SMALL FORTUNE.  
£50, STEELSERIES.COM, OUT NOW

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£63, ONEFORALL.CO.UK, OUT NOW

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£30, GERBER.COM, OUT NOW

**WOoyer** THIS MATCHBOX-SIZED SPEAKER CLIPS TO YOUR CLOTHES AND ROCKS YOUR BODY WITH BASSY FREQUENCIES.  
\$99, WOOJER.COM, OUT NOW

**MOLESKINE SMART NOTEBOOK** DRAW A PICTURE, SCAN IT WITH YOUR IPHONE AND IT APPEARS IN SVG FORMAT IN ADOBE'S CREATIVE CLOUD APPS. MAGIC.  
£25, MOLESKINE.COM, OUT NOW

**MELTING TOHT CANDLE** RECREATES THE MOST DISTURBING SHOT IN RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK, IN MUCH THE SAME WAY IT WAS ORIGINALLY DONE.  
£20, FIREBOX.COM, OUT NOW

**PROJECTOR DOME STAR MAP** THAT EXPOSITION SCENE IN ALL SCI-FI FILMS WITH A PROJECTED STAR MAP IN YOUR BEDROOM, WITH YOUR TEDDIES.  
£15, THEFOWNDRY.COM, OUT NOW





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# THE BUZZ

Been a bit distracted by your seasonal shenanigans? Here's what you missed...

## WHAT WE'VE LEARNED THIS MONTH

### You can 3D print in space now

NASA has brought 3D printing to low-Earth orbit by installing its Made in Space appliance on the International Space Station. Expect to see extraterrestrials lining up outside to collect poorly-defined tiny versions of themselves.

### We have little in common with centipedes

Research from the University of Cambridge has revealed that the multi-limbed arthropods have 15,000 fewer genes than human beings. However, they do have more jeans than human beings. Ahem.



## WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

Ford runs again, a new use for air, and cooler drones

### {MOVIES}

#### Please don't do a *Prometheus*

Then: A sequel or prequel to iconic sci-fi noir *Blade Runner* was rumoured, with Ridley Scott returning to direct, but minus star Harrison Ford. Now: Scott's confirmed that a sequel is in the works, but he won't direct it. Ford, however, will show up in the third act.

### {SCIENCE}

#### Miracle material gets more marvellous

Then: Graphene was heralded as a replacement for regular materials, perfect for anything from phone parts to space elevators. Now: Scientists have discovered that the substance allows positively charged hydrogen atoms to pass through it, so it could be used to literally create energy from thin air.

### {ACTION CAMS}

#### GoPro set to take to the skies

Then: GoPro's rugged HD action cameras (above) are the market leaders thanks to cool features and savvy marketing (see p110).

Now: A report from the Wall Street Journal suggests that the company will create a line of camera-equipped drones in time for Christmas next year. Want!



## YOUR MAILS, TWEETS AND POSTS

### Paranoid Android

Did your best Android games round-up on the web come to the conclusion that they're all shite? I can't be bothered to read the whole article because shitedroid is a mess for games due to Google's decision to not control the platform properly. #wildwest

IAN SWEENEY, VIA FACEBOOK

To save you reading the article, Ian, here are some of the best Android games: Dungeon

Hunter 4, The Wolf Among Us, Two Dots, Bike Mayhem, and CSR Racing. Absolutely none of them are "shite".

### Lollipop goes sour

I received the new version of Android around 9pm last night for Nexus 5. I was so excited for it, but it's a real let down. It's not as big of a change visually as I expected, except for the heavy use of white, including the new keyboard. Also, surely the new app tray will use more battery, not less? Good news is that there are no issues with Wi-Fi.

CRAIG ETHERIDGE, VIA FACEBOOK

We love Android L: the lockscreen has become a one-stop-shop for everything we need, without the rigmarole of unlocking our phone,

and the battery life improvements are just the upgrade we were looking for. Perhaps a Giotek headset would cheer you up?

### Take the high road

Ford put a Mustang on top of the world's tallest building? Well that's nice. Infiniti Red Bull Racing performed donuts on its helipad!

MOHAMMED MANGERA, VIA FACEBOOK

We're just waiting for Ken Block to drive a Ford Fiesta down the side.



### SEND MAIL, WIN THIS

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

£34.99, GIOTECK.COM

## THE MONTH IN NUMBERS

*Can you digit? Yes you can!*

### HOLY SHIP!



**382x124 METRES**

The length and breadth of the Pieter Schelte, the world's largest crane ship, making it as long as the New York's Empire State Building is tall.

\*BBC

### DEALER.COM 20%

of respondents to *The Guardian's* Global Drug Survey admitted to buying illicit substances online via sites such as The Silk Road.

\*GLOBAL DRUG SURVEY

### BLOCKY VIDEOS **47 BILLION**

The number of times Minecraft videos have been viewed on YouTube.

\*OCTOLY

### EXTERMINATE **\$6.25**

The hourly cost of hiring a Knightscope K5 security robot to protect your premises.

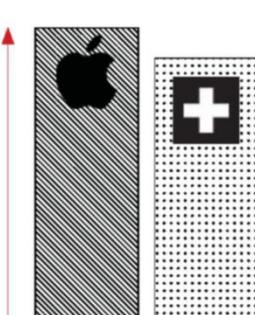


**\$13.68**

The average hourly wage of a US security guard.

\*KNIGHTSCOPE/SALARY.COM

### GOING CUCKOO



**\$703 BILLION**  
The peak total market capitalisation of Apple.

**\$631 BILLION**  
The gross domestic product of Switzerland.

\*THE REGISTER

### WAKING MARS



The number of "hellos" currently on their way to Mars via radio waves. Participants paid company Uwingu \$5 to send a greeting to the red planet.

\*UWINGU

### NOT ON THE HIGH STREET

The total number of hours Brits have spent doing their Christmas shopping online. One in ten even bought their turkey on the net.



\*THE POST OFFICE

### PENSIONED POOTER

**66**

The age of Cambridge University's Electronic Delay Storage Automatic Calculator, one of the world's oldest computers. It's due to be brought out of retirement in 2015.

\*THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF COMPUTING

### SAY CHEESE

**245,682,615**

"Snapmatics" taken with GTA Online's Instagram-like virtual camera. That's **432** pictures per minute.

\*ROCKSTAR

### MASSIVE COUNT



The length of a YouTube video featuring Sesame Street's The Count reciting Pi to 10,000 decimal places. We're two hours in so far.

\*GIZMODO



### Google Glass

Despite rumours of the death of Google's augmented reality specs, the company is carrying on with the idea, with an Intel-powered version slated for next year.

### Nostalgia

*Star Wars* and *Jurassic Park* returning to the big screens in 2015 makes our inner 14-year-olds happy. A good *Indiana Jones* film would complete the hat trick.

### Johnny Rotten

The ex-Sex Pistols told the *Daily Telegraph* that he's spent £10,000 on iPad apps in the last two years. Good to know those butter advert royalties are being well spent.

### WINNING

### THE T3 WINDEX

*What's going up and down in Techsville?*

### FAILING

#### Selfie sticks

This tech fad has been outlawed in South Korea after its radio management agency found that their Bluetooth transmissions could intrude on other frequencies.

#### Kim Dotcom

The controversial founder of Megaupload has revealed that ongoing court battles have wiped out \$10m of his fortune. His lawyers resigned as his funds ran out.

### Tablets

Sales of the touch-friendly have grown by just 7.2% in 2014, compared to 52.5% for the previous year. Larger phones are said to be behind the slowdown.



# WHAT'S ON YOUR RADAR?

2015 is set to be a good year, so get your calendars out...

# 3



**Months away**



**TECH**  
**Zano**

Basically an autonomous video drone on a smaller scale, Zano nonetheless includes some big features: Wi-Fi connectivity to your smartphone, a 'follow me' setting and HD video recording. It's set to come in at less than £200.



**FILM**  
**The Transporter Legacy**

The slightly hairier Ed Skrein takes over Jason Statham's role as the badass British ball buster in the franchise's reboot. Expect lots of gratuitous shots of expensive cars going fast and stupidly enjoyable action sequences.



**GAME**  
**Tom Clancy's The Division**

Set after a pandemic has ravaged the world, *The Division* incorporates social play from the first level and allows unparalleled player customisation. Makes the most of the graphical power of current-gen consoles.



**EVENT**  
**Formula E**

This eco-friendly race features single-seater cars that run on the same form of energy that powers your kettle. They're not quite as fast as their petrol-powered brethren, but they're still quick. Catch 'em in London's Battersea Park on 27 June.

# 6



**Months away**



**TECH**  
**Samsung Galaxy Note 5**

The next iteration of Samsung's android phablet is likely to feature a true 4K screen, giving it a whopping pixel density of 700 per inch. If Samsung releases a new Gear VR headset alongside it our minds will be well and truly blown.



**FILM**  
**Crimson Peak**

*Pacific Rim* director Guillermo del Toro helms this Brontë-esque gothic horror set in a crumbling mansion in Cumbria. Mia Wasikowska and Tom Hiddleston lead, but del Toro's production design will take centre stage.



**GAME**  
**Project Phoenix**

Japan's first Kickstarter-funded game looks good, combining talents who've worked on *Final Fantasy* and *L.A. Noire*. The squad-based real-time strategy will include RPG elements, and it's in development for just about every platform.



**EVENT**  
**Festival No. 6**

This event takes place in Portmeirion, the creepily idyllic Welsh town that provided the backdrop for cult TV series *The Prisoner*. No word on 2015's line-up, but previous headliners have included Beck, Primal Scream and New Order.

# 9

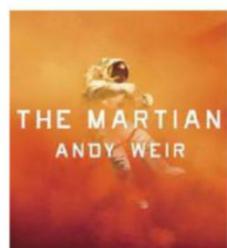


**Months away**



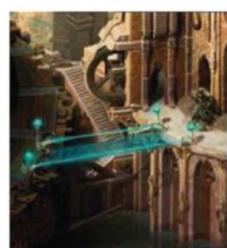
**TECH**  
**Blocks**

It may have lost Intel's Make it Wearable contest, but there's potential in this modular smartwatch. We like the idea of distributing the components into the strap so it doesn't look like you've got a mince pie mounted on your wrist.



**FILM**  
**The Martian**

Stranded on the red planet, astronaut Mark Watney (Matt Damon) must fend off dust storms and starvation while his Earthbound comrades work out how to rescue him. Based on the book by Andy Weir, Ridley Scott will direct.



**GAME**  
**Torment: Tides of Numenera**

1999's RPG *Planescape: Torment* is great, but ancient graphics put us off rebooting it. Its Kickstarter-funded sequel updates the title with the Unity engine, and promises a tidal wave of story-driven questing.



**EVENT**  
**Nickelback**

The divisive Canadian stadium rockers tour the UK in November, taking in Glasgow, Manchester and London. A crowdfunding campaign to stop the rock stars entering London has failed, leaving lead singer Chad Kroeger quite amused.

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

**YEAH!**

LG's G Flex 2 is rumoured for launch soon. It's like a normal Android smartphone, but with LG's amazing display technology so it can be bent and flexed without breaking – something we bet Apple wishes it invested in.

**MEH!**

Our new year's resolutions include using more exercise wearables to lose weight and planning healthier meals with an app. Oh, and reducing our screen time. Technology is the dangling carrot of self-improvement here.

Following the success of Lady Dinah's Cat Emporium in London, a second UK cat café is set to open. After a Kickstarter campaign, the Kitty Café in Nottingham will offer three floors of furry felines. That's our new office sorted.



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Download the ARC app, then connect your device via Bluetooth to the new ARC powerbase, unlocking unique features and control of your races allowing users to merge the excitement of real time, on-track racing, with the thrill of on-screen gameplay.

Personalise your race by selecting features such as race type, driver names and number of laps. Customise and save your race settings and car setup, before you head out on the track to test your skills and challenge your opponent.

### Key features include:

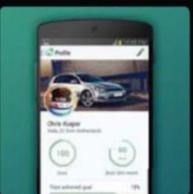
- Can be added to any existing Scalextric set.
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- **In-race gameplay:** Race start, jump start, start reaction times, lap counting, top speed, proximity sound, pit-lane pitstop, fuel usage, tyre wear.
- **Pre-race configuration:** Set selection, car selection, track layout selector, driver images, personalise garage.
- **Social media:** Post your race results on Twitter or Facebook, challenge friends, share results, view post-race statistics table and graph.



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This month... **The year in games / An astonishing 12-year project / The Pumpkins are still smashing / Employ a back-seat driver**



# Play

THE CONTENT FOR YOUR KIT

THE ESSENTIAL

*Far Cry 4* has proved one of the best iterations in recent years, but nothing truly groundbreaking was released in 2014



## PATTERN RECOGNITION

*2014's biggest games saw the biggest publishers not innovating, but stuck in a holding pattern*

**W**hen all the praise and criticism of this year's big-name games is in, you'll notice that many of 2014's biggest titles had one thing in common – they weren't actually terribly innovative.

It wasn't a lean year for gaming. On the contrary, 2014 saw some of the biggest and best games in recent memory – both in blockbuster sequels and new Triple As. In the latter, the biggest publishers saw to it that the faithful received

just what they wanted. The year saw new entries in *Call of Duty*, *FIFA*, *Far Cry*, *Mario Kart* and *Super Smash Bros.*, and critics and gamers agreed that these new-generation sequels were some of the best iterations seen in these franchises for ages. Only *Assassin's Creed: Unity* suffered a speed wobble. Buggy and slammed for not offering much in the way of a new experience, Ubisoft's historical adventure still sold respectably. →

Play



**Destiny**, 2014's biggest release. With expansions due this month, the action is set to continue

→ On the new IP front, 2014 saw some of the biggest new launches in gaming. *Titanfall* was one of the year's early big sellers, though the jury's still out on whether this soldier-vs-mech online shooter is an Xbox One system seller in its own right. The same was true of *Sunset Overdrive*, which offered a colourful take on traditional zombie shooters.

Sony and Nintendo flagged a little in the exclusives department. While the latter provided the Mario faithful with fan service, its most interesting exclusive was *Bayonetta 2*. Sony has a boatload of high-profile IP in the pipeline, but mostly scheduled for next year.

Ubisoft fired out new sandbox cyber-thriller *Watch Dogs* and open-world vehicular MMO *The Crew*. Neither lived up to the hype

## MOST GAMES SIMPLY PROVIDED THE SAME EXPERIENCES AS THEIR PREDECESSORS

ahead of their release, but they sold well and it's likely we'll see sequels to both in the future.

The biggest release was *Destiny*, Bungie's persistent-world shooter, which while drawing comparisons to Gearbox's *Borderlands* series still bagged a huge audience. Since Bungie looks set to hurl out expansions for *Destiny* at a clip (the first arrives this month), the game's online lobbies are unlikely to empty any time soon.

Still, while sales and hype were huge features this year, notable by its absence was the release of something genuinely groundbreaking. Most games followed tried-and-tested rubrics, or simply provided the same experiences as their predecessors. Perhaps the most innovative Triple A was the low-key *Alien: Isolation*, which ripped up the map for the series drawn for it by a host of average shooters and reimagined the franchise as a genuinely terrifying survival horror.

If developers and publishers can follow this example in 2015, the gaming industry will be all the better for it.

## GAMES



### TOM CLANCY'S: THE DIVISION

*Restore order to the streets of New York in the aftermath of a flu epidemic, then wonder if you're feeling a bit sniffly yourself*

Whoever's in charge of the high-concept plots over at Ubisoft's story factory must have sleepless nights. The last new sandbox IP the French developer pumped out was *Watch Dogs*, which made a ton of mileage out of cyber intrusion and the notion that privacy in the 21st century is as impossible as it is laughable.

Enter *The Division*, which posits the idea that in the event of a full-on flu epidemic it'll take just five days for society to collapse and the law of the jungle to take effect.

Players take on the role of operatives in a government sleeper cell charged with

restoring order once everything goes to hell. Reveal trailers and demos have shown players will be wandering through New York using co-op play to take down insurgents, help the local authorities and try to get the power back up and running. To aid them in this quest, they're armed to the teeth with guns, grenades and nifty futuristic equipment like drones and body-heat-seeking mines.

Add all that up and *The Division* looks to be one of 2015's watershed games. Let's just hope it's less of a victim of its own hype than *Watch Dogs* turned out to be.

£44, TOMCLANCY-THEDIVISION.UBI.COM, OUT 2015 ON PC, PS4 AND X1



#### {FOCUS}

**While co-op is the name of the game, there are opportunities for PVP play too. Areas on the map are demarcated for different match types, so it's easy to find a neighbourhood to blast other players**



#### {BEST OF THE REST}

**Paintballing for kids meets hardcore dungeon crawler**



#### Batman: Arkham Knight

PC, PS4, X1

The Dark Knight returns in this closing chapter of the *Batman* trilogy. Expect gadgets, combat combos and Batmobile driving.

FROM £26, BATMANARKHAMKIGHT.COM, OUT JUNE 2



#### Splatoon

WIIU

Paint the town red (or any colour) in this boisterous shooter, in which players score points by coating each other in varying hues. Like 'baby's first shooter'.

£42.50, NINTENDO.CO.UK, OUT TBC



#### Bloodborne

PS4

The studio that brought players *Dark Souls* serves up an equally rock-hard dungeon crawler, featuring steampunk gloom and nightmarish creatures.

£49.85, PLAYSTATION.COM, OUT MARCH 27



#### The Last Guardian

PS4

Sony says this adventure of a boy and his Griffin is still a going concern, but we've not seen hide nor hair of it since E3 2009. Maybe 2015 will see its release...

£TBC, JPLAYSTATION.COM, OUT TBC



MERIDIAN

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25

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to arrange your no-obligation demonstration.

Play

## FILMS

**BOYHOOD**

**Richard Linklater's opus is a film that says everything, whilst nothing happens**

Filmed over the course of 12 years, *Boyhood* is a one-off. Sure, director Richard Linklater's *Before Sunset/Before Sunrise/After Midnight* trilogy tracked a couple across multiple decades, but it had certain 'Hollywood' elements. This? Well, it's closer to Paul Almond and Michael Apted's *Up* series of documentaries than your standard dramatic movie.

Following a boy and his fractured family as he grows from the age of five to 17, the film never takes the easy route. For a start, it doesn't labour the point that the family is fractured, or try to find a happy resolution to that. It captures the everyday magic of childhood and the everyday melancholy of adulthood, never dwelling long enough on any one relationship or plot point to make it start feeling like "a movie". What you're watching, instead, feels real. Children learn. People make decisions, good and bad. People change. It's life. A unique film, an astounding achievement, a must watch.

£16 BLU-RAY, £14 HD DOWNLOAD, OUT JANUARY 19

## {BEST OF THE REST}

**Spies, super-brains, dimwits and disasters**

**A MOST WANTED MAN**

BLU-RAY, HD DOWNLOAD  
A classic John Le Carré adap, this shows spying as tedium broken by sporadic outbreaks of stomach-churning unpleasantness. A fitting farewell to star Philip Seymour Hoffman.

**LUCY**

BLU-RAY, HD DOWNLOAD  
A typically ludicrous Luc Besson actioner in which Scarlett Johansson develops the ability to use more of her brain. Ironic, as you'll need to do the opposite to really enjoy it.

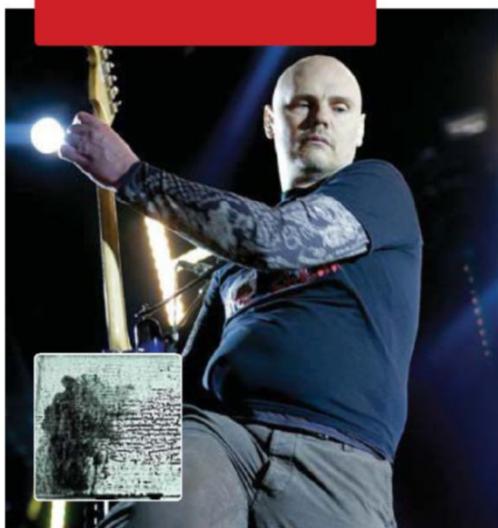
**THE INBETWEENERS 2**

BLU-RAY, HD DOWNLOAD  
Like *22 Jump Street*, this sequel can't match the first film for laughs, but it still undeniably has a great cast and is damn funny in places. Bonus feature: the best "poo in flume" joke ever.

**SIN CITY 2**

BLU-RAY, HD DOWNLOAD  
If you liked the original *Sin City* you'll dislike this, as a fine cast is squandered and the visual tricks of its predecessor are milked dry. You disliked the first one? Oh, you'll hate it.

## MUSIC

**SMASHING?**

**The Pumpkins are back with nine more slabs of unremitting bombast**

It's hard to warm to Billy Corgan, and Smashing Pumpkins is now just him plus whatever blokes can stand to be in a room with him long enough to make a record before firing and/or suicide. However, despite that, and despite saddling it with the tombstone title of *Monuments to an Elegy*, his latest opus is undeniably rather magnificent. It's a wall of guitars and euphoric gloom as massive as his own ego – and that's substantial.

£11 CD, £8 MP3, OUT NOW

## {BEST OF THE REST}

**Rapping paper**

**GHOSTFACE KILLA**

**36 Seasons**  
Possibly the greatest talent from hip-hop's golden age still at the peak of his powers, Ghostface follows *12 Reasons to Die* with another classic.

£11 CD, £11 MP3, OUT NOW

**PANDA BEAR**

**Panda Bear Meets Grim Reaper**  
Massive slabs of psyche-rock bearing the pawprints of both Mr Bear's Animal Collective and those of producer Sonic Boom of Spacemen 3. Far out.

£12 CD, £10 MP3, OUT JANUARY 12

**DIVINE STYLER**

**Def Mask**  
Synth-heavy, politically-charged, musically harsh hip-hop arrives like it's auditioning for *The Matrix* soundtrack a decade too late. Fierce.

£11 CD, £8 MP3, OUT NOW

**CHARLEMAGNE PALESTINE AND RHY'S CHATHAM**

**Youuu + Mee = Weee**  
And finally, just shy of three hours of spaced out, ambient drones to chillax and soothe you. Happy new year!

£14 CD, OUT NOW

 **Skullcandy**

# AIR RAID

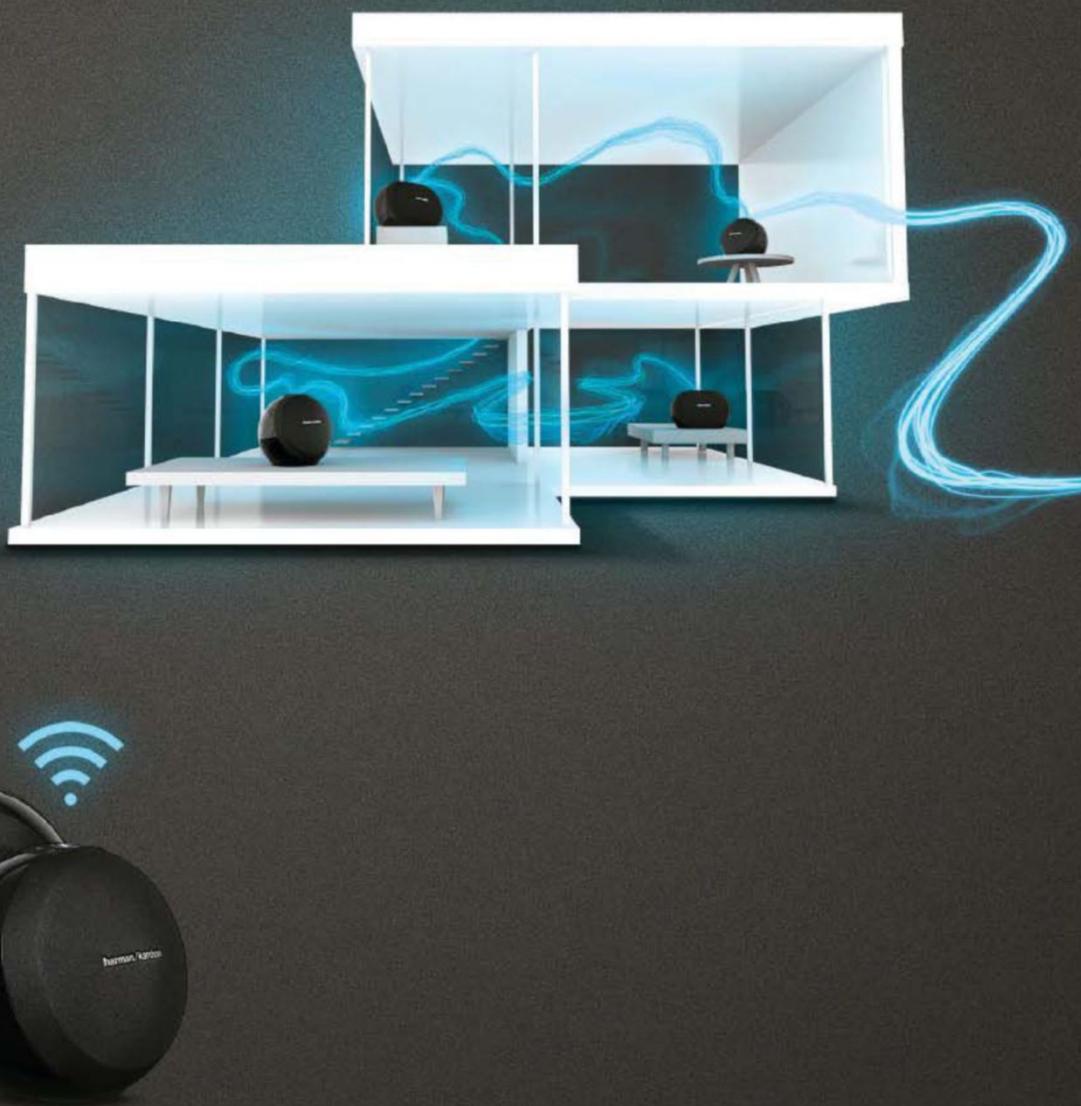
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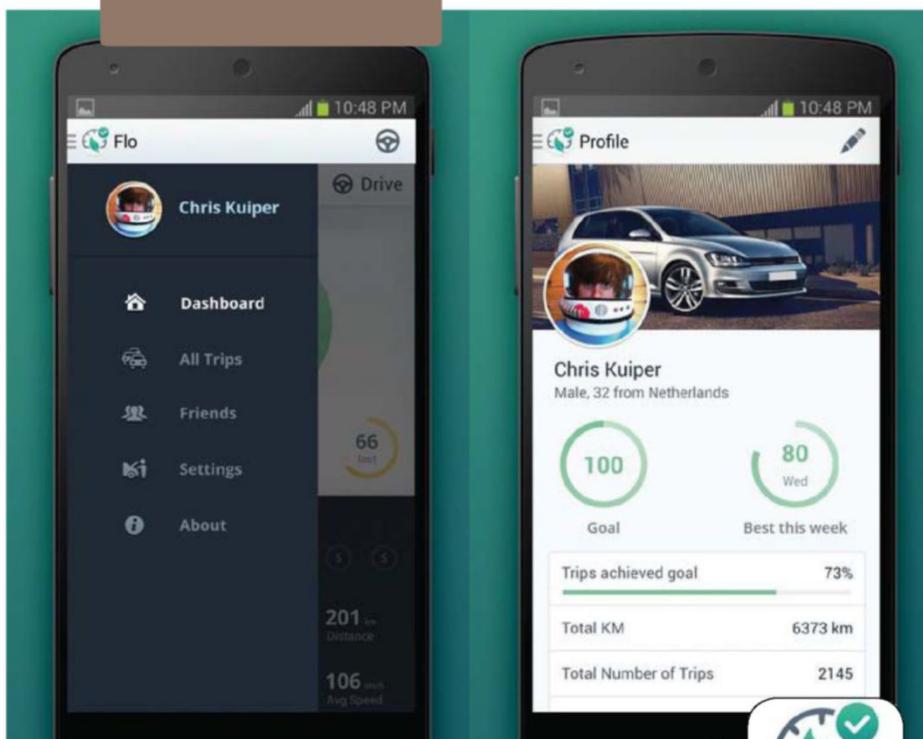
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recommends  
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qobuz **24** BIT

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by HARMAN  
Wireless HD Audio System



## App of the month

**FLO**

**Turn every journey into the ultimate point-scoring exercise with this virtual in-car man with a clipboard**

**A**ccording to Dutch developer Deco, having just come out of beta *Flo* is primed and ready to roll. *Flo* is the ultimate backseat driver – although it's more likely to sit on your dashboard – which uses powerful phone functions to judge your driving style, and barks at you like a driving instructor if you brake too suddenly.

Specifically, *Flo* taps into your GPS as well as your motion sensors so that, once activated, it can map your routes, as well as getting a feel for your driving style. Smooth acceleration, steady speed within limits and that sort of thing will earn you points, while

driving too fast around corners and braking too hard will result in a points deduction.

This all contributes to a driver score that you can compare with friends and family to see who's the best driver. More importantly, being a good driver by *Flo*'s judgment will help you save money by stretching out your miles per gallon, and save the environment by lowering your CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

The gamification works in two ways. You can have multiple drivers on one device, or you can invite friends to download and join your competition via Google+ or Facebook.

