Bose, these are good!

These are tuned by the masters of the craft – Bose. So do they sound any good or it's just marketing noise?

₹9990 / motorola.in

■ There's a massive 'Sound By Bose' logo slapped on the case and they sound exceptional. So good, that the segment champion, the Oppo Enco X2, could have a proper rival TWS after all.

■ Stephen Sanchez's' *Evangeline* is an expression of love and the Moto Buds+ bring the song's soft melodies and Sanchez's falsettos better than most in this price range. Most impressively the Moto Buds+ sound balanced and coherent at any volume.

■ However, while listening to *Arrival of the Birds* by The Cinematic Orchestra & The London Metropolitan Orchestra, the lows are not as tight as the Oppo. The Moto Buds+ are still very impressive, especially in the highs. These tackle highs with a finesse that's not bright or fatiguing. The opening section in *Djiin* by Sahalé is a fine example of Moto Buds+ control and clarity.

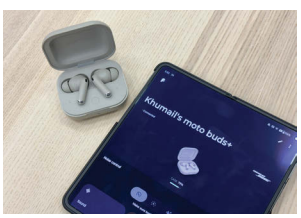
■ If you prioritise clear, well-rounded audio for calls and music, and appreciate a comfortable design, the Moto Buds+ are a compelling choice. But audiophiles seeking in-depth control or those who favour rock music might want to keep looking. Ultimately, the Moto Buds+ are a solid option, but the software needs a patch to truly unleash its full potential.

Mic check
The microphone on these buds is a champ. It rivals the clarity of the OG Apple AirPods Pro, preserving the depth and richness of your voice on calls. No tinny, robotic sound here.



Tech specs

Drivers Dual dynamic drivers (11mm woofer + 6mm tweeter)
Connectivity Bluetooth 5.3
Battery Life Up to 8 hours of playtime (ANC off)
ANC Up to 46dB **IP rating** IP57



■ Need matching pants

It sounds underwhelming despite good hardware. The culprit? The app locks them into AAC streaming, even though the buds and phones support the higher-quality LHDC codec. Hopefully, a future update unlocks fixes it.



■ I ANCing the noise

The triple-mic setup analyses ambient noise and shuts it down effectively. Office chatter, whirring fans, even some in-cabin car and traffic noise get the boot. Transparency mode is equally impressive.

STUFF SAYS The Bose partnership brings fantastic audio and ANC ★★★★☆

How's the app? Does it work with all smartphones?
khumailthakur



While the app is clean and minimalistic, it lacks the granular control that makes a real difference. The equaliser offers zero frequency labels beneath the sliders, making manual adjustments a guessing game. You also don't get single taps for controlling playback – everything requires double taps or more. It works with iPhones too but there's no app available for Apple users.

What's your budget?

If your mileage is smaller than your bank balance, then the Redmi Pad SE is perfectly suited for basic tasks.

from ₹12,999 / mi.com/in



■ The Redmi Pad SE is a budget-friendly tablet with a big 11-inch display, loud speakers, and a long-lasting 8000mAh battery. Perfect for watching shows, browsing the web, or reading ebooks on the go, this tablet won't break the bank at a starting price of ₹12,999.

■ The display itself is decent with a FHD+ resolution and a 90Hz refresh rate, but the bezels are chunky and the contrast is a bit lackluster. While it doesn't support HDR, the 400 nits brightness is enough for most situations.

■ You can pick up a folio case for ₹1,299 but don't expect this tablet to be a multitasking powerhouse. The processor is better suited for entertainment and light browsing, and there's no official stylus or keyboard case available. If you need something for editing or gaming, you'll want to look elsewhere.

■ Overall, this is a solid choice for casual users on a tight budget. It delivers the entertainment essentials with a big screen, long battery life, and loud speakers. But keep in mind the limitations: sluggish performance for multitasking, and slow charging. If you just need a big-screen companion for browsing, watching videos, and reading, the Redmi Pad SE won't disappoint.

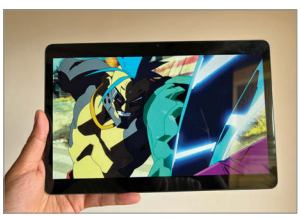
Tech specs

Processor Snapdragon 680
Storage 128GB, expandable **RAM** 4/6/8GB **Display** 11in FHD+
Resolution 1920 x 1200, 207ppi
Battery 8000mAh



■ Hyper about the OS!

