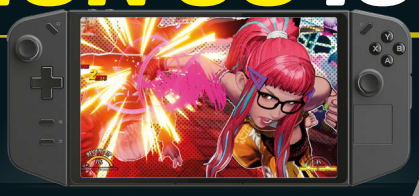
LENOVO LEGION GO IS A PORTA PC



Stuff India

GADGETS / GAMES / GEAR

₹150 July 2024
stuffindia.in

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THE FUTURE NEVER LOOKED SO GOOD

Ultraviolette F77 fuses speed, safety, tech & AI with the Mach 2



WINDOWS FTW

Backpack-loving laptops



ISSN 2250-2238
haymarket

HOT FOUR #4

ITS TIME FOR THE NEW NEO

Elgato Neo Family

The point of the Neo lineup from Elgato is to bring top-tier streaming expertise to everyone, recognising that in this age of remote meetings, everyone's a creator—or at least looks like one. With a focus on an out-of-box experience, Neo's plug-and-play design offers quick and easy setup without the hassle of multiple apps and complex settings. Nestled between bare-bones webcam/mic combos and high-end audio and video gear, Neo is ideal for those seeking a fuss-free, premium setup. Stream Deck Neo is a command hub for Elgato's product suite. Featuring eight LCD keys, it lets you automate tasks, from turning on lights to joining video calls. The mic, capture card, webcam and lights do the needful in the most colour co-ordinated fashion. Combining white colour with minimalistic aesthetics. All of these have the essential features from Elgato's premium range but the price will make even the most budget setups feel like a moodboard out of Pinterest.

As hot as... a Twitch streamer's bathtub water

₹7500 / amazon.in

STUFF MEETS

Shalin Shodhan

MASALA GAMES' DIRECTOR ON MAKING AN INDIAN-THEMED GAME - DETECTIVE DOTSON



I have been in games and film for about 20 years. I got my Masters in Entertainment Technology at Carnegie Mellon, worked at Electronic Arts for 4 years on the game Spore and worked at Pixar Animation Studios for 5 years on 6 films including Toy Story 3, Inside Out and Brave which won Oscars for Best Animated Film.

We wanted an easy-to-say name for a global audience. As a pixel character, Dotson is made of – dots and so he's Dotson! The idea for Detective Dotson stemmed from our country — India, and our interpretation of it. We realized that if we don't tell our stories, someone else will and it won't be an appropriate representation. Twenty percent of the world lives in India and yet there are barely any games that have India as a setting. If we don't fix that, who will?

While we did deliberate the possibility of a cop as the main character, we felt that it wouldn't be as relatable. Dotson has dreams of being a Bollywood star and is forced by a series of events to be a detective. It's relatable in the sense that at a very basic, human level — we all have, at one point in our lives or another, the job we dream to do versus the job we have to do. That's why the focus was to have Dotson as a relatable everyman compelled by circumstance to be a (reluctant) detective. We were very sure that we didn't want him to be heroic. But we wanted him to have the struggles that a lot of us have. That's Dotson's essence. He's not good at being a detective. His dream is to be a Bollywood star, but his dad was a great detective. And so, he has to follow in his dad's footsteps, which is also a very Indian thing.

Detective Dotson will feature multiple cases. Since it's broken up into multiple chapters or episodes, each episode is a single case. As for the length of the main story, we're still deciding what would be the right duration for a game like this. Being avid gamers ourselves we love our sprawling 50+ hour-long adventures like Red Dead Redemption 2 and Baldur's Gate 3 but we also love our focused, shorter games like Undertale and Vanquish. Since we're a small, fiercely indie team, Detective Dotson would likely skew towards the latter two.