FREE, ANDROID (IOS COMING SOON), [DRIVEFLO.COM](http://DRIVEFLO.COM)



## { UPDATE }

**Addison Lee makes light work of getting you home**

The new app has now rolled out across iOS and Android, with an improved aesthetic and far less crashes (on Android, at least).

The new map gives you real-time info on Addison Lee's 4,800-strong fleet, and finally provides in-app cab tracking too. It also picks up your location

far more accurately, and remembers loads of info about you to make ordering a cab that much easier, including frequent locations and routes.

Addison Lee is the first to start rolling out 4G Wi-Fi in its cabs too – you can request a 4G cab ahead of time. FREE, [ADDISONLEE.COM](http://ADDISONLEE.COM)



**zombiesrungame.com  
FOR WANNA BE HEROES**  
You're familiar by now with *Zombies, Run!*, the magical app that forces you to run away from a ravenous horde of flesh-eaters. The online portal is a hub for the 800,000+ strong community. Worth a look.



**konkura.com  
FOR THE COMPETITIVE**  
The online home of fitness challenges. Join up and you can compete with friends over your goals, take on challenges together, or set a challenge for the whole community and see how your performance stacks up.



**findarace.com  
FOR THE RACE FIT**  
Does what it says on the tin. Whether you're looking for a run, a triathlon, or even a team assault course, just tell *Find a Race* where you are, what you want and when you want to do it, and it'll give you options.

{ IOS } **An Apple app a day...**

**Good.co**  
**IOS 7.0+: IPAD, IPHONE, TOUCH**  
A mash-up of *eHarmony* and *LinkedIn*, *Good.co* asks you questions to assess your personality, then matches you with suitable professions/employers. FREE, [GOOD.CO](http://GOOD.CO)



**Sortpad**  
**IOS 7.0+: IPAD, IPHONE, TOUCH**  
View and sort photos into folders with a single swipe. Helps you rediscover and file long-lost shots alongside new ones for optimal organisation. FREE, [SORTPADAPP.COM](http://SORTPADAPP.COM)



**Flickr**  
**IOS 8.0+: IPAD, IPHONE, TOUCH**  
You can back up all of your photos on Flickr now, and the service gives you 1,000GB of free storage space, along with some useful organisational tools. FREE, [FLICKR.COM](http://FLICKR.COM)



**Great Global Chefs Recipes**  
**IOS 7.0+: IPAD ONLY**  
75 exclusive recipes from some of the world's best chefs. There's a nice range though, from simple dishes with a twist to elaborate masterpieces. FREE, [GREATGLOBALCHEFS.COM](http://GREATGLOBALCHEFS.COM)



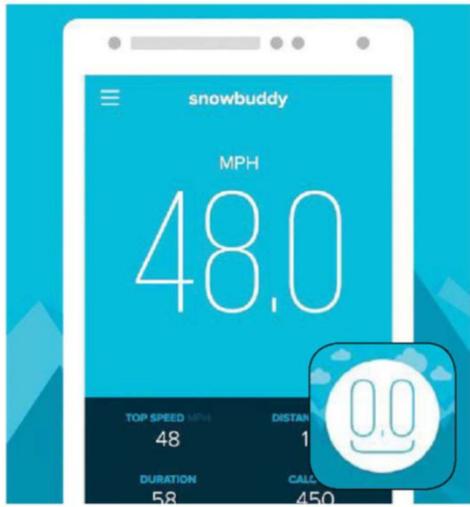
**Hyperspherical**  
**IOS 7.0+: IPAD, IPHONE, TOUCH**  
Lovely minimalist puzzle game makes for a superb time killer. Fit together circles, but ensure that their orbiting planets don't crash into each other. FREE, [MONKEYBIN.COM](http://MONKEYBIN.COM)



**20lines**  
**IOS 7.0+: IPAD, IPHONE, TOUCH**  
A superb hub for writers to read, write and share. Write at the touch of a button, curate your public portfolio, and interact with writers you like. FREE, [EN.20LINES.COM](http://EN.20LINES.COM)



**Beehive**  
**IOS 7.0+: IPAD, IPHONE, TOUCH**  
Filters the junk of your social network. Beehive alerts you to notifications from those who matter, and nothing else – no defriending needed. FREE, [THEBEEHIVEAPP.COM](http://THEBEEHIVEAPP.COM)

**{ANDROID}**  
**Latest apps to Google**

**Android in-depth**  
**Snowbuddy**

ANDROID 4.4+

Snowbuddy pulls together everything good from similar sports and social apps, which makes it the perfect mountain companion. The app takes data from your GPS and motion sensors to record data on how fast you're moving, the height of your jump and how far you've travelled, but it's the social features that make it special.

Daily challenges let you compete with friends and compete for mountain dominance, all the while keeping tabs on your buddies via worldwide piste maps.

FREE, SNOWBUDDYHQ.COM


**Sleep Better**  
**ANDROID 4.1+**

This app doesn't just monitor your sleep, but provides a myriad of ways for you to analyse and understand your sleeping patterns.

FREE, RUNTASTIC.COM

**TwoDots**

BLACKBERRY 10.0.0+

Addictive puzzler that starts simple but quickly gets tricky. There's a nice *Puzzle Quest*-style story behind the scenes too. Worth a download.

FREE, WEPLAYDOTS.COM


**Five Nights at Freddy's 2**  
**ANDROID 2.3+**

*FNaF* is back for round two. Evil animatronics are coming for you – watch for them on security cams, and lock them out of your room.

£1.90, SCOTTGAMES.COM


**Botanicula**  
**ANDROID 2.2+**

*Botanicula* features beautiful design and off-beat humour, as five tree-dwelling creatures set out to save their home from evil parasites.

£3.99, AMANITA-DESIGN.NET


**Treehouse**  
**ANDROID 4.0.3+**

Providing tutorials on web design, coding and mobile development, *Treehouse* gives you all the tools to start building apps from scratch.

FREE, TEAMTREEHOUSE.COM

**{WINDOWS PHONE}**  
**Have a night on the tiles**
**Alore**

WINDOWS PHONE 8+

Tell *Alore* what you care about, and it'll curate a list of news and features for you to read, from over 100 hand-picked websites.

FREE, WINDOWSPHONE.COM

**Tesco Mobile**

WINDOWS PHONE 8+

Tesco Mobile users finally get an app. Track your minutes, texts and data, manage your bundles and see a full history of your bills. Perfect.

FREE, TESCOMOBILE.COM

**Photomath**

WINDOWS PHONE 8+

Point your phone camera towards a mathematical problem and *Photomath* will automatically work it out. It'll even show you its working out.

FREE, PHOTOMATH.NET

**View**

WINDOWS PHONE 8+

*View* lets you discover new artists and designers. Anyone you like can be saved to your 'Quicky' list, for updates on their progress.

FREE, WINDOWSPHONE.COM

**British Airways**

WINDOWS PHONE 8+

The excellent British Airways app makes a smooth transition to Windows Phone, letting you use your phone as a boarding pass and more.

FREE, BRITISHAIRWAYS.COM

**Dream League Soccer**

WINDOWS PHONE 8+

A full management sim for Windows Phone! Buy and recruit players, upgrade your stadium and train your squad to advance up the leagues.

FREE, FIRSTTOUCHGAMES.COM

**Enter Orc Kid**

WINDOWS PHONE 8+

With Orcs pushed to the brink of extinction, you are Orc Kid – a warrior tasked with leading the fight back. The combat system is nice and fluid.

£0.79, MEWESTUDIOS.COM

1  
2  
3  
4
**{BLACKBERRY}**  
**Go BlackBerry picking**
**TunnelX**

BLACKBERRY 10.0.0+

Reminiscent of *Wipeout*'s early PlayStation days, *TunnelX* is a nice mix of thumping drum 'n' bass and searingly fast time trial action.

FREE, APPWORLD.BLACKBERRY.COM

**Rainbow**

BLACKBERRY 10.0.0+

Sync all your cloud services to your phone and *Rainbow* lets you drag and drop files between them. Supports every major cloud service too.

£0.75, APPWORLD.BLACKBERRY.COM

**Triangles**

BLACKBERRY 10.0.0+

*Triangles* generates beautiful polygonal images for you to use as wallpapers – just hit a button and the app will build something random.

£0.75, APPWORLD.BLACKBERRY.COM

**Latasy Music Player**

BLACKBERRY 10.0.0+

A media player with a simple interface and nice gesture controls. It'll automatically pull together all your music too, which is a nice bonus.

£1.50, APPWORLD.BLACKBERRY.COM

**Moka Reader**

BLACKBERRY 10.0.0+

*Moka* is about the nicest reader on BlackBerry, boasting great features such as gesture controls, nice themes and clickable links.

£5, APPWORLD.BLACKBERRY.COM

**Helios**

BLACKBERRY 10.0.0+

Discover the latest solar events by accessing up-to-date high-definition pictures taken by the best solar observatories around the world.

£0.75, APPWORLD.BLACKBERRY.COM

**Secure Picture**

BLACKBERRY 10.0.0+

Protect photos and videos behind AES-256 encryption. Take the photos through the app, or select existing shots, then just set a password.

£2, APPWORLD.BLACKBERRY.COM

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5.1 SPEAKER PORTS  
OUTPUT MODE SWITCHING



# Opinion

TECH STEEL FROM THE ANVIL OF T3'S COMMENT-MONGERS

## {THIS MONTH}

Beardyman is the laptop Liberace

Chris Smith is born to run

Duncan Bell isn't gonna wear this

Pete Dreyer's CoD philosophy

**Edited by Duncan Bell**

BEARDYMAN



## {INSIGHT}

## TECH THAT AND PARTY

**Electronic musician Beardyman gives short shrift to those who claim technology and the internet have ruined music**

**N**ah mate, he just looked like he was checkin' his email the whole set." It's a gripe oft levelled at electronic musicians ensconced behind notebooks. And it's just one strand of a more general argument that technology has ruined music.

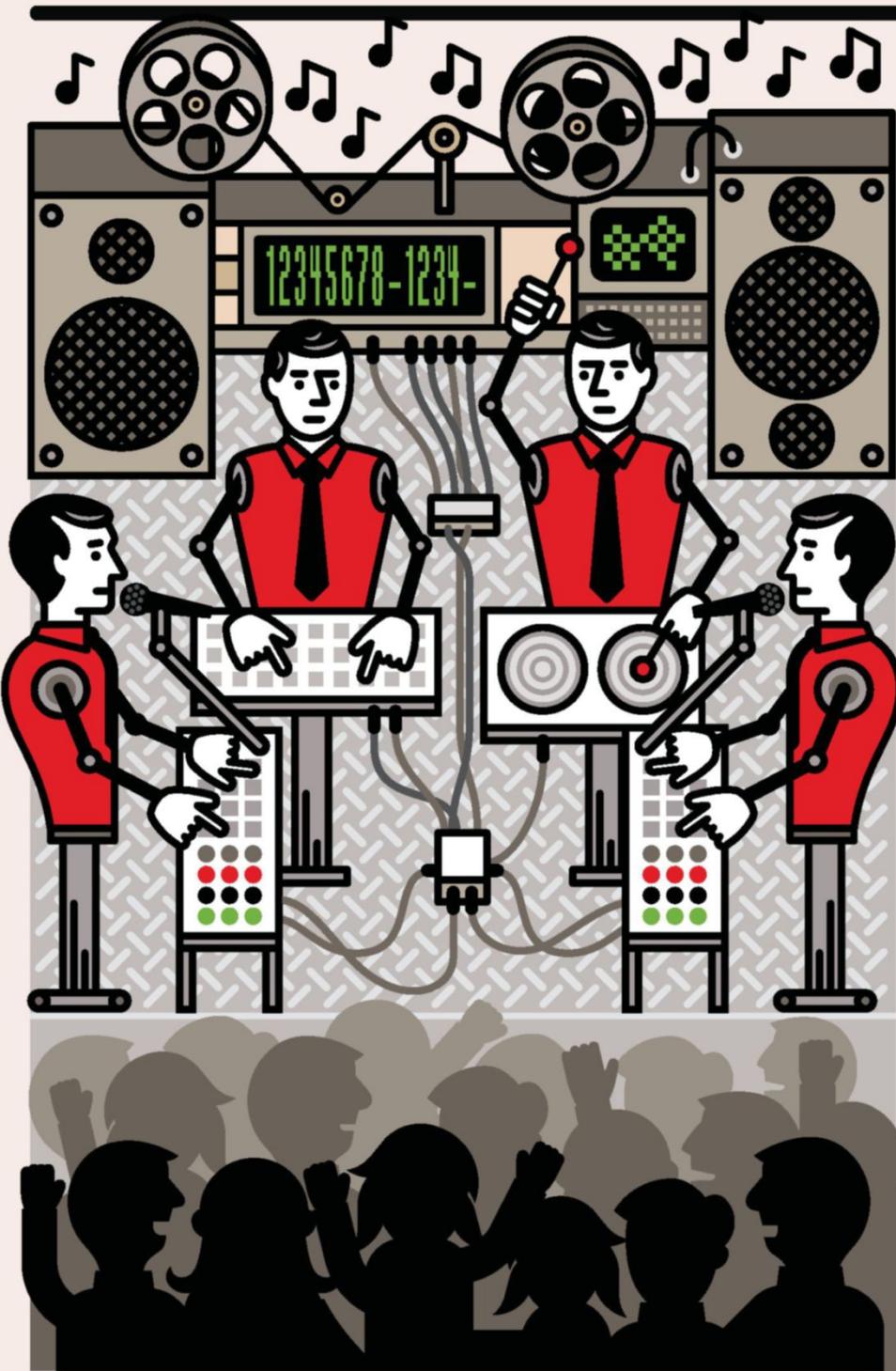
Perhaps it's understandable. What with illegal downloads and low-quality, low-royalty streaming. And yes, electronic performances can be derided as "guy with laptop tweaks a few parameters" – where's the skill in that?

Just don't do it around me. IMHO, and contrary to what hoary old rockers and acid teds alike will tell you, music has been immeasurably improved by tech. That doesn't make me a techno-fetishist. I'll state that microphone technology, for example, has not been significantly improved upon since WWII. Speakers still sound best when the signal being fed to them has been amplified by communist-era Russian, military-grade thermionic valves.

But there are so many counter examples. Areas where new technologies have swept away things that, with hindsight, were intolerable. Here are just two examples...

1) Cassette tapes. Remember them?

A warp-prone, brittle, easily tangled, non-indexed, non-navigable, magnetically →



→ sensitive and bulky storage medium on which you could fit just *one* album.

2) DJing gigs. This once involved lugging a crate of vinyl to every gig. What fun it was. Would the needle jump whenever the crowd did? Could you live, artistically, with playing other peoples' tracks in such a way that they'd sound the same *every* time you played 'em? Now, you can turn up with a laptop containing every tune ever, and remix them on the fly.

To the vinyl-purist digital-sceptic, the question you really have to ask is "how far back would you like to rewind the clock?" Were electric guitars an innovation too far? Were saxophone's a mistake? Maybe anything beyond hitting rocks with rocks is too try-hard.

In the interest of full disclosure, I should probably point out that I am a closet nerd and a qualified music-tech obsessive. I'm actually a musician/inventor who has spent several years designing, testing and configuring the world's most advanced live-music-production system. Some of the worlds best coders built it for me. It's an unparalleled music-creation tool that allows me to improvise live, electronic music from scratch and in the moment.

I wanted to use technology to set me free, creatively speaking, to allow me to compose in

## COLLECT ALL THE GEAR YOU WANT – IT'S WHAT YOU DO WITH IT THAT COUNTS

the moment and not deliberatively. So, mine is a vested interest and I'm by no means impartial on this topic. However, the fact is, these days, a 16-year-old kid can achieve superstardom from the comfort of their bedroom without their parents even noticing until Sony are knocking on their door asking for permission to take them round the world to get laid to the sound of glitter canons and chomping jaws.

In fact, Apple now bundles what would have been a multimillion dollar recording studio free with the iPad, and if you really want, you can still plug in a World War 2-era mic and get that smooth Frank Sinatra sound.

And therein lies the rub. You can collect all the gear you want, old or new, but at the end of the day it's what you do with it that counts. Old versus new is, at best, a false dichotomy, and if you've got a mate who won't stop banging on about laptops being the problem with music today, why not confiscate theirs and get them the very best fax machine money can buy. I'm sure they'll enjoy keeping it real. Beardyman is a "ruler of beats and destroyer of dance floors", and he's pretty keen on tech too

CHRIS SMITH



{STATESIDE}

## FREE CARS, NOT E-CARS

*The open road is a symbol of American freedom. But you'll get no kicks on Route 66, or any other road, with self-driving cars*

The Great American Automobile is one of the most enduring signifiers in this country's psyche. From movies to rock 'n' roll, the tuned-up, drop-topped car hitting the open road is celebrated. Hell, Bruce Springsteen alone has penned roughly nine albums-worth of material that's dedicated to riding "through the mansions of glory in suicide machines", and what's more 'America' than The Boss? Nothing, that's what.

Kids in the US can't get acquainted with the country's highways and dust tracks soon enough: they can legally drive at 16. That's a full five years before they're allowed to drink a beer, which to this Brit seems like someone back in 1776 made a terrible error and mixed the two up.



The reason is simple though. With a car, you can go anywhere, traversing states and starting a new as long as there's money in your Levi's to fill the tank. You can jump in the ol' Chevy, the flatbed Ford or your mum's Toyota to clear your head without anyone knowing your whereabouts. You can wildly sing along to The Eagles without anyone listening, should you wish.

Or at least, that's how it's been up to now. Last month, 19 auto manufacturers had to go before the US Federal Trade Commission and promise to protect the privacy of their drivers. Why? Because the imminent influx of new in-car tech threatens to squash those dearly-held freedoms associated with being behind the wheel.

Today, there are systems collating data on where you're going and where you've been. There's voice-activated software eavesdropping on your every word – or, even worse, your every exuberantly-sung chorus of *'Don't Stop Believin'* – and it's all under the guise of improving our driving experience.

In the future, that promises to extend to vehicle-to-vehicle communications, allowing cars to talk to each other. And it doesn't stop there. Google wants to remove the driver from the experience completely and let Big Data run the show. It seems we're heading towards a point of no return, where the car will cease to be a vessel for transportation and an enabler of liberty. It will become a learning computer whose specialist subject is you.

Despite the promises from automakers and their online software partners, you have to wonder how long it'll be before drivers are bombarded with heads-up notifications from advertisers whenever we approach a McDonalds. Then, how long before we're getting speeding tickets without being caught? And will this data become the property of the NSA, if it hasn't already?

To quote the great American patriot Walter Sobchak (John Goodman's character from *The Big Lebowski*), "This affects all of us, man! Our basic freedoms!"

Now sure, there's no doubt in-car tech, from apps to satnavs, has improved the driving experience in many ways. However, we need to think about the consequences before surrendering our rides to Google, Apple or whomever else wins the race to power the next generation of in-car tech.

My view: it's time to start stockpiling non-smart cars the way survivalists do guns. And you'll only take my '67 Mustang from me when you prise the wheel from my cold, dead hands. Yeehaw!

Chris is one of the few British permanent residents of Miami without liver spots

DUNCAN BELL



{TRUTH}

## WEARABLE FATIGUE

**Are strap-on sleep monitors, face-mounted cameras and tights that charge your phone the future? We in the tech world are not so sure**

You're probably aware, especially after reading this issue of T3, that the tech wearables revolution is upon us. In the technology pages of the media, you'll find endless watches and bands, with a growing army of actual utility belts, flanked by Google Glass and Oculus Rift me-toos.

Turn to the business pages and you'll find the writers there stroked to a near explosion of excitement. Headlines such as "Apple Watch to cost same as house and sell 15 billion units in first week" and "Wearables market to be worth 15 trillion super-dollars by 2020" make clear which way the land lies.

However, there are warning noises sounding on my Hype Dashboard. A big klaxon sounds the news that Google is now talking down Glass. It's suggesting, as far as I can make out, that Glass was always really meant as a big, fun experiment in how to get more people punching each other in pubs, rather than an actual product anyone normal was expected to buy.

Elsewhere on my Dashboard, pulsating red lights indicate that Nike pulled out of fitness bands despite them seemingly being a huge success, the relatively muted anticipation of Watch, and the fact that there are now more types of fitness bands available *than there are people in the world*.

Most tellingly of all, though, is how tech industry people talk about wearables when they aren't talking directly to the media or each other. I've ventured to a few events where multiple connected devices have been showcased, complete with staged discussions called things like 'Hats with cameras in: towards a new paradigm'.

At these sorts of events, there are two prevailing points of view. Coming from the stages and the people sat behind trestle tables showing off their Raspberry Pi-



powered smart trousers, the talk is utopian. Wearables and Internet o' Things devices will all talk to each other, set us free and make bazillions for everyone involved.

Off the stages, however, the mood can be summed up as, "It's all bollocks."

We know from our own experience that data connectivity outside of the home is often dire, and quickly becomes expensive if you use a lot of it. We know gadgets run out of battery fast, because despite what they say, *nobody will really pay for thicker devices with bigger batteries in*.

We all know that getting new devices added to home networks – and keeping them there – is a project not much less frustrating and labour intensive than trying to push a bowling ball up a slope using lung power only. And we're aware of the privacy implications of connected devices... Because a Russian website is currently broadcasting live footage from our baby monitor.

The fact is that Wearables and The Connected Home *will* eventually be massive, and culture-changing. But what we are living with now is the VHS, Windows 95, Zip Disk-based version of it.

*Duncan is Future's tech lifestyle editor*



**{GET INVOLVED}  
HAVE YOUR SAY...**

To read more of our views on tech, the web, life and more, head to [T3.com/opinion](http://T3.com/opinion).

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

PETE DREYER

Opinion



{FINALLY}

## C.O.D IS DEAD?

**Call of Duty has spent the last seven years recycling its limited pool of ideas. Could its fortunes finally be declining as a result?**

You may have noticed the latest *Call of Duty* hit shelves recently. Or maybe not. That's significant because even to non-gamers, the annual return of Activision's super-mega-quadruple-A blockbuster franchise used to be *very* hard to ignore.

This has been a hype year in gaming, too, with the first full 12 months of releases for a new console generation. Yet *Call of Duty (CoD)*, from a new developer in Sledgehammer Games, with a new future-war theme, has arrived with little of the usual pomp.

In years past, Activision would eagerly thrust *CoD* sales figures upon us. This year? Well, it put out a press release hailing *Advanced Warfare* as, "The biggest entertainment launch of the year", but at time of writing we've not been carpet bombed with details of its retail triumphs. So it topped the charts, but did it make enough dosh to cover its costs? That much Kevin Spacey "acting" don't come cheap.

If the world's interest has waned, would that be a shock? *CoD* has largely stuck to the same script since 2007's *Modern Warfare*; in the course of seven years, it's only moved from *Modern Warfare* to *Advanced Warfare*.

There's no genuine originality left in the series. It steals characters from TV, and gameplay ideas from other shooters. Of course people are getting bored of playing the same thing with a few new bells and whistles.

Which leaves us asking, what's next for *Call of Duty*? Contrary to popular belief, mega-franchises – well, non-footie-related ones, at any rate – do eventually run out of steam, and Activision will have to accept that *CoD* is not long for this world at some point. I reckon it might be sooner than you think, though.

That said, as mega-franchises never *really* die, I also expect it'll then come back with an edgier reboot some time in the early 2020s... *Pete is Future's lifestyle technology writer*

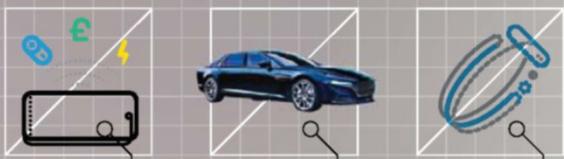
WORDS TOM DENNIS,  
JOE MINIHANE, JOE SVETLIK  
PHOTOGRAPHY NEIL GODWIN



THE MUST-HAVE  
GADGETS AND CUTTING-  
EDGE TECH HEADING  
YOUR WAY IN ...



**SPEND OR SAVE?  
STICK OR UPGRADE?**  
EVERY YEAR COME THE SAME CONCERNs BECAUSE – LET'S FACE IT – NO-ONE WANTS TO BE THE GUY WHO BOUGHT THE WRONG PHONE TOO EARLY, OR SPLASHED OUT ON A SMARTWATCH WHEN AN EVEN SMARTER ONE WAS ABOUT TO DROP.  
SO HERE WE CAST T3'S RADAR TOWARDS 2015'S HOTTEST EVENTS. AND WHAT A YEAR IT'S SET TO BE. STARTING ON THE NEXT PAGE, T3 PINPOINTS THE YEAR'S 52 HOTTEST TECH DEVELOPMENTS WE EXPECT TO BE ROCKING THE GADGET WORLD OVER THE NEXT 12 MONTHS – FROM SELF-DRIVING CARS TO BENDABLE PHONES TO THE NEXT WAVE OF REVOLUTIONARY WEARABLES.  
*READ ON TO THE FUTURE...*



**02**

### ETA: NOW SMART PHONE NFC

NFC's years on the smartphone periphery are at an end. Apple Pay's initial successes have made it a mainstream concern, while smart home sensors are moving towards the tap-to-connect tech too.

**03**

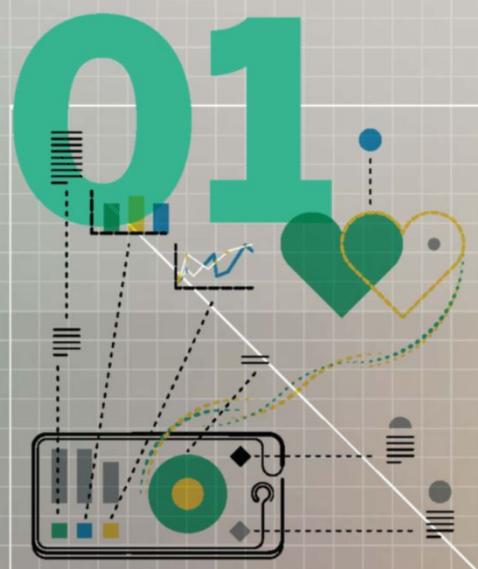
### ETA: JUNE ASTON MARTIN LAGONDA

With a body made entirely of carbon fibre, the Lagonda saloon should be lightweight and mighty fast. More importantly, it looks like the kind of thing Bond would take out at the weekend.

**04**

### ETA: JULY NIKE/APPLE FITNESS BAND

Nike's Fuelband might be no more, but the sports giant is said to be working with Apple on a new fitness tracker, possibly even a branded version of the forthcoming Apple Watch.



ETA: NOW

## APPLE HEALTHKIT AND GOOGLE FIT SDK

Not so long ago, keeping tabs on runs or bike rides involved using a knackered old digital watch and an increasingly tenuous grasp of GCSE maths. The dawn of fitness tracking apps has changed everything.

The disparate nature of these tools, though, has made getting an overall picture of your fitness (or lack of it) tedious. That's where Apple's HealthKit and Google's Fit SDK come in. Both had low-key starts in 2014, with niggles leaving some early adopters frustrated. But their partner lists, including Nike, Adidas, Runkeeper, Strava and Withings, suggest big things to come.

By allowing developers to partner with their own fitness apps, Apple and Google have opened up a new front in their battle for smartphone supremacy. Apple's *Health* app will doubtless come into its own once the Apple Watch hits the shelves and developers work out ways to build HealthKit functionality into their apps.

**05** ETA: NOW •  
**FIELD TRIP: WHAT GOOGLE GLASS IS WAITING FOR...**

Google-owned *Field Trip* is already one of our favourite travel apps. The new Google Glass edition is a cut above. With reams of info placed in front of you – maps, guides and recommendations – you can finally kiss goodbye to the guidebook.



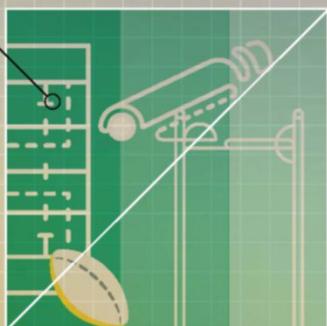
**06** ETA: SEPTEMBER •  
**ANDROID AUTO**

Not content with taking over your smartphone, tablet and watch, Google also wants to make itself comfy in your car. Android Auto, its integrated car software, is due to roll out in cars from Fiat, Bentley and Chevrolet, among others. Think maps, breezy music access and a string of compatible apps, all voice controlled.



**07** ETA: OCTOBER •  
**HAWKEYE AT THE RUGBY WORLD CUP**

It's a mainstay in cricket, tennis and football, and 2015 should see Hawkeye finally make its debut on the rugby pitch. The UK-based company is in talks with the RFU about a new system to help Television Match Officials (TMOs) during autumn's egg-chasing World Cup.



**08** ETA: MAY •  
**BBC STORE**

This digital service will let you download and keep BBC shows – for a price, of course – and will remain separate from BBC iPlayer, which will stay free of charge. Expect plenty of old and rare shows that haven't graced iPlayer, classic boxsets and series downloads, and access to educational and library programmes too.



**09** ETA: NOW •  
**ANDROID TV**

Google's rejigged smart TV platform has already got backing from Sony, Philips and Sharp, which have all said they'll be releasing sets based on the wide-ranging software. As well as standards like YouTube and Netflix, developers can create games, with users able to control their tellies via Android smartphones and tablets.





ETA: JULY

**DYSON 360 EYE**

James Dyson's status as Britain's premier inventor and champion of homegrown engineering has been assured for years, but his latest product heralds a new stage in his company's evolution.

