# GIBBY'S GUIDE TO WARTUAL REALTY!

FOR THE OCULUS QUEST 2

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One original reviews of games, films and animations! unbiased and independent - I pay for all apps!



# impossible spaces!

NATURAL WALKING IN VR!

TRAVESAL! TEA FOR GOD! LAVRYNTHOS!

A FREE ZINE!

V11 | OCTOBER 2021 | MEET THE DEVS! ROBERT WETZOLD JAREK CIUPIŃSKI FABITO RYCHTER PLUS! BEGINNER'S GUIDE! | VR HISTORY! | OVER 200 RECOMMENDED TITLES! | TOP 100 GAMES!

FULLY

CLICK ON ANY ICON TO TAKE YOU TO THE CONTENT!

INTERACTIVE

BRAND HEW

GO TO THE BLUE REFERENCE PAGES TO GET STARTED!

TO QUEST 2?





FILMS & ANIMATIONS!

REFERENCE! 12

## KEY!

- Nand tracking
- best in roomscale
- adventure
- puzzle
- sports game

- perfect for seated
- noomscale essential
- fitness
- creator tool
- <u>&</u> meditation
- possible motion sickness

## ONE YEAR OF QUEST 2!

It's exactly one year since the launch of the Quest 2, the VR headset that changed the game. Despite an imminent Pro version, that dominance is unlikely to be challenged any time soon (the \$500 bug-eyed Vive Flow anyone?)

This regular alternative guide will keep bringing you the best of the Quest, unbiased and up-to-date! In this issue ...

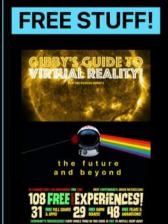
**Impossible spaces!** Meet the devs behind three mindblowing titles that all use techniques for natural walking in VR.

Each one is unique. Play multiplayer in **traVRsal**, use hand tracking in **tea for god** and experience the first interactive animation of its kind in **lavrynthos**!

And now this guide has a podcast! Listen to 'Adventures with Impossible Robert and friends!' right here! Let me know what you think ...

Look out for the annual facebook connect for possible new hardware and software news on Oct 28 ... the quill theater app is being rebranded as VR Animation Player on October 18 ... the VR collection gives you up to 50% off 24 selected indie games. See here.

And finally, I pay for all apps featured in the guide. I believe in supporting the developers and you know that you are getting a completely unbiased and independent review. You can buy me a coffee if you like! Enjoy!



Check out v9 of the guide for 108 free & quality experiences to install right now! There's a list of the best 60 free games & demos plus 48 films and animations!

#### **RANKED!**





Look out for this guarantee of fresh, quality ingredients - according to me!

#### **QUEST STORE!**

The official store. It is what it says on the tin! Browse all the content here.

#### **APP LAB!**

The official non-offical store!
Over 500 apps and counting. Go here.

#### SIDEQUEST!

The non-official store! Now available as an Android app! See here and here.

#### **GOING NATIVE!**

All the titles in this guide are native to Quest 2, no PC required!

Each to their own! Everything in this quick start guide are positive recommendations of stuff I like, it's not meant to be an exhaustive list. If you have any suggestions email me at gibby@gibbysguide.org

## NEW FOR QUEST 2!

#### song in the smoke epic survival title!



first person tennis ... warchasm ...





crazy kung fu passthrough demo testing out the experimental AR!







star wars: tales from the galaxy's edge release of the 'The Last Call' DLC



replika it's Spike Jonzes' Her!



plus updates ...





















## COMING SOON!

resident evil 4 Oct 21



escape from nefertitis tomb Oct 15



moss: book II 2022

unplugged Oct 21



**ARK-ADE** Oct 26



green hell Q4



the last worker 2022 ultrawings II 2022



wanderer Q4







## best of the quest!

Here's my top 100 games - ranked for a bit of fun!



## pistol whip app | \$30 shoot to the beat in a cinematic bullet hell!







blaston app | \$10 duelling Al or randoms!



app | \$20
rave to quality tunes with
top-class choreography!

audio trip 🕣 🛡



down the rabbit hole @ @ app | \$20 gorgeous alice in wonderland prequel!



song in the smoke app | \$30 soul, spirit, survival



eleven table tennis app | \$20
Al ping & multiplayer pong!



red matter 
app | \$25
surreal & spectacular
sci-fi adventure in space



the room vr @ @ app | \$30 beautifully rendered detective mystery!



crashland app | \$20 aaaaaarrrrrrgggggghhhh!



## thirteen to twenty-four!

Buy and try on the official store - you get an automatic refund if you've played for less than two hours and within 14 days of purchase. And look out for sales!



i expect you to die 2 app | \$20 welcome back, agent!



superhot vr ⊕ ♥
app | free demo | \$25
the matrix!



waltz of the wizard ② 30 app | \$20 natural magic!



**the under presents / app** | **free** | \$ in-app open world theatrics!



real vr fishing app | \$20 let's go fishing - in Korea!



star wars: tales from the galaxy's edge app |\$35\* child's play but epic optics!



walkabout mini-golf @ app | \$15 pitch 'n' putt with friends!



squingle hap lab | free demo | \$20 totally trippy puzzler!



phantom: covert ops ② 🖗 app | \$30 stealth kayaking?! oh, yeah!



space pirate trainer dx app | \$25 trailblazing arena mode!





traVRsal ⊕
app lab | free
natural walking in VR!

## twenty-five to thirty-six!

The ever-evolving list goes on ...





#### wentv-eiaht!



holopoint app | \$15 intense ninja archery!

#### thirty-one!



tea for god 🕣 🔌 app lab | free non-euclidean geometry!

thirty-four! multil



carly and the means app | \$20 play with non-VR in co-op!

twenty-six!



stride 🗗 💙
app | \$15
parkour madness!

twenty-nine!



lies beneath 

app | \$30

graphic novel thriller!

thirty-two!



thirty-five



deisim app lab | \$8 be a powerful God!

twenty-seven!



fujii & ₪ app | \$15 kaleidoscopic gardening!

thirty



shadow point @ 🖨 app | \$20 mystery in Inverness!

thirty-three!



thirty-six!



daedalus happ | \$5 amazing flying sensation!

## thirty-seven to forty-eight!

#### thirty-seven!



carve @ app | \$20 smooth snowboarding!



crazy kung fu 🕒 🕲 🤎 app lab | free demo | \$10 quicker than the human eye! \* free AR passthrough demo on sidequest!



wind wind app lab | \$20 cute Korean diorama!

#### forty! multi!



racket nx 🕣 🧡 🕲 app | free demo | \$20 some kinda future squash!



cubism 🏞 🕸 🗐 🔌 app | \$10 puzzle, piano ... and peace!



gladius 👜 app lab | \$15 comedy gore - enter the colosseum and fight!



ancient dungeon 🕖 app lab | free hilarious pixel adventure!

#### forty-four! multi!



app | free demo | \$10 Great War missions!



directive nine app lab | \$13 moody sci-fi shooter!



ARK-ADE app lab | free demo inside the game Tron style!



warchasm 🗐 🛡 app lab | \$13 rockin' and railin'!



time stall 奋 🏞 app | \$15 save the captain!

## forty-nine to sixty!

#### forty-nine!



windlands @ 
app lab | \$15
classic grapple adventure!

#### fifty-two!



custom home mapper sidequest | \$8 map your entire house!

#### fifty-five!



puzzling places & & \*
app | \$15
photogrammetry jigsaws!

#### fifty-eight!



cosmodread 

app | \$15
terrifying space maze!

fifty! multi!



wander app | \$10 google street view!

#### fifty-three!



gadgeteer \*\*
app | \$15
incredible machine building!

#### fifty-six! multi!



guardians app lab | free demo | \$15 sci-fi strategy shooter!

#### fifty-nine! multi



to the top app lab | \$20 rooftop!

#### fifty-one! multi!



multibrush app lab | free three-dimensional painting!

#### fifty-four!



gravity lab happ | \$15
physics head scratchers!

#### fifty-seven!



a rogue escape 🗗 🏞
app | \$20
underwater escape room!

#### sixty!



hand physics lab (#) (\*\*)
app | \$10
zany hand tracking tricks!

## sixty-one to seventy-two!

#### sixty-one!



eternal starlight 🗐 🔌 app | \$20

tactical space battles!



invoiders app lab | \$15 kitsch arcade tower defence!

sixty-seven! new!



**BRINK traveler** app | \$10 photogrammetry tourism!

seventy! multi!

war yards app lab | free gunslingin' guffaws!



art plunge 🗐 app lab | \$2 incredible immersion from mona lisa to starry night!



the final overs @ app lab | \$15 knock 'em for six!



the curious tale of 🏞 🗐 🔌 the stolen pets app | \$15 touch that cuteness!



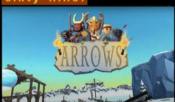
first person tennis @ app lab | \$23 get your Raducanu on!



help yourself app lab | free unique clone co-op!



chess club 🗐 🏞 🛝 app | \$15 battle chess in Stonehenge!



arrows app lab | free demo | \$10 defend the villages!



black hole pool @ app lab | free demo | \$10 brilliant cue action!

## seventy-three to eighty-four!

seventy-three!



city of eternity sidequest | free get chased - by yourself!

cavanty-civl



galaxy forces vr app lab | free 1980s wet dream!

seventy-nine!



battle talent (a)
app lab | free
fantasy combat sim!

eighty-two!



wrong voyage ex sidequest | free spiders! zombies! retro!

seventy-four!



flowbourne & app lab | \$10 breathing meditation!

seventy-seven!



HAX app lab | free demo cel-shaded shooter!

eighty!



tiny castles app lab | free incredible hand tracking!

eighty-three! multi!



project terminus sidequest | free demo | \$21 Parisian survival horror!

seventy-five!



DAVID (app lab | free demo

3rd person space shooter!

seventy-eight!



2076 midway multiverse app lab | free demo immersion zone!

eighty-one



v-speedway (\*\*\*) app lab | free arcade racing!

eighty-four!



spacewalker vr app lab | \$7 go Earth gazing!

## eighty-five to ninety-six!

eighty-five! multi!

flux ball app lab | free glove & gun, catch & shoot!



grapple tournament app lab | free swinging mechanic shooter!



half + half app | free la la lala la lala la la la!



gravity sketch (☐) ☐/
app | free
3D design and modelling!



throwing punches app lab | \$5 socially distanced boxing!



painting VR 🖨 🗹 app lab | \$10 realistic art creation!



vault of the stars (a) @ app lab | free eco-fantasy takes flight!



peco peco (\*\*) \*\*
app lab | \$10
remix giant puzzles!



gun raiders app | free jet pack, climb, dash!



grooVR app lab | free drum Brazilian death metal!



gorilla tag 🚭 💙
app lab | free
daft monkey business!

ninety-six!

OMEGA BLADE

omega blade app lab | \$5 shoot, slash, dodge!

## ninety-seven to one hundred!

... and that concludes the best of the rest!





operation warcade app lab | free demo | \$15 pancake & vr mix!

ninety-eight!



in da hoop @ 30 app lab | \$10 bare hands basketball!

ninety-nine!



agent simulator app lab | free demo superhot lite!

one hundred



z-race app lab | free demo
3rd person arcade racing!



### older stuff!

Bonus! These titles have been ported from their original on the Oculus Go

multiplayer!



alcove

app | free

ever-evolving social VR for families



coaster combat @

app | \$10

theme park ride action!



end space

app | \$15

star wars!



cosmic flow & 🖨 app lab free

fractal meditation



oxigen dreams 🕖

app lab | \$3

another pixel adventure by the 'wrong voyage ex' dev!



thumper

app | \$20

you need insane reactions to beat the boss!



bait! @ 🖨

app free

silly hippy fishing!



anne frank house 🗐

app free

explore the house of WWII diarist Anne Frank



nature treks & 🖨

app | \$10

meditation in vivid wild environments



dead and buried II

app | \$20

comedy cartoon zombie cowboys attack!



ultrawings 🗎

app | \$15

relaxing arcade flight sim



mission: iss @

app | free

zero gravity inside the international space station

### weird & wonderful

Bonus! Really random shit that pops up on App Lab and Sidequest!



playing VR with girlfriend app lab | \$10 just ... no.



high voltage electrical substation training app lab | free catchy name, hot app!



dissection simulations app lab | \$25 each cat, shark, frog and pig editions!



VR pigeons app lab | \$3 actually quite brilliant if just for the trailer!



face your ears app lab | free cool binaural soundscapes from bees to subways!



replika
app lab | free
it's Spike Jonze's Her!



into the metaverse app lab | free demo the story of storytelling!



don't upset bobby \*\*
app lab | free
threatening freak doll!



rollercoaster vr box 
sidequest | free
genius vomit fest!





golf pool vr **②** app lab | \$6 ... on the moon!



