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Gaming headsets are one of the most impactful upgrades you can make to your setup. While regular headphones can work for gaming, they often miss crucial features that enhance immersion and multiplayer communication. A quality gaming headset will reveal subtle audio details you never knew you were missing—from enemy footsteps to environmental cues—while providing a clear, integrated microphone for coordinating with teammates. Given the number of gaming headsets on the market, finding the right one can be overwhelming. After extensive testing at Sound Guys, we've sorted through the options to bring you this carefully curated list of the best gaming headsets for every budget and platform. Whether you're looking to spend \$60 or \$200+, these picks deliver exceptional audio quality, comfort, and features that will transform your gaming experience. Best sound quality: Audeze Maxwell Christian Thomas / SoundGuysA physical slider for the mic mute means you won't have to guess if your mic is the problem on a call. If you're a trained listener who refuses to compromise on sound quality in games, the Audeze Maxwell is in a league of its own. Using the same planar magnetic driver technology found in high-end studio headphones, this headset reveals audio details other gaming headsets simply can't reproduce. The expansive soundstage and precise imaging let you hear exactly where every footsteps, gunshot, and environmental sound is coming from, while the deep, controlled bass adds weight to explosions without overwhelming the mid-range clarity. Studio-quality sound meets gaming. Whether you're connected via the low-latency wireless dongle, Bluetooth 5.3, or USB-C, you're getting best-in-class sound quality. The Audio Mixer app lets you seamlessly switch between spatial audio and EQ presets, though honestly, the default tuning is already exceptional. When there's no active noise cancellation, the deep ear cups and plush pads provide excellent passive noise isolation, letting you maintain long-term comfort beyond its acoustic benefits. The Maxwell nails the gaming-essentials app. The intuitive game/chat mix wheel makes audio adjustments effortless, the battery life is extensive, and the microphone quality is clear and natural. Yes, it's expensive and a bit bulky, but for gamers who consider audio quality their top priority, the Audeze Maxwell delivers a level of sound quality that makes most other gaming headsets sound ordinary in comparison. How is the frequency response? With large (90mm) planar magnetic drivers and a deep ear cup, the audio quality is impressive. However, you might have the itch to tinker with the out-of-the-box sound profile, as it deviates a little from our preference curve. For example, the default tuning strongly emphasizes the 3-6kHz range (atmospheric sounds, string attack) but a pronounced underemphasis on the sounds above 6kHz and the bass comparatively. How good is the Audeze Maxwell's microphone? There are two microphones on the Audeze Maxwell: an internal one and a boom mic. We could not get the internal mic working with our test setup, but the boom mic worked perfectly. Take a listen below to hear our standardized samples. Audeze Maxwell microphone demo (Ideal conditions): Audeze Maxwell microphone demo (Office conditions): 2846 votesBest ANC: Alienware Pro The Alienware Pro has excellent isolation. For gamers who need to block out the world while they play, the Alienware Pro is a standout choice. This headset brings the kind of active noise cancellation we typically only see in flagship headphones from the likes of Sony and Bose to the gaming space, reducing up to 81% of outside noise with ANC enabled. Even with ANC off, the excellent passive isolation means you'll stay focused on your game rather than your surroundings. Finally, peace and quiet meets competitive gaming. Beyond its noise canceling prowess, the Alienware Pro delivers exceptional audio quality that scored among the highest MDAQOS results we've tested for gaming headsets. The detachable boom mic is crystal clear for team chat, while multiple connectivity options (2.4GHz wireless, Bluetooth 5.3, and USB-C) let you seamlessly switch between gaming, listening, and taking calls. With up to 70 hours of battery life, you won't need to charge it often, but when you do, just minutes to give it 8 hours of playback. The gaming redrawbacks are the lack of Xbox support and no folding earcups. If you want a premium headset that doubles as an excellent pair of ANC headphones for daily use, the Alienware Pro justifies its price tag with versatility and performance. Dell Alienware Pro Wireless HeadsetDell Alienware Pro Wireless HeadsetExcellent isolation. Excellent battery life. • Great sound quality! To boldly game where no man has gone before! The Alienware Pro wireless headset excels in both gaming and everyday use. More than just gamers, music enthusiasts and professionals will enjoy the sound quality, comfort, and