On the face of it, the 360 Eye is just another robot vacuum, but the tech behind it goes deeper than any of its rivals and promises to be the first of many AI-led products. Dyson announced in 2014 that he was investing £5m to develop domestic robots in conjunction with Imperial College, London.

The 360 Eye, the first fruit of that investment, uses a single camera that can scan its surroundings at 30 frames per second. It then sets off on its mission to clean a room via its tank-style tracks. Infrared lets it detect nearby objects, while its suction is claimed to be better than any competitor.

The 360 Eye suggests Dyson could be looking at something more all-encompassing than a vacuum cleaner. A home robot for cleaning, maybe?

2015

**12 ETA: OCTOBER  
APPLE TV**

Tim Cook says Apple TV is a billion-dollar business. But the little set-top box now lags miles behind the competition. There's no BBC iPlayer, no games and a distinct lack of excitement. So, is 2015 finally the year Apple delivers major changes? A proper HDTV is still rumoured, but our bet is on a box refresh and rethink.

**13 ETA: OCTOBER  
APPLE CARPLAY**

Apple's in-car system is due to land in 2015. It will let you control your phone using Siri or via a dashboard touchscreen. Honda, Ferrari and Volvo are all signed up for launch. Will it be big? You betcha – Apple's record at entering new markets is unparalleled, and auto is nothing short of the next billion-dollar industry.



ETA: SEPTEMBER

**SAMSUNG GALAXY NOTE 5**

When the original Samsung Galaxy Note was unveiled back in 2011, even the most open-minded tech head struggled to keep a straight face. It was huge, and at 5.3 inches, it dwarfed any phone we had seen before. Comparisons with Dom Joly's massive mobile were inevitable.

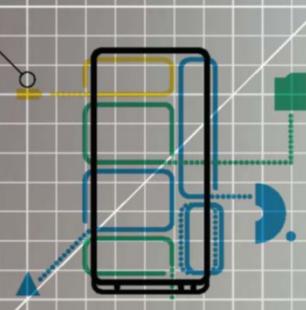
It turned out Samsung was way ahead of the curve. Five inches is now the mobile size du jour, and the Note forged a whole new category known as the 'phablet'. The 5.7-inch Note 4 was the first that wasn't bigger than its predecessor, but rumours peg the Note 5 at a whopping six inches. That's bigger than the Nexus 6 and iPhone 6 Plus.

It's also rumoured to be the first handset with a 4K display – that's a resolution of 3,840x2,160 pixels, or four times as many as a 1080p screen. At this size, it should look stunning. Android 5.0 Lollipop will come as standard, as should 4GB of RAM and the ever-present, but slightly pointless, S Pen stylus.

Expect the phone to touch down during September's IFA conference in Berlin. And make no mistake, it will be huge, both literally and figuratively.

## ■ 14 ETA: FEBRUARY GOOGLE PROJECT ARA MODULAR PHONE

Can't wait 12 months to upgrade your phone? Buy a modular one instead! Project Ara lets you add and remove elements as you see fit. Mad about photography? Slot in a better camera. It should also benefit the environment: longer-lasting phones mean less waste.



## ■ 15 ETA: MARCH BEATS MUSIC AND ITUNES: APPLE'S NEW STREAMING SERVICE

Apple didn't stump up \$3 billion for Beats Audio just so it could sell tricked-out headphones. The real prize was its Beats Music streaming platform, which reports suggest will form part of a proper iTunes streaming service early in 2015.



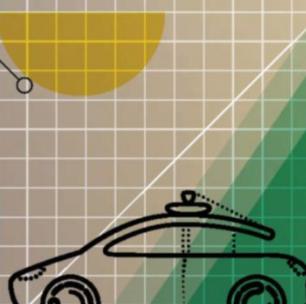
## ■ 16 ETA: FEBRUARY MICROSOFT BAND

The Big M's neat fitness tracker could be the year's hottest fitness product – helping you to achieve your wellness goals by tracking your heart rate, steps, calorie burn and sleep quality. It works across iOS, Android and Windows Phone and packs in proper smartwatch features like notifications and a colour touchscreen.



## ■ 17 ETA: NOW SELF-DRIVING CARS ON BRITISH ROADS

This year, the future arrives, as the government has given the green light to self-driving cars on British roads. We won't all be ferried around straight away, however – the ruling just allows companies to test the cars on the streets, so it'll be a while before they're up for sale.



## ■ 18 ETA: APRIL UNDER ARMOUR 39

Kit-maker Under Armour's 39 fitness tracker is already a mainstay for sports pros. But is 2015 the year we see its plans for interactive clothing finally come to fruition? It's already teased a full bodysuit that can track a whole wealth of fitness data, and with the Rugby World Cup around the corner we can expect to see more soon.



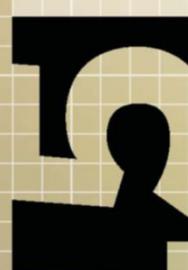
## ■ 19 ETA: MAY ELON MUSK/TESLA MODEL X

Forty three-year-old Elon Musk is a busy boy. Not content with revolutionising the car market with his Tesla brand, his SpaceX company is also challenging Beardie Branson to be the first to launch commercial space travel. It's no wonder Forbes says he's worth a whopping \$9.3 billion.

But perhaps the best testament to his character is the fact that Robert Downey Jr used him as the inspiration for Tony Stark in the *Ironman* films. High praise indeed.

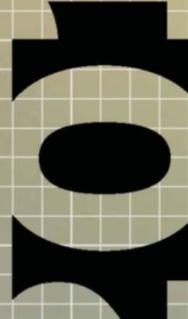
Despite being powered entirely by electricity, the Tesla Model X still manages 0–60 in under five seconds. It's also got falcon wings like a DeLorean, and a massive 17-inch touchscreen on the dash. But of course.

Commercial space tourism is proving trickier than first thought, as Virgin tragically found out a couple of months ago. But if anyone can crack it, it's Musk.



## ■ 20 ETA: JANUARY AVEGANT GLYPH

Is it a headset? A pair of headphones? It's both, and it projects images directly onto your eyeballs for clearer visuals than ever before. This is just a prototype; a new version will be unveiled soon.



## ■ 21 ETA: MAY ELECTRIC AUDI R8

Audi is readying both plug-in hybrid and all-electric models of the R8 for release in 2015, which means you can get your supercar-style kicks without falling out with Mother Nature.

# 22

ETA: JUNE

## iOS 9

2015 is an S year. Apple will likely tweak the innards of its iPhone range, but leave the design of its phones unchanged, but it's what's happening inside that should get every proper tech head excited.

With NFC finally taking its place on the iPhone 6, the tap-to-connect tech is likely to star in any new iPhone update. Currently, it's limited to Apple's US-only Pay service, but there's every chance that Tim Cook and co will loosen up restrictions and let developers create apps that utilise NFC effectively.

This could have a potentially huge impact on compatible fitness tracking kit: tapping to connect would make fitness products that work with HealthKit software even more alluring.

Then there's HomeKit. Apple's new standard for at-home gadgets is in its nascent stages, but again could work brilliantly with NFC, letting you pair home gadgets with your phone. Think improved control over your heating, your appliances or your stereo. iOS 9 is likely to be key in this regard.

The new software, which should be revealed at Apple's Worldwide Developer Conference, traditionally held in June, is likely to have new health and home features at its heart.



### LUMO LIFT DESIGNER CLASP

This fashion-led jewellery clasp tracks posture, activity and sleep, vibrating when you start slouching.



■ 23

ETA: FEBRUARY

**BOSCH NYON**

An e-bike controller, satnav and fitness tracker in one, the Nyon will add plenty of techy skills to your bike and have MAMILs drooling over the depth of its stats and mapping data. Just be sure to keep your eyes on the road.



■ 24

ETA: NOW

**SONY HI-RES AUDIO**

Sony's audiophile platform is designed to make bog standard digital music sound as if you're in the studio with your favourite artists. Find it now in the company's newest Xperia smartphones.



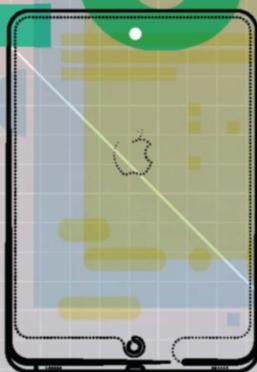
■ 25

ETA: OCTOBER

**JIBO**

Created by an MIT staffer, home robot Jibo has already smashed its crowd-funding target. Billed as an educational tool, it can also take pics, order takeout and keep tabs on your calendar for you like an AI assistant.

26



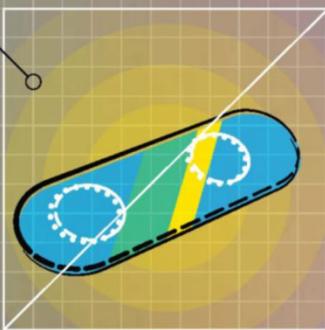
■ ETA: SEPTEMBER

**APPLE IPAD PRO**

The iPad Pro has been rumoured for years, but 2015 could well be the year we finally see Apple's worker slate. It's said to be a tablet made for taking care of business, and as such, will boast a bigger screen. Indeed, at 12.9 inches, it should be the biggest tablet Apple has ever made.

Some analysts reckon Apple could discontinue the iPad mini once the iPad Pro has launched. Rumours speculate that the new device will feature a detachable keyboard, stereo speakers, an A8X processor and a 4K screen.

There's clearly a demand for towering tablets. Samsung launched two 12.2-inch slates in 2014 – the Galaxy Tab Pro and Galaxy Note Pro – and the Microsoft Surface Pro 3 is also 12 inches, so Apple could follow suit. Though it's unlikely the Cupertino company would name a product so similarly to the competition's. iPad Plus, anyone?



■ 27

ETA: OCTOBER

**HENDO HOVERBOARD**

OK, it's loud, can only hover about an inch off the ground, and can only float above conductive materials like copper, so you can't use this out on the street, but it's a working hoverboard, people! In October, ten will hover their way over to backers who pledged \$10,000 or more on Kickstarter. If only we had a time machine. And \$10K.



■ 28

ETA: JULY

**MICROSOFT SURFACE PRO 4**

Microsoft launched an all-out advertising assault with the Surface Pro 3, so don't expect the 4 to launch quietly. Rumours suggest it will come in 13- and 14-inch versions – both bigger than the Surface Pro 3 – and will be compatible with its predecessor's accessories.



■ 29

ETA: SEPTEMBER

**MOTO X 2015 EDITION**

Motorola has made some of the most innovative handsets of the last couple of years, whether it's the original Moto X with always-on voice control, or the ultra-affordable Moto G. Expectations are high for its next flagship. We're expecting it to be about six inches big, and to touch down around September time.



■ 30

ETA: NOW

**NVIDIA SHIELD GRID**

This neat service lets you stream games to your PC, Mac, tablet, smart phone or smart TV, and it's completely free for Nvidia Shield owners until the end of June. It will add a new game every week.



■ 31

ETA: SEPTEMBER

**MACBOOK AIR 12-INCH**

It's the laptop Mac fanatics have been jonesing for years. Apple's 12-inch newbie is said to be fanless and even slimmer than current models, leading the way for any future MacBook updates.



■ 32

ETA: APRIL

**SONY SMARTEYE GLASS**

Sony's take on Google Glass, though it's a lot more stylish, in our opinion. It beams information onto your vision, giving you directions, weather, emails, text messages and more.

# 133

ETA: MAY

## GOOGLE GLASS 2

DRESS: FLYING WARDROBE SUNGLASSES: SUNDAY SOMEWHERE

Smart specs are set to boom in 2015. Sony's SmartEyeGlass is slated for release in spring, while start-up darling Magic Leap has convinced some of Silicon Valley's biggest companies to give it millions to develop its next-generation savvy eyewear.

That leaves Google in an interesting place. It's one of the key investors in Magic Leap, and there's also talk of it forming part of prescription glasses, with those willing to splash out having Google Glass as part of their day-to-day eyewear.

After going on sale under the Explorer Edition name in 2014, a proper commercial release is also likely in 2015, with prices hopefully coming down to match a growing interest in the world of wearables.

Glass already works with Google's Android Wear software, so expect to hear more about how these two will play nice in the next 12 months as well.

### SMART BROOCH

Smart clothing and trackable daywear and accessories are already rife. Expect 2015 to see a rise in smart jewellery and fashion items.

**34**

ETA: AUGUST

**HBO STREAMING SERVICE**

HBO is taking the fight to Netflix and Amazon by offering its own streaming service. Early rumours say it could cost \$15 (£10) a month, which is pricier than its rivals.

**35**

ETA: MAY

**LG G4**

The follow-up to one of the best handsets of 2014 could have a flexible display, according to leaked documents. There's speculation you could bend and roll the handset. Qualcomm chipset and 2K resolution are certs, though.

**36**

ETA: NOW

**INTEL EDISON**

Intel's bid to 'make everything smart' squeezes a full PC processor packing Bluetooth and Wi-Fi into something the size of an SD memory card. It costs \$50, making tech fashion concepts a reality.

**38** ETA: MARCH**ONEPLUS TWO**

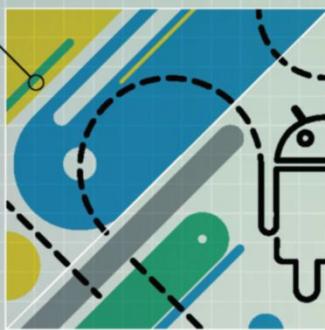
The OnePlus One was a strange beast: a big, decently specced handset with a bargainous price that was let down by bizarre and offensive marketing. And the fact you needed an invite in order to buy one. Hopefully OnePlus has learned its lesson. It's confirmed the Two will launch in 2015, and hinted it might be smaller.

**39** ETA: NOW**OCULUS RIFT (NOW ZUCKERBERG OWNS IT)**

How good is Oculus Rift? Even Facebook buying it can't dampen our enthusiasm. It immerses you in game worlds like nothing else, and – unlike previous VR kits – doesn't make you feel sick while you're wearing it. Bonus!

**40** ETA: NOW**ANDROID LOLLIPOP**

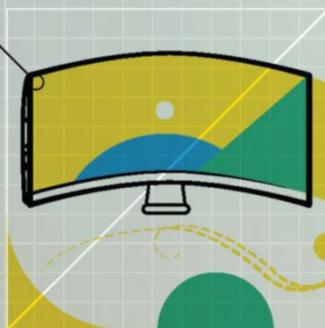
Lollipop might have launched at the tail end of 2014, but, as ever with Android, it will take a while before we've all had a lick. Features include increased compatibility across all your Android devices, and the ability to respond to messages straight from the lock screen. The new material design layout is more intuitive than ever.

**41** ETA: AUGUST**SAMSUNG PROJECT BEYOND**

Set to work with Samsung's Gear VR virtual reality headset, Project Beyond (see p30) is a 360° camera that lets you enter a virtual world wherever you set it up. It will include photo-realistic depictions of places all over the world, so you could effectively step into a virtual reality version. Mental.

**42** ETA: MAY**LG FLEXIBLE OLED TV**

With 3D TVs already a bust and 4K becoming standard issue, TV makers are looking for new ways to stand out from the crowd. LG has said it plans to release a flexible OLED telly in 2015, with users able to switch from flatscreen to curved mode at the touch of a button. Lotto winners and footballers only need apply.



ETA: MARCH

**HTC ONE (M9)**

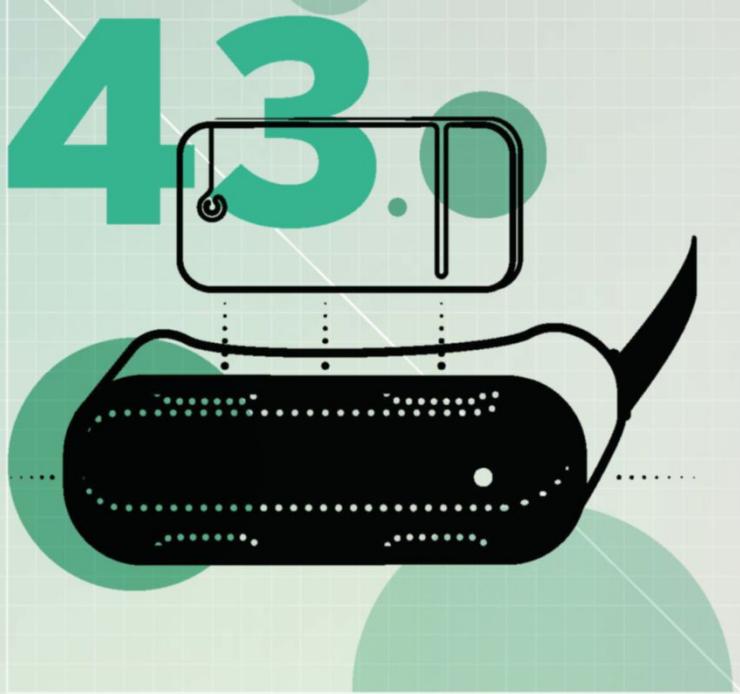
With its wraparound unibody brushed metal design, the HTC One (M8) is the one handset that looks and feels anywhere near as good as the iPhone 6. Hopes are high, then, for what HTC has in store for the One (M9).

For a start, that confusing name could be dropped. According to serial tipster @evleaks, the next HTC flagship will adopt a different naming convention.

Whatever the device is called, you can rest assured HTC will take the fight to Apple design-wise. Another unibody outer is expected, as is Android 5.0 Lollipop and those unbeatable BoomSound speakers.

What else can you expect? According to a leaked spec sheet, we're looking at a 5.2-inch QHD screen, giving it a pixel per inch count of 564ppi. Under the bonnet, a 2.7GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 805 chip should keep things running smoothly.

We should see the One (M9) announced around March. Mark it in your diary; it's going to be a biggie.



ETA: OCTOBER

**SAMSUNG GEAR VR**

Samsung surprised everyone when it dipped its toe into virtual reality. But it makes every other product under the sun, so why not a VR headset too?

Gear VR is made in conjunction with Oculus VR (the people behind the brilliant Oculus Rift), so it has plenty of kudos backing up the boasts.

It works a little differently to the Rift, though. You'll need a Samsung Galaxy Note 4 to use it, for starters. Slot the Note 4 into the Gear VR and it acts as a screen – its 5.7-inch display will look huge close up, and dual 3D lenses make it more immersive. Relying on a specific handset obviously limits its appeal somewhat, but it's more of an experiment between Oculus and Samsung to see if virtual reality can be ported to mobile devices.

The developer edition is available now, but us punters will have to wait until later in the year. The developer edition comes in two varieties – the standard model costs \$200, and the \$250 version has a Bluetooth gamepad.

■ 44

ETA: NOVEMBER

**YOUTUBE****MUSIC KEY**

YouTube's entry into the increasingly crowded and competitive world of music streaming poses a huge challenge to Spotify and Apple-owned Beats Music in particular with its ad-free streaming.

■ 45

ETA: NOW

**AMIIGO**

Unlike other fitness bands we've tested, this one actually recognises what exercise you're doing without you telling it. It also breaks down your workout data, so you can pinpoint exactly when your arms turned to jelly.

■ 46

ETA: JULY

**MAGIC LEAP**

It's already raised over \$500 million from key backers, but Magic Leap's creators are being coy about their plans for the AR headset. It's set to take a key role in Brian Cox's Story of the Universe show, coming in July.

■ 47

ETA: JANUARY

**PLAYSTATION VUE**

Sony's forthcoming streaming service promises live TV and unlimited cloud storage among its attributes (see p17). Looks like PlayStation Now was just the start of Sony's bold streaming plans.



■ 48

ETA: NOVEMBER

**SONY PROJECT MORPHEUS**

Sony's virtual reality headset will work with both its PS4 and PS Vita consoles. Featuring stereoscopic 3D, it promises to be the year's most exciting gaming product by a long shot, and possibly a decade-defining release. 1080p immersive VR gaming? Yes please, we say.

■ 49

ETA: NOW

**ANDROID WEAR 2.0**

Google's first proper update for its wearable software has brought many of the features it was crying out for first time around: GPS support for runners and outdoor types and offline music access; and Bluetooth connectivity for anyone looking to hook up headphones, speakers or other fitness trackers.



■ 50

ETA: NOW

**KAIROS****SSW WATCH**

Kairos introduces the world's first mechanical/smartwatch hybrid. The face houses an OLED screen that shows notifications and emails, while its self-winding mechanism sings traditionalism.



■ 51

ETA: JANUARY

**WINDOWS 10**

Good news, the Start menu is back. Having been ditched in Windows 8, Microsoft has beaten a retreat, reinstating the classic menu set-up. The smart new OS will work across desktops, laptops, tablets and smartphones.

2015



152

ETA: APRIL

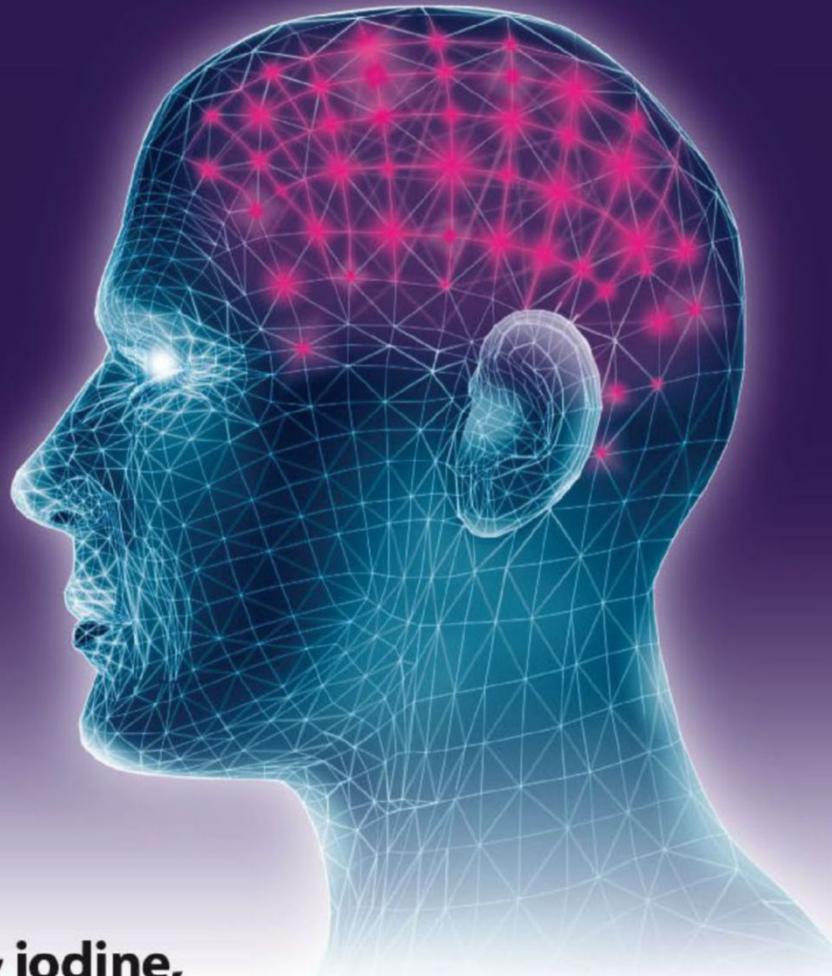
## APPLE WATCH

This is unquestionably the most exciting piece of tech coming your way in 2015. Last year saw a groundswell in the wearables space, with Google's Android Wear heralding the arrival of a string of impressive smartwatches, the Moto 360 chief among them. Samsung's roster also impressed, but no smartwatch has made itself a must-have. Until now.

Apple's intervention promises much. First off, Jony Ive's design nous means it looks every inch a watch, unlike some of the clunkier rivals we've had on our wrists. The Digital Crown acts like a scroll wheel for flicking through menus, meaning the screen doesn't get obscured while checking notifications. Haptic feedback plays brilliantly into the watch's interface, buzzing when you get a message or need to turn while following directions.

Then there are its health features. Dovetailing with iOS 8's *Health* app and Apple's wider HealthKit developer tools, these look classier and a cut above anything we've seen from the Cupertino company's rivals. Throw in two sizes to cater for different-sized wrists and a string of options ranging from a ruggedised sports look to a pricey golden number and the Apple Watch has got us believing the wearable revolution is here to stay.

# Feed your mind



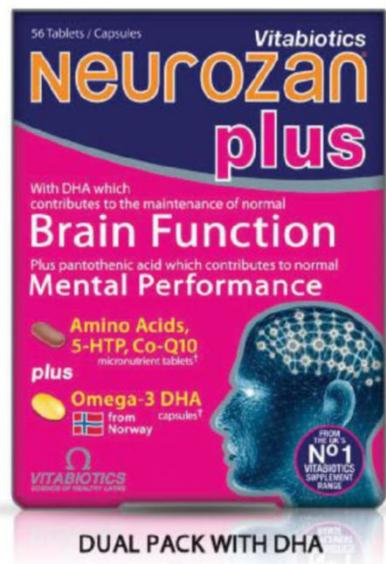
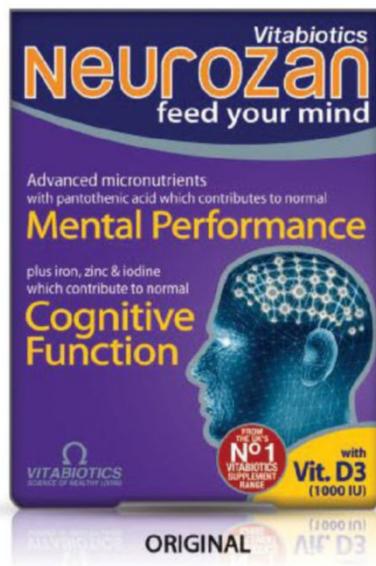
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# Watching the detectives

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE HUNKERING DOWN AND WATCHING EPISODE AFTER EPISODE OF YOUR FAVOURITE CRIME SERIES ON A KILLER TV. SO HERE'S OUR PICK OF THE BEST SETS FOR YOUR WINTER TV-VIEWING HIBERNATION

WORDS GARRICK WEBSTER PHOTOGRAPHY NEIL GODWIN ILLUSTRATION CHRIS KING





PHILIPS 42PUS7809

## Detailed scrutiny

The 4K revolution is in its early days. No programmes – let alone crime dramas – are being broadcast at this resolution, and the first Blu-Ray discs with 4K content are due to come out during 2015. However, if you absolutely must have the extra punch provided by an eight-million pixel screen then this Philips is the affordable option. Of course, your PC can benefit from this screen resolution too, so if you want a screen for computing this is a tidy option. It performs strongly in 3D, with images that are clear and stable.

£749.99, ARGOS.CO.UK

### {S P E C S}

**SIZE** 42in

**SCREEN** LED 4K Ultra HD

**SMART TV** Yes

**3D** Yes

**EXTRAS** Freeview HD, Ambilight and four pairs of 3D glasses



### THE BOXSET BREAKING BAD

According to the *Guinness Book of Records 2014*, *Breaking Bad* is the highest-rated show of all time, proving how far crime series have progressed in recent years. Over five seasons, we follow the exploits of New Mexico chemistry teacher

Walter White (Bryan Cranston), who starts making crystal meth as a means to pay for his cancer treatment, and to support his pregnant wife and disabled son.

A noble beginning, but by the end he's a true anti-hero with a criminal empire and a spooky alias – Heisenberg.

£45 (THE COMPLETE SERIES) ON DVD,

AMAZON.CO.UK

LG 47LB730

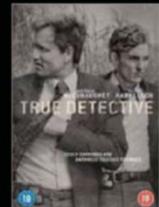
## Gold star

This set is one suave-looking gangster. Minimal and stylish, it has no frame to speak of – just a metal edge holding the glass panel in place – and it sits on an impressive ribbon stand. The contemporary design is backed up with good build quality, and the battery-free 3D glasses look better than most. This model doesn't boast the blackest blacks, but it delivers natural colours, sharp HD, flicker-free 3D, and also offers a gaming mode. Its smart TV features are some of the best around when it comes to ease of use.

£699, CURRYS.CO.UK

### {S P E C S}

**SIZE** 47in  
**SCREEN** LED HD 1080p  
**SMART TV** Yes  
**3D** Yes  
**EXTRAS** Freeview HD and two pairs of 3D glasses



### THE BOXSET TRUE DETECTIVE

Detectives Martin Hart (Woody Harrelson) and Rustin Cohle (Matthew McConaughey) search for a serial killer across Southern Louisiana in this superb southern gothic mystery, which drifts towards horror, tinged with nihilism. The heat is turned up as their department comes under pressure from the state governor to catch the culprit, but the one they're after is a subtle and precise ritual killer who will not be flushed out that easily. The first series is now available on DVD and Blu-Ray, and the second will feature an entirely new cast. Vince Vaughan and Colin Farrell are to appear with Taylor Kitsch and Kelly Reilly.

£19.99 ON DVD, AMAZON.CO.UK

SONY BRAVIA KDL50W8

## The brawny Bravia

Take this Bravia television into custody and you might need a bigger cell. At 50 inches, it's the biggest TV in this line-up, giving you a lot of screen for your hard-earned lucre. Usually, Sony TVs have their speakers positioned down the sides of the screen, which adds to their width, but here we have a pure and elegant bezel. It has a minimal but strong wire stand, and with the speakers projecting downwards there's good audio spread, the bass notes adding to the drama. The 2D picture quality is excellent, with huge subtlety in colour representation, while in 3D the colour is bright and solid.