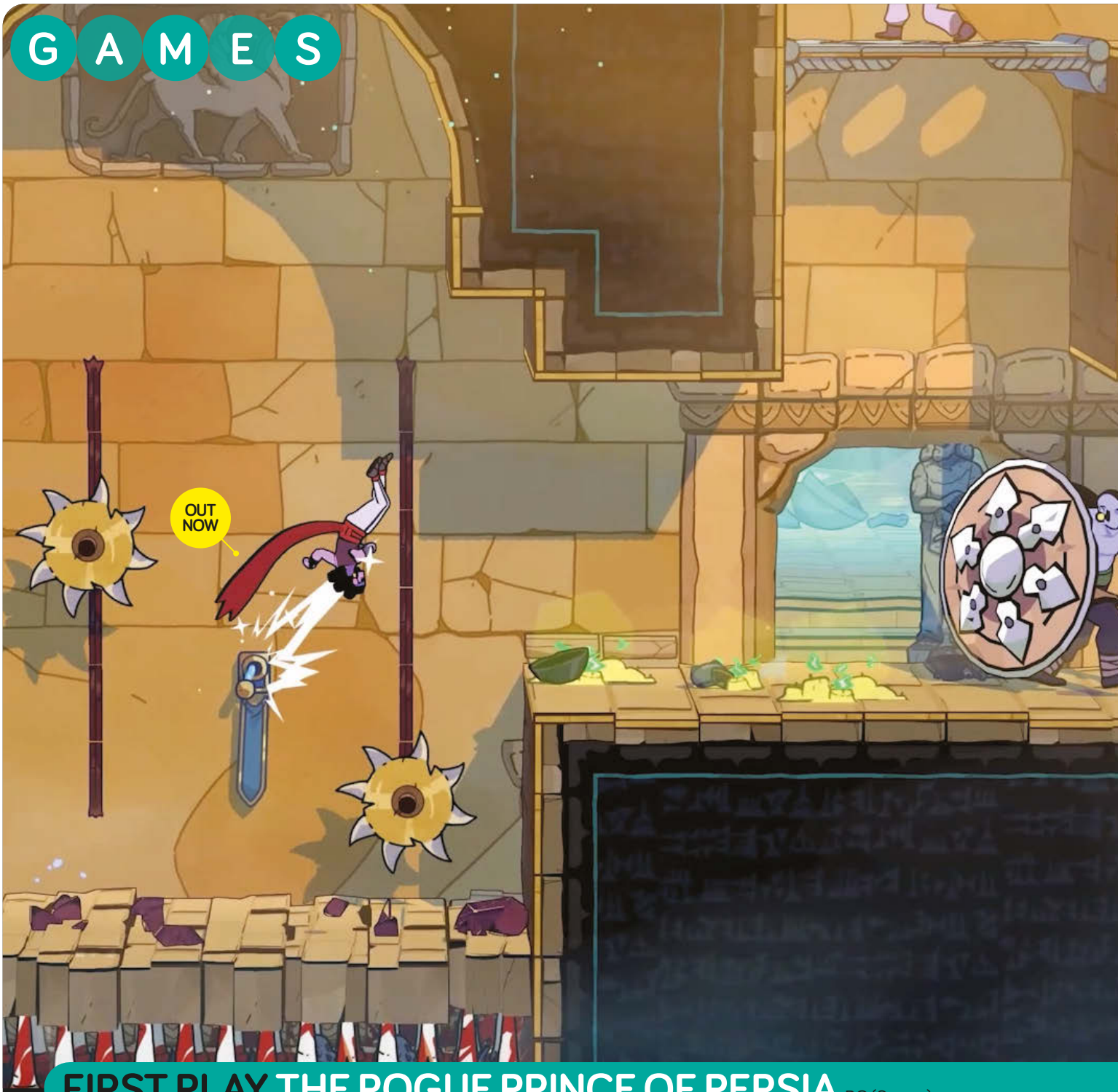
The mini-series serves as a companion piece to the game. We do have a lot of stories to tell for Dotson. So we always had the ambition of doing the narrative heavy lift as a show. About two years ago, we unlocked a pipeline with Unreal Engine to do cinematic output with game assets. This gave us the confidence to go transmedia from day 1.

"HE'S NOT GOOD AT BEING A DETECTIVE. HIS DREAM IS TO BE A BOLLYWOOD STAR..."

