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A good gamepad for your PC can go a long way, whether you like to play retro, emulate games, prefer to play arcade games with a gamepad, or just prefer to feel like a controller for some games and keyboard and mouse for others. The fact is, there are so many gamepads to choose from that finding good can be tough. This week we're looking at the top five, based on your nominations. Earlier this week, we asked you which PC playgrounds you think are the best. We don't knock the keyboard and mouse here, but sometimes it's fun to switch things up a bit. You're back with a few clear favorites and a few others worth digging into. We've got more nominations than we can highlight here, but here are five top picks: Do you prefer games on your computer, built a Raspberry Pi powered game console, a built-in one in... More Polls are closed and votes are counted! To see which of these five great gamepads took the crown, head over to our hive five follow-up post to read all about the winner! When the keyboard and mouse are not the best tool for the game you want to play, you have a lot of... Read the moreXBox 360 ControllerThe Xbox 360 controller is probably one of the most convenient controllers available, and the fact that there are wired and wireless USB versions for PC games brings joy to gamers who prefer to sit in front of their monitors as opposed to their TELEVISION screens. The 360 controller has been designed with ergonomics in mind, and designed in a way that is comfortable to hold, even for a long time, although as far as you agree this depends heavily on your personal preferences and tastes. The controller also sports vibration feedback, a nice long USB cable in the wired model, and drivers all but pre-packaged with Windows 7 and Windows 8 so install the snap. You need third-party software to work on a Mac, but it's not too hard to do. They are available for about \$25 on Amazon, which is definitely at least \$40. G/O Media can get a commission from you who appointed an Xbox 360 controller praised for its handy design, satisfying to push and non-squishy buttons (although the D-pad has always been and remains a problem for many people), its great driver support, and the fact that if you play any modern name on your computer with a game controller, it's a safe bet that using an Xbox 360 controller will make it easy to display the buttons. Sony DualShock 3 ControllerSony's DualShock 3 controller is the same controller that ships with The Playstation 3 - is also one of your favorites. How convenient it really is the topic of mass debate. Some people love it, some people hate it, but not too many people prefer it other, more ergonomic models. However, for those people who prefer it, or already have one and can connect it to your computer, computer, works well without having to buy extra equipment, connectors or cables. You can get one for about \$43 on Amazon if you don't have one and need all the cables, or about \$40 if you already have the connection cables required. Getting it to work in Windows can be a bit of a challenge (one made much easier thanks to third-party tools such as Better DS3 offline motion in joy tool configuration. G/O Media can get a commission from you who praised the DS3 controller in a call to challengers praised how easy it was to set up non-Windows OSes and the fact that you can connect them to your computer via Bluetooth. You may have to remap the button to make it work perfectly in some games, but it's a good alternative to the Xbox 360 controller, although it's not as popular. Logitech game controllers (Rumblepad 2/F310/F710) Logitech game controllers tend to rotate quite often, but Rumblepad 2 has earned a lot of praise from many of you, even if it's not technically available anymore. If you really like it and prefer its Logitech later models, you can still get it, but it's ridiculously expensive compared to the spiritual successors of Rumbleshock, the \$20 wired Logitech Gamepad F310 and the \$38 wireless Logitech Gamepad F710. Since Logitech controllers are designed for PC compatibility, they will burn with out-of-the-box compatibility for Windows and plenty of drivers to download to customize and customize buttons to work exactly the way you like. G/O Media can get commissionEach controllers designed with some of the curves and comfort of the Xbox 360 controller in mind, but the layout button and analog stick layout of the DualShock 3 controller are in mind. They are easy to use for a long time, but how well they really hold up sustainable games is another matter. Some of you have reported that you love them, others are flat out hated them. Those of you who appointed them praised them for allowing you to switch buttons and control layouts among classic game controller layouts, as well as supporting thousands of games. Razer SabertoothThe Razer Sabertooth has earned a lot of love as a PC-friendly and Xbox 360-friendly third-party controller, and it's not hard to