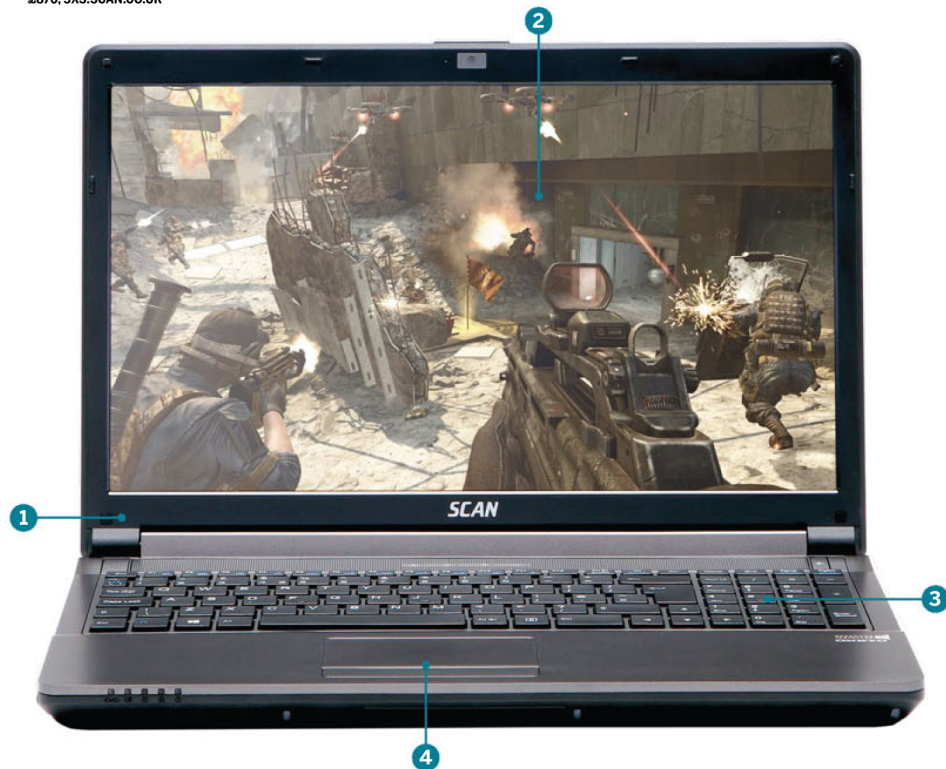


SCAN 3XS GRAPHITE LG155

£870, 3XS.SCAN.CO.UK

{SPECIFICATION}

PROCESSOR Intel Core i7-4700MQ up to 3.4GHz
GPU Nvidia GeForce GTX 765M 2GB
RAM 8GB DDR3, 1600MHz
OS Windows 8 64-bit
SCREEN 15.6-inch, 1920x1080
CONNECTIVITY 3x USB 3.0, 1x USB 2.0, N Wi-Fi, Gigabit ethernet, 9-in-1 memory card reader, HDMI
STORAGE 500GB HDD, DVD-RW
BATTERY LIFE Four hours general use, one hour gaming



{DIMENSIONS}



HEIGHT 43mm
WIDTH 374mm
DEPTH 250mm
WEIGHT 2.7kg

{DETAILS}

1 DESIGN
Uninspiring, but mercifully lacking in gaudy lights

2 SCREEN
A 1080p panel – even a slightly substandard one – is great at this price

3 KEYBOARD
No backlight, but functional enough

4 TRACKPAD
Problematic: cheap, nasty, not responsive enough

It's cheap. It looks it. Can you live with that? Then it's a bargain!

It's difficult to believe that Scan has been able to put together the 3XS LG155 for under £1,000. It boasts the same Intel processor and Nvidia graphics specification as the Alienware 14, but costs 40 per cent less.

The catch is, as you can see above, it's not the most stylish of laptops. It's deep (4.3cm), heavy (2.7kg) and looks like a business machine rather than something for gaming. And while the 15-inch matt display may be 1080p resolution – again, that's pretty amazing for a laptop at this price – it's washed out, dull and offers a restrictive viewing angle. The speakers are also quite tinny, and the trackpad feels cheap and nasty.

Add a decent external keyboard and mouse or touchpad and gaming performance is nonetheless excellent. You can play the likes of *Splinter Cell: Blacklist* and *Grid 2* in 1080p at high settings with a solid frame rate. *Crysis 3* is more of a test, but even at low settings, it runs smoothly and looks gorgeous.

While the LG155 doesn't come with the sort of bells and whistles of other laptops in this group, Scan's upgrades are very reasonable. The 1TB SSD/hard drive hybrid option seems like a no-brainer at £37, a Blu-ray/DVD writer

drive is only £27 more, while 16GB RAM is £42. You could get all three upgrades and still be spending less than a grand; that's a level of value that's hard to argue with.

Mercifully, Scan doesn't pre-install loads of extraneous software either, so the system remains nippy for general use. Battery life is about average for the laptops in this group test – four hours for general use, and just over an hour for gaming – and the laptop also does a good job of directing heat out of the rear and away from your lap. The fans are relatively quiet, too.

Overall, the LG155 ain't pretty, but it offers outstanding choice for gamers on a budget.

LOVE Great spec for the cash, and key extras can be added cheap. Stays cool and quiet, even during demanding games. No unnecessary bloatware
HATE Looks drab and businesslike. Average screen quality. Trackpad and buttons feel horrible
T3 SAYS Great performance at a low price makes this highly attractive despite its ugliness



{ACCESSORISE} SteelSeries 7G Keyboard

Every serious gamer needs a mechanical keyboard and this is brilliantly constructed, relatively quiet and has a 50 million keystroke guarantee. £130, STEELSERIES.COM

