

Panasonic Goes Steampunk With VR Eyeglasses

Written by Alice Marshall
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One of the main issues with virtual reality headsets is the fact they remain, well, headsets. Panasonic sidesteps such concerns at CES 2020 as it presents a take on the technology looking more like a pair of chunky steampunk goggles.



The device is yet unnamed, but Panasonic says the VR eyeglasses are the first to be HDR-capable while offering UHD resolution visuals. Co-developed with microdisplay maker Kopin, the eyeglasses feature micro OLED panels pushing smooth visuals with little of the "screen-door effect" found in most VR hardware. Panasonic also makes use of own technology, with Technics drivers powering the earbuds and optical designs come from the Lumix camera division.

As slick as the VR eyeglasses appear to be, so far Panasonic says the units at CES 2020 are still in prototype form. This is understandable, since the show units are admittedly a bit too front-heavy for extended use, as well as tethering to a gaming PC via multiple cables. A non-working mockup promises a slither device, as well as a single USB-C cable handling all connectivity.

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The company says the first commercial versions will be available in 2021, just in time for the rollout of 5G services across the world.

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