

Best Big Laptops

Looking for more screen? These 17-inch models from Asus, HP, and LG come recommended by CR's testers.

By Nicholas De Leon Last updated: June 14, 2019

The allure of a large, 17-inch laptop is easy to understand.

A roomy display makes it easier to browse the web and edit large spreadsheets and photos, while providing a more immersive streaming video experience from YouTube or Netflix.

Compared with the more common 13- to 15-inch laptops, one this size may not be ideal for a road warrior or a college student who bounces from the library to a café to class throughout the day. But that doesn't mean it's too big to carry from your home office to the living room or onto a plane on occasion.

Those extra inches also make it easy to include energy-hungry components such as a dedicated graphics card that can tear through complex tasks like rendering high-resolution video and seamlessly sifting through many years' worth of digital photos.

Of course, those high-end components make for killer gaming machines, too, allowing you to play the latest hit titles at high settings without breaking a sweat.

Every year Consumer Reports buys dozens of laptops at retail stores, testing them in our labs to see exactly how they perform. That way we can independently confirm processing speeds, how long the battery lasts, and how comfortable the keyboard is to use, instead of simply relying on manufacturers' claims.

What follows is a list of 17-inch laptops from Asus, HP, and LG that all pass muster with our testers.

LG Gram 17

This 17-inch LG laptop weighs 2.9 pounds, which is about 2 pounds lighter than its nearest competitor. As a result, you can easily bring it with you across town to the local coffee shop or back and forth to your office without thinking twice.

With an Intel Core i7 processor, 16GB of memory, and a 512GB of solid state storage, the LG Gram 17 packs more than enough power to handle more demanding tasks like editing 4K video, which many smartphones today can shoot.

2 Asus VivoBook Pro N705FD-DS77

This Asus model is not be as light as the LG Gram, but it's still fairly slim. In fact, at 5 pounds on the dot, it's sleeker than all but the Gram in our 17-inch laptop ratings. Better yet, it typically sells for several hundred dollars less.

And just like the Gram, there's more to the VivoBook Pro than its trim build. Inside there's an Intel Core i7 processor, 16GB of memory, 512GB of fast solid state storage, and a dedicated Nvidia graphics card. Those are all high-end components that, according to our testers, combine to deliver excellent performance, even for complex tasks like editing and converting video and rendering 3D models.

Our testers did note, however, that the battery life—at a little more than 7 hours—is unlikely to get you through a full day of work without a visit to the power outlet. Just keep in mind that's a common complaint among laptops with such big screens.

3 Asus ROG Strix GL704GV-DS74

The Asus ROG Strix is technically a gaming laptop, which means two things: It's filled with powerful components such as an Intel Core i7 processor and brand new Nvidia graphics card, and it has a distinctive "gamer" aesthetic, including an RGB backlit keyboard that displays various colors.

Of course, non-gamers can get a lot of mileage out of the laptop, too. The 16GB of memory and 512GB of solid state storage make it possible to tackle everything from merely watching video to editing it, while the 17-inch display runs at 144Hz (vs. the typical 60Hz), which means tasks such as moving the cursor with a mouse and dragging browser windows across the screen are faster and smoother.

On the flip side, this model weighs more than 6 pounds and has a battery that lasts as little as 5 hours—so keep a backpack and a power cord handy.

4 HP Omen 17-AN198MS

This HP Omen is another gaming laptop with powerful components and a flashy black-and-red design aesthetic. It features an Intel Core i7 processor, 16GB of memory, boatloads of storage (a 1-terabyte hard drive and a 128GB solid state drive), and a dedicated Nvidia graphics card.

That's an older graphics card than the one featured in the Asus ROG Strix, but the HP Omen is significantly less expensive, too.

Our testers had no problems with the laptop's performance but did note that it weighs in at 8 pounds—making it the heaviest model currently in our ratings—and the battery lasts as little as 3.5 hours. So you'll want to keep this one parked on your desk and plugged into an outlet for most of the day.

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