ALIENWARE 17

Reviewer's Guide

Created for:

Overview

The new Alienware 17 is for consumers looking for a gaming notebook that prioritizes screen size and gaming performance above all else. While on the road, users will experience up to 6.8 hours of battery life (as shown in Mobile Mark 2012).

The Alienware 17's WLED-backlit FHD-resolution LCD screens deliver a 72% color gamut made possible with an IPS-based panel technology. The base display includes an anti-glare finish and up to 300-nits. More demanding users can select an optional TrueLife finish and Touch Technology as well. All Alienware 17's are powered with full-voltage Intel Core i7 quad-core processors and the latest NVIDIA GeForce GTX graphics available.

Gamers looking for even more performance and functionality, will be able to connect the optional Alienware Graphics Amplifier which allows for the latest AMD and NVIDIA desktop graphics cards and when connected, Intel Core i7 CPU overclocking.

Design and Materials

Designed with an aerospace-inspired carbon-fiber filled base that is rigid and stiff, the Alienware 17 is also thinner and lighter than any previous 17-inch notebook Alienware has ever made.

Just like the Alienware 15, it offers a full-sized reinforced keyboard designed for uniform feedback while typing plus a numeric keypad and 9 programmable keys designed to help the gamer feel at home, and in control, wherever they are.

This top cover incorporates anodized aluminum and features the iconic Alien head. The Alienware 17 includes ten programmable AlienFX lighting zones which can also be used by supported game titles.
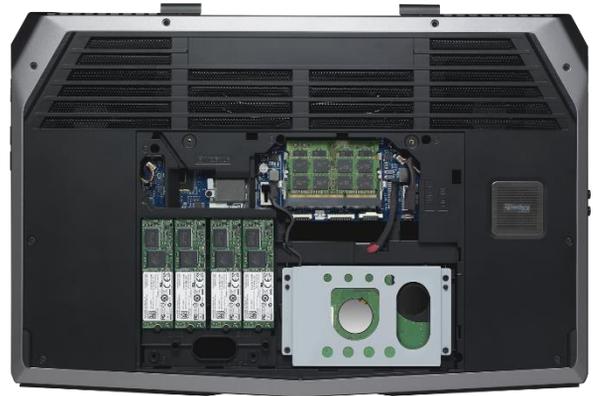
The internal design also includes a copper heat sink to handle thermals without sacrificing graphics performance, it is designed to enable the maximum rated wattage to internal graphics cards; that's Full-Throttle gaming graphics.
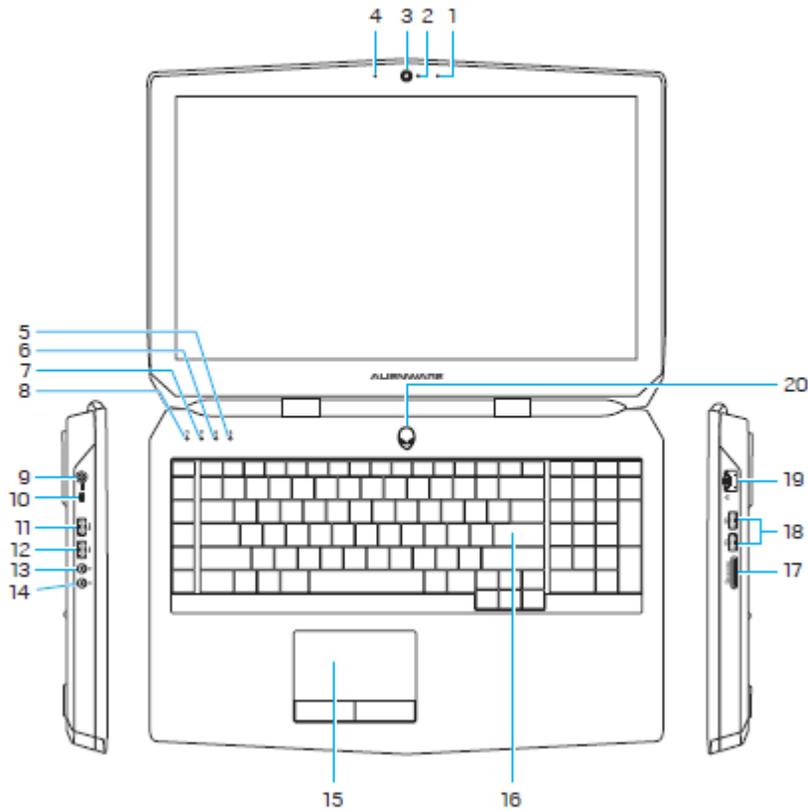
Key Advantages

» Introduces a premium material using aerospace-inspired carbon-fiber filled parts as well as anodized aluminum and copper to ensure a stiffness, rigidity, and in a thinner design without sacrificing graphics performance.

