GIBBY'S GUIDE TO VIRTUAL REALITY!

OR THE OCULUS QUEST 2



the future and beyond

V9 I AUGUST 2021 I AN INDEPENDENT FREE ZINE!

MEET YUPITERGRAD'S JAKUB MATUSZCZAK!

108 FREE EXPERIENCES!

31

FREE FULL GAMES & APPS! 29

FREE GAME DEMOSI 48

FREE FILMS & ANIMATIONS!

EVERYBODY'S FREEEEEEEEEEE EVERY SINGLE THING IN THIS GUIDE IS FREE TO INSTALL RIGHT NOW!

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?

YUPITERGRAD! =

FILMS & ANIMATIONS!

REFERENCE!

KEY!

- Nand tracking
- adventure
- puzzle
- sports games

- perfect for seated
- noomscale essential
- fitness
- creator tool
- & meditation
- possible motion sickness

EVERYBODY'S FREE TO FEEL GOOD!

Welcome to the 8th edition of your free regular alternative guide to the quest 2! It's freedom day! Over 100 quality free experiences available right now!

Meet Jakub Matuszczak, head honcho at Polish studio Gamedust and the brains behind the incredible Slavic spiderman title **Yupitergrad**.

It's at number one in this guide's ranked list of the best 60 free games and demos to install. The Sneaki Peaki demo gives you all the mission training and three Time Attack levels to try out. Swing, brave kosmonaut, swing!

To install some of the free games you'll need to use Sidequest. If you've never used it before, it's a bit of a faff to set up but hey, you get a load of free games! For easy-to-follow instructions see box.

Even if you consider yourself only a gamer, give the amazing films and animations featured here a go. There are 48 to choose from, from **The Golden Record** to **Ayahuasca Kosmic Journey**. Read the reviews and enjoy!

* The new 128G Quest 2 goes on sale on Aug 24, replacing the discontinued 64G model for the same price, \$299.

PAID STUFF!





Check out v8 of the guide for the Best of the Quest - ranked! 96 recommended games and apps, 72 films and animations and 84 original reviews!

GOING NATIVE!

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

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

QUEST STORE!

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

APP LAB!

The official non-offical store!

Over 500 apps and counting. Go here.

SIDEQUEST!

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

HOW TO USE SIDEQUEST

Download the app here. Sign up as a developer here. In the phone app switch on developer mode in settings > quest 2 > more settings > developer mode. Launch sidequest, connect the Quest to your computer via USB and click 'allow' in the headset. Install games. Find them in the headset under apps > all > unknown sources.

GAMES & APPS!



best of the quest - free!

The best free games, demos and apps out there - ranked!







racket nx ⊕ ♥ @ app lab | free demo some kinda future squash!





superhot vr 🗁 🛡 app | free demo the matrix!



the under presents app | **free demo** open world theatrics!



ancient dungeon
app lab | free
hilarious pixel adventure!



multibrush app lab | free three-dimensional painting!



squingle **
app lab | free demo
totally trippy puzzler!



warplanes ⊚

sidequest | free demo
amazing WWI missions!



traVRsal ⊕
app lab | free
natural walking in VR!



war yards app lab | free gunslingin' guffaws!

best of the quest II - free!

For how to download sidequest games see p4.



black hole pool 🗐 🥙 app lab | free demo brilliant cue action!





arrows sidequest | free demo defend the villages!



gorilla tag 🗁 🛡 app lab | free daft monkey business!



synth riders app lab | free demo custom rhythm game!



v speedway 🛱 🎱 app lab | free arcade racing!



gun raiders app lab | free jetpack, climb, dash!



tiny castles app lab | free incredible hand tracking!



puzzling places 🗐 🏞 app lab | free zen puzzling!



guardians 🗐 sidequest | free demo sci-fi strategy shooter!



HAX 🗇 app lab | free demo cel-shaded shooter!



mission:iss 🕮 📵 app | free zero gravity on the ISS



echo vr @ app | free zero gravity battles!

more amazing free stuff!

twenty-five!



