

GIBBY'S GUIDE TO VIRTUAL REALITY!

FOR THE OCULUS QUEST 2

MORE THAN 150 EXPERIENCES
TRIED AND TESTED!



t h e f u t u r e
a n d b e y o n d



V7 | JUNE 2021 | QUEST CHALLENGE CUP 2!

IT'S YER AMAZING

APP LAB SPECIAL!

\$750!
GIVEAWAY!

FULLY

**CLICK ON ANY ICON TO
TAKE YOU TO THE CONTENT!**

INTERACTIVE!

BRAND NEW

**GO TO THE BLUE REFERENCE
PAGES TO GET STARTED!**

TO QUEST 2?



KEY!



hand tracking



perfect for seated



best in roomscale



fitness



adventure



creator tool



puzzle



meditation



sports games



possible motion sickness

THE APP LAB SPECIAL!

Welcome to the 7th edition of your free regular alternative guide to the Oculus Quest 2 for those new and old to VR! Now a crazy 61 pages!!

There are now more 'hidden' apps on **app lab** than there are on the official store - over 300 and counting. You'll find a selection of the very best scattered throughout the guide - 49 hidden gems!

There are four bundles of 19 games to giveaway in this issue, worth a total of \$750! Thank you to all the developers who have donated keys for these amazing prizes!



To enter the unofficial **quest challenge cup 2**, simply watch the one-minute video and identify all the games featured in order. All the correct answers will go into a raffle with the four winners announced on Reddit. See [p27](#)!

There are now over 70 reviews of games, apps, films and animations in the guide. Happy reading! Gxxx

NEW STUFF!

An unmissable new film from Studio Syro, **the golden record** sees our worker ant hero break free thanks to a surprise find from across the universe.

Also released this month is **a rogue escape**, a polished and stylish puzzler with zero hand-holding. Steal a sub and figure out how it works!

SLIPPERY SLOPE



Any dev that goes down this road - *for an app that I've already paid for* - gets this slapped across their icon. Say no!

QUEST STORE!

The official store. It is what it says on the tin! It's [here](#).

APP LAB!

The official non-official store! Over 300 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! All are native Quest titles, no PC required!



GAMES & APPS!

A Rogue Escape

best of the quest!

Here's my current top twenty-four favourite games and apps!

one!



pistol whip 🏠❤️

app | \$25

shoot to the beat in a
'cinematic bullet hell'!

two!



audio trip 🏠❤️

app | \$20

rave to quality tunes with
top-class choreography!

three!



red matter 🕒

app | \$25

surreal & spectacular
sci-fi adventure in space

four!



the climb 2 ❤️🌀🕒

app | \$30

epic free solo climbing -
now with skyscrapers!

five!



down the rabbit hole 🕒🪑

app | \$20

gorgeous alice in
wonderland prequel!

six!



the room vr 🕒🪑

app | \$30

beautifully rendered
detective mystery!

seven!

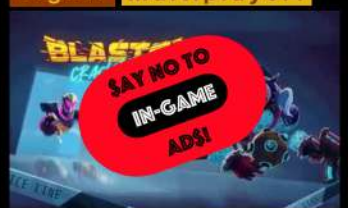


moss 🕒🪑

app | \$30

magical mouse diorama!

eight! multiplayer!



blaston 🏠❤️

app | \$10

duelling AI or randoms!

nine! multiplayer!



eleven table tennis 🏠🌀

app | \$20

AI ping & multiplayer pong!

ten! multiplayer!



real vr fishing 🌀🪑

app | \$20

let's go fishing - in Korea!

eleven! multiplayer!



walkabout mini-golf 🌀

app | \$15

new kitsch cowboy course!

twelve!



waltz of the wizard 🕒🪄

app | \$10

natural magic!

best of the quest 2!

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!

thirteen!



a fisherman's tale 🏠 🧩
app | \$15
 macro to micro seafaring!

fourteen!



virtuosO 📺 🚗
app lab | free
 trip out on your own loops!

fifteen! multiplayer!



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

sixteen!



