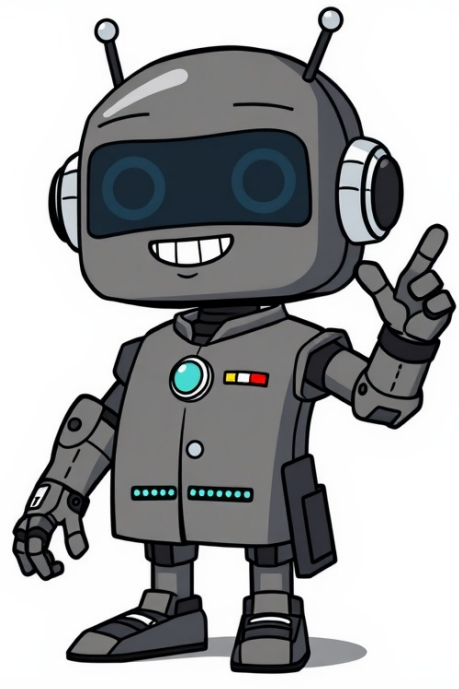


I'm not a bot



The best laptops for everyday use, balance performance and portability ===== The top pick is a Lenovo Yoga 7i 2-in-1 laptop with a long battery life and a spacious OLED touchscreen. It has fast performance and a comfortable keyboard, making it ideal for work and classes. The base model weighs just under 3 pounds. =====The best laptops under \$500 have decent performance and are not too expensive. However, if our top choice is not available, the full guide on budget laptops will provide other options, as well as tips on how to buy a cheap laptop that is not bad.

===== # 1. Acer Aspire Go 15 This Acer model is fast, has a good display and is easily charged via USB-C. Configuration - Processor: Intel Core i3 - Screen: 15.6-inch 1920x1080 non-touch - Memory: 16 GB - Weight: 4 pounds - Storage: 512 GB SSD Battery Life Up to 9 hours # Why We Like It This laptop is suitable for people who need a computer for home, work or school and can't spend much. These laptops are good for students in grade-school and middle-school and those who use their computers mostly at home. # Where it Falls Short It is bulky and weighs 3.74 pounds which makes it inconvenient to carry around. The build quality is also mediocre and the keyboard deck and lid flex under pressure. Recommended Configuration Processor: Intel Core i3 Screen: 15.6-inch 1920x1080 non-touch Memory: 16 GB Weight: 3.74 pounds Storage: 512 GB SSD The best laptops for battery life in college will provide all-day power without breaking the bank.

===== For students who want their laptop to last throughout the day, our top picks offer a balance of performance, portability, and affordability. The Lenovo Yoga 7i 2-in-1 (14" Intel) is a great overall choice, with a battery life that lasted 16 hours in our tests.

===== A good college laptop should be able to keep up with coursework, with fast performance and long battery life. However, this comes at the cost of some compromises, such as reduced portability or display quality. The best laptop for college students, with a comfortable keyboard and good performance, is the M1 MacBook Air. However, it falls short due to its weight and display quality. ===== This budget-friendly option comes in at just \$600, but its performance may struggle with more intense workloads. The newer Apple MacBook Air (13-inch, M4, 2025) offers better specs for a higher price. The Framework Laptop 13 is designed to be repairable by anyone, making it an attractive option for those who want to upgrade and extend the life of their laptop without replacing it entirely. ===== Every part of the Framework Laptop 13 (AMD AI 300 Series) is easy to repair and upgrade, with handy QR codes that direct users to step-by-step replacement guides. This makes it a great choice for anyone looking to customize their laptop's performance and extend its lifespan. The laptop's design is also sturdy and surprisingly thin and light, despite its modular components.

===== However, the Framework Laptop 13 has some limitations. If the company behind it goes out of business or stops designing and selling upgrades, users will be left with no options for repairing or upgrading their laptop. This is a risk that users must consider before purchasing this device.

