

**Ain't no disc extraction**

You get 2TB of storage inside to fill with games, but the PS5 Pro doesn't come with a disc drive. You can add one if you want, but it'll cost you extra 10k or so.

HOT FIVE #4

## SPRAWL OF BRUTEY

### Sony PS5 Pro

When Sony originally unveiled the PS5, the one thing everybody could agree on was that it was an absolute unit. Late last year it released a slightly smaller version, but a lot of that hard work has gone out of the window with the PS5 Pro.

Though no wider than the 'slim' model, the latest evolution of the console is as tall as the looming original – which is no real surprise, as it's a beast on the inside too.

Sony will wang on about teraflops and gigaflaps, but all you need to know is that the GPU is larger and the RAM is 28% quicker, so it'll render games up to 45% faster and you no longer have to choose between high resolution and smooth framerates – you can have both.

It also uses new AI-driven upscaling tech, plus the ray-tracing is more advanced.

Only a handful of games will be able to take full advantage of the extra power to begin with, including *Marvel's Spider-Man 2*, *The Last of Us Part II Remastered* and *Gran Turismo 7*, but others will still get a boost.

It's a shame the price will be massive too.

**As hot as... a barbecued Xbox Series X**

**₹tba / playstation.com**

**The fast of us**

The new console supports VRR adaptive refresh rates, and can output a native 8K resolution to compatible TVs. It also has Wi-Fi 7 on board in countries where it's supported.




HOT FIVE #5

# FLYING ECONOMY?

## DJI Neo

The DJI Neo is touted as the company's lightest and most compact drone yet, tipping the scales at 135g. Despite its size, it packs some noteworthy features, including AI-powered subject tracking, QuickShots for those easy cinematic moves, and 4K ultra-stabilised video recording. And, you can fly it without a remote—just pair it with your smartphone and you're good to go.

The DJI Neo has a 1/2-inch image sensor that can capture 12-megapixel stills and record 4K videos at 30fps. And thanks to AI-powered tracking, this little flyer can follow you wherever your adventures take you—whether you're cycling, skateboarding, or hiking—keeping you in focus. Plus, with the QuickShots feature, you get six flight patterns—Boomerang, Circle, Dronie, Helix, Rocket, and Spotlight.

The DJI Neo is also designed to fly without a remote, but for more control, you can pair it with the DJI Fly app, remote controllers, RC Motion, DJI Goggles, and even voice commands for hands-free operation. Through the DJI Fly app, you can use virtual joysticks to fly the drone up to 50 metres away via Wi-Fi. Despite its compact size, the DJI Neo is built to handle high speeds, sharp manoeuvres, and even level-4 wind conditions with a total of 18min flight time.

**As hot as... a 24x7 personal camera man**
**₹19,000(Approx.) / dji.com**



Ashley! Look at me!

## LENOVO AUTO TWIST AI PC

Have you heard about the wild new Lenovo Auto Twist AI PC? It's like a laptop on steroids, with a screen that can rotate all on its own to match whatever you're up to. It's got this crazy "Dual Degree of Freedom" automatic rotation thing that makes it possible. And get this, it even uses AI to keep track of your movements and make sure you've got the best possible view of the screen. But that's not all! It also has this smart interaction feature that lets you control it with natural language voice commands. So, you can say things like "close laptop," "laptop mode," or "tablet mode," and it'll do your bidding. Of course the AI-powered flexibility also keeps you in the spotlight during meetings, presentations, and even when you're just chillin' at home.
₹TBC / lenovo.com

Intel's best looking laptop

## ASUS ZENBOOK S 14

This 14-inch laptop is seriously impressive – it's one of the sleekest and lightest laptops you'll find. But don't let its slim profile fool you, it's packed with power, featuring an Intel Core Ultra 9 processor (Series 2) and Intel Arc graphics. The Zenbook S 14 comes with a bunch of cool features that make it a top choice for anyone looking for a premium laptop. Picture this: a stunning 3K 120Hz ASUS Lumina OLED display that'll make your visuals come to life, a rockin' four-speaker audio system that'll give you immersive sound, and a dedicated Copilot key to help you navigate your laptop like a pro. And let's not forget the security features, like a Microsoft Pluton security processor and Windows passkeys, to keep your precious data safe and sound. The lid is also made with special ceramic which is a beauty!
₹tba / asus.com





