

# PlayStation Q is Sony's take on handheld gaming for the streaming generation

Article

**The news:** Sony is going after the **Nintendo Switch** and the **Valve Steam Deck** with its own take on a handheld mobile console, the **PlayStation Q**.

At the **PlayStation Showcase** event, Sony previewed the PlayStation Q as well as wireless earbuds and a slew of game updates coming in the next few months.

**What is the PlayStation Q?** The system is built around an 8-inch display and **DualSense** controllers that focus on Sony's **Remote Play** feature, which can stream non-VR games from a **PlayStation 5** over Wi-Fi to the device. It's expected to be available at the end of the year.

**What it isn't:** Unlike the Switch and the Steam Deck, which are standalone gaming devices, PlayStation Q cannot play games on its own—it needs to be connected to a PlayStation 5. It's essentially a remote controller with a dedicated display.

### **Zooming into the handheld gaming console market:**

- The Nintendo Switch launched in 2017 and has sold **122.55 million units** as of February 2023, per [TechSpot](#).
- While **Valve** doesn't disclose Steam Deck sales, the device, which was released in February 2022, has sold over **3 million units**, per [Omdia](#).
- Sony's PlayStation 5 has sold **38.4 million units** as of March 2023, per [IGN](#).

**Does a streaming handheld even make sense?** The PlayStation Q seems like a half-measure for Sony. It is not the **PlayStation Portable** or **PS Vita** successor many had hoped.

- Depending on the cost, the PlayStation Q could be seen as an expensive peripheral for a console whose games are designed to be played on a big screen.
- Sony could be cannibalizing sales of the **PlayStation VR2 headset**, which costs \$550 and has sold 600,000 units in its first six weeks.

**The problem:** Remote Play compatibility is the PlayStation Q's key feature. However, millions of smartphones, tablets, and PCs can already connect remotely to PlayStation consoles using an app.

**Our take:** The PlayStation Q isn't a threat to the Nintendo Switch or the Steam Deck, both of which have a dedicated fan base and large game libraries. But it does show Sony's commitment to game streaming and building peripherals for existing consoles.



(Source: Sony )