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

seventeen!



i expect you to die 🧩 🚗
app | \$25
 007-style escape rooms!

eighteen!



fujii 🧩
app | \$15
 kaleidoscopic gardening!

nineteen!



shadow point 📺 🚗
app | \$20
 mystery in Inverness!

twenty! new release!



a rogue escape 🏠 🧩
app | \$20
 underwater escape room!

twenty-one!



daedalus 🧩
app | \$5
 amazing flying sensation!

twenty-two!



traVRsal 🏠
app lab | free
 natural walking in VR!

twenty-three!



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

twenty-four!



holopoint 🏠 📺
app | \$15
 intense ninja archery!

more amazing stuff!

Another dozen quality titles for your delectation!



myst 🏠 🚲

app | \$30

remake of 1993 classic!



thrill of the fight 🏠 🚲

app | \$10

down-at-heel in-er-face!



carly and the 🏠 🚲

reaperman app | \$20

play with non-VR in co-op!



crashland 🚲

app | \$20

aaaaaarrrrrrrgggggghhhh!



carve 🚲

app | \$20

smooth snowboarding!



cubism 🧩 🚲 🎹

app | \$10

puzzle, piano ... and peace!



racket nx 🏠 ❤️ 🚲

app | **free demo** | \$20

some kinda future squash!



ancient dungeon 🚲

app lab | **free**

hilarious pixel adventure!



warplanes 🎮 🚲

app lab | **free demo** | \$15

WWI missions!



hand physics lab 🚲 🧩 🎮

app | \$10

zany hand tracking tricks!



crazy kung fu 🏠 🚲

app lab | **free demo** | \$10

quicker than the human eye!



deisim 🚲

app lab | \$8

be a powerful God!

even more amazing stuff!

Yet more cool titles to check out!



gadgeteer
app | \$15
incredible machine building!



time stall
app | \$15
save the captain!



gravity lab
app | \$15
physics head-scratchers!

multiplayer!



multibrush
app lab | free
three-dimensional painting!

multiplayer!



wander
app | \$10
google street view!



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



the final overs
app lab | \$15
i don't like cricket-ah
i love it-ah!

multiplayer!



war yards
app lab | free
gunslingin' guffaws!

new release!



in da hoop
app lab | \$15
bare hands basketball!



black hole pool
app lab | free
brilliant cue action!



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



gravity sketch
app | free
3D design and modelling!

amazing indie stuff!

Early access, pre-release, demos ...



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

multiplayer!



gorilla tag 🏠❤️
app lab | free
 daft monkey business!



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



directive nine
app lab | \$13
 moody sci-fi shooter on a
 spinning space station!



tea for god 🏠🕊️
sidequest | free
 non-euclidean geometry!



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



tiny castles 🕊️
app lab | free
 incredible hand tracking!



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



v speedway 🚗🏆
app lab | free
 arcade racing!



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



flowborne 🧘
app lab | \$10
 breathing meditation!



cpr simulator
sidequest | US\$10
 not a game. a life-saver.

older stuff!

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

multiplayer!



alcove

app | free

ever-evolving social VR
for families



wrong voyage ex 🕒

sidequest | free

spiders! zombies! retro!



nature treks 🧘🚗

app | \$10

meditation in vivid wild
environments



coaster combat 🕒

app | \$10

theme park ride action!



thumper

app | \$20

you need insane reactions
to beat the boss!



dead and buried II

app | \$20

comedy cartoon zombie
cowboys attack!



escape legacy 🕒

app lab | \$3

escape room



bait! 🧘🚗

app | free

silly hippy fishing!



ultrawings 🚗

app | \$15

relaxing arcade flight sim



cosmic flow 🧘🚗

app lab | free

fractal meditation



anne frank house 🚗

app | free

explore the house of
WWII diarist Anne Frank



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!



sniper elite VR
app | july
flight Italian fascism!



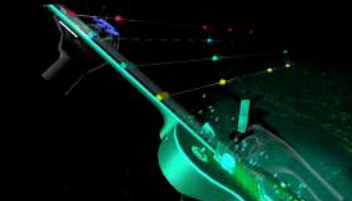
yuki ♥
app | july
anime bullet hell!



area man lives ♪
app | tbc
quirky radio drama!



resident evil 4 ♪
app | Q4
2005 classic reinvented!



