GIBBY'S GUIDE TO VIRTUAL REALITY!

MORE THAN 150 EXPERIENCES TRIED AND TESTED!

the future and beyo



V5 | MAY 2021 | QUEST CHALLENGE CUP!







Welcome to the 5th edition of your free regular alternative guide to the Oculus Quest 2 for those new and old to VR!

Win the first **quest challenge cup**! Watch the video clip of 50 titles in 50 seconds. Can you name them all?! See **p34**. The first correct answer gets this amazing bundle worth over \$100!

Get your hands on the spectacular sci-fi adventure **red matter**, the exhilarating dance experience **audio trip** and the beautiful interactive animation **luna**.

Get puzzling in the excellent **cubism** & **peco peco**, blasting in **omega blade** and be quicker than the human eye in **crazy kung fu**! And round it all off with a game of cricket in **the final overs**! See the reviews of all starting on **p25**!

A **big thank you** to all the amazing devs who donated the keys to the prize!

A look back at **classic art animations** this issue starting with **dreams of dalí**, a fly-through the trippy surrealism of the Spanish painter and a look at the giant frescos of humanity's first masterpieces in **the dawn of art**.

'What is reality?' asks **ceseare's dream**, while a reverie in a Parisian botanical garden reveals tropical jungles in **dreams of henri rousseau**.

The intensity of the Norwegian sun blisters in **le soleil d'edvard munch**, and the horror of Francisco Goya's 'Saturn Devouring His Son' is revisted in **saturnism**. See reviews from **p15**!

Indie games You are your own worst enemy as a wage slave time janitor in the **city of eternity**, and never has a pixelated wailing zombie ever felt so threatening in the **ancient dungeon**! Reviews on p29. Enjoy! Gxxx

CLICK ON ANY IMAGE TO TAKE YOU TO THE CONTENT!

BRAND NEW TO VR AND THE QUEST 2? GO TO PAGE 37!

QUEST STORE!

The official store. It is what it says on the tin! It's here.

APP LAB!

The official non-offical store! Over 200 apps and counting. Go here.

SIDEQUEST!

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

FREE STUFF!

A huge number of films and animations and a third of the games & apps you'll find here are **free** or have **free demos**!

Everything in this quick start guide are positive recommendations of stuff I like, it's not meant to be an exhaustive list. Each to their own! I don't own a gaming PC so no PCVR tips, sorry!





SHORE SHE

interactive animations!

Interactive animations are a whole new level of magic. These are my top eight! See reviews of them all from p11.



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



baba yaga 合 3 app | US\$6 protect the forest! 22m



the line (2017) app |US\$5 Emmy award winner 20m



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



paper birds app | US\$5 music and light! 19m



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

-

three!



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



bonfire app | US\$5 play fetch with creatures from an alien jungle! 20m



dr crumb's school for disobedient pets | US\$99 2-4 players together 50m

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. Here's nine fantastic films and three amazing artists to follow! Reviews p13!



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



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



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



goro fujita quill theater | **free** prolific genius and daily quillustrator!



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



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



the neon jungle studio syro | free more from soda island! 5m



léa peirano quill theater | free check out her tribute to studio ghibli!



the multiverse bakery studio syro | **free** first of the tales from the soda island series 5m



goodbye mr octopus atlas v | free Stella reads a letter from her mother *8m*



dear angelica oculus | free the first quillustration! 15m



tyler friedel quill theater | free missouri-based freelance animator

animations archive

2021 review p14



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



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



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



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

review p15



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



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



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

review p15



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



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



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

2015



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



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!



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



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



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



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



-22.7 °C youtube vr | free DJ Molécule in the Arctic. Jan Kounen directs 9m



the overview effect oculus tv | free astronomical metanoia 6m



everest vr oculus tv | free journey to the peak 40m



immerse oculus tv | free best underwater film *9m*

don't miss!



1st step vimeo | 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

review p16



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*



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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

REVIEWS



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 animations



Paper Birds | 20m

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

You are free to follow his notes with hand tracking, creating blue neon swirls along with his chords, before the tale takes a mysterious twist. Grandfather's darkest secret is revealed and two worlds intertwine.

Get ready for the second and final instalment coming in mid-2021 - if you haven't stopped gazing in wonder at the handcrafted stop-motion imagery of the opening act.





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.

REVIEWS



quillustrations



Lifetime achievement | 15m

Leaning on the comic traditions and style of Tex Avery and Chuck Jones, this tearjerker 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 | 3x5m

An astonishing series of three (so far) Quill animated shorts from Studio Syro - all set in the bright pink 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. At the start of The Neon Jungle a humanoid *tadpolotl* emerges from the water after a crab digs up a geometric shape.