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

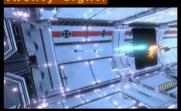


wrong voyage ex 🕖 sidequest | free spiders! zombies! retro!

twenty-seven!



project terminus sidequest | free demo Parisian survival horror!



2076 midway multiverse app lab | free demo arcade to ...



1976 back to midway 🗐 app lab | free demo ... immersion ...



operation warcade 🗐 app lab | free demo ... zone!



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



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

thirty-three! multi!



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



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



DAVID (app lab | free demo 3rd person space shooter!



space pirate trainer app | free demo arcade wave shooter!

even more amazing free stuff!

thirty-seven!



thirty-eight!



descent alps ♥ ②
app lab | free demo
rhythm slalom on the slope

thirty-nine



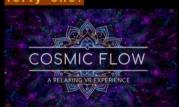
bait! app | free silly hippy fishing!

forty!



battle talent app lab | free fantasy combat sim!

forty-one!



cosmic flow & Papp lab | free fractal meditation!

forty-two!



anne frank house app | free explore the house of WWII diarist Anne Frank

forty-three! multi!



attack on quest sidequest | free slay the titans!

forty-four! multi!



upenders
app lab | free
sneaky shadowy shooter!

WWII diarist Anne Fr



hibow app lab | free flying and archery!

forty-civl



forty-seven! multi



tranzient lite app lab | free demo
make beats with live loops!

forty-eight!



grooVR sidequest | free demo

yet more amazing free stuff!

forty-nine!



journey of the gods app | free demo god-mode capers!

fifty!



fundamental force sidequest | free demo
Escher-style queasy fest!

fifty-one! multi!



alcove
app | free
social vr for families

fifty-two!



fifty-three!



fifty-four!



tennis league vr 🗁 🏖
app lab | free demo
... racquet!

fifty-five!



app lab | free demo leather on willow!

fifty-six



exit condition one app lab | free experimental escape room!

fifty-seven! mu



pick-up league hockey **②**app lab | free
glide on the ice!

fifty-eightl



arcaxer Ø ₪
app lab | free demo
RPG adventure!

fifty-nine



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

sixty



unstung 🔁 🗐
sidequest | free demo
a gentle swarm!



COVER INTERVIEW

jakub matuszczak

'Yupitergrad is a game about a swinging cosmonaut in a tracksuit'

It's the delicious deadpan one-liners that first introduce you to Yupitergrad's peculiarly Slavic flavour.

'Our crew gathers here to learn what they think,' announces AlSha (Olga Shepel), your off-camera cheerleader, advising you to 'breathe economically, never for pleasure'.

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

This is your only form of locomotion and you blast off to the 'top class space station' Yupitergrad to a stirring patriotic anthem and with the words of General Varnikov (Evgeniy Golov) in your ears.

It's all the work of a fun-looking gang of 20 employees at Gamedust, a studio based in Poznan, Poland.

'Swing, brave komrade kosmonaut, swing!'

Head honcho Jakub Matuszczak, who describes it as 'a game about swinging cosmonaut wearing a tracksuit', says the inspiration for the humour comes from the self-styled 'Slav King', youtuber Boris from The Life Of Boris and hardbass music subcultures that 'exaggerate the stereotypes about people from Eastern Europe and its history by Western societies.'

But let's get back to the stand-out feature of Yupitergrad - the swinging!



What you might imagine at first would be a guaranteed queasy fest turns out to be a brilliantly executed and super fun way to move around.

Gamedust talk about a passion for new game mechanics.

'The whole idea emerged during an internal game jam when we were looking for innovative VR mechanics. One of them was the ability to grab and play the objects with grappling hooks which gave us a lot of fun during testing', says Jakub.

'However - after some iterations, the team realised that it's much more fun to pull yourself to the objects and that's how Yupitergrad was born.'