£739, JOHNLEWIS.CO.UK

### {S P E C S}

**SIZE** 50in  
**SCREEN** LED HD 1080p  
**SMART TV** Yes  
**3D** Yes  
**EXTRAS** Freeview HD, Freesat HD  
and two pairs of 3D glasses



### THE BOXSET FARGO

Inspired by the 1996 Cohen Brothers film of the same name, in this show downbeat insurance salesman Lester Nygaard (Martin Freeman) discovers he has a knack for murder and deception after meeting contract killer Lorne Malvo (Billy-Bob Thornton), who attempts to extort money from a supermarket magnate.

They're investigated by Gus Grimly (Colin Hanks) and Molly Solverson (Alison Tolman), who fall in love. The action takes place in cold Minnesota which, apart from the blood, snow and weird humour, seems like a nice place. Season 2 will be a prequel, set in 1979, and focusing instead on Molly's father, Lou.

£20 on DVD, AMAZON.CO.UK



### {S P E C S}

**SIZE** 40in  
**SCREEN** LED HD 1080p  
**SMART TV** Yes  
**3D** Yes  
**EXTRAS** Freeview HD, Freesat HD, Voice Control and two pairs of 3D glasses



SAMSUNG UE40H7000

## Back in black

When watching noir, you need your on-screen black to be deep and thorough. One of the best things about this Samsung is its contrast which, when the scene calls for darkness, truly keeps those browns and greys at bay. A very thin frame around the screen and its flat, metallic stand with no neck give it a unique and modern aesthetic.

The smart TV interface is packed with apps and features, if you use that sort of thing, and 3D performance is good despite the 40-inch screen size. Sound is very good for such a thin model.

£799, JOHNLEWIS.CO.UK



### THE BOXSET THE SOPRANOS

Family life is hard if you're running a criminal organisation, and that formed the nub of six seasons of brilliant acting, plotting and direction. From 1999, the Sopranos established themselves as America's favourite TV family, with Tony Soprano (James Gandolfini) and his wife Carmela (Edie Falco) balancing family life with Tony's role as the boss of a New Jersey crime organisation. By showing another side to mafia life, the show had a big impact on the genre and on television.

£45 ON DVD, AMAZON.CO.UK



### THE INTERVIEW IN FOR QUESTIONING

**Mark Billingham's Tom Thorne series was adapted for TV by Sky, and two of his novels are currently in development with the BBC. We asked him about the current TV crime crazy**

**Why are so many of us turning to a life of crime?**  
There's a voracious appetite for crime on TV, because whether it's nice and cosy or dark as hell, crime drama can be an escape or a new way to look at the world, and it always does it in an entertaining way.

**Any tips for creating a fictional detective?**  
If your detective is going to stand out, he or she has to both honour the tradition and carve out a unique niche for themselves.

**What's hardest about adapting books for TV?**  
Letting go. Writing is solitary, but TV is a collaborative business and you have to let other people do their jobs. You also have to deal with the complaints from readers when things are changed for television.

**What's your all-time favourite TV crime series?**  
*Columbo*. It's a show that broke the mould. Peter Falk was always outstanding, and the list of actors, writers and directors who worked on that show is remarkable.

**TEE UP MARK BILLINGHAM'S THE BONES BENEATH, OUT NOW**

PANASONIC TX 40AX630B

## Big heart

In a tie with the Samsung as the smallest screen in the gang, this Panasonic has the biggest resolution, even though you won't be able to benefit from 4K very much right now unless you want to use your TV for computing. Sitting on a rectangular wire base, it appears to float on air, with its two-tone metallic bezel and slim profile. The 2D picture quality is excellent, and it offers a crisp black that's hard to achieve on LED screens. In 3D, the images are bright, with clean lines, but note that you'll need to buy 3D glasses – they don't come as standard with this one.

£699.95, JOHNLEWIS.CO.UK

### {S P E C S}

**SIZE** 40in  
**SCREEN** LED 4K Ultra HD  
**SMART TV** Yes  
**3D** Yes  
**EXTRAS** Voice Control, Freeview HD and Freetime



### THE BOXSET THE WIRE

*The Wire* saw the classic police drama – like *Hill Street Blues* or *NYPD Blue* – thoroughly updated and evolved in contemporary Baltimore. Home of the original crime author Edgar Allan Poe, the city we see here is gritty, not gothic, and both the storylines and dialogue are full of sting. The five-season run began in 2004 and saw the PD working to take down the Barksdale crew, a vicious drugs gang. Wider problems in working-class life, education and politics form the backdrop for some raw, tough cases as the series progresses.

£48.80 ON DVD,  
AMAZON.CO.UK



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T3

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ULTIMATE UPGRADE IDEAS FOR  
A TOTAL TECH TUNE-UP

■  
**BIG PICTURE,  
SMALL SCREEN**

—  
RETINA-BEATING 4K  
LAPTOPS PUT THROUGH  
OUR BIG TEST

■  
**PREMIUM  
AUDIO CANS**

—  
TOP-DOLLAR  
HEADPHONES WITH TOP-  
DRAWER PERFORMANCE

■  
**COOKIN' UP A  
TECH STORM**

—  
BLENDERS, DEEP-FAT  
FRYERS AND THE BEST  
GADGETS FOR FOODIES

■  
**SONY'S HD  
GOPRO BEATER**

—  
TINY, TOUGH AND  
SHOOTS 4K – SONY'S  
ACTION CAM ON TEST



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\*TL-WPA4220KIT at only £39.99 from 26th of December until the 31st of January 2015

# TECH life

**MANUAL**  
YOUR MONTHLY EXISTENCE ENHANCER



## BARE THRILLS

Bear Grylls likes to strap himself to a big fan and fly. And now you can join him!

This is the **BG Paramotor**. It's what aeronautics experts call "a big fan with a paraglider wing attached to it", and what Bear Grylls calls his "escape". And now you can buy one too. Bear didn't actually knock this up in his shed – it's precision

engineered by the experts at Parajet – but he is promoting it heavily. It's got enough in the tank to keep you airborne for around three hours, and the price includes a ten-day training course and a pack of accessories. £11,400, [bgparamotor.com](http://bgparamotor.com)

• This month...

**HOW TO**

SLEEP BETTER AND SEND TEXTS FROM CHROME P80

**OBSESSION**

BUILD YOUR OWN PC.  
BUYING'S SO BORING P81

**TECH DAD**

SLEDGING: IT'S NOT JUST  
FOR CRICKETERS P82

**TEST**

BEAN-TO-CUP COFFEE  
MACHINES P83

**UPGRADE**

YOU CALLING THESE  
COATS PUFFAS? P84

**PULSE**

RUN BY NIGHT, TRIATHLON  
BY DAY – TIRED P85

**HOME**

DELUXE AV FOR (A BIT)  
LESS. MAN SHED P91

**DRIVE**

AUDI TT BOASTS AWESOME  
POWER: NEW SMART CAR  
NOT SO MUCH P94



BEAR GRYLLS BARES ALL

HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH  
GILO CARDODOZ/PARAJET?  
GILO AND I ARE BEST FRIENDS.  
AFTER WE FLEW OVER EVEREST IN THE  
PARAMOTORS IN 2007, WE KNEW THIS  
WOULD BE A FUN NEXT PROJECT.

WHERE'S YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE  
TO FLY THE PARAMOTOR?

AROUND MY ISLAND IN WALES –  
SKIMMING THE WAVES AND GOING  
ALONG THE AMAZING AND DRAMATIC  
SEA CLIFFS.

WHAT IS THE MOST DANGEROUS  
THING YOU'VE DONE IN IT?

FLYING OVER EVEREST. THERE WAS  
SO MUCH THAT COULD GO WRONG  
AT THAT ALTITUDE, ESPECIALLY  
WITH SO MUCH KIT STRAPPED TO MY  
BACK. I REACHED 8,990M, WHICH WAS  
BOTH HUMBLING AND TERRIFYING!

## 1 SEND SMS MESSAGES DIRECT FROM CHROME

The easy way to stay connected and updated



**1/ Push the button** Download the *PushBullet* Android app to your phone you want to use, then download *PushBullet's* Chrome extension to your browser.

**2/ Link up** Set up an account and link your *PushBullet* account to your phone to give it access.

**3/ Text away!** Open up Chrome and you'll see a *PushBullet* tab in the top-right corner of the screen. Clicking it will open a window, from where you can send a text to anyone in your phone – just enter your message, type in the recipient's name or number and click Send.

**4/ Keep track** The text is sent via your Android phone as normal, so everything will still be recorded in your messaging app. Names will even autocomplete from your phone book, and the set-up works on Mac, Windows, Chromebook and even Linux!

## 2 DOWNLOAD REMOTELY

Buy the latest games while you're at the pub

**1/ Xbox One** Select Instant-On mode. In this power mode your Xbox is still functioning, and will automatically download updates. You can buy games and redeem codes via [xbox.com](#) or the Xbox One Smartglass app. Buy a game and your Xbox will register the purchase and download it to your hard-drive.

**2/ PS4** Make sure your PS4 is set as your Primary PS4 in your PSN settings, and that it's on stand-by mode so it's active while switched off. Buy what you want from the Sony Entertainment Network Store, either from your PC or via the PlayStation app. Select 'Download to your PS4' and your game should be ready to play by the time you get home.



## 3 SORT OUT YOUR SLEEP PATTERN

Sleep soundly and wake feeling refreshed and ready for the day



**1/ Exercise regularly** The National Sleep Foundation reckons that exercise in the afternoon can improve sleep in the evening. Don't exercise just before bed – that will have the opposite effect.

**2/ Ditch the horrendous alarm** An alarm that wakes you gently and a bedroom light like the Withings Aura will help to simulate natural morning light and sound, leaving you feeling fresher as you roll out of bed.

**3/ Avoid alcohol and caffeine** Alcohol can help you get to sleep, but it disturbs your sleep cycle and can cause you to wake regularly during the night. Caffeine lengthens the second phase of your sleep cycle, where your brain processes the day. This is great for naps, but interrupts deep REM sleep.

**4/ Switch off** Electronic devices harm our sleep cycles. Bright light late at night can confuse the brain into thinking it is daytime, so even if you fall asleep it won't be a deep, restorative sleep. Try to avoid bright screens for a good hour or so before you hit the hay.

## TOOL OF THE MONTH

### ARIENS 921023 SNOW BLOWER



Nothing clears a snowy path like a snow blower. This one claims to launch your unwanted snow up to 50ft away – far enough to scatter it over your neighbour's flower beds. You can adjust the chute to spray snow where you please, and the 254cc engine has an electric starter, so it'll get going and keep going, even in freezing cold conditions. Let's hope it snows, then... £1,075, [ariens.com](#)

## 4

### THE TECHQUATION

Make your body a post-Christmas temple



#### Lift

Helps you build a habit around any goal. For example, stop getting trashed every night. Free, iOS & Android



#### Liberty Flights EVOD 2

Cut that tar and nicotine out of your system and get vaping, mister. £25, [liberty-flights.co.uk](#)



#### Tough Guy Original: Feb 1

15km, 200 obstacles, and all the winter mud and ice the UK can muster. £130, [toughguy.co.uk](#)



#### Pure health

You've fully detoxed, probably. Well you'll feel better, anyway...

**OBSESSION**  
BECOME THE KING OF...

**NEW YEAR  
UPGRADE**

#42

## GAMING PC BUILDING

Dominate the LAN party scene with our cutting-edge kit and tips for custom PC creation. It's cheaper than buying off the shelf and far more rewarding (or difficult, if you prefer)

WHAT YOU'LL NEED...



2



3



4



5

**1/ Corsair H55** Yes, it is ugly, isn't it? Rest assured this cheap, liquid-cooling system will be secreted in your Aerocool, lifting the ventilation to new heights of chill. £30, [corsair.com](http://corsair.com)

- 60-million-stroke life for each mechanical, programmable key, five macros etc - now with customisable disco lights. Sweet. £140, [razerzone.com](http://razerzone.com)

**2/ Logitech G502 Proteus Core** Customise its optical sensor, weight, DPI and balance to suit your style. Then get busy on the 11 programmable buttons. It's great for FPS, but versatile. £69, [gaming.logitech.com](http://gaming.logitech.com)

**4/ Intel Core i7 4790K** Essential, overclockable, not obscenely expensive. Pro-gaming willy wave nirvana. £250, [intel.com](http://intel.com)

**3/ Razer BlackWidow Ultimate Chroma** The usual quality Razer 'board

**5/ Aerocool DS200** How we love this case of many colours. It comes in blue and yellow and pink and green and... Has great, low-noise cooling. £75, [aerocool.com](http://aerocool.com)

### HOW TO ROCK LIKE A MOTHERBOARD

BEN MILES OF CHILBLAST.COM OFFERS PRIME GAMING-RIG-BUILDING TIPS

**1/ GPU me!** The single most important component for a good gaming PC is a big-ass GPU packed with shader processors. However, this needs to be supported by a good CPU. If you're rocking a dualcore i3, pair it only with a mid-range GPU, up to around 100 quid. A quadcore i5 is good for cards up to around £300 - above that, go for an i7.

**2/ RAM it in!** A tiny minority of games show small gains with a move to 16GB. Seriously, 8GB is fine.

**3/ Futureproof it!** Get a case with room for future graphics and storage expansion. Insist on a quality branded power supply with 80+ certification.

**4/ Think!** Plan your cable routing and work out a way to stow unused cables in such a way that doesn't impede airflow or make future upgrades tougher. Good cases help here. Scope out YouTube videos on how to install components before diving in.

**5/ Alternatively...** Building a PC isn't always the best, or cheapest, option - many system integrators now allow near-limitless customisation and Chillblast.com, for instance, offers a five-year warranty and phone support. Just sayin'!

### AND YOU'LL ALSO NEED THIS LOT

**MOTHERBOARD** ASUS Z97-K. GREAT VALUE, ALLOWS OVERCLOCKING. £90, [ASUS.COM/UK](http://ASUS.COM/UK)

**GPU** NVIDIA GEFORCE GTX 970 4GB. BEST MID-RANGE CARD OUT THERE. £270, [NVIDIA.CO.UK](http://NVIDIA.CO.UK)

**RAM** 2X 8GB CORSAIR 1600. 16GB IS AMPLE. £144, [CORSAIR.COM](http://CORSAIR.COM)

**SSD** SAMSUNG 840 EVO SERIES 250GB £100, [SAMSUNG.COM/UK](http://SAMSUNG.COM/UK)

**HYBRID DRIVE** 1TB SEAGATE 7200RPM SSHD. A HARD DRIVE WITH AN 8GB SSD ELEMENT FOR ESSENTIALS. £60, [SEAGATE.COM](http://SEAGATE.COM)

**POWER SUPPLY** FSP RAIDER 750W £60, [FSPLIFESTYLE.COM](http://FSPLIFESTYLE.COM)

**OS** WINDOWS 8.1 64-BIT £74, [MICROSOFTSTORE.COM](http://MICROSOFTSTORE.COM)

**GRAND TOTAL** £1,362

# KING OF THE HILLS

**With a carbon-fibre build, this extreme sledge is the business**

For the kid who has everything, how about this top-drawer snow carver made almost entirely from carbon fibre? This is no tea tray – the New Zealand-produced Snolo Stealth-X is the Formula One of toboggans, with a price to match. Its beautiful monocoque frame is as rigid as a rigid thing and comes equipped with all the extra tech the discerning tobogganist requires to make everyone else on the slope feel emphatically inadequate. And poor. Which, of course, is the main idea.

\$3,200 (£1,965), [snolosleds.com](http://snolosleds.com)



## THE TECH

Why the Stealth-X is no typical toboggan

### 1/ Slide on, you crazy diamond

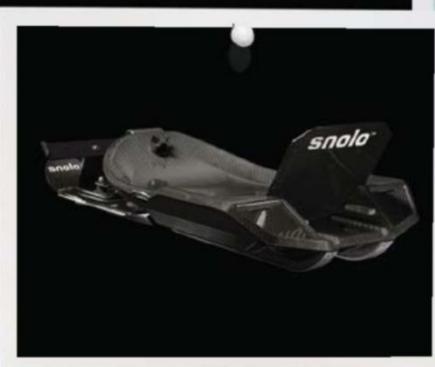
Replaceable, rust-free and extremely slippery aluminium runners ensure razor-sharp performance. When you've hit ground zero, simply sling it over your shoulder and wear it like a backpack for the long slog back up.

### 2/ Bum steer

The Stealth X features a steerable, foot-operated single ski up front. Simply strap yourself in (advisable), attach the coiled safety leash to a wrist and steer like a pro using feet and subtle body-weight distribution.

### 3/ One size fits all

The adjustable F1-style seating position and various foot peg configurations make this snow rocket suitable for late teens and elders.



Charwell PHOTO: JEFFREY L. COOPER

## TECH DAD SELECTS

Winter wearables to keep your kids snug and safe



### Scott Keeper helmet

This kid-sized helmet protects the bonce from frosty knocks, not to mention cold. £54, [ellis-brigham.com](http://ellis-brigham.com)



### Hestra Kiddy Snow Mitt

Elasticated waterproof kid mitts... no strings attached. £19, [snowandrock.com](http://snowandrock.com)

## HAMAX SNO BLADE

A blade-running alternative for dads with less dollar



Carbon fibre a little too over the top for your offspring's slippery needs?

Stick them on this cool Norwegian sit-on sledge, which comes with a steerable front ski and foot-operated brake.

The Sno Blade is cast from solid steel and bendy plastics, so chances are it'll last for several winters of snowy mayhem. It's best used with just one person on board, but is equally adept at carrying two.

It's easy to steer and, given the right degree of slope, it shifts like s\*\*\* off the proverbial shovel.

£100, [zyro.co.uk](http://zyro.co.uk)

# COFFEE KINGS

Bean-to-cup coffee machines make getting your caffeine fix exceedingly easy yet outrageously expensive. Arm yourself with our insights before considering the purchase of one



## Miele CM6300

Reliable and consistent, this is also compact and simple to use. Coffee quality is generally sound, if seldom spectacular, and the only bum notes are struck by the slightly iffy milk frother and hopeless ground coffee hatch (stick to beans). £1,300, [miele.co.uk](http://miele.co.uk) **3/5**



## Jura GIGA 5

With two grinders, boilers and pumps, this is one for those who drink industrial quantities of espresso. The coffee is the second best on test, but surely no amount of chrome can justify a price that makes even Miele and Sage seem cheap. £3,350, [jura-coffee-machines.co.uk](http://jura-coffee-machines.co.uk) **3/5**



## Krups EA9010

The most compact caffeine wrangler on test, this is touchscreen-controlled and so easy to use, a chimp could manage it. Add very good coffee and milk texturing plus something at least approaching VFM, and you have a most alluring option. £970, [krups.co.uk](http://krups.co.uk) **4/5**



## Sage by Heston Blumenthal The Oracle

This is nearer to a coffee-shop machine than the others, and as such, chimps may struggle to use it. The Oracle is still hardly difficult, mind, and it also happens to make by far the best coffee and the best textured milk on test. £1,535, [sageappliances.co.uk](http://sageappliances.co.uk) **4/5**



## COOL BEANS!

*PrufrockCoffee.com's Jeremy Challender is your host with the roasts...*

**GATHIGA AA** FROM SQUARE MILE, THIS IS JUST AS DELICIOUS AT HIGH OR LOW CONCENTRATIONS, FROM 50G/L IN POUR OVERS (SEE BELOW) TO 500G/L AS A VERY FRUITY, REDCURRENT-LIKE ESPRESSO.

**KENIA MURANGA NEW GATURI PEABERRY** FOR A RICHER TOFFEE FLAVOUR AND EVEN MORE INTENSE ACIDITY, TRY THIS FROM JB KAFFEE IN MUNICH.

### KEBADO NATURAL ETHIOPIAN

RADSTOCK'S ROUNDHILL SERVES UP STRONG FLAVOURS OF COCOA, DRIED STRAWBERRY AND BUTTERED TOAST. THE DRY PROCESS USED ALLOWS SUGARS FROM THE CHERRY FLESH TO PERMEATE THE SEED.

**FILADELPHIA** GUATEMALAN BEAN MELDS THE CHOCOLATEY AND SWEET MELON FLAVOURS OF THE BOURBON VARIETY AND THE BRIGHT, APPLE-LIKE ACIDITY OF THE CATURRA VARIETY. SQUARE MILE'S ROASTING INTENSIFIES THE SWEETNESS.

**CASA RUIZ HONEY GEISHA** THIS PANAMIAN IS FROM LA CABRA IN AARHUS IN DENMARK. WITH A FLAVOUR THAT'S PURE PASSION FRUIT, IT'S GOT SUPERB BALANCE.

## POUR ME ANOTHER...

They lack tech appeal and can't make espresso, but these pour-over devices do make spectacularly good coffee



**Chemex (wooden collar)**  
Just add a paper filter for lab-perfect results. From £37, [hasbean.co.uk](http://hasbean.co.uk)



**Malita Wave**  
Slightly techier, flat-bottomed variant of the above. From £25, [kalita.co.jp](http://kalita.co.jp)



# DOWN WITH THE KIDS

Puffa-style jacketing, from urban to lightweight to Arctic-proof

**1/ Columbia Platinum 860** With the reflective foil of Omni-Heat thermal insulation on the inner lining and TurboDown in the ribs, this is a perfect blend of science and nature. It's like a goose with a big bionic arm and the result is top-flight outdoor performance at an accessible price. £150, [blacks.co.uk](http://blacks.co.uk)

**2/ Mountain Hardwear Ghost Whisperer** After something a little more *Blade Runner*? This urban cyberpunk classic is T3's favourite puffy. With Q.Shield down, it's the world's lightest "full-featured down jacket", whatever that means, and can be layered under coats or worn solo. And there's a better-fitting cuff for 2014! Get in. £250, [mountainhardwear.com](http://mountainhardwear.com)

**3/ Black Diamond Hot Forge** Quite literally the hottest thing in down jackets right now is Primaloft Gold – artificial down that is DWR-treated (durable water-repellent) here. Also justifying the entry price: a helmet-compatible hood and "stretch gusseted cuffs". £280, [blackdiamondequipment.com](http://blackdiamondequipment.com)

**4/ Rab Microlight Alpine** Hydrophobic, 750-fill goose down and weather-resistant Pertex make this deceptively warm for something so light. For the UK where, let's face it, the weather never gets *that nasty*, it's nigh-on perfect. £180, [cotswoldoutdoor.com](http://cotswoldoutdoor.com)

**5/ Arc'Teryx Cerium LT** You do slightly run the risk of being mistaken for a wealthy Austrian trustfund kid if you wear this. However, with Down Composite Mapping putting Coreloft insulation in areas where moisture may form, and goose down where you need heat, it does undeniably do the business. £280, [cotswoldoutdoor.com](http://cotswoldoutdoor.com)

**6/ PHD Denali** Heading somewhere a tad more brisk? PHD's wares are endorsed by Sir Ranulph Fiennes, no less, and this jacket's good down to -35°C. You can customise it to your requirements too, choosing the pocket location, outer fabric and colour and the down quality and quantity. Wear it to a hip-hop gig and stand there with your arms folded and we'll buy you a beer. From £496, [phdesigns.co.uk](http://phdesigns.co.uk)



## SHERPA: DOWN WITH CONSCIENCE

AS WELL AS BEING QUALITY GARMENTS, WATERPROOF AND EMPLOYING PRIMALOFT GOLD 750 CYBER-DOWN SHERPA GIVES A PROPORTION OF EVERY SALE TO THE PALDORJE EDUCATION FOUNDATION FOR SCHOLARSHIPS TO BENEFIT SHERPA CHILDREN IN NEPAL. NANGPALA JACKET PICTURED £250, [SHERPAADVENTUREGEAR.CO.UK](http://SHERPAADVENTUREGEAR.CO.UK)

# A LITTLE LIGHT RUN?

You'll rule the night when training in this tech-boosted, safety-improving, power-running gear

A safe, healthy, only slightly mad spin on wearable tech tropes, the **Glofaster R** is a light-up jacket with a difference. Where the nascent brand's earlier tops merely had LED strips in them to prevent you being run over when crossing the road on a night run, this one has LED strips that actually pulse in time with your heart – once you've hooked up a suitable monitor via Bluetooth. For zone training, it's an interesting form of feedback, and if you do get run over and killed, causing the lights to stop flashing, it'll be more poignant somehow. The materials are the usual premium mix of lightweight, breathable and waterproof. We love it. £240, [glofaster.com](http://glofaster.com)

**ALTERNATIVELY...**  
NIKE'S SHIELD FLASH MAX JACKET DOESN'T GIVE FEEDBACK ON YOUR PULSE RATE, BUT BY GOD IT'LL MAKE SURE CYCLISTS, DRIVERS AND DOG-WALKERS – INCLUDING GUIDE-DOG-WALKERS, FRANKLY – CAN SEE YOU.  
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£350, [STORE.NIKE.COM/GB/EN\\_GB](http://STORE.NIKE.COM/GB/EN_GB)

## MORE HIGH-VIS HIGH-JINKS

Because sometimes, your safety is just that little bit more important than your dignity or sense of style



**1/ Panther Vision Powercap**  
Reflective detailing front and back + two 42-lumen LEDs in the peak = yes, you're visible. £19, [panthervision.com](http://panthervision.com)



**2/ GoMotion Synergy Hydration LightVest** A 100-lumen LED across your chest, with reflective trim for good measure. £60, [gomotiongear.com](http://gomotiongear.com)



**3/ Gore Mythos 2.0 Thermo Tights**  
Napped inner lining keeps out cold. Neon yellow detailing wards off wheeled death. £75, [goreapparel.co.uk](http://goreapparel.co.uk)



# TRI HARDER

Hard-working triathlon kit for swimming, cycling and running that's (almost) guaranteed to make you race faster – and look cooler

## SWIM



01/



03/



02/



04/



05/



FROM BOOTCAMPS TO BREAKDOWNS,  
THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT!

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GENERATES A CUSTOMISED 12-WEEK  
TRAINING PLAN TO SUIT YOUR ABILITY.  
£4.99, IOS & ANDROID

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TELLS YOU THE CLOSEST POOLS TO  
TRAIN IN, AND GIVES INFO ON SIZE,  
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RESOLVES BREAKDOWNS WITH STEP-  
BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS AND VIDEO.  
£4.99, IOS & ANDROID

## SWIM

### 1/ Huub Acute Goggles

Wide, flexible lenses and the soft frame are the important things here. A comfortable fit is vital, but Huub's wide, anti-fog and scratch-resistant lenses also give you the clearest sighting possible in open water. £30, [huubdesign.com](http://huubdesign.com)

### 2/ Zone3 Vanquish Wetsuit

Yamamoto premium neoprene is the gold standard for wetsuits, and the latest Vanquish suit is made entirely of the stuff. The extra buoyancy and flexibility means the suit aids rather than restricts, and Zone3's Pro Speed Cuff makes for an easy transition too. £425, [racezone3.com](http://racezone3.com)

## 3/ Polar V800

Polar's new triathlon all-rounder records all stages of your race, but is particularly impressive underwater. Both the watch and heart-rate monitor are fully waterproof, and the build quality is nigh-on indestructible, giving you access to all your swimming data and metrics, even as you race. £400, [polar.com](http://polar.com)

## BIKE

### 4/ Smith Optics Pivlock V2

Although known for lenses, Smith's new Pivlock V2 frames are fantastic in their own right. The nose-piece is fully adjustable for comfort and fit, so these will see you through the bike and run sections, with UV-protective

wide-angle lenses giving you a clear view of the field as you pick them off one by one. £100, [smithoptics.com](http://smithoptics.com)

### 5/ Wahoo RFLKT+ Bike Computer

RFLKT+ uses your iPhone to record all your cycling metrics, and cleverly beams them live to a mounted display on your handlebars. It'll even play nicely with apps like Strava Cycling, and has been upgraded to send your data to Apple Healthkit too. £110, [uk.wahoofitness.com](http://uk.wahoofitness.com)

### 6/ Carrera Radius Helmet

Built under constant wind-tunnel testing, the Radius' wind channelling and Alu-Tech-Frame reduces volume and drag in the air, helping to shave

## BIKE



06/



seconds off your cycling times. The air flow and Thermo Cool lining also help you avoid a sweaty bounce. £130, [carreraworld.com](http://carreraworld.com)

## RUN

## 7/ On Cloud

These Swiss runners are packed with technology, from the elastic slip-on lacing and woven heel cradle, to the springy Cloud Pods on the sole. Some of the world's best triathletes have now switched over to these. £110, [on-running.com](http://on-running.com)

## 8/ Compressport Pro Racing Triathlon Shirt &amp; Shorts

Compressport gear powers some of the world's top triathletes, including

legendary four-time Ironman champ Chrissie Wellington. The unique weave helps to regulate your body temperature whatever the weather, there are no uncomfortable seams that might rub as you run, and all the gear is anti-bacterial too. Shirt £65, Shorts £85, [compressport.uk.com](http://compressport.uk.com)

## 9/ Yurbuds Inspire 400

These sweatproof earphones will never fall out as you race, says Yurbuds, thanks to TwistLock technology, which keeps them securely fastened. Our gripe used to be poor sound quality, but Yurbuds is now owned by Harman, which has put excellent JBL drivers in them. £45, [yurbuds.com](http://yurbuds.com)

07/



08/



09/

## TECH ON TWO WHEELS

Frame, yep. Wheels, yep. Saddle, yep



## 1/ Dolan Scala Carbon TT Triathlon Frameset

This stealthy, matte black frameset has been two years in the making, and it's frighteningly fast. £999, [dolan-bikes.com](http://dolan-bikes.com)



## 2/ Token Arsenal C590 Aero Wheels

90mm on the rear and 55mm at the front, this race-ready pack features Token's excellent anti-vibration tech. £1,200, [tokencycling.com](http://tokencycling.com)



## 3/ Bontrager Hilo RXL Speed Dial

This super-comfy road saddle has transition hooks on the back for quick racking and unracking. £180, [bontrager.com](http://bontrager.com)



#### FROM STEALTH TO HEAT

The key tech in Cold Gear Infrared is the futuristic grid pattern of printed ceramic that lines every garment – it's in everything from training tops to running leggings. The tech is based on the ceramic beading and tiling used to help make stealth aircraft invisible to radar, but here the heat-retaining properties of the ceramic coating are used to keep you warmer for longer, so you remain very much on your opponents' radar...



coldgear®

## INFRARED

STAY  
WARMER  
LONGER.STEALTH-BOMBER TECH IN UNDER  
ARMOUR'S CGI GEAR MEANS YOU CAN  
KEEP UP THE HEAT WHEN TRAINING

Winter is coming, the goose is getting fat. However, there's no excuse for you to do the same, so get outside and get training: Under Armour's Cold Gear Infrared (CGI) wearable tech will help you train through the temperature drop and beat the cold.