Claw at it again

## MSI CLAW 8 AI+

The MSI Claw 8 AI+ was showcased at IFA Berlin 2024 and comes with the latest Intel Lunar Lake processor and up to 32GB of RAM. Up front, you get an 8.8-inch IPS display with 120Hz variable refresh rate and hall effect joysticks. With the new display, you also get an 80-watt hour battery. So everything about the new MSI Claw seems bigger and better than before. And with the latest Intel Arc GPU on the Lunar Lake processor, there's a promise of a 30% increase in gaming performance. You also get two Thunderbolt ports on top, an SD card reader, USB A and a headphone jack but we don't know which Intel Lunar Lake chip will finally sit inside the product version. The MSI Claw 8 AI+ is going to launch next year in January 2025.
₹tba / msi.com



### What's better than RGB? More RGB!

## NANOLEAF BLOCKS

These square, modular light panels aren't just for adding some glow to your room; they're like a blank canvas for your creativity. You can mix and match textured covers, backlit pegboards, and sleek shelves to make your own custom wall art and show off your cool stuff like Funko Pops, plants, or even that controller you're obsessed with. And get this: the Blocks have edge-to-edge illumination, so they give off a smooth, sleek glow that'll make your space look lit AF. Plus, they connect over Wi-Fi and work with Apple Home, Google Home, Amazon Alexa, and Samsung SmartThings, so you can control them with your voice or your phone. You can also sync your lights with your music.
from $250 / nanoleaf.me

### Can be wrapped up like a ball

## SOUNDCORE SPACE ONE PRO

Anker's latest noise-cancelling headphones are a major upgrade over the original Space One. The standout feature is the new "FlexiCurve" folding design that makes them super compact and easy to pack. The Space One Pro also has a four-stage noise cancellation system that's way better than the standard ANC in the original Space One. It uses six microphones and an expanded chamber design to block out noise. The Adaptive ANC algorithm adjusts the noise cancellation to your wearing conditions, so you get a personalized experience. The Space One Pro also has new 40mm drivers for clearer sound with reduced distortion. Call quality is also improved with a four-microphone system and AI for better voice clarity and noise reduction. A smart chat feature lowers music volume and cuts ambient noise during calls.
$200 / soundcore.com






### Orange is the new black!

## BARBIE X KODAK

You won't believe what's making waves at this year's IFA. It's Barbie-inspired products! First up, meet the Barbie x Kodak Printomatic. It's a pocket-sized digital camera that'll give you high-quality, full-colour photos. This pink beauty has an automatic flash and prints smudge-proof, water-resistant photos with an adhesive backing. You can stick them anywhere and everywhere, just like Kodak says. Now, let's talk about the Barbie x Kodak Step Slim Instant Mobile Photo Printer. It's BFFs with the Kodak Step Prints app, where you can add fun stickers, filters, and frames to your photos before printing. These 2x3-inch pictures are vibrant, water-resistant, and smudge-proof. So whether you're snapping or printing, this dynamic duo will add a touch of Barbie's charm to your memories.
₹tbc / kodak.com




Too bad it's still just a concept

## ACER PROJECT DUALPLAY

Acer unveiled its Nitro Blaze 7, but the real jaw-dropper was Project DualPlay—a concept laptop with a built-in gaming controller. Picture this: Acer took their Predator gaming laptop and tucked a custom controller right under the keyboard. When you the controller upside down, the controller's back doubles as a trackpad. But wait, there's more! Press a button, and the controller pops out, revealing two 5W speakers that slide out for some more audio oomph. And get this—the controller can even split into two separate gamepads, just like the Nintendo Switch! Acer says Project DualPlay gives you the best of both worlds. You can switch between the keyboard and mouse for first-person shooters and multiplayer online battle arenas, or grab the controller for fighting and sports games.