see why. It's big and hefty without being bulky and too heavy, it's ergonomically designed and comfortable in hand, and packs a ton of useful features. You can adjust the sensitivity of the backlight buttons sabertooth and sticks, the buttons have a solid click to them, rocker triggers are solid, and Sabertooth even comes with The rocker triggers on the bottom of the controller that the Xbox 360 controller itself does not have. All The extra ones are fully programmable, and it even packs a built-in OLED screen at the bottom to help you see what menu or controller mode in. It supports Windows right out of the box, will set you back \$80 straight or on Amazon, and for your investment you will also get a controller that you can disconnect from your computer and connect to the Xbox 360 anytime you want. G/O Media can get commissionifies Rumblepad and its successors to emulate the DualShock 3 look, Sabertooth emulates the Xbox 360 approach (which makes sense since it works with the Xbox 360). Those of you who praised it made a special note of Sabertooth customizable buttons, solid buttons, and solid build quality. If you're having problems with the Xbox 360 D-pad controller, Sabertooth is worth a look, and greatly improves it. USB Retro Console GamepadsLet to be honest, most people who play on their computer use a keyboard and mouse, and are more than happy to do so. If you really don't need an amazing, high-tech, programmable controller for multiple arcade style games, platformers or action games for which you want a controller on your computer, the USB version of the retro game controller that you love the most may be fine. If emulating games is your thing and you prefer to play classic titles and old school games (whether it's on your computer or custom arcade machines, maybe one powered by a raspberry pi-maybe you prefer to use the controller that the games in question have been designed for! Depending on who you want (some of you in the appeal to the contenders praised the SNES controller and theN64 controller in particular, but they are not just your options). Read morePersonally, I love the feel of an old SNES controller, and although I have more advanced controllers for my computer, sometimes I plug in my USB SNES controller and ignite the MAME. You can get USB SNES controllers for about \$10 on Amazon, but if you're even older school and want an original NES controller, a good one will set you back \$7 on Amazon instead. Looking for something new? USB version of the classic N64 controller, for \$14 on Amazon. If you have a controller but don't have a USB adapter, you can even buy them instead. Here's one for the N64 controller, and here's one for SNES. This \$7 dual PS2-to-USB connector comes with a lifetime warranty and works like a charm-I actually own it, so I can vouch for that. G/O Media can get a commission of \$315,347 purchased by readersAsanding for games you want to play or the emulator you use, you will almost certainly have to remapping the buttons for the commands used in the arcade or adjust to the use controller than the game expects, but it's half the fun of old-school games and classic titles on the new hardware. Once it's all set up, you're off and and don't have to do it again. Now that you've seen the top five, it's time to put them on all the ballot to determine the community favorite: This week's honorable mention goes to the Xbox One controller and the Playstation DualShock 4 controllers, both of which more than some of you were thrilled, even if they weren't available. It's true both controllers will likely have some PC compatibility soon after consoles land on store shelves come November, and both are likely to represent updates over the current generation of console controllers. We are willing to bet that if we do this poll again in a year, Xbox 360 and PS3 controllers will be decommissioned on Xbox One and PS4 replacements. In addition, some of you have noted that you had the opportunity to play with new console controllers at events such as PAX (Penny Arcade Expo) and loved what you felt. Is there anything to say about one of the contenders? Want to make a case for your personal favorite even if it wasn't on the list? Remember that the top five are based on your most popular nominations from calling for applicants to thread from earlier in the week. Don't just complain about the top five, let us know what your preferred alternative is, and make your case for it- in the discussions below. Hive Five is based on reader nominations. As with most Hive Five posts, if your favorite stayed away, it's not because we hate it, it's because he didn't get the nominations needed in calling for job applicants to make the top five. We understand that this is a bit of a popularity contest, but if you have a favorite, we want to hear about it. Is there an offer for Hive Five? Email us tips@hivefive@lifelifehacker.com.Photo by Mark van Seaters, Futurila and William Hook. Hook.

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