

Owner of the world's most enhanced Playseat Challenge. Paul Bridger.  
UK Sim Racing Fan and Lowdown Shifter UK Product Tester.

I will start by stating that I have been a gamer since the Sega Master System days and played variety of games. But when the first PlayStation came out, I became a loyal PlayStation Fan Boy. I have played many a racing game. Titles like, Destruction Derby, Ridge Racer, Need for Speed, and of course the Gran Turismo series, all using a controller.

I never thought about getting a steering wheel, let alone a whole rig, until GT7 came out back in March 2022. I am not sure how it all came about, but I must have seen a few YouTube videos post-lockdown, about the upcoming game, sim racing in general and how systems have become more affordable to the general public. Naturally, I considered opting for the cheapest option available, because of budget reasons mainly. But after taking some time to do more research on the topic, whilst weighing up my options, I later concluded that it is better to buy decent quality from the offset. In the hope it would last me some years to come.

The name "Fanatec" kept cropping up as it had just come out with an affordable Direct Drive DD system that is compatible with the PS5 and the newly released GT7. Classed as an entry level product in their range. Sitting around the mid-tier of sim racing setups. It was definitely a stretch for my budget, but I made it work, selling off some old items. The next issue was sorting out a rig for my home setting, which is a shared space with limited size. The general consensus of the community was to invest in a fixed aluminum rig but that just was not a realistic option for me. Because my family would not be accepting of a full rig left sitting in the middle of the living room full time. Also having no spare room for a dedicated gaming room available, I investigated some sort of foldable rig.

This is how I came across the OG, the Playseat Challenge! The PSC or aka the gaming deck chair. It is a remarkably simple design; I liked the look, and its function sold me. I am 5ft 10, weigh approximately 80kg, athletic in build. To be honest, for my needs the product suited me perfectly. A lot of the reviews were a mix of pros and cons which made me hesitate on pulling the trigger, especially with a semi-weighty package such as Fanatec's GT DD Pro. But I saw a product review of the PSC from the Youtuber, Karl Gosling. Selling its true potential. In one video he was highlighting and fitting a mod from Lowdown Shifter. Which was very simple to install, highly effective, delivering performance. Ingenious in design and aesthetically pleasing, which ticked all my boxes and right up my street.

So, I decided to head on over to their website to see what else they had on offer. To my surprise they had a large variety of mods for all kinds of brands - Fanatec, Logitech, Thrustmaster, Moza, Simagic and much more. Not just for the PSC but other popular rigs too. Once I saw the Lowdown Shifter mods, after watching a few YouTubers reviewing them, highlighting how well designed they are. I decided to reach out to enquire further.

This is when I spoke and initially met the creator “Mark” who is the mastermind behind all the mods and LDS. One man turned the simple PSC into a transformer of a gaming rig with his unique modular innovation.

Whilst somehow managing to never compromise the design integrity of the core products main feature, its foldability. I explained my gaming setup, the space I was working with, the rig I had just bought and the driving mods I would be buying. Choosing the Fanatec Series. Based on the best value long-term for my bucks. Mark came back with the exact products I would need to get me started and what I should invest in. I started with the “Steering Base Stabilizer System – Extra Reach Model”. Because I knew I would need a solid and secure base to house the GT DD Pro. To deliver extra support and manage the force feedback created by the DD motor.

The “Pedal Base Angle System” was next, to ensure the CSL pedals would be securely attached to the pedal chassis. Finally giving me the opportunity to remove the basic Velcro strap that was my only option until now to hold down any pedal set. Then, I added the “Pedal Chassis Connector System” so that when force is applied to the pedals, mainly the Load Cell, the PSC pedal chassis would not move in critical racing moments. Keeping the system rigid and secure. Again, another opportunity to replace now obsolete parts. Like the strap, the plastic clips designed to connect both the chassis and mainframe are a thing of the past. The “Accessory/Holder Tray System” made perfect sense next. Housing the power/boost supply. Otherwise, it had no platform to house and support it else. Until this was installed, it would often be dragging on the floor, leading to an accident waiting to happen when operating the rig.

Once we agreed on the products, payment was made, Mark manufactured and packaged the items up professionally and shipped them out promptly. As soon as they arrived, I began the fitting process. I opted for Textured Black Steel, phase 3, due to looking the most aesthetically pleasing for my set up.

Using mechanics and metal over 3D was a no brainer! More enlightening, competitors of Lowdown Shifter have attempted to match the brands revered product quality and strong logical solutions. But with little success! LDS only use grade A-materials that work in harmony with the core product and specifically selected premium quality fittings. After only a few weeks of getting to grips with my newfound hobby. I realised I wanted to explore some more mods to kit out my PSC with some home comforts.

Such as a drinks holder for those longer sessions and a set place for the Dual Sense controller, looking for easier menu navigation within reach.

Then, a few months later the PSVR2 came out along with full support from GT7! I jumped at the chance to fully immerse myself in sim racing with a console. So, I reached out again to my good friend Mark to ask how else he could help. After a long and detailed chat, I decided to go all in with my developing rig, via Lowdown Shifter.

Mark believes I am now the proud owner of the most enhanced Playseat Challenge in the world. I must admit, none of this was part of my plan when I first ventured into this hobby. It has been a gradual process over the last 2 years, which has been both rewarding personally and a real eye opener. And yes, a bit of a money pit, like most hobbies. This being said, my investment has led to a sound working relationship with Mark, which has resulted in me becoming one of only a handful of product testers for LDS, based here in the UK.

I cannot recommend LDS enough for your rig set up and development. Even if you require something not off the shelf. The products are ingenious, expertly crafted, aesthetically pleasing, perfectly priced. Delivered to your door and provide excellent customer service.

Mark, with his many designs, has made a simple product mechanically sound and allowed thousands of customers all over the world the chance to experience the thrill of sim racing from the comfort of their own home, within a justifiable budget. Mindful of the limited space available to them.

Read the multitude of positive reviews that have been sent in by satisfied customers, look at the many pictures of customers' rigs for inspiration when building your own or considering on purchasing a PSC. Oh, and ignore the many nah sayers about foldable rigs not being great and that a DD system will not work on the PSC. Work with what you can afford and the space you have available to you, build your rig over time, balancing out costs when you can afford to upgrade or improve. Get out on the track and enjoy!

My full PSC Sim Rig Setup.

PS5PSVR2GT7, ACC, F1 (2023) GT7.

PlaySeat Challenge (PSC).

Fanatec GT DD Pro + Load Cell.

QR2 Wheels: McLaren GT3 (v2), CSL Elite (WRC) Formula v2.5.

The installed LDS Playseat Challenge Mods.

Pedal Base Angle System.

Pedal Chassis Connector System.

Pedal Chassis Torsion Bar.

Pedal Chassis Slider System.

Pedal Chassis Thumb Screws.

Anti-lift System.

PSC Feet Lifter System.

Accessory/Holder Tray System.

Four Point Harness System.

Steering Base Stabilizer System (Extra Reach Model).

Cockpit Brace System.

Mini PC Mouse Pad Mat Table System.

Headphone Hook.

Twister Mod Mount.

Drink Cup Holder.

Four Replacement Strap Clips.

VR-Headphone Retainer System.

Fanatec CS – Shifter Double Mount System.

LDS Mount Angle Slider Mod.

Extendable Lock Off Rod – Action Cam.