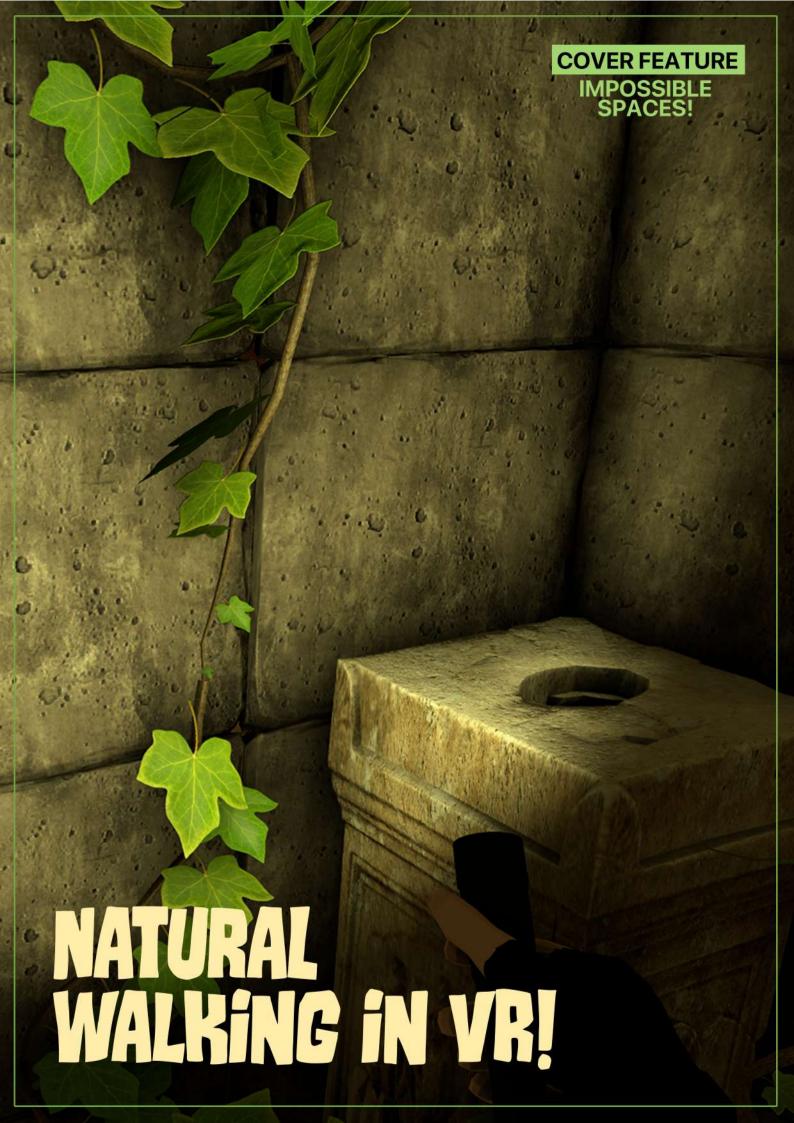
flying squirrel chase app lab | free flap your wings!



frog hands steve 

app lab | free

your hands are frogs!



#### COVER FEATURE IMPOSSIBLE SPACES

## JUST KEEP WALKING ...

#### Innovations in making the most of your available playspace!

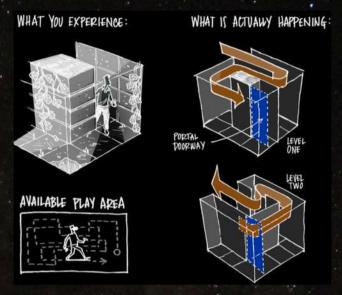
Teleportation? Smooth locomotion? Snap turns? Warp? Gaze? There have been many attempts at solving the riddle of how to move around in VR but it might just come down to the simplest method of all - why not just use your own legs?!

Walking around in VR is so natural and liberating you'll wonder why more games aren't made like this.



### WHAT IS NON-EUCLIDEAN GEOMETRY?

Euclid was a Greek born in 4th century. He worked and died in Alexandria, Egypt and is known as the father of geometry. His theories held until the 19th century, when new non-logical mathematical axioms were proven by negating the parallel postulate, known as hyperbolic or Bolyai-Lobachevskian geometry. Hence the phrase 'non-Euclidean'. Understood?!



You might be going round and round in circles on the carpet but you'll be stepping over snake pits in Egypt, exploring surreal planets or stepping inside a labyrinth in ancient Greece.

It works by using a method known as impossible spaces, or non-Euclidean geometry (see box).

Essentially, like the TARDIS in the sci-fi series Doctor Who, it's bigger on the inside than the outside. Every time you turn a corner, your world is recreated, and you can just keep on walking.

With a nod to the original VR game that used this trick back in 2016 - Unseen Diplomacy - meet the developers of three amazing impossible spaces experiences in the following pages - TraVRsal, Tea for God and Lavrynthos.

#### MEET THE DEV! ROBERT WETZOLD

## TRAVRSAL!

#### Adventures with Impossible Robert inside his app, TraVRsal.

The brilliantly-monikered Impossible Robert appears in a spiky red leather jacket with slate grey eyes and a five-oclock shadow. His avatar is true to form. 'That's me', he laughs.

I'm on a beach volleyball court in Brazil and he's in his apartment in Heidelberg, Germany. We are virtually face to face inside the lobby area of the app he created, TraVRsal.

'To my knowledge this has never been done before, it's a world first!' he exclaims, waving excitedly. As pioneers we are inside the first multiplayer example of an 'impossible space', a passion project Robert began two years ago and launched on App Lab in June.

I spin around the holodeck. There's half a dozen games to chose from. 'Let's go into the Pyramids,' announces Robert and a pair of red feet appear facing a portal. I venture forwards and suddenly we are inside a labyrinth. I point my torch up at Robert and his face, lit from beneath, glows demon-like.

#### 'to my knowledge this has never been done before, it's a world first!'

We walk on past the mushrooms and vines inside the dark chamber, listening out for the chains of a spike trap, finally reaching an open area on top of a grave pit where snakes slither beneath.















'The Pyramids is the first world I created', says Robert. 'I wanted to transport people to a place they could never go to like the Pyramids, full of traps and riddles and so on, and just give them this explorer feeling.'

We pause at an ancient door with two statues guarding it, a fire burning and a fresco of pharaohs.

'It all began when I stood in the middle of my playspace and I thought 'there's not so much space, maybe we need some tricks'. Then I discovered some games that had tried it. And I thought 'let's expand on this'.

'I think it comes down to fooling the brain. Let's imagine that you walk in a circle and when you look around the scenery constantly changes, so you think that you are walking towards a certain goal but actually you are still in your playspace.

'And just by constructing a level in a very intelligent way you can trick the brain and make the people think that they are going further than they actually are', he says.

One of the best uses of this is The Gallery, where you can upload your own photos. Not content with designing his own games, Robert has made available a

'world builder' for anyone to create their own impossible spaces experiences and upload them to TraVRsal.

It's an idea that was quickly embraced by the community. One user, Andi C, created two worlds without any previous coding experience. One, The Tower, is a vertical high-stakes drama against the clock.

'Andi is a poster child because he hadn't developed in his life before and he was so happy and enthusiastic about it. It's amazing to see what he came up with, ' beams Robert.

Has he ever met Andi in real life? 'No not yet! We met here in the multiplayer environment. It's a pure virtual team and collaboration. I love it.'

We come to the end of our session, a final race through The Spaceman game.

TraVRsal clocks the number of metres

walked - 57 - and a robotic overlord chimes in: 'Impossible Robert has left the party'.

Listen to the podcast 'Adventures with Impossible Robert!'







Aside from **Tea for God** and **Lavrynthos** (featured on the following pages) Robert points to a handful of inspirational apps on his field research blog **here**.

One of the original games is Katie Goode and John Campbell's **Unseen Diplomacy**, released for Vive in 2016.

'It's an amazing four minute random maze experience using a room-swapping corridor method which is nicely masked by using doors one can open and close.

#### **NATURAL WALKING IN VR!**

Space Pirate Trainer DX added an Arena Mode last month, enabling players to use the max guardian boundary of 10m x 10m. It means you can freely run around in a game of space laser tag!

In **Custom Home Mapper** you can map your own home using the new Passthrough feature and safely disable the guardian. Then recreate your entire house in the style you desire, tranform it into a jungle lodge or play mini-golf! Genius.

'It's fascinating to see what ideas people come up with. Artificial locomotion techniques are really ingrained and just starting to walk really surprises many people, 'he says.

Some like Eye of Temple, Spellbound Spire and Shattered Lights are only available on PCVR. But he points to Quest launch title Shadow Point which uses portals, and an upcoming title from fellow Germans, Curvature Games.

'I'm really curious about **The Amusement** which is slated for next year. Using multiple redirected walking mechanics the player can explore environments. It seems to focus on moving platforms, elevators, climbing and room switching.

'I never see those games or experiences as any competition. The rising tide lifts all the boats because we are in this niche area of impossible spaces.

'We have to bring this notion of natural walking to the public because it is not yet a well known concept, ' says Robert.

\* TraVRsal is free on App Lab.

MEET THE DEV! JAREK CIUPIŃSKI

## TEA FOR GOD!

#### The cult indie game that just got a fresh App Lab release.

A door opens, a corridor beckons and into the maze you go. It's a crazy feeling and incredibly liberating to literally walk inside this surreal universe.

Thanks to hand tracking you are free of the controllers, too. Make the gesture of a gun with your hands and you can pull an invisible trigger, shooting a scuttling robot or two.

Suddenly there's a window. The outside world is barren save for some imposing structures and what looks like the odd Zeppelin flying overhead.

This is Tea for God and it's all the work of Jarek Ciupiński, aka Void Room. He began fiddling with portals as a way of countering motion sickness. 'I like doing things. I like creating worlds, I like exploring new possibilities. I have been thinking about doing games since I was a little kid, ' says Jarek, who is from the small Polish city of Marki, just outside the capital Warsaw.

## 'In 1980s Poland it was hard to get new games so I began to make them'

'I started to make games because back in Poland in the 1980s there was very limited ways of getting new games and when I'd played all the games that I had, I thought 'OK, you have to make them.'











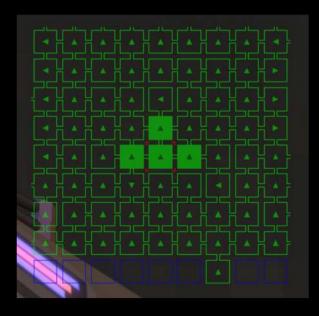




'And I enjoyed it. I enjoyed making games and making things move on screen. Creating characters, worlds and stuff happening. And I still do.'

What makes this mysterious adventure special is that doesn't matter how much space you have, the game will expand and contract to fit using procedurally generated levels. It would work inside a cupboard, says Jarek.

'You can just walk for miles and it doesn't require any loading screens, it generates the world in real time. There's a lot going on that the players don't see. It's actually a bit of smoke and mirrors, ' he explains.



The game itself is an atmospheric shooter set in some kind of interstellar universe. Mankind is ruled by a God-Emperor. There's an arcade mode which is checkpoint-based and roguelite 'for tinkerers and explorers'.

Tea for God has an almost legendary status amongst impossible spaces *aficionados*, with a 90% positive rating.

'It's overwhelming. Whenever I read the reviews I'm surprised that people love the demo so much but I'm anxious to see how people react to the finish product. It's thanks to the players I have got this far.'

But despite the plaudits, Jarek reckons that the motion technique is not yet quite ripe for the big boys.

'Impossible spaces are quite experimental. It won't be the only way of doing games in VR but I hope it will be a significant locomotion solution, ' he says.

And why is it called Tea for God? 'The God-Emperor cannot get anything from outside unless someone brings it to her. And she loves tea,' he laughs.

\* Tea for God is free on App Lab.

MEET THE DEV! FABITO RYCHTER

## LAVRYNTHOS!

#### From the amphitheatres of ancient Greece to animation in VR!

From the very cradle of modern dramatic theory to the cutting edge of VR, Lavrynthos tells the story of an unlikely relationship between a minotaur and a young girl.

In a tale once played out 3,000 years ago in ancient Greece, the mythical half-man half-bull creature has been imprisoned in a maze.

Enter Cora, a plump maiden who is delighted to have been chosen at birth to be fed to the minotaur. But rather than a monster, she find an emaciated snow-white beast. You walk around the labyrinth from scene to scene using ingenious space-shifting dynamics.

'Every storyteller should wake up everyday and pray to Aristotle!' jokes Brazilian director and former TV script writer, Fabito Rychter.

'We thought it was cool because VR is the most modern format to tell these stories and we thought it would be a fun game to go the full circle.

'I've tried many times to explain impossible spaces for people who have not tried it and I think it is impossible.

