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WELCOME



Hello! There's much excitement around this issue, as Nintendo has finally revealed what the Switch 2 will be like. We don't know everything about the upgraded hardware inside the new console just yet, but there is a decent amount we do know, so we've brought you the lowdown in Hot Stuff, starting on p6.

Headphones can be tricky to choose depending on what you want them for, so we're here to help as we guide you through loads of our top picks for noise-cancelling, fitness, gaming and more – all star-rated in our cover feature. Indeed, this issue is packed with tests. We've got a bunch of state-of-the-art laptops in our main group test, in addition to a triple-header of dash cams and a pair of rival retro speakers – and that's before you get to our Upvoted roundup of nine heart-rate monitors.

There's more retro tech this issue, as we rank the 10 best iPhones ever – which is your favourite? And back at the cutting edge, our First Test is Samsung's epic Galaxy S25 Ultra – does it improve enough on last year's offering to be worth upgrading? We've also looked at one of its spiciest Android rivals, the Honor Magic7 Pro. Oh, and I've reviewed one of the finest OLED TVs I've seen for a while: Panasonic's stunning Z85A. Enjoy the issue!

Dan Grabham, Editor-in-Chief / @dangrabham



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Live and let lie

The earcups tilt into four positions to make them as comfy as possible with as many ear shapes and sizes as possible, as well as folding flat.

Pieces of pipe

Both earcups require wiring, so each of the three supplied cables is terminated with a bespoke two-pin banana jack connector.

LUXURY

If you're ready to push on into four figures with your next headphone purchase, send your butler down to the shops with instructions to snaffle up one of these

AUSTRIAN AUDIO THE COMPOSER

No area of the headphones market, it would seem, is off-limits to Austrian

Audio. The company hasn't even been around for a decade yet, but since its inception (naturally enough in Vienna), it's proved that age is just a number.

Until now, though, its products have been aimed at the mainstream. But these 'phones are different. With The Composer, it wants to take the fight to the big names who might have thought they'd sewn up the 'luxury' market before Austrian Audio was even a thing.

As you'd expect at the price, these are beautifully built and finished from premium materials, and are so carefully constructed that they

remain comfortable for hours on end. All the contact points feel as good as they look, and the attention to detail – from the discreet branding to the flexibility of the earcups – is quite impeccable.

Mind you, this is nothing that any number of competitors don't offer. What sets these apart in an utterly cut-throat market is the remarkable poise, vigour and outright fidelity of the sound they deliver. Give them the proper tools to work with in terms of source equipment and quality of content, and they'll reward you like nothing else.

The 49mm full-range drivers are made of diamond-like carbon, and seem perfectly able to make good on Austrian Audio's promise of a

frequency response from 5Hz to 44kHz. But it's not so much the frequency response (although it's impressive), it's more the balance, the conviction and the staggering dynamism that will have you coming back for more (and more). From the way these headphones lay out a soundstage to the judicious amount of emphasis they give to spaces and silences, they're confident, controlled and completely convincing. Yes, they're also two grand, but c'mon, it's only money...

Price £2249 / go.stuff.tv/Composer

Key specs

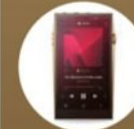
● 49mm ● No ANC ● 4.4mm, 3.5mm, XLR ● 385g

STUFF SAYS Elegantly understated design meets vibrant, dynamic sound ★★★★★

NOW ADD THESE...

**ATLAS ZENO**

All of these headphones are supplied with very decent cables, but you can always do better – because you can always upgrade to Atlas Zeno. Handmade in Scotland, and available in any configuration you like, they'll bring the absolute maximum from your 'phones. from £285 / atlasables.com

**ASTELL & KERN SP3000T**

What A&K doesn't know about high-end digital audio players isn't worth knowing; and with the SP3000T, it's surpassed even its own lofty standards... thanks to the use of a pair of actual valves in the amp stage. £3199 / astellkern.co.uk



ALTERNATIVELY...

**GRADO HP100 SE**

£2795 / go.stuff.tv/HP100

The word 'luxury' is doing a fair bit of lifting here – because although these Grados are priced to compete with some of the fanciest cans around, they're far from lavish in look and feel. Pay attention to the way they sound, though, and the peripheral stuff becomes irrelevant: this is a brilliant product, able to peer deep into the murkiest mixes and pull out stacks of relevant information.

Stuff says ★★★★★☆

**SHANLING HW600**

£1099 / go.stuff.tv/HW600

Big and great-sounding planar magnetic headphones are hardly a rarity – so Shanling has made life pretty difficult for itself with the HW600s. After all, this is a company with no track record in the tech. But at the first time of asking, the company has given the big brands something to think about. If it's expansive and insightful sound you're after, add these to your shortlist.

Stuff says ★★★★★

**FINAL D7000**

£2999 / go.stuff.tv/D7000

First things first: the large and beautifully constructed D7000 over-ears are trickier to drive than most headphones costing this sort of money, so you'll need to be sure your amplification is up to the job. After that, though, you've nothing to worry about – at least as long as the idea of open, organised and detailed sound with walloping low-end presence doesn't scare you.

Stuff says ★★★★★☆