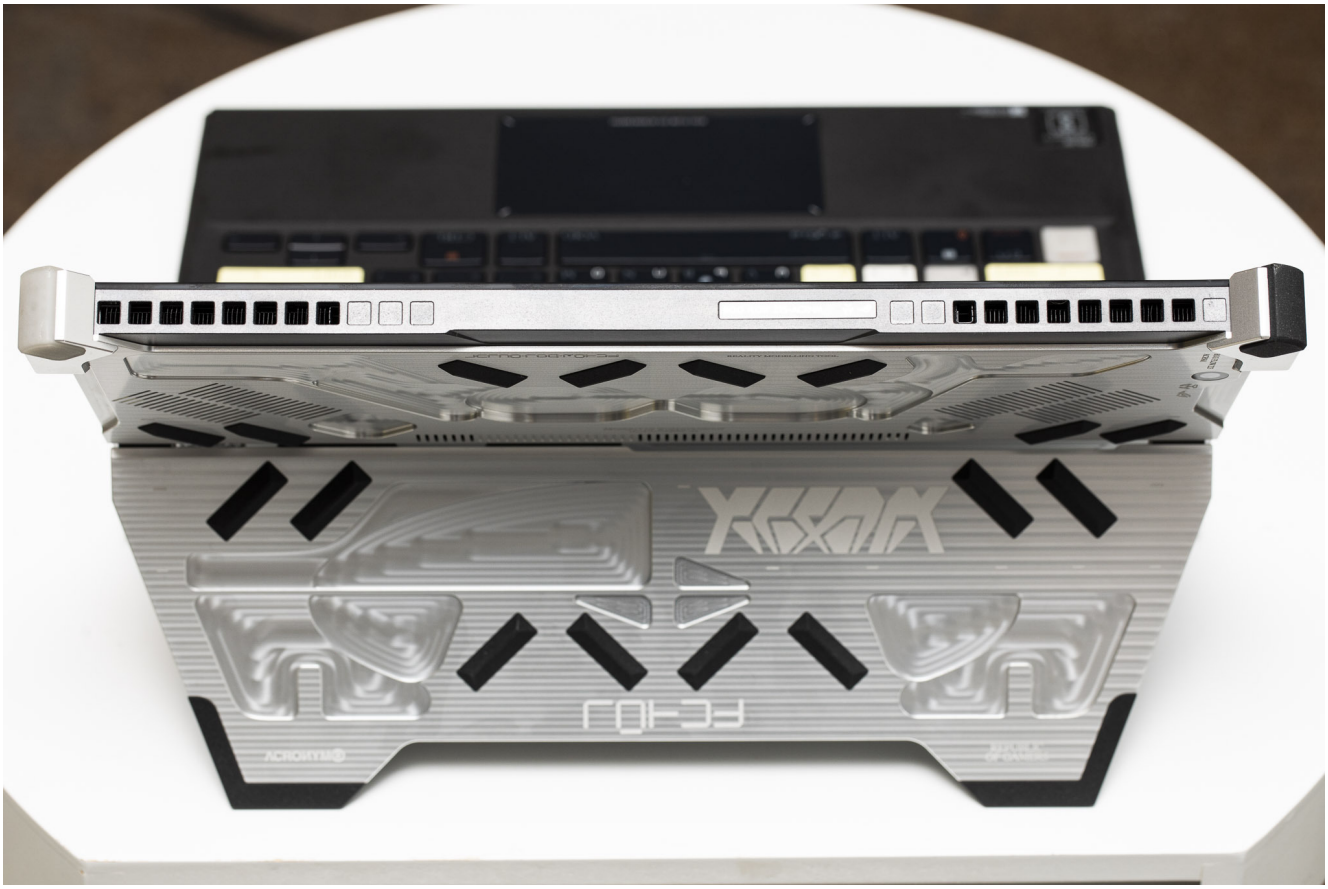
Y’all, this laptop is too much

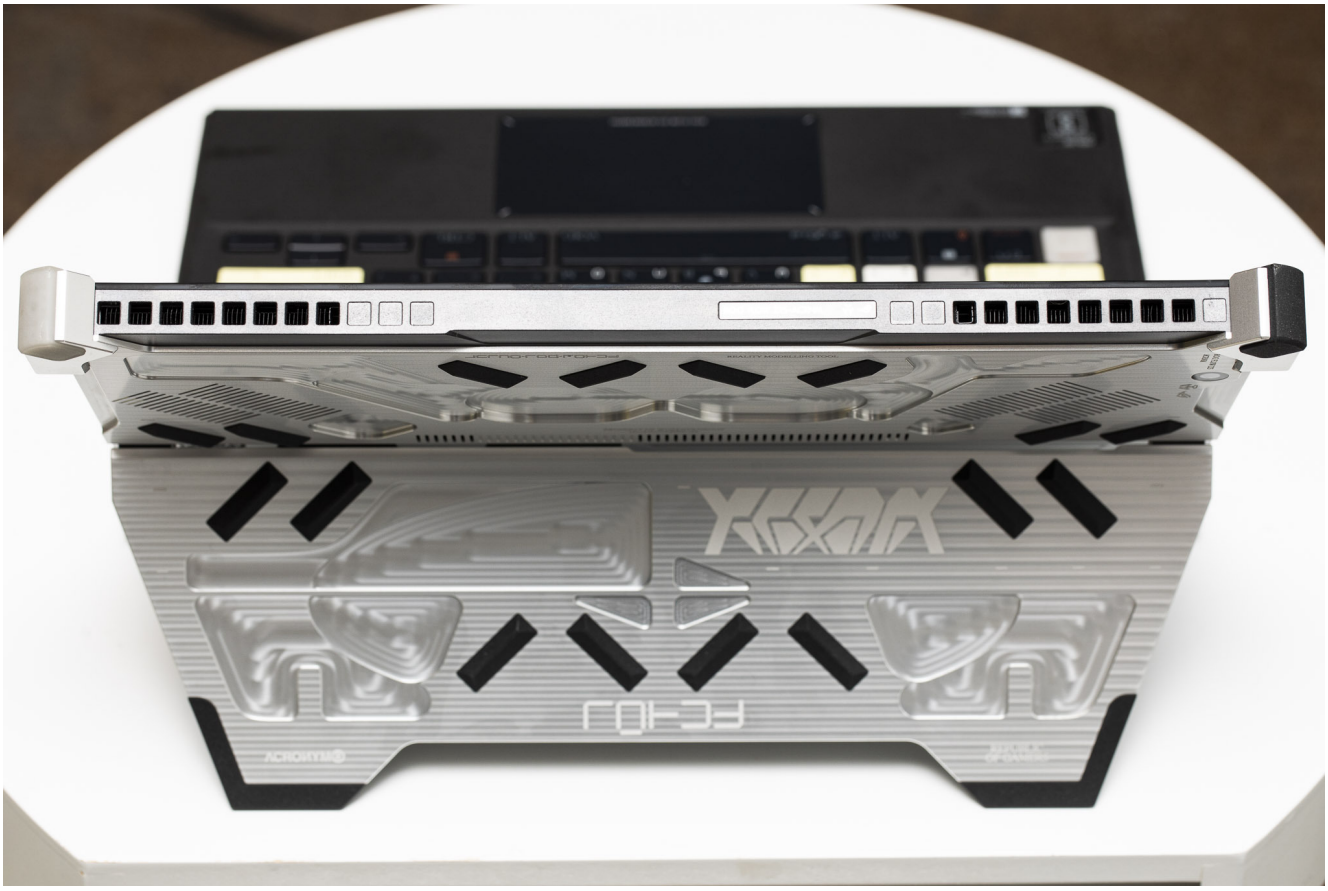
Every so often I receive one of these bizarre little computers that Asus has done in collaboration with someone or other, and my senses are ever so slightly overwhelmed. They made one with an animated exploding head on the lid. There was one that turned into a DJ deck. There was one covered in dogs.

But this latest release – the ROG Flow Z13 ACRNM – might be the wackiest one yet to cross my desk. There is no discernible theme, rhyme, or reason to it. It is pure chaos, top to bottom. Which, you know what, fine. It’s 2023. Fair enough.

The Flow Z13 is the second collaboration between ROG and ACRONYM, an apparel brand that sells pieces like this $1,800…dress, I think? It’s a 13.4-inch gaming tablet with a kickstand and detachable keyboard – a gaming Surface Pro, for lack of a better descriptor.

With a price of $2,499.99, our Core i9 13900H/RTX 4070/16GB RAM/1TB SSD/2560 x 1600 test unit targets a fairly niche audience – on-the-go gamers with deep pockets and a deeper desire to project an edgily chaotic aesthetic. Most people should not be spending this much. If it’s the convertible tablet you’re after, you can trick out a Surface Pro 9 for $500 less. If it’s gaming power and portability you’re after, a very comparable Zephyrus G14 is even cheaper. But the Z13 serves its particular, specific niche about as well as a laptop can.





