



Future vision

The popularity of streaming your favourite shows has thrown the spotlight on what your TV can deliver, both in image quality and ease of control, writes Jon Mamonski

If the Consumer Electronics Show and Editors Choice awards are anything to go by, the LG C1 OLED TV series has the edge over other brands.

Does a backlit display versus OLED (single pixel lit) really matter? The simple answer is – yes. That's because OLED has millions of self-lit pixels capable of producing perfect black and a billion rich colours. The result is a viewing experience like no other. Backlit (LED, Mini LED and Quantum Dot LED) tech, back-lights larger groups of pixels and the result is noticeable.

The LG OLED TV C1 comes in five sizes, from a cinema-worthy 83 inches to a compact 48 inches.

LG's C-series model has been the 'go-to' pick of its OLED range for several years. It has always been the most affordable model with the company's best panel and picture processing wizardry. What's significantly different from previous models is the new, easy-to-use Web OS operating system. Dive into the latest movies, TV shows, documentaries, YouTube, live

sports, Disney+, Stan, Amazon Prime, Optus Sports, the Apple TV app, Foxtel, and Netflix. It's all in the one place so just sit back and enjoy.

The LG C1 automatically senses HDR movies and shows, that will appear vivid and vibrant, packed with intense detail. LG's HDR 10 Pro dynamic range technology constantly adjusts brightness to enhance colour and bring lifelike clarity to every image.

The C1 comes with the new version of LG's Magic Remote. The new model is slightly thinner and feels better in the hand. The buttons are well spaced and there are more shortcut buttons to take you directly to specific streaming services with the much-loved remote pointer.

Enjoy simple command and control of your TV and home IoT ecosystem using natural voice recognition from LG ThinQ. Hey Google and Amazon Alexa are on board too for easy TV control and quick entertainment access.

LG's 4th Gen Alpha 9 image processor

incorporates a new version of LG's AI Sound Pro which boasts two major additions for 2021. Virtual 5.1.2 surround sound up-mixing, delivers an incredibly immersive audio experience via the TV's built-in speakers while the Auto Volume Leveling 3 feature maintains a consistent level of volume when switching between channels or streaming apps.

Reviewers all agree that the LG C1 is the best TV for gamers. The new HDMI 2.1 connections for the latest X-Box and PlayStations, enable fast-moving content at high resolutions and smooth, synchronised audio and graphics. Combined with OLED's 1ms response rate, you will enjoy a more lifelike gaming experience.

Additional connections include three USB ports, a digital optical audio output and Ethernet, while wireless connectivity comes via Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, and AirPlay 2. game-focused features, that's crowned the LG C1 as the best 120Hz 4K TV. Prices start from \$2595 for the LG C1 48 inch at your nearest TV retailer.



TCL launches eye display glasses

TCL has chosen Australia to launch Nxtwear G OLED display wearables. The device features dual-1080p micro-OLED displays that together offer a 140-inch screen experience with a 16:9 aspect ratio. According to TCL, the wearable also supports '3D 4K content' and features integrated stereo speakers offering a straight-up display for big screen movies, gaming or mobile working. With no battery inside, the Nxtwear G is powered by phones, tablets and laptops using a USB-C connection. Yes, it needs to be plugged in to function. The frames can be adjusted to be worn over glasses. Out of the box you'll get a carrying case, three nose pads in different sizes and a lens adapter. There's still no word on pricing but that should be clarified closer to launch.



Electric Air Racing – yes, it's a thing

Airspeeder recently completed the first test flight for its electric flying race car – the Alauda Aeronautics Mk3. A remote pilot flew an uncrewed version of the eVTOL aircraft over South Australia with the Civil Aviation Safety Authority watching over the test. The machine can reach altitudes up to 500 metres and hit 100kph in 2.8 seconds. Remote pilots fly in a cockpit-like environment through virtual courses with LiDAR and radar helping to prevent collisions. Crucially, the design is meant to minimise downtime. While the Airspeeder racer can only fly for up to 15 minutes on a charge, teams can swap batteries in as little as 20 seconds.



Citroën's Ami EV is fun to drive

With its playful design and simple but functional interior, the Ami screams 'fun' no matter your age. And for about \$13,000 to buy, it's pretty cheap. The Ami is just under 2.4m long, meaning it could easily fit sideways on most streets, has a turning circle of less than 7.2m and weighs just 485kg. It has a 5.5kWh battery that's good for about 70km of range and an 8-horsepower motor driving the front wheels. The top speed is limited to 45kmh though it doesn't feel like it could go much faster anyway. It has small 14-inch wheels and basic suspension to smooth out road jolts.



Volvo to make EVs

The Volvo 'Concept Recharge' tucks a large battery into a flat floor. That makes for more interior space and leads to shorter overhangs, a lower hood and a slicker roof profile. This also gives Volvo an excuse to streamline its look – more like a tall hatchback despite its SUV-like vantage point. The interior is likened to a 'Scandinavian living room'. There's plenty of technology with a digital dash and a 15-inch infotainment touchscreen. Volvo's fondness for safety is in full view with a roof-mounted LiDAR sensor to collect environmental data and enable autonomous driving features.



