



## REVIEWS

# Custom Kit

We check out the latest gadgets, gizmos and geek toys

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Seen something worthy of  
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Send suggestions to  
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### BLUETOOTH EARPHONES JAYBIRD BLUEBUDS X

**01** Despite being barely any larger than a typical set of earphones, the Jaybird BlueBuds X are good for eight hours of wireless audio, thanks to a tiny, high-capacity micro-USB chargeable battery. Audio is also excellent, lending weight to the claimed benefits of the Jaybird's proprietary Shift compression algorithm, although the odd pop and crackle was evident as the BlueTooth connection dithered. They fit great too, thanks to a highly customisable fitting system, featuring soft 'ear hooks' and detailed fitting instructions – an area that's often overlooked. The price could make some people gasp, but they're hard to fault once they're in your ears. **PG**

JAILBIRD ●●●●● JAYBIRD

Price £169 inc VAT Supplier [www.advancedmp3players.co.uk](http://www.advancedmp3players.co.uk) Manufacturer [www.jaybirdgear.com](http://www.jaybirdgear.com)



### MOUSEMAT ROCCAT HIRO

**02** The Hiro, a mouse mat that costs more than most mice, presents a dilemma. It's amazing to see the humble mouse mat developed to such a level. The Hiro's 'vulcanised silicone surface' felt lovely under our mouse, and its special grime-resistant treatment made it easier to clean than a fabric mat too. Meanwhile, the 'power bonded' edges felt solid and refused to fray, even after we'd picked at them. On the other hand, can a mouse mat ever truly be worth £52? Will it provide any significant difference to your gaming ability when compared to any other reasonable tracking surface? We think not. **PG**

SYLAR ●●●●● HIRO

Price £52 inc VAT Supplier [www.systo.co.uk](http://www.systo.co.uk) Manufacturer [www.roccat.org](http://www.roccat.org)



### WIFI REPEATER NETGEAR WN300RP WIRELESS REPEATER

**03** Even in a modest house, WiFi coverage can be patchy given the bargain-basement routers typically supplied by ISPs, but WiFi repeaters such as the WN300RP offer a way to make sure every bedroom has reception. Setting up the WN300RP was as simple as plugging it into a wall socket, logging into it via a PC and entering the password of the network we wanted it to extend. Connection was quick, and a test showed the same upload and download speeds experienced when connected to the router. An Ethernet port is present too, so it can act as a bridge between your WiFi network and a device that needs a wired connection too. The only downer is the price, which is a little steep for a box of relatively simple electronics. **PG**

REPEATER ●●●●○ REPEATER

Price £50 inc VAT Supplier [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)  
Manufacturer [www.netgear.co.uk](http://www.netgear.co.uk)