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



space pirate arena 🏠🏠
app | Q3
the future of laser tag!



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



wanderer ♪
app | Q3
escape room time travel!



i expect you to die 2 🧩🚗
app | Q3
welcome back, agent!



frustrain 🧩
app | Q3
surrealistic railroad thriller!



green hell ♪
app | Q4
survival in the Amazon!



starcaller 🧩
app | Q2
restore the temple walls!

REVIEWS

heart-pumping games! ❤️



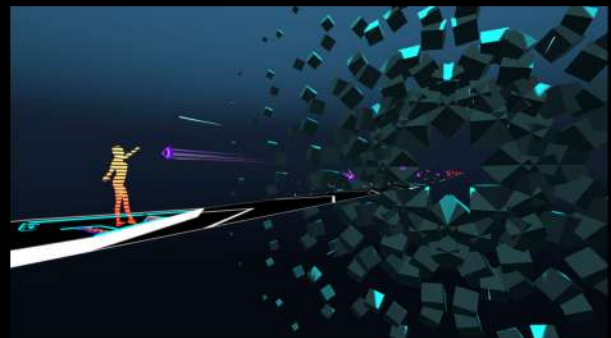
Pistol Whip | \$25

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!



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 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!

REVIEWS

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 | \$25

A much-loved older puzzler with a sequel ('The Spy and the Liar') due in August, I Expect You To Die is a series of seven fiendish escape rooms.

As a 007-style secret agent with seemingly unlimited access to cigars and champagne, your mission is to defeat Dr Zor's Zoraxis Space Corporation.

Be it in a submarine, a hunting lodge or a train carriage in India, 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 | \$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.

REVIEWS

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 drop-dead 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 | 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!

REVIEWS

crazy motion games!



Yupitergrad | \$15

'Be careful, brave komrade Kosmonaut!' Being a Slavic spiderman you don't fire silk but instead have some very Soviet-era 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 one-liners: 'Our crew gathers here to learn what they think' and the classic 'Breathe economically, never for pleasure'.



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.

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!

REVIEWS

p v p 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! A new single player mode and arena launched on June 21. From Resolution Games.

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!

REVIEWS

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 mako 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 Texas-based 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.

REVIEWS

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!

REVIEWS

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 star-throwing 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!

Pick-up League Hockey | **free**

This is no arcade game - it's realistic gliding in the ice rink from developers Electric Falcon. Practice solo in the arena or pucker up in the full-blown multiplayer league and knock the Phoenix off their perch!

REVIEWS

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 exhilarating 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's 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 Ian 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!

REVIEWS

hand tracking games! 🖐️



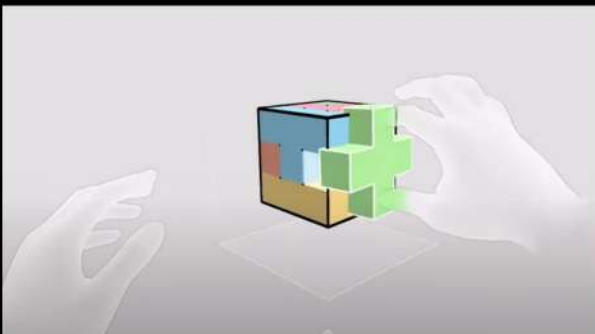
The Curious Tale of the Stolen Pets | \$15

'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: Extended Edition | \$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 coming on July 6, 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.

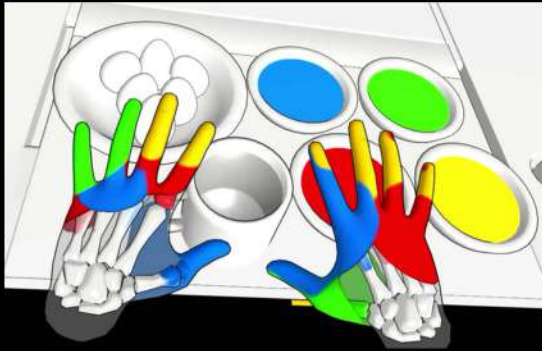
There's a unique 'telepath' movement system (or you can actually run!) and even a disability feature if you are missing a finger or two. Outstanding value.

