

Lorex's new Live View video monitor

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I've found that shopping for a new baby monitor can be one of the most frustrating parts of baby gear shopping. I hate to admit how many monitors I've burned through over the past ten years. How many have been total duds, worked for a few months then fizzled out. So I always recommend that my friends do a good bit of research and asking around before making a big purchase on a monitor.

Recently, I had the chance to try out a new video monitor from Lorex. Here are my thoughts after trying it out for a few weeks:

The Stats:

The [Lorex Live View](#) is a handheld video monitor with a 2.4" video screen, simple controls, rechargeable battery, and easy set up.

What you'll love:

*Out of the box, the monitor couldn't be any simpler to pair with the camera and takes only a few minutes to set up.

*The picture quality on-screen was great. Though it is a color display, I thought colors came across muted-not like the monitor pictured. But that's not really what this is about. A clear picture is way more important than remembering if my baby's sleepers are pink or red.

*Automatic night-vision means no intrusive light coming on in the baby's room if you want a middle-of-the-night check in with your sleeping baby.

*Power save mode gives you the ability to turn off the video monitor and use only the audio alerts, like any standard baby monitor. This is great if you want to keep it by your bedside at night and don't need the video feed shining bright in your bedroom.



*You set the monitor's sensitivity. Want to hear the tiniest whimper, or only the big full-on wail? You can control it through the monitor's menu.

*As your family grows or your needs change, you can add up to three other monitors with the Live View and can set up your handheld monitor to scan through the different cameras set up around your home.

*"Talk to baby" control allows you to talk through the monitor, letting you soothe your child and tell them you're on your way.

What to watch out for:

*I'd classify this as a minimalist's monitor. While I think it definitely has all the functions you need, it's not your typical "bells and whistles" kind of monitor with lights, sounds, music, and extra buttons. Not necessarily a bad thing, in some cases.



*I was a bit frustrated with the metal screw on the back of the monitor that sets the camera in place. It was hard to get a good tight fit. I'd get the camera set up just how I wanted it, but one small bump (or turning the camera on/off) and it would fall out of place. I'd love to see a stronger positioner in the back of the camera.

*The system definitely needs a volume control for the "talk to baby" microphone. It comes through the monitor into the baby's room loud enough that it startled my kids when I used it and they weren't expecting it. Volume control would be key.

The bottom line:

The screen and audio clarity of this monitor, as well as the ability to put it in "powersave" mode and use it like a standard audio monitor are great features on the [Lorex Live View](#). However, the frustration with the camera positioning and the loud volume of the "talk to baby" feature would need some tweaking before I'd give it my enthusiastic two thumbs up.

Where to buy:

Lorex Website or [Amazon](#). Price range: \$169.99-\$109.99

BabyCenter – Molly Balint requested a Lorex LIVE View. She covered on Tuesday, May 22nd: http://blogs.babycenter.com/products_and_prizes/lorexs-new-live-view-video-monitor/.