'the killer soundtrack goes from synthwave to retropunk to hardbass'

There are 55 fun cartoon-style levels to swing through and 40 more on Time Attack mode - half of which have been added for free since the game's launch.

'With such a dynamic game we needed to make some concessions regarding the art style.

SNEAKI PEAKI DEMO!

The **free** Yupitergrad demo, called Sneaki Peaki!, is downloadable from Sidequest here. There are all the training levels from the main mission so you can test the controls and comfort settings, plus three Time Attack levels to race through and climb the local leaderboards!



'We wanted the game to be visually attractive, hence cel-shading which is visually appealing, but easier for optimisation, 'says Jakub.

Not to mention that all this takes place in a retro futuristic world against the backdrop of a killer soundtrack, from synthwave to retropunk to hardbass.

Gamedust have even released an album featuring 15 tracks by Piotr Surmacz, with Pink Floyd-inspired artwork (as featured on the cover of this guide).

'Piotr is responsible not only for the music, but for the whole story and most of the dialogues as well, 'explains Jakub.

'We had a lot of discussions about the tone of the story and the music, so we worked very closely. Even now with the updates when we add new music. He is like a member of our team to us.'

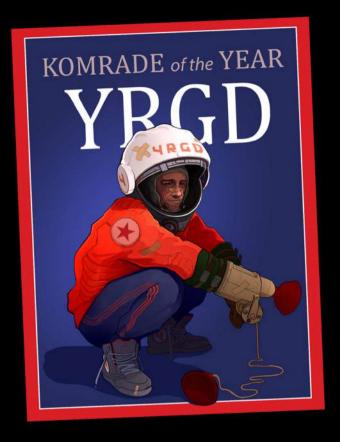
When I complain that some of the Time Attack levels - I'm looking at you level 9! - are fiendishly difficult, Jakub responds that 'we never aimed for a 'walk in the park' type of game, especially in the additional mode. We had a lot of players who are looking for increased challenge.

'We also have one person - nicknamed Awesomecar - whose main aim is to maintain the world records in all of our Time Attack levels. His dedication to the game is the best praise for us.'

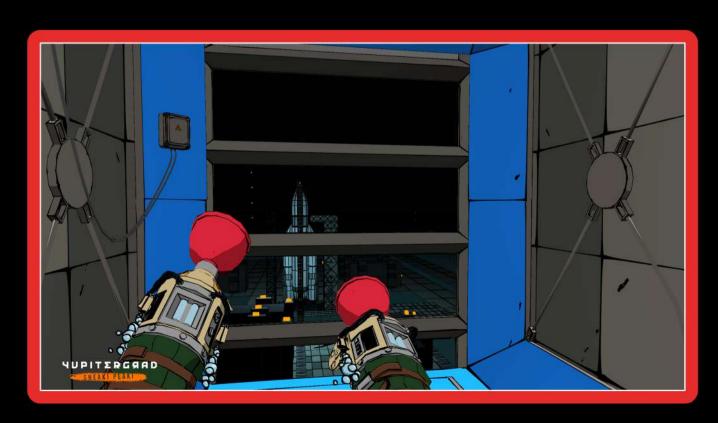
Yupitergrad has been a success for the studio and although Jakub won't reveal sales figures, 'I need to admit it is a satisfying result that keeps on growing.

'As a studio we just want to deliver great and fun games captivating the players on this new and fascinating medium. VR is expanding faster than ever and it's great to be part of this innovation.'

Yupitergrad Sneaki Peaki demo (see box) is **free**. The full game is US\$15.



'we just want to deliver fun games that captivate players on this new and fascinating medium'



top ranked games!



Squingle | free demo

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

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

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

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





Superhot | free demo

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

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

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

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

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

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!

impossible spaces games!



TraVRsal | free

Teleportation? Smooth locomotion? Snap turns? Warp? Gaze? Nope, says developer Impossible Robert, why not just use your legs? Walking around in VR is so natural and liberating you wonder why more games are not made like this.

You might be going round and round in circles on the carpet but in VR you'll be stepping over snake pits and avoiding spike traps in ancient Egypt!

