

Platform: PC (Windows only)
DRM: DRM Free
Digital Distributor: Humble Bundle

Developer: Cipher Prime
Publisher: Cipher Prime

RYG's VERDICT

90% **WORTH SUPPORTING**
85% and above

1. Product Info

Looking at how much information is provided on Splice on its website and through a distributor prior and on release.

See Also: Demo can be found through Steam

- ✓ Splice released via. Humble Bundle on 08.11.2012
- ✓ Available on Windows, MacOS and Linux
- ✓ Base game and day-one DLCs (Soundtrack only) sold as one package
- ✓ Minimum and recommended specs provided by [Humble Bundle](#)
- ✓ Demo provided
- ✓ Advised DRM Free on 08.11.2012 via. Humble Bundle
- ✓ EULA not provided (See Section 3. EULA / TOS for further info)
- ✓ All game-related information can be found on cipherprime.com/games/splice

- ✗ No Manual and/or Readme provided prior to purchase

2. Digital Download

Looking at Humble Bundle as a digital distributing service for PC games.

Note: More info can be found at humblebundle.com and Humble Visualisations

Note: User account designed to link present and past Humble Bundle purchases

See Also: Refund Policy under Customer Service within Humble Bundle's Terms of Service (TOS)

- ✓ Splice sold at one, global price (user-driven pricing model)
- ✓ Available worldwide through Humble Bundle
- ✓ Download directly via. User-specific link provided in an email receipt
- ✓ Minimum and recommended specs provided via. Humble Bundle's website
- ✓ Advised DRM Free on 08.11.2012
- ✓ User account creation is optional; minimal details required (email, password)
- ✓ Free and unlimited access and downloads after purchase
- ✓ Can backup purchased games "offline" (e.g. external or optical drives)
- ✓ Refunds and/or exchanges offered for purchased games (exceptional cases)
- ✓ Can access personal data
- ✓ Can terminate account or request to terminate account
- ✓ Can review and dispute and validate breaches in Humble Bundle's TOS
- ✓ Can review and question changes made to Humble Bundle's TOS

- ✗ Warranties waived in respect to Humble Bundle's services

See Also: Disclaimer of Warranties; Liability Limitations and Indemnity within Humble Bundle's Terms of Service (TOS)

3. EULA / TOS

- ✗ Cover waived against any unforeseeable damages, disruptions of service
- ✗ Account termination voids past purchases and licenses to play games
- ✗ Past purchases voided after refusing to accept Humble Bundle's TOS

Looking at Splice's End User License Agreement in conjunction with Humble Bundle's Terms of Service.

- ✓ EULA / TOS not found in Splice

4. Setup / Install

Note: Playing Splice will generate Splice-specific registry keys, which can be safely removed via a Registry search.

Note: All files related to Splice are contained in a compressed ZIP file.

Looking at how Splice is installed on Windows PCs only.

- ✓ Custom installation options are provided
- ✓ All files are installed within folders designated by users
- ✓ Installation logs and registry keys not required
- ✓ No DRM files or registry keys installed
- ✓ Currently-executing background services won't interfere with installation
- ✓ Error-free installation
- ✓ Files extracted within 5 minutes

5. Updates / Patching

Looking at how Splice is patched prior and after gameplay.

- ✓ Can play the game without patch

6. DRM & Activation

Looking at the DRM-Free nature of Splice and its effects on Windows PCs only.

- ✓ Firewall and AV settings aren't modified
- ✓ User account not required
- ✓ Can play single-player game offline (Internet connection not required)
- ✓ No hardware activations
- ✓ Unlimited installations

7. Gameplay Experience

Looking at the gameplay aspects of Splice and how it interacts with PC Windows.

- ✓ Can play on minimum specs
- ✓ Can play a backup copy of the game
- ✓ Suitable options to modify video settings
- ✓ Can customise controls

Note: Splice is not graphically-intensive. Screen resolutions + "Sexy Mode" provided.

Note: Splice ask users to connect to Google if they're behind a firewall.

8. PC Checkup

- ✓ Can play with console controller (Xbox360 Controller tested)
- ✓ Can play in windowed mode
- ✓ Can play offline
- ✓ Can access DLC offline (Provided after purchase through GOG)
- ✓ Won't "phone home"
- ✓ Can play error-free for more than 5hrs
- ✓ Won't interfere with services and background software
- ✓ Will resume at the last checkpoint
- ✓ Can play on more than one PC simultaneously
- ✓ No DRM or monitoring services running in the background

Looking at whether Splice will modify certain PC settings without users permission / consent.

- ✓ PC clean after scanning for viruses
- ✓ PC clean after scanning for malware and spyware
- ✓ PC clean after scanning for rootkits
- ✓ HOSTS wasn't modified
- ✓ Played Splice without major errors
- ✓ Start-up settings remain unaltered
- ✓ No DRM / monitoring services running in the background after shutting down
- ✓ System configuration files remain unaltered

Looking at how clean, efficient and effective the removal process is for Splice (How much legacy material is there after the removal of Splice?)

- ✓ Clean uninstallation

Looking at the customer support side of Splice through Humble Bundle

- ✓ Customer service / support found in one place at support.humblebundle.com
- ✓ Their support is easy to use and navigate (known issues are highlighted)
- ✓ Searching on Humble Bundle's website is direct and quick
- ✓ Info is easy to read and understand
- ✓ Customer service will respond to queries within 24 Hours.
- ✓ Customer service will resolve issues within 72 Hours
- ✓ Tone and language used is warm, inviting and personable
- ✓ Focused on understanding problems and providing an effective solution
- ✓ Options provided for giving feedback on the quality of customer support

9. Removal Uninstall

Note: Savegame are stored "in-game" only.

10. Customer Support

See Also: FAQ on Splice can be found through Humble Bundle's Support Page.

See Also: General Humble Bundle Support can be found at support.humblebundle.com

Note: Email support is tailored to the initial email query. They are friendly and personable.

RYG's VERDICT

90%

WORTH SUPPORTING

85% and above

SHOWS PROMISE & POTENTIAL

Between 65% and 84%

BARGAIN BIN MATERIAL

64% and below

It's hard to fault a game like Splice that removes any barriers between the players and the game itself. Splice (distributed through Humble Bundle) is easy to extract, set up and play (even with a custom controller). What equally helps is the error-free experience that gamers should experience from start to finish with Splice. Fans of both Splice and Humble Bundle should have little convincing in both their products and services.



Colophon

This analysis of Splice was compiled by Lisa and Martin Pham. Typeface used is ITC Stone Sans. RYG thanks Anna Henriksson, Josh Bush, Ethan Lee, Adam Ames and David Hatch for their insights and suggestions in the design of this analysis. Splice was bought with RYG funds through Humble Bundle.

Disclaimer

These analyses are only a guide and represent RYG's perspective into Splice as a product. We believe everyone should perform their own research and reach their own conclusions. This is one view of many, we hope. Again, we thank you for taking the time to read our analysis of Splice and hope you continue to support our work.

RYG is a user research and design studio for video game developers and publishers. Our focus is planning and designing games with a gamers'-first mentality through user and product research. RYG is led by a husband-and-wife team of Lisa and Martin Pham. RYG is operated in the heart of Sydney.

RYG Analysis: Splice
Copyright © 2012, Reclaim Your Game (RYG) Pty Ltd
www.reclaimyourgame.com @projectryg
PRYG3-00009-01
25 December 2012