

Official: here's the DJI Avata 2, possibly one of the best sequels in years

The DJI Avata is my favorite drone for people who want to *fly*, not just film. The starter kit comes with a wand and goggles that let you skim and soar to your heart's delight with a first-person view from the sky. But you might not want to buy an original Avata anymore – because the just-announced DJI Avata 2 seems even better for hundreds of dollars less.

After weeks of leaks, DJI is revealing the Avata 2 in full, and we've been playing with one for several days now. It looks better, it flies better, it lasts longer, and most importantly, the kit you want with goggles and controller starts at just \$999 – down from the \$1,388 you'd pay for the OG or the \$1,278 after DJI swapped out the original kit's goggles for a slightly cheaper and comfier model. You can also buy the new drone a la carte for \$489, down from the \$629 DJI charged for the original.

[a: hover\]: text-black \[a: hover\]: shadow-underline-black dark:\[a: hover\]: text-gray-e9 dark:\[a: hover\]: shadow-underline-gray-63 \[a\]: shadow-underline-gray-13 dark:\[a\]: shadow-underline-gray-63">](#)*Slim batteries now fit entirely inside the narrow frame, instead of the old brick shape that connected with a flex cable.*

Meanwhile, the new DJI Goggles 3 – which let you see through the drone's eye as it flies – now has a built-in battery and GPS, meaning no more dangling battery pack and no more phone tether required for Remote ID.

The dual 1080p, 700-nit micro-OLED headset also now boasts an extra hour of battery life over the original, a “one-tap defogging function” that spins up its fans to clear away condensation, two extra antennas and a new synchronization algorithm for what DJI claims is smoother and more stable video transmission, and a 60Mbps maximum video bitrate, though frame rate still tops out at 100fps.

a: hover]: text-black [>a: hover]: shadow-underline-black
dark: [>a: hover]: text-gray-e9 dark: [>a: hover]: shadow-
underline-gray-63 [>a]: shadow-underline-gray-13
dark: [>a]: shadow-underline-gray-63">*The new RC Motion 3 is light and small, but its buttons and joystick feel sturdy and responsive.*

But it also includes an R/C car-like dual-stage trigger and a nifty new dial that lets you select a preprogrammed 360-degree flip, roll, or 180-degree drift you can perform with the flick of a joystick. Those camera movements are always the same, and Vjeran thinks they might get old fast, but they’re a neat inclusion.