'At the Venice Film Festival I could see in people's faces that they had no idea what I was talking about!'















'At lot of people get stuck in the first room but if you make everything too obvious you miss the 'A-ha!' moment, the magic. You need to leave some space for the audience to feel smart.'

Fabito breaks the fourth wall and has the characters speaking to you to aid your path through the labyrinth. There's some exaggerated pointing and the whole play takes on a humourous tone.

## 'You need to leave some space for the audience to feel smart'

'Writing for VR is hard. On paper it works but when you try it in VR it doesn't work. We had a cartoon character delivering a very deep and serious text.

'It felt a bit like The Muppets reading Shakespeare, it wasn't working at all. So we added some jokes and lightness to the text and had the characters talking directly to you, 'he reveals.

Fabito set up Delirium XR with Amir Admoni in 2016 after one of those moments of epiphany common to VR enthusiasts.

## 'It felt like The Muppets reading Shakespeare so we changed the script!'

'I had just moved to Peru and one day I went to a shopping mall and they had an Oculus demo, something about dinosaurs. It was the first time I had ever tried a headset and I quit my job of 15 years right there and then.

'I realised that this was the future of entertainment because it was impossible to do in TV. I saw the opportunity to create a new language, and that's what motivated me to drop everything.

'Why am I doing art? There's a huge army of people producing crappy stuff and I think it is our mission to be on the other side creating cool and beautiful stuff, 'he says. 'VR needs its own tricks for telling a story and causing emotion. Now is a good time to create something new.'

\* Lavrynthos debuted at the Venice Film Festival last month and although it is yet to have an official release on the Quest, keep your eye out for a showing at one of the many hybrid online events.

### latest games!



### Star Wars: Tales from the Galaxy's Edge | \$35 including DLC

The puzzles are child's play but the optics are epic in this excellent long-haul adventure, now a complete package with the addition of part two, the Last Call.

Six-eyed Cantina barkeep Seezelslak is the star turn but he's backed up by a stellar cast of favourites as you play a droid repair technician roaming around the howling winds of the Batuu Wilds.

Everything sparkles from the voice acting to the jaw-dropping alien vistas. Along with the shooter-based central missions are some serious sidequests, like taking a bounty playing droid assassin IG-88 or dressing up as a stormtrooper. It's fun, it's a thrill and it all comes down to the bottom line - it's Star Wars and you're in it.





#### Song in the Smoke | \$30

An extensive survival game full of mythical fantastic creatures, Song in the Smoke is a wild open world that takes you on an almost spiritual journey.

You feel a rare sense of presence when your torch goes out and there's the onrushing sound of hooves in the dark. It's a sonic experience in a magical landscape.

There's a satisfying depth to the steps it takes to build a fire and acquire clothes despite the head-spinning hunger and cold. It takes some work to craft those arrows, too. If you are going in for the long haul check out some survival tips here.

A heavyweight title from Jake Kazdal and artist Katsuya Terada from 17-bit games.

#### First Person Tennis | \$23

An established simulator, FPT finally arrives on the Quest with fine physics and great commentary. There are five motion options depending on your space, plus arcade or simulator modes, multiplayer, seven court surfaces and a world tour.

### arena scale game! 🗁





Space Pirate Trainer DX | \$25

#### **SPACE, LIGHT AND WIF!!**

What you need to play Minimum 10m<sup>2</sup> Draw the guardian to the maximum size with straight edges\*. Play at dusk or under lights. Connect to wifi or mobile hotspot. And have a spotter not in VR.

\* pro tip: if your boundary appears as a diamond over the square use the oculus button to recenter and line it up.



It's paintball in VR! It's laser tag in space! It's a groundbreaking first major arena scale game and a portent to a whole new genre.

Requiring a minimum of 10m<sup>2</sup> - roughly half a tennis court - Arena mode gives you the incredible liberation of being able to run freely around inside five bespoke levels shooting droids or each other. It's hide and seek and it's fun!

In Online Arena you can challenge a friend and in Co-located Arena two can play in the same physical space. Single-player is against the Al bots.

A radical upgrade to a VR arcade classic, I-Illusion's Space Pirate Trainer DX is nothing short of a glimpse into a pretty crazy-looking future.

## heart-pumping games!





#### Pistol Whip | \$30

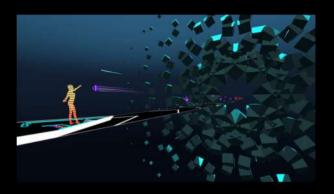
Where else can you enter a pulsating arena taking out enemy assassins who are blazing ammo while dancing to the filthy electro of Black Tiger Sex Machine?!

An absolute monster of a must-have VR title, Pistol Whip is all about shooting to the beat in a unique cinematic bullet hell.

With 23 full-on tracks in arcade mode presented like cool movie posters, it's a high-octane trip. Vancouver Island-based Cloudhead Games delivers a visual art style that's polished and class throughout and they're always adding new content.

The latest free dlc, Smoke & Thunder, is a five-track campaign in the Wild West plus a whole new customisable styles system offering endless combinations.





#### Audio Trip | \$15

One of the purest and most ecstatic experiences in VR, Audio Trip is an exhilarating choreographed dance experience.

Fly through a surreal universe, moving your body in ways you never knew you could - heart racing, feet dancing and arms making glorious arcs. The sweat, the adrenaline, the euphoria!

Developed by Ashley Cooper and Brady Wright, Audio Trip has 84 hand-crafted choreographies from beginner through to Cardio level. There's a great in-VR editor tool to make your own choreographies - follow the tutorial here. Download custom ones at the unofficial Audio Trip Choreography Discord here. Quality over quantity - and no money grab DLCs.

#### Gladius I \$15

'I'm Spartacus!' Comedy gore swordfighting as you go from slave to Thunder God at the Colosseum in Rome. Slo-mo dismemberment! Cheering crowds! Lions! Tigers! Minotaurs! Sell heads in the market place! And still in Early Access!

## swinging games!



#### Yupitergrad | \$15

'Be careful, brave komrade Kosmonaut!'
Being a Slavic spiderman you don't fire
silk but instead have some very Sovietera red plungers. At least they seem
reliable, and the suction cups give a
satisfying 'plop' every time they land.

This is your only form of locomotion and you blast off to the 'top class space station' Yupitergrad to a stirring patriotic anthem. There are 55 fun cartoon-style levels to swing through, 40 more on time attack and a new 'Gymnasion' play space.

It's all laced with delicious deadpan oneliners: 'Our crew gathers here to learn what they think' and the classic 'Breathe economically, never for pleasure'. Unique brilliance from Polish studio Gamedust, right up to the grand finale.





#### Windlands | \$15

A port of a classic older VR title, Windlands is one of the original swing, jump and run adventure games. Don't expect top level graphics from 2014, but the locomotion still feels great.

It's all about zen-like exploration as you use your grappling hooks to move around the minimalist stylised trees. There are nine crystals to find which open portals to new lands and 120 tablets of wisdom.

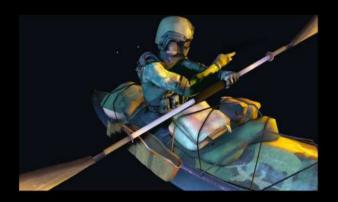
Hard mode transforms the game from a playground to a platformer with restricted grappling points. If you are sensitive to motion sickness there's a 'cage' option.

London-based Psytec Games say that Windlands 2, which adds archery combat and co-op, will be available soon.

#### Grapple Tournament | free demo

This stylised cartoon style arena shooter is a blur of grappling hooks, parkour, climbing and running in vertical combat. With seven maps and a dozen weapons in multiplayer from melee blade to rocket launcher. Serial killer! Savage!

### crazy motion games!



#### Phantom: Covert Ops | \$30

In December 1942 ten British marines embarked on what has become known as the most courageous raid of WWII. They kayaked 100 miles at night to plant limpet mines on enemy German ships moored in France. Known as the Cockleshell Heroes, only two men lived to tell the tale.

UK-based nDreams cite the raid as the inspiration behind the phenomenal Phantom: Covert Ops. Stealth kayaking is certainly a unique VR experience - seven levels sneaking around in the pitch black infiltrating an old Cold War naval base.

There's a reach-over-your-shoulder machine gun amongst your arsenal but this is no shoot-'em-up - covert is key. A tense drama from inspiring origins with outstanding atmospherics.





#### Superhot | \$25

With over a million copies sold over five years, Superhot is a true VR classic. It's the matrix made real - time only moves when you move.

Featuring minimalist white environments, red polygonal people made of glass and unique gameplay, you are outnumbered and outgunned.

In July the developers decided to remove suicide and self-harm scenes, saying 'we regret it took us so long.'

It has caused controversy but the problem was the 10 age rating and no parental warning. That was indefensible.

Whether they took the right course of action is the only thing up for debate.

#### Daedalus I US\$5

A real gem from the Spanish indie VR studio Vertical Robot - the makers of Red Matter - Daedalus delivers a wonderful sensation of flying. Glide and ride currents of multicoloured air to solve oneiric and surreal puzzles.

### horror games!



#### Crashland | \$20

Aaaaaarrrrrrgggggghhhh! That's the sound of both terror and frustration as you perish once more from another brutal onslaught of giant hellworms, vicious waves of squealing pig burrowers and a relentless blitz of bloodsucking ticks.

Crashland is played in frenetic intense bursts on alien worlds until some unseen Scotty beams you up to safety. The relentless nightmare continues as you learn teleporting tactics, unlock perks and figure out how the hell to survive. Fire into the sky to get turret support and level up to hellfire and the funky boomshot!

It's far from easy but the relish is in the challenge. There's 24 finely engineered levels. From the evil genius of Welsh developer Llŷr ap Cenydd.





#### Lies Beneath | \$30

Far from being yet another zombie slasher, Lies Beneath is a graphic novel thriller wearing suspense and surrealism in its finest comic book garb.

It begins with the aftermath of a car crash and quickens the pace with a chase before you start to pick up some weapons to begin to defend yourself against the mysterious unknown in Slumber, Alaska.

Use your Zippo lighter to burn glowing voodoo dolls, pinpoint where to shoot and guide you through the darkness.

The story reveals inself through text bubbles along the 20 creepy chapters. More atmospheric then jumpy, but with enough horror to recoil in this cel-shaded yarn. From Seattle-based dev Drifter VR.

#### Cosmodread | \$15

Set on a dying spacecraft, Cosmodread is a moody maze of strategy, stealth and cunning with surprises behind every door. Ethereal and terrifying, it's another hit from the solo Spanish developer Sergio Hidalgo, creator of the classic Dreadhalls.

### adventure games!





#### Red Matter | \$25

Often cited as the best-looking game on the Quest 2, Red Matter is a true heavyweight title, a spectacular sci-fi adventure set in an alternate future Cold War.

As Agent Epsilon, you are an astronaut isolated on the abandoned Volgravian base on one of Saturn's moons, surrounded by propaganda in a pseudo-Soviet script.

In this game of psychological warfare chess, what's real and what is surreal keeps you guessing all the way to the end. What happened here? And who is watching your every move?

Sheer brilliance from the Spanish indie studio Vertical Robot.





#### Moss | \$30

'Your time has come at last, dear Reader' says the narrator as you open an dusty book in a candle-lit Cathedral. Here begins your bond with Quill, a young mouse, whose excited squeaks and cute high-fives will melt your heart.

She uses pantomimes and even sign language to communicate as you navigate your hero through temples and castles to save her imprisoned uncle. Sometimes you just want to stop and gawp at the beautiful scenery, so dropdead gorgeous are the dioramas.

Together you'll fight giant blood-red stag beetles, things that go 'boom' and the final 'unconquerable nightmare' - a fire-breathing serpent. A truly magical journey from Seattle-based Polyarc.

#### Shadow Point | \$20

A wonderful adventure with a Scottish lilt set on a mountaintop observatory in Inverness. Travel through portals to reveal a fantasy kingdom and solve puzzles of light and shadow to unlock the mystery of Lorna. Narrated by Sir Patrick Stewart!

## parkour games!



#### Stride | \$15

Parkour is really about the ultimate fantasy getaway escape route and Stride delivers to an edgy deep bass soundtrack as you leap across the rooftops.

Executing a wall run while gunning mid-air in slow motion feels good! This is parkour with pistols, climbing and cat leaps, swinging from hooks and flying down zip lines. All while trying not to get killed. It's a physical game - you swing your arms to run, throw them up to jump, push down to vault and crouch to slide.

In endless mode you get chased by an advancing red line as a minimalist world disintegrates behind you. Time attack is for speed runs, while arena mode has the proper cityscape. There's no multiplayer or story - yet. A free update is promised.





#### To The Top | \$20

Gaze and leap, fly and climb. Use monkey bars, grappling hooks, shuttles - the crazy movement mechanics are a joy to behold in this older experimental title from Electric Hat Games.

