



# FEB TECH



**F**or a technology that was once pitched as the inevitable next step in television's evolution, 8K now feels less like the future and more like a cautionary tale. With LG quietly stepping away from the format, panel development paused, and most major manufacturers already gone, it's hard to avoid the conclusion that 8K TVs are following 3D into the consumer tech graveyard.

LG's exit is particularly telling. It was the only company supposedly still selling 8K OLED TVs worldwide, yet its Z3 OLED was discontinued last year with no successor in sight. LG Display has since confirmed that 8K panel development is on ice unless market conditions dramatically improve. When the sole remaining enthusiast manufacturer loses faith, the signal couldn't be clearer.

Samsung now stands as the last major brand still waving the 8K flag, but even that commitment looks half-hearted. A few years ago, Samsung offered multiple 8K models across different price tiers. Today, it limits itself to a single ultra-premium set, and in 2026 didn't even bother showcasing it at CES, instead focusing attention on RGB backlights and QD-OLED advancements — both firmly rooted in 4K. Perhaps most revealing of all, Samsung's much-hyped Micro RGB backlight technology was initially demonstrated in an 8K prototype, yet every consumer model launching with the tech is 4K only.

The core problem is simple: 8K

doesn't solve a real-world problem for most viewers. At normal viewing distances, even on large screens, the human eye struggles to distinguish between a high-quality 4K image and native 8K. Meanwhile, the best 4K TVs already deliver breathtaking brightness, contrast, color accuracy and motion performance. In that context, adding more pixels feels like technical excess rather than meaningful progress.

Content, or rather the lack of it, may be the fatal blow. Blu-ray tops out at 4K and will stay there. Streaming services struggle to deliver consistent high-bitrate 4K, let alone 8K. Studios may scan films at higher resolutions for archival purposes, but that doesn't translate into consumer releases. Without a viable content ecosystem, 8K has remained a solution in search of a problem.

There are places where 8K makes sense. Massive modular displays like Samsung's The Wall are undeniably spectacular, and in professional monitors the sheer pixel acreage can be genuinely useful. But for the living room, the combination of high cost, negligible visual gains and nonexistent content makes the case vanishingly thin.

Like 3D before it, 8K promised more than it could deliver to everyday viewers. And judging by the industry's retreat, manufacturers are finally acknowledging what many consumers already have: the future of TV isn't about more pixels, but about making the pixels we already have look better than ever.





# 35MM 1.2



In the world of photography, few names carry as much weight as Noctilux. More than a designation for exceptional lens speed or handcrafted precision, Noctilux has become synonymous with an unmistakable visual language—one that belongs intrinsically to the Leica M system and to a way of seeing that values closeness, patience, and intent.

Its name reveals its origin: Nocti, from night, and lux, from light. Yet Noctilux has never been only about working in darkness. Noctilux lenses have long enabled photographers to reveal nuance, texture, and emotion that would otherwise remain unseen. They stand not merely as technical achievements, but as symbols of photographic excellence—of mastery under challenge.

This legacy began in 1966, when the Noctilux 50 f/1.2 was unveiled at Photokina. At the time, it was nothing short of revolutionary: the fastest aspherical lens in 35 mm photography. Its optical design was so far ahead of its era that it remained essentially unsurpassed for more than four decades, a testament to the clarity of vision behind its creation.

A new chapter opened in 2008 with the introduction of the Noctilux-M 50 f/0.95 ASPH. Pushing the boundaries of what was considered possible, it redefined available-light photography and became renowned for its distinctive, almost dreamlike bokeh. In 2017, the Noctilux family expanded again with the Noctilux-M 75 f/1.25 ASPH., demonstrating that even in moments stripped of colour and contrast, light could still be

shaped to reveal the finest details. It reaffirmed what photographers had long understood: a Noctilux does not merely capture light—it interprets it.

That tradition continues in 2026 with the introduction of the Noctilux-M 35 f/1.2 ASPH. Conceived as a reportage lens, it combines extraordinary compactness with uncompromising optical performance. It brings the photographer closer to the story, offering narrative intimacy and creative freedom without distraction. Its precision and balance underscore the innovative power of Noctilux, translating decades of optical mastery into a focal length defined by immediacy and presence.

Central to the Noctilux character is bokeh—the quality of blur that shapes how a lens dissolves space and renders points of light. Achieving this effect requires more than speed alone. It is the result of a complex optical formula, meticulous construction, and exceptionally precise aperture mechanics. When done right, transitions from sharpness to softness feel effortless, allowing the subject to appear as if it were floating within the frame. For many photographers, this characterful bokeh is as important as a Noctilux's low-light capability. It creates atmosphere, depth, and emotional resonance—an unmistakable signature that draws the viewer in and holds their attention. This is the essence of Noctilux.

The new Leica Noctilux-M 35mm f/1.2 ASPH., is available now for £7,700.00/ AU\$15,990.00.





