



NHL 22 takes strides on PS5

An NHL 22, PS4 vs PS5 review

BY JD Low, a player of the past seven generations of EA NHL games

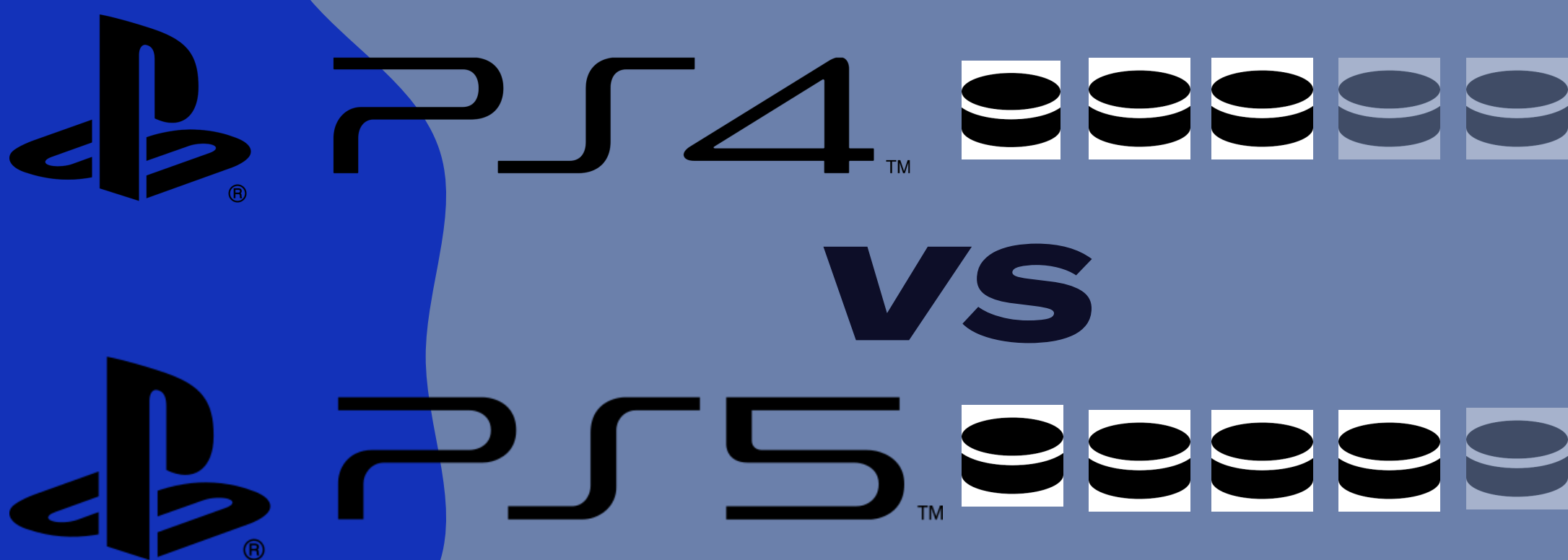
NHL 22 is the newest iteration of EA Sports' hockey video game franchise. EA NHL 22 comes for the first time with the Frostbite graphics engine, made to make graphics sharper and more realistic. It is the first EA NHL game to be released on the newest generation of gaming consoles, the XBOX series X and the Playstation 5 (PS5). It is compatible with the previous generation though, that being the Playstation 4 (PS4) and the XBOX 1. This review will focus on the PS4 and PS5 versions of NHL 22.

Once logging into NHL 22 you won't be able to tell much of a difference in any experience from the main menu between the PS4 and PS5 versions. However, the PS5 version makes navigating through each game mode in the menu much faster, loading times are drastically lessened which makes the experience more enjoyable.

After starting the "Play Now" game mode on each separate console generation, the first thing you will notice is the severe difference in graphics. It is quite obvious from the get-go that the best version of NHL 22 was made to be played on the newest generation of consoles, the PS5. While the Frostbite Engine graphics heighten the color and add graphical elements on both console generations, on the PS4 version the graphics lack a finish and sharpness and come off as oversaturated and overdone. The use of such bright colors on the previous generation console creates a sense of unrealism and is comparable to older titles like NHL 08. The PS5 version on the other hand implemented the Frostbite graphic engine tremendously, the pictures are clear and sharp. The colors come out as bright but not too overly saturated. The colors do tend to be a bit larger than life, however, with colors on the ice surface like the red of the red line and the blue of the blue line being unrealistically perfectly bright and glossy. However, for the casual players the graphics of the PS4 version aren't enough to ruin gameplay.

The gameplay itself does not differ much between the PS4 and PS5. But the gameplay enjoyment on the PS5 is enhanced because of a second source audio output in the controller. New to the PS5, audio doesn't only come out of your TV or monitor, but also out of a speaker on the controller. Now you can hear the sound of the pop of a tape-to-tape pass, or the crunch of a hard hit against the glass. This adds a new level of interaction to the game, where you feel as if you're really on the ice taking a shift against the NHL's best.

All in all you won't be able to feel much of a difference between either version of the game, but you can see a difference. This alone makes for a better gameplay experience in the PS5 version. Out of 5 hockey pucks, the PS4 version of NHL 22 would receive 3 pucks for a fun gaming experience but a lacking of overall polish and for missing some of the extra things added in the PS5 version that make it as good as it is. The PS5 version received 4 out of 5 pucks for great gameplay mixed with a great upgraded graphics system and the addition of added audio experience.



To get NHL 22 on the PlayStation, go to:

NHL 22-PS4:

<https://www.amazon.com/NHL-22-PlayStation-4/dp/B09D23785P>

NHL 22-PS5:

<https://www.amazon.com/NHL-22-PlayStation-5/dp/B09D1Z3TND>