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# A comic in hand...

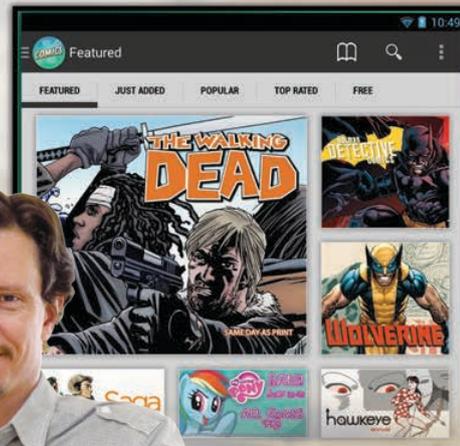
For a while I didn't install the Comixology app on my new phone, basically forgetting about it until recently. Having downloaded it again, I went to check the few comics I had in my account. Little did I know that it would lead to a month-long binge that left my bank balance much lighter, but at least make this cold winter slightly more bearable. There is no doubt that Guided View, where the app expertly guides you panel-by-panel through the comic, is awesome. It forces you to appreciate the effort that went into every piece of art, allowing you to notice much more detail. But it's just not the same as holding a comic in-hand, is it?

It reminded me of the piles of pulp that my brothers and I accumulated through the years. Dog-eared copies plucked off a creaky revolving metal stand at the café, or a basket at CNA where titles were sold for 25c a piece on special – my eyes lighting up whenever I came across a Sgt. Rock. Unlike now, we weren't precious about them, they were read to the point where the jackets would fall off and the pages turned yellow. Warlock, Batman, Green Arrow, Judge Dredd, Alfred E. Neuman, heck – even Archie had his place.

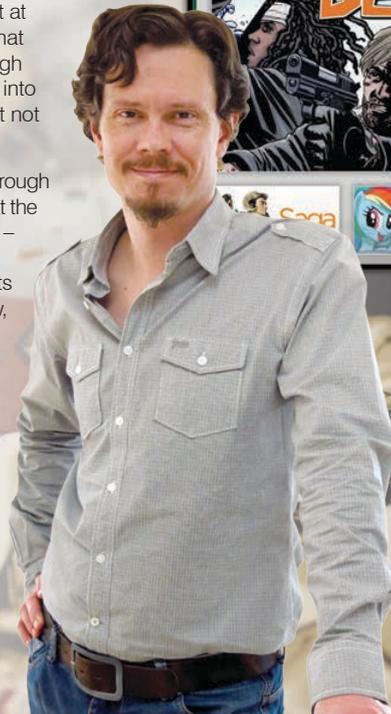
As we moved out of the house, the comics stayed behind, and I believed, falsely, that there is where they would remain. My mom had other plans, and before getting rid of them, she gave us the option to collect them. For some reason I believed that taking these piles to my house would only add to my hoarding problem, and my brothers didn't take her up on the offer either. I wish though that I had, since maybe, just maybe, the old cynical me, could meet the young, wide-eyed me killing Nazis with Sgt. Rock and Easy company.

Enjoy the issue,

Mike Joubert  
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## ABOUT THE COVER GIRL

### PRINCESS LEIA

#### Also known as:

Leia Amidala Skywalker, Leia Organa Solo

**Model:** Sasha from Spotlight Agency

#### Quick Facts:

Princess Leia's tragic inception is well known to any half decent *Star Wars* fan; as she was born by her mother Padme Amidala, who died in childbirth after being choked to near death by fallen Jedi Knight Anakin Skywalker (aka Darth Vader).

Leia was separated from her twin brother, Luke Skywalker, while still an infant, and in an effort to conceal her from the Emperor, adopted by Bail Organa and Queen Breha Organa and raised on Alderaan.

To no-one's surprise given her upbringing, Princess Leia became actively involved in politics, becoming the youngest senator of the Galactic Empire at just 18.

After reuniting with her brother – who by then was under Master Yoda's tutelage – Leia too trained in the ways of the Force and became a Jedi Knight.

Despite their initial rocky meeting, Princess Leia subsequently married smuggler Han Solo, and gave birth to three force-sensitive children – Jacen, Anakin and Jaina Solo.

#### Famous Princess Leia quotes:

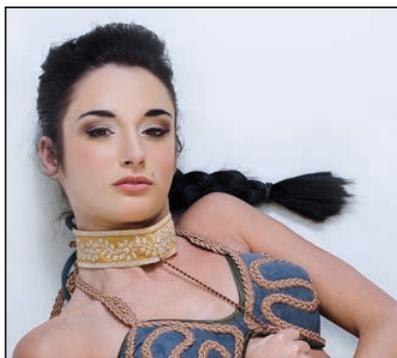
"The line between the life I want to live and the life I'm expected to live is about as thin as a Hutt after a buffet."

"Help me, Obi-Wan Kenobi. You're my only hope."

"I don't know what you're talking about. I am a member of the Imperial Senate on a diplomatic mission to Alderaan."

To Han Solo: "I'd just as soon kiss a Wookiee!"

Also to Han Solo "Why, you stuck up, half-witted, scruffy-looking Nerf herder." **ts**



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# GREAT GEAR!

## LAMBORGHINI 5-95 ZAGATO

If there's one thing Lamborghini is known for, it's radically designed supercars that are as dangerously quick to drive as they are a pleasure to look at. Keeping the tradition alive is the Lamborghini 5-95 Zagato concept.

Some of the other key design features are the 5-95's wraparound windscreen, which should provide a unique panoramic view while driving, as well as a floating front spoiler at the top end of the bonnet, and quad-exhaust setup in the rear. All of which adds up to a distinctly aggressive profile on the road.

The 5-95 has taken design inspiration from several non-Italian supercars, such as the rounded shape of the front and rear wheel arches as well as roof-mounted air intake, reminiscent of the Bugatti Veyron. The backend and front grille also bears a striking resemblance to the iconic McLaren F1 of the 90s.



Should this concept car pique your interest, it sadly is not set for mainstream production any time soon. Taking prized place in the museum of recognised car collector, Albert Spiess, to join several other Lamborghinis that he also owns. Some guys just have all the luck.

Under the bonnet, the 5-95 is certainly no shrinking violet, boasting a 5.2 litre V10 engine, that's calibrated to generate an estimated 447 kW of raw power and 542 Nm of torque translating to a vehicle that's blisteringly quick off the mark.

All of the Lamborghini 5-95 Zagato's power and torque means that it clocks an impressive 0-100 km/h time of 3.5 seconds and top speed of 320 km/h, making for a perfect track day car, should you find yourself at Monza.

## MERCEDES-BENZ AMG GT

AMG has always had a long tradition of taking Mercedes-Benz's best vehicles and enhancing their performance even further, and the Mercedes-Benz AMG GT is yet another example of this. The vehicle's design may look quite familiar, since it utilises the frame of the Mercedes-Benz SLS. What sets this particular version apart is its newly manufactured 4.0 litre V8 bi-turbo engine which produces an immense 375 kW of power and 650 Nm of torque. Those wanting to catch a better glimpse of this GT cruiser can do so at its official unveiling at the Paris Motor Show in October, with an expected commercial release sometime in 2016. **ts**





## DISCERNING STYLE AND INNOVATION!

Television has never enjoyed a more pivotal role in our lives than it does now – just look at the amount of social media that focuses on popular programming! And as television sets become design features, they're moving out of the cabinet and into our living space. Samsung's Curved UHD TV is the perfect example – the television is now a beautiful focal point in any room.

As home entertainment reaches new heights, state-of-the-art technology, design, picture quality and sound have become integral components of an incredible, unmatched broadcasting opportunity. The innovative Curved UHD TV offers the most realistic and true-to-life leisure experience available – the art of the cinema meets household comfort, in a spectacular fashion. It's the ultimate in functional design.

The lounge has become the centre of family downtime and the home cinema has replaced the TV of old. With this upgrade comes a spectacular shift in design attitude. The combination of the curve and Samsung's UHD expertise brings images to life, providing spectacular colour, breathtaking clarity and enhanced detail. The ability to automatically adjust the contrast for a greater sense of depth, and a 3D effect without the need for special glasses, adds to the appeal

of this luxury item. To maximise the advantages of curved TV, Samsung developed the optimal curvature which provides the best image excellence with a viewing distance of three to four metres. It turns your home cinema into an art gallery, a movie set or a television studio, and you feel part of the action.

When it comes to decor, colour tells a story – whether it's just a pop of colour in an otherwise neutral room, an unexpected show of statement wallpaper or a muted tone-on-tone layering of elements. Samsung's PurColour™ reproduces tones in more detail and expression – the number of shade adjustment points has been increased sevenfold.

Not only is this a statement of current leading-edge technology, it's an investment in tomorrow too. The Samsung UHD TV provides the very best in crisp picture quality; four times the resolution and pixels of Full HD, and all UHD televisions feature UHD Upscaling, which gives you greater image excellence regardless of the source material. The proprietary technology converts Full HD, HD and lower-resolution sources to near UHD picture quality. Samsung UHD TVs are the only TVs on the market that are future-ready, thanks to the Samsung UHD Evolution Kit.

Of course, it wouldn't be a Samsung TV if it didn't provide a 'smart' TV experience. The new Multilink screen allows you to split the screen in two, allowing you to review player stats, show search results or browse YouTube while catching the all-important match. And with an upgraded Quad Core processor, loading and navigation are twice as fast.

Life is all about experiences and the new Samsung Curved UHD TV is the perfect partner for a family entertainment system that delivers it all – in style.



[www.samsung.com](http://www.samsung.com)



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# GREAT GEAR! HOVERBOARD BY ZR

It may not be quite Marty McFly's hoverboard from *Back to the Future*, but the Hoverboard by ZR can run on water and looks to provide as much insane, speedy fun as McFly enjoyed.

The hoverboard from Zapata Racing runs off something that is still freely available – high powered jets of water. Try taming a high pressure hose and you get the idea.

Alas, you do need another water-based vehicle – a jetski is a prime example – to which the 18 metre hose can be attached from the board, so it is not an untethered form of transport, but more an alternative to your much tamer wakeboard.

Getting your kicks on this hoverboard will cost you in the region of \$2 600 (R26 000), which excludes the requisite jetski. Also excluded is the very essential innate sense of balance, without which you will have a water powered noggin displacer.

Additionally, the caveat is that the underlying pool of water needs to be at least 4 m deep, so forget about trying to zip across your local public swimming pool.

The contraption can reach a respectable top speed of 25 km/h, and propel users up to five metres in the air; plenty room to pull off some dazzling flips and tricks if you know what you're doing.



## AQUAFLYER JETPACK

If the water hoverboard floats your boat, then you may also want to check out the AquaFlyer jetpack from Jetpack America. This works in a similar fashion to the company's earlier model, the Jetlev Jetpack R200, which also emphasized vertical thrusts upwards over bodies of water. As on the water hoverboard, the fiberglass composite jetpack requires connection to a jetski; now improved is its seating for a more comfortable ride. It costs a cool \$10 000 (R100 000). **ts**



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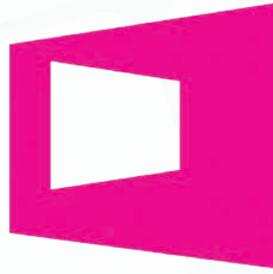
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# COMPUTEX

## 2014

# 5 DAYS OF AWESOME

To call Computex 2014 massive would be an understatement, with Asia's largest technology expo spread out across four massive halls. TechSmart's Ryan Noik travelled to Taipei, Taiwan, to find its gems.

While the expo encompassed everything to do with technology and computing, this year mobility and smart devices dominated. In this arena we noted that affordability and catering to the lower end of the market, seemed to be an undeniable focus. Certain products across the range of categories stood out, and here are our picks for best of show.