I am a musician and a multi-instrumentalist so I "hear" the story first, then I "see" it and then I'm able to write or explain it! To me, it was critical to have epic musical moments like Dotson finally waking up to his responsibilities, getting angry and taking control of the situation set to an absolute banger of a musical backdrop that calls back to famous Bollywood dhol intros. Listen to the first minute of 1-2-ka-4 from Ram Lakhan. Those street drums - the Maharashtrian Lezim, a South Indian Pakhawaj and a Punjabi Dhol woven together is the best metaphor for India I can think of and BOY is it epic. At the same time, we always wanted to infuse the music of now with the traditional instruments. So you will see a lot of funky juicy bass lines, synths, rock guitar layered in with Indian beats and melodies. Again an appropriate metaphor for who we are and what India is. It's been the place where culture has mixed for centuries - there's no place quite like it. THAT's what Detective Dotson is trying to celebrate.



[Interview Khumail Thakur]



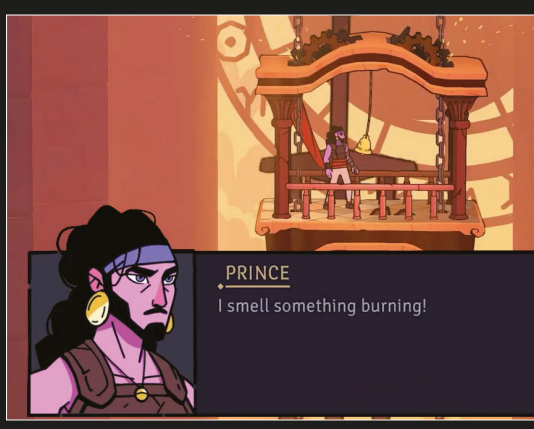
FIRST PLAY THE ROGUE PRINCE OF PERSIA PC (Steam)

Forget the Ubisoft copy-paste! This year, they're shaking things up with two distinct Prince of Persia titles. Here's the lowdown on The Rogue Prince of Persia, a collaboration with the Dead Cells devs, Evil Empire. Instead of controlling a royal guard like in The Lost Crown, here you take the reins as the prince, defending Persia from the savage Huns. But here's the twist: you keep getting knocked flat and zapped back to life by a magic time-travel bola. Talk about a persistent alarm clock! This roguelite twist means the world reshuffles after each death, keeping you on your toes.

The game's in early access, so expect limited content at launch – think four biomes, a handful of weapons, and a narrative that slowly unfolds as you explore. But fear not, Ubisoft's planning to roll out more levels, enemies, bosses, and story beats throughout the year.

The gameplay itself is a blast. It's a fast-paced 2D platformer with fluid combat that'll have you itching for the next round. Wall-running makes a glorious comeback, and you get a sweet arsenal to choose from, including daggers, swords, and even a grappling hook. Each biome boasts a distinct visual style and its own set of challenges, from spike-filled waterways to carnivorous gardens.

While the core gameplay is solid, there's room for improvement. Level randomness could be better, and exploration feels a bit unrewarding compared to something like Hades. Still, The Rogue Prince of Persia is shaping up to be a must-play for fans of the franchise and roguelikes in general.



FLIGHT CLUB

Visiting far-flung locales is fantastic; air travel usually isn't – but these cabin-ready gadgets can make long hauls quite tolerable

NOW APP THESE

QOBUZ
Stacked with high-quality tunes, this streaming app knocks Spotify's sound quality for six. Everything in its expansive library is at least CD-quality, and there are tons of 24-bit albums to transport you from cattle class to sonic nirvana.
$16.99/m / Android, iOS

HEADSPACE
Pairing up perfectly with noise-cancelling headphones (not to mention the SmartGoggles), this meditation app comes brimming with guided sessions to elevate your disposition from rampaging gorilla to chilled-out koala in minutes.
₹899/yr / Android, iOS