The MIUI Pad 14 software based on Android 13 is a bit stuttery at times, so stick to basic tasks like watching YouTube or reading ebooks. The speakers are loud but a little bright-sounding, good enough for casual use.



■ Store it in

If you're using this for entertainment on the go, the storage caps out at 128GB for all variants so it's best you invest in an SD card, because it comes with an SD card slot for storage expansion up to 1TB.

STUFF SAYS A big-screen, basic tablet for entertainment on a budget ★★★★☆

Can I use this for basic work and meetings?
khumailthakur



The front camera is decent for videocalls, but auto-brightness is wonky due to the lack of an ambient light sensor, and the microphone picks up a lot of background noise. Video calls are best done with a separate pair of earphones. Oh and the battery life is impressive, but the charging speed is painfully slow at just 10W.

Simply better

Its not cheap but Alienware's second-generation QD-OLED monitor is the top dog among its peers.

Non-invasive
Most of the lighting gimmicks are available. More importantly, the monitor doesn't have a power adaptor so there's less clutter on the desk and the internal fans keep things cool.

₹85,000 / dell.com/in



■ This is a 27-inch 360Hz QD-OLED monitor. While the price warrants top-notch quality, Alienware has delivered quality beyond what we've seen in the LCD monitors. This is easily the best 27-inch gaming monitor we've tested, at least regarding colour.

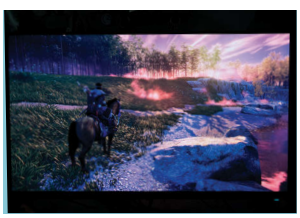
■ *Ghost of Tsushima* on PC and *Prince of Persia Rogue* have vibrant colour palettes that pop on Alienware. In moments where the sunlight is pouring through the trees and foliage in Tsushima, the 1000nits peak brightness along with OLED's inky blacks do more justice to the PS5-turned-PC title than any other gaming monitor.

■ It's got infinite contrast and covers 99.3% of the DCI-P3 gamut on paper with 0.03ms gray-to-gray response time. That's ridiculously fast for even a QD-OLED monitor. For competitive games and beefy PCs, this monitor is mesmerising and you'll barely remember that you've polished your bank balance.

■ Aside from the missing G-Sync compatibility (which shouldn't be a dealbreaker for most), this monitor offers a near-perfect package. Throw in a 3-year warranty with burn-in coverage, and you've got a king on your hands – just be sure to crown it with the latest firmware.

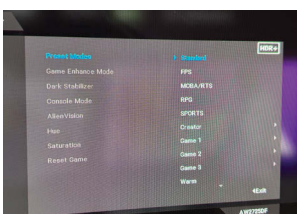
Tech specs

Size 27in **Panel** QD-OLED **Resolution** 2560 X 1440 at 360Hz (Native with DisplayPort), 2560 X 1440 at 144Hz (Native with HDMI) **Brightness** 400nits **Response Time** 0.03 ms



■ King colour

Out of the box, the colour calibration of this monitor puts even the Samsung Odyssey G8 OLED to shame. Unless you're a professional colour grader, you may never need to touch the colour settings in the OSD.



■ It can console me

For PS5 games, there's a single HDMI 2.1 port, and the monitor manages blacks and contrast well depending on the HDR Smart mode you select. You'll need to tinker and find the best setting for your game.

STUFF SAYS This isn't just another gaming monitor; it's the top dog. ★★★★★

What do you mean crown it with the latest firmware?
khumailthakur



Update the firmware to M3B103 via USB-B cable to fix random static screen issues on DisplayPort connections. Download the Dell Display Manager app to access the firmware update within the settings. This update also resolves the monitor going into unnecessary pixel refresh mode. We didn't face any issues after the update so it's important and necessary.



PS5 / playstation.com

Stellar Blade

It's not as flamboyant as Bayonetta but Stellar Blade has tough and fair combat that's also nuanced, and a story that takes its time to satisfy your single-player itch.