Cubism | \$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!

REVIEWS

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 an 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.

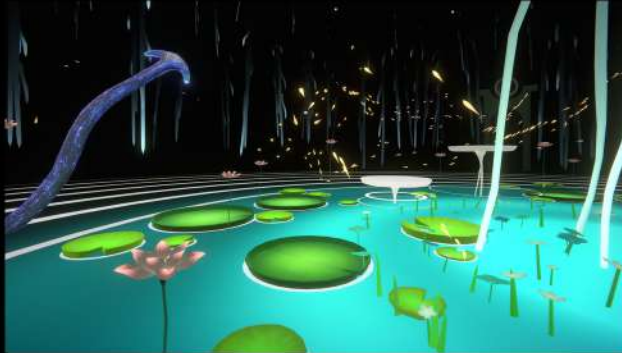
There's a playground to try out all the bells and whistles (and cranks and levers). More on the Oculus blog [here](#).

In da Hoop | \$15

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!

REVIEWS

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!

REVIEWS

sidequest 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!

Match Point Tennis | free demo

Play in Paris or Dubai (with Bondi beach and African savannah to come) in this top demo from Backyard Games. Clever movement options and great racquet action. It's single player only for now with multiplayer to come.

REVIEWS

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 Rendevar 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.

APP LAB & COMPETITION!



COVER FEATURE

what is app lab?

There's more 'hidden' apps than those that appear on the official store.

**CLICK HERE FOR
LINKS TO EVERY
APP LAB GAME!**

**300+
APPS!**

It's not all sabering beats, slashing zombies and dressing up as a soldier! There's a great variety of games if only you know where to look.

Think of App Lab as the alternative to the official Quest store. Originality, ingenuity and experimentation are hallmarks of the types of games you'll find outside of the mainstream.

'There are quality titles on App Lab. Oculus doesn't exclude them from the store based on quality but rather on what they think will make the most profitable eco-system' reckons Brett Jackson, UK-based developer of Jigsaw 360.

Boundary-pushing, genre-defining creatives thrive in this VR Wild West where no rules means it's open season for hidden gem hunters. And they are often cheaper or for free.

SIDEQUEST!

Another alternative source! Available as an Android app! See [here](#) and [here](#).

Most of these games are now on App Lab but you can still find the odd gem.

'You can discover projects taking their first steps, get involved with early communities and help those projects grow', says Robert Bragg of RealFit.

App Lab was created by Oculus in February 2021 as a half-way house between the official store and indie developers. Before it existed, the only way you could access a non-official app was via a laborious process to 'sideload' games on to the headset via USB connected to a computer on Sidequest (see box below).

App Lab apps are buried, they receive no promotion on the official store and you have to know the name of the game or have a direct link to access them. But once you do, you can install just like any other app and they receive updates automatically.

Thankfully there are several sites that maintain the entire catalogue of over 300 games updated (see box).

Let's be honest, despite the diamonds in the rough, there's a lot of low grade and awful games on App Lab. To highlight the total lack of quality threshold one developer managed to get his app The Cube accepted. It's literally a cube. That's it.

So, to help you navigate through this netherworld, this issue highlights 49 of the best games you can find on App Lab!



You'll find a selection of the very best [app lab](#) games scattered throughout the guide. Or just click on any icon here to take you to the game!



WIN! WIN! WIN!

COMPETITION!

quest challenge cup 2!

Four bundles of 19 games worth over US\$750 up for grabs!

To enter the unofficial **quest challenge cup 2**, simply watch the one-minute video and identify all the games featured in order. All the correct answers will go into a raffle. Email your entries to: gibby@gibbysguide.org

Be a powerful God in **deisim**, play sci-fi shooter **directive nine**, go puzzling in **peco peco**, train in **crazy kung fu**, hit 'em for six in **the final overs** and mow the lawn in **crazy croquet**! Reviews on following pages. Plus ...

Win! **spacewalk vr** win! **sep's diner** win! **realms of eternity** win! **jigsaw 360** win! **cover drive cricket** win! **disc benders** win! **speed cube** win! **song beater** win! **rhythm 'n bullets** win! **realfit** win! **quest for runia** win! **perpetuum mobile** win! **evryway visualiser**!