₹tbc / acer.com

# Victorinox Rescue Tool

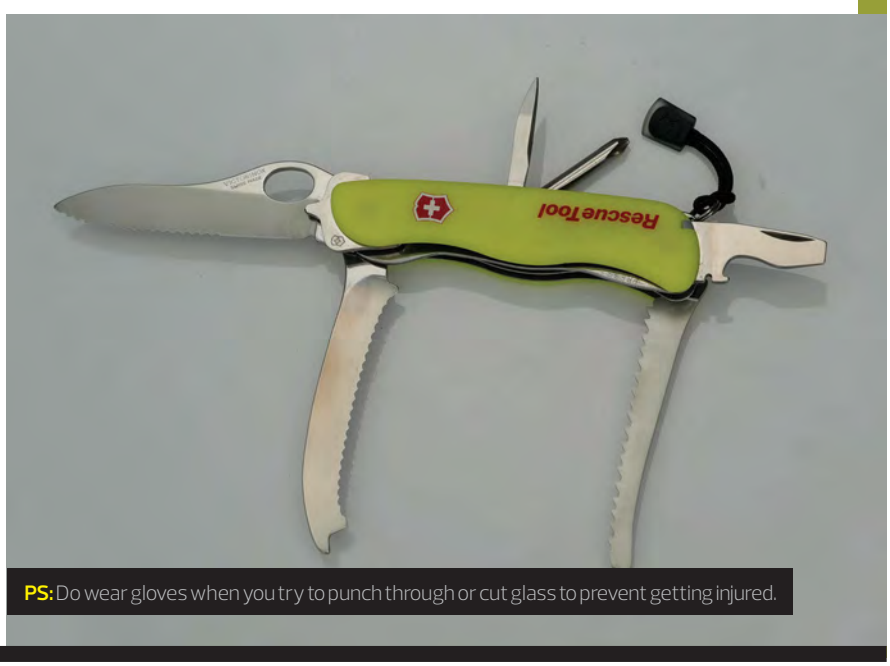
from ₹8,278 onwards

In the unfortunate event of an accident, there are chances of the car catching fire or the doors getting jammed. Even your seat belt might get jammed. This is where a specialist tool – like Victorinox's 'Rescue Tool' – comes in handy. This is available on e-commerce websites like Amazon and Flipkart, and on Victorinox's website.

The Victorinox Rescue Tool includes a window-glass and windshield breaker, a disc saw to cut glass, tweezers, seat belt cutter, and more.

If you find yourself in the aforementioned scenario, the seat belt cutter would help you cut through the belt. Then the window breaker – a sharp, pointy end of the knife – would shatter the glass of your window. If that isn't possible for some reason, you can also try shattering the windshield and use the disc saw to cut it. Do remember that the latter is time consuming. Once you're out of the car, you can use the tweezer to remove glass pieces embedded in your hand.

Apart from this, the knife also comes with a Phillips screw driver that can help you tighten a few bolts when you're in a pinch. There's also a crate opener, a cap lifter and a reamer. The box comes with a nylon pouch to help you carry the tool safely.




**PS:** Do wear gloves when you try to punch through or cut glass to prevent getting injured.

# Lens, camera, action!

**The famous ultrawide action camera seems suspiciously similar to last year's model but this time you can swap out the lens with even more choices than before.**

₹49,990 / gopro.com

GoPro Hero 13 Black now has more lens options than before. All lenses come with a blue circle that helps you align them quickly, and the camera can now auto-detect which lens is mounted and switch to the appropriate settings automatically. It's pretty seamless, and no, these lenses don't work with older GoPros.

This is one of the most important and user-friendly features GoPro has added. It takes away the headache of switching modes after you switch lenses. The camera automatically switches to the setting you assigned for the said lens mods.

New lenses are great, but I think the new attachments are here to expand the action camera's capabilities a lot more. The Contacto Magnetic Door and Power Cable Kit (₹7,990) is a magnetic door that can charge your battery without exposing it to the elements.

There's a magnetic attachment too, just like the DJI. A new Magnetic Latch (Rs. 2,500) and Ball Joint Mount (Rs. 4,000) have been introduced to take advantage of the GoPro Hero 13 Black's new magnetic mounting system. So now you can attach your GoPro in three different ways.

[ **Words** Khumail Thakur ]




GOOD
MEH
EVIL

- A huge variety of lenses
- Low light still needs work
- No improvements to sensor, why?
- Lens auto detect is very useful
- Magnetic mounting makes life easy
- Overheating is still an issue

**Slow the action down**
You can now do a Burst Slo-Mo with up to 400 frames per second at 720p video, as well as 5.3K at 120 frames per second and 900p at 360 frames per second video. This might not sound like incredible numbers but the 400 frames is all raw data and none of it is done through frame interpolation.

