

The Most Important Laptops of 2012

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2012 was a big year for laptops. Windows 8 came along with its touch-centric worldview, Intel kept plugging away on its ultrabook crusade, and Apple finally started pumping out Retina MacBooks. Here's our list of the most important machines of the year.

10. [Acer Aspire S7 11-inch](#)

<https://gizmodo.com/acer-aspire-s7-review-this-is-how-windows-8-should-feel-5952833>

This is a statement of intent from Acer, and really all Windows laptops. Along with Samsung's Series 9, this is the most impressively designed and built laptop we've seen. Apple included. It's just wonderful, with a gorgeous, bright capacitive touch 1080p display crammed onto its 11-inch body. Acer has a few kinks to work out, like that undersized trackpad, before this really takes off, but it was the arrival of a new big time player in laptops, and a reaffirmation that Windows can be beautiful.

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9. [Lenovo IdeaPad Yoga 13](#)

<https://gizmodo.com/lenovo-yoga-review-this-is-how-you-build-a-pc-tablet-f-5956349>

Lenovo was the first Windows 8 hybrid out the gate at CES this year, and its 13-inch Yoga managed to stay ahead of the field and come in as the best touchscreen convertible we saw this year. That makes it the unofficial face of Windows 8 laptops, even if Surface RT is the hardware face of Windows 8 itself.

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8. [Asus Zenbook Prime UX31A](#)

<https://gizmodo.com/the-last-pc-laptop-5949911>

Asus's Zenbooks have been some of the most popular ultrabooks out, but this year's UX31A was notable for its gorgeous 1080p screen, which outshines anything short of a Retina display from Apple. The Zenbooks still have keyboard and trackpad issues to deal with, but pushing great displays on nice laptops at affordable prices is pretty important.

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7. [Samsung Series 9](#)

<https://gizmodo.com/samsung-series-9-2012-review-who-said-samsung-cant-do-5924718>

Samsung's Series 9 was already really good last year—it was our favorite ultrabook at the time—but its total redesign this year cemented it as the most gorgeous laptop you can own. Period. We didn't love what that did to the keyboard, but wrestling "best looking laptop" away from Apple is a big deal, especially when it doesn't look like Cupertino's going to take it back any time soon.

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6. [Dell XPS 12](#)

<https://gizmodo.com/dell-xps-12-review-beautiful-screen-flimsy-frame-5957785>

Early this year, ultrabooks were still getting off the ground, taking their first awkward, unsure steps toward being good and viable. Dell's XPS 12 was one of the first to really get almost everything right while also embracing a lot of Intel's features, which early ultrabooks avoided. It came in between the first and second waves of ultrabooks, and set a template for build quality and usability.

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5. [Vizio Thin + Light](#)

<https://gizmodo.com/putting-my-hands-on-vizios-new-machines-gave-me-compute-5874470>

The Vizio Thin + Light looked like it had a chance to be something special when we saw it at CES, and it didn't quite live up to that. But it's still the first laptop out of bootstraps-up TV-maker Vizio, and it showed enough promise that we're excited to see if it can improve on things next year.

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4. [Lenovo ThinkPad X1 Carbon](#)

<https://gizmodo.com/lenovo-thinkpad-x1-carbon-review-what-the-future-of-la-5935723>

The ThinkPad X1 Carbon is ostensibly a business machine, but it sure don't look like one. It's sleek—even sleeker than the original X1—and performs as well as any ultrabook in its class. But the importance comes from the convergence of enterprise ruggedness and consumer-grade design. We want splash-proof, drop-proof, life-proof gadgets, and the X1 Carbon was a big step toward that happening. [\[More\]](#)



Acer Chromebook

Chromebooks aren't for everyone, but they're excellent little internet machines, and just about all a lot of people need out of a computer. And a \$200 price tag is a big deal for a machine that actually works (and won't make everyone who touches it want jump off of a building).

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2. [Razer Blade](#)

<https://gizmodo.com/razer-blade-review-sharp-but-5889529>

The new Razer Blade looks basically identical to the first Blade, which was released this spring. But the new model has all new guts—including a bump up to a GeForce GTX 660M—that are finally good enough to make Razer's attempted defragmentation of the PC gaming market a possibility. The price still has to come down, but Razer's doing important stuff.

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1. [15-inch MacBook Pro with Retina](#)

<https://gizmodo.com/the-new-mbp-retina-display-blows-the-doors-off-its-comp-5917551>

The Retina MacBook Pro was probably inevitable, but that doesn't stop it from being important. It was the first ultra-high resolution laptop display, and unlike the extravagantly expensive 13-inch version, it actually performed up to its price tag.

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