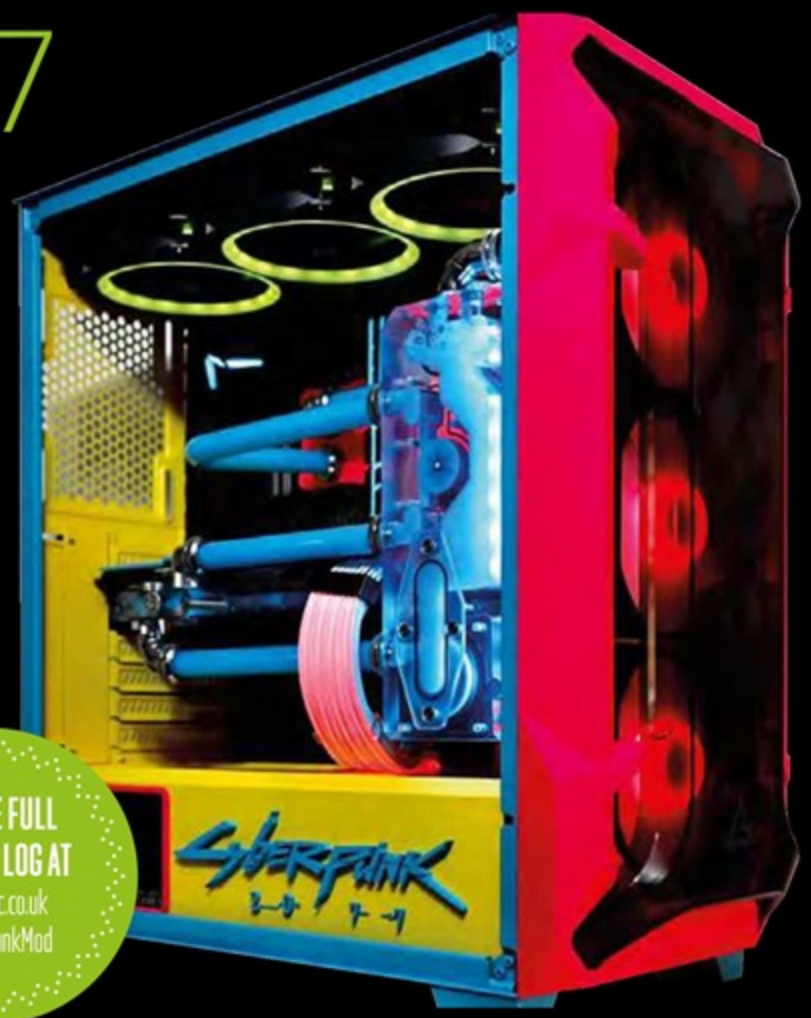
Readers' drives

Cyberpunk 2077 (Neon)

After binge-watching Cyberpunk 2077 trailers, modder Richard Ord decided to transform an Antec DF600 Flux case into this technicolour water-cooled machine, with custom 3D-printed parts and a load of Kobra spray paint