## NOTEBOOKS



### Asus Zenbook NX500

On the mobile front, Asus particularly impressed us with its new Zenbook and its Zenfones. The latest Zenbook NX500 ultrabook is certainly not shy about showing its muscle in the specs department, boasting a 15.6" 4K/UHD (ultra-high-definition) touchscreen display, 4th-generation (Haswell) Intel Core i7 processor, and Nvidia's GeForce GTX 850M graphics card, along with up to 8 GB of memory. Users will also be able to choose from either a state-of-the-art 512 GB PCI Express (PCIe) x4 solid-state-disk (SSD), or up to two SATA 3 SSDs. Suffice to say, the notebook looks brilliant, thanks to its familiar all-aluminium chassis. There is no word as yet on local availability or pricing.

### Acer Iconia Tabs

On the tablet front, affordability seemed to be key, with the cheapest tablet we could find on the expo floor coming from Eken and costing a mere \$26 (R260) for a device with a 7" screen. However, climbing up the price ladder, and impressing us most of all, was the new range of Iconia Tabs debuting from Acer. More specifically, the company showed us its 7" and 8" tablets, with the latter particularly catching our eye. For a budget offering (expected in about the \$200 – \$250 price range), there was a great deal to like, such as a very bright and sharp screen with a 1920x1200 resolution, the latest version of Android (4.4) and an Intel Atom z3745 processor. This lent the tablet very zippy performance and the promise of a battery life above the eight hour mark, while a microSD card slot is also onboard for expanding beyond the 16 GB storage.



## TABLETS

## SMARTPHONES



### Asus Zenfone 6

What would a technology expo be without a smartphone or two? Once again it was Asus' offering in particular that kept calling us back to its side. On this front, the company showcased two Zenfones, a 5" and a 6" version. To our minds, the latter clearly outshone its smaller sibling; at 5.5 mm thin and weighing in at 196 g, it easily defied the assertion that phablets are too large or unwieldy.

Despite its size we had no problem stretching our thumb across the screen to operate it one-handed. Its screen sports a 1280x720 resolution, and we were particularly impressed by the responsiveness and speed delivered by the device's Intel Atom multi-core Z2580 processor (clocked at 2.0 GHz). Furthermore, the new ZenUI both looked fantastic and was particularly snappy, while a 13 megapixel back camera rounded off Asus' latest smartphone. There is no word as yet as to when or whether the Zenfone 6 will make its way into the South African market.

### Aorus X7

If you thought that PCs were passé at Computex 2014, think again. Some of the hottest technology we saw on offer included gaming/desktop replacement notebooks and gaming PCs. A prime case in point was the 17.3" Aorus X7, a high-end gaming notebook that had us ogling. Considering that the Aorus X7 boasts SLI graphics (two graphics cards working together), we were impressed by how thin (22.9 mm) it was, and even more so by how solid the notebook's chassis felt.

Judging by the internals, clearly no compromises have been made on performance, as the X7 boasts an Intel Core i7 processor, Nvidia GeForce GTX 860M graphics cards with 8 GB of video memory; up to 32 GB of system memory, as well as three 512 GB mSATA SSDs and a 2 TB hard-drive. The X7 will apparently cost in the region of between \$2 300 and \$2 800 (R23 000 and R28 000) with availability expected in the next couple of months.

## GAMING NOTEBOOKS



## MISCELLANEOUS ATTRACTIONS



The Qbox, not to be confused with the Xbox, is a tiny home streaming device that not only enables users to push content from their iOS, Android and Windows tablets and mobile devices, but to them as well. This enables users to push their TV content to the mobile device of their choice, effectively streaming movies and other content around their home. As well as being used for home entertainment, the Qbox could easily find use in business and educational settings, enabling teachers for example, to send presentations to students' mobile or tablet devices.

One of the few wearables that stood out on the show floor, with many looking either average or catering to the low-end of the market, Martian watches showed that keeping abreast of your smartphone notifications on your wrist doesn't have to come at the expense of style. Apart from feature the usual notifications, calls can be rejected with a shake of the wrist, while it also warns users when they have left their smartphone behind by vibrating. Prices range from R1 380 to R3 000. [RN] **ts**

## COMPUTEX TAIPEI IN A NUTSHELL

2014 JUNE 3-7

2014's Computex was notable for a number of reasons, with its numbers stacking up to an exceedingly successful event at the end of its five day run. According to Walter Yeh, the executive vice president of the Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA), the show attracted 135 000 visitors, of which 38 662 were international visitors from more than 166 countries. Beyond the 5 000 stalls gracing the event, the show had another side – forums and conferences covering a range of topics, from The Internet of Things, to Cloud, while also playing host to 1 800 procurement meetings that were organised by TAITRA. In fact, Computex boasted 120 speeches by various speakers in its forums, with the Summit Forum in particular attracting 10 000 attendees.

# SONY Xperia Z2 Tablet



We've been noticeably impressed with Sony's range of Xperia smartphones of late, now to see how its tablet fares as an Android-powered alternative to the iPad.

The Xperia Z2 carries the title of the slimmest (6.4 mm) and lightest (439 g) waterproof tablet available. The latter places it on par with the rest of Sony's top-tier Xperia devices, boasting IP55 and IP58 level waterproofness, so dropping it in the bath is not the end of the world.

**THE Z2 TABLET FEELS WELL MADE WITH ABSOLUTELY NO COMPROMISES IN QUALITY SEEN THROUGHOUT.**

The similarities between the design of the Xperia Z2 smartphone and Z2 tablet extend far further, as the tablet features the same aluminium frame which has become synonymous with Xperia devices. The only key difference is the hardened plastic cover fitted to the tablet's rear. We were rather pleased to see this new integration, given the fact that tactileness has been a slight concern with previous Xperia devices.

## Xperia Z2, but bigger

As far as the front display goes, Sony has fitted the Xperia Z2 with a 10.1" Triluminos screen (1920x1200) which is bright and crisp, lending itself expertly to the Xperia UI. It registers a pixel density of 224 ppi, retaining a high level of visual clarity, specifically in high level light conditions, an area where many tablets seem to struggle. This still places the Z2 Tablet well above the Samsung Galaxy Tab 4 10.1, which registers at 149 ppi, although lower than the 264 ppi pixel density of the Apple iPad Air.

## Wasted space

The Xperia UI itself is another area that draws upon many elements found on the Z2 smartphone, with a similar design and app orientation. Side-scrolling through the various menus makes navigation quick

and easy, with users being able to customise their app layout as well as scale the sizing of widgets.

As strong as this aspect is, it's not without fault as we would've enjoyed the ability to position apps a bit more freely, as users are restricted to specific areas to place their apps. One other issue centres around how the Xperia UI has been scaled for the 10.1" display, with plenty of empty space and unused real estate, creating a bit of an eyesore.

## No compromises

Just as the exterior, Sony has not scrimped on the Z2 Tablet's internal elements, incorporating a 2.3 GHz Qualcomm Snapdragon 801 processor. This chipset is supported by a good 3 GB of RAM and 16 GB of internal memory, all under the guise of Android's 4.4.2 (Kit-Kat) OS.

This translates to a powerful performance and makes the Z2 Tablet well suited for use in both the office and home. This was echoed by the range of benchmark tests we put the Z2 Tablet through, scoring well across the board. Should users wish to hoist the Z2 Tablet aloft to capture images, Sony has opted for a 8.1 megapixel camera capable of taking up 3264x2448 pixel content, and record 1080p video.

## Premium device and price

On the whole, the Z2 Tablet feels well made with absolutely no compromises in quality seen throughout. Set to retail for R6 800, the 16 GB and 3G/LTE-touting Xperia Z2 Tablet certainly tips the higher end of the pricing scales, but with that being said, the moment one picks it up, one becomes immediately aware that it's a premium device and where that extra money goes to. Should the Apple iPad range not quite catch your fancy, the Z2 Tablet is certainly a worthwhile Android alternative. **ts**

## QUICK SPECS

**Size**  
172 x 266 x 6.4 mm

**Display type**  
10.1" TFT (Triluminos with X-Reality engine), 224 ppi

**Processor**  
Qualcomm Snapdragon 801  
(2.3 GHz Quad-core)

**Camera**  
8.1 megapixel,  
1080p video

**OS**  
Android 4.4.2  
(Kit-Kat)

**Connectivity**  
3G, LTE, Wi-Fi, NFC

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# LENOVO

## ThinkPad Tablet 2

Windows 8 tablets seem to be growing and maturing into their skin, with the latest evidence of this coming from Lenovo's ThinkPad Tablet 2.

To start with, the tablet is the kind of product one would expect from Lenovo – well built, solid and subtly blending a bit of a conservative business aesthetic with sophisticated chicness. Put simply, the 600 g tablet both looks and feels smart and striking. In the ergonomic stakes, the 10.1" tablet has smoothly rounded corners, and the left hand side of the device (when held in landscape orientation), holds the included stylus, and boasts a lovely curvature.

### Speed thrills

The former actually works very well – the tablet is fast, responsive, and we dare say Windows 8's swipes (from the far right to open the Charms bar and upwards from the bottom for additional functions) showed no lag whatsoever. Additionally, the performance here is particularly good, thanks to its Intel Atom processor Z2760 (@1.8 GHz) and 2 GB of memory. Whether watching a movie, playing a game or turning pages on the Kindle app, we had no complaints.

**The Tablet 2 is dare we say one of the best 10" Windows tablets we have come across to date.**

Although the screen resolution is 1366x768, we were nonetheless



impressed by the sharpness and very good contrast on offer, which made watching movies in particular a treat. Where the tablet really scores from a productivity point of view is that it has a full-sized USB port neatly tucked away behind a small plastic covering, complemented by a microSD card slot as well.

### Small nuisances

While the built-in stylus is great to have, we found its accuracy to be finicky, which made selecting particular files a hit-and-miss affair. Additionally, we would have preferred if the volume, power and auto-rotate toggle buttons were made a bit more distinguishable. In terms of volume output, it was decent, not exceptionally loud but we could still comfortably watch a movie sans headphones nonetheless. These, however, are small niggles. The tablet also lived up to its claimed ten hours battery life, an attribute we suspect was enabled by the processor.

As far as 10" Windows 8.1 tablets go, the ThinkPad Tablet 2 is dare we say one of the best 10" Windows tablets we have come across to date. RRP: R10 000 for Wi-Fi version. [RN] **ts**



# NOKIA

## Lumia 1320

The Lumia 1320 is another one of Nokia's 6" phablet devices, and a lesser specced version of the Lumia 1520. We give this affordable phablet a spin.

The 1320, just like its flagship 1520 brother, features a 6" display, but scales down on a host of key elements such as screen quality, camera specs and processor chipset. Luckily, it also downs the price to a very affordable R5 000.

**Enough to get by**

The engine in the 1320 is a 1.7 GHz Qualcomm Snapdragon S4 dual-core processor, the same as the Samsung S4 Mini. This is supported by 1 GB of RAM and 8 GB of internal memory, with a microSD slot for up to 64 GB. It may not seem that powerful, but it more than copes with the demands multitasking and video playback. Those looking for high-end imaging, like the Nokia 1020's 41 megapixel camera, should look elsewhere however, as Nokia has fitted only a five megapixel camera on the 1320's rear. The imaging quality is adequate at best, struggling in low light, and producing grainy images in digital zoom.



**The 1320 is ideal for users looking for a phablet experience, but unwilling to pay close to R10K to get it.**

Sticking with the rear, the 1320 features a removable back cover, which feels cheap and offers little protection. The Corning Gorilla Glass 3 screen on the other hand is strong enough to cope with rugged handling. It also displays 720p content, with 245 ppi pixel density, falling short of the Lumia 1520 (367 ppi). This lower ppi issue is however negated by Nokia's ClearBlack technology, ensuring the screen retains vibrancy and brightness.

### Final Verdict

For everyday use, the Lumia 1320 still has plenty to offer users, with issues such as the cheap back cover, lackluster camera and insufficient use of the 6" screen, slowly fading away with increased use. This lead us to believe that the Lumia 1320 is the first in a trend that will slowly begin developing within the phablet market, as users are looking for a phablet experience, but are unwilling to pay close to R10K to get it. If that's you, and you enjoy the Windows Phone 8 interface, the Lumia 1320 is an enticing mid-range phablet option, especially at R5 000. [RLC] **ts**



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# OLYMPUS OM-D E-M10

If you can't afford the awesome E-M1, the E-M10 might just be your next favourite mirrorless from Olympus.