**Big is better**
The 1:1 aspect ratio which is now bigger than the 8:7 from last year. The 1:1 only works with the 177° Ultra Wide lens but it basically removes the need to capture shots in landscape for YouTube or Portrait for Instagram. You can simply crop into the 1:1 aspect ratio as you like.

**A little low on lowlight**
GoPro always struggled with low light and this one is no different. Low light shots are better on last year's DJI Action 4 compared to this year's GoPro Hero 13 Black. GoPro's lowlight has a great deal of noise in scenes with shadows and low light. This is mostly because the sensor is still the same as last year!

**All natural**
The image quality is still very GoPro-like with natural sharpness and bright highlights. The GoPro has a natural charm about its picture quality. It doesn't attack shadows and highlights like the DJI and smartphone cameras tend to do. This year's GoPro is iterative but still a capable shooter nonetheless.




**Woohooo numbers!**
The GPS is back which enables performance stickers to track speed, path, terrain, altitude and g-force.

## Tech specs

**Formats** 5.3K60 + 4K120 2.7k240, HLG, HDR, Burst Slo-Mo at 720p400 **Processor** GP2 processor **Mounts** Fingers + 1/4-20 + Magnetic Latch Mount Compatible **Battery** 1900mAh Enduro Battery

## Lens Mods are the way

**More lenses mean you can really get creative with your shots and it adds more flexibility to the camera**



### Make small big
The Macro lens is also one of the first-ever GoPro lenses with an adjustable focus ring, and the camera does focus peaking as well. It's more for getting up close and personal. It's an interesting choice of lens for an action camera.



### One ratio, one image
The famed ultrawide lens (Rs. 9,990) which is now wider with a 177° field of view and also supports a 1:1 aspect ratio which is bigger than last year's 8:7 for cropping images as you wish. The highest resolution supported here is 4K.



### Go to the theatre
The Anamorphic lens brings 21:9 cinematic flair to your shots but it's going to launch in 2025. According to GoPro there's an in-camera de-squeezing that happens to reduce post-production stress.



### Mi-ND your shots
This is a pack of four ND filters, ranging from 4, 8, 16, and 32. These lenses also have the same auto-detect feature, and they will prompt you to adjust if you're overexposed or underexposed. It's a pretty handy feature.



This is a versatile camera thanks to a variety of interchangeable lenses and clever magnetic mounting capabilities. The point and shoot capabilities of the camera have been improved with auto detection of lenses. If you want to shoot videos in low-light, DJI is a better option but if you're interested in a more natural camera-like quality, the GoPro is still the best! *@khumailthakur*

**STUFF SAYS ★★★★★**
**Iterative yes, but still a solid choice for action enthusiast who want more angles and lens flexibility in their shots.**

# Take it easy mic

## What if you just want a simple, plug-and-play mic that sounds great without breaking the bank? This is it!

₹8599 / amazon.in



**Hear everything**
The Neo also has a built-in headphone jack with zero-latency monitoring, so you can hear yourself in real-time without any annoying delays and it works with a Stream Deck!

■ This sleek little mic promises "great audio made easy," and it largely delivers on that promise. It's got a condenser capsule, a cardioid polar pattern, and a frequency response of 20Hz to 20kHz. Basically, it's built to pick up your voice clearly and accurately, while also blocking out background noise using fancy software.

■ The Wave Neo is a looker. It's got a minimalist design with a matte white finish and a subtle Elgato logo on the base. It's also surprisingly compact, making it easy to fit on even the most cluttered desks.

■ The included desktop stand is sturdy and is taller than many condenser microphones for gaming. It's thanks to a riser extension which brings the mic closer to your mouth. The pop filter is a nice touch, too, helping to reduce plosives and keep your recordings clean. It's mounted on a single rotating screw which lets you move the mic in a full circle.

■ It captures vocals with clarity and warmth, and there's a surprising amount of detail and depth. It's not going to replace a high-end studio mic, but it's more than capable of producing professional-sounding recordings for podcasts, streaming, and voiceovers.

### Tech specs

**Capsule** Condenser **Polar pattern** Cardioid **Sample rate** 24 Bit/48 kHz, 24 Bit/96 kHz **Frequency response** 20 Hz – 20 kHz **Sensitivity** –23 dBFS (min gain) | 7 dBFS (max gain)



### ■ Mic check

The cardioid polar pattern does a good job of rejecting background noise and if you do need to mute the mic quickly, there's a touch mute button on top that's easy to access. I wish there was a gain toggle on the mic too.



