

5 best budget laptops of 2026

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Affordable laptops have changed significantly over the years. Bulky designs and questionable performance are a thing of the past, and now they come in thin, light, stylish, and fully functional devices. There are many reasonable options for those looking for a simple machine for browsing, streaming, or even playing less demanding video games.

HP Pavilion 15.6-inch laptop



The HP Pavilion 15.6-inch laptop comes in a variety of configurations. These include RAM options ranging from 8GB of RAM with 256GB SSD storage to 32GB/1TB, while still remaining within an affordable price range.

The HP Pavilion 15 can not only handle everyday tasks like web browsing and streaming media with ease, but with its Intel UHD Graphics 600 card, it can also handle basic photo editing and light gaming.

The laptop's 15.6-inch screen has HD resolution with a maximum brightness of 220 nits. It's suitable for most everyday use.

Samsung Chromebook 4+



The Samsung Chromebook 4+ is a good option if you need a basic laptop for everyday tasks at the lowest price. It has an Intel Celeron N4020 processor, providing a good foundation for basic computing tasks. It's a great office accessory that will get all your work done.

With 4GB of DDR4 RAM and 64GB of eMMC storage, you can expect it to handle light video editing and simple gaming in your daily tasks. Performance may be modest and multitasking might occasionally lag, but you can't expect much more at this price point.

The Full HD screen is a pleasant surprise. You can stream movies and TV shows in crisp, vivid detail. This model has an 11.6-inch screen, but if that's too small for you, there's a 15.6-inch model available for a slightly higher price. However, like most Chromebooks, storage is limited due to their integration with cloud services.

HP Stream 14-inch Laptop



The HP Stream 14-inch is worth considering if finding the most affordable laptop for handling basic daily computing tasks is your top priority. This model is a good office option with an Intel Celeron N4000 processor, 4GB of RAM, and 64GB of eMMC storage. It's a reasonable choice and can handle basic daily productivity tasks.

However, if you need more power while remaining stable within the budget price range, there are enhanced RAM and larger storage options up to 32GB and 576GB (64GB eMMC plus a 512GB card) respectively.

The HD screen is suitable for browsing the web or streaming content during lunch breaks. The image is bright and clear enough for indoor use, although the screen may not be of optimal quality for enjoying movies and shows in the evening.

Lenovo IdeaPad Duet 5



With its Snapdragon SC7180 processor and Qualcomm Adreno graphics, the Lenovo IdeaPad Duet 5 is a great 2-in-1 device. It has 4GB of RAM and a 64GB SSD. This might not be enough for some; however, you can mitigate this issue with Chrome OS cloud computing.

Like most laptops in this price range, it performs well for everyday office tasks and web browsing, while also offering some gaming and light editing capabilities. However, the highlight of the Duet 5 is its stunning 13.3-inch OLED touchscreen display. With a Full HD screen, a maximum brightness of 400 nits, and a 100% DCI-P3 color gamut, this laptop will deliver the best picture quality you can find in this price range.

Acer Nitro 5



With its powerful Ryzen 7 5800H processor and RTX 3060 GPU featuring NVIDIA DLSS technology, the Acer Nitro 5 (model AN515-45-R92M) offers incredibly attractive value for budget-conscious gamers. Additionally, it boasts 16GB of RAM and a 512GB SSD, and offers ample internal space for upgrades when you're ready to upgrade one or two levels.

This large, heavy, and impressively styled laptop is finished off with customizable 4-zone RGB backlighting and powerful keyboard illumination. It certainly looks like a piece for gamers and boasts a wide selection of ports.

However, the 15.6-inch IPS display is slightly dim and the colors are somewhat less vibrant. Nevertheless, you get sharp Full HD resolution with a maximum refresh rate of 144Hz for smooth visuals and reduced motion blur.

Hopefully, through this article, you have been able to choose a budget-friendly laptop with good specifications to serve your long-term studies.

1. 5 best laptops for children

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