

Home Control Via Holographic Wife

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Japan sets to take the assistant-equipped speaker game a step further-- the Gatebox is a device similar to the likes of the Amazon Echo, but with the addition of a tiny holographic anime character.



Named Azuma Hikari, the virtual girl is described as a "comforting character that is great for those living alone." As such she has a very anime look, complete with blue hair, mini skirt and knee high socks, and refers to the user as "master" in an overly cutesy voice. According to the Gatebox website she also wants "to become a heroine to help people who are working hard." As one does.

A promotional video shows the Gatebox device control smart home devices, just like Alexa or Google Assistant can. A camera and microphone allow it recognise users through their face and voice, and it can set scenes based on personal preference. In addition, since it is clearly designed for lonely bachelors, Hikari sends messages to the users throughout the day via companion app, all in the name of "supporting her master every day."

Currently the Gatebox is available in a very limited preorder basis, and while it can be shipped outside of its home Japan one has to be warned Hikari can only speak in, well, Japanese. Can one expect a Western release if it proves a success?

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