MORE HIGH FLYERS



ASTELL&KERN A&NORMA SR35
A&K's 'entry-level' player, the SR35 is pocketable audiophile heaven. Four DAC chips guarantee balanced, dynamic and thrilling sound quality whether you're streaming via Apple Music or playing huge hi-res FLAC files from the internal storage.
₹69,999 / headphonezone.in



MOTO BUDS+
Bose's audio expertise shines through, delivering crisp, balanced sound that punches above its weight class. Vocals are clear and detailed, highs are handled with finesse, and ANC effectively quells unwanted flight noise. Plus, the Buds+ are comfortable, lightweight for long flight hours.
₹9999 / flipkart.com



GAMESIR G8 GALILEO
Turn your smartphone into a games console with this Xbox-style controller. It offers a spring-loaded design to hold any handset size, nifty features like a 3.5mm headphone port and USB-C passthrough (for battery charging while gaming), and superbly responsive analogue sticks.
₹8999 / mx2games.com



APPLE MACBOOK AIR 13IN (M3)
The Air may no longer be the skinniest laptop around, but it remains a devilishly tempting prospect for anyone seeking Mac magic at a reasonable price. This model packs the zippy new M3 chip, with a huge performance boost over the M2 Air.
from ₹1,14,900 / apple.com



MSI CLAW A1M
The Steam Deck is soooo last summer. At least that's what MSI's Windows 11 handheld wants you to think. Powered by a Core Ultra CPU and 16GB of memory, it'll run almost any game like a dream on its 120Hz 7in Full HD screen. Do pack a USB cable, though: the battery lasts just 2hrs.
₹89,990 / flipkart.com



AMAZON KINDLE (10TH GEN)
With a crisp 6in glare-free screen and almost pocketable, this is ideal for hours of strain-free reading. Even if the sun pours through the shades. Oh, and finally the base Kindle gets a USB Type-C charging port. Just don't spill tea or coffee on it, it's not water proof or anything.
₹8499 / amazon.in

XIAOMI HANDHELD GARMENT STEAMER

Who wants to iron while on vacation? Say hello to your new travel BFF. This lightweight steamer, weighing a mere 775 grams, folds neatly for ultimate portability. Toss it in your carry-on and forget about lugging that bulky iron. No time to waste on preheating either – this steamer is ready to tackle wrinkles in a mere 26 seconds.

But don't let its compact size fool you. The steamer packs a punch with 1300W of power, ensuring a steady stream of steam to banish even the toughest creases. Plus, the dual-heat plate distributes heat evenly for safe and effective steaming on all your fabrics.

Grey sleeper
Worried about running out of water mid-steam? The removable 160ml tank is easy to refill. Need a simple touch-up? The steamer offers a dry ironing mode, perfect for shaping clothes or drying damp garments.

At 1.9m, the cable is pretty long as well so you can whip it around on curtains, clothes and pants.

₹2499 / mi.com

Key specs
● 3000W ● Foldable ● 770g
● Horizontal and Vertical steaming

Stuff says ★★★★☆
Keeps your clothes crisp and odour-free while travelling

Iron clad rule for everything

You can banish creases from cotton, silk, nylon, polyester, nylon, wool and linen. Just don't expect it to steam iron your entire suitcase in a single filling of the tank.



No iron deficiency

It has a special dry ironing mode that lets you use the heated ceramic soleplate like a regular iron. So, you can touch up clothes, reshape collars, or even dry out slightly damp garments.

Before the big metting

The 160ml water tank holds enough juice to steam 4-6 garments in one go, letting you power through your wrinkled clothes without having to refill constantly.

Leica thin phone

Promising a flagship processor, top-notch camera and incredible design, we see how Civi delivers in this review



from ₹39,999 / mi.com/in

■ You don't need a spyglass to tell you that Xiaomi is bringing Leica camera science to the masses. After all the Civi in the name stands for Cinematic Vision. With a robust camera module, the Civi can click photos just as well as its more expensive siblings.