When first holding the E-M10, it's difficult to believe that so much camera is crammed into such a small little body. And it is exactly these two elements that place the E-M10 so high up on our next-camera-to-buy list. Put the E-M10 next to the entry-level Canon 1200D and it actually looks like a toy. But it's a far cry from a children's plaything, since found inside this 16 MP camera is all the specs to make it a solid mid-range option.

## In the line-up

In the Olympus OM-D line-up, the E-M10 falls beneath the older excellent E-M5 and the absolutely sublime E-M1 (R20k body only). But as a matter of fact, you'll be better off dropping your bucks on the E-M10 instead of the E-M5, since included is a better adjustable touchscreen at the back, more focus points, Wi-Fi and also a few added in-camera functions, sans weatherproofing unfortunately.

**As a matter of fact, you'll be better off dropping your bucks on the E-M10 instead of the E-M5.**

As always, Olympus believes that almost every button should be customisable, making it dead-easy to set it up to make shooting a breeze. Included are dials at both the front and the back, allowing you to adjust aperture on the one, and exposure compensation on the other. Because



the camera is so small (it weighs a mere 396 g) things do get a bit cramped, and you need to pick carefully when pressing a button. You can, of course, also select your options via the touchscreen, but why Olympus have not made a bigger touch-friendly interface yet is beyond us. The screen could have been more touch-sensitive since we had quite a few miss-presses, while we also managed to accidentally adjust the front-dial a number of times.

Yes, the E-M10 makes use of an electronic viewfinder (EVF), and no, you need not worry about it, since we actually had difficulty going back to optical after the see-exactly-how-your-photo-will-look EVF.

## The one to get?

As with its bigger brothers, image quality on the E-M10 can simply not be faulted, although we must confess that we prefer the 12-50mm F3.5-6.3 zoom as found on the E-M5 to the 14-42mm F3.5-5.6 that is sold with the E-M10 in SA. It retails for R13 300, which is a bit more than we bargained for. [MJ] **ts**

# LEAP Motion Controller

**The Leap Motion controller is a peripheral with plenty of potential, but whether or not it's a giant step for mankind is debatable.**

Like many of the gadget obsessed out there, we love products that are at the forefront of tech, and the motion-enabled, gesture-controlled Leap Motion falls into that category. So when we got the chance to test out its touch-less application interface, we immediately begun thinking of a *Minority Report*-like world, where we could command everything with a simple wave of the hand. Sadly the Leap Motion disappointed in this regard, but still has plenty of potential for application in other ways.

## Sleekly refined

If there's one thing the Leap Motion is, it's a beautifully designed piece of technology encased within an aluminum frame that begs for further investigation. The 3" long, 45 g body of this surreptitious device houses a range of 3D infrared sensors, used to track its user's hands, with enough accuracy to pinpoint the joints of each finger.

**At this stage it feels more like an expensive gimmick than game changing gadget.**

While setting up the device, one is prompted to place it in front and to the centre of their PC or notebook (Windows 7 and higher, or OS X and up), with a micro-B to USB cable as its only power source.



So begins your orientation session, which certainly takes some time to get use to, considering the very alien sensation that comes with suspending your hands above one's keyboard instead of on it. It also requires a great deal of time and poise to master, so patience is indeed a virtue.

## Applications welcome

Once acclimatised to your new interface, users are introduced to the Airspace dashboard, which houses the various applications that can be downloaded, both free or priced at roughly \$5 (R53) each. These apps form the basis of the Leap Motion experience, and ultimately determine whether the device thrives or not, as it cannot be used as a permanent replacement for one's mouse or trackpad.

At this stage, the Leap Motion seems best suited to use as a gaming device or educational tool, and simply cannot compete on the traditional computing function front. When you add to this the fact that it retails for R1 300, it feels more like an expensive gimmick than game changing gadget. [RLC] **ts**



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# ZyXEL



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\* 40GB Free once-off data with ZyXEL gateways only, terms and conditions apply  
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# JAWBONE

## Mini Jambox

**The Mini Jambox from Jawbone is an exquisitely beautiful portable speaker with a surprisingly crisp and sharp performance to match. But is that enough to justify its R2 000 price tag?**

The Mini Jambox is the most diminutive speaker offering from Jawbone, but what it lacks in size it more than makes up for in looks, resembling a piece of colourful coral in many regards. By virtue of its US-based manufacturers relatively unknown status in South Africa, it also carries a double-take inducing price tag of R2 000, placing it the upper end of the portable speaker pricing scale.

### Size matters

Even though Mini Jambox is far smaller than its bigger brothers (measuring 15.4 cm long and weighing in at a relatively light 255 g given its aluminium construction) it still produces fantastic sound quality that will impress even the harshest of critics. The audio comes courtesy of a pair of stereo acoustic drivers and a passive bass radiator, ensuring music remains crisp, even on higher volumes. Most importantly, the Mini Jambox does not produce any trace of tinnyness, which is an issue often found in portable speakers, while you also get ten hours of solid play, making it perfect for the office or home.



**The Mini still produces fantastic sound quality that will impress even the harshest of critics.**

Setting up the Mini Jambox is perhaps our biggest gripe with it, as wireless play first requires the downloading of the Jawbone mobile app (iOS and Android only), before a Bluetooth connection can be established. As frustrating as this process was, the Jawbone app does give access to a host of useful features such as calendar syncing for voice reminders and loading of playlists from third-party apps like Spotify. Wired use on the other hand, is simply facilitated via a 3.5 mm headphone jack on the Mini Jambox's side.

### But R2 000?

All things considered, the Mini Jambox is a supremely satisfying portable speaker, and even though it does carry a big R2 000 price-tag, it feels every bit a premium device with no true shortcomings at all. Should a high-end portable speaker be what you're looking for, you cannot go wrong with the Mini Jambox. [RLC] **ts**

### ADVERTORIAL

# XTOUCH

## X3 Hexa-Core smartphone

**In a saturated market of smartphones, the XTOUCH X3 Hexa-Core smartphone has a few tricks up its sleeve to differentiate itself.**

To start with, the X3 smartphone has clearly taken care of the basics, sporting Mediatek's MTK6591 Six Cortex-A7 1.5 GHz CPU, a solid 2 GB of memory along with 16 GB of onboard storage. According to Xtouch, the presence of the A7 processor translates into buttery-smooth video playback and gameplay.

**Apart from its full HD screen, where the X3 really stands out is in the fact that it is a dual-SIM phone.**

The company stressed that as a general rule of thumb, efficiency and quality set new benchmarks for user experience, adding that response times in swiping and page transitions, as well as boot-up times, app and webpage loading, stability, and gaming performance were all paramount. Naturally the smartphone has been designed to have these all well in hand.

With the basic internals taken care of, the next critical part of a smartphone is, of course, its screen. On this front, the Xtouch X3 is clearly running alongside the large-sized smartphone set, boasting a 5.5" display with a reassuringly impressive full HD (1920x1080) resolution. Furthermore, the screen has a glossier than average finish. Additionally, viewing angles and contrast ratio have been paid particular attention to here, while its LCD display also lights up more brightly for indoor and outdoor use.



### Now for something different

However, where the X3 really stands out is in the fact that it is a dual-SIM phone – very handy for travelers, as well as those who avail themselves of different call and data rates, and not a feature that is all that common. The smartphone further boasts a smart gesture feature for convenience and easy access to basic phone functionality like making a phone call by typing the letter 'C' or typing the letter 'M' to access music while the phone is on standby.

Also onboard is an eight megapixel rear camera with flash and two megapixel front camera, complemented by one touch editing features. More specifically, the handset automatically creates Video Highlights, which are essentially personal 'sizzle reels' crafted from photos and movies the user has captured each day. For more information, you can visit [www.xtouchdevice.com](http://www.xtouchdevice.com) or email [sales@xtouchdevice.com](mailto:sales@xtouchdevice.com). **ts**

# MSI GE60

## Apache LE



**MSI's GE60 Apache LE notebook is a beastly gaming notebook at an affordable price, bringing gamers extreme performance that's also easy on their budget.**

High performance gaming notebooks are notoriously expensive, but the GE60 Apache LE notebook aims to buck this trend, carrying a more affordable pricetag of R13 500. This has been accomplished by dropping the integrated SteelSeries backlit keyboard found on other notebooks in the range.

Contrary to popular belief, gaming notebooks aren't simply restricted to one singular function. Likewise, not all gamers require a peacock-like machine that shoots out fireworks to garner the attention of others – facts that MSI clearly recognise and have kept in mind when designing the GE60 Apache LE notebook.

### Eye-catching Full High-Definition

To its credit, MSI has not skimped on the display since incorporated into the GE60 is the same 1920x1080 full high-definition 15.6" LED panel as seen in the high-end Apache models, with the range's trademark bright, crisp visuals being present here as well. The latest Intel 4th generation mobile processor, the i5-4210H (clocked up to 3.5 GHz), backed up by 8 GB of DDR3 RAM, help to ensure the GE60 Apache LE meets the standards of a modern quad-core gaming notebook.

The very latest in mobile graphics tech from NVidia, the GTX 850M 2 GB dedicated graphics card, makes a welcome appearance in the GE60 Apache LE and produces some interesting results in its benchmark scores. According to Evetech.co.za, both Batman Arkham Origins and Borderlands 2 average at over 60 frames per second on high settings, producing a healthy, locked 1080p. Meanwhile, Call of Duty: Ghosts hovers just above the 50 FPS mark on high settings while The Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim averages around 45 FPS. Impressively, the GPU keeps up to the demands of all modern PC games at full-HD on high settings and always operates at acceptable frame rates, rarely dipping below the crucial 30 FPS mark, persistently nipping at the heels of its older sibling, the GTX 860M.

**THE GE60 APACHE LE NOTEBOOK AIMS TO BUCK THE EXPENSIVE GAMING NOTEBOOK TREND, CARRYING A MORE AFFORDABLE PRICETAG OF R13 500.**

As far as networking and connectivity features are concerned, users will find support for the latest wireless networking protocol 802.11ac. According to Evetech, this affords massively improved signal range and theoretical speeds of up to 7 Gb/sec. The latest Bluetooth 4.0 joins the party along with USB 3.0 ports, accommodating connectivity to all sorts of high-speed external devices, whether they be wired or wireless.

### Icing on the cake

The MSI GE60 Apache LE retails for R 13 500 including VAT, is an MSI exclusive to South Africa, and is ambitiously aimed at creating ripples in the entry-level gaming laptop market. The unit is available from Evetech ([www.evetech.co.za/mobile](http://www.evetech.co.za/mobile)), with a range of additional peripherals that can further augment the notebook, including larger hard-drives, a solid state drive or more memory. **ts**

## QUICK SPECS

**Processor**  
Core i5-4210H (clocked up to 3.5 GHz)

**Graphics Card**  
Nvidia GTX 850M with 2 GB memory

**Memory**  
8 GB DDR3

**Screen Resolution**  
1920x1080, 15.6"

# ZYXEL AMG1312-T10B Wireless N ADSL2+ 4-port Gateway

For those seeking optimal performance in their Wi-Fi connectivity, using the best hardware is paramount. Discover the ZyXEL AMG1312-T10B Wireless N ADSL2+ 4-port Gateway.



A large contributing factor to how stable and speedy one's in-home or business Wi-Fi connectivity is, is determined by the strength of the gateway or router being used. To this end, the ZyXEL AMG1312-T10B, which runs the 802.11n standard, has a number of impressive features, starting with enabling its users to achieve wireless data rates of up to 300 Mbps. This makes it ideal for those seeking high speed delivery of data and multimedia. Furthermore, the gateway addresses another critical issue in homes and businesses alike, by eliminating dead zones – areas in which the connected solution does not or cannot reach and thus Wi-Fi connectivity becomes unavailable.