**A**lienware's 16X Aurora isn't trying to dethrone the company's hulking Area-51 machines, and that's precisely the point. Instead of chasing benchmark charts, this laptop focuses on delivering reliable, modern gaming performance in a form factor that actually makes sense for daily travel. The result is a system that feels less like a desktop replacement and more like a genuinely portable gaming companion.

Starting at £2,199.00, the 16X Aurora stakes out a compelling position in the sub-\$1,000 gaming laptop space. Even at the base configuration, it offers enough power to handle modern AAA titles at 1080p, light creative work, and everyday computing without compromise. Step up to the mid-tier configuration, and you're looking at an Intel Core Ultra 9 paired with an RTX 5070, 32GB of RAM, and a 1TB SSD — a combination that comfortably supports 1440p gaming with the help of DLSS, while remaining surprisingly manageable in size and weight.

Portability is where the 16X Aurora quietly shines. Weighing just under six pounds and measuring less than an inch thick when closed, it travels more like a MacBook Air than a traditional gaming laptop. The anodized aluminum exterior and magnesium alloy frame strike a satisfying balance between durability and weight, while the deep "Interstellar Indigo" color gives the laptop a distinct personality without leaning into flashy RGB theatrics. Alienware keeps lighting restrained, limited to a single-zone keyboard, reinforcing the sense that this is a machine built for function first.

The 16-inch 2560 x 1600 display is one of the standout features. With a 240Hz refresh rate, strong color coverage, and G-Sync support, it delivers both smooth competitive performance and excellent image quality for visually rich single-player games. While the absence of HDR is noticeable, the panel still looks fantastic in practice, especially for creators who value color accuracy alongside high refresh rates.

Gaming performance lands right where you'd expect. Demanding titles run smoothly with DLSS enabled, and competitive games take full advantage of the high refresh display. Cooling is effective, if occasionally loud under heavy loads, and Alienware's Command Center provides useful control over performance profiles.

The compromises are familiar ones. Battery life averages just over four hours in light use and drops quickly under load, making the bulky power adapter a constant travel companion. The speakers also lag behind the rest of the package, sounding hollow despite Dolby Atmos branding.

Taken as a whole, the Alienware 16X Aurora delivers exactly what it promises: a stylish, well-balanced gaming laptop that prioritizes mobility without abandoning serious performance. It may not be the most powerful machine in Alienware's lineup, but for gamers who want real power they can actually carry every day, it makes a strong case for itself.

**D**JI has announced the RS5 camera gimbal to markets across the rest of the world, marking the arrival of fifth-generation Ronin stabilisation and bringing with it a feature previously reserved for the RS 4 Mini: the intelligent tracking module. With this addition, DJI continues to blur the line between operator skill and automated assistance, expanding what's possible for solo shooters and small crews alike.

The new tracking module is capable of recognising and following people, vehicles, pets, or virtually any subject, while maintaining locked focus on a human target at distances of up to ten metres. Once a subject has been identified, DJI says the system can continue tracking even if they temporarily leave the frame, re-acquiring them seamlessly in busy or crowded environments. It's a capability clearly designed with today's fast-moving, social-first production workflows in mind.

That focus on modern content creation extends to vertical shooting, which the RS5 now supports natively without the need for additional accessories. Despite these added capabilities, the gimbal remains compact and manageable, weighing in at 1.46 kilograms including the quick-release plates and battery grip. DJI's second-generation automated axis locks are also onboard, allowing the gimbal to unlock itself when powered on and secure the axes automatically when entering sleep mode or powering down.

A newly designed briefcase-style handle expands creative options further, making it easier to capture low-angle or overhead shots while maintaining precise control. On the integrated display, a new Z-Axis indicator provides real-time feedback on vertical movement, helping operators understand whether their walking pace and gait need adjustment or whether the stabilisation system can compensate on its own. It's a subtle addition, but one that reflects DJI's continued focus on refining the operator experience as much as the hardware itself.

Battery performance remains a strong point. DJI rates the included BG33 grip at up to 14 hours of operation, with a full recharge taking just one hour. For longer shooting days, the optional BG70 high-capacity grip extends runtime to as much as 30 hours. Bluetooth shutter control has also been expanded, adding Panasonic and Fujifilm support alongside existing compatibility with Sony, Canon, and Nikon cameras.

The RS5 goes on sale now, priced at £485, and around AU\$838 in Australia. The package includes a mini-tripod, control cable, and BG33 battery grip. Due to the ongoing ban on new DJI products using radio frequencies, the RS5 will not be available in the United States, with no immediate change expected ahead of forthcoming discussions between US and Chinese leadership.

# RONIN







# TAG

**A**pple have unveiled the new AirTag, refining its discreet tracking accessory with a longer finding range, a significantly louder speaker, and deeper integration across the Find My ecosystem. Designed to help users keep track of the items that matter most, AirTag continues to draw its strength from the scale of the Find My network, which quietly operates in the background of everyday life.