Despite this, the Framework Laptop 13 has been successful so far, with the company releasing new upgrade parts every year. ===== For photo and video editors, the Asus ProArt P16 is a top choice. It boasts an AMD Ryzen 9 AI 370 processor, a bright OLED display, and an Nvidia RTX graphics card that can handle demanding video edits. The laptop also has a fast battery life of up to 10.5 hours and a weight of just 4 pounds. Its display features a 120 Hz refresh rate for smoother motion and is ideal for gaming as well. ===== The Apple MacBook Pro (M4 Pro) is a powerful and efficient laptop that excites us with its bright display and snappy performance. We found it to be quicker than the Asus ProArt at exporting 4K video, although the latter was slightly faster when bringing clips into the editing timeline. The battery life of the MacBook Pro lasts for about 17.5 hours, which is significantly longer than the Asus ProArt's. The MacBook Pro features a 16.2-inch display with a resolution of 3456x2234 non-touch and is equipped with an Apple M4 Pro processor that provides fast performance and power efficiency. The laptop weighs just 4 pounds and has three Thunderbolt 5 ports, as well as an HDMI port, an SD card reader, a headphone jack, and a MagSafe charging port. However, we should note that the MacBook Pro's battery life is significantly shorter than expected. It won't last a full day without being recharged. This laptop is suitable for media editors who require fast performance, high-quality displays, and a slim design for gaming laptops because they can be loud and heavy, but also because the battery life is limited to about three hours. However, it's worth noting that some high-end gaming laptops can maintain their performance for several hours with the help of advanced cooling systems. It's also important to consider the keyboard flexes under pressure; it's not a dealbreaker, but we wish the chassis were sturdier. You can read more about our pick in our full guide to cheap gaming laptops. Kimber Streams has been Wirecutter's laptops expert for more than a decade, and in that time she's tested and reviewed hundreds of laptops — including fancy thin-and-light models, cheap Windows laptops, and convenient Chromebooks. Dave Gershgorin specializes in covering laptops, monitors, and tablets designed for professionals, and he's been building and repairing his own computers for nearly 20 years. Haley Perry covers all things gaming, and she recommends the best video games to play, the peripherals to play them with, and the laptops to play them on. This guide includes our top picks from all of our laptop guides across Wirecutter. Between our three experts, we've tested more than 100 laptops so far in 2025 to find the best ones for every need and budget. Like all Wirecutter journalists, we review and test products with complete editorial independence. We're never made aware of any business implications of our editorial recommendations. Read more about our editorial standards. In accordance with Wirecutter standards, we return or donate all products we've tested once our assessment of them is complete. We live with each laptop we test for at least a day of work to get a feel for its real-world performance, keyboard, trackpad, and screen. We check email, work in large documents and spreadsheets, open too many tabs for research, chat in Slack, Zoom, and Google Meet, and stream music and YouTube videos. To test battery life, we set each screen's backlight to 150 nits and run Wirecutter's custom version of the Chromium web-browsing battery test. It emulates real-world browsing behavior by cycling through web pages, email, streaming audio, Google Docs files, and video. To test displays, we run a suite of tests using Portrait Displays' Calman Ultimate and a colorimeter to measure color accuracy, contrast, and brightness. For photo and video editing laptops, we benchmark each laptop using Geekbench 6, GeekBench AI, and Cinebench 2024, and test real-world performance by exporting 4K and 1080p video edited in Adobe Premiere Pro and DaVinci Resolve Studio 19. We also check surface temperatures after demanding tasks with an infrared thermometer. For gaming laptops, we benchmark each laptop's performance with Forza Motorsport, Gears Tactics, and Assassin's Creed Shadows. We also play longer sessions of Overwatch 2 and Assassin's Creed Shadows on their highest settings and measure the internal and surface temperatures of each laptop using HWMonitor Pro and an infrared thermometer. For repairable laptops, we open them up and note how many screws and other parts we need to remove to access the memory, storage, and internal battery for repair and replacement. Shopping for a laptop can feel overwhelming, as there are so many specs and so much jargon. But there are only two major questions to consider, and your answers will determine what level of performance you need and what level of quality you get: What do you need to do on your laptop? And how much can you spend on it? Performance there's no such thing as a "best laptop processor" or "best graphics chip," since it highly depends on what you'll be doing on your laptop. Here's what to look for: For most laptop work — web browsing with lots of tabs, email, documents and spreadsheets, and running a few apps at a time — we recommend an Intel Core Ultra 5 U-series processor, an Intel Core Ultra 5 200V-series processor, an AMD Ryzen 5 8000-series processor, or an AMD Ryzen AI 300-series processor. To keep everything running smoothly for years to come when switching between programs, opening lots of files, and clicking through browser tabs, get 16 GB of memory. Integrated graphics are just fine. If you're on a tight budget or don't need a laptop for gaming, there are many affordable options available that still offer great performance. However, if you're looking for the best gaming laptops available now, you'll want to focus on specs like the graphics card and processor. To suit lighter tasks such as browsing and checking email, Intel Core 3 and AMD Ryzen 3 processors are sufficient. However, for multitasking, you need a faster processor such as the Core 5 or Ryzen 5 option. For professional photo editing, the latest Intel Core Ultra 7 or 9 200-series chips or the AMD Ryzen 9 AI 370 are recommended along with dedicated graphics. When it comes to gaming, you need powerful processors and dedicated graphics like Nvidia's 50-series GPUs with at least 8 GB of video memory. If you prefer Mac, M4 Pro or M4 Max are good options. A laptop that can handle everyday work efficiently, has long battery life, and a great screen in a thin-and-light body typically costs around \$1,000. However, there are solid options available in the \$800 range with some trade-offs. Chromebooks tend to be faster and have better build quality than cheap Windows laptops at this price range. They also don't come with bloatware that slows down computers. For photo editing, you can get a capable laptop for between \$2,000 to \$3,000 due to its powerful specs. But if you're not working in 4K, options around \$1,000 are available. Gaming laptops can be affordable with prices under \$1,500. However, more expensive and powerful models may run too hot or don't perform well enough. When choosing an OS, consider sticking with what you're familiar with. Windows and macOS are very similar, and most apps work equally well on both platforms. Chromebooks can also do most tasks in a web browser. Think about the devices you already have when making your decision. If you have an iPhone, a MacBook will let you use iMessage and FaceTime video calls. Windows can sync with Android phones and iPhones now as well. For support, consider buying a Mac if you want the best service because Apple Stores provide repair services for their laptops.