» Support for desktop graphics cards from NVIDIA or AMD with the optional Alienware Graphics Amplifier

» The highest performance available NVIDIA based graphics cards using GDDR5 video memory

» Full sized keyboard that includes a numeric keypad and 9 user-programmable keys providing up to 19 distinct functions per application or game

» The standard FHD LCD features an Anti-Glare finish and delivers 300-nits

» The optional FHD LCD features Touch Technology on a screen with a TrueLife finish

» Multiple storage options combining the performance of M.2 SSD drives with up to a 1TB HDD for additional storage of games, media, or other archives and files

» Powered by a 92 Watt-hour 8-cell Lithium Ion battery

» Over 10 trillion lighting combinations via 10 unique programmable lighting zones with up to 20 distinct colors

» Audio is delivered through Klipsch certified and tuned speakers, including a subwoofer, using Creative Labs Sound Core3D-EX hardware audio DSP and SoundBlaster Pro Studio Software

» All configurations include Killer Networks Gigabit Ethernet, Killer Networks 1525 802.11ac 2x2 Wireless and Bluetooth 4.1 as standard features

» Includes 4 USB 3.0 ports, one of which includes PowerShare technology

» Support for Windows 7 Professional as well as 8.1 and 8.1 Pro

» New Alienware Command Center 4.0 software suite includes updated – AlienFX, AlienAdrenaline, AlienFusion, Alienware TactX™ modules as well as a new Graphics Amplifier section with a tutorial on how to connect and use your Alienware Graphics Amplifier
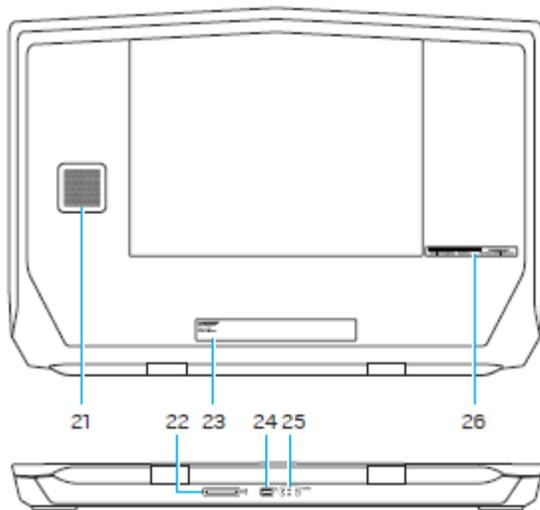
Key Optional Features

» LCD: 17.3 inch FHD (1920 x 1080) TrueLife 300-nits Display with Touch Technology

» CPU: Intel® Core™ i7-4980HQ (Quad-Core, 6MB Cache, up to 4.0GHz w/ Turbo Boost)

» Graphics: NVIDIA® GeForce® GTX 980M with 4GB GDDR5

» Memory: Up to 16GB Dual-Channel DDR3L[1] 1600MHz RAM

» Hard Drive: 512GB M.2 SSD (Boot) + 1TB 5400RPM (Storage)

Chassis Features

1. Right microphone
2. Camera-status light
3. Camera
4. Left microphone
5. Num-lock status light
6. Caps-lock status light
7. Wireless-status light
8. Hard-drive activity light
9. Power-adapter port
10. Security-cable slot
11. USB 3.0 port with PowerShare
12. USB 3.0 port
13. Microphone/Headphone port
14. Headset port
15. Touchpad
16. Backlit keyboard
17. Media-card reader
18. USB 3.0 ports (2)
19. Network port
20. Power button (Alienware logo)
21. Subwoofer
22. External Graphics Port
23. Regulatory label
24. Mini DisplayPort
25. HDMI port
26. Service Tag label

Tech Specs

Display Details

17.3 inch FHD (1920 x 1080) Anti-Glare 300-nits Display **(Standard)**

17.3 inch FHD (1920 x 1080) TrueLife 300-nits Display with Touch Technology

Exterior Chassis Color

Epic Silver

System Dimensions

Height:

Front: 34.4 mm. (1.354 in.)

Rear: 34.4 mm. (1.354 in.)

Depth: 291.9 mm. (11.49 in.)

Width: 430 mm. (16.93 in.)