The most exciting thing to happen to base layers in years, CGI gear is based on tech from America's revolutionary airborne menace the Stealth bomber – see left.

The inside of CGI garments have a thin layer of ceramic-based ink applied in a distinctive grid pattern. This absorbs and retains body heat, so you stay warmer for longer, without extra bulk.

And the best way to test this? By locking a load of finely-tuned athletes in a big fridge and filming how they got on, of course.

Yup, at an exclusive launch event in central London, Under Armour challenged

a wide range of sports enthusiasts, VIPs and journalists to take on tough fitness tests, while clad in Cold Gear Infrared gear.

Inside a cold room fitted with heat-sensing cameras, they raced against the clock to compete a smorgasbord of physically demanding tasks, wearing just a base layer. CGI tech kept the chill at bay.

While the ceramic coating seeks, absorbs, and retains body heat, circulating it to where it's needed most, CGI is still super breathable, with class A moisture management. As a result, you can train more comfortably in the cold, because you don't feel sweaty.

Whether you're training for endurance, speed or fun, CGI is essential this winter. It'll keep you going when the weather wants you to stop.

FOR MORE INFO ON CGI PRODUCTS GO TO [UNDERARMOUR.COM](http://UNDERARMOUR.COM)

UA.COM

CGI: THE  
SCIENCE OF FIT

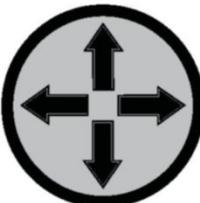
1



CERAMIC PRINT

Layered into the inside of the fabric, this stores your body heat so you can train longer and harder

2



WICKING IN COMFORT

Yes, this kit is well 'ard. But it's comfy, too, with four-way stretch and your sweat wicked away to keep you dry

3



NO MICROBES, WE'RE BRITISH

...Speaking of which, anti-odour tech means you won't stink (no matter how hard you try)

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AND THE KETTLEBELL  
WEIGHT FROM 10kg-36kg

OR YOU CAN

CHANGE ONE OF THE  
MANY SUPER BENCH  
ATTACHMENTS

THAT'S ALL IT TAKES

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\* Global monthly unique visitors to techradar.com, September 2012 (comScore)

# MULTI-ROOM MASTERY

Lusting for a Hollywood AV set-up but have a Cricklewood budget? Loewe has just the TV, while Systemline's here about the audio

Keen to have absolutely everything in your house interconnected and controlled from a smartphone? The **Loewe Connect** allows you to send material from its 1TB hard drive and twin Freeview tuners to other Loewe sets in your house, and to your phone or tablet, from whence you can also remote control everything. There's a 5.1 lossless surround processor built in, all ready for connection – via ethernet cable, not the usual fistful of phonos – to a suitably swank audio system, like the Systemline one below. 55-inch £2,799, [loewe.com](http://loewe.com)

**HOME**  
BETTER LIVING THROUGH TECH

**NEW YEAR UPGRADE**

**WANT AUDIO WITH THAT?**  
HAVING SPEAKERS THROUGHOUT YOUR ABOODE, HIDDEN IN WALLS, IS NO LONGER THE PRESERVE OF THE ONE PER CENT!  
SYSTEMLINE'S S7 IS CENTRED AROUND A SPLENDID APP THAT PUTS BOTH YOUR STORED MUSIC AND CLOUD-BASED SERVICES (IPLAYER, TUNE-IN, SPOTIFY, DEEZER AND QOBZUZ) WITHIN ONE FAST, BEAUTIFUL AND EASY UI.  
THERE'S SUPPORT FOR 24/192 HI-DEF AUDIO AND IT IS, OF COURSE, MULTI-ZONE. THE LIST OF FEATURES IS CONSIDERABLY LONGER THAN YOUR ARM, EVEN IF YOU'RE MR TICKLE.  
£3,000 PLUS INSTALL FOR A TYPICAL FOUR-ZONE SYSTEM, [SYSTEMLINE.CO.UK](http://SYSTEMLINE.CO.UK)

## MORE HOME-FILLING AUDIO

Three further multi-room alternatives, from decidedly high-end to Pure bargain



**1/ Dynaudio Xeo 4** Studio quality multi-point streaming. £1,550 (Xeo Hub, £225, also required), [dynaudio.com/uk](http://dynaudio.com/uk)



**2/ Monster SoundStage S3** Uses Wi-Fi, Bluetooth and Qualcomm's AllPlay platform. £380, [monsterproducts.com](http://monsterproducts.com)



**3/ Pure Jongo X3S** Now with updated software, this is similar to the Xeo 4 but with a nought missed off. £130, [pure.com](http://pure.com)



# LET'S GET TOOLED UP

New year's here: resolve to fix those shelves, install that new kitchen and spend more time in your shed

**1/ Shire 10X7** An Englishman's shed is his castle, and the loglap walls and mortice locked doors of this one will stand up to modest attempts at invasion. At 7x10ft there's room enough for a workbench, lawnmower and suit of armour, and the price includes assembly but not painting, so make that your first DIY task. £1,380, [diy.com](#)

**2/ Makita DHP481 LTX** This kick-ass cordless drill/driver is 2cm shorter than Makita's first effort, but with its new brushless motor, the 18v battery lasts 20% longer. That means a lot more holes, and to make sure you're drilling them in the right places there are twin LEDs. Its Makpac hardcase stacks and locks together with your other Makita products, ultimately creating a manly and impressive 'Wall of Makita'. £323, [makitauk.com](#)

**3/ JCB 240V SDS 900** For more stubborn subjects – concrete, metal, cash dispensers – you're going to need a bigger drill: this 4.9kg corded one, for instance. Despite a relatively low price, it'll bore more effectively than anything this side of an online Android vs Apple discussion, putting holes of up to 32mm diameter in masonry and metal. £182, [diy.com](#)

**4/ Dremel 8200 Platinum Edition** With one of these in your tool belt and the 65 spinning blades, bits, buffs, sanders and saws that come bundled with it, there are very few jobs you can't tackle. It's cordless, and with a spare 10.8v battery in the box, there's no excuse to stop

until every facet of your house has been drilled, sanded and buffed. £170, [dremeleurope.com](#)

**5/ Black & Decker KA330E Duosand** The boffins at Black & Decker have successfully mated a sander with a Dyson to produce this chunky yet clean-limbed prodigy. The Duosand has a dual fan system and wrap-around dust collection to stop the sandpaper (and your lungs) getting clogged with dust. £55, [blackanddecker.co.uk](#)

**6/ Stanley FatMax FME340K** There's the kind of jigsaw you piece together with your kids and there's the other kind with an oscillating blade that chews through wood, and it's important not to mix them up. The FatMax uses a powerful 710W motor and interchangeable blades for smooth-edged cutting at a low, low price. £60, [stanleytools.co.uk](#)

**7/ Ryobi 1250W corded circular saw** With a base that can be tilted through 45° to bevel edges for all your mitring needs, and a carbide blade capable of slicing through planks up to 66mm thick, this is another tool that boasts cracking VFM. £90, [uk.ryobitoools.eu](#)

**8/ DeWalt D26200** A router that will do nothing for your Wi-Fi network, this instead hollows out precise channels, notches and recesses for door locks and suchlike. Electronic speed control ensures you're routing consistently for a smooth finish in timber, metal and plastic alike. A plunge attachment is available. £154, [dewalt.co.uk](#)





## COOL TOOLS

Head to your shed and make stuff with the help of these must-have DIY assistants.

You'll have straight shelves and all ten fingers when you've finished



**1/ Bosch Quigo** Laser level ensures non-wonky shelving. £50, [bosch-do-it.com](http://bosch-do-it.com)



**2/ Black & Decker WM825** Classic Workmate bench holds fast. £70, [blackanddecker.co.uk](http://blackanddecker.co.uk)



**3/ Stanley MaxLife Mini** Stigmata-preventer when drilling in dark areas. £7, [stanleytools.co.uk](http://stanleytools.co.uk)



## TECH-PACKED TT

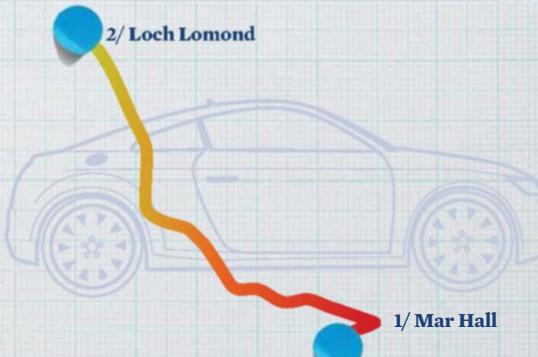
Fire up the quattro! The new Audi TT powers along, and so does its “virtual cockpit” display, thanks to a brace of quadcore Nvidia processors. Yes, it’s pricey, but its truly impressive in-car tech makes it a very tempting proposition indeed



TOP SPEED 155MPH  
0-62MPH 5.3 SEC  
ENGINE 1,984CC, FOUR-CYLINDER  
PETROL TURBO  
POWER 230BHP  
GEARBOX SIX-SPEED, DUAL-CLUTCH  
FUEL CONSUMPTION 44.1MPG  
CARBON EMISSIONS 149G/KM  
WEIGHT 1,335KG  
PRICE AS TESTED £45,335

### ROUTE MASTER

The all-weather hooning started at Mar Hall, near Glasgow. From there, across the Clyde we went and up along the shores of Loch Lomond. Next, onto some serious Scottish B-roads and into rally mode, flicking up and down the TT's super-slick dual-clutch gearbox. The TT may still not be hardcore, but it is a proper driving weapon.



The new Audi TT might just be the first totally T3-friendly car. Not thanks to top speed or clutch-toasting racing starts, but because of its high-powered in-car tech.

Too often manufacturers make excuses when their in-car kit sports the sort of crap screen and juddery performance that would embarrass a cheap tablet. From now on we'll be able to point at the new TT and say, "Audi did it properly, why can't you?"

From a touchscreen that's brilliant at turning messy, finger-drawn scrawls into accurate text, to an intelligent menu system, it's a revelation – see right for more details.

This TT still isn't a hardcore driver's car, and that's just fine. Instead, it takes everything that made the previous TTs so popular and cranks it up to 11. It nails it for cabin quality, socks it to its rivals for tech prowess, and looks sharper than ever before.

The full range will eventually include all manner of mild to manic engine options, but for now we're in the 2.0 TFSI quattro. Like all TTs, this is a two-door motor with occasional rear seats but plenty of boot space.

As ever, the quattro tag denotes Audi's signature four-wheel drive system, and now it's fully computer-controlled and capable of sending 100% of torque to front or rear.

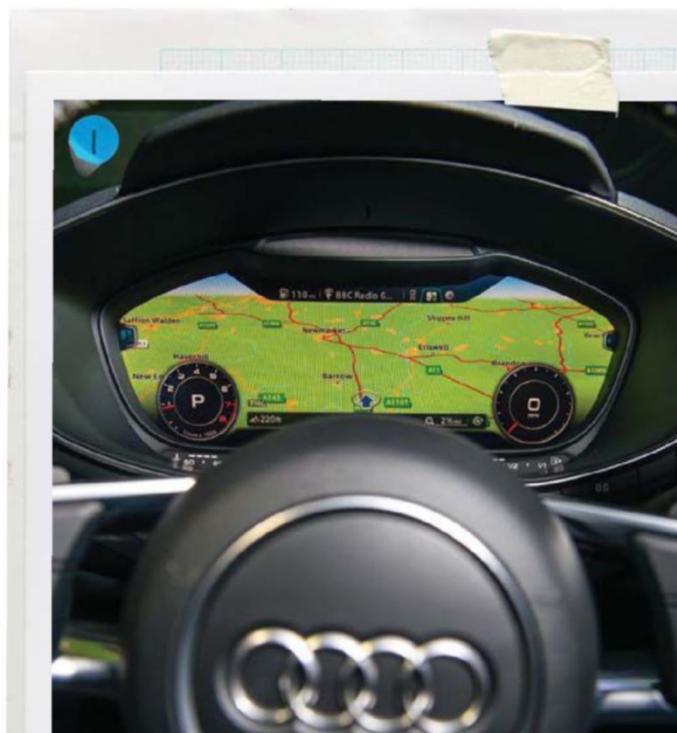
## EVEN THIS MODEST MODEL PACKS 230HP AND ZAPS TO 62MPH IN JUST 5.3 SECONDS

It's a measure of modern sportscardom that even this modest TT model packs 230hp and zaps to 62mph in just 5.3 seconds. The sheer level of grip and quattro-powered composure is genuine giant-killing stuff. The S-tronic dual-clutch automated gearbox only makes accessing that performance even easier. Perfect gearshifts anytime, anywhere, are just a quick pull of a paddle away. It's not visceral, but it is effortless.

Audi has laid it all out with the new TT. The technology, the quality, the attention to detail – it's all a big leap forward. Granted, it's still not the best sports car your money can buy, but it is better than ever before.

Some of the options are preposterously pricey, but then this "basic model" gives you things like the tiny climate control screens that are integrated into the centre hub of the air vents – the kind of clever touch you might expect to see in a car costing three times as much. Whichever way you cut it, the new TT is just plain special.

FROM £34,545, AUDI.CO.UK



### THE TECH INSIDE

#### 1/ Virtually perfect

Two Nvidia chips power a slick virtual instrument cluster, rendered on a high-def 12.3-inch LCD that morphs from speedo and rev counter to satellite-view satnav.

#### 2/ Touch control

The TT debuts a new version of Audi's MMI multimedia system. The wheel controller remains, but now there's a touchpad too.

#### 3/ See the matrix

The matrix of LED headlamps can detect traffic, pedestrians and cyclists and intelligently mask high-beam headlights to prevent unwanted dazzle.



**THREE TO TEST DRIVE**  
Kerb your enthusiasm

**1/ Nissan 370Z Nismo**  
Probably the 370Z's swansong. It surely won't be long before the likes of this 3.7-litre mini muscle car are legislated right out of existence.  
£37,575, NISSAN.CO.UK

**2/ Ford Mustang**  
Talking of muscle cars, here's the real deal from Ford, albeit updated for the digital age with independent suspension and right-hand drive.  
£33,000, FORD.CO.UK

**3/ Lexus NX 300h**  
Looks like a man-eater, but is actually a fuel sipper thanks to Lexus' petrol-electric powerplant. Wireless phone charging is an industry first.  
£36,995, LEXUS.CO.UK



# SMARTER SMART CAR

The little car that can gets mobile integration to make driving an app-iер, more musical experience

## SMALL SIZE, BIG AMBITIONS

### 1/ LCD, no sound system

The new Smart ForTwo doesn't have any kind of audio as standard, but you do get a full-colour 3.5-inch LCD in the instrument cluster. Sadly, it's situated in a cheap-looking semi-circular bezel. Still, it's the only real misstep in the Smart's surprisingly spacious cabin.

### 2/ Teeny turbo

The speediest Smart gets an 898cc turbo engine. Sounds tiny, but it knocks out a healthy 90hp. That's plenty to give the 2.69-metre, 880kg ForTwo plenty of poke around town, and also ensures that it scrapes in under the all-important 100g/km CO<sub>2</sub> emissions target.

### 3/ Room ForTwo

Tiny on the outside, the ForTwo is positively palatial inside, so long as you only need seats for two people. Length-wise, it's within a millimetre of the original, but thanks to an extra 11cm width-wise, the new ForTwo gets a major elbow-room upgrade while maintaining the park-it-almost-anywhere USP.



## {CONCEPT} LEXUS RC F RIFT

21st-century try before you buy

**1/ In-car Oculus** Lexus has taken the DK2 version of the Oculus Rift VR headset and combined it with a virtual version of its new RC F V8.

**2/ RC what?** The RC F is Lexus' new £60,000, 5.0-litre, 471bhp BMW M4 eater. It's a surprisingly old-school, naturally aspirated animal that's appearing just as BMW's Ms have taken a turbo-charged turn.

**3/ Digital dash** As well as sampling virtual hot-lap hooning, the VR includes a full rendition of the RC F's leather, paddle-equipped cabin.

Smart car, meet smartphone. The all-new **Smart ForTwo** optionally offers an app-plus-smartphone-craddle combo that turns iPhones and Android handsets into in-car multimedia rigs complete with audio playback, navigation, hands-free telephony and connected-car telematics like fuel consumption and eco-driving metrics. You also have the option of a fully integrated, premium-priced touchscreen system, but smartphone integration is a better match for this clever little car. £11,325, [uk.smart.com](http://uk.smart.com)

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# THE NEXT LEVEL



**Will Hollywood finally be able to turn top-selling games into creditable films? We take a look at what's in the frame for 2015-16**

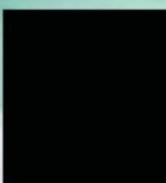


WORDS GARRICK WEBSTER & TOM DENNIS



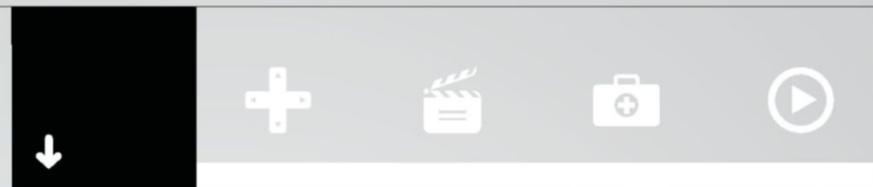
Hollywood movies are dominated by the comic book world at the moment, and that doesn't look to be changing. *Avengers: Age of Ultron*, *Ant-Man* and *Fantastic Four* will all be there for our viewing pleasure in 2015, and in 2016 we'll have *Deadpool*, *Superman vs Batman*, *Suicide Squad* and further *Captain America* and *X-Men* sequels to enjoy. The worry is that filmgoers are growing tired of caped crusaders, mutants, Norse gods and Lycra. Even comics fans have complained of superhero fatigue thanks to the big screen. So where are the studios turning for new inspiration?

00s 01s 02s 03s 04s 05s 06s





Saving the world from turning into a blocky parody of itself, *Pixels* blends film and gaming like few before it



The literary world always provides a good fall-back: in 2015 we'll be Hunger Gamed again, and Shades of Grey the film is bound to attract an audience. But a lot more action may just come from the computer games industry.

Big game releases now far outstrip films in terms of revenue. In 2013, Forbes reported that *Grand Theft Auto V* earned over \$1 billion in its first three days on sale. A year earlier, it took *The Avengers* movie 19 days to reach that figure, matching a feat previously achieved by *Avatar* and *Harry Potter: The Deathly Hallows*. By comparison, comic books had their biggest month ever in July 2014: with the hype surrounding the *Guardians of the Galaxy* film, the comics industry as a whole earned around \$53 million.

Game sales put film and comic books in the shade financially, and gaming culture has been with us for over 30 years. So why has there never been a great movie based on a computer game? *Wing Commander?* *Prince of Persia?* Well, it was OK. *Mortal* (cough) *Kombat?* Oh dear. *Tomb Raider*, then? There are dozens more examples where the films really didn't live up to their full potential.

#### ■ BRING ON THE PIXELS

Perhaps *Pixels* will begin to put things right this summer. It's not based on a gaming franchise, but it's centred on gaming culture and some of the greatest games of the 1980s, like this... Somehow, great big pixel-powered versions of 80s games characters descend on New York to wreak surreal havoc. Pac-Man is eating up the stops on the city's subway map, space invaders are zapping yellow cabs and turning them into pixellated versions of themselves, and Donkey Kong is atop the Empire State hurling barrels at unsuspecting Manhattanites.

If that wasn't enough for the nostalgic 8-bit gamer, it stars Adam Sandler, who is an expert at playing the oaf-hero role. Here he plays

an ex-arcade champ. With a clan that includes Peter Drinkelge (*Game of Thrones*), Josh Gad (*Frozen*) and Michelle Monaghan (*Mission Impossible III*), Sandler takes on the pixel monsters at their own game.

The film is based on the excellent 2010 short by French auteur Patrick Jean. In it (<http://goo.gl/3gCbGe>) you'll see *Space Invaders*, *Pac-Man*, *Donkey Kong*, *Tetris*, *Frogger* and more, but nobody to defend the city. That's where Hollywood has stepped in to provide humour and a human story, with director Chris Columbus (*Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*) and screenwriter Tim Herlihy. With that retro vibe, it might even remind you of *Tron* (1982) and *WarGames* (1983), two of the first movies to bring gaming culture, if not game worlds and characters, to the big screen.

#### ■ THE CHALLENGE

However, *Pixels* doesn't involve the companies behind the games. Films based directly on a game title have struggled, but it's not for lack of trying. There have been five *Resident Evil* movies, based on Capcom's zombie-tastic



## FIVE THAT FLOPPED

It was Game Over before the credits even rolled...



### 1 ALONE IN THE DARK, 2005

The game series was mysterious and suspenseful. As a film, however, the story fell surprisingly flat. Directed by Uwe Boll, and starring Christian Slater and Tara Reid, it was a huge let-down for both fans of the game and filmgoers.



### 2 IN THE NAME OF THE KING, 2008

Director Uwe Boll, responsible for numerous game-to-film conversions, actually got Ray Liotta and Jason Statham to star in this almost unwatchable fantasy aimed at *Lord of the Rings* fans and based on the game *Dungeon Siege*.



### 3 STREET FIGHTER: THE LEGEND OF CHUN-LI, 2009

A 1994 adaptation of the game with Jean-Claude Van Damme and Kylie Minogue was bad, but this reboot was even worse. Never mind critics slating the plot, the fact that even the fight scenes didn't rate says it all.



### 4 SUPER MARIO BROS., 1993

Fun, friendly, colourful and a touch surreal, the *Super Mario* games are a delight to play. The film starring Bob Hoskins and Dennis Hopper took delight and turned it dreary. Hoskins is on record as saying it was the worst movie he ever made.



### 5 WING COMMANDER, 1999

PC game *Wing Commander III* featured the likes of Mark Hamill and Malcolm McDowell, so this film had a fair amount of potential. Instead we got Freddie Prinz Jr. and a very disappointing look at the Kilrathi right at the end.



A landmark game, *Resident Evil* (aka *Biohazard*) was turned into a successful survival-horror movie in its own right

PlayStation titles. None has rated higher than 33% on Rotten Tomatoes, but they do attract an audience of fans and have made over \$900 million at the box office. A sixth *Resident Evil* movie has been put back to 2016 because of star Milla Jovovich's pregnancy.

By the time it appears we'll have seen new films based on other big gaming franchises, including *Assassin's Creed* with Michael Fassbender (*12 Years a Slave*), and *Tom Clancy's Splinter Cell* with Tom Hardy (*The Dark Knight Rises*). Both are coming from games publisher Ubisoft, which has set up Ubisoft Motion Pictures. The company is also working on films of *Watch Dogs* and *Ghost Recon*. The latter had author Tom Clancy's endorsement and Michael Bay (*Transformers*) is said to be involved.

Even mobile gaming – which produces some huge franchises in its own right – is the source of some upcoming films. *Angry Birds* is scheduled for cinema release in 2016 and stars two of the main players in *Pixels* – Josh Gad and Peter Dranklage. There's also due to be a film made based on *Temple Run*, with David Heyman, producer of the *Harry Potter* films, said to be involved.

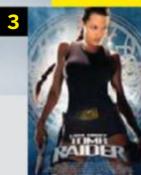
#### IT'S EASY, RIGHT?

How these films fare will prove interesting. The argument is that it should be easy to turn a good game into a good film. The game's setting, visual language, music and characters should simply carry over, and key challenges for players can, in theory, be made into a compelling narrative. Throw in Hollywood special effects and big-name actors, and what could possibly go wrong?

The key missing ingredient is the gameplay itself – the interactivity. This is what makes gaming immersive. It's not that film isn't immersive – it is, very much so, but in a different way. With the darkened room, a huge spectacle

## FIVE OF THE BEST

Films of games that weren't, actually, that bad...



### PRINCE OF PERSIA: SANDS OF TIME, 2010

Originally an Apple II game, *Prince of Persia* had Middle Eastern mystique and martial arts in the right quantities, and the film starring Jake Gyllenhaal as the Sinbad-like prince is a certainly watchable swashbuckler.

### RESIDENT EVIL, 2002

Zombies. Conspiracy. Action. Science fiction. The key elements of the atmospheric PlayStation games are all in the films, and the first is arguably the best, with Milla Jovovich making for a compelling, if taciturn, heroine.

### LARA CROFT: TOMB RAIDER, 2002

Angelina Jolie's vehicle to stardom was the role of the pixelated princess in D-cups. The original game was inspired in part by *Indiana Jones*, and this film continues in that vein, with stone monkeys that come to life.

### SILENT HILL, 2006

Interesting because it's so weird, and with some gripping and gruesome horror sequences, *Silent Hill* takes place in an isolated town where a dark force is at work. There's an insane cult, some witchcraft and torture too.

### FINAL FANTASY: THE SPIRITS WITHIN, 2001

Alien phantoms threaten the last humans in this all-CG film. Technically it is impressive and the plot is half-decent too. Donald Sutherland, Steve Buscemi, Alec Baldwin and the CG character Aki Ross all star.

of light and shadow, and surround sound, you are submerged in what can be a very intimate experience, privy to a character's story. You are not controlling the character, but a good film usually delivers a much more complex story, and far more psychologically nuanced characters, than a computer game.

No matter how atmospheric they are, games seem to lack when it comes to these aspects. Action, involvement, gameplay – these take precedence. Shooting. Racing. Shooting and racing. Swinging swords. Monsters. These elements do convert to film well and, indeed, whether they're based on games or not, there are many movies that focus on little else. But even an action movie needs good characters, and they need to appear to do things for a reason. In too many cases, games just don't get a fair swap when they give up their gameplay for linear plotlines. →



The stars of the *Warcraft* film – and a mighty orc hammer – were unveiled at BlizzCon in November

→ When Hollywood Pictures turned *Super Mario Bros* into a live action film in 1993, the essence of the game seemed to be lost entirely. Bob Hoskins played Mario with John Leguizamo as Luigi, and they took on a King Koopa played by Dennis Hopper. Turtle shells, giant spotty mushrooms, spinning coins, snapping pot plants – the game's colourful side was largely forsaken for a drab world with a gangster-like antagonist. Neither Hoskins nor Nintendo ended up proud of the film. The company has reinvented *Super Mario Bros* several times as a game, but it seems it just couldn't be done for the big screen.

Shigeru Miyamoto – the famous designer responsible for Mario, Zelda and more – wasn't involved in the film and until recently has steered away from motion pictures. His focus has been purely on designing games that are fun to play. Big themes, complex stories and characters don't help him achieve his goals and therefore don't interest him particularly much. He told *The Telegraph* in a recent interview that

movies have nothing to teach games designers.

And yet Miyamoto was the creative force behind the three *Pikmin* short films, first shown at the Tokyo Film Festival in October. Pikmins are colourful little game characters – like a cross between a flower and an ant – that walk about carrying things. They've appeared in three games since 2001 and have a devoted following. These films aren't Hollywood by any means, but do demonstrate that games-based films can serve the gaming industry in different ways. *The Night Juicer, Treasures in a Bottle* and *Occupational Hazards* are available for \$4.99 as 3D movies to view on the 3DS or as HD films to watch on Wii U via Nintendo's streaming video service.

