

Razer Basilisk X & Ultimate Review

Specs (Ultimate vs X)

Dimensions: 130 x 75 x 42mm

Grip Width: 60mm

Weight: 106 vs 84g (77 w/o back cover) + 1 AA Battery

Sensor: 3399 vs 3369

Main Switch: Razer Optical (70m) vs Razer-Omron Mech (50m)

Cable: Wireless

Buttons: 11 vs 6

Price: \$170 vs \$60 USD

Shape

The Basilisk X and Ultimate both share the same shape and dimensions. Despite their length I would class them as medium sized as they feel smaller than the Zowie EC1 and a little smaller in hand compared to the G-Wolves Skoll (The Basilisk is lower in height and narrower in the rear). The right-side of the mouse is pretty much straight from back to front allowing you to stretch out your ring and pinky fingers (excellent for all grip styles). There isn't much room at the front of the mouse though on the right-side (because of the ergo slant) causing you to rest your ring finger on the side of the M2 button instead of the side grip (mainly an issue for those who palm).

The left side of the mouse is slightly curved, with the middle being the widest point. This, in combination with there being no back flare, makes the mouse narrow in the rear and wide in the center, giving you that G305 (egg) feeling. The narrow back allows you to wrap your palm around and over the mouse comfortably and lets you rest your thumb on the thumb-rest without hindrance from the shell. The hump being more towards the back also helps support your palm.

The side-buttons on the Basilisk are large and easy to press but because the thumb rest is quite high off the ground there isn't much room to place your thumb. This could be fixed by either raising the side buttons or lowering the thumb rest. As there isn't much room your thumb is forced into position, but the positive side to this is that the side-buttons provide a ledge to help you lift and reposition the mouse. If you have the optional sniper button attached (available on the Ultimate only) your thumb is placed even further from the side making the grip width (63mm). I found this too wide to comfortably use or aim with (19x10.5cm hands), but it's a nice addition for those with wide hands.

I believe the Basilisk X and Ultimate is a shape best palmed. If you claw with your fingers more towards the front then this shape works surprisingly well too as your gripping the mouse at the point where it starts becoming narrower again (~59mm). If you claw or fingertip towards the middle of the mouse (60mm, widest point on the Basilisk), depending on hand-size, the mouse

may be too wide. If you have a very wide hand then the optional sniper button on the Ultimate may work in your favor.

I found my aim to be very stable with both mice too (excellent spray control), thanks to the ergo shape, higher weight and the extra base width at the back under the thumb rest.

Coating

The top coating on the Basilisk X is a textured satin black finish, same as on the Viper Ultimate, whilst the Basilisk Ultimate has a smooth satin black finish. The X's top coating is a little slippery and oily feeling, one of the reasons why the Viper Ultimate didn't become my main. The smooth finish on the Basilisk Ultimate though is grippy and really nice to hold, I'm not sure why they didn't opt for the same finish on the Viper.

The side grips are the same as the Viper's but feel a bit more grippy. They are textured and cover both sides of the mouse. Slippage is not a problem as your thumb is held securely in the groove between the side-buttons and thumb-rest.

Mouse Feet

The Basilisk Ultimate has the same Hyperglide-like feet as the Viper Ultimate, 100% round edge PTFE. They are smooth, fast, (really good) but like the Viper Ultimate suffers from scratching due to the sharp edges on the bottom of the mouse. The Basilisk Ultimate has 6 feet altogether; one around the sensor, one under the thumb rest and two at the top and bottom. The X on the other hand only has 4 feet; two at the top, one at the bottom and one under the thumb rest. Instead of having a skate around the sensor on the X it's just hard plastic, not the best idea as it causes the base to scratch. The X also has generic black PTFE feet (nothing special), they are slower, but more controlled than the Ultimate's.

