

AOC AGON AG241QG

Like the Dell S2417DG, the big news with the AOC AG241QG is its use of a 2,560 x 1,440 resolution rather than 1,920 x 1,080. Along with it having a premium stand and a few extra features, this resolution goes a long way to justifying its \$174 premium over its cheaper sibling in this test. The AG241QG can't, however, quite reach the designer heights of the Dell or Asus displays. The all-metal stand looks the business, while the panel, with its red writing on the front and red plastic panel on the back, is subtle enough not to feel garish.

You miss out on a low-profile bezel, though, so it just doesn't have that same sleek feel as the Asus and Dell displays. You want for nothing when it comes to features though. A fully articulated stand is present and correct, as is the ability to use a VESA mount, even if it comes via a slightly clunky mount-conversion plate. The stand also has a carry handle in the top and a height indicator dial down the side, so you can quickly reset the display to your preferred height.

There's more too. On the right edge is a flip-down headphone stand, with a couple of USB 3 ports and a headphone jack below it. One of the USB ports even offers standby power – so for instance, you can charge your phone from it while the display is powered off. Another couple of USB ports sit on the



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underside of the rear, alongside the video connections (DisplayPort and HDMI) and you get a pair of speakers too. They're basic, but handy for people who don't have space (or the budget) for a pair of desktop speakers.

However, one area where this display is decidedly less impressive is its OSD. The selection of options is fine, but controlling them certainly is a pain. The four buttons and the way they interact with what's on screen never seems intuitive, making it feel like a constant battle to get any settings changed. Thankfully, there isn't too much you'll need to change, as image quality is decent straight out the box. The AOC can't quite match the Dell for colour temperature accuracy, but it's close enough that you could get away without making any adjustments. What's more, the maximum brightness is plentiful and the high contrast looks good too.

Also, as with the Dell, the higher resolution works surprisingly well. Set to native resolution, pixels are hardly visible from a usual viewing distance, while Windows scaling (which defaults to 125 per cent) does a good job of bumping up the user interface bit for anyone who struggles to read text with the 120ppi pixel density at the usual Windows settings.

It's great to have the option of playing games at the higher resolution too, making for a sharper, cleaner-looking image than with a 1080p 24in monitor.

The combination of a 1ms response time, 144Hz refresh rate and G-Sync support also works as well as the other displays on test, making games run smoothly and responsively. AOC also offers a comprehensive set of overdrive options, enabling you to find your preferred balance of reduced blur while minimising the corona effect and any overshoot. AOC also offers a 165Hz overlocking option, but image quality drops a little when it's enabled, and the difference in responsiveness is so small that it's hardly worth the bother.

CONCLUSION

The AOC AG241QG's high resolution, premium design and decent overall image quality makes it a great top-end 24in G-Sync display. It's a close-run competition between this display and the Dell S2417DG, but the AOC edges into the lead, thanks to its higher contrast and much lower price. A great option for gamers willing to pay a little more. Design, image quality, features and performance all justify this display's higher price.

KEY SPECS

\$729 • www.aoc.com

OVERALL

