



When small is BIG

Jon Mamonski finds a speaker making a loud impression

There was a time when living room speakers were large and a central feature. Nowadays, technology is often hidden and usually small – except for the TV screen. You can have your cake and eat it with exceptionally big sound coming from a pair of Monitor Audio Silver 50 speakers that are barely 27cm high and look right at home on your bookshelf.

For forty years British firm Monitor Audio have made a fine range of speakers that continue to win awards across the globe.

Monitor Audio has become the world's foremost expert in developing metal dome drivers. Metal is not the easiest material to shape, which is why many of their competitors choose paper or plastic, but it does have amazing properties for more life-like sound reproduction.

Silver 50 may be compact, but it delivers

a big sound with impressive scale and dynamics. Prepare to be astounded.

Powerful magnets in the nimble Silver 50 stand-mount loudspeakers drive large, 32mm voice coils to ensure impressive power handling and incredibly low distortion. Design criteria ensure that the Silver 50 will make the most of smaller living spaces by being placed close to a wall and yet still deliver clean, punchy bass. You will only hear well-balanced, pure mid-range without ever a hint of box colouration.

Strategic cabinet bracing and Monitor Audio's bolt-through technology creates an amazingly solid speaker. Not only can it play louder and cleaner than its size suggests, it delivers an incredibly well balanced, pure mid-range for a gloriously natural sound for a very reasonable \$1350 a pair.

Available from Steve Bennett Hi-Fi

Are you game?

Laptop specialists ASUS – leaders in gaming technology – have commissioned BMW Designworks Studio to assist in thinning down and designing a well-balanced, powerful laptop that is at home watching videos, net surfing or saddling up for a game session.

The ASUS ROG (Republic of Gamers) Strix Scar 3 has a striking sporty design with a brushed aluminium lid that reveals a glowing red ROG logo. There's also a keystone plug-in that activates custom profiles and a secret encrypted shadow drive to store your secret stuff.

The touch sensitive keypad has individually back lit LEDs and the trackpad also doubles as a back lit numpad. The 15.6-inch screen is a full HD (1920x1080) IPS level panel. Under the hood there's an INTEL I7-9750 engine that you can control precisely for gaming, video or graphics. You have the power of a big PC in a light 2.57 kg laptop along with great software like, Armoury Crate, GameFirst V, Sonic Studio and GameVisual.

All the inputs and outputs you'd expect of a hot gaming laptop are here and the best way to road test one is to drop by PCD International where Vin and Chelsea can get your game on.



Discover
Real Hi-Fi:
Hear the
Difference



EISA AWARD Best Product 2018-2019
AMPLIFIER
Primare I15 Phono

"I can't help but be impressed by the large sound that's coming out of such a small box." **Hi-Fi Choice**

Complete with Silver 50, \$3990

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AirPlay
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5G PHONES

HUAWEI MATE 30 PRO 5G

Great camera with Leica lenses and power performance. Well priced.
Weight 198g. **Size** 158.1 x 73.1 x 8.8 mm. **OS** Android 10. **Screen size** 6.53 inches. **Resolution** 1176 x 2400 pixels. **CPU** Kirin 990. **RAM** 8GB. **Storage** 128GB / 256GB. **Battery** 4500mAh. **Rear camera** 48MP + 8MP + 40MP + TOF. **Front camera** 32MP + TOF.
Price \$1348

LG V50 THINQ 5G

LG OLED quality with added second screen makes this one of the best 5G phones.
Weight 183g. **Size** 159.2 x 76.1 x 8.3 mm. **OS** Android 9.0. **Screen size** 6.4 inches. **Resolution** 1440 x 3120 pixels. **CPU** Qualcomm Snapdragon 855. **RAM** 6GB. **Storage** 128GB. **Battery** 4000mAh. **Rear camera** 12MP + 12MP + 16MP. **Front camera** 8MP + 5MP.
Price \$1499

ONEPLUS 7 PRO 5G

Highly-regarded mobile design now making its 5G presence felt in Australia. Well priced.
Weight 206g. **Size** 162.6 x 75.9 x 8.8 mm. **OS** Android 9.0. **Screen size** 6.67 inches. **Resolution** 1440 x 3120 pixels. **CPU** Qualcomm Snapdragon 855. **RAM** 6GB / 8GB / 12GB. **Storage** 128GB / 256GB. **Battery** 4000mAh. **Rear camera** 48MP + 8MP + 16MP. **Front camera** 16MP.
Price \$1247