To The Top is a platformer with an incredible amount of freedom of movement. Spring through 35 innovative levels in solo or multiplayer to a great soundrack culled from local artists from Austin, Texas. Once you master the controls you can 'pounce through the levels like a robotic cheetah.'

Bounce across trucks moving through the desert, sail through a construction site, climb a giant moving robot - there's a fluid energy to the game design, and each level has its own unique flavour.

#### Gorilla Tag | free

Indie smash hit Gorilla Tag is a hilarious multiplayer with unique movement to run, climb and monkey around! It's playground tag - get your arms burning as you jump through a lo-fi jungle or canyon. And now you can mute the kids!

# puzzle games! 🚁



#### A Rogue Escape | \$20

A polished and stylish entry with escape room vibes, A Rogue Escape is a puzzler with zero hand-holding.

It all takes place inside the Nauticrawl some kind of underwater craft - and you are left to figure it all out standing at the controls without a manual (well, just an iPad-like device with cryptic clues).

What does that lever do? What happens if I flip that switch? Why does the power keep running out? It's a logic brainteaser which edges slowly and satisfyingly forwards as things start to fall into place.

You'll need a bit of space to operate the monster machine designed by Italian developer Spare Parts Oasis, but everything is in reach. Keep looking!





#### I Expect You To Die 2 | \$25

This sequel to a much-loved older puzzler, The Spy and the Liar delivers six fresh new fiendish escape rooms.

Still as a 007-style secret agent with seemingly unlimited access to cigars and champagne, your mission is to stop Zoraxis plans for world domination.

As a theatre hand in Operation Stage Fright to the Operation Rising Phoenix finale, you will perish repeatedly but the difficulty level is perfectly weighted to push you all the way to a triumphant solution. There's a host of bonus souvenirs to collect.

The nod to spy films and voice acting is top class with a warm humour percolating throughout. Welcome back, agent!

#### Time Stall I \$15

Save the captain! An original concept where time stands still while you try and figure out what is gonna hit who before normal speed is resumed. There's a lovely line in humour aboard the Fantastic Leap ship. Roomscale required.

# more puzzle games! 🚁





#### Squingle | \$20

Squingle is a totally trippy puzzler that doesn't shy away from being an out and out psychedelic experience.

Dance with your hands as you guide two revolving glowing orbs through iridescent tubes to a trance and ambient dub sound track with amazing binaural sound FXs.

Created by Benjamin Outram, there are 100 levels which start easy and progressively challenge your spacial awareness. The game really comes alive in roomscale as you can walk around the puzzle, twisting it in space as you play.

There are some spectacular replays of your runs inside the tubes themselves in a meditation mode. A surreal, clever and addictive addition to the genre.





#### Wind Wind | \$20

Wind wind is a cute Korean diaroma platformer featuring two characters that you control in turn as you climb the tower.

Joe and Koji are adorable - she giggles like she's being tickled while Joe does a great vacant stare. With controllers like pocket fans you push them with wind, but very gingerly, as they can wobble and fall.

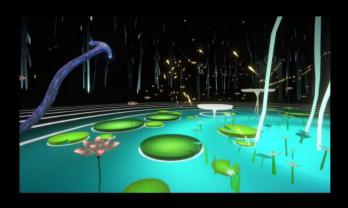
You need get your new best mates to work together. Joe can smash boxes and block red lasers heroically with his welding helmet, while Koji has the ability to fly with her red umbrella.

The game sounds are wonderful, the cartoon art style is captivating and the mechanics are fun. With eight levels to solve, this is up there with the best.

#### Chess Club | \$15

Play novelty battle chess in Stonehenge with animated pieces or a classic game in the Grand Palace. There's competitive multiplayer from 5 minute blitz to 30 minutes tournament or custom Al up to Grand Master. And all with hand tracking.

# meditative games! 🙈





#### Fujii | \$15

With a child-like wonder, climb into a boat with your guitar-playing spirit guide as you journey to three psychedelic biomes before indulging in a bit of soulful cosmic gardening.

Yes, Fujii is unique. Soothing, playful and gorgeous, it's a fluid magical trip through lush forests, deserts and beaches. Bring them back to life through touch, light and energetic harmony.

Collect mysterious seeds along the way to plant and cultivate back at your own kaleidoscopic allotment.

With a therapeutic soundtrack by French composer Norman Bambi, Funktronic Lab's gem of a game leaves you in a state of relaxed delight.



#### Flowborne | \$10

Flowborne is a gentle meditative biofeedback breathing experience. The key here is the innovative movement design - place one controller on your abdomen and the very act of breathing out propels you through the calming natural worlds.

Travel through the The Hills of Hope or the Caves of Calmness at your own pace to soft piano and string arrangements as the occasional rabbit or elephant pops up to say hello in the stylised wilderness.

The app, which counts the length and number of your breaths, was developed by Johannes Blum & Christoph Rockstroh, two psychologist researchers at the University of Freiburg in Germany. You can read their research paper here.

#### Cosmic Flow | free

Crucially this app allows to to re-centre your view to the ceiling so you can lie back and let the fractal patterns wash over you. Set the length to your own preference and bliss out to mellow music as your mind enters the tranquility zone!

## creator tools! 🗹



#### Virtuoso | free

A tool to play music with instruments designed for VR, Virtuoso makes GarageBand feel like the 18th century.

To a pulsating purple and blue neon background you can play the Oorgan, lay down a beat with the Empads, and discover the wHarp, Board and Clustr.

One hundred years on from the invention of the ethereal Theremin comes its freaky VR descendent, the Wavemin. You even have a mic.

Jonatan Crafoord is the creative genius behind the app, and one of a five-strong team at Really Interactive in Sweden. It's easy to build up a series of live loops and MIDI support means a huge potential for professional artists too.





#### Multibrush | free

Tilt Brush is dead, long live Tilt Brush! Google's seminal 3D painting tool, originally launched in 2016, went open source in January 2021 and within a week Multibrush was born as a free full feature version with added multiplayer.

'Your room is your canvas, your palette is your imagination' goes the tagline. Paint with the impossible, like smoke and fire, or chose from 85 different brushes, almost double the original slate. Clone creators Rendever are on a mission to overcome social isolation through VR.

Whether you want be a pro or just fancy some art therapy, there's an incredible community of artists out there to inspire. For a beginner's online course see Danny Bittman's channel on youtube here.

#### Gravity sketch | free

The future of design? A powerful pro 3D modelling tool, Gravity Sketch takes you from free-form sketching to advanced geometry with a sleek, slick and intuitive interface. There's a learning curve of course, but there are expert tutorials.

# hand tracking games!





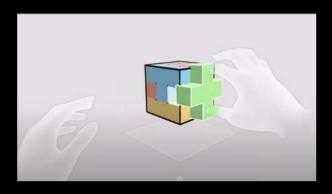
## The Curious Tale of the Stolen Pets | \$15

'I remember when you used to smile like that,' says your top-hatted grandfather as another pet pops out, grinning widely.

You'll be laughing too. Curious Tale by Swedish developer Fast Travel Games is as cute as a kitten. As soon as you push Spot on the swing in the summer house you'll be hooked. It's short, but bliss.

Poking and prodding around the five floating islands with hand tracking enabled is a childish joy. From a day-glo T-rex to a rainbow-coloured unicorn, there's 23 of the little creatures to find.

Throw in some Scandinavian folktronica by Wintergatan and a snow-melting mini hairdryer and you've got a unique tonic.





#### Waltz of the Wizard: Natural Magic | \$20

Flinging lightening bolts and casting spells with your own fair hands, it feels like you are in Disney's *Fantasia* in this classic title from Icelandic VR company Aldin.

It's a magical playground where you are given free reign to explore the Tower and its secrets. A cool comedy runs throughout with a talking skull as your best friend.

With a huge 'natural magic' expansion upgrade, there's a gorgeous courtyard and 40 more lavish levels in the fortress, although these new areas are yet to feature hand tracking. But in compensation you now have the ability to sonic scream?!

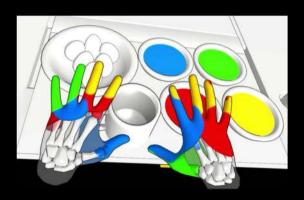
There's a unique 'telepath' movement and you can actually run! Enchanting and fun.

#### Cubism | \$10

This gem of a puzzle game added hand tracking with a lot of care. Thomas van Bouwel has created 60 puzzles but don't be fooled by the early easy ones. Achieve zen-like tranquility with gentle piano music. Dark mode and 120Hz!

# more hand tracking!





#### Hand Physics Lab | \$10

A riot of cartoon hand tracking fun, Hand Physics Lab has a playful design with 85 daft puzzles to solve with your bony hands. It starts off with baby steps but then things get harder - and weirder.

Finger-painting, Jenga, flinging planets into orbit, being a pupper-master - it's like being in mind of a hyperactive child, but is actually the creation of Swiss nueroengineer Dennys Kuhnert.

Remote control a toy car with finger gestures to the tune of the Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy and shake hands with your clone - it's clear that the tech itself is still in beta but it's all a great laugh.

The undisputed star of the show, though, is the virtual pet black cat, Mr Snuffles.





#### Tiny Castles | free

Behold the awesome power in your hands! From wielding a icicle like a club to virtually-controlling a titan, this tech demo from Oculus shows an exciting vision even with the current limitations.

There's four mini-games for you to help shuffling miniature maidens make their way through the temples and defend them from attack from cackling gremlins.

Try a unique warp teleportation (grab and pull), throw fire (with a rawwk action!) and even pick up unit commanders to programme their next move in the sky, lava, ice and moss castles.

There's a playground to try out all the bells and whistles (and cranks and levers). More on the Oculus blog here.

#### Eternal Starlight | \$20

Tactical space combat with a challenging permadeath mechanic, Eternal Starlight is a complex beast but you can sit back and control all the action with your hands. Hit skirmish mode for custom battles. Just be prepared to die and die again.

# pvp multiplayer!



#### Eleven | \$20

This is some serious ping pong club. With 600,000 registered users, Eleven table tennis now hosts well over a million monthly multiplayer matches - that's almost 50,000 a day.

One of the world's leading sports simulators, it also has an incredible AI for solo play that goes from Easy to Legend.

'There are no tricks. This is table tennis,' says Roman Rekhler, co-founder of New York-based For Fun Labs. Clever illusions that shave milliseconds off the latency of the game means you can play from New York to China in real time.

Climb the rankings and enter official tournaments. You can watch the finals and some expert tutorials here.





#### Blaston | \$10

3 ... 2 ... 1 ... Blaston! The genius of this duelling multiplayer that it is mute, creating the social mimes of bowing, waving and fist bumping as you face off like gladiators on neon podiums in front of a cheering audience.

It's like a non-aggressive fight with an array of toy weapons that deliver slow motion scatter bombs and splats. You need both tactical quick-thinking and premeditated skullduggery as you chop and change your arsenal of big pink balls and ice lasers between matches.

It's deceptively energetic - when you're wiped out, hang out in the OZO lounge down the sleazy back alley! There's a single player mission and now wild west quick draw duelling!

#### War Yards | free

The ace in the hole here is the slo-mo matrix-style 'bullet time' as your foes recoil as ragdolls! There's the fort, the mine, the train and now even 'Sand Hill' Cemetery, inspired by The Good, the Bad and the Ugly. Gunslingin' guffaws!

# social multiplayer!



#### Real VR Fishing | \$20

It could be the cherry blossom falling into Lake Hosan as you cast the line. Or the rain falling as you fish from your boat in Chungju. Or a rainbow over the River Han as you chase minnows.

Whatever it is, everyone seems to fall in love with the simple bliss of Real VR Fishing. Yes, of course there is the drama of trying to land a make or tiger shark, but it's the sheer tranquility of the photorealistic scenes across South Korea that make this game special.

You can fish with friends, compete in the seasons and listen to your own music as you progress through the 20 levels from freshwater to saltwater and build up your two aquariums back at the cosy lodge. US West update is coming!





#### Walkabout Mini Golf | \$15

Whether it's out of this world at Tethys space station under Saturn's rings, or bumbling around a rainy graveyard in Original Gothic, this is the craziest of crazy golf.

Consistently rated as one of the best multiplayer games, this gem from Texasbased Mighty Coconut delivers seven gorgeous courses to idly wander around as you putt and chat.

Find hidden balls or score 10 under par to unlock harder modes with added 'foxhunt' mysteries to solve!

And you can even aim your club straight up and soar like Mary Poppins above the greens (and purples) to get a bird's-eye view. Fore!

#### Wander | \$10

Who would have imagined that Google street view in a headset would be so much fun? Like its desktop counterpart, simply look up any street on the planet and go. You can even use voice commands. But the real joy is to travel there with friends.

