

Say what?

Your hearing changes through life. Our Tech Guy, Jon Mamonski, road tests the new technology to improve your hearing



In a world where tech continues to reshape our lives, one area that has experienced a remarkable transformation is hearing support. For decades, individuals with hearing loss faced numerous barriers, including stigma, high cost and limited accessibility of hearing devices. Nowadays everyone is wearing something in their ears.

The need for accessibility

For most people as they move into their 40s, their hearing starts to change. We have tended to put up with hearing loss because hearing aids, unlike spectacles, were not cool and financially out of reach for many individuals, with the average

cost ranging from \$3000 to \$7000. Recognising these issues, policymakers and hearing healthcare professionals began exploring alternative solutions, leading to the development of OTC hearing aids. US giant Hewlett Packard and Australian hearing wearables pioneer NuHeara have joined forces to lead the revolution.

HD Hearing Pro

Recognising that everyone's hearing is unique, HP Hearing Pro is a self-fitting set of earbuds that feature NuHeara's personalised sound profiling. Using the downloaded HP Hearing app – 'Ear ID' – built-in microphones analyse your hearing capabilities and create a customised audio

profile. This profile enhances specific frequencies and audio cues that you may have difficulty perceiving, resulting in a truly tailored and immersive listening experience.

The HP Hearing Pro intelligently detects noise levels and adjusts volume, equalisation and noise cancellation settings to provide you with an immersive and personalised audio experience. Whether you're in a crowded coffee shop or a quiet library, the HP Hearing Pro ensures optimal audio clarity without the need for manual adjustments.

Intelligent voice control

With seamless integration with popular voice assistants like Siri, Alexa and Google Assistant, you can control your audio experience, manage calls and access your favourite content effortlessly using voice commands.

Long-lasting battery life

HP Hearing Pro is designed for all-day use, ensuring uninterrupted audio enjoyment. Its efficient power management system provides up to eight hours of battery life and the included charging case provides added on-the-go power. FDA approved in the US, HP Hearing Pro sells there for now at \$AU1039.

To learn more visit www.hphearingpro.com



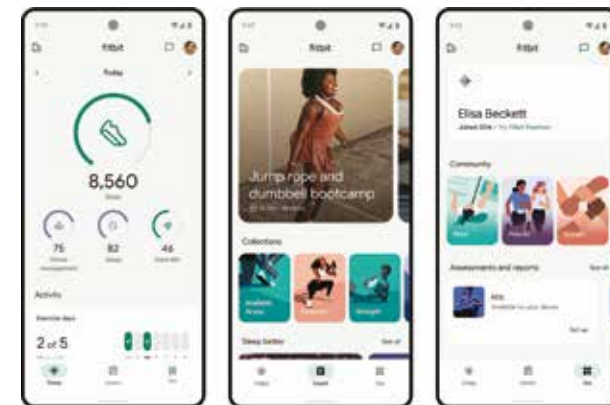
In the mood for sleep

Hatch Restore 2 is not a sleep tracker. It's not concerned with your sleep stages, biometrics or grading your sleep quality. The goal is to achieve your best sleep and awakening by creating morning and nighttime routines to improve your sleep habits. It is a smart alarm clock, sunrise lamp and speaker rolled into one, gently waking you up by creating the sunrise effect and a cosy nighttime atmosphere by simulating the sunset. \$275 at www.hatch.co.



Fitbit app redesigned

The official Fitbit app is getting a facelift with the focus on simplicity, personalisation and motivation. The refresh splits everything into three windows to reduce visual clutter and make it easier to use. There's the Today tab, the Coach tab and the You tab, each offering access to unique metrics and activities. Due out this spring.



Are 'smart' toothbrushes better?

Using a toothbrush with a smart app allows you to track your brushing duration and frequency and can do so whether you have the app open or not. The timer feature warns you not to put down the brush after about 45 seconds, which is nowhere near the ideal time. All smart brushes include a timer in the brush itself. Prices start around \$99 but can go as high as \$999.



Surge in EV uptake

Aussies are finally embracing electric cars, purchasing more than 50,000 EVs so far this year, up 120 per cent on last year. Nissan is a major force with a new Japanese-built Ariya midsize crossover EV to arrive on our shores in early 2024. The Ariya is likely to be offered in standard range/front-wheel drive form with a 63kWh usable battery, 160kW of power, 300Nm of torque and a 359km range (WLTP) with the option of a longer range 178kW/300Nm front-wheel drive setup with 516km (WLTP) or an optional E-Force dual-motor AWD configuration with 225kW/600Nm.

Logger paradise

If capturing video under almost any condition matters to you, then the new Panasonic Lumix S5 IIX is right up your alley with a new autofocus system and highly effective in-body stabilisation. A key new function is the ability to record high-quality, easy-to-edit ProRes video internally onto SSDs via the USB-C port. With a bit of setting up, you can record hours of 4K or even 6K video to a relatively inexpensive drive. Available now at \$3199.



Flip or fold?