SEE THE FULL PROJECT LOG AT custompc.co.uk/CyberPunkMod

/MEET THY MAKER

Name Richard Ord

Age 36

Occupation Quality assurance officer

Location Newcastle upon Tyne

Main uses for PC Gaming and CAD

Likes Gaming, modding, movies, cars, steaks and spending time with my family

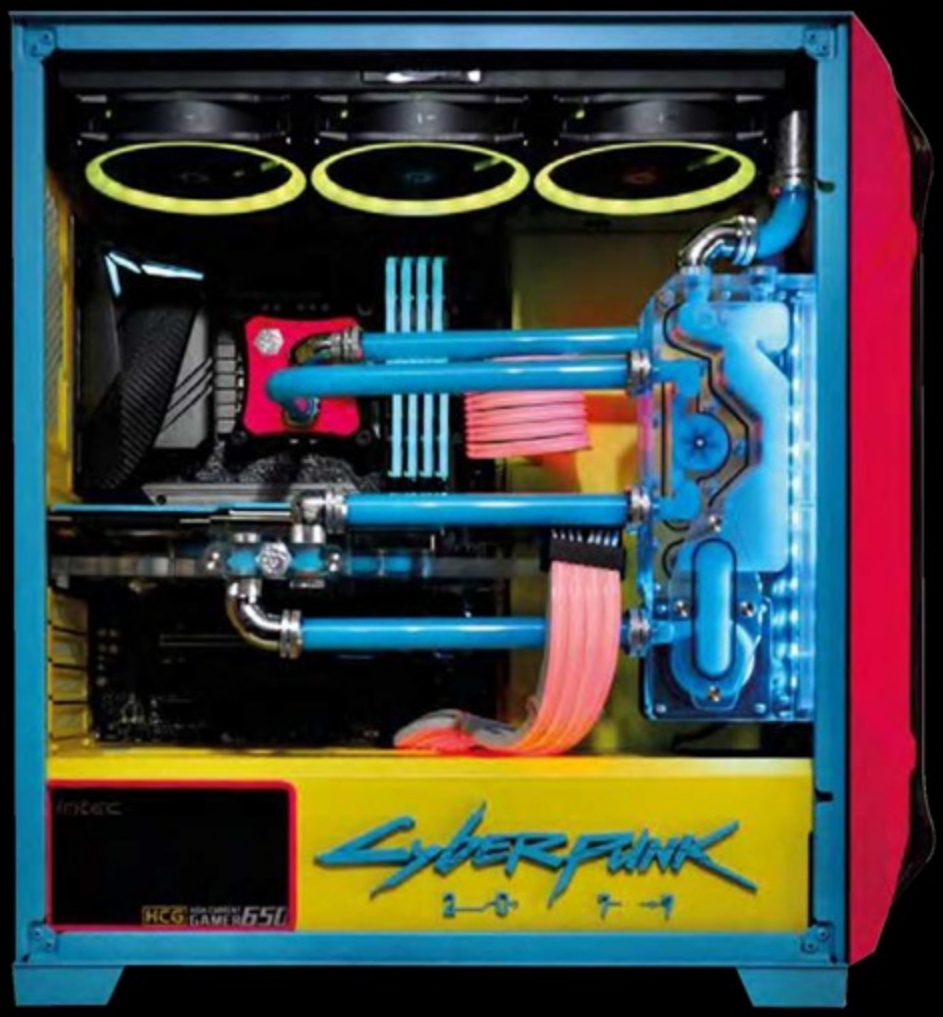
Dislikes Vegetables and traffic wardens

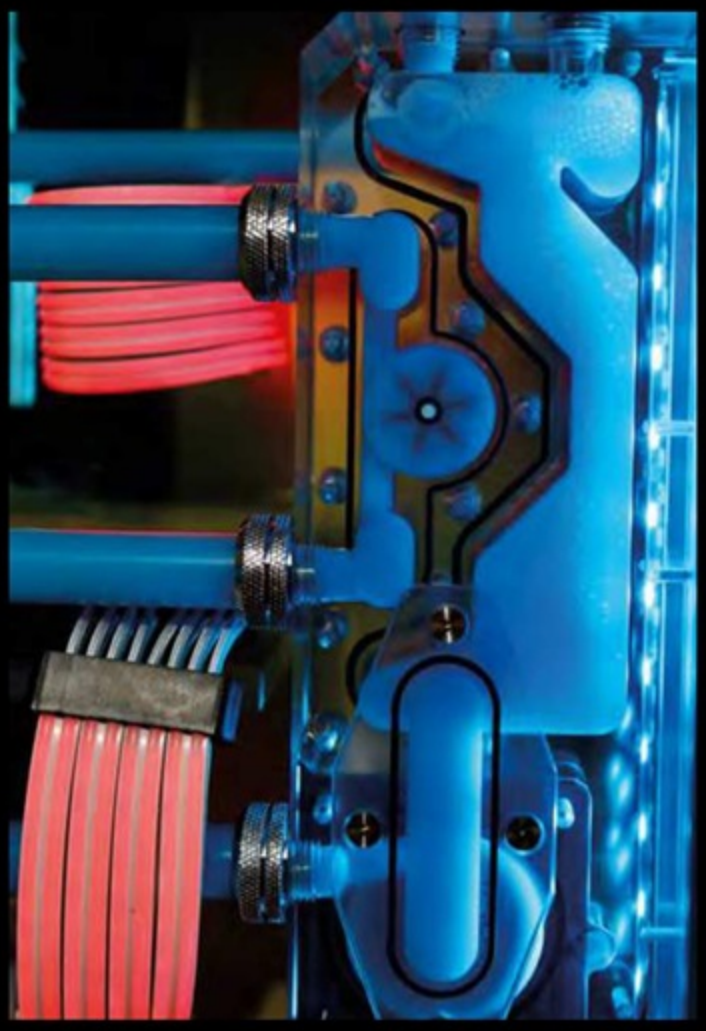
CPC: So how did this project start? What inspired you to build a PC based on Cyberpunk 2077?
Richard: This project all started when Antec UK reached out to me to do a build in the company's new DF600 Flux case. When I received the case, I had just been binge-watching a lot of trailers for Cyberpunk 2077, and thought I could take some of those aspects I'd seen and incorporate them into the build.