# co-op multiplayer!



#### Carly and the Reaperman | \$20

Our green-haired heroine Carly arrives at Sunrise Avenue train station. She hops off on to the platform. Your massive grinning skull looms into view and your huge bony digits dwarf her tiny hands. You fist bump.

Developed by Odd Raven studios, it's a genius concept. The game is optimised as a two-player remote online co-op where one plays Carly on a flatscreen PC or mac while the other is the Reaperman in VR.

Aside from dressing up in comedy wigs, the Reaperman must employ blocks, torches and switches to help Carly as she navigates this fiendish 50-level platformer set in the supernatural world of the dead.

You can play on two Quests too or as a single player - but that's not half the fun.





#### Warplanes | \$15

Hand-thrown bombs, flares, a machine gun prone to jamming - this is the Great War with heroic dogfights against fighter squadrons, taking out blimps, trucks, warships and even a hurtling steam train.

A mix of arcade and flight simulator (with tweaks in-between for motion sickness sufferers), Warplanes sees you fighting with the Central Powers or Triple Entente. The graphics are sumptuous whether flying over cities in the moonlight with spotlights and flack artillery, or dusk over snow-laden landscapes.

You can build a squadron with a choice of 14 planes and as well as co-op there are single player and PvP options. Polish developers Home Net Games give you the tools to be a pioneer of aviation!

#### Racket NX | free demo | \$20

Mad futuristic neon-lit geodesic dome? Check. Metallic lizard-like multiplayer opponents? Check. Wacky new squash-breakout fusion sport with tractor beam? Check. Your own music and level design? Check!

# sports games! 🧶



#### The Climb 2 | \$30

In this sequel it's the city skyscrapers that take top billing - a totally different experience to the stunning landscapes of the Alps, Bay and Canyon levels that came before (and are updated here).

But it's the frozen wastes of the North which are perhaps the finest challenges. Creaking ice, a howling wind and chattering puffins accompany your ascent - in casual or professional mode.

Throw in a family of polar bears and an Arctic wolf prowling around an abandoned airplane and the experience has really reached its dazzling pinnacle.

Developers Crytek have now added rhythm challenges and more in two Freestyle Expansion Packs.





#### Holopoint | \$15

With its origins in the samurai of feudal Japan, Kyūdō is the martial art of archery. Holopoint, from Florida-based Azlan studios, arms you with a bow and arrow against holographic projections of blue sword-wielding and orange starthrowing ninjas.

Dodging and ducking, it's a fierce workout with squats burning your hamstrings and glutes. You begin in a minimalist dojo shooting cubes and shapes who fire back when hit. Drawing back to your cheek allows you to quickly reload from your quiver by reaching over your shoulder. Listen out for aural clues.

There's a new zen Garden Update with 30 extra waves. Checkpoints are at every five levels. Warning: intense!

#### Black Hole Pool | free

Get some cue action with David Ipac's excellent cool blue baize game which just gets better and better. Now with a giant youtube screen, a roaring fire and a view of the Alps! Play solo or invite a friend. Rack 'em up!

# more sports games! 🧶





#### Carve | \$20

Come into the cosy log fire cabin with your golden labrador puppy, a radio with snow reports and some old skool mixtapes on cassette. Choose your gloves and your board and you are ready to shred the powder!

Carve is a lovely, intuitive arrival on to the slopes. Crushy snow sounds, squeaky gloves. And then ... go! Flying over mumps, skidding over handrails, dodging rocks and snow-laden trees, you career down the mountain at exhilerating speeds. In time attack that's the objective - to unlock another five levels from forests to caves.

Or you can go freestyle, then it's tricks and flicks. From the creator of 1080 snowboarding, published by Chuhai labs.





#### Thrill of the Fight | \$10

The undisputed heavyweight champion of boxing games, this is a serious workout in a down-at-heel gym.

It's a visceral affair with cuts and nosebleeds as you fight your way through the nine opponents to reach the championship arena.

A true room-scale experience, you'll be bobbing and weaving against bruisers like Ugly Joe, Duke and the Moneymaker. Real-life pugilists attest to the game mechanics as the real deal and there are bonus rounds against a zombie, a headless boxer and a ghost.

There's an exciting multiplayer sequel in the works from Sealost Interactive aka solo developer lan Fitz. Knockout!

#### V-Speedway | free

Buckle up for some arcade racing around Shanghai-esque city streets in this smooth driving game with lovely handling and drifting physics. Italian dev Danjel Ricci has got his foot on the pedal with updates. Go single race or time attack mode. Top gear!

# even more sports games! 🧶





#### The Final Overs | \$15

Despite having a couple of billion fanatical fans globally, cricket is sport unknown to many. Get ready to be bowled over by The Final Overs, a passion project from the heart of one of the biggest cricketing countries in the world, Pakistan.

Developers Mixeal having been pouring their energies into creating an unmissable sporting experience - the climax of a thrilling match.

As the batsman, you must hit as many runs as you can. The glory is to hit a six over the boundary - and then revel in a slo-mo replay! Just don't be out for a duck (zero) or you'll see him quacking!

Play 3, 5, 10 or 20 overs and climb the global leaderboards. Howzat!





#### Crazy Kung Fu | free demo | \$10

Pitted against a spinning Wing Chun wooden dummy, you must dodge flashing blades, block and punch as you train by a waterfall under the watchful guise of a comedy cut-out wise man.

In fight mode the dummy moves alarmingly around the space - can you become quicker than the human eye?!

Solo developer Arnaud from Londonbased Field of Vision originally designed Crazy Kung Fu for his own training as a practitioner of martial arts for 12 years. Work your quads and calves, shoulders and back muscles.

There's nothing po-faced here - there's even the option to have falling shrimps to munch on to test your reflexes!

#### In da Hoop | \$10

Styled on the old skool indoor basketball arcade games, In da Hoop takes it to a new dimension with hand tracking (although you can still use the controllers). There's 17 levels from bank to no backboard. Good shot! You win!

# unique games & apps!



#### The Under Presents | free

I enter the lobby and a band, 'The Lame Drivers' - led by a giraffe - are playing. Someone hands me a blue flower. I cast a turnip spell and return the favour.

This is magical, theatrical world of 'The Under Presents', and we are mute black gowned sprites with golden masks. This voiceless multiplayer communication begs for mimes, finger-clicking, bows and courtesies and has incredible spacial interaction.

Tender Claws have created a piece of art with the amazing scrunch locomotion technique, essentially warping through space. The demo has over 30 minutes of single player mysteries to discover. Other adventures, like The Timeboat, are available for a fee.





#### Help Yourself | free

A true original, Help Yourself is a solo multiplayer - a co-op with clones of yourself!

A puzzle shooter, it's mesmerising watching replays of yourself playing alongside your current self in a surreal time-bending bond.

With a fun scrapbook cut 'n' paste art style, it's the leaf people (you) against the machines. Pre-load your green guns with seed-like bullets and toss it to yourself to be ready in the next time loop. As you progress, so do the number of clones and the complexity.

Made by Media Cube Games, five Masters students at Salzburg University in Austria.

#### Art Plunge | \$2

Magical immersion into five masterpieces which are brought to life in an inspired interpretation in VR. Featuring Starry Night, Mona Lisa, The Birth of Venus, The Creation of Adam and Girl Reading a Letter at an Open Window.

# indie games!



#### City of Eternity | free

'Stupid time-travelling tourists. Always leaving messes behind. Just another day punching the clock as a Time Janitor.'

An easy-to-pick-up original concept, City of Eternity has you on a march through time portals as a wage slave delivering artefacts back to their eras.

But the more you time travel, the more you have to avoid clones of yourself. It gets manic as 'you' multiply and the guards from each age close in - cavemen and mobsters, robocops and knights.

The walking mechanics are great fun - locomotion is through swinging your arms - and 2300AD has the perfect groove. Created by David Mines, it's one to play with a huge smile on your face.





#### Wrong Voyage Ex | free

It's an ancient title from Spanish indie Flying Guillotine but its great playability has given Wrong Voyage Ex the longevity to come all the way from a Game Jam for Google Cardboard to the Quest 2!

In a pixelated retro style with 2D jungle walls and dark emerald green labyrinths, the game has fantastic moody atmospherics and just the right side of tension.

Armed with a simple laser gun, you'll come across the occasional scuttling red spider, zombie or crazed illuminati figure but your main task is to activate what look like green circuit boards to unlock portals and operate platforms. The levels get progressively harder and more intense. Classic!

#### DAVID I free demo

Stylish and satisfying wave shooter where you control your ship and support drone in the 3rd person, like waving your favourite toys around! Hugely promising first chapter in a space adventure from Two Guys productions.

# more indie games!



#### Deisim | US\$8

World-building lends itself wonderfully to VR. You can fly across your domain in seconds, inspecting individuals and crushing heretics. Or pull out into a wide angle, cackling with evil intent or altruistic endeavour - it's up to you.

Deisim sets you up as an all-powerful God, destined to lead humankind out of the stone-age and into the future. You create biomes with a nonchalant flick of the wrist and watch as the Egyptians begin building golden Pyramids in the desert oasis or African villages emerge from a crocodile-infested swamp.

It's spellbinding to watch the progression of civilisations but you are not alone - watch out for the UFOs ready to decimate your carefully constructed universe!





#### Directive Nine | US\$13

A perfectly moody sci-fi shooter set on a spinning space station with surprises behind each vertical sliding door, 'D9' is fiercely addictive.

Equipped with a swap-over-the-shoulder dayglo orange pulse pistol with infinite recharge and an MK-4 rifle, you have to run missions past droids, goliaths and humans hiding round every corner.

As the battles intensify you can utilise a myriad of gun mods and earn credits to step up your loadout from taser-like photon neutralizers to a quad pipe.

Weapons carry over and no run is the same. There's an excellent seated option, too. Still in Early Access, there's clearly lots to come.

#### Peco Peco | U\$10

Solve giant preloaded 3D puzzles from hippy art to the Mars rover Perseverance as they come to animated life on completion. Go from a simple seven-piece to an intricate 180. You can recut and remix any puzzle to challenge friends!

# even more indie games!



#### **Ancient Dungeon | free**

Never has a pixelated wailing zombie ever felt so threatening. Solo developer Eric Thullen even has a content warning: 'contains blocky dismemberment and blood'!

Go further with each run into the dark randomly generated dungeon, armed with a sword and throwing dagger against evil poison-spitting plants, bats and jumping bushes in the Overgrown Gatehouse, on to the fire creatures of the Forgotten Library and beyond.

Smash everything, pick up loot and power-ups, and be prepared for a lot of close combat. More floors are being added including the Luminous Mines. 'Crush capitalism' is listed as one of the game's milestones. Might take a while.





#### Painting VR | US\$10

You stand in a huge white hanger with a giant canvas at one end. There are simple metal shelves laden with paint pots and brushes, spray paints and thinner. More pots are scattered on the floor and a massive roller is propped up, ready to go.

This is painting as a simulator, all the kit and no mess! There's a satisfying squelch as brush hits canvas and the textures glisten in the natural light. It's all very intuitive – you can mix paints right in their pots and blend strokes.

Or you can use a colour picker, change the lighting and import reference materials. Painting VR, from Oisoi Studios in Belgium, is still in Early Access but for now you can just stand back and admire your art!

#### ARK-ADE | free demo

With back-to-the-80s Tron-style graphics, this shooter takes you inside the arcade cabinet. With a great bleepy soundtrack and smooth enemy movements, it's on a Pistol Whip vibe. Excellent! Oustanding!



## interactive animations!

Interactive animations are a whole new level of magic. Here's my top 12!



wolves in the walls app | \$9 do you believe me? 40m



paper birds part I & II app | \$7 music and light! 30m



battlescar app | US\$6
girls invented punk! 28m



madrid noir ⊕
app | \$9
Lola's journey 45m



the line (a) ward winner 20m



baba yaga 🖨 🔌 app | \$6 protect the forest! 22m



the secret of retropolis app | \$13 play a robot detective! 1hr



bonfire app | \$5
play fetch with aliens! 20m



**luna** & ₩ app | \$15 back to life 1-2hs



timeboat ⊕ in app | \$12 'the under presents' 30m



goliath: playing with reality app | free exploring mental health 25m



the key ⊕
app | free
where am I from? 20m

# quillustrations!

Quill Theater is integrated into OculusTV. It has immersive playback for films and the ability to toggle between any artist-defined angles for illustrations.



1 - the multiverse bakery studio syro | free unmissable adventures ...



2 - the neon jungle studio syro | free ... from the tales ...