Samsung Electronics has announced its fifth generation of Galaxy foldables: Galaxy Z Flip5 and Galaxy Z Fold5. The new flex hinge makes the foldable experience possible, while offering an aesthetically balanced and solid design. These unrivalled foldable devices unlock extraordinary camera capabilities such as FlexCam to take photos from creative angles. With strong performance and an optimised battery powered by the latest processor, the Samsung Galaxy Z 5 series transforms what is possible with a smartphone – open or closed. Fold5 from \$2,599 and Flip5 from \$1649.

OLED laptop breathes vivid colour

We all know how good an OLED TV is. Just imagine that clarity and colour intensity in a laptop. ASUS OLED laptops deliver exceptionally detailed and realistic visuals with cinema-grade colour on the display that's richer and more vivid for both creators and gamers and it is ideal for colour-intensive projects. ASUS Vivobook Pro 16X OLED laptops can maintain colour detail at any brightness so you can adapt the brightness according to your usage and have less exposure to blue light. Plus there's a dial pad built into the touchpad that is also compatible with current Adobe apps. Powered by up to 13th Gen Intel Core i9-13980HX mobile processor, harnessing new performance cores that can handle demanding workloads and offload background tasks.

Keeping cool

One of the main reasons why the ASUS Vivobook Pro 16X can greatly improve CPU performance is the excellent cooling system – ASUS 'IceCool Pro' thermal technology. The thermal module of the ASUS Vivobook Pro 16X features five powerful heat pipes and dual 83-blade fans, allowing the Vivobook Pro 16X to run continuously in performance mode.

Rich connectivity

The ASUS Vivobook Pro 16X features two Thunderbolt 4 ports, 4K display output and up to 100W power delivery. Additionally, the laptop offers a full-sized HDMI 2.1 port, two USB 3.2 Gen 1 Type-A ports, an SD card reader, a gigabit RJ-45 LAN port, and a 3.5 mm combo audio jack.

WiFi Master

The Vivobook Pro 16X is equipped with ASUS WiFi Master technology, which has a built-in dual band WiFi 6E wireless network for faster wireless transmission performance - up to 3X higher throughput and 4X the network capacity of WiFi 5. ASUS also provides a gallery of software to tweak the Vivobook Pro 16X to your exact preferences and is available now from \$2898.



World's ultimate gaming phone

The ROG Phone 7 Ultimate from tech giant ASUS, is an absolute powerhouse and from its impressive specs to its unique gaming-oriented features, the ROG Phone 7 Ultimate delivers an unrivalled immersive mobile gaming experience. The build quality is premium, with a sturdy aluminum frame and Gorilla Glass Victus protecting the front and back and it's dual SIM. The RGB lighting on the back not only looks fantastic but can also be customized to match your gaming setup, adding a personal touch to the device. The 6.78-inch AMOLED display with a 144Hz refresh rate makes colours vibrant and a 1ms response time and HDR10+ support. The display provides smooth visuals and stunning graphics, offering a competitive edge in fast-paced gaming. The ROG Phone 7 Ultimate is an absolute beast, powered by the latest Snapdragon 888 Plus chipset and equipped with 18GB of LPDDR5 RAM. This device blazes through any task with ease, which is a testament to the phone's incredible processing power with up to 8k video recording, 3 rear and front cameras. The 6000mAh battery, (2 x 3,000mAh) are more than capable of handling extensive heavy useage gaming sessions with 65-watt charge capability. The AirTrigger 5 system provides precise and customizable controls, allowing for a console-like gaming experience and the ultrasonic touch sensors work flawlessly. The inclusion of dual front-firing speakers with Dirac HD Sound technology delivers rich audio quality, making the gaming experience even more immersive. If you are serious about mobile gaming and demand nothing but the best, the ROG Phone 7 Ultimate is the phone for you. ROG Phone 7 models are available now starting at \$949.

Threads versus Twitter

The arrival of Threads, which was spawned from Instagram, is aimed as a prime place for public, real-time conversations. Aiming as strong competition to Twitter, which has retained its crown as a hub of conversation for more than a decade, Threads is evolving as a serious threat reaching 100 million users in the first week. Threads is algorithmically curated, just like Facebook or Instagram, which means when you come in you see a group of different posts based on your interests whether they were posted five hours ago or five minutes ago which is a big departure from Twitter's reverse chronological conversations and there's a Web version on its way in the next few weeks.



Constant WiFi throughout your home

Google's strategy for its own mesh networking products has been to focus on keeping the cost down with the addition of fast WiFi 6E. Google brand appeal and the promise of regular free software updates and Google's user-friendliness means it's a great option for pretty much everyone. The Pros are ovoid pods. On the back is the jack for the power cable and two ethernet ports that support 1 Gbps wired speeds per router. Under the hood is a Cortex A35 dual-core 64-bit ARM CPU paired with 1GB of RAM and 4GB of and has four colors: Snow, Linen, Sunrise and Sky. Available now from Google with a Nest WiFi Router and one point for \$399 or two points for \$549.