### ■ Link up

The Elgato Wave Link software also lets you add voice effects, adjust the sound profile with the EQ curve and adjust gain. The freedom of granular control from the software is truly a blessing for gaming content creators.

**STUFF SAYS** Pretty, user friendly, affordable and great quality audio ★★★★☆

**Is there a way to control it?**
khumailthakur



There's no need to install any drivers or software. But if you do want more control over your audio, Elgato's Wave Link software is a free download. It lets you mix multiple audio sources, add effects, and create separate monitor mixes for yourself and your audience. It's a powerful tool that's surprisingly easy to use. We tried it with a MacBook and Windows PC, both places it's easy to use.

# A solid sidekick

## The Evofox Deck is a pretty sweet mobile gaming controller that won't break the bank.

₹3299 / amkette.com

■ Razer, Backbone and 8BitDo are available on Amazon but the prices might make your head spin. The Amkette EvoFox Deck aims to bridge that gap, promising a proper mobile controller experience without breaking the bank.

■ It's not trying to be sleek or minimalist like the 8BitDo or the Backbone controllers. It's got that classic gamepad shape with a phone grip in the middle. The build quality is plasticky with glossy textured plastic at all touch points around the grip. The buttons and triggers have a satisfying click, and the hall effect joysticks, although small, feel smooth and responsive.

■ The spring-loaded phone grip is strong and secure, and it fits most phones comfortably. We tried the iPhone 15 Pro Max, the Pixel 9 XL and the OnePlus Open. These are some of the biggest phones in the market and the EvoFox Deck fits all of them nicely and the camera bump doesn't touch the non-rubberised plastics.

■ If you're a serious mobile gamer who craves the feel of a traditional controller, this is a solid option. The plastics feel like you're holding something you got on a budget and you can't charge your phone while playing but it can be overlooked because this is an absolute bang-for-buck mobile controller.




**Session gamer**
The 600mAh battery is decent, lasting around 8-10 hours on a single charge. That's enough for a few gaming sessions, but you'll probably want to keep a charging cable handy for a long trip.

### Tech specs

**Joysticks** Magnetic Hall Stick **Support** Android / iOS / PC / TV / PS4 **Battery** 600 mAh **Triggers** Digital Microswitches **Bluetooth** 5



### ■ Retouch the touch

One standout feature is the dedicated "Shooting Plus V3" app. It lets you remap touch controls on Android for non-compatible games and even create presets as per your liking. It adds a lot of value, especially for Android users.



### ■ Only controller mode

iOS and iPadOS is fairly simple, the controller detects as Dual Shock 4 controller on the Bluetooth settings page. Shooting Plus V3 app is available on the Apple App Store but the controller doesn't work here.

**STUFF SAYS** On tight budget? This is the gaming controller you need! ★★★★☆

**How are the buttons and triggers?**
khumailthakur



The BT 5.0 connection is stable, and I didn't experience any noticeable lag during my testing. The buttons are nice and the triggers are clicky. The triggers are actually buttons as well and may not work well for racing games like Real Racing 3 where you have to control the accelerator and brake with precision.The thumbsticks, on the other hand, feel precise and you can even adjust the sensitivity of the thumbsticks.

# Sweet sixteen

## More buttons, better processor, better gaming performance and fun camera styles, is this the best iPhone in the line up?

from ₹79,900 / apple.com/in



**Shield it**
Ceramic Shield on the front is stronger than before but in our opinion, iPhones tend to catch scratches easily so put a scratch guard.

■ The Apple iPhone 16 introduces new features like the Action and Camera Control buttons. The biggest update is the A18 chip with a 5-core GPU capable of ray tracing and running console-level games, significantly enhancing performance for both gaming and video rendering.

■ The iPhone 16's performance is impressive, outperforming competitors and offering smooth app experiences and faster video rendering. Ray tracing capabilities bring a new level of gaming to the iPhone, and with games like *Assassin's Creed Mirage* running at playable frame rates.

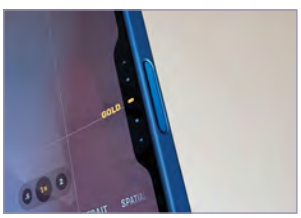
■ The 60Hz display is sufficient for most tasks, and the animations and scrolling remain smooth. The speakers are louder with improved throw. The Camera Control button, while innovative, has a divisive reception due to its positioning and potential for introducing shake.

