Souped-up Scoreboard

We subjected this year's lot of luxury PCs to *CPU*'s latest gauntlet of synthetic and real-world benchmarks. Although the real-world benchmarks we rely on show you how these systems handle specific applications, the synthetic benchmarks are also useful for demonstrating how the systems perform in a given type of application, such as those that heavily stress the CPU or GPU. Based on these results, you can safely assume that any rig that dominates in every benchmark will be a well-rounded workhorse. Gaming goliaths or media-crunching maestros will also shine in their respective benchmarks, letting you see which system best suits your power-user tendencies. And we didn't forget the tweaks: Any overclocked machine that remains stable throughout our testing is surely stable enough to survive an enthusiast's workload. ▲

		AVADirect Custom Gaming PC	Digital Storm Benchmark Crusher	Hypersonic Sonic Boom ATS	iBuyPower Gamer Paladin XLC	Maingear Ephex	Overdrive PC Big-Block GTR	Puget Systems Genesis II	Smooth Creations Reaper Extreme Edition	Velocity Micro Raptor Signature Edition	Vigor Gaming Force Recon T7N
3DMark Vantage											
Overall	1,024 x 768	29170	30688	30659	30628	30120	31686	24002	28425	30725	29556
GPU Score	1,024 x 768	30409	32389	32189	33612	31938	33970	22298	30984	33178	31259
GPU1 (fps)	1,024 x 768	85.97	94.56	94.55	94.24	93.13	98.44	61.38	88.33	96.03	90.78
GPU2 (fps)	1,024 x 768	92.28	95.2	94.02	102.81	93.99	100.61	69.39	93.27	98.38	92.38
CPU Score	1,024 x 768	25994	26513	26832	25508	25726	26366	31144	22779	25148	25402
CPU1 (Plans/s)	1,024 x 768	3042.98	3767.22	3799.03	3582.62	3618.93	3714.13	4403.01	3201.73	3537.94	3581.58
CPU2 (Steps/s)	1,024 x 768	33.3	32.67	33.4	32.48	32.62	33.3	38.94	28.95	31.88	32
PCMark Vantage Pro 1.1											
Overall	1,600 x 1,200	10089	16338	13026	15421	15875	17212	11515	10693	16789	14719
Memories	1,600 x 1,200	6553	10361	6864	9943	9919	9309	7649	7535	11815	10259
TV And Movies	1,600 x 1,200	5053	17910	4794	6559	6116	7896	5382	6427	8200	6371
Gaming	1,600 x 1,200	16790	13473	19157	20333	20874	17592	13300	11049	19025	19799
Music	1,600 x 1,200	10513	10773	11814	13810	13526	14306	7412	7699	14305	11937
Communications	1,600 x 1,200	8005	15501	11165	11463	13088	11894	9238	9573	11451	11236
Productivity	1,600 x 1,200	11958	25897	18358	22035	25558	24042	16931	10547	22288	20317
HDD	1,600 x 1,200	12018	33221	12903	34035	38472	48490	9164	7306	40883	29589
Cinebench 10											
Multithreaded (score)		25072	24989	25543	24099	24103	25128	31608	21654	24173	23966
Multithreaded (min:sec)		0:34	0:34	0:34	0:33	0:36	0:35	0:27	0:40	0:36	0:36
POV-Ray 3.7 Beta (pixels/s)		5443.64	5357.9	5427.07	5193.85	5341.37	5360.05	8249.49	4551.43	5094.82	5199
SiSoft Sandra 2009 Lite SP3											
Processor Arithmetic											
Dhrystone iSSE4.2 (GIPS)		106.60	106.28	105.72	101.18	104.52	104.49	168.40	90.23	99.71	101.36
Whetstone iSSE3 (GFLOPS)		92.27	95.57	89.90	88.32	90.43	90.00	136.70	80.00	86.44	87.00
Processor Multi-Media											
Integer x16 iSSSE4.1 (Mpixels/s)		222.77	220.50	219.00	211.40	217.41	218.00	350.85	185.83	207.64	210.76
Floating Point x8 iSSE2 (Mpixels/s)		167.67	165.38	169.42	163.00	167.57	168.00	270.00	141.00	160.13	162.67
Double x4 ISSE2 (Mpixels/s)		91.84	92.23	91.58	89.91	92.35	92.36	149.00	77.64	88.16	89.63
Memory Bandwidth											
Integer Buffered iSSE2 (GB/s)		25.50	30.74	31	30.25	24.22	28.33	38.78	23.30	26.87	27.48
Floating Point Buffered iSSE2 (GB/s)		24.74	30.89	31.18	30.45	24.22	28.42	38.84	23.30	27.17	27.49
Dr. DivX 2.0.1 (min:sec)		2:32	2:45	2:54	2:55	2:59	3:00	3:06	2:36	3:05	3:04
WinRAR 3.71 (min:sec)		1:09	0:57	1:05	1:01	1:06	1:03	1:20	1:08	1:05	1:07
Games											
Far Cry 2 (8XAA)	2,560 x 1,600	47.06fps	27.82fps	83.57fps	34.55fps	37.50fps	82.79fps	10.75fps	61.39fps	77.92fps	64.96fps
Left 4 Dead (8XAA, 16XAF)	2,560 x 1,600	162.55fps	123.65fps	140.25fps	134.81fps	127.03fps	146.44fps	106.97fps	122.92fps	142.46fps`	137.55fps
Price		$6,889.29	$7,965	$13,999.99	$5,999	$7,864.25	$11,395	$10,414.01	$6,499	$9,999	$6,499
CPUs		●●●●	●●●●	●●●◖	●●●◖	●●●◖	●●●●◖	●●●◖	●●●◖	●●●◖	●●●