

## PCs &amp; LAPTOPS REVIEWS

## GIGABYTE P34G

**COMPUTER SHOPPER** ★★★★★  
**BEST BUY** £1,160 inc VAT • From [www.overclockers.co.uk](http://www.overclockers.co.uk)

## VERDICT

This is a formidable portable gaming laptop with an excellent screen and powerful hardware

**WHEN GIGABYTE RELEASED** its U2442F gaming Ultrabook, we didn't think it was possible to pack more gaming power into such a slim 14in chassis, but the P34G has done just that. This 14in laptop is just 21mm deep but houses a super-fast 2.4GHz Intel Core i7-4700HQ processor and one of the most powerful dedicated mobile graphics chips we've ever seen.

It's an incredible feat, as the laptop didn't seem to suffer from a lack of ventilation at all during our tests. The fans were noisy when we played games, but that's to be expected when all its components are crammed into such a tiny chassis. With 8GB of RAM, the P34G scored an incredible 96 overall in our multimedia benchmarks, placing it just behind our reference desktop processor, a 3.4GHz Core i5-3570K. This is fantastic for such a portable laptop, and you can be sure the P34G will handle almost anything you throw at it.

The P34G's Nvidia GeForce GTX 760M graphics processor has 2GB of dedicated memory and is incredibly quick. It waltzed through our Dirt Showdown benchmark with a huge frame rate of 97.5fps at a 1,280x720 resolution with graphics quality set to High. This is even faster than the Scan 3XS Graphite LG155 (see *Reviews, Shopper 309*), making it one of the most powerful gaming laptops we've ever seen. With so much power at the P34G's disposal, you should have no trouble playing games in Full HD, as the P34G delivered a smooth average frame rate of 64.7fps when we re-ran the test at 1,920x1,080 with the same quality settings.

## RATE EXPECTATIONS

The P34G even managed a good frame rate in Crysis 2, which most laptops struggle with. It managed just 22.8fps in the desktop PC version of the test, which runs at Ultra quality and 1,920x1,080, but lowering the settings to High produced a smoother 52.1fps.

The hardware is only one part of a good

gaming laptop, though; it also needs a great display. The P34G uses an AHVA panel, which typically have less accurate colours than other types, but its image quality was surprisingly good. According to our colour calibrator it displayed 89.1 per cent of the sRGB colour gamut, which is much higher than the 60 per cent we've seen from other laptop screens.

Images looked slightly cool due to the screen's marginally weaker red, blue and purple coverage, but overall our solid colour tests looked rich and vibrant. Whites were bright and evenly lit across the screen and blacks were near perfect. We recorded an exceptionally low black reading of 0.03cd/m².

High-contrast images looked good, but the deep blacks tended to obscure finer detail in some night shots. This is a pity, as the screen's contrast ratio of 1,101:1 is much higher than average. It didn't affect lighter images, but it had a big effect on games with dark environments. With no way to improve the contrast, we could barely see where we were going when moving through shadows in Half-Life 2, which may put off FPS fans.

## TYPE SET

Contrast issues aside, the P34G was great for everyday use. The keyboard is pleasant to type on, with well-spaced keys and a decent level of tactile feedback. We'd have liked a little more travel, but it didn't affect our accuracy and we were typing at full speed in no time.

The touchpad is fine for navigating the desktop, but multi-touch gestures were fiddly to execute. Pinch-zooming was particularly difficult, and Windows 8 shortcuts were also temperamental. We like the button bar along the bottom, though, as it's easy to use and gave good feedback when we

clicked through our files.

The P34G has a good selection of ports for a 14in laptop. As well as two USB3 ports and two USB2 ports, it has VGA and HDMI inputs for connecting an external display, a Gigabit Ethernet port, an SD card reader and a combined headphone and microphone jack. You'll want to use this to connect a proper pair of speakers, as its integrated speakers are very tinny and have no bass whatsoever.

Its battery life is mediocre, which is disappointing considering the portability of the P34G. The laptop lasted just four hours and 17 minutes in our light-usage test, and playing games will drain it even sooner.

The Gigabyte P34G isn't cheap, but at this price it beats the competition. The Best Buy-winning Scan 3XS Graphite LG155 is cheaper but slower than the P34G and has a much thicker chassis. It's a shame that the P34G's contrast isn't better, but we're willing to overlook this due to its outstanding design and phenomenally powerful hardware. If you value portability and want the best hardware money can buy, Gigabyte's P34G is for you.

Katharine Byrne

## SPECIFICATIONS

CPU 2.4GHz Intel Core i7-4700HQ  
 RAM 8GB  
 STORAGE 128GB SSD + 750GB hard disk  
 GRAPHICS Nvidia GeForce GTX 760M  
 OPTICAL DRIVE None  
 DISPLAY 14in widescreen VA (1,920x1,080)  
 OPERATING SYSTEM Windows 8  
 DIMENSIONS 21x340x239mm, 1.8kg  
 POWER CONSUMPTION 3W standby, 22W idle, 105W active  
 WARRANTY Two-year RTB  
 PART CODE P34G-CF1  
 DETAILS [uk.gigabyte.com](http://uk.gigabyte.com)