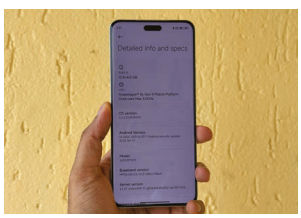
■ The triple cameras are as dynamic as the 14 series but in terms of colour and saturation, the Civi tends to push for exaggerated tones. The Leica colours have an oil painting-like look which makes them very pleasing and attractive (somewhat typical Leica) but compared to other smartphones, it scrubs out the details.

■ Compared to the Google Pixel 8a, the Civi is not even close in terms of details, texture, tone and shadows. Xiaomi is aware that the Civi camera tends to add warmth and vibrancy to the photos and portraits and hence, it's a deliberate decision and one that we understand. Although, the podgy details are something we're not convinced of.

■ Up front, the 14 Civi takes notes from the 14 series and gets a quad-curve display which reduces distortion because it doesn't bend the display around the edges, just the glass. The sharpness, tone and colour balance are very well judged by this display.

Tech specs

SoC Qualcomm Snapdragon 8s Gen 3 **Display** 6.55 in, AMOLED, 120Hz **OS** HyperOS(Android 14) **RAM** 8GB/12GB **Storage** 128GB/256GB **Battery** 4700mAh



■ Daily drama

The slim profile lacks proper cooling chops, which may make this a fantastic daily driver for regular folks who are not creators or gamers. The processor can handle all daily tasks easily and without lag.



■ Get in or get out

The dual front cameras don't get any of the Leica love (read as filters) in photos and videos. The 100° FOV lets you bring a lot of your friends into the frame so we like this selfie camera simply for the FOV.

STUFF SAYS For daily use without adding a bulge in your pocket ★★★★☆

So what's the final verdict, should I get this?
khumailthakur



At just 7.4mm, it's hella slim and lightweight which is rare in this catergory. Overall, the Xiaomi 14 Civi is a great choice for everyday users who prioritise looks, photos, and social media over hardcore gaming or video editing. If you're a casual user who wants a powerful phone with none of the bulk, the Civi is a solid option.

Ultimate boomer

Sony's take on how the young audience enjoys music is a bit delulu, but is this the solulu?

₹16,990 / sony.com.in

■ You have to plunge into the Ult Wear's warm and bass-heavy presentation to find Sony's intention with it and some tracks do sound much fuller and richer with the pulsating bottom end.

■ *Eternal* sounds fun. It never needed a bass boost but it does sound fuller and full-bodied with Chance the Rapper's vocals dictating the rhythm. The Sony Ult Wear doesn't inherently sound unpleasant for hip-hop tracks. Still, Kendrick Lamar wouldn't have expected you to appreciate Die Hard for its bass over his lyrical apologies.

■ But the Ult Wear lacks definition and sonic presentation even in songs that might need an extra punch from the bottom end. It colours the subtleties in Bnxn's voice in *Loose Emotions* by brute forcing bass and bleeding the bottom end into the mids.

■ It has the texture but there's a lack of depth in the presentation. To put it simply, it sounds tedious and lacks dynamic range for non-bassy songs like *Funny the Way It Is* by Dave Matthews Band. If at all you find yourself pressing the dedicated ULT button on the left earcup, the song fills up with bloat and overbearing bass pressure. It doesn't give you anything to appreciate the *Time Bomb* song's soundstage.

Big battery
The battery life with ANC is 30 hours and without ANC is 50 hours. We mostly spent our time with ANC and the headphones rarely see the end of a USB Type-C cable.



Tech specs

Drivers 40 mm (Dome Type)
Connectivity Bluetooth 5.2
Frequency Response 5Hz – 20,000Hz, 20Hz – 20,000Hz (Bluetooth) **ANC** Yes
Audio Format SBC, AAC, LDAC



■ Bass-ically bassy

With the Ult button, you get two levels of bass. The first one will bring punch but also a bit of bloat to the songs, the second level will fill your ears with eardrum-shattering bass. It's just unpleasant.