Average weight: 3.780 Kg. (8.33 Lbs.)*

Battery Details

8-cell Lithium Ion (92 Wh) Battery

Integrated Camera Details

FullHD 2MP Camera with dual digital microphones

AlienFX Lighting Zones

10 unique programmable zones with up to 20 distinct colors providing over 10 trillion lighting combinations

Keyboard

4-Zone, multi-color RGB, keyboard with AlienFX lighting controls and numeric keypad

9 user-programmable keys providing up to 19 distinct functions per application or game

Touchpad Details

Backlit button image sensor trackpad with all-points addressable (APA)

A/C Adapters

180W

Processor Options and Core Logic

Intel HM87 Express Chipset

Intel® Core™ i7-4710HQ (Quad-Core, 6MB Cache, up to 3.5GHz w/ Turbo Boost) **(Standard)**

Intel® Core™ i7-4980HQ (Quad-Core, 6MB Cache, up to 4.0GHz w/ Turbo Boost)

CPU Overclock with Alienware Graphics Amplifier

Intel® Core™ i7-4710HQ (Quad-Core, 6MB Cache, Overclocked up to 3.7GHz w/ Turbo Boost)

Intel® Core™ i7-4980HQ (Quad-Core, 6MB Cache, Overclocked up to 4.2GHz w/ Turbo Boost)

Graphics* Options

NVIDIA® GeForce® GTX 970M with 3GB GDDR5 **(Standard)**

NVIDIA® GeForce® GTX 980M with 4GB GDDR5

Memory* Options

High Performance Memory Options

8GB Dual Channel DDR3L at 1600MHz **(Standard)**

16GB Dual Channel DDR3L at 1600MHz

Memory Slots

2x 204-Pin DDR3L SO-DIMM SDRAM Slots

Storage* Options

Single Drive Options

1TB 5400RPM SATA 6Gb/s **(Standard)**

Multi Drive Options

128GB M.2 SSD (Boot) + 1TB 5400RPM (Storage)

256GB M.2 SSD (Boot) + 1TB 5400RPM (Storage)

512GB M.2 SSD (Boot) + 1TB 5400RPM (Storage)

M.2 Slots

4x m.2280 SATA SSD Slots

Audio, Networking and Wireless

Audio Details

Creative Sound Core3D-EX Audio with Creative Soundblaster Pro Studio Software **(Standard)**

2.1 Speaker configuration with subwoofer

Audio Powered by Klipsch®

7.1 Digtial Audio out using HDMI out connection

Networking and Wi-Fi Options

Killer Networks Gigabit Ethernet NIC **(Standard)**

Killer 1525 802.11ac 2x2 WiFi and Bluetooth 4.1 **(Standard)**

External Chassis Connections

(1x) Power/DC-in Jack

(1x) RJ-45 Gigabit Ethernet IPv6

(3x) SuperSpeed USB 3.0 Ports

(1x) SuperSpeed USB 3.0 Port with PowerShare Technology

(1x) Alienware Graphics Amplifier Port

(1x) Mini-Display Port

(1x) HDMI 1.4 Output

(1x) 9-in-1 Media Card Reader

(1x) Audio Out 1/8" Ports (Compatible with inline mic headset)

(1x) Line In Microphone 1/8" Port (retaskable for 5.1 analog audio output)
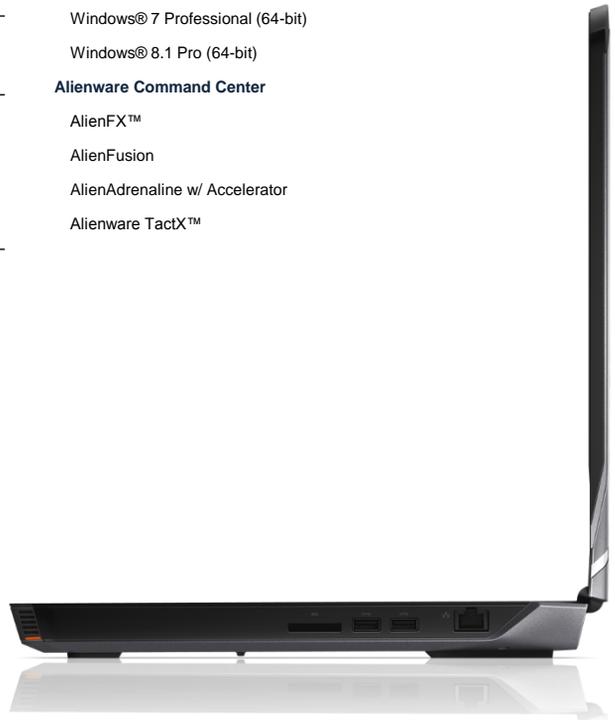
(1x) Noble Lock port (cable and lock sold separately)

Software

Operating System Options

Windows® 8.1 (64-bit) **(Standard)**

Windows® 7 Professional (64-bit)

Windows® 8.1 Pro (64-bit)

Alienware Command Center

AlienFX™

AlienFusion

AlienAdrenaline w/ Accelerator

Alienware TactX™

Alienware Graphics Amplifier FAQ

General Information

What is the Alienware Graphics Amplifier?