SAMSUNG GALAXY S10 5G

Follows the great Galaxy tradition of beauty and power, (but no stylus), with gorgeous screen and functionality and priced accordingly.
Weight 198g. **Size** 162.6 x 77.1 x 7.9 mm. **OS** Android 9.0. **Screen size** 6.7 inches. **Resolution** 1440 x 3040 pixels. **CPU** Qualcomm Snapdragon 855. **RAM** 8GB. **Storage** 256GB / 512GB. **Battery** 4500mAh. **Rear camera** 12MP + 12MP + 16MP + TOF. **Front camera** 10MP + TOF.
Price \$1799

SAMSUNG GALAXY NOTE 10+ 5G

The price reflects the best beast in the herd with a built-in stylus and superb design.
Weight 198g. **Size** 162.3 x 77.2 x 7.9 mm. **OS** Android 9.0. **Screen size** 6.8 inches. **Resolution** 1440 x 3040 pixels. **CPU** Qualcomm Snapdragon 855. **RAM** 12GB. **Storage** 256GB / 512GB. **Battery** 4300mAh. **Rear camera** 12MP + 12MP + 16MP + TOF. **Front camera** 10MP.
Price \$1999

SAMSUNG GALAXY A90 5G

Arriving now – Get a Samsung Galaxy 5G for less.
Weight 206g. **Size** 164.8 x 76.4 x 8.4 mm. **OS** Android 9.0. **Screen size** 6.7 inches. **Resolution** 1080 x 2400 pixels. **CPU** Qualcomm Snapdragon 855. **RAM** 6GB / 8GB. **Storage** 128GB. **Battery** 4500mAh. **Rear camera** 48MP + 8MP + 5MP. **Front camera** 32MP.
Price expected \$1199

XIAOMI MI MIX 3 5G

China's biggest phone maker now in Australia with a 5G-compatible mobile at an astonishingly low price that uses the essential Snapdragon 855 chip.
Weight 225g. **Size** 157.9 x 74.7 x 8.5 mm. **OS** Android 9.0. **Screen size** 6.39 inches. **Resolution** 1080 x 2340 pixels. **CPU** Qualcomm Snapdragon 855. **RAM** 6GB. **Storage** 64GB. **Battery** 3500mAh. **Rear camera** 12MP + 12MP. **Front camera** 24MP + 2MP.
Price As low as \$465 (tobydealsau.com)

OPPO RENO 5G

Huge brand overseas now in Australia and one of the more affordable 5G options with a pop-up selfie camera.
Weight 215g. **Size** 162 x 77.2 x 9.3 mm. **OS** Android 9.0. **Screen size** 6.6 inches. **Resolution** 1080 x 2340 pixels. **CPU** Qualcomm Snapdragon 855. **RAM** 8GB. **Storage** 256GB. **Battery** 4065mAh. **Rear camera** 48MP + 13MP + 8MP. **Front camera** 16MP.
Price \$999

REVIEW

MOBILE PHONES

As the range and capability of mobile phones continue to grow Jon Mamonski has roadtested the new mobiles and gives you the right advice on your next purchase.

With more than 30 mobile phone brands available, it can be quite daunting to know where to start looking for a new phone. Simply put, you can have a premium phone with all the 'bells and whistles' or a moderate priced phone. In this review, you will see both.

Now that the new 5G (5th Generation) broadband has arrived in Victoria and the better premium brands have released 5G models, it makes good sense to buy a 5G compatible mobile if you need a top-of-the-range mobile now. These vary in price from \$999 to \$1999 with one astonishing exception of \$465 (Xiaomi Mi Mix 3 5G). All eight available models are tested here. iPhones are missing because there is no 5G model yet available.

Moderately priced mobiles (\$399-\$599) is where the fierce competition plays out for your dollar and the Top 10 models are reviewed here.

Is 5G important?

Absolutely. When fully deployed, 5G has the potential to deliver much faster communication and a significantly increased volume of data per connection with the ability to connect to one hundred times more devices per square kilometre as networks evolve. At present the Melbourne CBD and Tullamarine Airport are the two places in Victoria that have 5G, but it will roll out during 2020/21. 5G will not completely replace 4G and the two networks will work together for the foreseeable future.

TOP MODERATELY PRICED PHONES

Choosing a mid-price phone is a balancing act between a comfortable size, camera quality, features, weight, brand and price. These phones fit the bill.



GOOGLE PIXEL 3A

With clean software, great design, headphone jack and Google's famous camera, this mid-priced phone challenges everything else in its class.