■ Foldable lovable

It's foldable and it comes in a flat shell case which is almost identical to the Sony WH-1000XM4, and we still love this design. No creaking or mechanical sounds are coming from the construction.

STUFF SAYS Eardrum thwacking bass gives us mixed feelings ★★★★☆

I am a happy, bass head so now tell me about the ANC
khumailthakur



Alright, bass head, here's the deal. It's the same processing chip which was inside the XM4 and XM3 headphones so you can expect almost a similar level of ANC performance. There are two microphones on each earcup which cancel out nasty aeroplane engine sound, fans, cars and chatty office colleagues. The ANC is extremely capable on the Ult Wear and we tested it thoroughly.

You bass believe

If you're looking for an party speaker, you'll only need one Ult Field 1 and a pair of dancing shoes.

Time to pose The rugged design can be set up vertically or horizontally which is a better than the competition and doesn't affect stereo sound.



₹10,999 / sony.co.in

■ This seems to be a rebranding of Sony's Extra Bass product line, known for its emphasis on low frequencies. While the Ult button might be unnecessary on headphones, it makes sense on a portable outdoor speaker like the Field 1.

■ With the ULT button on, the Field 1 feels a lot more comfortable with handling low frequencies. It's not as cohesive as we expected because *Das Spiegel* by The Chemical Brothers is a bit bloated and boomy. Albeit, everything still sounds coherent and fuller in this mode. This is not the case if you turn off the ULT button. There's a severe drop in punch and delivery.

■ It has a lot of depth and texture as demonstrated in *Birds* by Dominique Fils-Aimè. The rugged speaker can sound incredible in some places with midrange detail and comfortable highs without the ULT mode. Even at higher volumes everything remains pitch-perfect keeping up with Billie Eilish's higher notes in *CHIHIRO*.

■ With the ULT mode, it chips away the sparkle and texture in Billie's voice in *BIRDS OF A FEATHER*. You have to sacrifice a bit of midrange magic for that punchy low-end or trade the other way.



■ Not equals

Fiddling with the Custom EQ in the Sony Music app settings is not as fun as Sony's Headphones app. There are only three toggles in the Custom EQ namely Bass, Middle and Treble. So it's as useful as a bicycle in an elevator.



■ Play anywhere

You can say that the Ult Field 1 is designed for pool parties, bachelor pads and treks. So be it beer or water, the IP67 water and dust resistance will give you some peace of mind. Don't submerge it though, it's only IP67.

Tech specs

IP rating IP67 **Drivers** 16mm (1x tweeter and woofer) **Frequency Response** 20Hz–20,000Hz (44.1kHz sampling) **Bluetooth** 5.3 **Weight** 650g