Normally with notebooks, a user is limited to the graphics that is built into the notebook – limiting upgrades. Now with Alienware's new line of thin gaming notebooks there is a new port – the Alienware Graphics Amplifier port. This port connects to an external device that allows a user to add a standard, off-the-shelf, industry standard desktop graphics card up to 375w to their Alienware 13, 15 or 17 notebook.

What does the Alienware Graphics Amplifier do?

When connected to a new Alienware 13, 15, or 17 notebook, the graphics card a user installs into the Alienware Graphics Amplifier becomes the graphics card used by the Alienware notebook. This external card powers the notebooks LCD and the notebooks Mini-Display and HDMI ports just as if it were physically installed on the notebook motherboard. In addition, users can plug displays directly into the graphics card installed in the Amplifier.

While these new notebooks offer the latest generation of high performance mobile graphics from AMD and NVIDIA, the Alienware Graphics Amplifier allows customers to have true desktop graphics performance in their new Alienware notebook today – and future proofs their purchase by allowing them to add new generations of desktop graphics card in the coming years.

What is the Alienware Graphics Amplifier port?

The Alienware Graphics Amplifier port uses "raw/unmuxed/filtered" PCI Express Gen3 lanes when connected to the Alienware 17 – that is a direct PCI Express connection to a desktop graphics card. This type of connection is the same that is used on desktop computers – direct PCI Express. This is the highest performance connection available today. No other connection offers bandwidth of the Alienware Graphics Amplifier port.

Why not Thunderbolt?

Alienware customers expect the fastest possible performance available in any product that carries the Alienware logo. The Alienware Graphics Amplifier port offers the highest performance connection to an external graphics card. Intel's Thunderbolt technology offers many benefits and has a growing ecosystem of external devices, but all of those devices share the same bandwidth.

NVIDIA SLI, AMD Crossfire and 4K

Is NVIDIA SLI supported with an Alienware 17 when combined with an Alienware Graphics Amplifier including an NVIDIA graphics card?

No. When using an Alienware Graphics Amplifier, the internal graphics processor is disabled. However, NVIDIA Optimus technology continues to function with the on-board Intel graphics processor and the GPU in the graphics amplifier.

Is 4K gaming at 60Hz a possibility with my Alienware 17?

Yes. This type of experience may require an Alienware Graphics Amplifier, a high-end graphics card capable of supporting 4K gaming at 60Hz, and a display capable of supporting 4K/60Hz. Your 4K display needs to be connected directly onto the Alienware Graphics Amplifier.

What is the maximum resolution capable with the Alienware Graphics Amplifier?

This would be determined by graphics card inside the amplifier.

Displays Support

How many displays can I use with my Alienware 17?

The Alienware 17, without an Alienware Graphics Amplifier, can power up to three independent displays, including its own LCD. The other two would be driven from the HDMI and mini-DP outputs on the rear of the laptop. The output of each display can be customized within the driver.

How many displays can I use with my Alienware 17 when combined with an Alienware Graphics Amplifier?

The total number depends on what graphics card you have inside your Alienware Graphics Amplifier. This total is the sum of the number of displays supported by the graphics card inside the amplifier plus the three, natively supported, displays from your Alienware 15.

Can I experience NVIDIA Surround or AMD Eyefinity with my Alienware 17 when combined with my Alienware Graphics Amplifier?

These features are enabled if the graphics card inside the Alienware Graphics Amplifier supports them. If supported, the only displays that would be eligible would be the one's connected directly to the Alienware Graphics Amplifier. Please refer to NVIDIA or AMD's guidance for these technologies with single-GPU configurations.

Upgradability

What desktop GPUs are supported by the Alienware Graphics Amplifier?

The table below contains the list of cards known to be supported with the Alienware Graphics Amplifier (as of November 25, 2014). Any new single graphics card that does not exceed a 375W power requirement, and does not exceed 10.5 inches in length, while occupying no more than two slots will also be supported. Older graphics cards that do not appear on this list, are not supported.

