

## Buying the Ultimate Gaming Laptop

If you think that gaming is all about consoles like the Xbox and the PS4 you would be mistaken. The number of myths and misconceptions about gaming is profuse, from gaming being a pastime of children to serious gaming taking place solely on consoles. In fact, the average age of a 'gamer' is 30 – 35 (and male), and if you think serious gamers are out there buying the latest console games then you are wrong there as well. Serious gamers use PCs and laptops with PCs being the preferred choice of many for reasons that include:

Processor performance – Processing speed affects the way games handle and quicker chips, the kind that are usually found in PCs, require more power and that generates more heat, and as a result, you need more space to house fans and other bits of hardware.

Graphics performance – Once again, it is the power required for a high end chip that is the issue here, though as you will realise when you start looking around for a gaming laptop, there have been improvements made to cooling systems and that is why gaming laptops are heavier than other laptops, because they have muscular cooling systems that allows them to house high end graphics chips.

More upgrade options – PCs are easier to upgrade than laptops, but that doesn't mean that you can't upgrade much of the hardware on a gaming laptop. Having said that, it is advisable to go with the beefiest, most muscular gaming laptop you can afford because doing so will minimise the need to upgrade at a later date.

These are important considerations to give thought to before you start looking at the [gaming laptops](#) on the market, but also bear in mind that there are a number of

advantages that laptops have over PCs – portability is a major advantage as most gamers like to play other gamers and that can prove difficult with a PC – and these explain why so many gamers prefer laptops to PCs. If they don't have one of each!

If you have looked at the pros and cons of buying a gaming laptop over a PC and want a laptop – there really is so much to be said for these wonderful devices – then here are a few tips to assist you in buying an excellent gaming laptop, one that represents outstanding value for money.

Processing power – Now opinions on the subject of processors differ – as they do regarding practically everything else – but if you look at reviews of gaming laptops you will find that most reviewers favour Intel processors over AMD, with a number of reviewers pointing to not only the superior processing power of Intel, but also the fact that AMD processors tend to heat up quickly. Even with a powerful cooling system, this could cause problems.

[If you want a serious gaming processor](#), then you should be looking at something like the Intel Core i7 with minimum 4G RAM – 6G or 8G would be better – though obviously you have a budget to adhere to and this will therefore determine the kind of processor you can afford.

Graphics processing power – If your gaming laptop lacks a powerful graphics card then you are going to miss out on the full gaming experience, so read some reviews of the best graphics cards on the market and shop around accordingly.

NVidia may have made the news for the wrong reasons this year – its misreported GeForce GTX 970 specs fiasco is still a popular subject amongst gamers – but its graphics cards are still tough to beat. The GeForce GTX Titan X was released just a

month ago, so many gaming laptops won't be boasting this amazing card with an equally amazing price tag. However, you will find a number of more affordable alternatives that you won't be disappointed with, both in terms of performance and price. As mentioned above with CPUs, it is always a good idea to read a few reviews before deciding on a graphics card.

Hard drive space – Most laptops, gaming or otherwise, come with massive amounts of hard drive space and they seem to get bigger every year. Now most people, gamers included, don't max out their hard drives though if you use your laptop for purposes besides gaming, for instance storing your photos or music collection, you should aim for as large a hard drive as you can get.

Games can take a lot of space to store, so if you don't use your laptop solely for gaming, you should look for a new laptop that comes with loads of storage space. That, or you buy an external hard drive to keep your other files on. Also, it is advisable to focus on SSD hard drives, or hybrid SSD/ HDD hard drives, as these are faster and you get much quicker response times as a result – who wants to wait?

Warranty – This is an aspect of buying gaming laptops that many gamers overlook. Nevertheless, it is an important aspect of any purchase, be it a laptop or anything else, so make sure that you get at least a two year warranty. However, some manufacturers and makers of custom laptops will give you much more, with a few offering an amazing five year warranty. This would entail something along the lines of two years 'collect and return with parts and labour' followed by three years of 'labour support'.

There are so many things that you will need to take into account when shopping around for the ultimate gaming laptop and not only what has been discussed here.

Additionally, you need to take into account the physical dimensions – most gamers prefer the big 17” laptops though you will find that smaller laptops, for instance 13” – 15” are also popular – audio quality, power supply, and interfaces. There is a lot more to gaming laptops than graphics cards, CPUs and RAM alone, so be sure to read a few reviews so you know what to look for before you hit the shops.