STUFF SAYS Bass-heavy party starter trading mids for the low-end thump. ★★★★☆

What's the final verdict, though?
khumailthakur

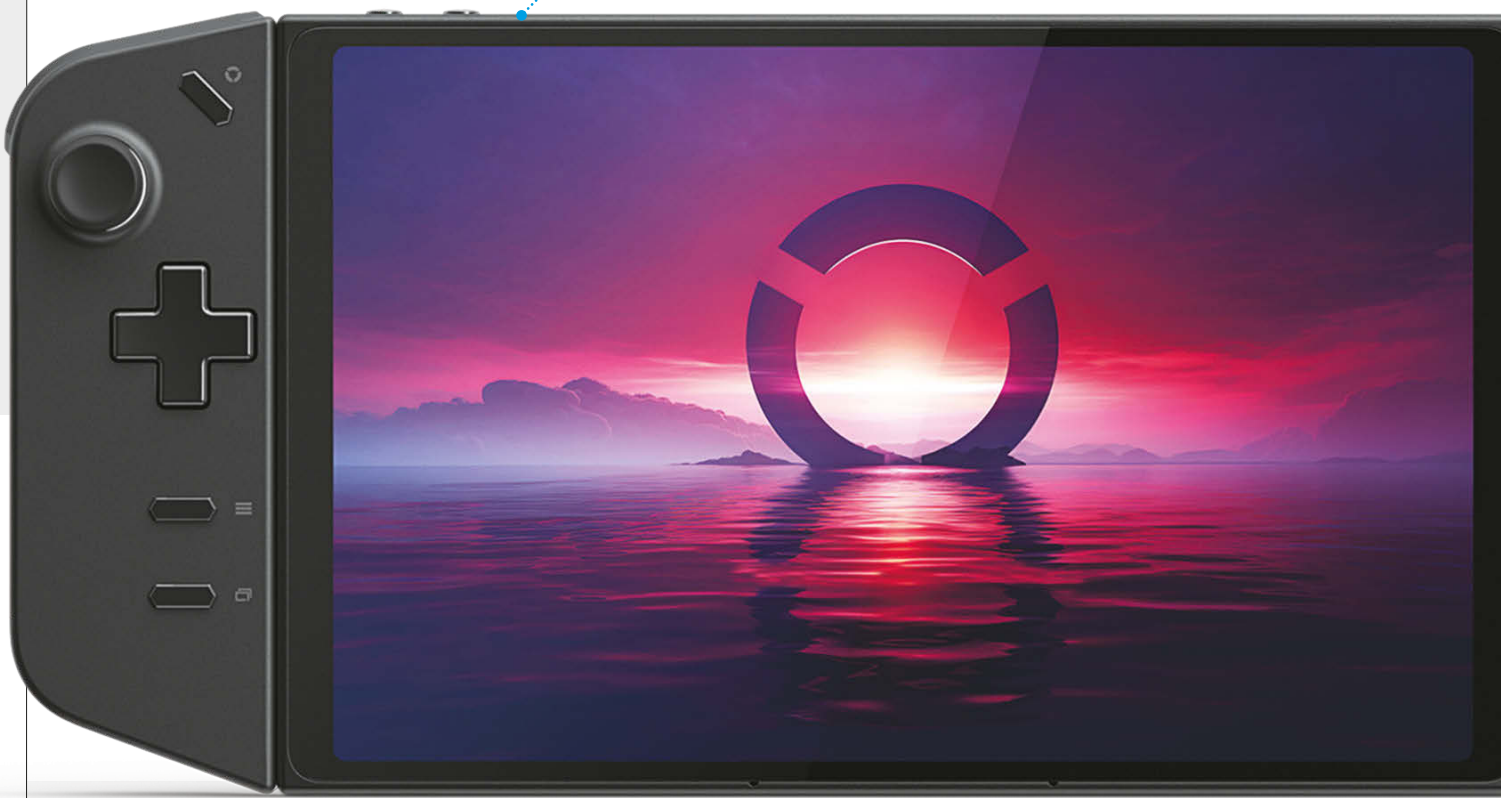


The Sony Ult Field 1 manages to deliver exactly as advertised. Deep and boomy bass without sacrificing too much along the way. It's not as compact as the Sonos Roam but the bass delivery is certainly better in outdoor settings. In terms of audio, the JBL Flip 6 is in the same price range and has a wider presentation compared to the Sony's but if you want something that won't roll away from the table then the Sony is a better choice.

Switching things up

Turns out, making a Nintendo Switch for PC games is actually quite interesting but is it worth your money? Khumail Thakur spent a fortnight finding out...

₹89,900 / lenovo.com/in



DAY 01

The Legion Go goes the extra mile and gives you more playstyle options to enjoy your favourite games and that's primarily because of its design. Love it or hate it, the Legion Go is an overengineered piece of tech, one which doesn't falter but doesn't scrub the problems away either. Cryptic? Allow us to break it down.

Want to play *Marvel's Spider-Man* on this? Just boot up Steam and you're good to go. Found the 854 grams of the Legion Go heavy? Use the sturdy built-in kickstand and detach the controllers to enjoy the game without wrist fractures. Want to move to something more hardcore like *Call of Duty* but want the precision of a mouse? Simply flick the FPS mode switch under the right controller and plonk it on the controller base which comes inside the carry case. In this mode, you can move the right controller around like a desktop mouse. Albeit, it's hilariously shaped like a flight stick with its vertical proportions.