#### CAPTIVE AUDIENCE

Microsoft, the maker of *Halo*, is doing something similar but on a larger scale. With the fourth *Halo* game out there and a fifth on the way, a *Halo* TV series has been created with 343 Industries and Ridley Scott's company Scott Free. *Halo: Nightfall* can be watched via the Halo Channel app on the Xbox, or in Windows 8.1. It's billed as a pivotal chapter in the *Halo* story and has Mike Colter (*The Good Wife, Zero Dark Thirty*) playing Agent Locke, a badass leading a team of badasses on a mission to shut down a mine



## WATCH OUT FOR...

Our pick of the best upcoming game-based films



### WARCRAFT, MARCH 2016

The word is that the director and actors 'get it', so this could be the film that really proves a game can make for a great movie. It will explain why the Horde and the Alliance are in perpetual conflict in *World of Warcraft*.



### PIXELS, JULY 2015

Starring Space Invaders, Donkey Kong, Tetris and Frogger – oh, and Adam Sandler and Peter Dringlage. It's not based on a single game title, but it will bring us a fun new look at games culture with a retro feel.



### SPLINTER CELL, AUGUST 2015

With *Edge of Tomorrow* director Doug Liman in the chair, Tom Clancy's *Splinter Cell* will see Tom Hardy play Fisher, an Eschelon agent whose job is to neutralise terrorists wherever they raise their nasty little heads.



### ASSASSIN'S CREED, 2016

Michael Fassbender is to produce and star in this adaptation of the game series, which it seems will fill in some of the backstory of the assassin main character. Turns out he comes from a long line of hired killers...



### ANGRY BIRDS, JULY 2016

With Peter Dringlage as the voice of Mighty Eagle, and Josh Gad as Chuck, this 3D animated version of Rovio's hit mobile game is being produced by Sony Pictures Imageworks, which will be doing the animation work.

where some evil force is extracting an element lethal only to human beings.

Colter will go on to appear as Locke in the upcoming game *Halo 5: Guardians*. Early reports suggest *Nightfall* lacks the sort of depth that a film buff would want, but it may leave gamers enthusiastic about playing Locke when *Guardians* is released. So if game companies are making films as promos and have a direct route to their audience's screens, the squeeze is on the film industry, which is already beset by competition from great TV series.

Apart from direct game-to-film conversions, however, gaming has long held an influence over Hollywood and its creatives. Didn't the *Matrix* films feel like computer games at times with their parallel worlds, over-the-top action and re-spawning black-suited agents? Recent films from *Oblivion* to *The Hobbit* made you feel like you were watching a game.

Perhaps the ultimate film-of-a-game which isn't actually based on a game is *Edge of Tomorrow*, where Tom Cruise's soldier character, each time he dies, is sent back to the same airstrip to relive an attack against an invading extraterrestrial force. Coached by co-star Emily Blunt, he learns to survive stage-by-stage as though he's playing a scenario in *Crysis*, *Bio Shock* or *Doom*. The whole point of the film is that it's like watching a computer game and yet it scored 90% on Rotten Tomatoes. *Edge of Tomorrow* was directed by Doug Liman, and it's significant that he's been signed to direct the *Splinter Cell* film.

A similar live, die, repeat plotline is used in *Source Code*. Jake Gyllenhaal's character Captain Stevens is on a military mission facilitated by a time-and reality-bending technology. He's sent to relive the same eight minutes on a commuter train over and over again, and each time must try to prevent an explosion that will kill hundreds of people. The film is not so much like a first-person shooter, but does have this very game-like premise to it. It was directed by Duncan Jones, and his previous movie *Moon* – dark, moody, psychological sci-fi – also had a touch of the live, die and repeat about it.

## WORLD OF WARCRAFT

Interestingly, Jones, having directed two feature films that have a game-like premise behind them, has been lined up to direct *Warcraft*, scheduled for release in March 2016. With Jones's background, it could be the most successful film-of-the-game yet.



Will *Angry Birds* prove as popular on the big screen as on every mobile phone's?



## NEVER THE TWAIN?

When it comes to how they're made, films and games are more and more alike

Andy Serkis has played Gollum, Caesar in the *Planet of the Apes* films, and characters in the games *Risen* and *Heavenly Sword*



Co-founded by Andy (Gollum) Serkis, The Imaginarium is a studio that captures actors' performances for CG graphics to be stripped in later on. Head of games Martin Alltimes and chief technology officer Rich Hollerworth tell us how motion capture (MoCap) is advancing, and what the future holds...

### WHAT SORT OF KIT DO YOU USE?

The technology we use is a mixture of off-the-shelf systems, such as a Vicon T-series MoCap system, head-mounted cameras, Autodesk Motion Builder, and a growing number of proprietary tools and software.

### HOW HAS MOCAP ADVANCED SINCE LORD OF THE RINGS?

Naturally computers are more powerful, software more advanced, and the resolution of capture system greater than ever before. A significant change has been the use of MoCap on a live action set, such as Davey Jones in *Pirates of the Caribbean* and Caesar in *Dawn*

*of the Planet of the Apes*. In *LOTR*, Andy would act opposite Elijah, then be captured in a studio later, whereas on *The Hobbit* he was captured on set with Martin Freeman.

### TYPICALLY THE FINAL CG IS ADDED IN POST-PRODUCTION. DO YOU SEE A DAY WHEN IT CAN BE DONE THERE AND THEN?

Real-time low fidelity MoCap is available today, and we are actively researching ways to provide real-time facial feedback. It's almost inevitable that real-time CG will reach a point that it will be indistinguishable from off-line rendering. Our hunch is that it will happen in the next ten years.

### WHY HAVE GAMES FOUND IT SO DIFFICULT TO SUCCEED AS FILMS?

The core of a traditional video game has been its mechanics, the core of a movie is its story and characters. Until games place the same emphasis on story as movies and TV, it will be extremely difficult to adapt them successfully.



The screenplay, written by Duncan Jones and Charles Leavitt (*Blood Diamond*), is said to explore the origins of the conflict between the humans and the orcs of Azeroth, from both points of view. Filming has already taken place.

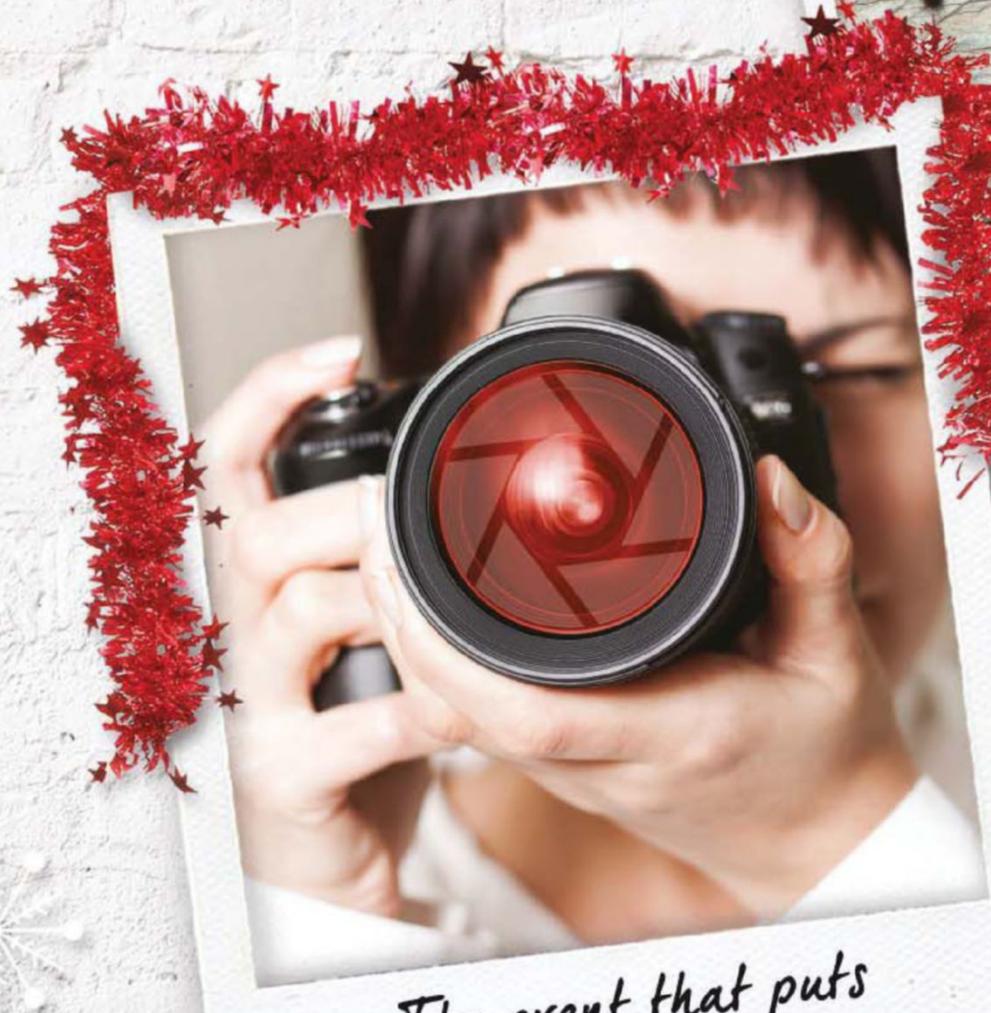
Travis Fimmel (*Vikings*) plays Alliance leader Anduin Lothar, with Ben Foster (*X-Men: Last Stand*, *3:10 to Yuma*) as the sorcerer Medivh. Dominic Cooper appears as the human king, Llane Wrynn, while the orcs are led by Toby Kebbell (*Dawn of the Planet of the Apes*), who plays the chieftain Durotan, and Rob Kazinsky (*Pacific Rim*) as orc hero Orgrim Doomhammer.

At its height in 2010, the game had over 12 million subscribers, and still holds about 7.5 million. The film has a rumoured budget in the region of \$100 million. At an average ticket price of a bit over \$8, it will have to capture the imagination of a big number of filmgoers, in addition to its gaming following, in order to turn a profit.



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# RATED

THE TEST TECH FROM THE T3 TEST LAB LA



## The edge of tomorrow

SAMSUNG'S POPULAR PHABLET NOW SPORTS AN EXTRA BIT OF SCREEN, BUT IS THE WEDGE WORTH IT?



{RATINGS}



★★★★★  
MUST BUY

★★★★★  
VERY GOOD

★★★★★  
DECENT

★★★★★  
BELOW AVERAGE

★★★★★  
OH DEAR



### {ALSO REVIEWED THIS MONTH}

- GoPro HERO4 Black p110
- Fitness tracker round-up p112
- Smartphone supertest p115
- Slate showdown p124

**The future's here, and it's got a slightly curved display on the right! OK, so it's not quite as groundbreaking as finding life on Mars, but the Galaxy Edge is at least – if you'll pardon the pun – cutting edge.**

Samsung's latest super-sized smartphone assault enters the market with a unique slant – a curved slither of screen to the right that acts as a sort of second display for the smartphone. This isn't an all-new device, though. Samsung has basically taken the Galaxy Note 4 and bent the right side of it to form the 5.6-inch Edge.

The sturdy metal frame that hugged the 4 has been dropped here, leaving an all-plastic body that doesn't feel anywhere near as premium in the hand, although your eyes are likely to be distracted by that slanting screen.

As with any of the Note handsets, the Edge is a sizeable beast, and those with smaller palms may find it a struggle to handle. The fact Samsung has shifted the power/lock key to the top also creates unnecessary jostling in the hand and increases the drop factor.

This isn't a device targeted at everyone, although those who like big screens, the S Pen stylus and something a bit different will undoubtedly have their interests piqued.

The main feature here is that additional chunk of display, which is really a glorified notification bar. All your general phone alerts appear in the curved side panel, and it has some clever additional features including the ability to answer/dismiss calls without them taking over the whole screen.

The curved area falls nicely under the thumb when held in the right hand, and you can swipe through different columns of options, including a line of apps that provide quick access to your favourites. Dig a little deeper and you can even use the extra slice of screen as a ruler. These may be useful extras, but they're not exactly life changing. Luckily, the Note Edge has a variety of other standout features.

The QHD display is nabbed from the Galaxy Note 4, and it's an absolute stunner. Colours are bright, text is sharp and this all

#### {SPECIFICATION}

OS Android 4.4 KitKat  
SCREEN SIZE 5.6in  
RESOLUTION 1,600x2,560  
SCREEN TYPE Super AMOLED  
CPU Snapdragon 805  
RAM 3GB  
STORAGE 32GB/64GB  
BATTERY LIFE One day  
CAMERA 16MP/3.7MP  
CONNECTIVITY 2G, 3G, 4G  
LTE, Wi-Fi 802.11 a/b/g/n/ac,  
Bluetooth 4.1 LE, NFC,  
microSD

#### {DIMENSIONS}



HEIGHT 151.3mm  
WIDTH 82.4mm  
DEPTH 8.3mm  
WEIGHT 174g





means that your movies, TV shows and games will look great. It's perfect for media on the go, with the screen big enough to enjoy your favourite films, and there's plenty of power under the hood to ensure you keep on going.

In fact a punchy Snapdragon 805 chip and 3GB of RAM reside under that curved display, making the Edge one of the most powerful smartphones currently on the market. The inclusion of a microSD slot under the removable rear cover will also be music to the ears of any mobile media mogul.

There's the odd hint of slowdown every now and then, which Samsung puts down to the extra processing power required to drive the secondary display, and this detracts slightly from what is otherwise a slick performer.

The Android 4.4 KitKat operating system is up to date and you can expect the Note Edge to get an upgrade to Lollipop (Google's latest software) in the near future.

Samsung has splashed its TouchWiz interface over the top of Android, which provides a slightly different look and feel to the operating system, but on the whole it's still a relatively pleasant experience.

If you already own a Samsung smartphone you'll feel at home with the interface, while anyone considering a move from another manufacturer will need a few days to familiarise themselves with the new layout. Multi-taskers will love the Edge's ability to snap two apps side-by-side on screen, and you can pop out the video player into a small floating window, enabling you to continue watching while using other apps. Even more impressive is that the Note Edge manages to do all this without appearing to break a sweat.

There's good news for the snap-happy among you, with the rear-facing 16MP camera inherited from the Note 4 performing strongly. You'll be able to capture some stunning pictures, and the fact the camera controls are cleverly housed in the slanted second screen keeps the luscious QHD display clutter free as you frame your shots.

We're still not convinced by the S Pen stylus, which isn't just a simple pointing device, but one which allows you to interact with the Edge in a number of ways. You can handwrite notes and messages, cut out bits of the screen to save in a scrapbook, and easily annotate any screen to then send to someone else. The features all work pretty well, but in day-to-day use there are very few occasions where you'll find the S Pen actually proves a genuinely worthy addition.

On the topic of questionable features, there's a heart rate monitor on the rear of the Edge. Stick your finger over the sensor and it'll tell you your beats per minute. It also claims to measure your stress levels, →

#### {DETAILS}

1

##### GET A GOOD LOOK

Think of the extra bit of screen as a glorified notification bar that's always accessible under the thumb

2

##### UNDER THE SKIN

Fewer handsets let you get inside them now, but the Note Edge is one of them, with access to a removable battery and microSD slot

3

##### MORE THAN A STYLUS

Samsung has improved the S Pen again, with greater accuracy, better tactility and new tricks. We're still not sold though, and its usefulness is questionable



The curved side bar looks great, but is really just a glorified notification panel

→ but a disclaimer when you fire up the app warns you it might get it wrong. Hmm.

Another point to consider is battery life, and while the phone the Edge is heavily based around – the Note 4 – performs well, things are far less impressive here. You'll be lucky to get a full day's use from a single charge, and

## THE NOTE EDGE DOES EVERYTHING THE NOTE 4 DOES, ONLY NOT QUITE AS WELL

if you play games or videos on the go you'll be dashing to a charger as evening draws in.

The curved second screen aside, the Galaxy Note Edge does everything the Note 4 does, only not quite as well. This makes the Edge a difficult phone to recommend. It's not got any significant flaws (although the battery life is disappointing), it's just outclassed by its bigger brother.

If Samsung can tighten up the battery life and stuff more functionality into the second screen to make it truly useful, then the Note Edge 2 could be a winner, but until then you're probably better off looking elsewhere.

£650, SAMSUNG.COM/UK, OUT NOW

**LOVE** Gorgeous display. Innovative second screen. Jammed-packed with features. Decent camera

**HATE** Hugely expensive. S Pen stylus is still questionable. Battery life is poor

**T3 SAYS** A decent all-round phablet, but unless you're desperate for that second-screen novelty there are better options available



### {KILLER FEATURES}

STAY STRESS FREE, CHARGED AND ORGANISED



1

#### SET PULSES RACING

The Note Edge has a heart-rate monitor slapped onto its back. Not only will it reveal your beats per minute; it can also measure your stress levels, if you can believe that.

2

#### SUPER-FAST CHARGING

You'll find Samsung's fast-charge plug in the box, which is capable of going from flat to 50% in just 30 minutes – perfect for a quick blast before you head out to an all-night rave.

3

#### MULTI-TASKING MARVEL

Whether it's snapping two apps side by side on screen, opening a pop-up app over the top of the interface, or running 20 apps simultaneously, it's all possible on the Note Edge.

### {THE RIVALS}

PHONES FOR YOU



SAMSUNG  
GALAXY NOTE 4



IPHONE  
6 PLUS



GOOGLE  
NEXUS 6

PRICE	FROM £629 SAMSUNG.COM/UK	FROM £619 APPLE.COM/UK	FROM £499 PLAY.GOOGLE.COM
BUILD	It has a plastic back, but the metal frame is robust and a removable battery is a plus	A slender, full-metal jacket gives a highly premium look and feel. It might bend though	Big and brash, this isn't for the faint hearted, but it is very well built
KEY FEATURES	QHD display, heaps of power, a strong snapper and, of course, the improved S Pen stylus	Biggest iPhone ever, excellent design, the first full high-definition iPhone, iOS 8	With Android Lollipop as standard, this is the first of Google's next-gen phones
BATTERY LIFE	Will keep going for around a day and a half on one charge, plus comes with a fast-charge plug	A marked improvement over previous generations, the 6 Plus will see out a day	Capable of lasting a day and a half, Google's 'Project Volta' helps to extend the battery life
APPS	Samsung has cut down on bloatware in 2014, and Google Play is stuffed full of options	It's still quality over quantity on the App Store, and there's more than a million to choose from	Bundled apps are Google's own, keeping things clutter free, and Play Store offers a huge range
SCREEN	You get a stunning 5.7-inch QHD Super AMOLED display – a true visual feast	The first full HD iPhone is here, and it's a clean, bright and highly usable 5.5-inch effort	The same resolution as the Note 4 and Edge, this QHD monster measures 5.96 inches
CAMERA	A 16MP rear snapper enables you to take stunning shots	Still 8MP, but OIS means this is the best iPhone camera around	Nexus lags behind here, but its 13MP offering is serviceable
PROCESSOR	With a punchy Snapdragon 805 chip there's nothing it can't handle	Apple's new 64-bit, A8 chip runs the show and provides more than enough power	Another phone packing the impressive Snapdragon 805 processor plus 3GB of RAM

### {THE FINAL WORD}

NICK ODANTZIS, REVIEWS EDITOR



The Galaxy Note Edge is the result of Samsung trying something new, attempting to break the mould of the smartphone design we've become accustomed to and inject some excitement back into the market. Has it succeeded? Yes, to a point. The curved sliver of screen will likely turn heads, but the humble functionality may make them look away again.

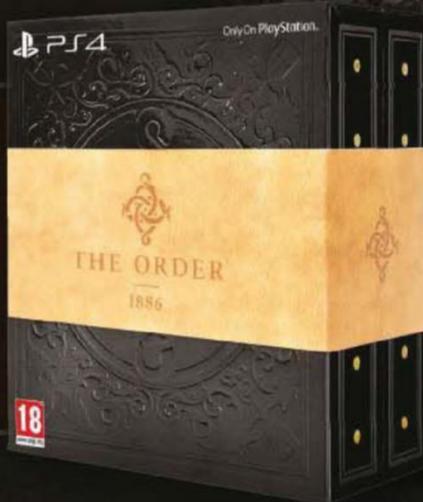


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|--|---|

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**PS4™**



### {GOPRO HERO4 BLACK} POINTS OF INTEREST

#### SPECIFICATIONS

**VIDEO** 4K at 30fps;  
1080p at 120fps  
**PHOTO** 12MP  
**SCREEN** Front LCD,  
optional external  
touch display  
**BATTERY LIFE** 1.05hrs at 4K  
**WATERPROOF**? Up to 40m  
**CONNECTIVITY**  
Wi-Fi, Bluetooth  
**MOBILE APP** iPhone, Android  
**STORAGE** Up to 64GB,  
Micro SD

#### SIZE/WEIGHT



**DIMENSIONS**  
41x59x21mm/88g  
(without housing)

#### FOCUS Reliable control, capture and connectivity

The Hero4 Black is more than just a video camera – it also boasts some seriously smart features. With an app available for both iOS and Android devices, you can connect to your GoPro and control its functions and settings, plus preview, playback and share your footage, so you're not restricted by the lack of built-in screen.

The HERO3+ upgraded the speed of its Wi-Fi hardware, and this speed is really apparent in the HERO4 Black, enabling the smooth playback of footage, unlike some competitors, which have a tendency to drop frames, pause or lose connection.

# The little camera that can

GOPRO'S HERO4 IS THE LATEST, AND GREATEST, ACTION-CAM, NOW WITH 4K VIDEO RECORDING



It's amazing to think that something the size of a matchbox can capture broadcast-quality video, but that's exactly what the GoPro HERO4 Black promises to do.

The headline new features are 4K video at 30fps (the HERO3+ could only muster 15fps) and 1080p at 120fps – that's full HD in 1/4-speed slow motion. This is a crazy amount of power in a device that costs about the same as an entry-level DSLR. Other new features include Bluetooth support, not just Wi-Fi, and the ability to tag your footage as you shoot.

As usual with GoPros, there's no screen, and no way of checking your composition on the camera itself, but you can connect your GoPro via Wi-Fi to a smart device to check live composition and clips if you wish.

The improvement in 4K quality is instantly apparent. Videos look far smoother and prove that 4K can deliver great results, even in a camera of this size. Shooting 1080p at 30fps, 50fps and 120fps shows the most exciting results. 120fps footage slowed to 29.7fps shows smooth motion with good detail and colour.

The GoPro has a built-in microphone that captures the ambient noise well. It's by no means professional quality, but does the job.

While the design still looks boxy and simplistic, it can go just about anywhere, has all the attachments you'll ever need, and the wide range of shooting modes means it's still the top dog in the action-cam arena.

£369, GOPRO.COM, OUT NOW

**LOVE** Best-in-class video quality. Improved battery access. Enhanced menu

**HATE** No design improvements. Heavier than previous model. Mic could be better

**T3 SAYS:** It's in need of a bit of a redesign, but action cams don't get much better than this



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# Tricked-out trackers

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HEALTH AND WELLBEING ARE one of the most obvious and well-suited uses for wearables, and sensor technology is now so prevalent that a wrist strap can monitor a host of movements and habits. The results can be used to improve your lifestyle, breaking down myths about how much exercise you get, and enabling you to make better lifestyle choices.

Which are the best bands? Read on to find out.



## 01 UPTOWN GIRL JAWBONE UP MOVE

£39.99, JAWBONE.COM

The UP Move is a superb budget fitness tracker, which not only tracks steps and slumber, but also activities as varied as cycling, weightlifting, footy and Zumba. While its Early Learning Centre-style rubber build and primary colour design won't exactly blend in with your designer tails, it can be clipped out of sight to do its job without ruining your look.

The powerful app and open ecosystem, which welcomes non-Jawbone scales, sleep trackers and running apps, means there are more insights to pore over. However, having to fork out £11 to get the horrid rubber wristband is a cheek.

**T3 SAYS** Overall, a decent basic tracker at a superb price



## 02 SAVIOUR OF THE UNIVERSE? MISFIT FLASH

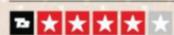
£50, MISFIT.COM

With step tracking, the ability to tag runs, cycles and swims, plus auto sleep detection, the Flash's array of features shows why you shouldn't need to pay over £50 for a basic activity tracker.

While the dull design and plastic build may not inspire, you can jazz up your look with a selection of vibrant colours, although it doesn't sit too well in its wrist strap.

The Misfit is waterproof to 30m, and it will track laps of the pool as easily as steps on your commute. Analysis of your daily activity is lacking, though, and the app doesn't provide as many insights into your day as Jawbone's.

**T3 SAYS** A good value tracker, but the app and analysis is basic



## 03 CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE FITBIT CHARGE

£99.99, FITBIT.COM/UK

The non-skin burning revision of the recalled Fitbit Force debuts an OLED screen and caller ID. The design is pleasant if basic and will blend in with most looks, but it's a tad wide for our wrists.

The screen is great for flicking through your daily stats, although there are no insights beyond steps, calories, distance and sleep quality. The caller ID feature is a

bit pointless, and its tracking tech feels positively last generation when compared to the super-smart Fitbit Charge HR (the same band with real-time heart rate monitoring) and Jawbone UP3, both expected in early 2015.

**T3 SAYS** OK, but better bands are coming at the same price point





**04** VIVO LA REVOLUTION  
**GARMIN VIVOSMART**

#### £139, GARMIN.COM

The Vivosmart is well built, with a slick display and a wealth of basic but accurate fitness-tracking options. The band will record steps, calories, distance covered and sleep, but the latter isn't that in-depth or insightful.

The black band won't draw much attention, and while it's a little dull, it will blend in with most outfits. However, the real boon is the smartwatch

notifications, which delivered nearly every conceivable alert from our phone to our wrist.

The only real issue is its relative value for money, and at £139 there's better fitness trackers available for a fraction of the price.

**T3 SAYS** A decent blend of features, but at a high price



**05** ALL TALK AND NO TROUSERS  
**SONY SMARTBAND TALK**

£130, SONY.CO.UK

While the SmartBand Talk looks to improve on Sony's original lifestyle tracker, it's not accurate enough to compete with the established players. Tracking and analysis is basic, although the E Ink screen works well and notifications are great.

However, the calling features really flop, and the iffy battery life could have been improved by leaving this feature out.

With a price tag of £130, it's impossible to recommend this band, given the poor health tracking and crummy calling features. However, with more focus on what's important, the Sony could have been a real winner.

**T3 SAYS** This band has so much potential, yet delivers so little



#### {THE KNOWLEDGE} HEART-RATE MONITORING

The fitness band is only a few years old, but it's about to undergo another revolution. While the basic step and sleep-tracking bands are tumbling in price, new features like heart-rate monitoring, which enables bands to monitor your pulse using LEDs that scan your skin for your pumping blood, are set to herald a new era of super trackers.

They're on the way, too: the Fitbit Charge HR, Basis Peak and Jawbone UP3 are all expected to drop in early 2015, and enable bands to gauge your calorific burn whether you're running for the bus or cycling in the gym – something the current crop can only guesstimate from the movement of your arms. The moral of the story? Don't fork out a fortune for basic fitness tracking.

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# Make the smart choice

WITH A LITANY OF BRILLIANT SMARTPHONES AROUND, THE BEST JUST KEEP GETTING BETTER. FIND OUT WHICH ONE WE'D BUY



**Compare any smartphone around today to the best ten years ago – heck, even three years ago – and you'll see that even the budget options still pack a mightier punch.**

But even though everything today is rather brilliant, there are still big choices to be made on your next phone. Do you want a hyper-sharp screen? Two cameras working in harmony to take clever snaps? A super-sleek design? There's so much on offer, and you needn't part with a year's wages to get it.

So take our hand, and let us guide you through a smorgasbord of brilliant phones. We promise we won't let go... ➔

**{CONTENDERS}**  
Five phones  
worth flaunting  
down the pub

SAMSUNG  
GALAXY ALPHA  
£449



LG G3  
£325



NEXUS 6  
£499



APPLE  
IPHONE 6  
£539



HTC  
ONE (M8)  
£440



# SAMSUNG GALAXY ALPHA

£449, SAMSUNG.COM/UK

## {SPECIFICATION}

SCREEN SIZE 4.7in  
BATTERY 1860mAh  
CAPACITY 32GB  
CAMERA 12MP  
OS Android 4.4  
CPU Exynos 5 Octa-core  
RESOLUTION 720x1,280  
MICRO SD SLOT No

## {DIMENSIONS}



HEIGHT 132.4mm  
WIDTH 65.5mm  
DEPTH 6.7mm  
WEIGHT 115g

## {DETAILS}

### ① SCREEN

Super AMOLED technology brings clear, vivid and colour-packed images

### ② BUILD QUALITY

Easily Samsung's best yet, with polycarbonate combined with a metal rim

### ③ CAMERA

At 12MP, more than enough, and packed with extras

### ④ ADDITIONAL FEATURES

The heart-rate monitor is interesting, but still without real use



## The Samsung's design sparkles, but its performance is lacklustre

The Samsung Galaxy Alpha is the phone the South Korean brand had to make. Too long it had dwelled in design doldrums, content to let the power within speak volumes while others created a smartphone that delighted the second it landed in your palm.

There's no doubt the Galaxy Alpha is one of Samsung's best phones yet, especially in the design stakes. Like an improved Nokia Lumia 930, the Alpha fuses a metal band with the rubberised polycarbonate back in a phone that's incredibly thin and light.

The screen is a little disappointing, mainly because it's not the full high-definition display we were expecting, but with the back-up of the mighty Super AMOLED display technology it still looks rich and colourful – and at 4.7-inches, the Alpha fits much more nicely in the palm of your hand.