Illustration: Victor Silvestre

WIN! WIN! WIN! CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE VIDEO!



WIN! WIN! WIN!

COMPETITION!

app lab bundle!

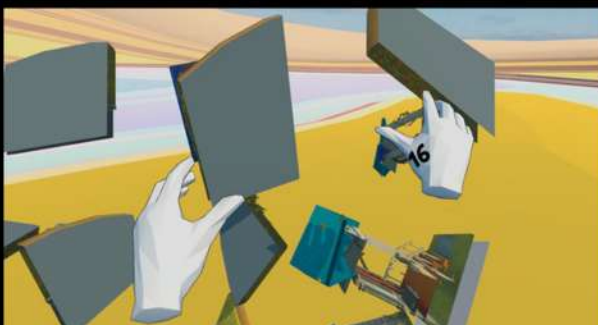


Deisim | US\$8

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 | US\$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!

WIN! WIN! WIN!

COMPETITION!

app lab bundle!



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 London-based 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!

Crazy Croquet | \$5

A sport popularised in the mid 19th century, croquet is a quaint pastime played on manicured lawns driving balls through hoops with a wooden mallet. This simple version has a dozen levels to play through. From Selfox.

WIN! WIN! WIN!

COMPETITION!



app lab bundle!



evryway visualiser
app lab | \$5
reactive audio visuals!

multiplayer!





song beater
app lab | \$15
rhythm game workout!



rhythm 'n bullets
app lab | \$10
retro arcade shooter



realfit  
app lab | \$20
custom workouts!




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



perpetuum mobile
app lab | \$3
retro endless flyer!



quest for runia 
app lab | \$10
puzzles and spells!



realms of eternity
app lab | \$10
hack, slash & survive!

multiplayer!




sep's diner
app lab | **free demo** | \$9
run your own burger joint!



disc benders ace run
app lab | \$12
frisbee golf!



jigsaw 360 
app lab | \$3
add custom scenes!

multiplayer!



cover drive cricket
app lab | **free demo** | \$13
leather on willow!

REVIEWS

more app lab 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 with the next major build promised in August. For now, just stand back and admire your art!

Daedalus | 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.

more app lab games!

new release!



operation warcade

app lab | free demo | \$15
arcade to immersion zone!



1976 back to midway

app lab | free demo | \$15
arcade to immersion zone!

new release!



invaders

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

multiplayer!



upenders

app lab | free
sneaky shadowy shooter!

multiplayer!



gun raiders

app lab | free
jetpack, climb, dash!

multiplayer!



guardians

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

* free demo on sidequest

multiplayer!



omega blade

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

multiplayer!



hibow

app lab | free
flying and archery!

multiplayer!



descent alps

app lab | free demo | \$10
rhythm downhill skiing!

multiplayer!



paradiddle

app lab | free demo
custom percussion kit!

multiplayer!



puzzling places

app lab | free
hyper realistic minitures!

multiplayer!



pick-up league hockey

app lab | free
pucker up for ice-cool fun!

FILM & ANIMATIONS!



The Golden Record

interactive animations!

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

one!



wolves in the walls 🏠

app | US\$9

do you believe me? 40m

two!



the line 🏠 🦋

app | US\$5

Emmy award winner 20m

three!



luna 🧑🏻 🦋

app | US\$15

back to life 1-2hs

four!



baba yaga 🏠 🦋

app | US\$6

protect the forest! 22m

five!



the key 🏠

app | free

where am I from? 20m

six!



bonfire 🦋

app | US\$5

play fetch with creatures from an alien jungle! 20m

seven!



paper birds 🦋

app | US\$5

music and light! 19m

eight!



timeboat

in app | US\$12

'the under presents ...' 30m

extra! live theater



dr crumb's school for disobedient pets | US\$99

2-4 players together 50m



The Line

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!

if only Carl Sagan could see this! 12m



I dreamt of nothing but the mountain 5m



seminal comic-book 10m



prolific genius and daily
quillustrator!



the lengths Yonatan Tal goes to for his mama! 15m



simultaneous quartet of
fun tales 12m



more from soda island! 5m



check out her tribute to
studio ghibli!



bing bong! dream interpretation 5m



Stella reads a letter from her mother *8m*



the first quillustration! 15m

missouri-based freelance
animator

animations archive

2021



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

2020



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



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

2019



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



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

2018



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



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



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

2016



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



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



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

2015



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

film archive

2021
2019



YouTube VR



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



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

2020



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



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

2019 don't miss!