3 - the quantum race studio syro | free ... of soda island! 3 x 5m



4 - the golden record studio syro | free if only Carl Sagan could see this! 12m



lifetime achievement parade | free the lengths Yonaton Tal goes to for his mama! 15m



peace of mind blue zoo | free bing bong! dream interpretation 5m



nightmara: episode one so meta studios | free eaten your peas, Ned? 7m



rebels
federico breser | free
music is our freedom! 7m



four stories
nick ladd art | free
simultaneous quartet of
fun tales 12m



the beast
blue zoo | free
I dreamt of nothing but the
mountain 5m



the remedy daniel peixe | free seminal comic-book 10m



dear angelica
oculus | free
the first quillustration! 15m

## animations archive

2020



the dawn of art oculus tv | free the cave of forgotten dreams 10m



le soleil d'edvard munch youtube vr | free french language warning: intense! 10m



crow the legend within | free from the makers of Madagascar! 22m



dreams of dalí youtube vr | free inside a Dalí painting 6m



saturnism
cine vr | free
Goya's hideous child-eating
vision brought to life 4m



the spacewalker within | free 1965 Voskhod-2 rocket launch! 4m



dreams of henri rousseau youtube vr | free genius rendition in a Parisian greenhouse 7m



**pearl youtube vr** | **free**Oscar-nominated tale of father and daughter 6m



ayahuasca oculus tv | free Jan Kounen's jaw-dropping Amazonian trip 18m



jurassic world app | free apatosaurus & blue 2 x 3m



invasion! app | free aliens try to take over the Earth! 6m



the butcher youtube vr | free run, rabbit, run! 2m

## film archive

2021









Download these apps. Pull up a swivel chair and grab some headphones for your best viewing pleasure. Resolution may be found wanting in older titles!

2021



surviving 9/11
oculus tv | free
reconstructed in VR 20m



the before times youtube vr | free did we know where we were going? 7m



traveling while black felix & paul | free Jim Crow era 20m



the iss experience space explorers | US\$3 episode II: advance 33m





**-22.7°C youtube vr** | **free**DJ Molécule in the Arctic.

Jan Kounen directs 9m



the overview effect
oculus tv | free
astronomical metanoia 6m

2020



2nd step app lab | US\$3 from the moon to mars 11m



immerse
oculus tv | free
best underwater film 9m

don't miss!



1st step app lab | US\$3 moon trip on Apollo 11 14m

\* youtube vr app limits resolution. Watch on firefox reality. Add Firefox Ad blocker extension. Click quality setting (up to 8K) | Turn off subs | Click full-screen > goggles and choose 360 stereo. \* On oculus tv download cache to watch in high res. Watch vimeo on firefox reality.

## film archive



2019



gorillapalooza
within | free
hang out with mountain
gorillas in Rwanda 6m



iceland's glaciers youtube vr | free 'what happens to ice, happens to us' 7m



pompeii
youtube vr | free
the heart of the eruption
french language 8m



free solo
youtube vr | free
climbing El Capitan
solo style 6m



cesare's dream
youtube vr | free
the cabinet of dr caligare
- what is reality? 6m



tales from the edge youtube vr | free wingsuit base jumping with Jeb Corliss 9m



okavango experience youtube vr | free astonishing wildlife in the Okavango Delta 4 x 6m



**700 sharks within** | **free**the largest gray shark
pack in the world 7m



dive blue planet vr youtube vr | free incredible guided dive with octopus 9m



the atomic tree within | free 400-year-old bonsai that survived Hiroshima 10m



polar obsession youtube vr | free seals in Antarctica 7m



isle of dogs youtube vr | free stop motion studio 6m

## film archive





the real thing
within | free
Chinese fakes of Paris,
Venice and London 16m



airpano vr jellyfish bay youtube vr | free breathtaking underwater film in Indonesia 3m



**dolphin man - the dive within** | **free**world record holder in
free diving 6m



**uaxuctum youtube vr | free**orchestral interpretation
of a Mayan legend 7m



charlie checkers goes to brazil! youtube vr | free six-year-old Charlotte's imaginary journey 7m



space explorers felix & paul | US\$3 each amazing nasa docs 2 x 20m



zero days vr within | free documentary on the fourth dimension of war 21m



sanctuaries of silence within | free the last silent wilderness 7m



alteration oculus tv | free disturbing experimental Al sci-fi 17m



save every breath youtube vr | free WWII dunkirk 1940 4m



nomads
felix & paul | free
maasai mara, yak herders
and sea gypsies 3 x 12m



strangers felix & paul | free just a guy making music 8m

# coming soon!

Many of these titles are currently doing the rounds on the film festival circuit. See xrmust.com for all the latest screenings!



namoo app | Q2 baobab studio's latest!



minimum mass app | Q2 love, loss & black holes



**app** | tbc deep sea sci-fi!



kusunda app | tbc Nepalese shaman



the iss experience app | Q3 episode three!



grace
app | tbc
grace darling's life



african space makers app | tbc from Nairobi, Kenya



the hangman at home app | tbc the intimacy of humanness



whispers
app | tbc
Polish-Ukranian border



all her bodies app | tbc five women's stories



replacements
app | tbc
neighbourhood in Jakarta



dreamin' zone app | tbc memories of Korea





## interactive animations!



#### Wolves in the Walls | 40m

'I sat in my car for 30 minutes thinking about it. That could have been any character, that cube could have been any object,' remembers director Pete Billington as he describes his epiphany using the 'Toybox' demo which first illustrated animated user interaction.

That character became the adorable wide-eyed child Lucy and that cube became a Polaroid camera in the sensational Wolves in the Walls, an Emmy award-winning pioneer in the use of 'virtual beings', powered by Al.

The emotional bond with Lucy becomes as strong as her own with 'pig puppet' in Fable's adaptation of Neil Gaiman's eponymous children's book. You won't want to leave her side. Visionary.





#### The Key | 20m

Profound and unsettling, The Key takes you on a surreal journey through barren landscapes, watercolour skies and expressionless figures dressed uniformly in black.

One of them introduces herself as Anna. 'I can't remember where I came from, 'she announces, 'but I keep having these dreams, and there's always a key.'

You are introduced to some friends at the outset - one likes to sing, another likes to dance, a third is shy. But there's a storm brewing.

Directed by Celine Tricart, you'll come across a multi-eyed bureaucrat and get a tongue-lashing from a demon and it may not make much sense - until the end.

#### Bonfire | 20m

As Scout 817, you've been sent to find a new home for humans. Before long you are playing fetch with a pink porkbun using cubed filipino beef skewers. Weird. Do you save the human race or your new alien friend? From Baobab studios.





# hand tracking interactive!



#### Paper Birds | 30m

'The morning breeze was my favourite part of the day' declares Toto, a flat-capped boy playing a bandoneon (a type of concertina) in this quintessentially Argentinian animation directed by German Heller and Frederico Carlini.

Archie Yates, Edward Norton and Joss Stone star as the voices of Toto and his grandparents Robert and Elsa in this pretty handcrafted stop-motion yarn that slowly and expertly reveals a complexity and mystery of those blue neon birds.

At times tear-jerkingly beautiful, Paper Birds is a two-act play from the perspective of youth and old age. The hand tracking of music and light is as thrilling as the story is profound as you discover portals to an invisible world.





#### Baba Yaga | 22m

The wild witch of centuries of Slavic folklore, Baba Yaga, fixes her piercing green eyes on two brave young daughters of a sick village chief in this interactive animation from Baobab studios.

Magda (voiced by Daisy Ridley) and Sasha - that's you - must go into the dangerous forest to get the witch blossom cure from the enigmatic old hag (Kate Winslett) to save your mother (Glenn Close).

Yes, it's an all-star cast - and all-female - and although the hand tracking interaction is minimal it is spectacular, from taking a lantern from your sister to unleashing thunderbolts of thorns. There are multiple endings - which path will you chose?

#### The Line | 20m

A love story between Pedro and Rosa, two miniature dolls on a scale model of 1940s São Paulo. Narrated by Rodrigo Santoro, this Emmy award-winning tale from Brazilian studio Arvore is a showcase hand tracking experience.



## more interactive!



#### Timeboat | 30m-1hr

Hidden within 'The Under Presents' app is Timeboat, a standalone interactive animation that is a cast-iron case of how VR can be mind-blowingly inventive.

Using your virtual golden mask you can toggle between seeing the world in miniature or at human-scale as you ghost around the scenes during the three acts. You can wind time back and forwards and move using 'scrunch' locomotion, essentially warping through space.

In the story itself you go onto a research ship, The Aickman, which lurches into disaster when it gets stuck in an ice floe. On board there's a cast of fully fleshedout characters for you to eavesdrop on during your own non-linear adventure. Audacious and ground-breaking.





#### Madrid Noir | 45m

Lola is a distracted young woman, uncomfortable with her unresolved memories. 'These boxes won't unpack themselves,' she says, as you help her rummage in drawers and answer the phone in the former apartment of her dodgy uncle.

Directed by James Castillo, Madrid Noir is a tale in two acts set in the Spanish capital, a night-time *paean* to a lost era. Sucking on cigarettes in the back streets, doing deals with the shiftiest of bar room buddies, Lola's uncle is up to something.

Reaching back into her memories, she resolves to check it out. In a perfectly honed finale, Lola confronts her past. The majority is played out on a theatrical stage but there's some precious interaction.

#### Luna | 1-2hs

This beautiful story of the reconstruction of a world that's been blown off-course seems to chime perfectly with the times. Part interactive animation, part game and part meditation, Luna stars a young red Bird who must reawaken a broken planet.



## new interactive!



#### The Secret of Retropolis | 1hr

'Before they were gone, humans made robots to keep civilisation alive. But just like the humans, we turned out to be apathetic and broken.'

This is Retropolis, a city populated by robots like you, Philip Log, a downbeat private detective. 'I love jazz, it makes my drinking seem more sophisticated, ' says Philip.

In walks the beautiful blue Jenny Montage, a rich, famous mechanical movie star and your point & click puzzle adventure begins, replete with springloaded arms and suitcase inventory.

With a lovingly crafted retro-futuristic art style, this is a witty noir caper from Israeli indie Peanut Button.





#### Goliath: Playing with Reality | 25m

It's a psychotic episode while DJing at a rave that 'Goliath' realises that he's going 'mad'. The film flips effortlessly from techno, turntables and trippers to a very sparse room in a psychiatric hospital.

Made by London-based Anagram, it's profoundly affecting and doesn't pull any punches. 'My fucking head is just ... fucked,' says Goliath, narrating his own true story along with Tilda Swinton.

A tale of suffering, schizophrenia and salvation via the online gaming world is delivered through mind-warping visuals, minimal interactions and a clever device to hear voices in your own head.

It feels like an important step towards changing how mental health is portrayed.

#### Nightmara: Episode One | 7m

Cool kid Mara, 11, crosses swords with Mayor Doesgood over little Ned Nimrod in this madcap animated graphic novel from So Meta Studios. There's an alien abduction sitcom complete with canned laughter and a truckload of petit pois.



# quillustrations!



#### Lifetime achievement | 15m

Leaning on the comic traditions and style of Tex Avery and Chuck Jones, this tear-jerker is a riff on the value of presence over presents.

Former Disney animator Yonatan Tal, who set up LA-based Parade Animation, draws on the love for his own mother (he declares as much in the opening credits) as he weaves a fast-paced fable that flies from secret caves in South Indonesia to albino crocodile hunting in Africa.

High-flying French designer Albert - so ritzy that 'Lorenzo is my exclusive gold supplier since 94' - is trying to make the ultimate gift for mama. But will the quiet tea-drinking septuagenarian be impressed?





#### **Tales From Soda Island** | 4x5m

An astonishing series of four Quill shorts from Studio Syro - all set in the strange universe of Soda Island, with smoothie beavers and peace-loving *nekoalas*.

In The Multiverse Bakery, a chef bends space-time and cooks from lightening bolts and squirrel acorns. A humanoid tadpolotl emerges from the water in The Neon Jungle and it's a techno candyland version of 60s cartoon Wacky Races in The Quantum Race. But the latest is the greatest - A Golden Record. Our worker ant hero breaks free with the help of surprise find from across the universe.

It's eye-popping fun. At times fantastically minimalist and always wordless, Soda Island is fizzing with life.

#### Peace of Mind | 5m

A slightly confused Mr Burridge enters an austere waiting room where he's told to wait for his 'live dream interpretation experience'. The unseen overworked technician Jason is keen to hurry things along, ignoring his pleas that 'this is not a dream, it's a recurring nightmare!'



## more animations!





Director Jan Kounen's jaw-dropping Amazon trip begins in the jungle with a shaman sitting in front of you, framed against the roots of a giant tree.

The indigenous healer, from the Peruvian Shipibo-Conibo tribe, begins a meditative chant to take you into a trance-like state - an ancient ritual played out on the most modern of media, and one of the most powerful experiences in VR.