No less important is that the product is also backward compatible with any IEEE 802.11 b/g certified device, and supports multiple SSIDs with individual security settings.

#### Just in case

The gateway also boasts a failover feature, and can revert to optional 3G/LTE connectivity should there be a DSL outage. Internet traffic would then be temporarily routed through a 3G/LTE dongle plugged into the USB port, and automatically switch back to DSL once the regular broadband service resumes. The company reassured that the AMG1312-T10B works with most locally available 3G/LTE dongles from mobile broadband service providers. A frequently updated firmware file available from the local website, can be downloaded and installed to your router, adding more 3G/LTE dongles to the list

of compatible dongles, also available on the local website. This router can also be set up in E-WAN mode, allowing users to access the internet via fiber, for example FTTH (Fiber-to-the-Home).

A particular strength of the gateway is that it can be connected to the internet in a number of ways, including through DSL, mobile connectivity (3G or LTE) using the USB port, as well as FTTH (Fiber-to-the-Home) and WiMax via E-WAN. This gives an array of failover alternatives.

**This router can also be set up in E-WAN mode, allowing users to access the internet via fiber, for example FTTH (Fiber-to-the-Home).**

The ZyXEL AMG1312-T10B further boasts essential Quality of Service (QoS) features. This enables users to design their QoS policies and prioritise critical services such as IPTV and VoIP (Voice over IP), specifying exactly what service is given priority for the most data. What's notable is that this is a feature typically reserved for enterprise or large business, but similarly enables residential users to enjoy increased network efficiency and enhanced productivity.

With Wi-Fi remaining an essential means for connecting numerous devices to the internet, the humble gateway is a key component in enjoying unbridled, reliable and speedy connectivity. It has a RRP of R699. Visit [www.matrixwarehouse.co.za](http://www.matrixwarehouse.co.za) or call Nology on 0861-665-649 for more information. **ts**

## TRENDNET Wireless N Internet Cameras

Two of the most valued commodities at present are peace of mind and safety; both of which the use of internet cameras can go a long way towards providing.

To this end, Phoenix Distribution provides two solutions in particular, the Trendnet Wireless N Internet Camera, model TV-IP551WI and the Trendnet Wireless N Day / Night Internet Camera, model TV-IP551W, both of which offer a wealth of useful features.



#### Trendnet TV-IP551W

The Wireless N Internet Camera transmits real-time video over the internet. Wireless N technology provides unsurpassed wireless coverage and improved streaming video quality, while Wi-Fi Protected Setup (WPS) enables users to add this camera to their wireless network at the touch of a button. Features include the facility to record 640x480 (VGA) video at up to 20 frames per second (fps), while up to 32 Trendnet cameras can be managed with the included complimentary camera management software. Furthermore, advanced features include adjustable

motion detection recording areas, email alerts, scheduled recording sessions, one-way audio, an adjustable lens, and four times digital zoom. A wall/ceiling mounting kit is included and the camera's off-white housing blends into most environments.

#### Trendnet TV-IP551WI

As with the former, the Wireless N Day/Night Internet Camera similarly transmits real-time video over the internet. It too can record 640x480 (VGA) video at up to 20 frames per second (fps), while accommodating the management of up to 32 Trendnet cameras with the included software.

However, the TV-IP551WI goes a step further by boasting the ability to record crisp video in complete darkness for distances of up to 7.5 meters. While Wireless N technology provides unsurpassed wireless coverage and improved streaming video quality, Wi-Fi Protected Setup (WPS) also takes care of ensuring that setup is hassle-free. As on the TV-IP551W, its advanced features set adds adjustable motion detection recording areas, email alerts, scheduled recording sessions, one-way audio, an adjustable lens, and four times digital zoom.

In short, both cameras offer the means to more securely monitor your premises, both during the day, as well as at night. For more information visit Phoenix Distribution at [www.phoenixdistribution.co.za](http://www.phoenixdistribution.co.za) or call 011-592-9200. **ts**



# TOP 3 ACTION CAMERAS



When it comes to Action Cameras, the GoPro Hero 3 has become the go-to choice for many videographers and adrenaline junkies alike, but variety is the spice of life. With that in mind, we've compiled a list of the top action camera alternatives.

## Prestigio Multirunner 710X – R2 850

Ring in at just under R3 000, the Multirunner 710X is the most affordable action camera on our list, and serves as a great option for those looking to get into filming their extreme sport exploits. Added to this, is the ability to record full HD content (1920x1080) at 30 fps, as well as capture 5 MP photos.

The design of the Multirunner is fairly compact, resembling a small flashlight and measuring a mere 95 mm long, making it easy to carry and setup with little or no hassle. On the rear, the 710X features a microSD card slot for up to 32 GB worth of content and HDMI output for TV playback. Furthermore, the 710X can be attached to one's chest or wrist, as well as mounted to a dashboard, bike, ski or surfboard via its rotatable brackets, all of which is included when purchased from [www.divetek.co.za](http://www.divetek.co.za) locally.

## iON Air Pro 3 – R3 800

Next up is the iON Air Pro 3 action camera, which has a similar look and feel to that of the Multirunner 710X, but steps it up a notch with the notable addition of Wi-Fi connectivity and a handy App for easier operation. It also features a very solid design and weighs in at 142 g, which lends itself well to robust use in a variety of scenarios.

The iON Air Pro 3 is capable of recording 1080p full HD content thanks to its 12 megapixel sensor, also boasting single shot, time lapse and 10 photo time burst modes. Enhancing the iON Air Pro's hard wearing status, is the ability to operate underwater at 15 m, with an added waterproof mic and 8 GB worth of free cloud storage. Included with purchase is a fastening strap, helmet mount, tripod and adhesive pads to further secure the iON Air Pro 3.



## Garmin Virb Elite – R5 600

One name synonymous with outdoor tech is Garmin, and its Virb Elite action camera is slowly gaining a reputation as one of the best options out there. Compared to the iON Air Pro 3, the Virb Elite favours a flatter, slightly more rectangular shape, wrapped in a rubberised shell to protect against any knocks taken during use. Garmin has incorporated a 16 megapixel CMOS sensor, which is higher than the other action cameras listed, capturing 1080p full HD content at 30 fps.

One of the Virb Elite's defining features, is its built-in 1.4" Chroma display, which is extremely useful when initially setting up the camera and establishing the viewing angles for recorded video. This display also allows users to scroll through different menu options and settings, as well as provide video playback. It may retail for R5 600, but the on-device display and high quality sensor make a winning combination for any avid extreme sport videographer. **ts**



# ACER FOR EDUCATION

## bringing technology to South Africa

**Acer is not just passionate about technology, it also has a rich heritage and passion around education, and aims to bring its ethos of breaking barriers between people and technology to this arena as well.**

A particular focus for the company is on creating innovative technology for the classroom to help students broaden their horizons with new avenues of communication and interaction. The company stressed that its trusted solutions are easy to use for teachers and students alike, empowering both groups to keep pace with today's high-tech world.

"At Acer we have a global Business Unit which focuses solely on the Education market," said Acer South Africa Education manager, Marius Le Grange. "We fully understand that educational requirements differ largely to those in the corporate market and The Acer Group has invested a lot into Research and Development to cater for these specific audiences."

**ACER BELIEVES STUDENT SUCCESS IS BEST SERVED BY A COMBINATION OF LEARNING AND TEACHING PLATFORMS AND THE INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIRED TO INTEGRATE INTO THE CLASSROOM.**

Acer's full line of education products are designed specifically for students' exploration beyond the classroom, and support the 1-to-1 learning approach in all subjects, enabling the training process in an easy and efficient way. By pushing the boundaries of innovation, Acer has developed partnerships with third parties to build an Education Ecosystem aimed to provide best-in-class solutions.

### The importance of partners

One example of this is the Acer Education Solution Centre, the first of its kind in South Africa and the extension of the already very successful Acer Education Partner programme, which delivers in-depth knowledge of Acer products. Launched in 2010, the Acer Education Partner programme is an exclusive certification recognising Acer Partners that are able to provide a high level of expertise to the South African Education Sector. The Solution Training Centre allows visitors to view the latest in the Windows-based Acer product portfolio available to the educational market, and also offers visitors a hands-on demonstration of all Acer Classroom Management Software – which is free to all Acer Educational Customers, as well as other educational content.

Additionally, Acer is also the official provider of ASAUDIT (Association of South African University Directors of Information Technology), PURCO SA (Purchasing Consortium of Southern Africa) and Microsoft in the Student Technology Programme (STP). The STP was established in October 2011 to allow students of the 25 Public Universities in South Africa to purchase prescribed IT hardware, pre-loaded with the latest, top of the range Microsoft software at a significantly reduced cost. This can make a significant difference to students who are seeking a leg-up with regards to obtaining technology, but may not yet have the funds to pay full price.

### The game of life

Another landmark partnership affirming Acer's commitment to education was the establishment of the Orlando Pirates Learning Centre at the Orlando Stadium in 2012, together with Orlando Pirates Football Club. This unique project is designed to assist with and improve on the numeracy and literacy skills of the children living in and around the Orlando township, and provides pupils with a supplementary understanding of their school curriculum in critical subjects such as maths, science and English.

### Reaching beyond

Finally, Acer has extended the reach of its passion for education beyond South Africa's borders. To this end, together with business partners CreActive Credit and Axiz Workgroup, it collaborated in March 2013 to contribute to the construction of a fully functional e-learning classroom in the Rashinga district (North East district) of Zimbabwe. The first of its kind technology driven education facility, based at the Mary Mount School, provides up to 600 learners with world class computer-based education. The aim of this project is to equip each pupil with essential skills as well as contribute to their daily classroom experience and see them one day achieve the dreams they aspire to.



Furnished with top of the line Acer products, including Acer notebooks, desktops, monitors as well as an Acer Education interactive whiteboard, the Acer solution further comprises of a fully interactive projector. With this, Mary Mount can thus be brought in line with many other schools in terms of the technology at their disposal.

### Holding true

Acer believes student success is best served by a combination of learning and teaching platforms and the infrastructure required to integrate into the classroom now and in the future. What's more, the company holds that exploration through technology is a right, not a privilege. Its ambition may be called lofty but it's not unachievable, and is nothing less than providing a better future for the next generation. **ts**

# LEARNFAST touts the value of talent

**Talent can be an elusive quality to pin down, never mind attract and retain, but the benefits of doing so can be pivotal to any business.**

According to Learnfast, one definition of talent is "a capacity for achievement or success." The company explained that increased competitive landscapes require that businesses focus their efforts on bottom-line building by means of reduced costs, increased profitability and a customer-centric approach that sets them apart from their competitors. Learnfast asserted that organisations with the deepest talent banks are positioned to be the most competitive, and stressed that effort is now needed to be shared not only with finding a talented workforce, but also retaining this talent within the organisation.

## People power

Learnfast elaborated that dynamic skill requirements and emergent technologies are two of the main factors that have lead human resource professionals to rethink the way they align their efforts to the overall company strategies and how they add value in the fight to remain competitive and profitable. In most organisations, competitive advantage is created by the value that people in the business add. It has been proposed that people are the one asset that employers can expend copious amounts of energy and money on developing to gain competitive advantage, purely because of the impossibility of competitors to imitate people.

**The attribute that remains most appealing to the right human assets, is the one in which their personal and professional development is highly valued.**

Retaining and attracting talented individuals into an organisation has numerous contributors such as organisational design and leadership, but the attribute that remains most appealing to the right human assets, is the one in which their personal and professional development is highly valued. Via properly formulated personal development plans (PDPs), individuals can be empowered to add further value to their organisations through better efficiency (hard skills) and better interpersonal interaction (soft skills).