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



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



immerse
oculus tv | free
best underwater film 9m

don't miss!



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



the overview effect
oculus tv | free
astronomical metanoia 6m

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
-
2018

2019



gorillapalooza

within | free

hang out with mountain gorillas in Rwanda 6m



cesare's dream

youtube vr | free

the cabinet of dr caligare - what is reality? 6m



dive blue planet vr

youtube vr | free

incredible guided dive with octopus 9m



iceland's glaciers

youtube vr | free

'what happens to ice, happens to us' 7m



tales from the edge

youtube vr | free

wingsuit base jumping with Jeb Corliss 9m



the atomic tree

within | free

400-year-old bonsai that survived Hiroshima 10m



pompeii

youtube vr | free

the heart of the eruption french language 8m



okavango experience

youtube vr | free

astonishing wildlife in the Okavango Delta 4 x 6m



polar obsession

youtube vr | free

seals in Antarctica 7m



free solo

youtube vr | free

climbing El Capitan solo style 6m



700 sharks

within | free

the largest gray shark pack in the world 7m



isle of dogs

youtube vr | free

stop motion studio 6m

2018 don't miss!

film archive

2018

2014



the real thing

within | free

Chinese fakes of Paris, Venice and London 16m



airpano vr jellyfish bay

youtube vr | free

brehtaking 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

2017



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 AI sci-fi 17m



save every breath

youtube vr | free

WWII dunkirk 1940 4m

2016



nomads

felix & paul | free

maasai mara, yak herders and sea gypsies 3 x 12m

2014 don't miss!



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!



paper birds II
app | Q2
the story continues ...



biolum
app | tbc
deep sea sci-fi!



rebels
app | tbc
we own the city!



the iss experience
app | Q3
episode three!



ørsted space safari
app | tbc
the overview effect!



african space makers
app | tbc
from nairobi, kenya



the hangman at home
app | tbc
the intimacy of humanness



whispers
app | tbc
Polish-Ukrainian 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 AI.

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 | 20m

'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.

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.



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 fleshed-out characters for you to eavesdrop on during your own non-linear adventure. Audacious and ground-breaking.



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 narrates 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.



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 Burrridge 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!'



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 its 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 time-lapse 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 four-part series. Floating through a mass of wires, tunnels, tubes and laptops are the four featured astronauts on the 22-year-old '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 'micro-gravity' 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.

Virtuality

REFERENCE!



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 acronyms 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 cinematic 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 & 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!

OCULUS GO



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.

