

Cyberpower Infinity X123 Pro

A simply brilliant choice if you seek 1080p gaming for a low price, but it's best suited to enthusiasts

SCORE ★★★★★

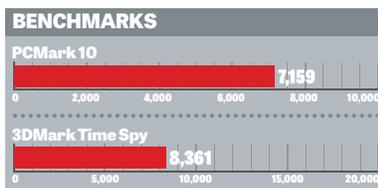
PRICE £749 (£899 inc VAT) from cyberpowersystem.co.uk

With component prices bouncing around more than Lewis Hamilton on a Sunday drive, there's something extraordinary about finding an RTX 3060 system for less than £900. That's almost £200 less than the Box Cube Mythic (see issue 334, p50), which paired its RTX 3060 with an AMD Ryzen 5 5500.

Cyberpower achieves this feat by basing the Infinity X123 Pro around Intel's Core i3-12100F processor. As this month's group test (see p74) indicates, this sits at the bottom of the Core family, with four performance P-cores alone. Don't think for a moment that this is a slow PC, however, as it scored an excellent 7,159 in PCMark 10 and returned 234 in the PC Pro benchmarks. That compares to 6,760 and 289 for the Box.

More to the point, four P-cores is a strong choice for most games. Sure, a Core i5 or i7 will have a higher boost speed than 4.3GHz, but the Infinity delivered around 100fps at 1080p in demanding games at High quality: 146fps in *Shadow of the Tomb Raider*, 111fps in *Dirt 5* and 86fps in *Metro Exodus*. Even 1440p gaming is within its grasp, with those same three games averaging 114fps, 85fps and 64fps respectively. All those scores are near-identical to Box's system.

There's room for growth, too. The Lian Li O11 Air Mini chassis may sound small but is wider and squatter than a typical PC, like an old-style Shuttle on steroids. Cyberpower could have easily used a full ATX motherboard, but instead opted for the mid-range and microATX MSI B660M-A WiFi DDR4. The Wi-Fi in question is Wi-Fi 6, courtesy of Intel, and there's 2.5Gb Ethernet for good measure.



The 650W PSU offers bags of spare capacity: the PC draws 49W at idle with a peak of 300W. So, how to take advantage of those extra watts? The MSI board offers a couple of upgrade routes, with two PCI-E slots lying empty (one x16 and the other x1), along with one empty spare M.2 slot. This supports Gen 4 drives, as does the main slot, but the supplied 500GB MSI drive is Gen 3, with fast sequential read and writes of around 2,800MB/sec.

You'll need to remove the graphics card to access the vacant M.2 slot, but there are also four connectors for SATA drives, with physical space for six 2.5in SSDs, or a mix of four 3.5in hard drives and two 2.5in SSDs. These mounting areas are neatly tucked away behind the motherboard tray, but you'll need to get handy with a screwdriver to secure drives in place.

As this hints towards, this is a case for enthusiasts rather than occasional tinkerers. Over the course of its lifetime, you may decide to replace the two front 140mm fans and the rear 120mm fan, because it's ideally suited

to demanding setups. The chassis can easily accommodate watercooling radiators, with space at the top, side and even the bottom. It's an upgrade that's well worth considering when your budget allows, because there's currently no RGB lighting to admire through the tempered glass side. Plus there's a constant hum of fan noise, as they always stay at full speed.

There's little need to upgrade the RAM for now, with a pair of 3,200MHz 8GB Corsair Vengeance LPX DIMMs in place,

ABOVE The GeForce RTX 3060 takes centre stage and offers speedy 1080p gaming



"It's best suited to those who consider fan noise a badge of honour, and who welcome the presence of a chunky beast on their desk"

BELOW The Lian Li O11 Air Mini case is wider and squatter than a typical PC chassis

but Cyberpower's neat approach to system building means you have easy access to the two empty DIMM sockets. It also takes advantage of the USB-C port at the top of the chassis, which is kept company by two USB-A ports and a 3.5mm jack.

The final factor to note is five years of support, with the first six months including collect-and-return cover. Two of those five years include parts, with the final three being labour-only.

However, this feels like a system for people who don't need such

hand-holding assistance. It's best suited to those who consider fan noise a badge of honour, and who welcome the presence of a chunky beast on their desk or floor: if you aren't going to build upon the

foundation Cyberpower provides, you should look elsewhere. But if you're an enthusiast on a budget who wants to play demanding games from day one, then it's a great choice. **TIM DANTON**



SPECIFICATIONS

4-core (4.3GHz boost) Intel Core i3-12100F processor • MSI B660M-A WiFi motherboard • 16GB Corsair Vengeance LPX DDR4-3200 RAM • 12GB GeForce RTX 3060 graphics • Intel air cooler • 500GB MSI Spatium M390 M.2 PCI-E Gen 3 SSD • Lian Li O11 Air Mini chassis • 650W InWin A65 PSU • Windows 11 Home • 288 x 300 x 384mm (WDH) • 5yr warranty (first 6 months C&R then RTB, 2yr parts and labour, 3yr labour only) • idle, 49W • peak, 300W