

Review: Samsung Gear VR (Innovator Edition)

Overview		
Fun	★★★★★★	
Geekiness	★☆☆☆☆	
Usefulness	★★★★★	
Ease of use / installation	★★★★★★	
Price-performance ratio	★★★★★★	

Design & Hardware
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Height: 82.8 mm, Width: 196.1 mm, Depth: 98.5 mm, Weight: 420.4 g • Biconvex lenses offer a 96° field of view • Wheel adjusts lens focus • Uses display of mobile device inserted in socket (Samsung Galaxy S6/S6 edge) • Controls: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ touch pad on the side offers selecting, scrolling/swiping in 2 dimensions ○ return/home menu button • Ergonomic straps to distribute the weight of the device evenly across user's head • Integrated cooling fan prevents lens fogging • Sensors: Accelerometer, Gyro Sensor, Proximity Sensor • Micro-USB port for direct power supply / charging of mobile device

Features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offers immersive, bi-360° (4π steradian solid angle) virtual reality experience • Intuitive control through a combination of head movement and touch interface • Mask isolates from environment (e.g. ambient light), while ergonomic design and integrated cooling fan which prevents lens fogging offer increased comfort of use • Can capture screenshots and videos within the application • Imaginative design of menus and viewing environments offer immersive, captivating and practical navigation of content

Suitability for daily use

- View 360° photographs of places around the world you have always wanted to visit
- Have a look into the inside of a hotel room before you make a booking or a flat you are interested to rent before you decide to go to a viewing appointment
- Watch conventional 2D videos on huge virtual screens and in creative settings (like in a virtual cinema hall or on the moon)
- Immersive entertainment: 3D computer graphics pictures / animations / games
- Virtual art museums
- Virtual meetings / remote conferencing
- Education / research: insight into 3D structures (crystal lattices, molecules, mechanical design)
- Architectural / interior design
- Training: immersive/realistic simulators
- Imagination is the limit: anything else that developers can think of

Pros & cons

- + Wide field of view, precise head-tracking, low latency and high resolution display (Samsung Galaxy S6 edge) offer immersive VR experience
- + Extensive libraries of free content (360° photographs/videos, computer graphics pictures/animations, games, etc)
- Can cause nausea/dizziness depending on content
- Best downloadable content still pricey
- Only compatible with a small range of Samsung mobile phones
 - Gear VR: Galaxy S6/S6 edge, S7/S7 edge, Note5
 - Gear VR Innovator Edition: Galaxy S6/S6 edge