

CyberPowerPC Infinity Z890 Air

The Core Ultra 7 and RTX 5070 combine to produce stonking rates at 1440p in a high-quality, compact chassis

SCORE ★★★★★

PRICE **£1,583 (£1,900 inc VAT)**
from tinyurl.com/368cyberpower

Until this month, my generic if boring advice to anyone specifying a desktop PC was to buy the fastest Nvidia card you could afford. But if you turn to p68 you'll see that AMD has well and truly spoiled the party with its RX 9070 and RX 9070 XT GPUs, all of which means this RTX 5070-powered system must work hard to justify its price.

CyberPowerPC UK, the British arm of the American PC manufacturer, has carefully chosen the supporting components and opted for quality throughout. That starts with the Lian Li Lancool 207 chassis, which is entirely toolless – the tempered glass windows and right-hand side panel even clip in without screws, meaning you simply slip your finger into a groove to remove them.

It's a compact chassis and that inevitably results in space issues when you have a giant MSI graphics card and Be Quiet Dark Rock Pro 5 air cooler crammed inside. Only those with the nimblest digits will be able to insert a PCIe x16 card into the two available slots on the (again top-quality) MSI Pro Z890-S motherboard. You'll need to remove the GPU if you want to fill either of the two spare M.2 sockets, but for now you're well catered for thanks to a 2TB WD Black card that performed brilliantly in CrystalDiskMark 8: 7,127MB/sec reads and 6,632MB/sec writes are almost as good as things can get for a Gen 4 card.

There are two DIMM sockets free, and while those are blocked by the CPU cooler fan, this unclips. The bigger shame is that it blocks your view of the RGB rims on the memory heatsinks. As with storage, there's no



need for an immediate upgrade here despite two spare slots: CyberPowerPC supplies a pair of 16GB Kingston Fury Beast DDR5-5600 DIMMs, which proved excellent company for Intel's Core Ultra 7 265KF processor. This 20-core chip likes nothing more than tough multicore tasks, with an excellent 2,029 in Cinebench 2024 and 20,384 in Geekbench 6.

Those are both CPU-exclusive tests, but Nvidia's RTX 5070 comes into play in PCMark 10. An overall score of 9,055 is superb, but I was more drawn to its result of 19,685 in the Digital Creation section. Again, that's exceptional, underlining the fact that this isn't simply a gaming PC despite its trio of RGB fans.

Then again, who's going to spend this much on a PC and not use it for gaming? You can see how the RTX 5070 performs against its peers in our graphs on p69, but during my tests the

ABOVE The Infinity Z890 Air is packed with top-quality components

"You can upgrade to an RTX 5070 Ti, but if you want 4K gaming for under two grand then this machine is a fine choice"

BELOW The huge MSI graphics card and Be Quiet air cooler dominate the inside

Infinity Z890 Air proved strongest at 1440p. I tested with *Shadow of the Tomb Raider*, *Dirt 5*, *Borderlands 3* and *Cyberpunk 2077*, with the latter my go-to for ray tracing testing.

Let's start at 1080p and highest/Ultra settings, where the Z890 Air averaged 249fps, 207fps, 147fps and 183fps across the four games. Activating RT Ultra reduced the *Cyberpunk* score to 108fps. When I switched to 1440p those results dropped to 231fps, 163fps, 136fps, 134fps and 89fps (the latter two are *Cyberpunk* at Ultra and then RT Ultra). Even at 4K, results are solid: 151fps, 105fps, 86fps, 66fps and 58fps.

You can upgrade to an RTX 5070 Ti for £150 and RTX 5080 for £483, with commensurate improvements, but if you want 4K gaming for under two grand then this machine is a fine choice. And don't forget that the RTX 50 series supports Multi Frame Generation, raising the prospect of 100+ fps in even demanding AAA games at 4K and top settings (you'll get the best results if/when developers update their games to take advantage of Nvidia's Transformer model).

CyberPowerPC sensibly includes an 850W PSU, which meets Nvidia's requirements for the RTX 5080. I measured peak power consumption of 499W so there's clearly plenty of headroom, while 72W at idle is reasonable considering all the cutting-edge components inside. That's reflected in the gentlest of whirrs in general use, reminding me

of a babbling brook, which occasionally rose to match more demanding tasks but never hit annoying levels. That's despite two 120mm fans sitting in the base (they're barely visible) that kick into action to ensure strong airflow.

With a warranty that lasts a generous five years – the first year is collect and return, where CyberPowerPC will cover all courier costs, and this and the following year includes parts as well as labour – you can be assured that this money is being well invested for the long term. If this is your budget, it's a great choice. **TIM DANTON**

SPECIFICATIONS

20-core (8 P-cores, 12 E-cores) Intel Core Ultra 7 265KF processor • MSI Pro Z890-S WiFi motherboard • 32GB Kingston Fury Beast RGB DDR5-6000 RAM • 12GB Nvidia GeForce RTX 5070 graphics • Be Quiet Dark Rock Pro 5 air cooler • 2TB WD Black SN7100 PCIe Gen 4 SSD • Lian Li Lancool 207 chassis • 850W Corsair RM850X PSU • Windows 11 Home • 219 x 456 x 456mm (WDH) • 5yr warranty (1yr C&R, 2yr parts) • power: 72W idle, 499W peak