It's eye-popping fun and beautifully smooth. A techno candyland version of 60s cartoon Wacky Races completes the trio in The Quantum Race. 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!'

REVIEWS



film & animations



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.





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 *blanguita* 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.

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.

REVIEWS



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.

REVIEWS



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?'



amazing stuff!

Here's my current top twelve favourite games and apps!



pistol whip (a) **(** app | US\$25 shoot to the beat in a 'cinematic bullet hell'!



the climb 2 💛 🏖 🕲 app | US\$30 epic free solo climbing now with skyscrapers!



moss 🖉 🗭 app | US\$30 magical mouse diorama!



cubism 🏞 & 🛱 🔧 app | US\$10 puzzle, piano ... and peace!



audio trip 🗁 🎔 app | US\$20 rave to quality tunes with top-class choreography!



down the rabbit hole 🖉 😭 app | US\$20 gorgeous alice in wonderland prequel!



a fisherman's tale (a) (a) app | US\$15 macro to micro seafaring!



myst @ 🖗 app | US\$30 remake of 1993 classic!



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



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



carly and the 🖉 🛱 reaperman app | US\$20 play with non-VR in co-op!



virtuoso 🗹 📾 app lab | free trip out on your own loops!

more amazing stuff!

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 👬 😭 app | US\$25 007-style escape rooms!



yupitergrad
app | free demo | US\$15
Slavic spiderman?!
* free demo on sidequest!



the curious tale of the stolen pets app | US\$15 touch that cuteness!



phantom: covert ops @ app | US\$30 stealth kayaking?!



shadow point app | US\$20 mystery in Inverness!



hand physics lab 🖗 🏟 🔌 app | US\$10 zany hand tracking tricks!



crazy kung fu app lab | free demo | US\$10 quicker than the human eye!



gravity sketch 🗹 👾 app | free 3D design and modelling!



waltz of the wizard app | US\$10 like Disney's *Fantasia*!



gadgeteer 🚁 app | US\$15 incredible machine building!





time stall 🗇 挿 app | US\$15 save the captain!

multiplayer!

Play with friends or randoms!



blaston () app | US\$10 duelling - never stand still!



walkabout mini-golf @ app | US\$15 with epic space course!



multibrush app lab | free three-dimensional painting!



wander 🖗 app | US\$10 google street view!







the under presents app | free | US\$ in app open world theatrics!

social



alcove app | free family social vr!

up to four



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



racket nx
Provide the second second



synth riders 🗁 🎔 app | free demo | US\$25 custom rhythm game! *free demo on app lab



war yards app lab | free gunslingin' guffaws!

even more amazing stuff!

Another dozen quality titles for your delectation!



ancient dungeon (2) app lab | free hilarious pixel adventure try, try and try again!



holopoint app | US\$15 intense ninja archery with new zen garden update!



gravity lab * app | US\$15 physics head-scratchers on abandoned moon base!



peco peco 🏝 app lab | US\$10 remix giant 3D puzzles!



fujii & app | US\$15 kaleidoscopic gardening!



1976 midway app lab | US\$15 ingenious 2D arcade to VR classic shooter!



flowbourne & app lab | US\$10 breathing meditation!



guardians app | free demo | US\$15 sci-fi strategy shooter! * free demo on sidequest!



pixel ripped 1995 app | US\$20 dlc US\$15 hilarious pixel nostalgia from the 80s and 90s!



painting VR app lab | US\$10 realistic art creation on a huge canvas!



hibow sidequest | free archery multiplayer!



puzzling places app lab | free zen puzzling - snap!

indie games!

Early access, pre-release, demos ... there's a lot of quality **free** stuff out there, but support the 'devs'!

review p29



city of eternity sidequest | free travel through time and get chased - by yourself!



traVRsal sidequest | free natural walking in VR!



black hole pool @ app lab | free cue action in sports bar!



paradiddle app lab | free custom percussion!



tiny castles app lab | free incredible hand tracking tech demo from oculus!



tea for god a sidequest | free non-euclidean geometry!



fundamental force sidequest | free Escher-style adventures!



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





custom home mapper sidequest | US\$8 map your entire house! * check out this amazing AR hack here review p32



v speedway (app lab | free arcade racing!



mr scribbles sidequest | free use your paws to draw!

older stuff!

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

review p26



daedalus app | US\$5 the amazing sensation of flying - by vertical robot!