Samsung hasn't completely gone for design only here though, as it's packed in one of the most powerful processors around: an Exynos octa-core engine capable of delivering screaming horsepower to even the most demanding apps. Combined with a 12MP camera, you can see that Samsung is at least trying to tick off the basics here.

Except there are a couple of things missing. The big one is a decent battery life: while it's awesome that you can remove the power unit completely to replace it with another one (or upgrade it, which you might want to think about) at 1810mAh, it simply can't last the day.

And yes, it's good that the Alpha comes with 32GB of storage minimum, but there's no microSD slot – it's clear Samsung has been all about getting this phone as slim as possible while still charging a premium price.

However, it is compact, lovely to hold and whizzy fast, so if you're a Samsung fan who doesn't mind reaching for the charger, it's a worthy choice.

## {ACCESSORISE}

### Extended battery kit

If you're more than a light Alpha user, you'll definitely need this larger power pack. The new back cover bulges to accommodate, but trust us, you'll prefer the longer life.

£39.99, EXPANSYS.COM



**LOVE** Best-ever design. The super-powerful Exynos octa-core processor. High-quality camera

**HATE** No microSD slot. Disappointing 720p screen. Acceptable, but not impressive, battery life

**T3 SAYS** Samsung goes for fashion over function. Not a bad effort, but lacks in some areas



# LG G3

£325, LG.COM/UK

**{SPECIFICATION}**

**SCREEN SIZE** 5.5in  
**BATTERY** 3000mAh  
**CAPACITY** 16GB  
**CAMERA** 13MP  
**OS** Android 4.4  
**CPU** Qualcomm Snapdragon 801  
**RESOLUTION** 1,440x2,560  
**MICRO SD SLOT** Yes

**{DIMENSIONS}**

**HEIGHT** 146.3mm  
**WIDTH** 74.6mm  
**DEPTH** 8.9mm  
**WEIGHT** 149g

**{DETAILS}****1 SCREEN**

The first to bring QHD, the display is too dark and battery hungry

**2 BUILD QUALITY**

Looks premium, but doesn't have the feel or balance of its predecessor

**3 CAMERA**

The 13MP effort is great in the day, but poor at night

**4 ADDITIONAL FEATURES**

The camera's laser AF promises quick and sharp snaps, and it delivers

**The tweaked interface and decent screen make this worth a look**

LG's a funny brand. Winning the world over with its Chocolate, Secret and Viewty feature phones half a decade ago (and that's some feat with product names like that) it sadly came unstuck when decent smartphones started to become a thing.

However, a couple of years ago things started to change for LG's smarties. The Optimus G wasn't a half-bad phone, apart from looking like a prototype model shackled up with a South Korean toy, and the G2 was pretty close to brilliant, apart from a plastic body and a user interface that was so packed with colour you got motion sickness just dragging down the notification bar.

And the LG G3 improves on all that with aplomb – doing so less than six months after the G2 launched. It's got a metallic skin (which is sadly just polycarbonate masquerading as premium design), was the first to bring the pin-sharp QHD screen to the market, and even has a laser attached to the back that enables you to capture clear and in-focus shots no matter what you're snapping.

On top of that, LG has managed to squish a 5.5-inch screen into the smallest of packages, making it the most usable of

all the phablets, bridging the gap between that form factor and a smartphone. Kudos also has to go to the phone's interface design department, because it's taken the mess from the G2, squished it through a roller and made everything clearer, flatter and, well, more grown up.

However, there are still some issues with the G3: that screen is certainly sharp, but it's not quite bright enough, and packing in pixels has cost LG its usually stunning battery life.

That said, all this comes in a package that's the cheapest on test – you can see why LG is really starting to get some traction in the smartphone world.

**LOVE** Clear, flat interface. Pin-sharp QHD screen. Quality camera with hyper-fast focusing  
**HATE** Plastic chassis. Poor battery life. Poor low-light camera performance

**T3 SAYS...** A smartphone that doesn't really improve in the right way from the G2, but is offered at a brilliant price

**{ACCESSORISE}****LG Tone Infinim**

Teaming up with sound experts Harmon Kardon, these wireless headphones offer stunning audio with long, long battery life thanks to the smartly-designed neck band.  
**£124.95, AMAZON.CO.UK**



# NEXUS 6

£499, PLAY.GOOGLE.COM

## {SPECIFICATION}

SCREEN SIZE 5.96in  
BATTERY 3220mAh  
CAPACITY 32GB/64GB  
CAMERA 13MP  
OS ANDROID 5.0  
CPU Qualcomm  
Snapdragon 805  
RESOLUTION 1,440x2,560  
MICRO SD SLOT No



## {DIMENSIONS}



HEIGHT 159.3mm  
WIDTH 83mm  
DEPTH 10.1mm  
WEIGHT 184g

## {DETAILS}

## ① SCREEN

At six inches, the QHD display is clear and bright

## ② BUILD QUALITY

The sleek looks and metallic frame combine beautifully in the hand

## ③ CAMERA

The camera is quick, and not half bad

## ④ ADDITIONAL FEATURES

Uses the super-powerful Qualcomm 805 chip

**There's a lot to love about this best-ever Nexus**

The days of the cheap Nexus are over – this new phablet now costs as much as most of the other phones on test. That said, Motorola (the brand chosen by Google to make the new model) has packed in some decent technology to make it worth your hard-earned.

There are two main things that really got us going here: the arrival of the next-generation, ultra-powerful Snapdragon 805 CPU, and the massive, six-inch QHD screen. It's one of the best screens we've tested, with oodles of space and clarity, as well as lovely colour reproduction.

The rest of the package is mostly standard Nexus, meaning you're going to get the earliest access to the new versions of Google's Android operating system whenever they appear – and we're really into Lollipop, with its flatter, more mature look really sticking it to the sickly-sweet iOS 8.

There is something on this phone that's not standard Nexus, though: the camera isn't completely awful for once. Instead, it takes fast and clear snaps. Sure, it's not the best around, but previous Nexus's have been, frankly, horrific in this area. Fast charging is another clever trick and can give you six

hours' battery life in just quarter of an hour.

Of course, compared to the rest of the phones on test here, the Nexus 6 is a gargantuan beast, so you'll either have to have whopping pockets, a big enough bag, or frankly massive hands to be able to port it around with you daily. Motorola has done some sensational work on making the bezel as small as possible though – it could have been a lot worse.

This is definitely the best Nexus model that's ever been made, and if you don't mind a phablet it's a good choice. However, it's a shame that the lower cost wasn't brought across too. It would have been a world-beater then.

**LOVE** Bright, clear screen. Brilliant Qi+ Turbo charging. Great OS upgrade in Android Lollipop  
**HATE** Messaging capabilities are a little mixed-up. Increased cost. Despite being based on the Moto X, it misses its clever features

**T3 SAYS** A massive beast, but one that justifies the cost and 'best Nexus ever' tag

**Choe upgraded Qi Wireless Charger**

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£59, AMAZON.CO.UK



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# APPLE iPhone 6

£539, APPLE.COM/UK

## {SPECIFICATION}

SCREEN SIZE 4.7in  
BATTERY 1810mAh  
CAPACITY 16GB/64GB/128GB  
CAMERA 8MP  
OS iOS 8.1.1  
CPU Apple A8  
RESOLUTION 750x1,334  
MICRO SD SLOT No



## {DIMENSIONS}



WEIGHT 129g  
HEIGHT 138.1mm  
WIDTH 67mm  
DEPTH 6.9mm

## {DETAILS}

## ① SCREEN

Not full HD, but colour rich and crisp

## ② BUILD QUALITY

The best Apple has made, curving the edges while increasing the size

## ③ CAMERA

Not the most megapixels, but still very powerful

## ④ ADDITIONAL FEATURES

Apple Pay will be very handy if loads of credit cards and banks sign up

**Significant improvements help Apple catch up with the pack**

After the iPhone 5S again didn't push the design envelope for Apple, everyone was expecting the Cupertino brand to come back with something really special for the iPhone 6 – and it didn't disappoint. The phone's new curved-edge chassis looks like the result of an iPad Air mating with a ceramic plant pot (in a good way), and from the improved screen to the upgraded camera everything has been tweaked in a positive way.

You could argue that there's very little innovation here, and on the one hand you'd be right. The long-anticipated Apple Pay system is the only big thing to change on the iPhone 6, apart from the size itself, and that's not even coming to the UK until "some point" next year (although we do expect it to be sooner rather than later).

At £539 it's still a very pricey phone to buy, commanding more than nearly every other rival despite not even packing a full HD screen or raising the megapixel count on the iSight camera. But that would look past what Apple does best: making the little changes to dramatically improve the whole.

The camera on the iPhone 6 focuses faster than ever before, and produces some expert-

approved photographs, for instance.

The screen, admittedly, could have a higher resolution, but it does at least offer a beautiful picture because Apple's worked hard on the quality of the LCD. And all of this is backed with the A8 chip, which uses the new Metal framework to provide some awesome graphics for games.

There will be some Apple fans that miss the smaller iPhone, and others that hanker for a slightly larger screen without having to go down the iPhone 6 Plus phablet route, but for many the iPhone 6 is a brilliant compromise on size, while finally fixing the battery issue.

## {ACCESSORISE}

**Sandisk iXpand**

iPhone storage filling up? Shove some photos onto this Lightning-enabled flash drive and transfer them back to your computer whenever the mood takes you.

£TBC, SANDISK.CO.UK



**LOVE** Much-improved battery life. More useful and accurate keyboard. All-new, great-looking chassis

**HATE** Disappointing 750p screen. Price. The plastic bands to allow radio signal in and out ruins the design

**T3 SAYS** Apple has now caught up with, and mostly beaten, the pack with the rebooted iPhone 6 range



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# HTC ONE (M8)

£440, HTC.COM/UK

## {SPECIFICATION}

SCREEN SIZE 5in  
BATTERY 2600mAh  
CAPACITY 16GB/32GB  
CAMERA 4MP (Ultrapixel)  
OS Android 4.4  
CPU Qualcomm  
Snapdragon 801  
RESOLUTION 1,080x1,920  
MICRO SD SLOT Yes



## {DIMENSIONS}



HEIGHT 146.4mm  
WIDTH 70.6mm  
DEPTH 9.4mm  
WEIGHT 160g

## {DETAILS}

### 1 SCREEN

Super LCD 3 is a clear and crisp technology, with great colour reproduction

### 2 BUILD QUALITY

The clear design leader, the One (M8) is a joy to hold

### 3 CAMERA

Bright scenes are iffy, but it performs well in low light

### 4 ADDITIONAL FEATURES

BoomSound speakers and auto video highlight reels make this a media marvel

## Beautiful and brilliant, this phone's still a winner

The HTC One (M8) – crowned Phone of the Year at 2014's T3 Awards – should have fallen away by now. After all, it's over six months old, so how can it still be the most contemporary of the newer handsets in this round-up?

The reason is simple: premium design doesn't go out of fashion, and HTC imbued the One (M8) with enough power to stay current until the new model appears on the shelves (it's set to land in early in 2015).

It's very hard to stand out in the modern smartphone market; just wander down to your local Carphone Warehouse and try to work out which phone is which without looking at the labels (if you've, literally, got nothing better to do with your time). So for HTC to launch a phone with an innovative camera, great metal body, powerful – and surprisingly useful – front-facing speakers and a fun user interface is something of an achievement.

It's the phone's design that really grabs you though. 2013's One was great to hold, but HTC upped that impressive feeling by stuffing the M8 full of more metal and rounding the edges even further to create a phone that creates a positive experience the first time you pick it up.

The fact that the brand relented and plopped a microSD card slot in there too to satisfy the baying hordes who demanded more storage is another winning factor. In fact, if this phone was waterproof and had a removable battery too, we would probably have told HTC not to bother wasting its time with a sequel.

There are still a few small gripes, though. The Ultrapixel camera is super fast, but the pics can suffer in bright light, and the battery life isn't as strong as others on test. But for an all-round phone that brings genuinely useful features while feeling great in the hand, there's still nothing better.

**LOVE** Beautiful design. Fast, sharp camera. Unbeatable BoomSound speakers

**HATE** 4MP camera isn't great for zooming or in bright conditions. The battery is a little off-par

**T3 SAYS...** Despite being a few months old, this is still an amazing smartphone in terms of both speed and design



## {ACCESSORISE} Dot View case

This dimpled case is sturdy yet cool, displaying info from the screen inside. It can register your finger swipes too.

£34.99, AMAZON.CO.UK



SAMSUNG  
GALAXY ALPHA

LG G3



NEXUS 6

APPLE  
IPHONE 6HTC  
ONE (M8)

	PRICE, URL	£449 SAMSUNG.COM/UK	£325 LG.COM/UK	£499 PLAY.GOOGLE.COM	£539 APPLE.COM/UK	£440 HTC.COM/UK
SCREEN SIZE	4.7in	5.5in	5.96in	4.7in	4.7in	5in
BATTERY	1860mAh	3000mAh	3220mAh	1810mAh	2600mAh	
CAPACITY	32GB	16GB	32GB/64GB	16GB/64GB/128GB	16GB/32GB	
CAMERA	12MP	13MP	13MP	8MP	4MP (Ultrapixel)	
OS	Android 4.4	Android 4.4	Android 5.0	iOS 8.1.1	Android 4.4	
CPU	Exynos 5 Octa-core	Qualcomm	Qualcomm Snapdragon 805	Apple A8	Qualcomm Snapdragon 801	
RESOLUTION	720x1,280	1,440x2,560	1,440x2,560	750x1,334	1,080x1,920	
MICRO SD SLOT	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	
LOVE	Best-ever design. The super-powerful Exynos octa-core processor. High-quality camera	Clear, flat interface. Pin-sharp QHD screen. Quality camera with hyper-fast focusing	Bright, clear screen. Brilliant Qi+ Turbo charging. Great OS upgrade in Android Lollipop	Much-improved battery life. More useful and accurate keyboard. All-new, great-looking chassis	Beautiful design. Fast, sharp camera. Unbeatable BoomSound speakers	
HATE	No microSD slot. Disappointing 720p screen. Acceptable, but not impressive, battery life	Plastic chassis. Poor battery life. Poor low-light camera performance	Messaging capabilities are a little mixed-up. Increased cost. Despite being based on the Moto X, it misses its clever features	Disappointing 750p screen. Price. The plastic bands to allow radio signal in and out ruins the design	4MP camera isn't great for zooming or in bright conditions. The battery is a little off-par	
T3 SAYS	Samsung goes for fashion over function. Not a bad effort, but lacks in some areas	A smartphone that doesn't really improve in the right way from the G2, but is offered at a brilliant price	This phone's a massive beast, but one that justifies the cost and 'best Nexus ever' tag	Apple has now caught up with, and mostly beaten, the pack with the rebooted iPhone 6 range	Despite being a few months old, this is still an amazing smartphone in terms of both speed and design	
RATING	4.5	5	5	5	5	5

## {REASONS}

## Ten reasons to buy the HTC One (M8)

**1**

A well-balanced metal body makes this one of the best phones to hold.

**2**

More than a gimmick, the phone's Duo Camera offers clever refocusing and innovative post-snap features.

**3**

The camera is great at everyday snaps too; it's fast, and excellent in low light.

**4**

The in-built, front-facing speakers are best in class for delivering audio.

**5**

The Super LCD tech makes everything clear and colourful.

**6**

Sense 6 brings Blinkfeed, an ever-improving aggregator that offers up nuggets of news, pics and updates from your social networks.

**7**

The Lollipop OS is just around the corner.

**8**

The new 'Eye Experience' lets you have a multi-person video conference.

**9**

The dropping price makes it even better value.

**10**

HTC's Power to Give app helps fight cancer and solve world hunger.

## {THE FINAL WORD}

## IF 2014 IS THIS GOOD, WHAT'S COMING NEXT?...

It's crazy to think that something as well put together and powerful as the Samsung Galaxy Alpha could be considered the 'loser' of this test – after all, if you'd given that to someone five years ago you would have struggled to get it back again.

But times they are a changing, and the competition just keeps getting fiercer, with smartphone brands desperate to innovate while still blowing our minds with superb design. Each phone on test here has some great ideas, including LG's laser autofocus, the all-new CPU of the Nexus 6, or the sheer refinement of the iPhone 6. Here's hoping they're keeping nicking ideas from – sorry, being inspired by – each other.

If they do, then 2015 is going to see a wave of smartphones that finally start delivering amazing battery life on crystal-clear screens, alongside powerful sound and high-resolution cameras. And all in a package you would proudly display down the pub.

But right now, HTC's One (M8) is still the winner of our test, with the iPhone 6 hot on its heels. Let's be honest, though: ending up with any of these phones is hardly a chore. It's just that these two are a little bit better.

## {FUTURE TECH}

## What's coming next to your smartphone?

**1**

**Two-day battery life**

The next step is phones lasting longer – 2015 will start seeing more working for 48 hours.

**2**

**Intelligent cameras**

Cameras that can sense conditions and perfect snaps are coming, thanks to smarter processors.

**3**

**Mo' pixels**

The future is clear. QHD should see all the next flagships (bar the iPhone) packing in more pixels.

**4**

**PC power**

A phone with a Bluetooth mouse, keyboard and wireless monitor could replace your laptop.



# Slate showdown: Apple vs Google

THEY'RE TWO OF THE HOTTEST TABLETS AROUND, AND BOTH COST THE SAME. WHICH SHOULD YOU BUY?

## APPLE IPAD MINI 3

FROM £319, [APPLE.COM/UK](http://APPLE.COM/UK)

(SPECIFICATION)	
OS	iOS 8
SCREEN	7.9in, 1,536x2,048
PROCESSOR/RAM	Apple A7/1GB
STORAGE	16GB/64GB/128GB
CONNECTIVITY	Wi-Fi 802.11 a/b/g/n, Bluetooth 4.0, Lightning, LTE (optional)
DIMENSIONS	200x134.7x7.5mm, 331g

**LOVE** The fabulous, premium design, secure and accomplished fingerprint scanner, slick operating system and battery life  
**HATE** Only a very small incremental upgrade over its predecessor, and as a result the extra cost is pretty hard to justify  
**T3 SAYS** Still an extremely accomplished tablet, but if it's value for money you're after then you'd best look elsewhere



## GOOGLE NEXUS 9

FROM £319, [PLAY.GOOGLE.COM](http://PLAY.GOOGLE.COM)

### Ease of use

iOS 8 adorns the iPad and it's just as slick and user-friendly as past iterations. Whether you're completely new to iOS or have been using it for years you'll be up and running in no time. In terms of physical keys there's power/lock, volume and that famous circular home key. Simple.

**LOSE**

Sporting Google's freshest operating system yet, the cutely dubbed Android Lollipop provides a new, flatter look, smoother integration and a pleasing array of applications. It's the sleekest flavour of Android yet, looks and performs beautifully, and sings with the Nexus' 64-bit chip set.

**WIN**

### Performance

It may sport the same processor, screen, shell and battery as the iPad mini 2, but you shouldn't let that put you off. The mini 3 is still a smooth operator, and you can throw pretty much anything at it without issue.

**LOSE**

There's plenty of power under the hood and you can throw everything and the kitchen sink at the 64-bit processor and it'll still come out swinging. So fire up those high-definition games, it's time to get serious.

**WIN**

### New features

The big addition to the iPad mini 3 is the Touch ID fingerprint scanner – soon you'll be able to use it to pay for goods. It's the best digit reader out there, but the premium you pay for it is harder to deal with.

**WIN**

Both tablets sport the same 4.3, 1,536x2,048 screen resolution, but stretched over the Nexus 9's larger 8.9-inch display that resolution ends up less sharp. The cheaper LCD technology is also a noticeable distraction.

**LOSE**

## (SPECIFICATION)

OS	Android Lollipop
SCREEN	8.9in, 1,536x2,048
PROCESSOR/RAM	Nvidia Tegra K1/2GB
STORAGE	16GB/32GB
CONNECTIVITY	Wi-Fi 802.11 a/b/g/n/ac, Bluetooth 4.1, NFC, microUSB 2.0, LTE (optional)
DIMENSIONS	228.2x153.7x8mm, 425g

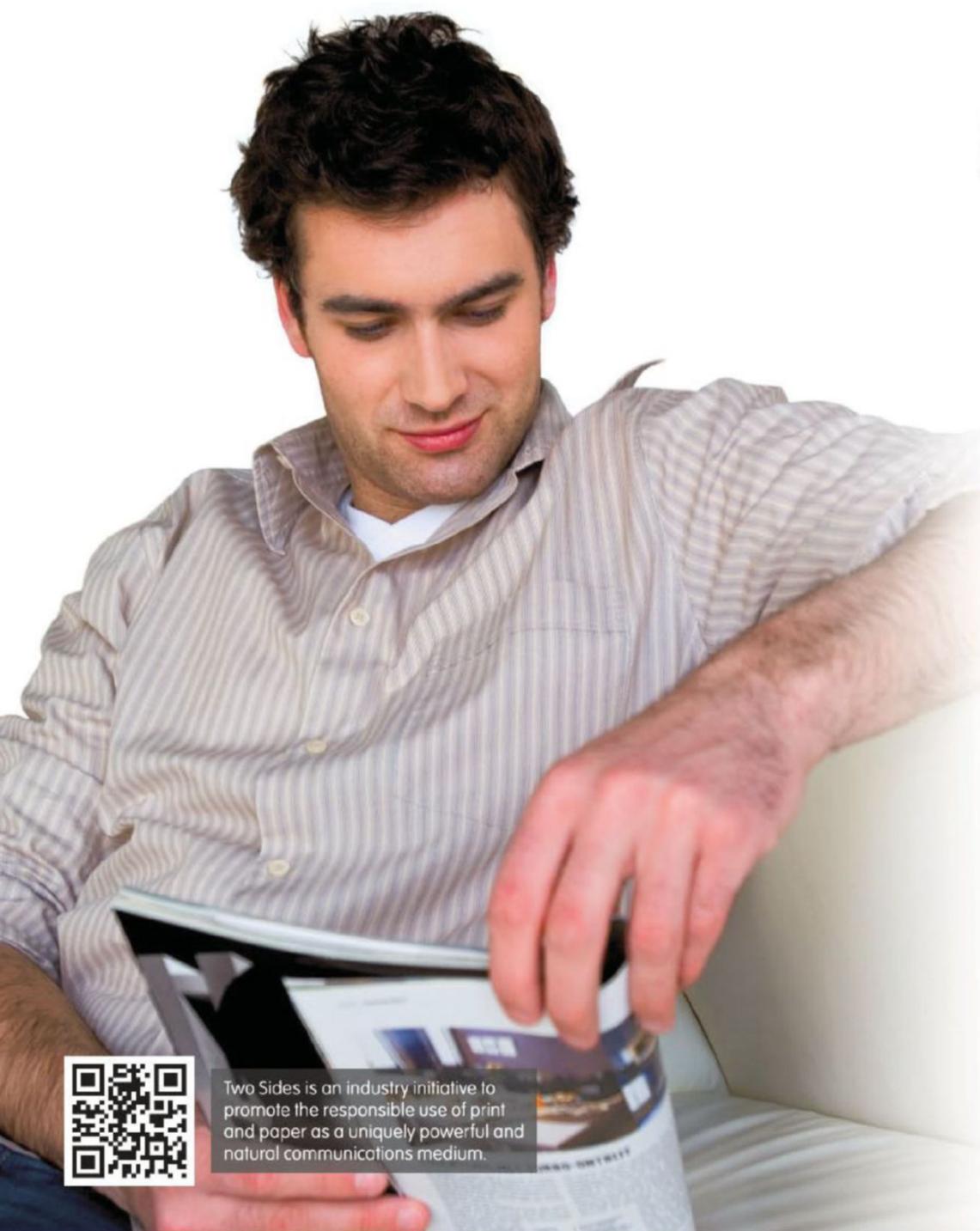
**LOVE** Plenty of power enables you to run any app. Lollipop is a tasty software update, and the front-facing speakers are strong

**HATE** The screen is a bit disappointing, the design leaves a little to be desired, and it's not as cheap as previous Nexus models

**T3 SAYS** A solid upgrade, the Nexus 9 is a highly capable tablet. It's just a shame that the screen doesn't quite hit the high notes



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- A teal circular badge on the left that says "NO.1 FOR GIFTS".
- A hand holding several issues of the magazine.
- The main cover of Digital Camera magazine, featuring a large blue water droplet crown graphic and the text "148 PAGES OF EXPERT TIPS, GEAR TESTS & SLR SKILLS", "THE WORLD'S TOUGHEST TESTS MEDIUM-FORMAT CAMERAS • CANON 7D MKII", and "Digital Camera Britain's best-selling photography magazine".
- A smaller inset showing a "Digital Camera POCKET" booklet with various photo tips.
- A book titled "The Complete DICTIONARY of PHOTOGRAPHY" by Mark Galer.
- A CD-ROM labeled "Teach yourself Lightroom Part 8 Get creative with image-editing tools".
- A circular badge on the right that says "FREE IN OUR NEW ISSUE SNAPHEAL FOR MAC\*".
- An inset for a "Digital Camera Special CAMERA SHOPPER" issue, comparing Canon vs Nikon, featuring a Canon EOS 70D and a Nikon D810.
- A small inset for a "HOTOSHOOTERS! SMALL, SEXY SHOOTERS!" issue.
- A small inset for a "WHAT LENS? 40 LENSES ON TEST" issue.

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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](http://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.



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LINDY HF-110 Headphones, July 2014

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## Headphones



01

PIONEER SE-MX9-T

★★★★★ £169, PIONEER.EU, TESTED SUMMER 2014

**LOVE** Based on the acclaimed HDJ-2000 DJ cans.

Suitably luxe looks and superior sound quality

**HATE** Could be comfier, if we’re griping. Pricey

**T3 SAYS** Grown-up, luxury headphones for serious clubbers and fans of DJ-quality audio

**SPECIFICATIONS**

IMPEDANCE 32 Ohms FREQUENCY RANGE 6-40,000Hz

CORD LENGTH 1.2m

02

B&W P3

★★★★★ £169, BOWERS-WILKINS.CO.UK, TESTED SEPTEMBER 2012

**LOVE** Compact and lightweight, but undeniably premium. Clear and deep audio. Any colour you want, as long as it’s 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

03

KEF M500

★★★★★ £249, 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

04

MONSTER ISPORT STRIVE

★★★★★ £59, MONSTERPRODUCTS.COM, TESTED JULY 2014

**LOVE** Brilliant fit that holds tight during vigorous workouts. Sweat- and water-resistant, with a tangle-free cable

**HATE** More open sound (good for staying alert, though)

**T3 SAYS** Stylish, sporty in-ears with an unmoveable fit and great sound quality. Designed for winners

**SPECIFICATIONS**

IMPEDANCE Not quoted FREQUENCY RANGE Not quoted

CORD LENGTH 1.2m

05

PHILIPS FIDELIO S2

★★★★★ £84, PHILIPS.CO.UK, TESTED JANUARY 2014

**LOVE** Tight in-ear buds, impressive bass and superb sound isolation. Comfortable fit. Stylish design. Newly affordable

**HATE** After the price cut, we’re really struggling here...

**T3 SAYS** Top styling, sound, comfort and price tag make these in-ears well worth splashing out on

**SPECIFICATIONS**

IMPEDANCE 22 Ohms FREQUENCY RANGE 15-24,000Hz

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 £159, 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. £557, AMP3.CO.UK

4

**SONY WALKMAN NWZ-E474**

Clear audio and 36 hours playback. Just 8GB storage and a dated look, though. £85, SONY.CO.UK



**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



**ATOMIC FLOYD SUPERDARTS TITANIUM**

★★★★★ £249, ATOMICFLOYD.COM, TESTED CHRISTMAS 2014

**LOVE** Amazing sound. Super looks. Premium materials

**HATE** The hefty price tag

**T3 SAYS** Bassy, maybe, but these are as good as it gets

**SPECIFICATIONS**

IMPEDANCE 16 Ohms FREQUENCY RANGE 5-25,000Hz

CORD LENGTH 1.2m



**TED BAKER ROCKALL**

★★★★★ £180, TEDBAKER.COM, TESTED NOVEMBER 2014

**LOVE** Premium materials. Sturdy build. Well-rounded sound rather than being a bass-heavy boomer

**HATE** Not cheap. Plenty of competition in this price bracket

**T3 SAYS** An impressive headphones debut that proves cans can be stylish without sacrificing quality

**SPECIFICATIONS**

IMPEDANCE 16 Ohms FREQUENCY RANGE 20-20,000Hz

CORD LENGTH 1.2m



**AKG K67**

★★★★★ £65, SOUNDTECH.CO.UK, TESTED SUMMER 2014

**LOVE** Approved by Tiësto, but cost less than entry to some club nights. Dance music is, unsurprisingly, realised well

**HATE** No in-line remote. Very snug fit

**T3 SAYS** Club-quality sound for a reduced entrance fee. These over-ears are a quite ridiculous bargain

**SPECIFICATIONS**

IMPEDANCE 32 Ohms FREQUENCY RANGE 18-24,000Hz

CORD LENGTH 1.8m



**B&W P7**

★★★★★ £329, 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



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LINDY HF-100 Headphones, September 2011

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# Laptops



01.

## APPLE MACBOOK AIR

£749, 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 OS

**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 9hrs

02.