Since its launch in 2021, AirTag has earned its reputation through real-world use rather than technical bravado. Users across the globe have shared stories of being reunited with lost luggage, keys, bicycles, bags, and other personal belongings. In one case, a musician located a missing instrument just in time to perform the same evening, while another user recovered luggage containing life-saving medication.

Powering the new AirTag is Apple's second-generation Ultra Wideband chip, the same technology used in the iPhone 17 lineup, iPhone Air, Apple Watch Ultra 3, and Apple Watch Series 11. The upgrade enables Precision Finding to guide users to lost items from up to 50 percent farther away than before, using a combination of visual cues, haptic feedback, and sound. An improved Bluetooth chip further extends the range at which nearby devices can help detect an AirTag's location.

For the first time, Precision Finding is also available on Apple Watch. Users with Apple Watch Series 9 or later, or Apple Watch Ultra 2 or later, can now locate their AirTag directly from the wrist, bringing directional

guidance and distance feedback to a device that's always close at hand. Internally, the AirTag has been redesigned to make it easier to hear. Its built-in speaker is now 50 percent louder than the previous generation and audible from up to twice the distance. Combined with a new chime and enhanced Precision Finding, locating items buried in bags, tucked between sofa cushions, or left behind in a hurry becomes faster and less frustrating.

Find My remains the foundation of the experience, allowing users to locate AirTag, Apple devices, compatible third-party accessories, and even friends and family, while maintaining strong privacy protections. When an AirTag is out of range of its paired iPhone, the Find My network — a crowdsourced system of Apple devices — can anonymously relay its approximate location back to the owner.

The new AirTag also integrates with Share Item Location, allowing users to temporarily share the location of a misplaced item with trusted third parties such as airlines. Apple has partnered with more than 50 carriers to support luggage recovery, a move that has helped reduce baggage delays and significantly cut cases of unrecoverable luggage.

Privacy and safety remain central to AirTag's design. Location data is never stored on the device itself, all communication is end-to-end encrypted, and AirTag includes industry-leading protections against unwanted tracking. Designed exclusively for tracking objects, the new AirTag is available today for £29/AU\$49.00, or £99/AU\$165.00 for a four-pack.



Apple's quiet superpower has always been its relationship with creators, and with the unveiling of Apple Creator Studio, the company is making that relationship more explicit than ever. Framed as a single subscription, Apple Creator Studio brings together Apple's most powerful creative tools into a unified suite designed to meet creators wherever they are, whether they're cutting a film, producing a track in a bedroom studio, designing visuals on an iPad, or building a pitch deck on an iPhone.

At its core, Apple Creator Studio is about lowering friction. For years, creators have relied on a patchwork of apps across devices, licenses, and workflows. Apple's answer is a tightly integrated ecosystem that blends professional-grade software with intelligent features that feel less like automation and more like creative momentum. Final Cut Pro, Logic Pro, Pixelmator Pro, Motion, Compressor, and MainStage form the backbone of the suite, while Keynote, Pages, Numbers, and eventually Freeform receive a steady infusion of premium content and AI-powered capabilities.

Video creators stand to benefit immediately. Final Cut Pro on Mac and iPad introduces tools that change how editors interact with footage. Transcript Search and Visual Search make hours of raw material instantly navigable, while Beat Detection brings musical structure directly into the timeline, allowing edits to snap intuitively to rhythm. On iPad, Montage Maker pushes things further, using AI to assemble dynamic edits in seconds and intelligently reformat content for social

platforms without stripping creators of control.

Music creation receives an equally thoughtful upgrade. Logic Pro's new Synth Player feels less like a preset engine and more like a collaborative performer, generating expressive electronic parts that respond to creative direction in real time. Chord ID transforms audio or MIDI recordings into usable chord progressions, removing technical barriers between inspiration and execution. Combined with an expanded Sound Library and natural language search, Logic Pro continues to blur the line between professional studio software and accessible creative playground.

Visual creators gain a major new tool with the arrival of Pixelmator Pro on iPad. Built specifically for touch and Apple Pencil, it delivers desktop-class editing in a mobile-first experience, complete with advanced masking, smart selection, and Apple silicon-powered features like Super Resolution and Auto Crop. New Warp tools and cross-device workflows reinforce Apple's belief that creativity shouldn't be tied to a single screen.

Even Apple's productivity apps feel newly energized. With generative image tools, intelligent layout cleanup, presentation drafting, and formula generation, Keynote, Pages, and Numbers evolve from utilities into active creative partners. Apple Creator Studio isn't just a bundle; it's a statement about a future where powerful creative tools are shaped around how modern creators actually work — fluidly, visually, and across devices. But also one that should have Adobe re-think its pricing strategy.

# CREATOR

