

Razer Kraken 7.1 Chroma

ARE YOU READY TO JOIN THE CULT OF RAZER?

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■ "Congratulations, there is no turning back". Bold words grace the inside of the Razer Kraken 7.1 Chroma's impressively designed packaging- like opening a doorway to potential audio nirvana. Then again, why expect anything less confident from the 'Cult of Razer'? Admittedly, I'm a little wary of cults after a brief stint in a cult-like school run by overbearing Evangelical Christians in my childhood. But for the masters of affordable and impressive peripherals I might just make an exception.

The timeless black finish of the headset is complemented by a multitude of rainbow lighting choices on the exterior of both cups, which are fully customisable thanks to the amazing (and free!) Razer Synapse software. Apparently there are an insane 16.8 million colour options available- or if you're a true minimalist at heart, you can opt to switch them off entirely. One simple USB connection negates any need for split lead adaptors. Thin foam padding lines the generously stretchy headband, and the flexible cups are a little more cushioned. They fold in for ease of portability, and even the mic can be hidden from sight.

There's certainly nothing to complain about in the microphone department either. Clear and crisp audio allows for easy team communication in the midst of a battle, with further audio filtering available through Synapse. The mute button is a little fiddly, almost requiring freshly-manicured and pointed talons for easy access. The tiny little light at end of mic can also prove to be distracting, wandering in to your



Above: Open the door to the future of audio.



Below: A Black headset to match most setups, the Chroma also boasts 16.8 million colour combinations in the lighting.



Above: Razer packaging is seriously next level.

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peripheral vision like an angler fish attempting to lure its prey.

The 360 degree nature of the engine allows for complete immersion in any game- useful for nail-biting stealth missions and a stroll in idyllic virtual nature alike. In-game music displays the bass-heavy style of the engine- definitely not as thick as that of its cousin the Neon Pro, but still with a kick-ass thump. The impressive range will turn even the novice audiophile into a seasoned pro, with each unique sound easily distinguishable. Further tweaking of the engine is also available in Synapse (did I mention how amazing this software is?!), meaning you can really play around with the limits

of that 7.1 surround sound and personalise your gaming experience.

The cushioned cups are great for blocking external sound coming in, but if you like it loud then don't expect to be able to do so without alerting others in close proximity to your musical or gaming tastes. Either come to terms with your love for Destiny's Child or turn it down to a shame-free level.

Unfortunately, the ever-important comfort stakes is where the Chroma doesn't quite make the cut. In my previous review of the Neon Pro, I boasted about how ridiculously comfortable the cups of that headset were, especially against my stretched ears. The Chroma however feels tight and restrictive, even without chunky ear jewellery pressed against the side of my skull.

I also wear glasses, and found I had to do a fair bit of adjusting the get the headset to sit properly. Definitely not ideal for long gaming sessions.

The Chroma's sleek appearance and exciting features are fantastic value for money- after all, this headset doesn't rank too steep on the dollar scale. But if you're a creature of comfort, then it might be worth investing a bit more cash in to something that'll treat your sensitive ears a little more delicately.