Balance & Weight

The Basilisk Ultimate weighs in at 106g, but feels lighter thanks to it's quick, hyperglide-like feet. The X weighs 84g without a battery (77g if you remove the back cover). The lightest the mouse can go is 87.5g (77g No Back Cover + 6.5g AAA Lithium Battery + 4g AAA to AA Converter). This can be reduced further if you use tinfoil instead of a converter. Without the back cover the X is still really comfortable to use, what you lose in palm support you gain in mobility. I actually preferred the mouse without it as it allowed me to claw more naturally. With it I felt forced to palm.

The Ultimate is really well balanced, with the weight distributed evenly. The X is back heavy when using a AA battery but the weight can be evened out by removing the back cover and/or replacing the battery with a AAA Lithium.

Left & Right Clicks

The Basilisk Ultimate uses Razer's Optical 70m switch for its left and right click. These are very light with little to no pre-travel (different feeling to the Viper Ultimate's click). In-game there were a lot of incidental clicks because of the lightness of the switch, especially when lifting and repositioning the mouse. The clicks are also hollow feeling (not my personal favorite) but very snappy. I haven't tested clicks per second before but I feel like I could get a higher score with this mouse compared to others as they are fast to click and you're able to find a good rhythm when spamming.

For MOBA, MMO and RTS games these clicks are very nice. I tested them out in Dota 2 and really enjoyed the experience, targeting and denying creeps was quick and simple to do and during long matches I never felt fatigue in my fingers.

The Basilisk X uses Razer's Omron Mech 50m for its left and right click. The clicks on the X are very good; clicky, tactile, snappy and have minimal pre-travel (micro amount more than the Ultimate). The clicks are firm to avoid accidental clicks, but at the same time light and quick to actuate. The clicks on the X are more FPS tuned compared to the Ultimate's but if longevity and reduced latency is what you're looking for when it comes to switches than the Ultimate is the better pick.

Scroll Wheel

The scroll of the Basilisk X is very tactical in sound and feedback. You can feel and hear every step and you're able to stop exactly where you want, even when scrolling fast. Unfortunately though the scroll has the same harsh ribbed texture as the Viper, making it not very pleasant to lay your fingers on.

The Basilisk Ultimate on the other hand has one of the best gaming scrolls on the market. The texture isn't as harsh (even though it looks the same) making it a lot nicer to use and you also have the ability to set the scroll resistance. When set to least resistance you feel no steps and the scroll is as quiet as a whisper. You are unable to make it spin freely though. When set to the highest resistance the wheel is loud and becomes super tactile. You can fine tune the wheel any way you like, I set mine near the lowest so it's easy to spin, isn't too loud and has just enough tactility to feel the steps. Both the Ultimate and X have larger scroll wheels than the Viper making them easier to use.

Middle Click

I'm not sure if my Basilisk X has a defective middle click or not, but from experience using this copy, it's not good. The middle click for starters has next to no travel, slight press and you've bottomed out. It feels as though something is preventing the scroll from traveling deeper. There

is also little to no snap back on the middle click, when you press it down it doesn't come back up unless you remove your finger completely from the mouse.

The Basilisk Ultimate's middle-click is a lot better than the X's. It has a little more travel, better snap back and is lighter to press. The Ultimate also has a left-scroll and right-scroll click, super handy to have, and they work really well. When being aggressive with the middle click (Apex Legends) I sometimes accidentally pressed the left-scroll click as well, so best to have this disabled in game.

Side Buttons

The Basilisk Ultimate has 3 side-buttons, two normal and one sniper trigger. The trigger is detachable, it snaps on and off with magnets like the side buttons on the GPW. The trigger though unfortunately sits too far out to the side of the mouse for me to use comfortably so I ended up detaching mine. If your hands are wide enough you'll really enjoy the trigger, it works well and actuates quickly. The two normal side buttons on the Ultimate are good quality too. They have some pre-travel, feel a bit mushy, but they're responsive, easy to press and they snap back well.

