

## AOC AGON AG251FZ / £290 inc VAT



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**A**OC's AGON AG251FZ was the original budget option for 240Hz displays, with it being the first model not to include G-Sync. For Nvidia gamers, that meant you lost out on adaptive sync, but this was a small price to pay considering the significant cost saving. Meanwhile, the inclusion of FreeSync meant that owners of high-spec AMD GPUs could still play games free from image tearing and stuttering.

A year or two later, though, and the range of 240Hz monitors has widened, with most major monitor manufacturers now offering 240Hz FreeSync displays. So how does the AG251FZ hold up? Pretty well, actually. For a start, it's still a great-looking screen. You don't get the slim, low-profile bezels of the Acer, but the simple silver stand and black frame looks smart enough. Around the back, the large red V-shape and the AOC logo make the appearance a little more obviously gamer-orientated, but there's still a general sense of quality and cohesion to the design.

You get all the practical features too. The stand offers height, rotation, tilt and pivot adjustment, so you're free to move the panel any way you like. There are USB 3 ports aplenty too, with two on the back and two on the right edge, where you'll also find headphone and microphone jacks, along with a flip-down headphone stand. The latter is a surprisingly useful addition, making it really quick and easy to stow your headset between gaming sessions.

On the stand, you'll also find an indicator for the height adjustment, which takes out the guesswork each time you have to reset the display height. Video connection options are a



step up from the norm too. You get not one but two HDMI ports to go with the DisplayPort connector, giving you one extra input for use with whichever games consoles or set-top boxes you might want to pipe into this display.

Sadly, the OSD is less accomplished. It's laid out in a sideways scrolling arrangement along the bottom of the display, and uses five buttons on the underside of the bezel to navigate. It's reasonably logically laid out, but the styling is a bit clunky and the controls aren't particularly intuitive, particularly compared with the joystick controls seen on the Acer and Asus monitors this month.

Thankfully, the need to jump into the OSD isn't too high, as out-of-the-box image quality is fine. The contrast is an impressive 977:1, while the colour temperature of 6,613K isn't too far off the ideal of 6,500K. Only the slightly low gamma score lets the AOC down. Switch from the gamma1 to the gamma3 option in the menu, though, and the gamma comes back into line without compromising image quality elsewhere.

Fully calibrate the display and it's even better, with the colour temperature and contrast both improving, making for a generally excellent image. Viewing angles are good too, with these 240Hz panels looking better than most

other TN-type displays when viewed off the standard straight-on angle. Gaming performance can't be faulted either. FreeSync works flawlessly up to 240Hz, and you're treated to a generally snappy and responsive experience. There's nothing here that particularly elevates the AOC above other 240Hz models, but nothing lets it down either, which is great at this price.

### Conclusion

An attractive design, plenty of features and a low price make the AOC an excellent choice for performance gamers on a budget. We particularly like the addition of convenient side ports and a headphone stand. It also delivers the goods when it comes to gaming and image quality, with only its clunky OSD slightly letting the side down. If you're looking for a good 240Hz display on a budget, and you aren't fussed by G-Sync support, the AOC is our pick of the bunch.



IMAGE QUALITY	RESPONSIVENESS	OVERALL SCORE
22/25	23/25	
FEATURES	VALUE	89%
22/25	22/25	

### VERDICT

Brilliant gaming performance, decent image quality and a useful feature set for a great price.