Representing the effects of the hallucinogenic drug ayahuasca, you begin a mesmeric psychedelic journey, with visions of animal spirits from serpents to hummingbirds in the fractal cathedrals. It's not a film to be watched lightly. This 'making of' short can help you decide if you want to take the trip.





#### Battlescar | 28m

'We are gonna grab Alphabet city by the balls!' As loud, angry and energised as the 1978 New York punk scene it portrays, Battlescar follows two teenage runaways - Puerto-Rican American 16-year-old Lupe and her *blanquita* friend Debbie.

Created by Argentine director Nico
Casavecchia, it tilts from cut and paste
Sniffin' Glue zine-style to riding on the
back of a stolen motorbike in a flash.
Words stab the screen. Dark, urgent and
edgy, Battlescar takes you on a trip down
dangerous alleyways, punk legend Elda
Stiletto's squat and the infamous CBGBs.

Rosario Dawson narratives to a backdrop of white guitar noise - and even a little Screamin' Jay Hawkins. Death is certain. And punk was invented by girls.

#### Rebels | 7m

With just a trusty trumpet against the one-eyed droids, our hero ducks, dodges and parkours his way through a dystopian future. With a battlecry of 'music is our freedom', this *quillustration* builds to a marvellous jazzy release.



## art animations!



#### Dreams of Dalí | 6m

A stone-cold classic must-see, Dreams of Dalí is an epic fly-through the trippy surrealism of the Spanish painter.

It begins in the desert as an ant-sized father and child gaze up at two towering praying figures, the scene from his work 'Archaeological Reminiscence of Millet's Angelus'.

Although that painting is the anchor of the film, other iconic elements are introduced - a lobster phone rings under one of the towers, a girl is skipping rope, and the elephants on stilts trumpet under the crescent moon.

With the echoing voice of Salvador himself in English and Spanish, it's an obra maestra all of it's own.





#### Le Soleil d'Edvard Munch | 10m

Using the Ganzfeld effect of perceptual deprivation to create 'hallucinations' of colours, this experimental animation attempts to recreate the intensity felt by Edvard Munch on seeing 'The Sun'.

Using frequencies of sound and chromas that cut to white, your brain becomes starved of stimulation and imprints their opposites on the blank canvas.

Munch based his masterpiece on a sunrise on Norwegian coast, re-created here at the start of the film as a slow one-take timelapse taken from the same spot over a fjord in Kragerø. *French language*.

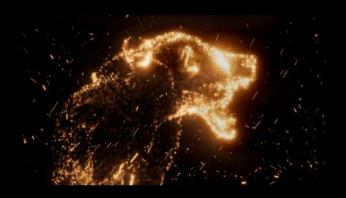
Warning: This film features an optical technique which might be uncomfortable for some viewers.

### Saturnism | 4m

Terrifying animation of Francisco Goya's 'Saturn Devouring His Son'. Directed by Mihai Greco, it's a visceral experience set in a dark and barren landscape of fear and without hope of escape. As hideous as the original.



## more art animations!



#### The Dawn of Art | 10m

Black woolly rhinoceros locking horns, a quartet of horses, arctic musk oxen and a pride of lions. It must have been quite a shock when speleologist Jean-Marie Chauvet stepped into a cave in the South of France in 1994 and stepped back in time by 36,000 years.

The Dawn of Art leads you inside what Werner Herzog has called the cave of forgotten dreams. A bear skull sits where it was carefully placed many, many millennia ago. The giant frescos - humanity's first masterpieces - are some of the oldest drawings in the world.

Narrated by Daisy Ridley, the animals spring from the walls as sparks of fire - animating the originals drawn in charcoal and engraved into the limestone walls.





#### **Dreams of Henri Rousseau** | 7m

'I never went to Mexico, that was a lie I told people. In fact I've never been anywhere.'

It's true. Henri Rousseau, famous for his depictions of tropical jungles, never left Paris. His psychedelic inspirations came only from the city's botanical gardens.

The film, directed by Nicolas Autheman, leaves you in the greenhouse of the Jardin des Plantes after closing time and Rousseau's shimmering art begins to reveal itself in the lush foliage.

'I don't feel afraid. There are other spirits in the forest, ' the narrator continues. The friendly face of a lion, the black snake charmer, the reclining nude - all figures from his most famous oil-on-canvas painting, 'The Dream'.

#### Cesare's Dream | 6m

A century on from the expressionist silent film 'The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari', this mixed-media VR homage is still asking the same questions: 'What is a dream, what is reality and who is in control?'



# space films!



#### The ISS Experience: Pt II | 33m

Advance is the second of a four-part series aboard the international space station by the vanguard of VR filmmaking, Félix Lajeunesse and Paul Raphaël.

Rejoining the crew, the film zooms in on the role of women and astronauts Anne McClain and Christina Koch pay tribute to Jerrie Cobb, blocked by Nasa from her own space flight 50 years earlier.

'Science is organised curiosity' declares Anne, as Christina tends to her precious mizuna greens growing incongruously amongst the tech.

The largest production ever filmed in space yields lovely intimate moments and a spectacular upside-down group hug ends with two leaving the mission.





#### The ISS Experience: Pt I | 28m

A very human look at a very alien environment, Adapt is the first of the fourpart series. Floating through a mass of wires, tunnels, tubes and laptops are the four featured astronauts on the 22-yearold 'outpost of humanity'.

'The power of adaptation is one of the most beautiful aspects of the human mind, 'declares David Saint-Jacques, as the crew get accustomed to 'microgravity' and the disorientation of '16 sunrises and 16 sunsets a day.'

As awe-inspiring images of the Earth pass underneath, the team tuck in to an *amuse-bouche* of brie and chutney and it's the ordinary that calls your attention. The most important place on the \$160 billion station? The bathroom.

#### The Overview Effect | 6m

The Overview Effect is cognitive shift in awareness reported by some astronauts during spaceflight. This film tries to recreate the effect to stimulate an 'instant global consciousness' and a desire to protect the planet.



## more space stuff!





#### 1st Step | 11m

There's just so much to take in. Orbiting and standing on the moon with photorealistic lunar panoramas based on Nasa data. Crammed inside the tiny capsule with Aldrin, Armstrong and Collins. But it's the phenomenal view of Apollo 11 exiting Earth's orbit from an impossible standpoint that takes the breath away.

A superb narration conveys the enormity of mankind's greatest achievement. With judicial use of genuine crackling audio recordings of the time and clever use of archive footage, 1st step succeeds in transporting you back over a half a century. It's impossible not to be moved.

An incredible piece of filmmaking from Faber Courtial. One of the greatest docs ever made about the moon landings.



#### 2nd Step | 14m

An imaginary journey into the near future, 2nd step takes you to the Shackleton-Crater on the dark side of the moon, flying over the lunar base that will be the jump-off point for the mission to Mars.

One lunar night is equivalent to 14 back on Earth, glimpsed as a fragile blue crescent hanging in the blackness of space.

Orbiting the red planet, you are soon standing with the golden-helmeted astronauts on the surface of the Martian desert, gazing open-mouthed at the edge of the deepest canyon in the solar system.

And in a fantastical finale, the search for a second Earth takes us to an unknown exoplanet, in what would be 'the greatest discovery that man could make'. Epic.

#### The Spacewalker | 4m

There's a blizzard swirling around the launchpad of the Voskhod 2 rocket as it prepares for blast off in March, 1965. Step into the shoes of Soviet cosmonaut Alexei Leonov as he becomes the first human in history to float freely in space.



## even more space stuff!

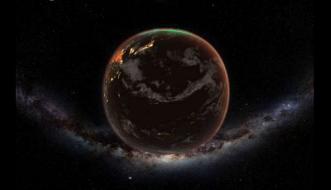






Unity and co-operation seem a pretty good course of action seeing as the survival of the human race depends on it, as 'either we will have destroyed the Earth or the Sun will have blown up'.

The interview-led narration follows the training of a new class of deep space explorers from being lowered into a swimming pool - sorry, 'Buoyancy Lab' - to flying in the cockpit of a T-38 jet. There's even a moment that you realise that you are watching someone train using VR - in VR. From Felix & Paul.





Space Explorers: Taking Flight | 20m

Beginning on the launch pad of SpaceX, you could be forgiven for thinking this will be a dive into the egos of tech billionaires Bezos, Branson and Musk.

Instead we are soon surrounded by bleating Mongolian camels in the Kazakhstan desert, site of the world's largest space launch facility, to witness various awe-inspiring rockets thunder into the sky.

This episode is mostly narrated by kindly Russian cosmonauts, undergoing training for missions to the International Space Station. The overwhelming message is of civility. Thankfully directors Felix & Paul placed the cameras by the side of, and not on, the centrifuge simulation.

#### Ørsted Space Safari | 4m

A call to action on the climate emergency narrated by astronauts, the film is micro to macro zoom out from tree level to 100 kilometres above sea level and back. Sponsored by Danish company Ørsted, it ends on their wind farm at sunset.





# underwater films!



#### Immerse | 9m

Poetic, educational and affecting, Immerse is simply the best 360 underwater film out there.

Look right down the mouth of a manta ray, go eye to eye with green sea turtles and dive with shoals of red snappers and grey sharks among the coral reefs of Palau. The film is mixed with exquisite animations of coral polyps and mass coral spawning on the full moon.

It's made by Hydrous, a non-profit which raises ocean awareness and scientific understanding, led by marine biologist Dr Erika Woolsey.

As she says: 'When you see the beauty and the magic of the ocean this closely how could you not want to protect it?'





#### Polar Obsession | 7m

National Geographic photographer Paul Nicklen traverses 550 miles of the roughest seas in the world to reach Antarctica. 'It's like you are entering this dreamland and the dream is real, ' he says.

Floating like a speck amongst the spectacular icebergs, he has a close encounter with a humpback whale before meeting the star of the underwater show - a 12 foot long leopard seal, 'bigger than a grizzly bear'.

After some dramatic threat displays, the seal decides to show just how good he is at catching a penguin.

It's an astonishing and unique hunting sequence captured at the very edge of the South Pole.

#### AirPano Jellyfish Bay | 3m

From the Russian hi-res film specialists AirPano comes a short but breathtaking dive into a smack of thousands of jellyfish in Raja Ampat, Indonesia. Recorded in 8K by Alexey Tishchenko with a simple musical score.





### more underwater films!



#### Dive Blue Planet VR | 9m

Diver Tiare Boyes narrates in real time as you plunge into the green seas of Canada in search of the world's largest octopus.

In between gulps of air, Boyes directs your gaze with her torch and her patter as she swims through the emerald underwater kelp forest. After pausing to show off an enormous wolf eel, it's time for the star, the Giant Pacific Octopus.

Camouflaged, and at almost 10 metres long, it emerges right in front of your eyes. It's a nocturnal carnivorous predator and as smart as a house cat.

This is classic BBC Natural History Unit writ large in VR. It's a guided safari that even has time for a sea lion cameo, as a young male comes in to have a look.





### **Dolphin Man: Dive** | 6m

'I have a relationship with the depths cold, dark, vacant, pressure,' says William Trubridge, a quietly-spoken free diver.

Just a lithe body in a wetsuit with no oxygen, he descends vertically into the bluest of Blue Holes, where he's achieved many of his 14 world records.

Trubridge has gone eight minutes without breathing and broken through the 100 metre barrier without fins.

Directed by Benoît Lichté, Dive is one of a trio of films with Dolphin Man. Darker and darker, we head into the depths.

'Gases play tricks on your mind, ' he says, as he reflects on the dangers and his own calmness in the face of them. And, breathe.

### **700** sharks | 7m

A heart-in-the-mouth glimpse at the largest gray reef shark pack in the world in French Polynesia. It's daytime, when the 'wall' of sleek torpedoes remains static, hours before a feeding frenzy to gorge on groupers you can only imagine.



# **BABY STEPS!**

### ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS: GETTING STARTED OUT OF THE BOX!

I just got it out of the box, now what do I do?! Turn it on by doing a short press of the button on the right side of the headset. You can turn it off by doing a long press! It'll go into standby on its own.

**Download the Oculus app to your phone!** Find it here or here. You have to pair it with your headset via bluetooth.

Set up your account! You'll have to link it to a valid Facebook account (required). Enter your bank details, and you are ready to install some apps!

WTF does that mean?! It's an alphabet soup of three-letter acronymns out there! Check out the glossary!

Set up your Guardian boundary! Clear some space in your room and follow the tutorial in the headset. Be careful and aware - don't faceplant the fireplace or tread on your cat!

The Oculus button is your best friend!
See that one marked with ○? It's the one that is depressed under the joystick on the right controller. A long press will always re-centre your view and a short press will exit any app back to the menu.

Charging! The green light means it's fully charged (you get about two hours), orange is charging, white in use and red when there's only 10% left. You can leave it charging without damaging the battery.