## Valuable advice

Sourcing reputable, accredited training providers that can partner with companies to assist in the development and execution of these plans could save you or your HR practitioner valuable time and money. The right advice is critical to successful employee development, so explore your options and make the call today. For more information on Learnfast's computer- and soft skill courses, visit [www.learnfast.co.za](http://www.learnfast.co.za) or call 011-262-2054 in Johannesburg or 012-643-1409 in Pretoria. **ts**





# learnfast

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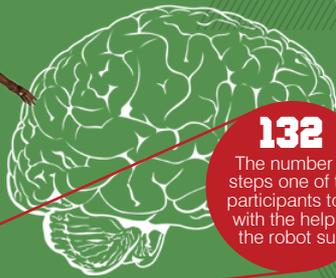
**WE DELIVER**

# THE BEAUTIFUL SCIENCE BEHIND THE BEAUTIFUL GAME

With the World Cup continuing in Brazil, we check out some of the important science behind the beautiful game.

#1

## MIND GAMES



**132**

The number of steps one of the participants took with the help of the robot suit.

You might have spotted the paralysed man in an exoskeleton help kick off the 2014 World Cup. How does this mind-controlled robotic exoskeleton work? Electrodes that record brain signals generated when thinking how to kick a ball relay them to a backpack processor. Here the signals are converted into movement commands for the robot limbs and once the footplate touches the ground, sensors return info to the receiver to say that the next command is awaited. Although the suit looks a bit unwieldy, it's hoped that the symbolic kick-off will spur further research to make walking again a reality for paraplegics.

Read more about the research at [www.nicolelislabs.net](http://www.nicolelislabs.net).



#2

## HEAD OVER HEELS

Heading a ball may not be the smartest thing to do in the long run. Scientists recently studied MRI-type brains scans of 37 amateur soccer players who had all been playing for more than 20 years. Players who headed balls more than 885 times a year all showed signs of concussion-like brain injuries, although they experienced no symptoms. Results also showed that after more than 1800 headings a year, a player may score poorly on memory tests. With an average of up to 12 heading chances per game and 30 per practice session, players should best use their heads wisely.

**85 KM/H**

Top speed of a soccer ball during a goal kick or drop kick.



#3

## CURVE BALLS

**1.56 MM**

Seam depth of the Brazuca, 1.5 times as deep as that of a standard 32-panel ball.

Physicists say the Brazuca, the new six-panel ball used during this World Cup, performs very similar to a standard 32-panel ball – unlike the Jabulani used in South Africa in 2010. Despite having fewer seams and a shorter total seam length than other World Cup balls, including the standard 32-panel, the Brazuca has deeper and knoblier seams. This, the scientists say, reduces drag around the ball and prevents unpredictable swing at typical goal kick speeds.



#4

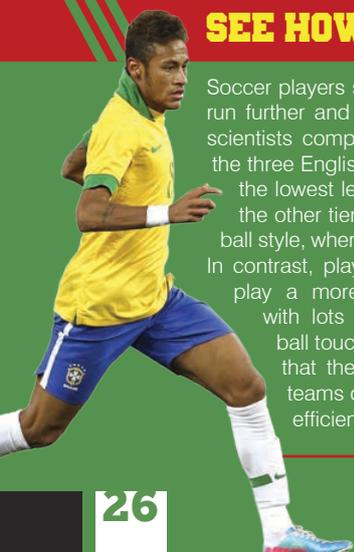
## SEE HOW THEY RUN

Soccer players still working their way up the ranks seem to run further and harder than their elite counterparts. Sport scientists compared the distances run during matches in the three English soccer leagues and found that players in the lowest league run significantly more than players in the other tiers. This is likely because they adopt a long-ball style, where they kick and rush after the ball.

In contrast, players in the top ranks tend to play a more technically skilled game, with lots of successful passes and ball touches. The research suggests that the technical skill seen in top teams contributes to a more energy-efficient playing style.

**120 M**

Maximum length of a soccer pitch



#5

## STEPHEN SAYS SO

**23**

Number of World Cup games England have won since 1966 before 2014

When trying to derive a formula to predict the chances of England's wins for an Irish online betting site, Stephen Hawking conceded that "compared to football, quantum physics is relatively straightforward". Based on statistical analysis of data on England's World Cup performances since 1966, Hawking predicts that games that kick off close to 15:00 and are played at low altitudes in temperate climates might help England to score. A European ref was also present in 63% of England's winning games. Hawking's money is going on Brazil to clinch the cup, but then again, Hawking bet against the discovery of the Higgs boson. [LP] **ts**



Sources: Snippet 1: <http://nbcnews.to/19zUao> • [bit.ly/1pHzfdz](http://bit.ly/1pHzfdz) | Snippet 2: [bit.ly/1qbzJLB](http://bit.ly/1qbzJLB) • [bit.ly/1oDW8E3](http://bit.ly/1oDW8E3) | Snippet 3: [bit.ly/U9iCz7](http://bit.ly/U9iCz7) • [bit.ly/1nemkOQ](http://bit.ly/1nemkOQ) | Snippet 4: [bit.ly/U9iS0O](http://bit.ly/U9iS0O) | Snippet 5: <http://nbcnews.to/1kMB1am> • [fifa.to/1f5ph8b](http://fifa.to/1f5ph8b)

## SCIENCE

## PIC OF THE MONTH



A new image from the Hubble Space Telescope shows the spiral galaxy NGC 3081, located in the Hydra constellation a brief 86 million light-years away. At the centre of the galaxy, forming the bright centre, is what is thought to be a supermassive black hole, glowing brightly due to the in-falling material that is 'devoured'. The bright loop on the edge is what is called a resonance ring, and typically forms in locations known as resonances where gas piles up, leading to spurts of new star formation.

Image credit: ESA/Hubble & NASA; acknowledgement: R. Buta (University of Alabama)

Text credit: European Space Agency

## SMART ANSWERS

Life is full of questions that need smart answers. We can help.



### GET BACK YOUR GRIP

#### Can science help us outsmart strokes?

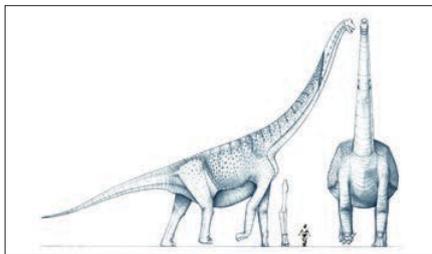
In the way we fight back, yes.

**How?** A recent study showed that by using specific antibodies to stimulate new nerve growth and then retraining the muscles, rats that had been paralysed after a stroke could learn to grip again.

**What's the trick?** The timing has to be right. The results showed that by starting muscle training only after new nerves have sprouted, the rats regained 85% of the muscle control in their front legs. But if they started muscle training while new nerves were growing, they could muster only 15%.

**How does this help us?** Understanding that the brain needs the right tools before learning how to use them, we can develop more targeted treatment schedules for stroke patients.

Source: [bit.ly/1pSCW2k](http://bit.ly/1pSCW2k)



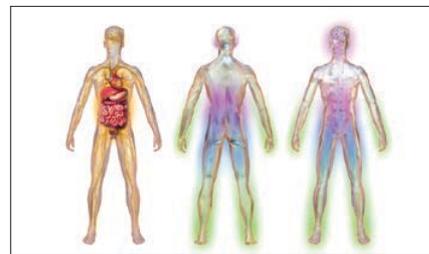
### BIG DINOS, SMALL EGGS

**How big were sauropod eggs?** About the size of an ostrich egg – which is remarkably small considering that these giants weighed up to 100 times more.

**Why such small eggs?** Probably to limit the risk of the eggs being sitting ducks. Sauropods laid their eggs in cool underground nests. Scientists estimate that the eggs likely took 65 to 82 days to hatch. Bigger eggs would have incubated much longer in these conditions, which would have markedly upped the chance of a predator finding them.

**So how did a new generation survive at all?** Safety in numbers. The fossil record suggests that sauropods opted for several small nesting sites. So, if one nest was lost to a predator, there would have been enough others to ensure the species survived.

Source: [bit.ly/117KvTx](http://bit.ly/117KvTx)



### KNOWING WHERE IT HURTS

**How do we know where it hurts?** Our bodies have a pain map.

**Huh?** Yup. Scientists used two thin laser beams to induce brief pinprick sensations in a group of volunteers. The closer the stimulus moved to the body midline, the more acutely the sensation was felt. It's almost like contour lines bunching up along a steep slope.

**Why use a laser beam?** To stimulate only the pain nerves. Something like a needle would have activated the deeper-lying touch receptors too and so it wouldn't be clear whether the sensation is caused by touch or pain.

**What's the clinical value?** There is currently no way of isolating nerve damage that causes chronic pain. The new technique may allow doctors not only to pinpoint the right spot but also to track treatment success. **ts**

Source: [bit.ly/Tz0PAR](http://bit.ly/Tz0PAR)

Image credits:

1. Shutterstock. 2. Sauropod Vertebra Picture of the Week by Mike Taylor, Matt Wedel, Darren Naish is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Unported License. 3. Blausen 0311 DiabeticNeuropathy. Licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Unported License.

# HOT Top 6 HATCHES

Part of the reason why hot hatches hold such a soft spot for petrolheads, is their ability to deliver a more visceral experience that drivers can't get enough of. In their honour, we list the best hot hatches currently available.



## Ford Fiesta ST

The Fiesta ST may be the smaller brother to the Ford Focus, but it's certainly no red-headed stepchild, and deserves the utmost respect among all hot hatches on the market today. The reason for this is the Fiesta's strong pricing, which is listed at an estimated R240 000. This makes it relatively good value for money, given the high octane driving performance it can produce. When you add to this its exceptional build quality, the Ford Fiesta ST grows ever more enticing the longer one remains in its presence.

Perhaps viewed as a bit of an everyman's hatchback, the Fiesta ST's engine is far from pedestrian, fitted with a 1.6 litre 4 cylinder engine, tuned to produce 134 kW of power and 240 Nm of torque. This adds up to a vehicle capable of handling traffic during your morning commute, or racing between robots against pretentious coupés. The Fiesta ST also incorporates a host of standard features such as 17" alloy wheels, keyless smart entry and ST styling body kit to create a more muscular profile to the normal Fiesta model. All things considered, the Fiesta ST gives plenty of bang for your buck and is extremely worthy of its hot hatch moniker.



## Renault Clio RS 200

French cars have always carried the dubious reputation of being more style than substance, but in our opinion, the Renault Clio RS 200 has pretty much changed all that. It only takes a moment's glance to appreciate the Clio's radically re-styled looks, favouring a sleeker silhouette compared to the bubbled curves of previous years. This is particularly evident in its sloping bonnet, with a distinctly shaped grille that features the French manufacturer's iconic logo. If the Clio RS 200's design tickles your fancy, it will cost an estimated R295 000 and R315 000 for the Lux and Cup car models respectively.

If we delve a bit deeper, we find a four-cylinder 1.6 litre engine that develops 147 kW and 240 Nm of torque, placing it in the higher regions of the hot hatch power spectrum. These factors add up to a vehicle that registers a 0-100 km/h time of 6.7 seconds, which means it can go toe-to-toe with the vast majority of cars on the road today. Renault has also fitted the Clio with a specialised RS button which adjusts the transmission by modifying the gear shift programming and timing, pedal response and engine pitch. Va Va Voom indeed.



### Audi S1 Sportback

We first profiled the Audi S1 Sportback in this year's March issue, and since then it has been able to charm us even further, especially given the fact that Audi's A1 model does not necessarily inspire thoughts of speed and power. The key reason for the difference between the models, lies with the Quattro and S-Line styling influences littered throughout the S1 Sportback's design. This leads to a more athletic looking silhouette, which is echoed by the unique rear spoiler and quad-exhaust setup that the Sportback touts.

The S1 Sportback also features substantial bite to match its bark, with the same 4-cylinder engine setup as the other hatchbacks on this list, the key difference being that Audi's version produces 170 kW and 370 Nm of torque. Added to the Sportback's Quattro all-wheel drive system, it boasts a super 0-100 km/h time of 5.6 seconds, placing it head and shoulders above similarly specced and sized hatchbacks. Apart from its expertly tuned engine, the S1 Sportback also incorporates a dedicated navigation system, Bose audio setup and Wi-Fi hotspot capacity as standard. The one mark against it though is its price tag, listed at roughly R350 000.



