

AUTOMOTIVE

Bentley, Fanatec design steering wheel for real, virtual racing

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The steering wheel can be used through virtual driving experiences. Image credit: Bentley Motors

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

British automaker Bentley Motors has partnered with gaming hardware developer [Fanatec](#) to create a unique steering wheel that can be used for both real and virtual motor racing.

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The wheel was designed specifically for the Bentley Continental GT3 Pikes Peak challenge car, crafted from lightweight carbon-fiber and magnesium alloy, and equipped with a host of driving functions. The first steering wheel of its kind to have actually raced in a car, the accessory offers gamers a chance to experience first-hand what it is like to drive a Bentley performance vehicle.

"Our detailed collaboration with Fanatec has repurposed the steering wheel from the Bentley Continental GT3 Pikes Peak car for virtual use," said Paul Williams, director of motorsport at Bentley Motors, in a statement. "There cannot be a more realistic way for gaming enthusiasts to experience the thrill of driving one of our fastest vehicles, from home."

Steering the course

The center of the GT3 steering wheel is given over to a circular digital display that offers the driver information about their performance.

Exclusive Bentley design details include signature knurling on the rotary encoders. Other key features include a forged carbon display bezel, two 7-way FunkySwitch directional sticks with encoder functionality, a pair of aluminum thumb wheels with optical encoders and four magnetic paddles for gear-shifting and two auxiliaries, based on the design of the Continental GT road car.



The unique steering wheel can be used to operate physical vehicles. Image credit: Bentley Motors

When not being used to provide a virtual driving experience, Bentley's collector's piece steering wheel can be displayed on a wall or desk, as it comes equipped with a special mount. A robust hard traveling case is also provided.

The Bentley Continental GT3 Pikes Peak car features a specially-tuned, twin-turbocharged, 4.0-liter V8 engine producing more than 750 bhp and 1000 Nm of torque. Designed to run on renewable synthetic fuel, it will attempt a new record for the 12.42 hill climb course in Colorado in a production-based racing vehicle on June 27.

Bentley already holds the course record for the fastest production SUV, set by the Bentayga in 2018, and the production car class, set the following year in a Continental GT.

In a recent effort to celebrate creativity and individuality, Bentley released a content series featuring noteworthy friends of the brand, "Extraordinary Journeys." The series includes short films profiling entrepreneurs, athletes and business leaders who have carved their own paths in their respective industries ([see story](#)).

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