versatility. Those willing to invest will find a feature-rich, all-in-one audio solution. See price at AmazonAlienware Pro Wireless HeadsetHow is the frequency response? Compared to our house curve, the frequency response of the Alienware Pro Wireless Gaming Headset only has two notable deviations that we'd like to call attention to. There's a slight boost in the low frequencies below 100 Hz, but most people won't be able to hear that anyway. There's also a significant boost in the higher frequencies, peaking around 10 dB above the preference curve between 5-10 kHz. This can make treble-heavy sounds (like cymbals, high-pitched synthesizers, or sibilant vocals) more pronounced or even harsh. How good is the microphone? The microphone has very good noise rejection and will dampen or eliminate most background noises. These headphones are perfectly suitable for phone calls and remote work meetings online. Take a listen for yourself: Alienware Pro Wireless Gaming Headset microphone demo (Ideal conditions): Alienware Pro Wireless Gaming Headset microphone demo (Office conditions): Best microphone: Razer BlackShark V2 ProThe big volume knob on the BlackShark V2 Pro is easy to find and use. The Razer BlackShark V2 Pro (2023) is a substantial update to its predecessor, offering notable improvements such as enhanced microphone quality, extended battery life, and the addition of USB-C and Bluetooth 5.2 connectivity. Priced at \$119, it aims at gamers and remote workers who prioritize wireless convenience and audio quality during long sessions on PC, PS5, or Nintendo Switch. The headset boasts excellent battery life, a superb microphone, and the convenience of custom EQ settings directly on the device. However, the lack of a 3.5mm connection, no Xbox compatibility, and the inability to access Razer Synapse on mobile are notable drawbacks. Despite these limitations, its comfort, improved isolation, and sound quality make it a strong contender for those seeking a comfortable wireless gaming headset under \$200 with a stellar microphone. Razer BlackShark V2 Pro (2023)Razer BlackShark V2 Pro (2023)Comfortable • Removable boom mic • Great battery lifeComfortable and versatile gaming headsetThe Razer BlackShark V2 Pro (2023) are an update to the 2020 model of these gaming headsets. They are a comfortable, over-ear design with removable boom mic and big battery life. How is the frequency response? The frequency response curve for the Razer BlackShark V2 Pro (2023) has a few critical deviations compared with our headphone preference curve. Out of the box, it has overemphasized bass between 20Hz-200Hz. There's also a dip in the midrange frequencies and a couple of peaks in the high frequencies, with a particularly notable rise leading up to around 7kHz, making sibilants and cymbals a bit piercing. How does the microphone sound on the Razer BlackShark V2 Pro? Razer BlackShark V2 Pro microphone wireless demo (Ideal): Razer BlackShark V2 Pro microphone wireless demo (Office): Best value: SteelSeries Arctis Nova 5X The Arctis Nova 5X works with PlayStation and Xbox. If you're looking for a single headset that works with everything, the Arctis Nova 5X is your answer. Thanks to its clever USB-C dongle with a platform switch, you can seamlessly connect to Xbox, PlayStation, Switch, PC, and mobile devices—a rare feat for any wireless gaming headset. One headset to rule them all. At \$130, you get a lot for your money here. The companion app includes over 150 game-specific EQ presets (many tuned with input from game developers). The retractable mic delivers clear voice chat, and the comfortable fabric earpads keep you cool during long gaming sessions. Battery life is impressive, too, lasting over 42 hours on the 2.4GHz connection with fast charging available. While there's no ANC and the wide dome might block adjacent ports, these are minor tradeoffs for a headset that eliminates the need to buy separate game-specific headsets. Fast chargingBluetooth 5.2 and mappable controlsTaking on a sleeker exterior than its predecessor, the Turtle Beach's next-gen headset is comfortable and great for gamers and casual listeners. The company's dual wireless transmitters allow seamless cross-play, and the improved battery life and fast charging are a huge incentive to upgrade. The Stealth II companion app is a handy addition and the assignable mode and wheel elevate the user experience. See price at AmazonTurtle Beach Stealth 700 Gen 3The Turtle Beach Stealth 700 Gen 3 is a versatile, feature-rich gaming headset that offers excellent value for its price, providing wide compatibility across gaming platforms, solid battery life, and extensive audio customization options through its companion app. How is the frequency response? The SteelSeries Arctis Nova 5X's default frequency response follows our in-house target fairly loosely, with a handful of deviations. There's a notable low-end roll-off, over 10dB lower than we like to see, which makes sub-bass very quiet. The bass emphasis is then about 