### BMW M135i

Over the past few years, the BMW 1-Series has slowly become the go-to choice as far as high-end hot hatchbacks go, and the M135i model typifies that. Out of all the hot hatchbacks featured on this list, the M135i is one of the most powerful, by virtue of its M Performance TwinPower Technology which assists the six-cylinder engine to produce a mammoth 235 kW of power and 450 Nm of torque. As expected, this results in a 0-100 km/h time of 5.1 seconds, which edges it very close to supercar territory.

As a product of BMW's M Power high performance division, the M135i features a customised cooling system, engine sound tuning, newly designed six-speed transmission and M Power suspension for improved handling under tight turns. There are also a host of M emblem flourishes throughout the M135i, including the brake pads, interior side skirtings and engine itself. All these premium additions do come at a price though, with a R520 000 price tag that requires a bit of a double take. For this reason, the M135i is best limited to those with the means and intense passion for hot hatchbacks.



### Peugeot 208 GTi

Another French car manufacturer makes the Top 6 grade, in the form of Peugeot, a well-known name in the world of hot hatches, which has faltered in past years. Now the newly designed version of its 208 GTi is looking to reclaim some ground on the likes of the Fiesta ST and Renault Clio RS, which have gained a distinct advantage over it recently. In terms of styling, the 208 GTi is not a far departure from the shape we've come to expect from Peugeot's previous iterations. Instead the company's focus seems fixed on the car's performance and in-cabin experience over the radically styled hatchbacks like the Citroën DS3.

As with most of its hot hatch counterparts, the Peugeot 208 GTi has a 1.6 litre turbocharged four-cylinder engine, which comes courtesy of BMW and produces 147 kW of power. It's also rather quick, clocking a 0-100 km/h time of 6.8 seconds, placing it on a relative par with the Ford Fiesta ST. Compared to the ST, the 208 GTi is more expensive, with a price tag of R300 000, which affords users interior leather trim, dual-zone climate control and Recaro racing seats as standard, as well as digital instrument cluster. For drivers seeking a slightly more luxurious hot hatch to roll around the city in, the Peugeot 208 GTi may be right up their alley.



### Mercedes-Benz A45 AMG

Since its release, the A45 AMG from Mercedes-Benz has garnered rave reviews for its intoxicating combination of raw speed, unbridled power and exceptional build quality. When it first debuted, the A45 AMG took many by surprise, as the realm of hot hatchbacks was something that Mercedes-Benz never truly ventured in before. However, with this latest addition to the AMG stable, the Stuttgart-based manufacturer has made quite the impression.

This is principally encapsulated in the A45's AMG tuned 2.0 litre turbocharged engine, which is calibrated to emit 265 kW of power, 450 Nm of torque and to reach 100 km/h in a sublime 4.6 seconds. According to Mercedes, this engine is the most powerful series production four-cylinder engine in the world, giving it a better kW to litre ratio than the Bugatti Veyron (92 kW). As one might expect, this means the A45 AMG also carries a hefty price tag of R550 000, so interested buyers will have to check more than their sofas for loose change. [RLC] **TS**

by Mynhardt van Pletzen

# FORMAL BUSINESS STYLE

We know that it is not what you wear that makes you successful. It is however, also true that what you wear, and how you wear it, says a lot about yourself. Although we're not the biggest fans of the fake-it-until-you-make-it approach, at least not when it comes to your professional life, we are all for the idea of reflecting your drive, ambition and professional attitude in your working attire.

## SUIT UP

The suit is the foundation of any professional's style approach. It was a clever geek who once said "a well-tailored suit is to a woman what sexy lingerie is to men." Although we haven't the faintest how that relates to becoming the better business you, we do know that the only thing worse than having no suit at all, is having a bad one. Here's how to balance the books in the arena of the three-piece:

1. Much rather get two better quality suits than four cheapies.
2. For starters, invest in a plain black and dove grey suit – leave the stripes, blues, and browns for another day.
3. Remember: fit above everything. Make sure your suit is slimmed down and sag free.
4. The first person who utters the phrase double-breasted is going to get a staple to the forehead. Stick with the simplicity of a two-buttoned, single-breasted tailoring.



Grey/black suit. R900  
[Jacket] R350 [Pants]  
Signature, Edgars.



## TIE DOWN

When your suit communicates a subtle stability and security, you can use your shirts and ties to allow your personality to shine through. Although we'd still advise against going full circus clown in the shirt department, you can risk some colour and patterns when it comes to the tie. If you work five days a week, get five different shirts and ten different ties, with which you can create many different kinds of ensembles.

For the rest, we would suggest a fragrance that reflects both the serious and playful side of the professional you, and some understated, metal-rimmed shades for when you're in need of that chiseled poker face. Instead of considering a matching timepiece, why not go with the latest thing nowadays, a folding knife that fits in your pocket. It is sharp, effective and oozes a definite killer instinct – much like your new found business self. **ts**

Selection of colourful silk ties. R180 per 2 pack, Woolworths.

Ray Ban metal-rimmed sunglasses. R1 790, Sunglass Hut.



Chelsea Boots, black and brown. R800, Woolworths.



Kershaw Cryo Titanium. R590, NextField.



Hugo Boss Black 75ml. R665, Red Square.



Leathim iPad mini sleeve. R600, Leathim.com.



# Grooming: DENTAL HEALTH

Did you know that most big cat predators eventually die a slow and sad death by starvation? It's because their teeth are the first thing that go, and once those massive canines are gone, it's all downhill from there. Although we're not animals, we admit that sometimes we'd like to think of ourselves as lions. So, if you value your future pride, it's time to up your priorities when it comes to regularly checking in on your chompers.

Here's an arsenal of toothy tools that, when actually used right, might just guarantee long and happy dental days.

**Listerine Teeth & gum Mouthwash, 500ml. R60.**

As the most underestimated one on the list, the traditional mouthwash not only sanitise your dentures, but also freshens your breath. Gurgle, anyone?



**Oral B Satin Tape Floss, R55.**

Flossing might feel weird at first, but it's the best thing by far that you can do to avoid the horror that is the root canal procedure. Also, it's the kind of dental care you can do all day. Except when you're with people, of course.



**Aquafresh Extreme Clean, R14.**

**Colgate Optic White, R17.**

**Sensodyne Repair & Protect, R33.**

Getting to the cleansing part, we are spoilt for choice. Here's a collection of inspiring incarnations of old favorites, which can be used interchangeably to freshen up your regular routine. **ts**



**Oral B Vitality Precision, R350.**

Now we get to the actual gadgetry. If you haven't already, we strongly suggest adopting the phenomenal innovation that is the electronic toothbrush. It's simply cleaner with less fuss. Warning: do read the instructions on this one.

**Oral B Pro Expert Pulsar, R80.**

If you're still sceptic, but intrigued, why not opt for the cross-over brush. This one looks and feels like your pappy's old toothbrush, with the added bonus of some vibrating action. Apparently it helps.



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# Top 5 SPORTS MOVIES



## Rocky (1976)

Sport movies pride themselves on the underdog story and Sylvester Stallone's award-winning *Rocky* is testament to the triumph of the human spirit. The young Stallone began carving a long Hollywood career in 1976, after insisting he star in his own movie, despite the studio wanting to cast a known actor.

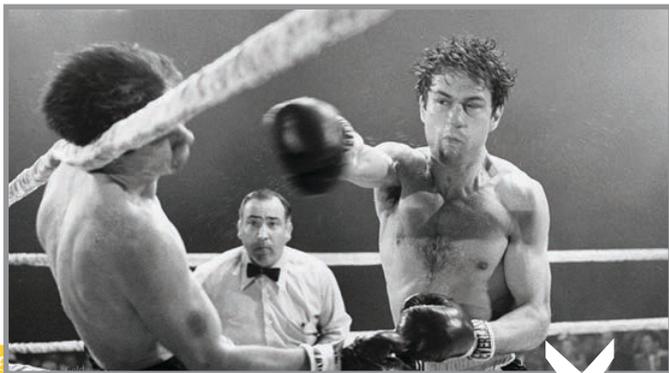
Survivor's *Eye of the Tiger* song became a sporting anthem the moment Rocky Balboa ascended those steps and the film's nuggety and sincere quality continues to shine through. Rocky embodies determination, perseverance and going the distance, principles that we can learn from and admire as sports fans.

**Best sporting moment:** When the bell rings in the 15th final round and all Rocky can think of is "Adrian!"

**Don't WING it,  
SPLING it!**

For awesome movie news and insightful reviews visit: [spling.co.za](http://spling.co.za) | [splingmovies.mobi](http://splingmovies.mobi) | [spling.mobi](http://spling.mobi)





## Raging Bull (1980)

Robert De Niro's red-blooded performance and amazing physical transformation earned him a well-deserved Oscar for *Raging Bull*. The actor's preparation for the role included winning two-of-three genuine Brooklyn boxing matches and gaining 27 kilograms to play the older Jake LaMotta.

The hard-hitting black-and-white sports drama is based on the cantankerous LaMotta, a prize fighter, whose rage wasn't limited to the ring. *Raging Bull* remains a masterpiece that saved and cemented Scorsese and De Niro's dynamic duo. After the real LaMotta saw the film, he realised what a terrible person he had been. When he asked his wife "Was I really like that?", she replied "You were worse."

**Best sporting moment:** In the final fight, when LaMotta is turned into a human punching bag by Sugar Ray Leonard.



## Rush (2013)

After Tom Cruise got behind the wheel in *Days of Thunder* and Sylvester Stallone wrote off *Driven*, it seemed we'd never see a high-calibre, high-octane motor racing movie. Ironically, history helped rewrite history when Ron Howard signed on to direct *Rush* the biographical drama-turned-thriller about the 1970s F1 championships.

An unlikely sports movie director was supported by two unlikely stars in Chris Hemsworth and Daniel Brühl, who deliver underrated performances in a vivid recreation of the merciless rivalry between James Hunt and Niki Lauda in the F1 Championship. An underdog through-and-through, *Rush* was unlucky not to get any Oscar nominations.

**Best sporting moment:** When James Hunt drops his driving gloves to deck a journalist.



## The Hustler (1961)

Some winners are born to lose. This paradox inspired Robert Rossen to direct *The Hustler*, a sports drama about a self-destructive pool player who challenges a long-time champion in a high stakes game. Paul Newman is Eddie Felson, a character who was probably inspired by *Raging Bull* boxing icon, Jake LaMotta, who has a cameo as a bartender.

*The Hustler* is a dark, beautifully shot and morally complex sports drama, packed full of great performances and led by iconic roles for Paul Newman and Jackie Gleason. The film inspired Martin Scorsese to direct *The Color of Money*, which saw Fast Eddie taking on a protégé.

**Best sporting moment:** All of the trick shots.



## The Wrestler (2008)

Wrestling is one of those sports that blurs the line between sportsmanship and entertainment. Whether it's staged or not, there's no denying the talent involved, from the character interplay to the live-action stunts. Darren Aronofsky explored a much grittier version of this world with Mickey Rourke playing an aging wrestler on the verge of retirement.

The stalwart role was an undisputed comeback for Rourke and made a fascinating character study as the actor essentially wrestled with demons from his own past. Tough, relentless and deeply affecting, *The Wrestler* makes a fitting companion piece to *Black Swan*. **ts**

**Best sporting moment:** When Rourke blades his forehead, for real.

**And all the runners up:** *Moneyball*, *The Big Blue*, *Field of Dreams*, *Chariots of Fire*, *Hoosiers*, *Bull Durham* and *Lagaan*.

# NEW Cinema

## RELEASES



### Dawn of the Planet of the Apes (11 July)

While it's got one of the most awkward movie titles known to man and the trailer features apes on horseback, everyone's biting their tongue. *Rise of the Planet of the Apes* outperformed our expectations and resurrected the *Planet of the Apes* dynasty after Tim Burton's much-satirised 2001 version.