The Pyramid is just one of half a dozen experiences that await you on the holodeck. The Tower takes the concept to a vertical plane.

But the art gallery is perhaps the best. Within minutes you can upload your own images and customise your installation.

There are even user-generated 'worlds' that have been made by people with zero game-building experience thanks to the developer's world building tools.

It's difficult not to see TraVRsal as paving the way for whole new genre of VR experiences. A ground-breaking pioneer.



Tea for God | free

Another candidate for the best natural walking in VR, Tea For God adds the hand tracking factor to strip away another layer of immersion breaking.

It doesn't matter how much space you have, the game will expand and contract to fit using procedurally generated levels.

Known as non-euclidean geometry it's a magic trick the remembers Doctor Who's TARDIS - bigger on the inside than it is on the outside. It even utilises an elevator mechanic to expand vertically.

The game itself is an atmospheric maze shooter set in some kind of interstellar universe where it's unclear where you have to go or what you have to do.

But the mystery is a good thing and you come across a variety of quirky robots and dystopian environments.

Solo developer Void Room, aka Jarosław Ciupiński, has this to say: 'Just as the hero wanders into an unknown world, so do you. And you will have to learn everything on your own.'

dungeons and dogfights!



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.





Warplanes | free demo

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

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!

sprites, clones & pool!



The Under Presents | free

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

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

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





Help Yourself | free

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

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

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

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

Black Hole Pool | free demo

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

castles, kung fu and cowboys!



Tiny Castles | free

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

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

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

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





Crazy Kung Fu | free demo

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!

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!

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.

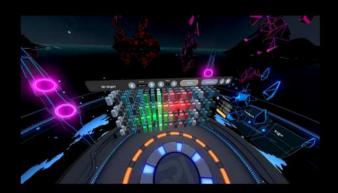
Armed with a simple laser gun, you'll come across the occasional scuttling red spider, zombie or crazed illuminati figure but your main task is to activate what look like green circuit boards to unlock portals and operate platforms. The levels get progressively harder and more intense. Classic!

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.

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.



quillustrations!

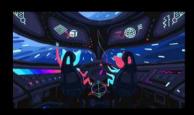
Quill Theater is integrated into OculusTV. It has immersive playback for films and the ability to toggle between any artist-defined angles for illustrations.



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



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



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



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



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



blue zoo | free bing bong! dream interpretation 5m



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



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



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



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



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



dear angelica
oculus | free
the first quillustration! 15m

animations archive

2021



the secret of retropolis app lab | free demo play a robot detective! 1hr



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



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



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



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



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



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



jurassic world app| free Apatosaurus & Blue 2 x 3m



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



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



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



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

film archive

2021









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

2020



symphony vr miff xr*| free Venezuelan conductor



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



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



bodyless miff xr*| free memories in Taiwan 24m



-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



the people's lawn app | free wacky activists! 3m

* 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. * Download miff xr on app lab.

film archive



2019



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



polar obsession youtube vr | free seals in Antarctica 7m



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

film archive





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



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



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



voutube 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



fire in the forest youtube vr | freea day in the village of the
Waurá people 6m



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



sanctuaries of silence within | free the last silent wilderness



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



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



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



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



quillustrations!



Lifetime achievement | 15m

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

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

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





Tales From Soda Island | 4x5m

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

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

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

Peace of Mind | 5m

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



more animations!





Ayahuasca Kosmik Journey | 18m

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

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

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



Four Stories | 4 x 3m

An ingenious quartet of simultaneous tales set on the upper floors of an apartment building - four stories - by Canadian *quillustrator* Nick Ladd.

It begins when star-gazer Lucas gets a surprise splat in the face from space from a luminous one-eyed green blob. Whichever mini-saga you choose to follow - Close Encounters, The Break-In, Night Frights, or Distractions - it all ends with fireworks on the rooftop.