Stellar Blade's combat is very similar to *Sekiro: Shadows Die Twice* and *Star Wars Jedi* games minus the stamina meter. There's a shield meter which depletes when you block attacks but it never gets arduous because it's a tad more forgiving than the games it tries to echo.

Even the enemies and the level design have hints of souls-like DNA but are dialled down to reduce the punishment. Smaller enemies don't pack the punch to send you back to the loading screen but groups of smaller enemies and larger enemies will require methodical use of consumables, range weapon, parry, dodges, Beta skills and perfect parry.

The game moves from wide open-world sections to linear interconnected sections. Even the mission pacing is nicely balanced with big arena boss battles to tight spooky spaces that only allow you to use the ranged weapon. Throw in jump scares similar to Resident Evil and Dark Souls and the game stays fresh.

Stellar Blade's combat is a methodological mix of hack-and-slash pace with souls-like timing. The game goes beyond just attack and parry. While there's more meat to the bone, combat is the cornerstone of this game.

Eve and those around her are lacking in depth and creativity. Dialogues feel a bit estranged and tense as if a discussion between a group of anxious freshmen on the first day at a megacorporate job. Nonetheless, the lore hidden in item descriptions and notes should scratch the itch for some.

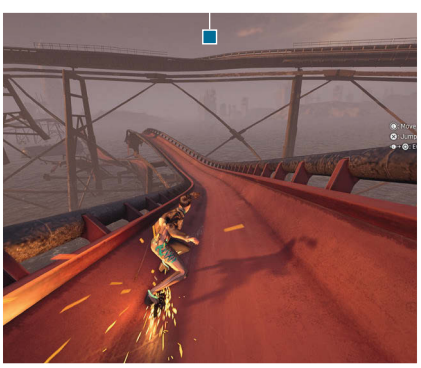
Stellar Blade cuts a dash with its stylish presentation and pulse-pounding combat. It may not reach *Bayonetta's* heights, but the nuanced combat system and a gradually unfolding story quench the single-player thirst. Sure, the story and the dialogue could've been better and the linear progression could use some surprises but if the combat is polished to the letter, we're happy.

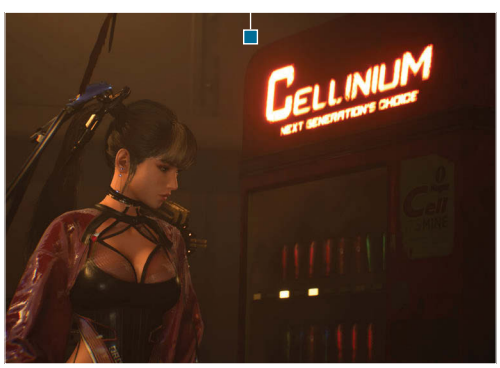
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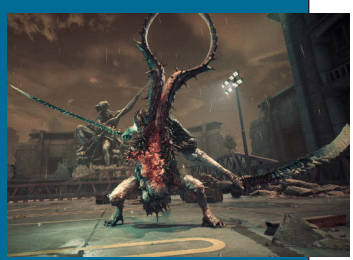
STUFF SAYS Stellar combat, visuals and soundtrack will leave you wishing for more. ★★★★★

Subway surfer is so last decade. Eve is the new rollercoaster tycoon.

Good to know that vending machines are stronger than fridges...







I played the game for the plot...

What's the story? Humans have fled to a space colony because Earth is overrun by weirdly shaped monsters called Naytiba and now the Mother Sphere (the colony) sends sexy android saviours to reclaim Earth. Eve is one of the squad members that arrives on Earth to help humanity.

You soon discover that some survivors, worshippers and non-believers exist between the doom and gloom of desolate Earth and you must find and kill the stronger Naytibas while also uncovering the truth behind the strange reality.

The OST is by the best in any videogame we've heard. There's Kpop, metal, rock, jazz and more genres covered here and all are beautifully composed with vocals that add a sense of freshness to gaming. We loved all the tracks in the game. Listen to Wasteland 2 track, it's our favourite!

The graphics are good as well. Most of the important characters are well animated. Eve is the most polished character design and yes, it's a bit on the sexy side. Can you play Stellar Blade in the living room without your loved ones giving you the side eye? Depends on the costume...