CyberPowerPC Analog R97 XT Next Day SY3160

The chassis is a brilliant basis for any gaming PC, while the spec offers all the power most people need

SCORE ★★★★★

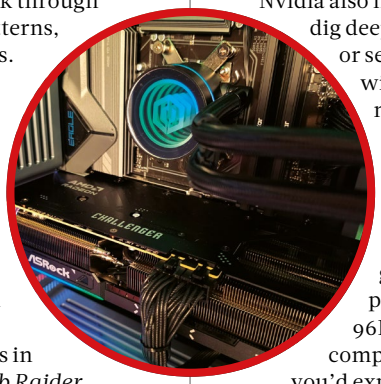
PRICE £2,083 (£2,499 inc VAT) from cyberpowersystem.co.uk

The CyberPowerPC Analog U7 RTX (*see issue 384, p46*) was our lead review three months ago, and for excellent reason. It showcased the company's new and highly customisable MA-01 chassis, shown here in its matte steel grey finish but also available in a stylish off-white. Aside from its striking looks and generous internals, it stands apart from the masses thanks to a trio of dials at the bottom of the left-hand side. Use these to flick through the fans' colours, patterns, and adjust brightness.

It's also designed for quiet running, and while there is fan noise I was impressed by how quiet it remained in my testing.

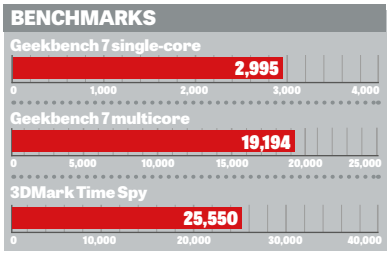
The PC glided to averages of 206fps in *Far Cry 6*, 179fps in *Borderlands 3*, 144fps in *Shadows of the Tomb Raider* and 150fps in *Cyberpunk 2077*. All those results were at Ultra/Highest settings at 1440p, dropping to 125fps, 102fps, 76fps and 76fps respectively when I upped the resolution to 4K. In *Cyberpunk 2077* RT Ultra, it averaged 104fps at 1440p and 69fps at 4K.

This power stems from the combination of a gaming-focused Ryzen 7 9800X3D processor and AMD's Radeon RX 9070 XT graphics. If you're not interested in Nvidia's frame generation or DLSS upscaling technologies, this is arguably a better choice than the RTX 5070 Ti (which is also around £150 more expensive) due to its raw compute power.



LEFT An all-in-one liquid cooler adds colour and ekes more from the AMD chip

BENCHMARKS



As it's from CyberPowerPC's Next Day range, the Analog R97 sits ready in the company's Gateshead HQ. If you live close enough, you can even collect it the same day. The downside is that you can't modify the specs, so if you want Nvidia then you must wait longer for a PC you configure yourself. It won't be as keenly priced as this system, either.

Don't rush the decision. If you intend to run AI workloads, Nvidia has the edge in most real-world applications thanks to developer support for CUDA and a much higher memory bandwidth. However, AMD is working hard to catch up and is an open-source platform. Choosing Nvidia also means you'll need to dig deeper into your pocket or settle for an RTX 5070 with its 12GB of video memory, compared to 16GB for the RX 9070 XT and 5070 Ti.

While the Ryzen 7 9800X3D is geared towards gamers – you're paying extra for 96MB of L3 cache compared to the 32MB you'd expect from a Ryzen 7 processor – it remains a fearsome choice for everyday tasks. A single-core result of 2,995 in Geekbench 7 doesn't stand out, but a multicore result of 19,194 emphasises that it will blast through most tasks. As does its 5,569 result in Cinebench 2026.

CyberPowerPC opts for 32GB of memory via two DDR5 DIMMs, leaving two empty on the Gigabyte B850 Eagle WiFi 6E motherboard. This is a solid mid-range choice that eschews RGB decoration but gets all the basics right, and that makes sense here: after all, there's plenty of colour from the all-in-one liquid cooler and the three aRGB fans cooling the top-mounted radiator. There are three more aRGB fans in the base and another at the rear.



LEFT There's plenty of room for expansion, including three empty PCIe slots

There's plenty of storage to start you off thanks to a single 2TB PCIe Gen4 SSD from Kingston: this produced solid sequential read and write speeds of around 6GB/sec in CrystalDiskMark 9. The motherboard supports Gen5 SSDs if your budget allows in the future, with two empty slots, and there's also room for two more disks (2.5in or 3.5in) via a caddy on the right-hand side of the chassis. Three PCIe Gen3 x1 slots also sit empty at the bottom of the motherboard, and unusually they're all easy to access.

When pushed heavily, I saw a peak wattage of 536W from this system – this, other than gaming, was the only time the fans kicked up a gear – but it generally idled at around 95W. This is a walk in the park for the provided 850W power supply, which means you can upgrade to a meatier graphics card in the future.

In truth, the MA-01 is such a great chassis – being easy to work in, stylish to look at and fun to play with – that it's hard for CyberPowerPC to go wrong. Especially when you consider the company's five-year warranty, including two years of parts and one year of free courier costs. With no sign of component prices dropping any time soon, this is a great-value system that jumps straight to the top of our A-List. **TIM DANTON**



ABOVE We love the dials for controlling the lights, and this PC's looks in general

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SPECIFICATIONS

8-core/16-thread AMD Ryzen 7 9800X3D processor • Gigabyte B850 Eagle WiFi 6E motherboard • 32GB Lexar DDR5-6000 RAM • 16GB AMD Radeon RX 9070 XT graphics • CyberPowerPC Elite ARGB 360mm AIO liquid cooler • 2TB Kingston NV3 PCIe Gen4 SSD • CyberPowerPC MA-01 Mid-Tower Gaming Case • Cooler Master Elite 850W 80+ Gold PSU • Windows 11 Home • 235 x 460 x 498mm (WDH) • 5yr warranty (1yr C&R, 2yr parts) • power: 95W idle, 536W peak