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



coaster combat @ app | US\$10 theme park ride action!



escape legacy app lab | US\$3 escape room



cosmic flow & sidequest | free fractal meditation



thumper app | US\$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 | US\$10 meditation in vivid wild environments



dead and buried II app | US\$20 comedy cartoon zombie cowboys attack!



ultrawings ♀ app | US\$15 relaxing arcade flight sim



mission: iss app | free zero gravity inside the international space station

coming soon!

Watch the trailers for these new titles due for release this year!



resident evil 4 🧭 app | tbc 2005 classic reinvented!



song in the smoke 🧭 app | tbc prehistoric mystical world!



frustrain 🏚 app | Q3 surrealistic railroad thriller!



Right here, right now!



inwith corp site | tbc ar contact lenses!



unplugged: air guitar 💐 app | tbc hand tracking rock!



wanderer 🧭 app | Q3 escape room time travel!



green hell 🥏 app | Q4 survival in the Amazon!



next mind device | US\$299 non-invasive neural interface. control vr with your mind!



yuki 🤎 app | Q2 anime bullet hell!



i expect you to die 2 🌸 🛱 app | tbc welcome back, agent!



starcaller 🎓 app | Q2 restore the temple walls!



volumetric video site | tbc spacial walk-around film!

amazing stuff!



Yupitergrad | US\$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 after 17-levels of basic training, you blast off to the 'top class space station' Yupitergrad to a stirring patriotic anthem.

Polish studio Gamedust delivers 50 fiendish cel-shaded cartoon style levels to swing through and a time attack mode.

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'.





Audio Trip | US\$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 72 hand-crafted choreographies from beginner through to the new Cardio level. There's a great in-VR editor tool to make your very own choreographies - follow the tutorial here. Download custom ones at the unofficial Audio Trip Choreography Discord here. And it has full integration with ...

YUR | free

The original cross-app 'fitbit', YUR ('Why You Are') has a funky virtual watch showing a heart rate monitor on apps like Audio Trip and Racket NX. But it counts minutes spent and calories burned in all apps on a beautiful dashboard. Sign up!

more amazing stuff!



Carly and the Reaperman | US\$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.





Hand Physics Lab | US\$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.

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.

adventure games! 🧭



Red Matter | US\$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 | US\$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 firebreathing serpent. A truly magical journey from Seattle-based Polyarc.

Shadow Point | US\$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!

heart-pumping games! 🧡



Pistol Whip | US\$25

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 18 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, 2089, is a five-track campaign on an offworld colony against the 'Metal', a plague of killer androids. Kick-ass fun and a hardcore workout!





Blaston | US\$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 but it's deceptively energetic and an addictively competitive joy from Resolution Games.

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.

When you're wiped out, hang out in the OZO lounge down the sleazy back alley!

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!

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.





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.

Omega blade I US\$5

On the face of it, a nice slow-paced shooter with 80s arcade vibes. Dig deeper and there's a myriad of diverse challenges, weapons and scenes. Creator Manuel Pasamontes Romera's new Slash Update delivers. Very cool.

hand tracking games! 💐



The Curious Tale of the Stolen Pets | US\$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: Extended Edition | US\$10

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.

With a huge 'natural magic expansion' upgrade imminent (watch the trailer here), fans of the finger-catapult and the talking hands with googly eyes are in for treat.

A fiendish comedy runs through Waltz of a Wizard as you are given free reign to explore magical spaces, with a talking skull as your best friend.

There's a unique 'telepath' movement system (or you can actually run!) and even a disability feature if you are missing a finger or two. Outstanding value.

Cubism I US\$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!

fitness games! 🧡



Holopoint | US\$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!





Crazy Kung Fu | free demo | US\$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!

Racket NX | free demo | US\$20

Mad futuristic neon-lit geodesic dome? Check. Metallic lizard-like multiplayer opponents? Check. Wacky new squash-breakout fusion sport with tractor beam? Check. Spin, sweat and twist to the best arcade fun in space!

sports games! 🧶



Walkabout Mini Golf | US\$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 half a dozen gorgeous courses to idly wander around as you putt and chat.

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

And now 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!





The Final Overs | US\$10

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!

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!

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.



АСАПТЕ А

САДЕ **МФЯЕ РЕЯ** РЯЕСІРІТА

Red Matter

WIN! WIN! WIN! COMPETITION!

quest challenge cup!

The toughest quest in VR?! Free to enter! Multiple entries allowed!

50 titles in 50 seconds. Can you name them all?! Win the prize bundle and get your name on the trophy!

