

Baldur's Gate 3 on the Steam Deck looks bad but plays great



Baldur's Gate 3 is a delight on Steam Deck – even though I sometimes can't tell what's going on.

I suspected that might be the case going in. Everything I had seen about *Baldur's Gate 3* before I downloaded it promised a vast, sprawling adventure, and all the streams of the game I watched on Twitch featured incredibly detailed characters and worlds. I'm sure most of those streamers were running the game on top-of-the-line rigs. I suspected that the Steam Deck, which recently had some troubles with *The Last of Us Part I*, might not be the best place for me to play Larian Studios' new RPG.

That said, the game just looked like so much fun, and since it won't be coming to PS5 until September, I really wanted to find a way to play it sooner. I was even more intrigued after reading my colleague Ash Parrish's beginner's guide. And then, a few days after *Baldur's Gate 3* officially launched, I saw

that it was Steam Deck verified. I knew that wouldn't necessarily mean the game would be beautiful to look at, but it was enough for me to jump into *Baldur's Gate 3* on my Steam Deck.

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gray- bd dark: [& > a]: shadow- underline- gray">Screenshot by Jay
Peters / The Verge

If you also want to take the plunge, you should know a few things upfront. The game will render at a relatively low resolution of 1280 x 720. You'll need a minimum of 150GB free just to be able to install it. You won't need a mouse and keyboard thanks to Larian's official controller layout (though, if you don't like Larian's layout, there are a bunch of community layouts you can pick from as well). And if you're interested in mods, some intrepid players report that they've gotten them working but with some legwork.

While playing *Baldur's Gate 3* on Steam Deck, my suspicions were proven exactly right. Technically, things are *fine*, but not great.