That's why we hesitate to pass judgement, just in case Andy Serkis and *Cloverfield* director Matt Reeves manage to pull a primate out of the hat. It's a jungle out there, and with the help of an underdog cast in Gary Oldman, Keri Russell and Jason Clarke, this pre-sequel just might make you go bananas.



### Calvary (11 July)

If you enjoyed *In Bruges*, *Seven Psychopaths* or a little comedy crime caper called *The Guard*, you'll want to see *Calvary*. Brendan Gleeson has teamed up again with writer-director John Michael

McDonagh to bring us yet another darkly comic and scintillating Irish comedy drama.

This time around, Gleeson is a priest battling the dark forces that surround him after being threatened during a confession. Is it a grudge who wants him dead? We're treated to a zany cast of actors including Chris O'Dowd, Dylan Moran, Aiden Gillen, Isaach De Bankolé, M. Emmet Walsh and even Gleeson's son, Domhnall.



### Bad Neighbours (18 July)

Unless you own the apartment block, complex or road, you can't choose your neighbours. Seth Rogen and Rose Byrne play the disgruntled Radners, who find themselves on edge when a rowdy frat house moves in next door. Zac Efron, Christopher Mintz-Plasse and Dave Franco lead the frat pack in a comedy that escalates into a tit-for-fat war, featuring strategically placed airbags.

If you're at university, expecting or both, *Bad Neighbours* has got something for you.



### Possible Warner Bros. superhero movie slate

While somewhat unofficial and regarded as 'in flux', here is the DC Comics release schedule that Warner Bros. is supposedly unveiling at the next *Comic Con* according to former *Deadline* journalist, Nikki Finke. Looks like we're going to be stocked up on spandex, but where's *Aquaman*? May 2016 – *Batman v*

*Superman*, July 2016 – *Shazam*, December 2016 – *Sandman*, May 2017 – *Justice League*, July 2017 – *Wonder Woman*, December 2017 – *Flash and Green Lantern team-up*, May 2018 – *Man Of Steel 2*. **ts**



### Life of a King (18 July)

If you enjoyed Ian Gabriel's South African gangland crime thriller, *Four Corners*, you may be interested in *Life of a King*. Both dramas use chess as a central metaphor and a driving plot line

about community upliftment. The connection is so strong that they both featured as part of a unique parallel screening in San Francisco.

Cuba Gooding Jr. stars as Eugene Brown, a felon whose 18-year incarceration for bank robbery, led him to learn and embrace the life lessons from the game of chess. He won an Oscar for saying "Show me the money" – by playing a bank robber, there's a chance he'll get to say it again.



### Deliver us from Evil (18 July)

*The Exorcist* spawned a horror epidemic in its time and we're still feeling the shockwaves years later with based-on-actual-events exorcism movies. *Deliver us from Evil* stars Eric Bana, is directed

by Scott Derrickson and inspired by the actual accounts of a NYPD Sergeant. Bana isn't known for horror, but neither was Ethan Hawke when he starred in Derrickson's previous horror, *Sinister*.

*Deliver us from Evil* cleverly borrows its name from a searing 2006 documentary feature about the Catholic Church. Instead of building a case against a priest, this horror crime thriller sees a NY cop and an unconventional priest join forces to fight evil. **ts**

## MOVIE NEWS

### Goonies sequel in the works



"Goonies never say die." It seems that they're trying to live up to this motto after director Richard Donner announced that Steven Spielberg was on-track with a story for the proposed

sequel. If it does involve original cast members Sean Astin, Corey Feldman and Josh Brolin, the film-makers have already got the nod from both Astin and Feldman. The plot will probably revolve around the Goonies' offspring, which probably rules out an *It* style flashback reunion.

# ③ COMICS FOR NON-COMIC READERS

Figuring out which books to recommend to a non-comic reading person is difficult. Comic book guru Moray Rhoda skipped the classics (*Maus*) and the obvious (*Batman*), instead opting for easy accessible reading pleasures. So, new to comics? Try these.

## RUNAWAYS



Bryan K Vaughan (Marvel)  
2002-2007. Collected in 11 volumes

Technically set in the Marvel Universe, *Runaways* is kept separate from most other superheroes in Marvel's stable. Five teenagers who tolerate one another only because their parents are "business partners," spend a weekend together. They discover that their parents are part of a top secret super powered group bent on world domination. No spoilers here as this is all established in the first story and the rest of the series deals with the repercussions of this discovery. Realising that they are all in danger from the people they trust the most, the kids hit the road and on the way discover themselves, their powers, history and new friendships.

With fantastic pacing and extremely accessible writing, this is sure to be a hit with teen readers, while the many plot twists and turns along the way also ensure that the story has enough depth to keep adult readers guessing. The artwork in the book is perfect to the story and by the time superheroes eventually show up, they look completely suited to the world the reader has become used to.



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Created by Bill Willingham (DC Vertigo)  
Launched 2002, ongoing

## FABLES

Long before the bafflingly successful (and some say derivative) TV series called *Once Upon A Time*, there was *Fables*. Both stories have the somewhat similar premise of worlds where all the magical creatures fled their magical kingdoms and ended up living in a modern day large city. Similarities to the TV series basically end there as the *Fables*, as these magical creatures are known, are fully aware of their identity and history and what their powers are.

Stories featured follow different characters and combine fantasy tales with horror and crime noir thrillers, also drawing from global legends and myths. *Fables'* storytelling is compelling and deep, while the characters are strongly brought to life with great dialogue and story turns that will keep the reader completely engrossed.

Perfect for male and female readers, it effortlessly combines high action with thrilling drama to create a massive and believable new mythology.

For the gamers, Telltale Games has recently produced a highly acclaimed game following the exploits of Bigby Wolf, so if you crave more immersion after reading the books, check out *The Wolf Among Us*.

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## DEADLY CLASS

Rick Remender  
and Wes Craig (Image)  
Launched April 2014, ongoing

As the newest comic on the list, *Deadly Class* earns its place with tight storytelling and great characters combined with visually compelling art and beautifully choreographed action sequences. Paced like a thriller movie with fantasy elements, *Deadly Class* perfectly recreates the 1980s Reagan era in the USA. After years alone on the streets, Marcus Lopez becomes a pupil at Kings Dominion School of the Deadly Arts. The pupils are mostly teens from all over the world learning the fine art of assassination, and what is established early on is exactly how broken and messed-up they are. It's an intense look at feelings of being ostracized and being disconnected in an alien place, combined with real life-threatening danger.

The design of the layouts and paneling often reflect the inner landscape of the characters or the frenetic pace of the action perfectly and the artwork is perfectly complemented by incredible colour work, which also adds to the mood of individual scenes. Although violence and brutality are part of the storytelling, ultimately the deep exploration of the characters' psyches is the one thing that takes this book from just great to being exceptional. **ts**

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# TOP Tweets!



**Joshua Malina** @JoshMalina

.@miketyson Thoughts on Luis Suarez?

**Shari VanderWerf** @shariv67

God grant me the serenity to accept the terms and conditions I will not read.

**Deep Fried Man** @DeepFriedMan

I think foo is just misunderstood. Why can't we try loving foo instead of fighting foo?

**Tauriq Moosa** @tauriqmoosa

What games due to predict will get delayed? My money is on Dragon Age Inquisition. Seems too good to be true for October 7 release.

**Jason Berlin** @JasonBerlin

I'm fluent in C++, but only when I'm drunk.

**Steve Mieczkowski** @IGotsSmarts

I deserve atrophy for my commitment to not exercising.

**rikpayne** @rikpayne

In the alternate ending of the Karate Kid, Johnny kicks Daniel's head clean off and Mr. Miyagi admits he doesn't really know karate.

**Girrl Genius** @GirrlGenius

It's like 30k followers when all you need is a life.

**Matt Roller** @rolldiggity

If you ever get caught robbing a house, your best bet is to grab something and shout, "IT BELONGS IN A MUSEUM!"

**Swedish Canary** @SwedishCanary

It's amazing how many people are allergic to gluten, peanuts, & facts.

**Moeti T** @thapedict

You know, each time I open an issue of @TechSmartMag, I just wait in anticipation for the science section. A real MUST READ! Every Time!

**IG fusedude** @fusedude

Twerking and Selfie have been added to the dictionary. Future and Optimism have been removed.

**Brendan Jack** @brendanjack

Another beautiful day... to spend wandering around looking for a cellphone charger.

**Barry Tuck** @BarryTuck

This World Cup, I think the whole of Africa is cheering for whoever is playing against Uruguay. #SSFootball

**Robby Collins** @RobbyCollins\_

A smartphone without data is just a house phone.

**Don Packett** @donpackett

"I'll consider that." is a very nice way to say "I'm not going to consider that. At all."

**Bad Bad Leeroy Brown** @bdbdleeroybrown

Just one of the reasons Breaking Bad was better than Game of Throne is I didn't have to read everyone's Breaking Bad names on facebook.

**Trevor Noah** @Trevornoah

Family get togethers must suck! RT @UberFacts: Bonobo monkeys often greet each other with sex.

**Sidious** @Siddrisi

If I ever stop replying on twitter/whatsapp it's probably because I replied to you in my head and forgot to type it.

JULY 2014

## techsmart's Horoscope

TechSmart's astrologer, Merlin Mendacium, predicts the geek's month ahead.



### CANCER

With all the frequent new stories created in the Marvel and DC comic book universes, the worlds become so unwieldy that reboots are often necessary to bring back order and uniformity. In your birthday month Mr. Crab, how about considering rebooting your life for the better?

### LEO

Why bother reading this if you obviously don't believe in Astrology Mr. Lion?

### VIRGO

In his life, the intrepid explorer Tintin had some amazing adventures, travelling across the globe and also to the moon. You on the other hand Virgo, will be bed bound this month, with winter finally catching up with the flu.

### LIBRA

When all you have is a hammer, everything looks like a nail. Now slowly put that hammer down and we can talk about this like two grown-ups.

### SCORPIO

The story is often told of Bill Murray walking around the streets of New York, licking people's ice-creams, only to tell them, "No one will ever believe you." Now we're not saying you're Bill Murray, but you can definitely get away with licking some ice-cream this month Scorpio.

### SAGITTARIUS

"Inspiration is for amateurs – the rest of us just show up and get to work." This according to painter Chuck Close, echoing Woody Allen who said 80% of life is showing up. Forget others' criticism or doing things perfectly, whatever you need to do, just do it, Sagi.

### CAPRICORN

A mystery object appeared and then disappeared from a massive lake on Titan, the biggest moon of Saturn, your ruling planet Capricorn. While scientist are investigating this anomaly, you can be certain that this has something to do with your recent forgetfulness.

### AQUARIUS

Tesla motors recently opened up a number of their patents in order to further the development of the electric car industry. If you are losing faith in humanity Aquarian, note that there are still awesome folks like Elon Musk around.

### PISCES

Why would it be that Luis Suárez reverts to biting opponents? Was it maybe a mannerism he picked up as a kid? How many of these childlike mannerisms do you carry around Mr. Fish?

### ARIES

Hello darkness my old friend. No, that's not Eskom's new jingle, but now might be a good time to invest in some energy efficient light bulbs.

### TAURUS

Do you remember that feeling of untold possibilities when you picked up your previous smartphone on contract? Do you remember how you felt about it just before your recent upgrade? Don't feel the same way about your new girlfriend/boyfriend.

### GEMINI

Your continued criticism of Heyneke Meyer is unfounded, except perhaps for his persistence with Ruan Pienaar. With a number of key players injured, he is doing the best under trying circumstances. Bokke – World Champs 2015 – it's in the stars. **ts**

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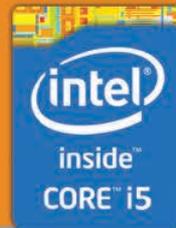


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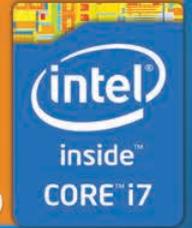
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# HITS, MISSES AND SURPRISES

What made this year's Electronics Entertainment Expo (E3) in Los Angeles different was that it was all about the games. It left gamers gasping for breath and trying to sort out which titles to put on their must-have list in the year ahead.