8Verge Score

Asus ROG Flow Z13

$ 1749.99

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The Bad

- Not sure what’s going on with the keyboard, gonna be honest
- Don’t expect much battery life
- Not gonna be cheap

How we rate and review products a:hover]:shadow-highlight-franklin dark:[&>a:hover]:shadow-highlight-franklin [&>a]:shadow-underline-black dark:[&>a]:shadow-underline-white”>The Form
Here are some phrases that Asus uses in its press materials to sum up the aesthetic it’s going for here:

- “A redefinition of mobile computing”
- “Beautifully refined yet raw”
- “Truly unique machine”
- “A hands-free dream machine”
- “A functional yet striking work of art”

So, anyway.

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dark:[&>a:hover]:text-gray-e9 dark:[&>a:hover]:shadow-underline-gray-63 [&>a]:shadow-underline-gray-13 dark:[&>a]:shadow-underline-gray-63″>*That’s the power button there on the top.*

a:hover]:shadow-highlight-franklin dark:[&>a:hover]:shadow-highlight-franklin [&>a]:shadow-underline-black dark:[&>a]:shadow-underline-white”>Asus ROG Flow Z13 Acronym specs (as reviewed)

- ROG Nebula touch display, 13.4-inch, QHD+ 16:10 (2560 x 1600), 165Hz
- 13th Gen Intel Core i9-13900H processor 2.6GHz (24M Cache, up to 5.4 GHz, 14 cores with 6P and 8E)
- Nvidia GeForce RTX 4070 laptop GPU, 8GB DDR6, ROG Boost 1620MHz at 65W (1620MHz Boost Clock + 50MHz OC, 50W+15W Dynamic Boost)
- 16GB*2 LPDDR5 on board (max capacity 32GB)
- 1TB SSD storage
- 13MP camera and 5MP IR camera
- Wi-Fi 6E
- 56Whr battery
- 130W PD adapter

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If you were expecting this device to have

excellent battery life, bless your heart, but it has no such thing. I averaged four and a half hours of continuous work use, which involved bouncing around 20-ish Chrome tabs, streaming Spotify, Slacking, and such. I did get a better battery gaming result than I'd expected to, eking out about 48 minutes of *Red Dead Redemption 2* play to one charge. The included 130W adapter can juice the device up to 50 percent in 30 minutes, per Asus's estimates.

Regular readers of my reviews might expect a diatribe here about how excellent battery life should be a baseline expectation for a portable machine, but honestly, I don't have it in me. I know that people aren't buying this for excellent battery life or top-of-the-line frame rates; they're buying this because it looks like it just fell down from outer space. As well they should.

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dark:[&>a:hover]:shadow-highlight-franklin [&>a]:shadow-underline-black dark:[&>a]:shadow-underline-white”>I do need to complain about one thing

I’ve been an open-minded non-curmudgeon the whole way through this review, so I hope you’ll allow me to grump about one thing. I just can’t with the keyboard. It’s too much.

The keys contain what Asus refers to as “Acronym’s own custom alphabet”. I’m happy to learn that Acronym has an alphabet of its own. Unfortunately, it’s not the alphabet I need to type with for work.

I’m a very competent touch typist when it comes to words. But when I need to, for example, type a number on the Z13, it becomes a scavenger hunt. It’s not that the real numbers aren’t on the Z13’s keys, but they are buried in a dump of so many other symbols and colors and zany doodads that my eyes couldn’t find them

instinctively. Other things just aren't delineated. For example, the key that lowers the brightness is labeled "DARK" and has a little faint grid on it. I understand what you're going for, Acronym, but I just want the regular brightness icon. You can jazz up the brightness icon. Just give me the brightness icon.

It looks like it fell down from outer space

Wacky designs are a wonderful thing until they begin to encroach on the everyday function of a device. Kooky laptops are laptops first. The Zephyrus G14 Acronym (which I raved about upon its release) labeled its keyboard keys in a storybook-esque font that made them easier, not harder, to read. It sprinkled other decorations around the keycaps, but they were clearly and obviously delineated from the keys' real actual labels.

Eye-popping designs are great, and this device is a unique offering you won’t find anywhere else on the market. I admire products that are unapologetically themselves, whether movies or clothing or consumer technology. But the fundamentals cannot fall by the wayside. And I hope companies, as they continue to innovate, remember that.

https://www.theverge.com/2023/3/30/23660652/asus-rog-flow-z13-acronym-gaming-laptop-tablet-review