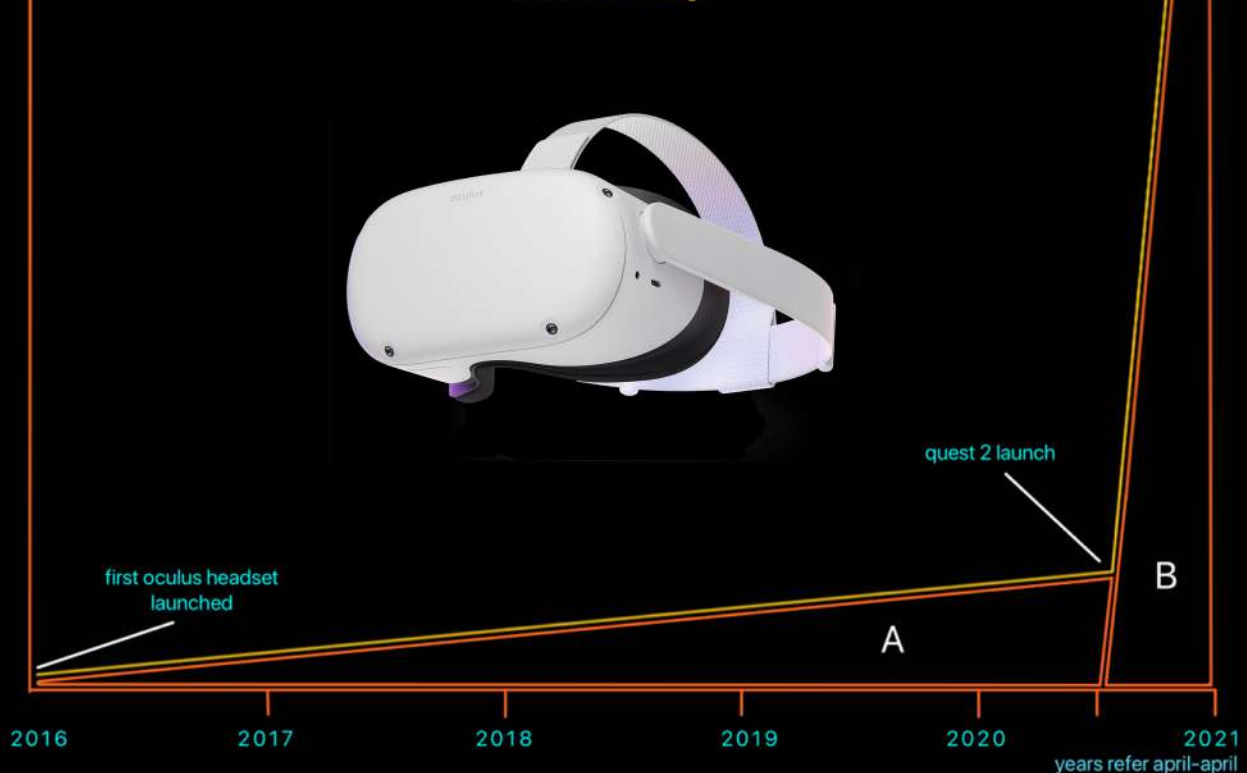
sales in millions
(figures not released)

VISUALISING THE QUEST 2 EFFECT

'Quest 2 has outsold all previous Oculus headsets combined'

Facebook Reality Labs VP Andrew Bosworth | March 30 2021

Source: Bloomberg



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

1000%

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

Source: Cloudhead Labs

\$1.25 BILLION

Latest valuation of gaming
platform Rec Room Inc.

Source: Wall Street Journal

\$180 MILLION

Estimated revenue generated
by a single title - Beat Saber

Source: RoadtoVR

\$10 MILLION+

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

Source: Facebook

10 MILLION

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

Source: Facebook

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**.



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 now 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, 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 **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 position **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** miniature 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 AI **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 **roguelite** 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** training 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

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



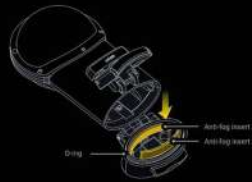
zoom h3-vr
audio | US\$250
spacial audio



manfrotto tripod
accessory | US\$180
reliability



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



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

Or go pro ...



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



pimp your quest 2!

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

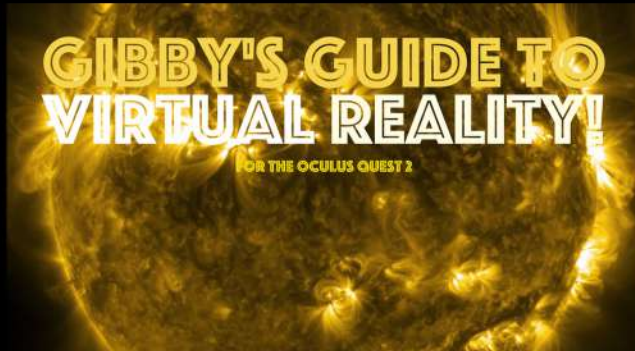
Newzerol VR silicone face & lens protective cover US\$23

SYNCitDeep in-ear headphones US\$20

Bonai 5800mAh external powerbank US\$23

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FITNESS!



HAND TRACKING!



VIRTUAL OLYMPICS!



MAKING MUSIC!



CHALLENGE CUP!



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](https://www.reddit.com/user/uncledefender)



MADE IN BRAZIL