The main aquatic-looking characters, like a knife-wielding ninja granny chasing a classic swag-bag style robber, have a supporting cast of extras like the pufferfish smoking on his balcony. Highly original and voyeuristic, and you can watch it four times over!

Rebels | 7m

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



art & space 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*.

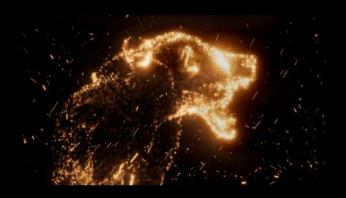
Warning: This film features an optical technique which might be uncomfortable for some viewers.

The Spacewalker | 4m

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



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?'



underwater animations!



Immerse | 9m

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

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

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

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





Polar Obsession | 7m

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

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

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

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

AirPano Jellyfish Bay | 3m

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



BABY STEPS!

ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS: GETTING STARTED OUT OF THE BOX!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HAND TRACKING: HOW TO ENABLE, GESTURES AND ADVICE!

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

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

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

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

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

HINTS, GUIDELINES, TIPS AND TRICKS

BASICS: LENSES, SAFETY, PASSTHROUGH & IPD!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

e n j o y



HINTS, GUIDELINES, TIPS AND TRICKS

SHARING: RECORDING, CASTING & MIXED REALITY!

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

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

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

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

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

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

FIRMWARE UPDATES: COMMON QUESTIONS!

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

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

Release notes here. Troubleshooting on Reddit here.

What's new in v31:

Mixed reality in passthrough!

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

Invite link! Created and shared within the mobile Oculus app, invite link makes it easier to invite friends to multiplayer games. Text or post to bring anyone you like into the same location in VR.

THE BIG PICTURE

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

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

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

5 MILLION+

Estimated Quest 2 sales. Official figures not released.

Source: Barron's

\$1.25 BILLION

Latest valuation of gaming platform Rec Room Inc.

Source: Wall Street Journal

\$10 MILLION+

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

Source: Facebook

1000%

years refer april-april

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

Source: Cloudhead Labs

\$180 MILLION

Estimated revenue generated by a single title - Beat Saber

Source: RoadtoVR

10 MILLION

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

Source: Facebook

timeline

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









stereopsis

spectacles sci-fi story

pygmalion's sensorama vr booth

sword of damocles first hmd



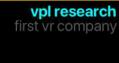
vital helmet miltary hmd



virtuality vr arcade



nasa view astronaut simulator first vr company





facebook buys oculus



standalone 5G glasses

quest 2

virtual boy gaming hmd



quest

oculus rift prototype



standalone go

insta360

one x

5.7K

tethered hmds oculus rift htc vive psvr -





gopro jump

gear vr









WTF DOES THAT MEAN?!

GLOSSARY: KNOW YOUR DIORAMAS FROM YOUR PANCAKES!

vr terms | 3dof (three degrees of freedom) restricted to following head movement like the Go 6dof (six degrees of freedom) allows free movement with a 3D space, like the Quest 2 UI user interface FFR (fixed foveated rendering) a way to economise processing power by keeping hi-res in the centre of your vision and lo-res at the periphery without impacting on your ... **UX** user experience! agency the ability to act in and influence a vr environment refresh rate the higher the refresh rate, the smoother the visual experience. Quest 2 can now run at 120Hz latency the delay between your action and the headset's reaction insideout 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 postion jump scare cheap horror trope NPC non-playing character spawn the live creation of a game object **god-mode** turns the game into a ... diorama interactive minature **DLC** downloadable content (game add-ons) sandbox open-world exploration melee close combat bullet hell subgenre of shoot 'em ups where it rains projectiles non-euclidean geometry in hyperbolic space, everything moves! virtual beings Al artificial people roquelike derived from the seminal 1980 video game Roque. According to the International Roquelike 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 traning area asymmetric VR player against non-VR player cel-shading cartoon graphic style loadout the weapons you choose to take into battle f2p free to play SBM skillbased matchmaking (for multiplayer fairness)

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.

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'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