No Man's Sky



Mortal Kombat X



Evolve

From Sony's side, its heavy hitter is without a doubt Uncharted 4: A Thief's End, which will see Nathan Drake come out of retirement and join Sully for 'one surefire score' of pirate's treasure. The brief trailer poses the question whether this will be the last Uncharted game; although there is no way to know for sure whether it is Drake that is referred to in the title.

As far as surprises go, Sony trotted out an announcement for Little Big Planet 3, and the one no-one saw coming, a Grim Fandango remastered version for the PS4. Additionally, **No Man's Sky** caused a few eyebrows to be raised, as we were promised a procedurally generated game, in which any area that could be seen could be explored. The surprises continued with **Mortal Kombat X**, which looks set to be far better looking than the franchise ever did, and both a Ratchet and Clank movie to look forward to, as well as a PS4 remake of the original.

## If it moves, shoot it

At the same time as it was finally announced that South Africans can expect the Xbox One to (finally) arrive on our shores in September, for R6 300 for the Kinect-less model, Microsoft weighed in with a number of games worth adding to that must watch out for list as well.

Unlike last year, there was no talk about movies on your Xbox, the Kinect peripheral or the company's overarching vision, Microsoft was just purely focused on the games. In this regard, Microsoft seemed to play to its strengths, trotting out the go-to game for the FPS crowd, Call of Duty: Advanced Warfare and then Xbox One exclusive **Evolve**, a game which will see four players step into the shoes of Assault, Trapper, Medic and Support classes to take down some pretty fearsome monsters. What's more though, apparently the monsters themselves will also be playable, so if you ever had



Sunset Overdrive

fantasies of being a 20 foot tall prehistoric throw-back with teeth and claws that would make The Rock wet himself, here's your chance.

Another big exclusive score for Microsoft's Xbox One was **Sunset Overdrive**, which sees Insomniac Games working its magic in a seemingly free-flowing, madcap, comic-inspired action shooter in which you take on hordes of mutated undead in the cheekiest way possible. Also ticking the box for the Xbox One was the announcement of The Master Chief Collection, which is the first time all the Halo games will be available on one console.

### Go on, surprise me

The biggest surprises though, actually came from Nintendo. Just when we thought that company was on the verge of cutting its losses, burying the Wii U in a deep and sad grave and instead making games for mobile devices, the House that Mario Built came out fighting, showing that it intends to revitalize the fortunes of its Wii U console, with a slew of innovative titles that actually look very appealing.

Leading the charge in the year ahead is none other than Link and Zelda, with more details being shown about The Legend of Zelda U, a game that will apparently be considerably more open ended than previous entries and boasting a high definition art style a bit reminiscent of Skyward Sword. Additionally, characters from Legend of Zelda will band together to face down against an onslaught of foes in Hyrule Warriors.

**AS TO THE QUESTION OF WHO WON THE BEST IN SHOW, WELL, WE WOULD ANSWER IT WAS US, THE PLAYERS.**

However, really winning us over was the likes of Yoshi's Woolly World, and where the company is going with Amiibo – physical figurines that will add to numerous games, and thus extend each game's functionality in different ways. If cute or innovative is not your cup of tea, then Nintendo also showed that it still has hardcore players in mind as well. **Bayonetta 2** will carry the first title with it when it arrives as the Wii U's standout exclusive. Another action title, The Devil's Third, is also in the works, from none other than Tomonobu Itagaki, who was responsible for the hardcore and extremely gory, but great fun, Ninja Gaiden series.

### Now the misses

E3 2014 wasn't perfect, as it also had a few misses. The Last Guardian, for example, was notable by its absence – again – so much so, that rumours swirled that the game had been cancelled. Well it hasn't, but it is still in the pipeline apparently, maybe to make an appearance at next year's expo. Another miss was no news from Sony of another God of War game; another of its killer franchises that we hoped to hear more from. From Microsoft's side, Gears of War was similarly on hiatus.

### Winners all round

Despite this, this year's E3 was rich with promise and full of tantalizing titles to look forward to. Along with those already mentioned, **The Rise of the Tomb Raider**, Far Cry 4, Batman: Arkham Knight, Dragon Age: Inquisition, Shadow of Mordor, **The Witcher 3: Wild Hunt** ...the list went on and on as to why the months and particularly year ahead looks set to be a real stunner. As to the question of who won the best in show, well, we would answer it was us, the players, who are going to have plenty of good reasons to spend quality time with whatever console you happen to favour in the year ahead.

Go to [bit.ly/2014E3EXPO](http://bit.ly/2014E3EXPO) to watch a few hot trailers of some of the games mentioned here. [RN] **ts**



Bayonetta 2



The Rise of the Tomb Raider



The Witcher 3: Wild Hunt

# EXPECTATION IS THE MOTHER OF Disappointment

By Pippa Tshabalala.  
Photographer: Tim Hulme.  
Makeup artist: Natasha Carstens.

**PIPPA IS DISAPPOINTED  
IN OFTEN BEING  
DISAPPOINTED  
INSTEAD OF FORGIVING.**

What is it about games that disappoint us? Naturally I don't mean all games, there are always those that exceed expectations a million times over, but I occasionally wonder why it is that so many game reviewers, myself included, end up including the line, "I was disappointed" in their reviews.

Why? Was our expectation so great, so heightened, that the smallest thing that doesn't quite measure up, for whatever reason, turns our anticipation and glee over a game into dissatisfaction? I say this now as I'm busy writing a review for a game where my first thought while playing it was, "Hmm, that wasn't what I expected. It's a bit disappointing."

On reflection, I think this is the wrong attitude to have, I really do. I'm not sure how quickly I'll be able to break the habit myself, but being aware of it is the first step. Right? It's like the 12 Step Programme: "Admit you are powerless over, uhm, using the word 'disappointment'. That your writing has become unmanageable." Ok, that doesn't work quite as well as it did in my head, but nevertheless you get the gist.

We are too easily disappointed. We build up an unrealistic picture of the game that we're playing based on trailers and preview material we've seen. Trailers that by their nature are designed to showcase the best that the game has to offer. Of course game developers aren't going to say, "Well, we've worked really hard and put lots of blood, sweat and tears into the production, but honestly we ran out of time. The publishers also breathed down

our neck to release, so yes it's a little buggy here and there, but we did our best we swear!"

**WHILE I STILL BELIEVE WE NEED TO BE CRITICAL OF THE PRODUCT THAT IS BEING PRODUCED, WE ALSO NEED TO BE A BIT MORE FORGIVING.**

This is probably the case 99% of the time, I mean let's face it, anyone who has ever worked on a big project will at some stage have reached the point where you have to accept that if you spend any more time on that particular aspect of it, you simply won't make the deadline. Plain and simple. And so we judge them based on unrealistic expectations. Give a score of 7/10 (not a bad score by the way, but considered average on most sites) because "it's buggy and disappointing". And buggy doesn't necessarily mean it crashed every five minutes, but that sometimes things just don't look quite as they should. Perhaps a texture behaves in an unexpected manner, or a character model interpenetrates with a wall (sounds dirty doesn't it?).

These things happen to the best video game developers, and while I still believe we need to be critical of the product that is being produced, we also need to be a bit more forgiving. A bit less, well, disappointed. Now if only I can remember that and take my own advice. **ts**

facebook®

# ANTI-SOCIAL MEDIA

**LOG OFF AND HAVE AN ACTUAL CONVERSATION BEFORE YOU BECOME A SOCIAL MEDIA SLAVE, WRITES DEEP FRIED MAN.**

**T**oday, Facebook trended on Twitter. Which doesn't seem right. It's a bit like catching Ronald MacDonald buying a Whopper, or eating a mango on a Kulula flight. The reason that Facebook trended was that it was down. For 20 minutes. What does the average individual do when he or she cannot log-in to Facebook for 20 minutes? Put the kettle on and get a rusk? Do a quick meditation? Do some actual work? No! It seems that there are two things that the average individual does when faced with 20 minutes of no Facebook: 1) Panic and 2) tweet about it.

The second step is just a bit lame, really. Facebook isn't working and so we run onto Twitter to complain about it? What would happen if both were down at the same time? Would we resort to posting selfies showing how sad we are about it on Instagram? And if Instagram was down too? We would probably get so desperate for instant social media interaction that we'd all log onto LinkedIn for the first time in four years. And, if all else fails, there's always Google+, which doesn't have enough traffic to ever go down.

The first step, on the other hand, is a bit more disturbing. If a social media platform goes down for less than the amount of time it takes to make a salad and we behave like the apocalypse is about to begin, then this is a sign to me that we are becoming too reliant on social media. We

need to start reminding ourselves of how we remained in touch with what was going on before the internet: We spoke to people.

That's why I say it's time to get out there and have the same social interactions you have daily on social media platforms with actual people, face to face. Show them pics of your children. Show them pictures of your lunch. Slag off celebrities. Complain about the state of the nation. Do whatever you want, just do it outside in the sunshine opposite another human being because you only live once. And it's pretty liberating to write that without #yolo at the end.

**MAKE SURE THAT YOU OWN A FACEBOOK ACCOUNT, RATHER THAN FACEBOOK OWNING YOU.**

Or, as my father puts it "You know what we did in my day when Facebook didn't work? We lived actual lives. Facebook didn't work throughout the 60s. Then there was the 70s and 80s and 90s, and Facebook was still down the entire time. And so we went out and accomplished things and had sex with each other and drank alcohol and ate at restaurants without ever feeling the need to tell the whole of the internet. And do you know what? It was awesome." Ok, so my father didn't actually say that at all, but if he knew what a good conclusion to this column it would make I bet he would have.

I'm not trying to deny anyone their social media fix. All I'm saying is make sure that you own a Facebook account, rather than Facebook owning you. Now if you'll excuse me it's time for me to go post that on Facebook. I think it'll make a really great status. 

Deep Fried Man Photo by: GA Goodman

# Intelligence takes many forms



## WAVE



Android 4.2 / Dual Core / Phone / Camera  
Video Player / GPS / Voice Memos / Supports SIM Card  
SMS / Email / Youtube / Facebook  
Twitter / Whatsapp / WeChat

## X2



Android 4.2  
Quad - Core,  
5 inch IPS Screen -  
854\*480 FWVGA  
Bluetooth 3.0  
Dual Sim  
Storage: 4GB, Memory:  
512MB  
Camera: 5MP rear -  
0.3MP front  
Supports up to 32GB -  
Micro SD Card

## OCEAN



Android 4.2  
Dual - Core  
3.5 inch Screen -  
320 \* 480 HVGA  
Dual Sim  
Bluetooth 3.0  
Storage: 512MB +4GB TF  
Card  
Camera: 0.3MP rear -  
0.3MP front  
Supports up to 32GB -  
Micro SD Card

## OCEAN 2



Android 4.2  
Dual - Core  
4 inch Screen -  
800\*480 WVGA  
Dual Sim  
Bluetooth 3.0  
4GB  
Camera: 0.3MP rear -  
0.3MP front  
Supports up to 32GB -  
Micro SD Card

## QF72



Android 4.2.2  
Phone Tab, 7 inch  
1024 \* 600 Screen  
Dual-core Cortex-A7,1.3 GHz  
512 DDR / Storage: 8 GB / T-Flash(MAX 32GB)  
Dual Sim Cards  
FM Radio  
Bluetooth 4.0  
HDR, Front Camera 0.3MP, Back Camera 2MP

## X3 mini



Android 4.2 / Dual - Core  
4 inch Screen, 800 \* 480 WVGA  
Bluetooth 4.0 / Dual Sim  
Storage: 4GB, Memory: 512MB  
Camera: 2MP rear, 0.3MP front  
Supports up to 32GB Micro SD Card



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