

CyberPowerPC Ultra R9X Pro

If you're looking for a graphics workstation by day and a gaming beast at night, the Ultra R9X Pro delivers

SCORE

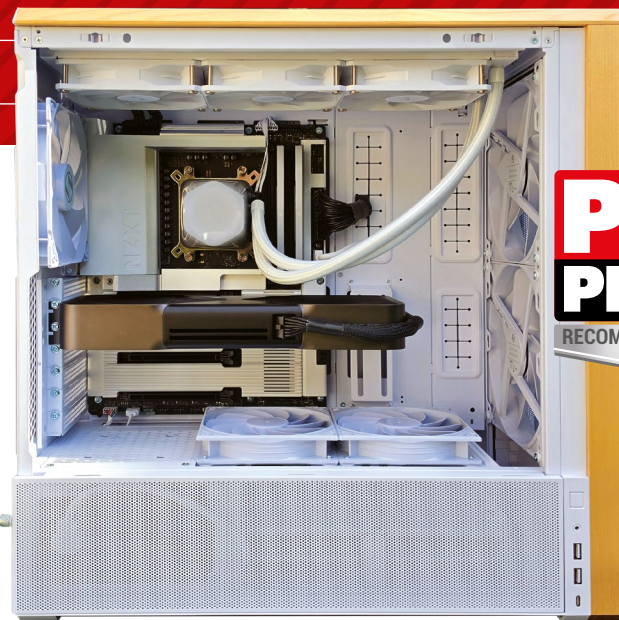
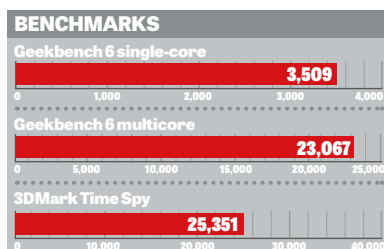
PRICE **£3,749 (£4,499 inc VAT)** from tinyurl.com/382cyberpower

This is a PC for those who want the best of all worlds. For once, Nvidia's RTX 5090 (Founders Edition, no less) must share the limelight with a similarly aspirational CPU: the AMD Ryzen 9 9950X3D Dual Edition. Previously, AMD's 3D V-Cache was only stacked on one core complex die (CCD) to boost gaming, but as there are two CCDs in AMD's top-end chips it was only a matter of time before it doubled the fun.

The X3D chips lead the way for games, but adding the second 3D cache has only a minor effect on frame rates. Our sister site Tom's Hardware delves deep into this topic (tinyurl.com/382AMDx3D2) and includes many test results, but the simple takeaway is that its biggest benefits come in heavily threaded workloads. Think rendering (it's particularly strong in Blender) and data science, where the reduced latency from the extra cache has the biggest impact.

If you only care about gaming then the 9950X3D2 isn't worth the price, around £750 versus £550 for the 9950X3D, and you can save £200 by downgrading via CyberPowerPC's configurator. But when you're spending north of four grand on a PC, there's much to be said for having the absolute best desktop CPU out there. The real question is whether creators should choose a Threadripper instead, but we'll let our workstation Labs answer that question later this year.

For now, I can tell you that this PC is a juggernaut. Not in single-core power, with 3,509 in Geekbench 6 excellent but matched by Intel's and Apple's best chips, but more in its multicore strength: a 23,067 return



close to two 120mm fans near the foot of the chassis.

You don't need any tools to remove the side panels, making it easy to take advantage of the two 2.5in SSD mounts behind the motherboard. There are also two 3.5in hard disk bays, complete with easy-to-remove caddies, but you'll need to unclip the supremely neat cabling by CyberPowerPC's engineers.

This is also where the 1,200W power supply sits, and if I say there are eight fans – including two huge intake fans at the front and three for the liquid cooler's radiator – you might imagine a noisy system. In fact it's quieter than the Wired2Fire PC on p57, only rising in volume when it's pushed. I would be more than happy to sit this system on my desk; considering the power within, it's a compact unit, too.

While it's obviously expensive, there are signs of CyberPowerPC holding back in light of the cost of RAM and storage. Two DIMM sockets sit empty, and if you're going to push

this system to its limit you should probably swallow the cost of an upgrade to 64GB right away; a pair of 32GB DIMMs instead of two 16GB sticks will add around £450 to the price.

If you can get away with 2TB of storage then it arguably makes sense to stick for now, but I'd still be tempted to add a second SSD for £215.

As ever with CyberPowerPC UK, the British wing of the American PC manufacturer, your PC is backed by a five-year warranty. The first year covers parts, labour and courier costs, the second parts and labour, and the final three are labour only. For a system as expensive as this, my final upgrade would probably be the platinum warranty, which extends parts and courier costs to three years for £99. If you follow all my suggestions, I admit this is a costly machine: my upgrades take the price to over £5,400 inc VAT. But the way RAM and storage prices are currently going, it may turn out to be an incredible investment. **TIM DANTON**

SPECIFICATIONS

16-core/32-thread AMD Ryzen 9 9950X3D2 Dual Edition processor • NZXT N7 B850 motherboard • 32GB Corsair Vengeance Grey RGB DDR5-6000 RAM • 32GB Nvidia GeForce RTX 5090 Founders Edition graphics • Cooler Master Elite Liquid 360 AIO liquid cooler • 2TB Kingston NV3 PCIe Gen4 SSD • Lian Li Lancool 217 White chassis • 1,200W NZXT 80+ Gold PSU • Windows 11 Home • 238 x 482 x 503mm (WDH) • 5yr warranty (1yr C&R, 2yr parts) • power: 116W idle, 871W peak

ABOVE The Ultra R9X Pro showcases AMD's all-new Ryzen 9 9950X3D2 processor

“When you're spending north of four grand on a PC, there's something to be said for having the absolute best desktop CPU out there”

BELOW The white Lian Li case looks stunning and can be accessed without any tools