Where can I get the drivers for the graphics card I intend to install in my Alienware Graphics Amplifier?
If your card is within the list shown on this page, you can get the driver from Dell.com or the graphics vendor's website (NVIDIA.com or AMD.com).

NVIDIA	AMD
NVIDIA GeForce GTX 980	AMD Radeon R9 290X
NVIDIA GeForce GTX 970	AMD Radeon R9 290
NVIDIA GeForce GTX TITAN Black	AMD Radeon R9 285
NVIDIA GeForce GTX TITAN	AMD Radeon R9 280X
NVIDIA GeForce GTX 780 Ti	AMD Radeon R9 280
NVIDIA GeForce GTX 780	AMD Radeon R9 270X
NVIDIA GeForce GTX 770	AMD Radeon R9 270
NVIDIA GeForce GTX 760	AMD Radeon HD 8970
NVIDIA GeForce GTX 760 Ti OEM (192b)	AMD Radeon HD 8950
NVIDIA GeForce GTX 690	AMD Radeon HD 8870
NVIDIA GeForce GTX 680	AMD Radeon HD 8770
NVIDIA GeForce GTX 670	AMD Radeon HD 7970
NVIDIA GeForce GTX 660 Ti	AMD Radeon HD 7950
NVIDIA GeForce GTX 660	AMD Radeon HD 7870
	AMD Radeon HD 6990
	AMD Radeon HD 5970

Will the Alienware Graphics Amplifier support future generation graphics cards from NVIDIA and AMD?

Yes.

What kind of warranty can I expect included with the Alienware Graphics Amplifier?

The Alienware Graphics Amplifier comes with a standard 1-year warranty. When purchased with an Alienware 13, 15, or 17 R2 laptop, your Alienware Graphics Amplifier will inherit the warranty that you select at the time of purchase.

76 games as of August 2014

AirMech
Alien Rage
Anomaly 2
Anomaly Defenders
APB: Reloaded
Battle For Graxia
Battlefield 3
Beatbuddy
Blacklight Retribution
Blacklight Tango Down
Bloodline Champions
Bust-N-Rush
Cities XL
City of Heroes
CryEngine
DARK
Dark Void
Daylight
Deadfall Adventures
Defense Grid
Defense Grid Containment
Dungeon Siege III
Dungeons
Dungeons and Dragons Online
Dungeons: The Dark Lord
Eve Online
Fable III
Fallen Earth
Hamilton's Great Adventure
HAWKEN
Heores of Newerth
Hotline Miami
Jumpgate Evolution
Krater
Lead and Gold
League of Legends
Lego Universe
Loadout
Lord of Rings War in the North
Lord of the Rings Online
Magic The Gathering: Duels of the PlanesWalkers 2012
Magic The Gathering: Duels of the PlanesWalkers 2013
Magic The Gathering: Duels of the PlanesWalkers 2014
Mass Effect 3
Metro Last Light
Microvolts
MicroVolts Surge
Mushroom Men: Truffle Trouble
Need For Speed World
Neverwinter
Nexuiz
Orcs Must Die 2
Origins of Malu
Painkiller Hell & Damnation
Payday 2
Payday The Heist
Quantum Conundrum
Ravaged
Rekoil
Rise of Immortals
Rusty Hearts
Sacred 2
Serious Sam 3: BFE
Shadow Warrior
SMITE
SPAZ
Special Forces: Team X
Stagelight
Star Trek Online
Supreme Commander 2
The Witcher 2 Assassins of Kings: Enhanced Edition
The Witcher: Enhanced Edition
Transcripted
Tribes Ascend
World of Tanks
Xcom

About Alienware

Alienware, Dell's premier high-performance PC gaming brand, offers unique and award-winning computers that incorporate innovative engineering and are designed with state-of-the-art components.

Alienware, Dell's high performance PC gaming brand, offers unique and award-winning PCs that incorporate innovative engineering, aggressive design and the most advanced components in the industry. Credited as being one of the first PC gaming hardware manufacturers, Alienware remains committed to creating industry-leading trends in high-performance gaming and being an active and influential member of the gaming community, connecting, fans, developers and manufacturers for the advancement of PC gaming. Learn more at http://www.alienware.com/.

System Information

Alienware, under the guidance of Dell Inc., provides this equipment for evaluation purposes only.

All equipment must be returned to Dell Inc. in good working condition. Equipment must be in its original box, including all packaging, documentation, cables, and diskettes. This equipment remains the property of Dell Inc. unless paid for in full by the evaluator. Dell Inc. reserves the right to collect from the evaluator the full retail value of the equipment if not returned promptly and in good working condition on or before the due date. An online shipping return label will be provided.