Tips! All the titles in the video clip are featured in the guide. You don't need to have played them, the clues are here! Challenge your mates! Music by Jonatan Craaford, created in VR with Virtuoso!

To give you a head start the apps featured in the prize bundle are here: 13 Omega Blade | 19 Crazy Kung Fu 25 Audio Trip | 30 Red Matter 33 Cubism | 34 Peco Peco 35 The Final Overs | 41 Luna.

Only 42 more to get! Email your entry to gibby@gibbysguide.org or message me at u/uncledefender on Reddit. Or post on the threads r/quest2, r/quest or r/oculus.



Illustration: Victor Silvestre

VIDEO GOES LIVE ON MAY 12 @ 9AM PT | 6PM CET HERE!

THE FIRST CORRECT ANSWER WINS THIS BUNDLE WORTH OVER \$100!





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 on p45! 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 **O**? 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. Access the menu at any time by holding an OK sign towards you with your right hand. See here for 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**, see **p5**. 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! See **p18**.

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 so you can double-tap on the side of your headset at any time. Useful as your menu background: settings > virtual environment > passthrough. 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.

enjoy (E)

HINTS, GUIDELINES, TIPS AND TRICKS

SHARING: RECORDING, CASTING & STREAMING!

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. To record in mixed reality, you'll need a green screen and a couple of apps. See here. Or try this app!

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!

Streaming! Pretty simple to set up. Just go to sharing > go live. Note: some developers don't allow you to stream from their apps. 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. There's an accounts section in settings to add an account and you can switch between them by clicking on your profile image. Useful to keep game progress save settings apart.

App sharing! This officially only applies to new apps from Feb 2021, but it's expected that most apps will add this function. 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 official line and fine print see here.

Got a Go? The precursor from Oculus to the Quest and Quest 2. Download my other guide by clicking on the image!





vr 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**.



THE BIG PICTURE

These are exciting times for VR. After only six months on the market, this graph shows the spectacular rise of the Quest 2.



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.

3 MILLION+

Estimated Quest 2 sales. Official figures not released.

Source: Facebook

\$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%

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

film festivals

Online VR film festivals have content on the Quest 2 available for the duration on various platforms. If dates unknown, last year's are in grey.



kaohsiung vr film lab taiwan apr 2 - may 31



tribeca usa june 9-20



cph:dox denmark april 21 - may 12



cannes xr france july 6-15



new images france june 9 - 13



venice vr expanded italy aug 28-sept 5



viff immersed canada sept 30-oct 10



raindance immersive uk oct 27 - nov 6



electric africa south africa | nov 5-11 2nd edition



360 france | nov 23-27 6th edition



vr days netherlands | nov 4-6 7th edition



hyper brazil | nov 28 6th edition

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

Or go pro ...



extended selfie stick accessory | US\$40 10ft telescopic stick for drone effect

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



insta360 pro 2 camera | US\$4,599 8K 30fps

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



Kingo USB-C 1m metal cable US\$4

Newzerol VR silicone face & lens protective cover US\$23

SYNCitDeep in-ear headphones US\$20

Bonai 5800mAh external powerbank US\$23

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. The Quest 2 can now run at 120Hz with the v28 firmware update 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, for example through the oculus link cable air link or wireless through a network 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 & ... AR augmented reality XP experience LBE location-based entertainment eg vr arcade sideload just copying files to the headset's hard drive 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 minature interactive illustration **DLC** downloadable content (game add-ons) sandbox open-world exploration non-euclidean geometry in hyperbolic space, everything moves! melee close combat bullet hell subgenre of shoot 'em ups where it rains projectiles virtual beings artificial people powered by Al roguelike derived from the seminal 1980 video game Rogue. According to the International Roguelike Development Conference in Berlin in 2008 it is turn-based, uses 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 discord forum for gamers and developers haptics a physical buzz of the controllers to simulate touch doio traning area cel-shading cartoon graphic style elite strap cheap plastic accessory

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.

GIBBYSGUIDE.ORG

OWNLOAD-O-METER: 15,000!

MEMOR POTAL

- ° A FREE GUIDE FOR ALL THOSE NEW & OLD TO THE QUEST 2!
- FULLY UPDATED EVERY THREE WEEKS!
- EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS, NEWS & REVIEWS! INDEPENDENT AND NON-AFFILIATED!

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the future and beyo





° I'LL GET A BUZZ - AND YOU'LL GET THE LATEST ISSUE IN YOUR INBOX AUTOMATICALLY!



V4 | APRIL 2021









V2 | MARCH 2021













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^\prime

'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

