



Cyberpower Ultra 55 Pro

What this back-to-basics gaming PC lacks in flare it regains in its quiet running and compact chassis

SCORE ★★★★★

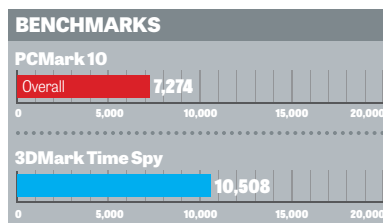
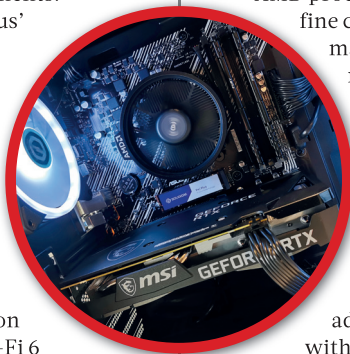
PRICE £833 (£999 inc VAT) from cyberpowersystem.co.uk

Sadly, we don't all have £999 to lavish on a graphics card such as the AMD Radeon RX 7900 XTX (see p60). Some would argue that it isn't the best way to spend a grand anyway, especially when you can buy a well-rounded PC such as the Ultra 55 Pro for the same price.

If you're looking for thrills, however, then move along. This is a system where every penny is geared towards performance, so there's nowt fancy here. If you want to change the default white of the four 120cm fans then you'll need to use the compact remote control. Even the case is basic, although there is a tempered glass side through which you can admire the assembled components.

The chief one is Asus' Prime B550M-K motherboard, which is another pared-down choice: there's Gigabit Ethernet rather than 2.5GbE, no USB-C port and no built-in Wi-Fi. Cyberpower makes up for this last omission by adding an Intel Wi-Fi 6 PCI-E card, with the only drawback being that there are no more slots available. Expansionists must make do with two empty DIMM sockets and one spare M.2 slot.

Cyberpower prioritises capacity over speed with its supplied M.2 SSD, choosing a 1TB Solidigm P41 Plus drive. This is a Gen4 unit, even if its sequential transfer speeds – 3,168MB/sec reads, 2,432MB/sec writes – are closer to those of a fast Gen3 SSD. Aside from a lack of styling



PC PRO RECOMMENDED

when they gaze at it, though, I can't imagine anyone will complain.

Nor do I expect moans about everyday speed. The Ryzen 5 5500 has been usurped by a new generation of AMD processors, but remains a fine choice for the vast majority of people. It returned a strong 7,274 in PCMark 10, while six cores and a dozen threads chewed through Cinebench R23 with a fine multicore score of 10,538.

There are advantages to sticking with AMD's 5000 series chips as well. Not only is DDR4 memory still more affordable than the DDR5 that Ryzen 7000 series chips demand – Cyberpower includes 16GB of Kingston's finest – but it also opens up the opportunity for a drop-in upgrade of a faster chip. Such as the Ryzen 7 5800X3D, if it ever falls within your reach. Having a 750W Corsair power supply only emphasises the Ultra 55 Pro's room for growth, especially as it consumes only 321W at its peak.

The Ryzen 5 5500 remains an excellent partner for Nvidia's GeForce RTX 3060 Ti graphics. We still await

ABOVE The tempered glass side panel shows off the components to good effect

“The Ryzen 5 5500 has been usurped by a new generation of AMD processors, but remains a fine choice for the vast majority of people”

LEFT Nvidia's GeForce RTX 3060 Ti provides the graphical grunt

BELOW The white fan lights keep things looking simple

a mid-range RTX 4000 card, but the 3060 Ti packs enough firepower for 1440p gaming. Even with High settings, it averaged above 100fps in each of *Dirt 5* (108fps), *F1 22* (176fps) and *Shadow of the Tomb Raider* (132fps). Only *Metro Exodus Enhanced* showed its limitations, where it averaged 53fps, but it scored 75fps in plain *Metro Exodus*.

If your top priority is frame rates, and you have a grand to spend, then also consider the Palicomp Hellfire (see issue 338, p89), which benefits from an RTX 3070 card. With the support of an Intel Core i5-12400F, this was between 10fps and 20fps faster in games at 1440p.

Where the Ultra 55 Pro wins is unobtrusiveness. In particular, the fans make barely any noise –

you only notice them when this machine is pushed in games. Then there's its compactness. At 362mm tall and 416mm deep, the Cyberpower will squeeze into tighter spaces than almost any other gaming PC

I've tested. It's also surprisingly light, so you won't need to warm up your lower back before moving it from desk to floor or vice versa.

The final siren cry comes from a five-year warranty, with the first two years covering courier costs and parts along with the five years of labour cover. Together with Cyberpower's strong performance in our annual Excellence awards (see issue 338, p26), where its customers rated it highly for both service and reliability, you can buy with confidence. **TIM DANTON**

SPECIFICATIONS

6-core/12-thread AMD Ryzen 5 5500 processor • Asus Prime B550M-K motherboard • 16GB Kingston Fury Beast Black DDR4-3200 RAM • 8GB GeForce RTX 3060 Ti graphics • AMD Wraith Stealth air cooler • 1TB Solidigm P41 Plus M.2 Gen4 SSD • Cyberpower Blaze Gaming chassis • 750W Corsair TX750M PSU • Windows 11 Home • 217 x 362 x 416mm (WDH) • 5yr warranty (2yr C&R parts and labour, then 3yr RTB labour only) • power draw: 53W idle, 321W peak