■ The camera quality is excellent, maintaining Apple's signature style with controlled blacks, sharpness, and HDR. The new 12MP ultrawide lens enhances light capture, and Macro mode adds versatility. Photographic Styles offer subtle yet impactful control over image aesthetics.

■ The iPhone 16 boasts new colours and a stronger Ceramic Shield front glass. WiFi 7 is supported, but the Type-C port still has slow transfer speeds, and charging remains at a maximum of 30W.



### ■ Could be more
Battery life is similar to the previous model, offering around 6 to 7 hours of screen time for power users but useage is subjective so your mileage will vary. Charging speeds are optimized for battery health.



### ■ Snap and its done
Apple's processor enables really impressive shutter speeds which means you can really point and shoot unlike the 1-inch sensor of the camera phones from various Chinese makers that often have a very alarming shutter lag.

### Tech specs

**Display** 6.1in, OLED display, 60Hz
**Processor** Apple A18 Bionic
**Camera** 48MP (main) + 12MP(Ultrawide) + 12MP (front)
**Battery** 3,561mAh

**STUFF SAYS** The base iPhone is for stress-free smartphone experienced ★★★★★

**What's up with that new camera button?**
khumailthakur



It's not life changing. The Camera Control button is in a weird spot. It's like they designed it for landscape mode only, which is annoying if you're trying to take a picture in portrait mode. And it's not even that useful because you still need to use the touchscreen for some things. In short, it's not as convenient as it could be, and it doesn't really offer any significant advantages over just using the touchscreen.

# Fantastic four

## The 'Fours' pretty much have features and sound closer to the AirPods Pro 2, without the eartips.

**On the case**
The case is now smaller and charges with USB Type-C. We wish the case was a bit bigger so more than just 30 hours of total battery life was available to use without charging.

₹17,900 / apple.com/in



■ The most immediate difference in AirPods 4's audio is the way it handles bass. The AirPods 4 quickly hit the decisive blow over its predecessor by delivering punchy and thumping bass in *Purple Hat* by Sofi Tukker. The AirPods 4 really showcase Apple's mastery over clean presentation while maintaining impactful and lush bass in *Blue Monday* by New Order.

■ Although I feel they sound a wee-bit warm for my taste, Billie Eilish's playful flirting in *LUNCH* never felt bloated or congested. The AirPods 4 maintain the huffing in Billie's voice while the funky beats dictate the rhythm. That's something the Moto Buds+ and the other TWS around the ₹10K to ₹12K price point fail to capture.

■ It can do 16-bit/44.1kHz now which is Apple's ALAC codec range. That extra push in format support is quickly noticeable in how the AirPods 4 maintain depth and detail in Lifafa's voice, while keeping the dynamics from the drums and cymbals, in *Foolmuse* by Peter Cat Recording Co.

■ These are totally legit for anyone who wants amazing sound without those annoying silicone tips. They've got top-notch audio quality, cool noise cancellation, and a bunch of handy features.

### Tech specs

**Processor** H2 chip **ANC** Yes **Design** Open ear design **Bluetooth** 5.3 **Battery** 4hrs with ANC and 20hrs from the case, 5hrs without ANC and 30hrs from the case **Head tracking** Yes with Dolby Atmos



### ■ Talk Apple to me

They now have the same H2 chip as the AirPods Pro 2, which means they have this Voice Isolation feature that makes your calls sound crystal clear. It's pretty awesome, and it doesn't mess with how your voice sounds.



### ■ That's a nod from us

It can track your head movements for Dolby Spatial Audio with Dolby Atmos in music, movies, and games. It's pretty cool, and you can even use head gestures to pick up or decline calls.

**STUFF SAYS** Innovative, feature-packed and now with ANC! ★★★★★

**I heard these have ANC, how?!**
khumailthakur



Yup, the crowning feature is the ANC and how it works without the need for eartips. It can successfully reduced the overall noise of the environment to a considerable degree. Think of rickshaw noise with humming and buzzing sounds along with cars and bikes whizzing in traffic. Thanks to ANC it can reduce and remove all of that so your ears will be exposed to less noise and more music, which is always a good thing.