Weight 147g. **Size** 151.3x 70.1x 8.2 mm. **OS** Android 9.0. **Screen size** 5.6 inches. **Resolution** 1080 x 2200 pixels. **CPU** Qualcomm Snapdragon 670. **RAM** 4GB. **Storage** 64GB. **Battery** 3000mAh. **Rear camera** 12.2 MP. **Front camera** 8 MP. **Price** \$553



LG V40 THINQ

Every possible feature, five cameras and professional audio quality makes the V40 ThinQ exceptional value this price point.

Weight 169g. **Size** 153.9 x 75.8 x 7.7 mm. **OS** Android 8.1. **Screen size** 6.4 inches. **Resolution** 1440 x 3120 pixels. **CPU** Snapdragon 845. **RAM** 6GB. **Storage** 128GB. **Battery** 3300mAh. **Rear cameras** 16/14/12 MP. **Front cameras** 8/5 MP. **Price** \$598



NOKIA 7.2

No other phone in this price range offers its alluring combo of 128GB of onboard storage by default, a matte glass design and stock Android software with guaranteed updates.

Weight 188g. **Size** 158.4 x 75.8 x 9.1 mm. **OS** Android 9. **Screen size** 6.3 inches. **Resolution** 1080 x 2280 pixels. **CPU** Snapdragon 665. **RAM** 4GB. **Storage** 64GB. **Battery** 4000mAh. **Rear camera** 48 MP. **Front camera** 25 MP. **Price** \$499



OPPO RENO 2Z

Taking Australia seriously, Oppo takes on the opposition with a 6.4 inch screen, fast charge and a hefty 4035 mAh battery.

Weight 186g. **Size** 157.3 x 74.9 x 9.1 mm. **OS** Android 9. **Screen size** 6.4 inches. **Resolution** 1080 x 2280 pixels. **CPU** Snapdragon 665. **RAM** 8GB. **Storage** 128GB. **Battery** 4035mAh. **Rear camera** 48 MP. **Front camera** 32 MP. **Price** \$597



MOTO G8+

Features a crisp display, TurboPower charging technology with Android 9 Pie OS and features quad pixel camera capabilities for great photos and videos, as well as a water-resistant build.

Weight 188g. **Size** 158.4 x 75.8 x 9.1 mm. **OS** Android 9. **Screen size** 6.3 inches. **Resolution** 1080 x 2280 pixels. **CPU** Snapdragon 665. **RAM** 4GB. **Storage** 64GB. **Battery** 4000mAh. **Rear camera** 48 MP. **Front camera** 25 MP. **Price** \$499



HUAWEI Y9

A big screen, big battery mobile with a 3-lens pop-up camera.

Weight 197g. **Size** 163.5 x 77.3 x 8.8 mm. **OS** EMUI 9/Android 9.0. **Screen size** 6.59 inches. **Resolution** 1080 x 2340 pixels. **CPU** Hisilicon Kirin 710F. **RAM** 4GB. **Storage** 128GB. **Battery** 4,000mAh. **Rear camera** 12.2 MP. **Front camera** 8 MP. **Price** \$399

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SAMSUNG GALAXY A50

A big bright screen, fast charging, micro SD card and four cameras give LG and Google a run for their money.
 Weight 166g. Size 158.5 x 74.7 x 7.7 mm. OS Android 9. Screen size 6.4 inches. Resolution 1080 x 2340 pixels. CPU Exynos 9610. RAM 4GB. Storage 64GB. Battery 4000 mAh. Rear camera 25/8/5 MP. Front camera 25 MP. Price \$499



SONY XPERIA 10 PLUS

At last, Sony provides a 21:9 wide display that's appropriate for watching video, films, catchup TV or streaming from websites and a pretty fine full featured phone too.
 Weight 166g. Size 158.5 x 74.7 x 7.7 mm. OS Android 9. Screen size 6.5 inches. Resolution 1080 x 2520 pixels. CPU Snapdragon 636. RAM 4GB. Storage 64GB. Battery 3000 mAh. Rear camera 12/8 MP. Front camera 8 MP. Price \$499



XIAOMI MI 9T

A serious contender in the mid-price range with a 48 MP triple rear camera and a pop-up selfie camera.
 Weight 191g. Size 156.7 x 74.3 x 8.8 mm. OS MIUI 10. Screen size 6.39 inches. Resolution 1080 x 2520 pixels. CPU Snapdragon 730. RAM 6GB. Storage 64GB. Battery 4000 mAh. Rear camera 48/13/8 MP. Front camera 20 MP. Price \$499

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 ASUS ROG Strix Scar 3