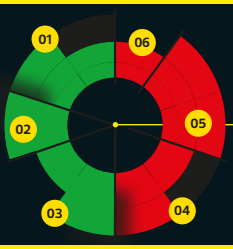
The Go screams premium every time you look at its 8.8-inch QHD IPS touch display. It also has a 144Hz refresh rate which is higher than anything in the market currently. Games look stunning on this handheld and that's also thanks to the 500-nits of brightness and 97% DCI-P3 colour gamut. The blue pastel hues from *Dave the Diver* on the Legion Go are among the best we've seen on a handheld barring Steam Deck OLED.

You'll never really make full use of the 144Hz on the Legion Go and the AMD Ryzen Z1 Extreme will hardly ever cross the 60 frames per second threshold for modern-day graphic-heavy games. *Dave the Diver* was running at around 50+ FPS on the QHD resolution and shoots up to 70FPS on FullHD.

It outperforms most competitors and boasts superior cooling, but here's the catch: it's a clunky beast. The massive size and hefty weight make it a challenge to lug around, especially compared to sleeker options.



Unlike the Switch joycons which move up and out to detach, the Legion Go controllers move down and snap out



Donut of Truth™

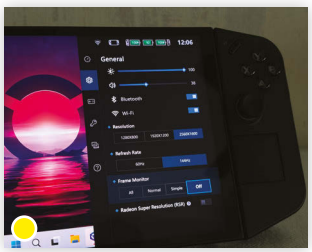
01 Large display really looks the business
02 FPS mouse mode is genuinely innovative
03 Wider game support than the Steam Deck
04 It's the biggest, bulkiest handheld around
05 Battery life is mediocre at best
06 Extra buttons have a confusing layout



Tech specs

Screen 8.8in 2560x1600 144Hz LCD touchscreen
CPU AMD Ryzen Z1 Extreme
RAM 16GB
OS Windows 11
Storage 512GB + microSD
Connectivity Wi-Fi 6, Bluetooth 5.1, 2x USB-C, 3.5mm audio
Battery 49.2Wh
Dimensions 299x131x41mm, 854g









DAY 02

In FPS mode, you can control movement with the left controller and use the right controller for mouse control. The Legion Go promptly remaps the WASD to your left controller without any issues. Here, you get the precision of a thumbstick movement from the left controller and the accuracy of a mouse from the right. The excitement to use it fades away quickly though.

DAY 03

The handheld is very comfortable to grip. The controllers wrap around your hands nicely and have good touch points on your palm. The console is not lightweight but it's nicer to hold than the competition. The Hall Effect thumbsticks are also worthy of the premium price tag.

DAY 05

Sifu has a bit more spectrum in terms of performance with FullHD going to 90 on low to medium settings and drops significantly with QHD resolution. *Ghost of Tsushima* is well optimised for handhelds and we got 30 to 32FPS constantly at high settings with AMD FSR settings on. We got around 45FPS with medium settings at FullHD resolution.

DAY 07

Since the controllers are detachable and not in the same console enclosure, heat never travels to your palms. Even the fans are very well-tuned and we barely heard the itsy bitsy whining of the fans. Although it's better played with headphones so you can crack up the fans even higher.

DAY 10

Ah, the USB Type-C ports are quite premium and you get two. One at the top and the other at the bottom, so you can plug in accessories and charge the thing simultaneously. It's USB 4 standard with 40Gbps data transfer with Power Delivery 3.0 and DisplayPort 1.4 support. You can even toss in an eGPU if you have an unlimited bank balance.

DAY 14

Oh, this saps battery really fast and if you play on the QHD resolution, expect it to drain faster. The price and weight might annoy most but the outcome is premium for sure. Using it in flights is really bothersome too because it's really big and takes up a lot of space.

STUFF SAYS

Powerful but not pocketable, the Legion Go is lust-worthy only if you can handle its size

★★★★☆