2dB too high from 100Hz to 300Hz. There's also a pretty significant dip around 5kHz, which swings up into over-emphasis from roughly 6kHz to 10kHz, which can get very grating over time. How is the microphone quality? In our test recording, which you can listen to below, the mic quality is pretty impressive for a gaming headset in ideal conditions. There is no foam cover for the microphone, so the noise rejection suffers a little bit in the face of ambient noises and will pick up things such as clackety keyboards in an office setting. SteelSeries Arctis Nova 5X microphone demo (Ideal conditions): SteelSeries Arctis Nova 5X microphone demo (Office conditions): Best budget gaming headset: Astro A10 (Gen 2) Plug and play with the Astro A10. If you're looking for a no-frills gaming headset that won't break the bank, the Astro A10 (Gen 2) delivers impressive value at just \$60. This plug-and-play wired headset works with any device that has a 3.5mm jack, making it universally compatible with consoles and PCs alike. Sometimes simple is all you need. The A10 punches above its weight class in sound quality, with our tests showing strong performance in both audio accuracy and immersion. While it does emphasize bass frequencies—making explosions and gunshots particularly impactful—voice chat remains clear, and positional audio helps you track enemy movements. The bendable boom mic delivers clean voice capture, and the headset's durable construction includes thoughtful features like replaceable ear pads and a detachable cable. While it lacks premium features such as active noise cancellation, the Astro A10 (Gen 2) nails the game for the price. Best open-back: Drop + EPOS PC38XIt's easy to find the volume dial, thanks to the indentation. The Drop + EPOS PC38X stands out as one of the few open-back wired gaming headsets available. It offers excellent mid-range accuracy and spatial depth, providing an immersive audio experience with clear vocals and precise sound localization. The headset features a high-quality microphone that performs well even in noisy environments. While it lacks sub-bass emphasis and customization options, its wide soundstage and breathable design make it ideal for extended gaming sessions. The PC38X comes with two types of ear pads (microfiber and velour) and is compatible with various platforms through its wired connection. However, its bulky design and strong clamping force may not suit everyone. At \$170, it's a solid choice for gamers who prioritize audio clarity and communication over deep bass response. DROP + EPOS PC38X Gaming HeadsetDrop + EPOS PC38X Gaming HeadsetWide soundstage with good spatial depth • Excellent microphone quality • Includes two types of ear pads (microfiber and velour)One of the few, and better, open-back gaming headsets. A simple open-back wired gaming headset with a great microphone, delivering immersive audio for those who can do without that low-end emphasis. Best gaming headset for PS5: PlayStation Pulse Elite The Pulse Elite headset is the best gaming headset for PS5. It's a great choice for PS5 gamers looking for a headset that works with everything, the Arctis Nova 5X is your answer. Thanks to its clever USB-C dongle with a platform switch, you can seamlessly connect to Xbox, PlayStation, Switch, PC, and mobile devices—a rare feat for any wireless gaming headset. One headset to rule them all. At \$130, you get a lot for your money here. The companion app includes over 150 game-specific EQ presets (many tuned with input from game developers). The retractable mic delivers clear voice chat, and the comfortable fabric earpads keep you cool during long gaming sessions. Battery life is impressive, too, lasting over 42 hours on the 2.4GHz connection with fast charging available. While there's no ANC and the wide dome might block adjacent ports, these are minor tradeoffs for a headset that eliminates the need to buy separate game-specific headsets. 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The headset is comfortable, offers swappable earpads, and shines when paired with Logitech's G HUB software, which includes DTS Headphone:X 2.0 for virtual surround sound and the Blue Voice suite for mic enhancements. With over 88 hours of battery life and solid build quality, it's a great all-around choice for serious PC gamers who want performance without going fully high-end. Notable mentions I've tested a number of wired and wireless options across multiple consoles and systems. Wireless gaming headsets: Corsair VIRTUOSO PRO (\$199.99 at Amazon): The Corsair VIRTUOSO PRO is a great option for gamers and casual listeners. The open-ear design is only good for quiet environments, but otherwise, this headset performs well for gaming, streaming, listening to music, and virtual meetings. HyperX Cloud Alpha (\$69 at Amazon): The HyperX Cloud Alpha is a solid choice for gamers looking for a headset that works with everything, the Arctis Nova 5X is your answer. 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