## DELL XPS 15

£1,249, DELL.CO.UK, TESTED OCTOBER 2012

**LOVE** Amazing screen. Excellent build quality. Top performer thanks to powerful processor and graphics card. Good VFM

**HATE** Heavy. No solid state drive

**T3 SAYS** *An incredibly powerful laptop for the price and 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.

## DELL VENUE 11 PRO

£328, DELL.CO.UK, TESTED SEPTEMBER

**LOVE** Capable and powerful when used as a tablet, laptop or makeshift desktop PC. Very smart functionality

**HATE** Keyboard and desktop dock cost extra

**T3 SAYS** *Surprisingly powerful and much more than just a Windows 8 tablet if you stump up for all the add-ons*

**SPECIFICATIONS**

SCREEN 10.8-inch, 1920x1080 PROCESSOR/RAM 2.4GHz quadcore/2GB STORAGE 64GB SSD BATTERY Not quoted

04.

## APPLE MACBOOK PRO 13-INCH

£1,249, APPLE.COM/UK, TESTED JANUARY 2014

**LOVE** New Retina display is stunning. Thinner and lighter. More storage space packed inside, too

**HATE** Can get hot. Battery life's not brilliant. No physical drives

**T3 SAYS** *If you're after power, Apple's new Pro laptop is lighter, better and cheaper than ever*

**SPECIFICATIONS**

SCREEN 13-inch, 2560x1600 PROCESSOR/RAM Core i5 2.4GHz/8GB STORAGE 256GB SSD QUOTED BATTERY 9hrs

05.

## HP SPECTRE XT

£850, 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 in style and portability*

**SPECIFICATIONS**

SCREEN 13.3-inch, 1366x768 PROCESSOR/RAM Core i5 1.7GHz/4GB STORAGE 128GB SSD QUOTED BATTERY 7.5hrs

## {BUYING TIPS}

### Desktop PCs of plenty

1

#### APPLE IMAC 5K RETINA

Retina tech debuts on the iMac. Apple's first 5K screen is a real stunner. FROM £1,999, 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, with an Apple-rivalling spec and Blu-ray drive thrown in. FROM £1,479, DELL.CO.UK

4

#### TOSHIBA LX830-11D

Solid all-in-one that moonlights as a Freeview recorder and DVD player. £759, TOSHIBA.CO.UK

06.

## ACER C7 CHROMEBOOK

£217, 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

07.

## SONY VAIO DUO 13

£915, SONY.CO.UK, TESTED DECEMBER 2013

**LOVE** Slimline Windows 8 laptop/tablet hybrid. Stylishly designed. Fantastic touchscreen. Battery lasts all 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

08.

## LENOVO YOGA PRO 2

£1,000, LENOVO.CO.UK, TESTED SEPTEMBER 2014

**LOVE** Incredibly sharp quad-HD screen. Bends and twists to become a tablet or laptop

**HATE** For this price you could get a tablet *and* a laptop

**T3 SAYS** *An incredibly versatile, but also exceedingly pricey, portable computing option*

**SPECIFICATIONS**

SCREEN 13.1-inch, 3200x1800 PROCESSOR/RAM 1.6GHz Core i5/4GB STORAGE 256GB HDD BATTERY Not quoted

09.

## TOSHIBA CHROMEBOOK CB30-102

£230, TOSHIBA.CO.UK, TESTED SEPTEMBER 2014

**LOVE** Bargain price tag (although pricier than the HP, below), slimline looks and a surprisingly decent battery life

**HATE** Limited power and storage. Reliance on web

**T3 SAYS** *Can't compete on specs with most laptops, but is very portable and pretty affordable*

**SPECIFICATIONS**

SCREEN 13.3-inch, 1366x768 PROCESSOR/RAM 1.4GHz dualcore/2GB STORAGE 16GB SSD QUOTED BATTERY 9hrs

10.

## HP CHROMEBOOK 11

£199, 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



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# Home entertainment



01

## SKY+ HD 2TB WI-FI

★★★★★ PRICE VARIES, SKY.COM, TESTED CHRISTMAS 2013

**LOVE** Seamless Wi-Fi integration. Rapidly expanding on-demand content. Excellent all-round performance  
**HATE ONLY** Still only two tuners to Virgin Media's three  
**T3 SAYS** Our Entertainment Gadget of the Year is also the best PVR set-top choice, now with added Wi-Fi  
**SPECIFICATIONS**

**TYPE** Satellite HD CHANNELS 67 TUNERS 2  
**STORAGE** 2TB/350hrs HD recording

1

## Connected TV crackers

1

### NETFLIX

4K video quality, a great selection of series and movies, and it works on almost any platform. A nice flat fee, too. What's not to like?  
NETFLIX.COM

2

### AMAZON PRIME INSTANT

Aces Netflix for movies, but the interface isn't

as sweet, and adding pay-per-download into the mix sours the overall deal.  
AMAZON.CO.UK

3

### NOW TV

Powered by Sky TV, this telly-viewing alternative comes with exclusive sports content, movies and entertainment channels.  
NOWTV.COM

06

## PANASONIC DMP-BDT330

★★★★★ £145, PANASONIC.CO.UK, TESTED MAY 2014

**LOVE** Vibrant colours and striking detail. 4K upscaling on hand for proper encouragement to buy a 4K telly, too  
**HATE** Rather convoluted interface  
**T3 SAYS** Future-proof Blu-ray player with cracking image quality, 4K upscaling and decent smart TV trimmings  
**SPECIFICATIONS**

**CONNECTIONS** Wi-Fi, Ethernet, 2x HDMI, optical digital out, 2x USB, SD card, Ethernet **SIZE** 430x183x41mm

07

## ONKYO TX-NR515

★★★★★ £300, 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

08

## YOUVIEW

★★★★★ £199, YOUVIEW.COM, TESTED NOVEMBER 2014

**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. No network file support

**T3 SAYS** This slimline silver TV-surfer is a great choice for non-subscription telly addicts  
**SPECIFICATIONS**

**TYPE** Freeview HD HD CHANNELS 12 TUNERS 2  
**STORAGE** 500GB – 125hrs HD, 300hrs SD

09

## SONY BDP-S5100

★★★★★ £133, 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

10

## SAMSUNG BD-F7500

★★★★★ £149, SAMSUNG.COM/UK, TESTED MAY 2014

**LOVE** Set-top packed with apps providing 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



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# Home audio



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

★★★★★ £250, 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 systems on the market

**SPECIFICATIONS**

POWER 100W CONNECTIVITY Wi-Fi, AirPlay, Bluetooth,

RCA, 3.5mm SIZE 354x182x118mm

03

## DENON CEOL PICCOLO

★★★★★ £178 WITHOUT SPEAKERS, £313 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

★★★★★ £450, 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 set-up. Not cheap

**T3 SAYS** Quality speakers with added AirPlay? Love 'em

**SPECIFICATIONS**

POWER 2x 50W CONNECTIVITY Line in, AirPlay

SIZE 265x410mm

05

## NS2 AIR MONITORS V2

★★★★★ £400, NOCS.SE, TESTED DECEMBER 2014

**LOVE** Rock-solid AirPlay streaming. Useful Spotify connection. Great design and build

**HATE** No remote control. No optical input. No NFC

**T3 SAYS** These smart little boxes are the perfect blend of wireless convenience and great design

**SPECIFICATIONS**

POWER 80W CONNECTIVITY AirPlay, NOCS app, Bluetooth with Apt-X SIZE 160x110x140mm

### {BUYING TIPS}

## Portable speakers with punch

1

### JAWBONE JAMBOX AND JAMBOX MINI

Small, brightly hued, great audio, easy Bluetooth pairing. Winners, both.

£269/£102, JAWBONE.COM

3

### LOEWE SPEAKER 2GO

Incredible sound quality with size-defying bass and top clarity. Pricey, though.

£269, LOEWE.TV/UK

2

### DENON ENVAYA

A top performer, whether serenading you gently or rocking the spot.

£170, DENON.CO.UK

4

### JABRA SOLEMATE

Trainer-like design won't suit all tastes, but this sure is a loud, brash, room-filling speaker-cum-shoe.

£73, JABRA.COM

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

## MONITOR AIRSTREAM S300

★★★★★ £249, MONITORAUDIO.CO.UK, TESTED NOVEMBER 2014

**LOVE** Can do both refined and raucous. Good stability by AirPlay standards. Reasonably priced

**HATE** Set-up is a pain. Banana shape won't please everyone

**T3 SAYS** A curvaceous beatbox that, thanks to AirPlay, can also be used to build a cheap multi-room system

**SPECIFICATIONS**

POWER 100W CONNECTIVITY G Wi-Fi, 3.5mm input,

USB audio/data inputs SIZE 467x150x154mm

08

## SIMPLE AUDIO ROOMPLAYER

★★★★★ £699, PHILIPS.CO.UK, TESTED FEBRUARY 2013

**LOVE** Supreme sound quality when paired with suitably spendy speakers. Easy set-up and reliable streaming at up to 24 bits

**HATE** No wireless connection. More pricey than Sonos

**T3 SAYS** Fine lozenges of multi-room audiophile delight, though price and features put them in a niche category

**SPECIFICATIONS**

POWER 100W CONNECTIVITY Ethernet, phono in/out, 3.5mm in/out, optical out, subwoofer out SIZE 50x200x200mm

09

## PHILIPS AW9000

★★★★★ £368, PHILIPS.CO.UK, TESTED FEBRUARY 2013

**LOVE** Six high-class drivers deliver outstanding sound quality. 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

10

## PURE JONGO T4

★★★★★ £130, PURE.COM, TESTED MARCH 2014

**LOVE** Multi-room wireless streaming on a relative budget. Link two and you can achieve proper stereo sound, too

**HATE** Connectivity can be glitchy

**T3 SAYS** The slightly more affordable way to play digital DJ for the whole house, with good results

**SPECIFICATIONS**

POWER 50W CONNECTIVITY Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, ethernet, 3.5mm in SIZE 305x146x165mm



AVAILABLE ONLINE @ T3.COM THE ULTIMATE BUYER'S GUIDE

# Televisions



01

## LG 47LB730V

£799, LG.CO.UK, TESTED SUMMER 2014

**LOVE** WebOS interface delivers on-demand and catch-up how we want it. Colour-rich images. Price is very right  
**HATE** Lack of true blacks. Not 4K. You'll need a soundbar  
**T3 SAYS** This is how you make a web TV.

**LG's WebOS promises to reinvent how you watch**

**SPECIFICATIONS**

SCREEN 47-inch, 1920x1080 CONNECTIONS Wi-Fi, Ethernet, 3x HDMI, 3x USB, Scart, component, CI Slot

02

## SONY KD-65X9005B

£3,349, SONY.CO.UK, TESTED SUMMER 2014

**LOVE** Ultra-HD screen and excellent upscaling. Compatible with Netflix 4K streaming. Striking wedge design  
**HATE** Missing some basic catch-up services. Very expensive  
**T3 SAYS** The ultimate TV upgrade for 2014, but one for early adopters with deep pockets only

**SPECIFICATIONS**

SCREEN 65-inch, 3840x2160 CONNECTIONS Wi-Fi, Ethernet, 4x HDMI, 3x USB, Scart, component, CI Slot, NFC

03

## SAMSUNG UE55HU8500

£2,465, SAMSUNG.COM/UK, TESTED JUNE 2014

**LOVE** Slightly curved screen for a more absorbing picture. Excellent 4K image quality. Ready for 4K Netflix  
**HATE** Curved footprint won't suit every space  
**T3 SAYS** Futuristic-looking and future-proof, this is the curvy 4K TV that can

**SPECIFICATIONS**

SCREEN 55-inch, 3840x2160 CONNECTIONS 4x HDMI, Wi-Fi, 3x USB, 2x composite, component, Ethernet

04

## SONY KDL-50W829

£779, 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 4OD  
**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

05

## 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** A brilliant 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

### {BUYING TIPS}

#### Top projectors in the spotlight

1

##### OPTOMA HD50

With razor-sharp 1080p, this big-screen bargain out-performs its price tag. Well worth a look.

£999, OPTOMA.CO.UK

3

##### SONY VPL-HW55ES

Awesome full-HD projector for screen sizes up to 300 inches. Pricey, but worth it.

£2,699, SONY.CO.UK

2

##### EPSON EH-TW6600

A wireless HD/3D projector that's easy to set up and boasts top image quality.

£1,399, EPSON.CO.UK

4

##### BENQ W1300

Dynamic images and 2,200 Lumens brightness make this a punchy choice for big-screen sports fans.

£824, BENQ.CO.UK

## PANASONIC TX-50AX802

£1,799, PANASONIC.CO.UK, TESTED DECEMBER 2014

**LOVE** Great looks. Superb picture quality and motion handling  
**HATE** Upscaling not as spectacular as other budget 4K TVs  
**T3 SAYS** An absolutely stunning TV that will satisfy anyone after dazzling pictures and stunning looks

**SPECIFICATIONS**

SCREEN 50-inch, 3840x2160 CONNECTIONS Wi-Fi, Ethernet, 4x HDMI, 3x USB, CI Slot, component/composite/Scart (via adaptor)

## SONY KDL-55W905A

£1,100, 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

07

## SAMSUNG UE48H6400

£3,499, SAMSUNG.COM/UK, TESTED NOVEMBER 2014

**LOVE** Stunning 4K and well upscaled HD. Lots of useful features and connectivity

**HATE** Reflective screen. You need to dial down the processing

**T3 SAYS** Neither cheap nor curved, but this has the scale and resolution to really show you what 4K is all about

**SPECIFICATIONS**

SCREEN 65-inch, 3840x2160 CONNECTIONS 4x HDMI, Wi-Fi, ethernet, component, 2x composite, 3x USB 2.0

08

## PHILIPS 55PFS6609

£1,000, PHILIPS.CO.UK, TESTED SUMMER 2014

**LOVE** Ambilight mood lighting. Solid HD image clarity. Decent selection of catch-up and on-demand services

**HATE** Charmless Smart TV portal. Active 3D has issues

**T3 SAYS** An attractive and solid performer, but you can get a slightly better telly for less dosh

**SPECIFICATIONS**

SCREEN 55-inch, 1920x1080 CONNECTIONS Wi-Fi, Ethernet, 4x HDMI, 2x USB, Scart, component, CI Slot

09

## TOSHIBA 47L7453

£800, TOSHIBA.CO.UK, TESTED SUMMER 2014

**LOVE** Dramatic, contrast-heavy image. Polished Cloud TV portal. Powerful audio performance. Almost budget price

**HATE** Passive 3D and motion handling have faults

**T3 SAYS** This bargain telly packs picture quality, but fails at the finer details

**SPECIFICATIONS**

SCREEN 47-inch, 1920x1080 CONNECTIONS Wi-Fi, Ethernet, 4x HDMI, 2x USB, Scart, component, CI Slot, PC



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# Cameras



01

## CANON EOS 700D

★★★★★ £579, 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

★★★★★ £339, 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

## FUJIFILM X-T1

★★★★★ £1,329, FUJIFILM.EU/UK

**LOVE** Retro-styled yet technologically innovative. Larger APS-C chip matches the size found in DSLRs proper  
**HATE** You could buy a decent SLR for the same price  
**T3 SAYS** High-end CSC challenges Canon and Nikon DSLRs with smaller, mirrorless body and retro cool  
**SPECIFICATIONS**  
SENSOR 16.3-megapixel/1080p KIT LENS 18-135mm  
SCREEN 3-inch WEIGHT 440g



04

## OLYMPUS STYLUS SH-1

★★★★★ £350, OLYMPUS.CO.UK, TESTED SEPTEMBER 2014

**LOVE** Well-crafted design. Handles like a much pricier Olympus PEN interchangeable lens cam  
**HATE** Zoom range could be better  
**T3 SAYS** Classic looks and modern features. The most premium of premium compacts  
**SPECIFICATIONS**  
SENSOR 16-megapixel/1080p LENS 25-600mm  
SCREEN 3-inch touchscreen WEIGHT 271g



05

## SAMSUNG NX300

★★★★★ £380, SAMSUNG.COM/UK, TESTED JUNE 2013

**LOVE** DSLR-quality photos. Tilttable AMOLED touchscreen. Manual controls aplenty. Built-in Wi-Fi  
**HATE** No viewfinder or built-in flash  
**T3 SAYS** Cutting-edge camera features housed in an attractive, compact package; a winner  
**SPECIFICATIONS**  
SENSOR 21.6-megapixel/1080p KIT LENS 18-55mm  
SCREEN 3.31-inch touchscreen WEIGHT 284g

## BUYING TIPS

### Budget compact cameras

1

#### CANON IXUS 140

Credit card-sized snapper with a 16-meg sensor, 8x zoom and Wi-Fi. Video is 720p rather than full-HD.  
£94, CANON.CO.UK

2

#### SAMSUNG WB250F

Heftier than the Canon, but with 1080p video and an 18x zoom, we see why.  
£110, SAMSUNG.COM/UK

3

#### SONY CYBER-SHOT DSC-WX60

16.2-meg CMOS, 8x zoom and easy 1080p shooting. Small, but well formed.  
£93, SONY.CO.UK

4

#### NIKON COOLPIX S02

No frapperies, but does the basics well, with a 13.2-meg CMOS and 1080p video.  
£90, NIKON.CO.UK



06

## SAMSUNG NX MINI

★★★★★ £275, SAMSUNG.COM/UK, TESTED SEPTEMBER 2014

**LOVE** Point-and-shoot size, but with the added bonus of interchangeable lenses  
**HATE** Bundled with a fixed zoom lens. CMOS not APS-C  
**T3 SAYS** Affordable and compact, with plenty of potential for lens upgrades  
**SPECIFICATIONS**  
SENSOR 20.5-megapixel/1080p KIT LENS 24-73mm  
SCREEN 3-inch WEIGHT 196g



07

## SONY CYBER-SHOT DSC-HX60V

★★★★★ £319, SONY.CO.UK, TESTED SEPTEMBER 2014

**LOVE** Extensive zoom. Richly detailed images. Rock-solid but still pocket-sized build  
**HATE** Slightly limited aperture  
**T3 SAYS** Richly detailed pictures from a small but perfectly formed compact camera  
**SPECIFICATIONS**  
SENSOR 20.4-megapixel/1080p KIT LENS 24-720mm  
SCREEN 3-inch WEIGHT 272g



08

## SONY A5000

★★★★★ £349, SONY.CO.UK, TESTED JUNE 2014

**LOVE** Compact size. Tilting screen. High-resolution APS-C sensor. Wi-Fi connectivity and selfie-ready tilting screen  
**HATE** No hotshoe. No touchscreen  
**T3 SAYS** A great upgrade if you crave better shots than your smartphone or compact can handle  
**SPECIFICATIONS**  
SENSOR 20.1-megapixel/1080p KIT LENS 16-50mm  
SCREEN 3-inch WEIGHT 269g



09

## NIKON COOLPIX S9700

★★★★★ £250, NIKON.CO.UK, TESTED SEPTEMBER 2014

**LOVE** Big lens on a compact body. OLED screen at the rear. Reasonably priced for a big zooming compact  
**HATE** No grip. Small buttons are tough to control  
**T3 SAYS** The compact camera that delivers a big zoom at an affordable price  
**SPECIFICATIONS**  
SENSOR 16-megapixel/1080p KIT LENS 25-750mm  
SCREEN 3-inch WEIGHT 232g



10

## SONY RX100 II

★★★★★ £465, 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 hand grip. 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



AVAILABLE ONLINE @ T3.COM THE ULTIMATE BUYER'S GUIDE

# Accessories



01

## TOMTOM GO 6000

★★★★★ £238, 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 satnav, for our money. Breathes new life into bespoke mapping tech

**SPECIFICATIONS**  
SCREEN 6 inches CONNECTIVITY Bluetooth  
SIZE 169x105x20mm

02

## TOMTOM MULTI-SPORT CARDIO

★★★★★ £280, TOMTOM.COM, TESTED JULY 2014

**LOVE** Built-in heart monitor with trustworthy results. Simple interface. Accurate data for most sporting disciplines  
**HATE** Can't track pulse in the pool

**T3 SAYS** One for serious sporty types, this offers the most comprehensive fitness data around

**SPECIFICATIONS**  
SYNCING Bluetooth and ANT+ WATER RESISTANCE 50m  
BATTERY 8hrs SIZE 22x25x13.8mm/63g

03

## GARMIN VIVOFIT

★★★★★ £100, GARMIN.COM, TESTED JUNE 2014

**LOVE** Simple, sporty design. Will survive the swimming pool and pairs with heart-rate monitor. One-year battery life  
**HATE** No automatic syncing. Garmin Connect app's not the best

**T3 SAYS** Sporty and practical, with a marathon battery. Not the best-looking, but it's still our top pick

**SPECIFICATIONS**  
SYNCING Bluetooth and ANT+ WATER RESISTANCE 50m  
BATTERY 1 year SIZES 120-175 mm (small), 152-210 mm (large)

04

## SAMSUNG GEAR FIT

★★★★★ £180, SAMSUNG.COM/UK, TESTED JULY 2014

**LOVE** Smartwatch and fitness-tracking features combined. That curved AMOLED screen. Heart-rate tracking  
**HATE** Limited compatibility and accuracy

**T3 SAYS** Great-looking smartwatch with built-in fitness features. A thoroughly modern timepiece

**SPECIFICATIONS**  
SYNCING Bluetooth 4.0 WATER RESISTANCE Up to 1m  
BATTERY 5 days SIZE 23x57x12mm

05

## ROKU STREAMING STICK

★★★★★ £50, ROKU.COM, TESTED AUGUST 2014

**LOVE** Simple set-up. Great app selection, including some games. Reliable HD streaming  
**HATE** No viewing unofficial weblinks. No Amazon Prime Instant

**T3 SAYS** A huge selection of apps and a proper remote give Roku the slight edge in the streaming game

**SPECIFICATIONS**  
CONNECTIVITY N Wi-Fi dual-band CONTENT iPlayer, NowTV, YouTube, Spotify and more DIMENSIONS 11x27x79mm/18g

## {BUYING TIPS}

### Smartwatches worth a shifty

1

#### SAMSUNG GEAR LIVE

A colourful super-AMOLED screen, built in heart-rate monitor and Android Wear running the whole show.

£168, SAMSUNG.COM/UK

2

#### LG G WATCH

Another superior Android Wear watch, but one that's bulkier and less bright.

£159, LG.COM/UK

3

#### PEBBLE STEEL

Same e-ink screen, with a new metal design and a massive selection of open-source apps.

£249 (£150), GETPEBBLE.COM

4

#### SAMSUNG GEAR 2

The most feature-packed smartwatch you can buy, but not quite the best.

£299, SAMSUNG.COM/UK

06

## GOOGLE CHROMECAST

★★★★★ £30, GOOGLE.COM/CHROMECAST, TESTED JUNE 2014

**LOVE** Easy to get smart video on TV. Supported services play in HD. Accesses not-so-supported sites, too

**HATE** Limited official app selection at present

**T3 SAYS** This dongle instantly makes almost any TV web-enabled and costs just thirty quid

**SPECIFICATIONS**  
CONNECTIVITY N Wi-Fi, HDMI, USB SUPPORTS BBC iPlayer, Netflix, YouTube, Vevo, Rdio SIZES 72x35x12mm/34g



07

## MOTO 360

★★★★★ £199, MOTO360.MOTOROLA.COM

**LOVE** Classic, stylish design. Useful alerts and synced media controls. Motorola Connect for added customisability

**HATE** Confusing UI. Dated, four-year-old chipset

**T3 SAYS** The design king of smartwatches you can get your hands on right now

**SPECIFICATIONS**

SCREEN 1.5", Gorilla Glass 3 SOFTWARE Android Wear BATTERY One day SIZE 46x11.5mm

08

## NIKE FUELBAND SE

★★★★★ £129, NIKE.COM, TESTED JUNE 2014

**LOVE** The best-looking band around. Strong motivational pairing of Win the Hour and the in-app social competitiveness

**HATE** Not for swimming. Not for Android

**T3 SAYS** The most social band on test, the Fuelband SE is a great motivational tool, if not the most accurate tracker

**SPECIFICATIONS**

SYNCING Bluetooth/USB WATER RESISTANCE Shower only BATTERY 3 days SIZES 147mm (small) to 197mm (extra-large)



09

## ASTRO A50 WIRELESS SYSTEM

★★★★★ £250, ASTROGAMING.CO.UK, TESTED AUGUST 2014

**LOVE** Dolby 7.1 sound with almost no interference. Compatible with all PCs and consoles (Xbox One requires adapter)

**HATE** No detachable microphone. A little heavy

**T3 SAYS** A solid gaming headset for any breed of gamer looking to free themselves of wires

**SPECIFICATIONS**

FREQUENCY RESPONSE 20Hz-20,000kHz CONNECTIVITY 5.8GHz Wi-Fi, USB, optical cable

10

## POLAR LOOP

★★★★★ £79.50, POLAR.COM, TESTED JUNE 2014

**LOVE** Pairs with heart-rate chest strap for accurate data. Can be worn for swimming. Impressive battery life, rapid charging

**HATE** Cheap-feeling design

**T3 SAYS** Comprehensive fitness tracker for under £100. If you can compromise on build, it's a bit of a bargain

**SPECIFICATIONS**

SYNCING Bluetooth/USB WATER RESISTANCE 20m BATTERY 6 days SIZE Custom fit from 145-240mm



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NO. 74

# The 10 movies... we'll never see turned into games

1/

## Any Daniel Day-Lewis film

The English actor would of course have a starring role in the game, which he'd make super real by living as a pixelated character – really nailing the art of swaying slightly when standing still and accidentally jumping off buildings – for a year in advance. He would then add to the experience by coming to live with you and adopting the guise of a gamer, sitting on the couch, eating pizza and forcing you to play through the night. Intense.

2/

## The Shawshank Redemption

Playing as wrongly convicted lawyer Andy Dufresne (weapons: Rock Hammer), the *Shawshank* game would involve silently digging a tunnel for a total of 100 hours of gameplay, before crawling through said tunnel while Morgan Freeman talks slowly. Seen by many to be the greatest game of all time.

3/

## Reservoir Dogs

In this FPS, you play Mr Orange, an undercover cop who must infiltrate a gang that is planning a diamond heist for the mob. All characters, including you, have a gun, while Mr Blonde also has a razor. The only slightly annoying bit of the game is that if you get shot, you lie writhing around in a pool of blood for an hour before getting to restart. Quentin Tarantino appears throughout, obviously, and nobody ever completes the game.

4/

## Forrest Gump

No matter how badly you play, you still end up winning every single thing there is to win,



netting the highest score possible and receiving billions of gold coins you didn't even try to pick up. The three-year-long running level in the middle gets a bit tedious, though, probably because it doesn't seem to take any effort whatsoever.

## 5/ Withnail and I

Drive Withnail into the countryside, fend off a

randy fat man, collect cake from the tearoom, defeat the giant bull "int'lop field" and then come home. You get extra points if you ruin the game for everyone else by saying every line slightly before the characters do. Must be played after a few shots of lighter fluid while wearing a special interactive long coat that vibrates every time Withnail's sick.

## 6/ The King's Speech

Navigating the foggy streets of Westminster, you must avoid rogue doctors while collecting enough vowels and consonants to stop the Nazis destroying London. The final boss is a giant dictionary dressed as Hitler that you must lick to death, which once defeated will allow you

to live in a massive palace that you already own. War still ravages London, but everyone's a lot more chipper about it.

## 7/ Any Christian Bale film

The aim of this game is to get thin, then muscley, then thin again as quickly as possible, by pressing two buttons at once at lightning speed. If for any

reason you fail a level, Bale himself will come to your house dressed as Batman and scream at you for a full 20 minutes. To promote the game, Bale stares angrily at gaming journalists before calling it a waste of time and leaving.

8/

## Inception

You play as Leonardo DiCaprio's pro thief Dom Cobb, as you try to win by conning secrets from victims by infiltrating their dreams. You play for two hours, going up and down levels seemingly at random, before the credits suddenly roll at an unexpected point. You'll then spend the rest of the day feeling puzzled and slightly annoyed, as your friends try to convince you it's actually an extremely clever game.

9/

## Man of Steel

Watch the loading screen for a good two hours – oh, hang on, that isn't the loading screen, it's the introduction – and there's still another hour before you actually get to play as Superman. Oh well, better just sit back and patiently watch Michael Shannon being angry and doing his eyes.

10/

## Any movie by Jason Friedberg & Aaron Seltzer

Getting home with your £1 bargain bin game (called something like *Scary Game*, *Date Game* or *Disaster Game*), you sit down and open the box only to find an actual poo. Result!



# Chillblast

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### Fusion Barbarian



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- Corsair Hydro H75 Water cooler
- Gigabyte Z97X-Gaming 5 Motherboard
- 16GB 1600MHz DDR3 Memory
- GeForce GTX 970 4GB Graphics Card
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- 2000GB SATA 7200rpm Hard Disk
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- 13.3" Full HD IPS Display
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- GeForce GTX 860M 2GB GPU
- 1000GB Hybrid SSD/HDD
- 330 (W) x 227 (D) x 31.9 (H) mm
- Microsoft Windows 8.1

From £899.00 inc VAT

### Fusion Spartacus



- Intel® Pentium® G3258 Processor
- 8GB PC3-12800 DDR3 Memory
- GeForce GTX 760 2GB GPU
- 1000GB SATA 7200rpm Hard Disk
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