The Basilisk X only has two side-buttons, so no trigger. The clicks are a lot better on the X, they have less pre-travel and aren't as mushy (very good). The large surface area on the X's and Ultimate's side buttons makes them easy to press and find with your thumb. They're the kind of side-buttons you'd be happy binding melee attacks too in games like Overwatch.

Build Quality

Both the X and Ultimate are very well built. They aren't ultralight mice so feel very solid, no flexing. Like the Viper Ultimate the Basilisk Ultimate has an internal rattle, the X though has very little. The rattle in the Ultimate mice might have something to do with FOCUS+ sensor, I'm not sure. I didn't notice any negative side-effects because of it, but if the rattle annoys you or is severe I would return or RMA it.

Sensor

The sensor in the Basilisk Ultimate is Razer's new flagship PixArt PMW3399 (FOCUS+). The sensor is smooth, accurate and responsive. I'm still not convinced if it's placebo or not but when looking and moving around in a 3D game like Counter-strike screen motion appeared smoother. This may have something to do with the motion-sync technology programmed into the Ultimate's MCU. I didn't mention this in my Viper Ultimate review as I wasn't convinced then either but have since heard others share the same experience, so maybe there's something to it.

The Basilisk X houses Razer's other new, but not as good, PixArt PMW3369 with HyperSpeed technology. In 2.4ghz mode the sensor performed very well, no cutouts or jitter (strong signal). I

don't have Bluetooth on my computer so was unable to test Bluetooth connectivity for you sorry. Neither the 3369 or 3399 spunout in game.

Click Latency

Doing the human benchmark test I was able to score more or equally the same with both mice. In-game though the Ultimate felt to be the more responsive one, connecting more shots and landing a higher percentage of first shots in 1v1. The difference between the two though is negligible and I would be happy using both in competitive play.

DPI

The Basilisk Ultimate has a max dpi of 20000, whilst the X's max is 16000. Both mice have a min dpi of 100 and can be set in increments of 50. Like the Viper Ultimate the Basilisk Ultimate's dpi is about 30 more than stated whilst the X is about 15 more. Test was done using the mouse-sensitivity.com dpi analyzer.

LOD

The LOD on the Basilisk Ultimate can be set at 1, 2 or 3mm, whilst the X can only be set at 1 or 2mm. The Ultimate has the option to do a custom surface calibration whilst the X only has a list of presets to choose from. You can also set the asymmetric cut off distance (ACD) on the Ultimate which is the height the sensor starts tracking at again when lifted above the LOD.

Conclusion

Despite being very similar, the decision to buy either the Basilisk X or Ultimate comes down to what you plan to use the mouse for. If you're looking for a mouse for productivity, mmo, moba or casual games then the Ultimate would suit you best with it's extra buttons, lighter clicks and adjustable scroll. If you want a mouse purely for competitive FPS or if your on a budget then the Basilisk X is the mouse for you, being lighter (when modded), cheaper and having what I feel to be the better clicks for FPS. Something else to take note of is that Ultimate has RGB whilst the X doesn't. The Ultimate also comes with a charging dock and Speedflex charging cable (paracord), so no need to change batteries. If you want to read more about the RGB, software and charging dock on the Ultimate check out my Viper Ultimate review as it is pretty much word for word.

Out of the two Basilisks, the X is my favorite. With the back cover removed the mouse feels really comfortable to claw and because the back is less bulky I'm able to do vertical adjustments better. With a bit more testing this may become my main over the Xtrfy M4 because the shape is more comfortable (full ergo, wider grip width, higher), it's wireless, thumb rest stops my thumb dragging on the mousepad and like mentioned above, without the back cover I'm able to do vertical adjustments better. The only things stopping it from becoming my main at the moment

are its weight, coating, middle-click and the fact that I'm unable to snipe as well with it as I can with the M4 (CS:GO Awp, Overwatch Widow & Anna etc). My tracking though with this mouse is a lot better.