The \$2750 'healing bed'

Opus describes its new SoundBed as a 'home gym for your heart' and claims the low-frequency vibrations it can send throughout your body will help you relax and become more receptive to meditation and introspection. SoundBed connects to a companion app from Opus that you can use to play guided meditation workshops. These 'journeys', which you listen to on a separate pair of headphones, can be anywhere from seven to 60 minutes long with the shorter ones designed to help you relax and elevate your mood. When you're not using SoundBed, it folds up into a hexagonal 'conversation piece'. Opus says, SoundBed is 'life-changing' – but at \$2750 it falls squarely into luxury territory. You can get a \$750 discount if you pre-order now.

Jammin' on the line

Ubisoft is reviving its Rocksmith franchise with Rocksmith+, a subscription service that aims to help you learn guitar. Connect your instrument to your PC, console or mobile device and practice by playing along with a variety of songs. It works with acoustic instruments and amps as well since you can use your phone's microphone to pick up what you're playing. You'll get real-time feedback as you're playing and songs will have adaptive difficulty and you can control playback speed to slow tracks down. Pop, hip hop, country, Latin and R&B tunes will be present with every song having chord charts for rhythm players. There will be note-by-note 'authentic arrangements' and you'll be able to create your own for licensed songs through the Rocksmith Workshop. Ubisoft hasn't revealed a release date or pricing however you can sign up now for a closed beta on PC.



Alexa reads to your kids

As good as it is to read with your kids, you may not always be there when they want to open a book. Amazon thinks it can fill that gap. It just rolled out their 'Reading Sidekick' feature that uses an Echo Kids device to help your kids read aloud on their own time. Children just have to tell Alexa 'let's read' to take turns reading supported books – whether they're digital or physical. You'll need a Kids+ subscription to use the Sidekick and more than 700 titles will be available for kids aged 6 to 9 with Amazon is promising 'hundreds more' every month.



Amazon 2nd Gen Earbuds

The 'all-new' Echo Buds feature true active noise cancellation (ANC) and improved audio quality. They are 20 per cent smaller and about 2g lighter. They have a shortened nozzle and are paired with new vents relieving some of the pressure of having something crammed in your ear for long periods of time. They come with four sets of tips and two sizes of wings and a charging case 40 per cent smaller and more vertical than flat. Additional battery status LEDs and wireless charging are also among the upgrades, as is the switch to USB-C for the times you need to plug in. Expect to pay \$169.



Dialled up

Jon Mamonski reviews two new 5G phones for personal and gaming

ASUS is a world leader in thin, light and powerful devices. Two new phones exemplify these qualities in different ways. The eighth rendition of the Zenfone strikes a new path in power and size whilst the ROG (Republic of Games) Phone 5 is built for gamers and those who love state-of-the-art phone features.

Zenfone 8 packs superb performance into an easy-to-handle in one hand, compact 5.9-inch mobile phone. The 3D-curved back fits your palm for a comfortable grip and on the back while the brand-new anti-glare frosted-glass finish gives it a clean and sleek look. It is the only phone under six inches to offer both the fastest engine and a 4000mAh battery.

It has the latest Qualcomm Snapdragon 888 5G engine for top-notch performance with an ultra-clear 120 Hz, world's-fastest AMOLED display.

The camera system uses the Sony IMX686 flagship sensor F1.8 aperture, 1/1.7" sensors with a 64-megapixel main camera and a high level of light sensitivity for great photos day and night.

The 120 Hz AMOLED display is HDR10+ certified to bring out the detail in even the darkest scenes and to keep it looking great for longer the display is protected by the latest and toughest Corning Gorilla Glass – Victus. With IP68 certification there's strong water and dust resistance to let you enjoy your mobile life to the full. Priced from \$999.

ROG Phone 5 is the most awarded phone built for gamers and powered with the latest Qualcomm Snapdragon 888 5G mobile platform and 6.78-inch HDR10+ AMOLED display, custom-made for the ROG Phone 5 by Samsung and is 23 per cent brighter than the previous model. This outstanding design packs a responsive 144 Hz /1 ms display, a monster 6000 mAh battery system, upgraded AirTrigger 5 game controls and the exceptional GameFX audio system.

Boasting an industry-leading 300 Hz touch-sampling rate gives you a super-fast gaming experience and industry leading haptics. You can hit the accelerator and overclock the engine via ROG's GameCool 5 design and the HDR technology improves

non-HDR visuals and a screen that is protected by the toughest Corning Gorilla Glass – Victus.

There's a 3.5mm headphone jack and a hi-fi-grade ESS DAC for hi-res lossless audio and dual front facing speakers that are deemed to be the best on the market.

The ROG Phone 5 comes with a 65-watt HyperCharge adapter so you can get a day's use from just a short charge. The 6000 mAh battery is separated into two with a PCB in the centre, a design that keeps hotspots away from the grip area for more comfortable gaming.

The triple-camera system on ROG Phone 5 features a flagship Sony IMX686 64 MP main wide-angle camera, an ultrawide 13 MP second camera and a macro camera. Enhanced software features include a Pro Video Mode as well as Free Zoom, Wind Filter and Acoustic Focus functions to make your video quality stand out. There's also a 24 MP front camera for high-quality group selfies and live-streaming videos. The ROG Phone 5 is the fastest Android mobile ever built. There's a multitude of gaming accessories and its priced from \$1079.