### HAND TRACKING: HOW TO ENABLE, GESTURES AND ADVICE!

**Turn it on!** Go to settings > device > hands and controllers > and toggle hand tracking on. Point and pinch to select and scroll. Watch the 'hands' video tutorial pre-installed in your apps to learn how to do the basic gestures.

It still feels very much in beta but when it works it's like some kind of freaky magic! It uses the built-in cameras so make sure you have plenty of light and contrast! High Frequency Hand Tracking has just been added, the first update since launch.

### 'I JUST WANNA PLAY!' GREAT APPS TO GET YOUR FIRST 'WOW'!

Want your first 'wow'?! A great start is the interactive animation the line. You don't need to learn how to use the controllers, and you get the magic of seeing your hands! You can play seated or roomscale. Lasts 20 mins.

No, I mean a game! OK, simple controls but high-octane is the cimematic bullet hell of **pistol whip**! For something a little more sedate try the mind-blowing experience of **down the rabbit hole**. Both are the best VR can offer!

# HINTS, GUIDELINES, TIPS AND TRICKS

### BASICS: LENSES, SAFETY, PASSTHROUGH & IPD!

Look after the lenses! Never leave them exposed to sunlight, even for a few seconds! Never clean the lens with anything but a lens cloth (your t-shirt can scratch them). I keep mine turned away from the window and always have a cloth on hand. Or use a lens protector when not in use.

**Covid-19!** Use a third-party removable silicon cover and wipe with alcohol 70% if you share the headset. Never use alcohol on the lenses! To avoid irritation wear a sweatband underneath!

Set your IPD! IPD is the distance between your pupils (interpupillary distance). Once you get this dead on, it makes a world of difference - no more blurry edges! It's fixed at 58/63/68mm options on Quest 2, but you can manually force in-between settings. You can use a ruler and a mirror or the quest IPD app.

Passthrough! Enable this in settings > guardian so you can double-tap on the side of your headset at any time. Also useful as your menu background - toggle the 'eye' icon in quick settings.

Setting the boundary! It's a necessary evil but you can make it better. You can hide the stationary boundary virtual walls. Go to experimental features > stationary boundary: passthrough. Lower roomscale boundary sensitivity in guardian settings to avoid more immersion killers. You can add a couch and a virtual desk in experimental features. You can even switch the guardian off entirely in developer mode - at your own risk!

Headphones! The Quest 2 has built-in audio but nothing compares to plugging in some 3D noise-cancelling headphones for that full immersive experience!

Warm it up! To avoid lens fogging when you start a session, stick the goggles on your forehead to warm them up for five minutes!

Motion sickness! Some people are more susceptible than others. If you are new to VR avoid games marked with this symbol • until you get your VR 'legs'! Avoid 'smooth locomotion' in games. Look for comfort settings.

e n j o y



# HINTS, GUIDELINES, TIPS AND TRICKS

### **SHARING: RECORDING, CASTING & MIXED REALITY!**

Recording video! To record in 16:9 aspect ratio, connect the Quest 2 via USB to your computer, open Sidequest and go to the tools menu. Change resolution to 1080. Turn full rate capture to On (records in 72fps not 30fps). Note: defaults reset every time you turn off the Quest 2. Turn off the red dot recording light in settings > device > video capture indicator.

Mixed reality! To record without a green screen, download Liv Connect Beta for iphone or ipad. Or try the Reality Mixer app. For a more professional set up with a green screen you'll need a couple of apps. See here.

**Screenshots!** Shortcut: Hold **and** press trigger on either controller!

Casting! It's a bit laggy and often cuts out unless you are on a fast connection. Follow this guide to set up. Be aware it eats the battery fast!

Multi-user! You can add up to three other facebook accounts in addition to yours on a single headset. Go to experimental features > multiple accounts and library sharing. Switch between them by clicking on your profile image. Useful to keep game progress save settings apart.

App sharing! It doesn't mean you can share apps you own to another headset but it does mean that apps purchased on the primary account are playable on different accounts on the same shared device. For the fine print see here.

### FIRMWARE UPDATES: COMMON QUESTIONS!

Monthly firmware updates! Regular releases add improvements and functionality. The updates happen automatically as long as the device is switched on and connected to wi-fi.

They roll out slowly at different times across different regions and can take weeks after the official launch date. You might get some new features first before others even on the same update.

Release notes here. Troubleshooting on Reddit here. The latest version is **v33**.

#### What's new:

### Mixed reality in passthrough!

Effectively turning the Quest 2 into an AR development kit, this SDK update for Unity enables developers to play around blending VR with the real world! Exciting stuff round the corner!

Multitasking! Get rid of the big menu! experimental features > multitasking

**Colour correction!** For those who need: settings > accessibility > colour correction

# THE BIG PICTURE

These are exciting times for VR. Only released in October 2020, this graph shows the spectacular rise of the Oculus Quest 2.

sales in millions **VISUALISING THE QUEST 2 EFFECT** (figures not released) 'Quest 2 has outsold all previous Oculus headsets combined' Facebook Reality Labs VP Andrew Bosworth | March 30 2021 Source: Bloomberg quest 2 launch B first oculus headset launched 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021

Methodology: The volume of triangle B (all Quest 2 sales) must be greater than the volume of triangle A (all previous Oculus sales averaged over time). The time period on the X-axis is known, creating the peak on the Y-axis.

### 5 MILLION+

Estimated Quest 2 sales. Official figures not released.

Source: Barron's

### \$1.25 BILLION

Latest valuation of gaming platform Rec Room Inc.

Source: Wall Street Journal

### \$10 MILLION+

Revenue earned by six Quest 2 titles. 60 have earned \$1M+

Source: Facebook

### 1000%

years refer april-april

Game sales are up as much as ten-fold since Quest 2 launch

Source: Cloudhead Labs

### \$180 MILLION

Estimated revenue generated by a single title - Beat Saber

Source: RoadtoVR

### 10 MILLION

Facebook's sales target for the Quest 2 is 'on track'

Source: Facebook

### timeline

A brief history of VR from 1838 to the launch of the Quest 2 in 2020. Headset (HMD) development is in green, cameras in yellow and general in blue.









stereopsis stereoscope

pygmalion's sensorama spectacles

vr booth

sword of damocles first hmd



vital helmet



nasa view



vpl research



virtuality vr arcade





virtual boy

gaming hmd



astronaut simulator first vr company







5G glasses



quest 2



quest





go

insta360

one x

5.7K

tethered hmds oculus rift htc vive psvr o-







cardboard

phone hmds

gopro jump

gear vr









# WTF DOES THAT MEAN?!

### GLOSSARY: KNOW YOUR DIORAMAS FROM YOUR PANCAKES!

vr terms | 3dof (three degrees of freedom) restricted to following head movement like the Go 6dof (six degrees of freedom) allows free movement with a 3D space, like the Quest 2 UI user interface FFR (fixed foveated rendering) a way to economise processing power by keeping hi-res in the centre of your vision and lo-res at the periphery without impacting on your ... **UX** user experience! agency the ability to act in and influence a vr environment refresh rate the higher the refresh rate, the smoother the visual experience. Quest 2 can run at 120Hz latency the delay between your action and the headset's reaction inside-out tracking the method the Quest 2 uses to map your 3D space using in-built cameras PCVR VR tethered to a gaming PC through the oculus link cable or wireless using the air link feature HMD head mounted display i.e. a headset FOV field of view - the Quest 2 is 92 horizontal (compared to our 200 - 220 in real life) XR cross-reality - industry term for anything VR and ... AR augmented reality LBE locationbased entertainment eg VR arcade sideload just copying files to the headset IP an original game (from Intellectual Property) devs the developers - our heroes!

gamer terms | FPS first-person shooter wave shooter vr space invaders genre rail shooter from a fixed postion jump scare cheap horror trope NPC non-playing character spawn the live creation of a game object **god-mode** turns the game into a ... diorama interactive minature **DLC** downloadable content (game add-ons) sandbox open-world exploration melee close combat bullet hell raining projectiles noneuclidean impossible spaces virtual beings Al artificial people squeakers toxic kids roquelike derived from the seminal 1980 video game Rogue. A 2008 conference in Berlin defined it as turn-based, random dungeon generation, permadeath and hack-and-slash gameplay. Not to be confused with roquelite which can be summarised as 'procedural death labyrinths' pancake pejorative term for flat non-VR games gunstock 3D-printed weaponry that attaches to the controllers PvP player vs player dojo traning area asymmetric VR player against non-VR player cel-shading cartoon graphic style loadout the weapons you choose to take into battle f2p free to play SBM skill-based matchmaking (for multiplayer fairness) nerf weapon downgrade grinding do repetitive tasks to gain ... XP experience points!

### PRIVACY: BIOMETRICS, ANTI-TRUST LAWS AND YOUR DATA

As you know, the Quest 2 **requires a facebook account**. This is currently being challenged in the courts in Germany for violating antitrust laws. See here.

Remember that with inside-out tracking, the information from the cameras seeing your room is sent to facebook: 'When you set up the Oculus Guardian System we receive information about the play area that you have defined.' That information is unspecified.

Facebook also **collects biometric data on your physical features** like your height and hand size; your voice (if not disabled) and your location. For more information, see the Oculus legal documents here.

According to a paper in the respected scientific journal Nature, a simple machine learning model can identify participants from less than five minutes of tracking data at above 95% accuracy. See here.

You can feedback to Oculus about these or any other issues here.

### recording vr

Want to make your own films? A decent kit now costs under US\$1,000 ...



insta360 one x 2 camera | US\$430 5.7K 30fps

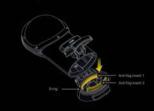


zoom h3-vr audio | US\$250 spacial audio



manfrotto tripod accessory | US\$180 reliability





dive case accessory | US\$80 underwater to 45 meters





### editing vr

You can do it on a phone, I use a mac



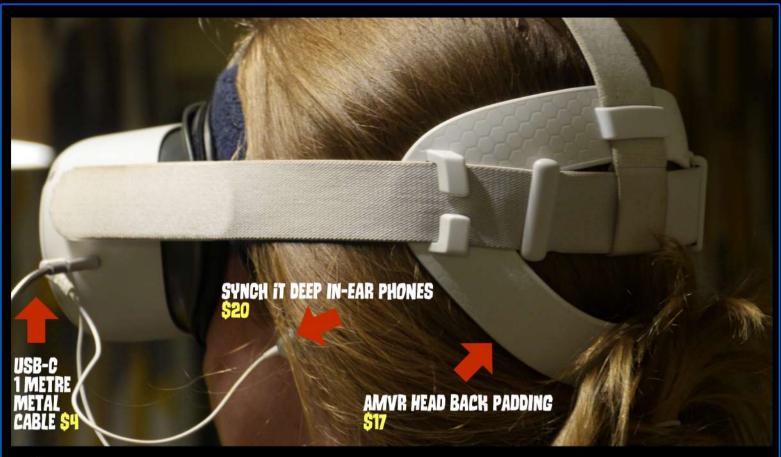
mac book pro laptop | varies OSX 10.14+



insta360 studio 2020 app | free stitching | v3.5.4



final cut pro X app | varies editing | v10.4.9





BONAI 5800mAH POWERBANK \$28 VR COVER FACIAL INTERFACE 555





# PIMP YOUR QUEST 2!

MICROFIBRE LENS CLOTH



LENS PROTECTOR



KIT BAGS



**SWEATBAND** 



WARNING! DON'T BUY THE OCULUS ELITE STRAP! IT BREAKS.

### **GIBBYSGUIDE.ORG**







#### CRASHLAND!





- A FREE GUIDE TO THE OCULUS QUEST 2!
- FULLY UPDATED EVERY THREE WEEKS OR SO!
  EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS, NEWS & REVIEWS!
  UNBIASED AND INDEPENDENT!





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#### **MAKING MUSIC!**





#### LAUNCH ISSUE!



## THANK YOU!

# "LOVE IT!" "EPIC!"

'I've never seen a more complete document about VR before!'

### 'BRILLIANT GUIDE!' 'A BIG HELP!'

'It's absolutely amazing. I love to see clear up-to-date guides that work for everyone'

### 'A+!' 'VERY COOL!' 'GREAT JOB'!

'I love it. So comprehensive and saves me hours of looking all this shit up myself!'

### "SENSATIONAL!" 'AWESOME!"

'Your guide has finally convinced me to pull the trigger and buy a Quest 2'

### 'EXCELLENT RESOURCE!'

'You have done a great service to many in the community'

### "FANTASTIC WORK!"

'This will help many, many people to dive into VR!'

I'm as passionate about VR as when I first dived in in 2016. After all, it's not every day that a completely new medium - a new art form - comes along in your lifetime. Find me at gibby@gibbysguide.org

**Feedback!** Please send me yours and any corrections and suggestions to my reddit: u/uncledefender

this is a BS-free zone!

