THE BUILDS

BUDGET

MID-RANGE

INGREDIENTS

PART		PRICE
Case	BitFenix Nova TG	$55
PSU	450W EVGA 450 BR 80+ Bronze	$30
Mobo	ASRock AB350M Pro4 AM4 NEW	$65
CPU	AMD Ryzen 5 2600	$170
GPU	Zotac GeForce GTX 1060 3GB NEW	$212
RAM	8GB (2x 4GB) Patriot Viper 4 @ 3,000MT/s	$58
SSD	120GB ADATA Ultimate SU650 2.5-inch SSD	$25
HDD	1TB Western Digital RE3 3.5-inch HDD	$38
OS	Ubuntu Desktop Linux 18.04 LTS 64-bit	$16

Approximate Price: **$669**

INGREDIENTS

PART		PRICE
Case	Fractal Design Meshify C	$90
PSU	550W Corsair CX500M 80+ Bronze NEW	$60
Mobo	Asus ROG Strix B450-F Gaming	$130
CPU	AMD Ryzen 7 2700	$250
Cooler	Corsair Hydro H100i Pro 240mm RGB AIO	$110
GPU	EVGA GeForce RTX 2060 XC Black 6GB NEW	$350
RAM	16GB (2x 8GB) G.Skill Aegis @ 3,000MT/s	$90
SSD	250GB Samsung 970 Evo M.2 PCIe SSD	$96
HDD	1TB Western Digital RE3 3.5-inch HDD	$38
OS	Windows 10 Home 64-bit OEM	$100

Approximate Price: **$1,314**

LAST ISSUE, WE MANAGED to shave a few dollars off this build and still end up with a decent budget machine. This month, it's a different story. Price increases big and small have meant that we've seen the overall cost jump up $37, while the underlying performance and capabilities haven't really changed in any notable way. Even hitting this price point, we had to say goodbye to a couple of components. The ASRock motherboard we used last month saw a significant price hike, which forced us to switch to the ASRock B350M Pro4 AM4. Meanwhile, the diminishing stock of GeForce GTX 1060s means that we had to swap out from last month's Gigabyte card to the Zotac, because the former saw a $60 price increase. Gulp. There are rumors that GeForce GTX 1660 and 1650s are on the way, which should really help our budget build, because we can't see this trend reversing anytime soon.

OVERALL, WE'VE SEEN a slight saving on this build this month, because most of the parts used were roughly in the same ballpark as they were last month. The one exception to this was the power supply, with the EVGA SuperNOVA jumping almost 50 percent compared to what we paid last time. That's why we swapped it out for the Corsair model, which may only be Bronze rated, as opposed to the Gold of the previous unit, but it still has the same wattage, and is semi-modular as well. Elsewhere, we saw a $10 saving on the CPU, along with a $5 saving on the RAM. The graphics card we used last month jumped up $20 in price, so we replaced it with this tiny EVGA model, which is still available at $350. Despite reports of oversupply of graphics cards for both AMD and Nvidia, pricing on individual models remains volatile, so shop around, and don't be tied to a specific card if you can help it.

TURBO

UPGRADE OF THE MONTH

ASUS TURBO GEFORCE RTX 2080

It's a busy time for graphics cards—new GPUs are coming thick and fast, and the GeForce GTX 1660 Ti is on the way, too. Trying to pick a winner isn't easy, especially when the case for the RTX family in general has yet to be convincingly made. Even so, when it comes to our Turbo build, there's only one card that really makes sense for the money: the GeForce RTX 2080. While there is more performance to be had from factory overclocked models, it's the stock clocked cards that make most sense in terms of value for money. So, this Asus card may not fill your case with cool looks, but it delivers where it counts the most—performance. **$710,** **www.asus.com**

THERE ARE NO significant changes to the Turbo build this month, with only the graphics card differing from last month's parts list. That was due to a price increase for MSI's card, which jumped by $20. That isn't much in the greater scheme of things, but when the same performance is available for less elsewhere, we really don't see the point in sticking with a specific card. In fact, the card we ended up with, the Asus Turbo GeForce RTX 2080, is $10 cheaper again, so overall we're making a saving already. Obviously, at this end of the spectrum, that isn't a lot of money, relatively speaking, but as we're not in the realms of factory overclocked cards anyway, there's no real difference to be had.

There were a couple of small savings to be had with other components: The ASRock motherboard was $10 cheaper, and we saw the same saving on the AMD Threadripper 2950X—as the processor war rolls on, our pockets appear to be the victors for now. These savings were offset slightly by a $10 increase in the price of the memory kit we use, although given the general sensitivity to RAM, this seems like a reasonable price to pay. Overall, this machine is $20 cheaper than last month, for exactly the same performance. Not much of a saving, but welcome all the same. And until we're hit with some new architectures from Intel and/or AMD, this is still the best overall solution for serious work in our minds.

For more of our component recommendations, visit www.maximumpc.com/best-of-the-best

INGREDIENTS

PART		PRICE
Case	NZXT H700i	$180
PSU	Corsair RM750x White 750W Gold Certified	$120
Mobo	ASRock X399 Phantom Gaming 6	$240
CPU	AMD Threadripper 2950X	$870
Cooler	Noctua NH-U14S TR4-SP3 Air Tower	$80
GPU	Asus Turbo GeForce RTX 2080 **NEW**	$710
RAM	32GB (4x 8GB) Corsair Vengeance LED DDR4 @ 3,000MT/s	$248
SSD	512GB Samsung 970 Pro M.2 NVMe	$168
HDD	2x 2TB Seagate BarraCuda ST2000DM006	$120
OS	Windows 10 Home 64-bit OEM	$100
Approximate Price:		**$2,836**