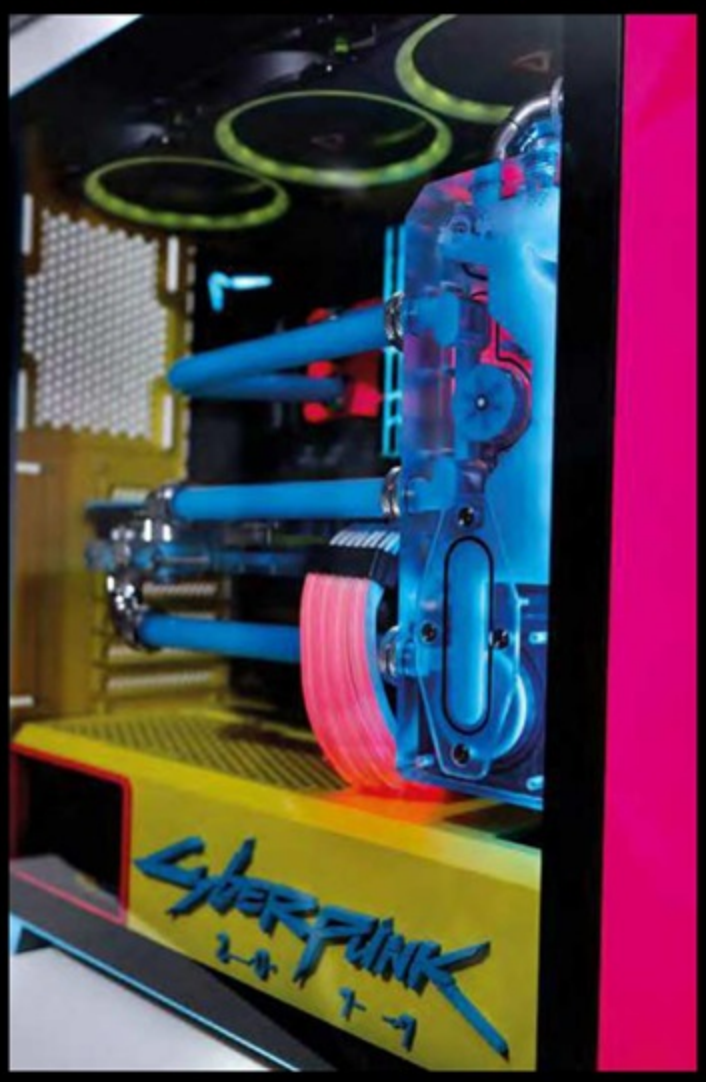
CPC: Take us through the painting process
Richard: I had to strip the full case right down in order to paint it all. I knew from watching the trailers that I wanted to use blue, yellow and pink, although I wasn't 100 per cent sure if it would work in practice. I normally use spray cans whenever I do any painting, but this time I wanted to try Kobra paint, as it doesn't require a lot of prep work – you just need to make sure the panel is clean.

CPC: How did you go about making the 3D Cyberpunk 2077 logo on the PSU shroud?
Richard: I'm always looking at technology to find new ways to mod, and I invested in a Prusa i3 MK3S 3D printer at the start of the year – I've used it for a few builds now and it's a great tool. For the logo, I had a look on **thingiverse.com** and found a logo that I liked – I then went into Fusion 360 and edited the file to fit the area I wanted, and then sliced the file to run on my 3D printer.

CPC: There's a logo on the graphics card backplate too. How did you make that one?
Richard: When I did the backplate for the graphics card, I went back into Fusion 360, and edited the file I used for the 3D printer to a DXF file, so I could cut out the design in vinyl on my plotter. Once I'd cut out the logo, I placed it on the backside of the graphics card backplate and stuck it down, making sure there were no air bubbles. Once all the bubbles had been squeezed out – I applied the first layer of yellow spray paint, which I then repeated a few times to get an even coat. Once it was dry, I just peeled off the vinyl and repeated the process with the blue paint.







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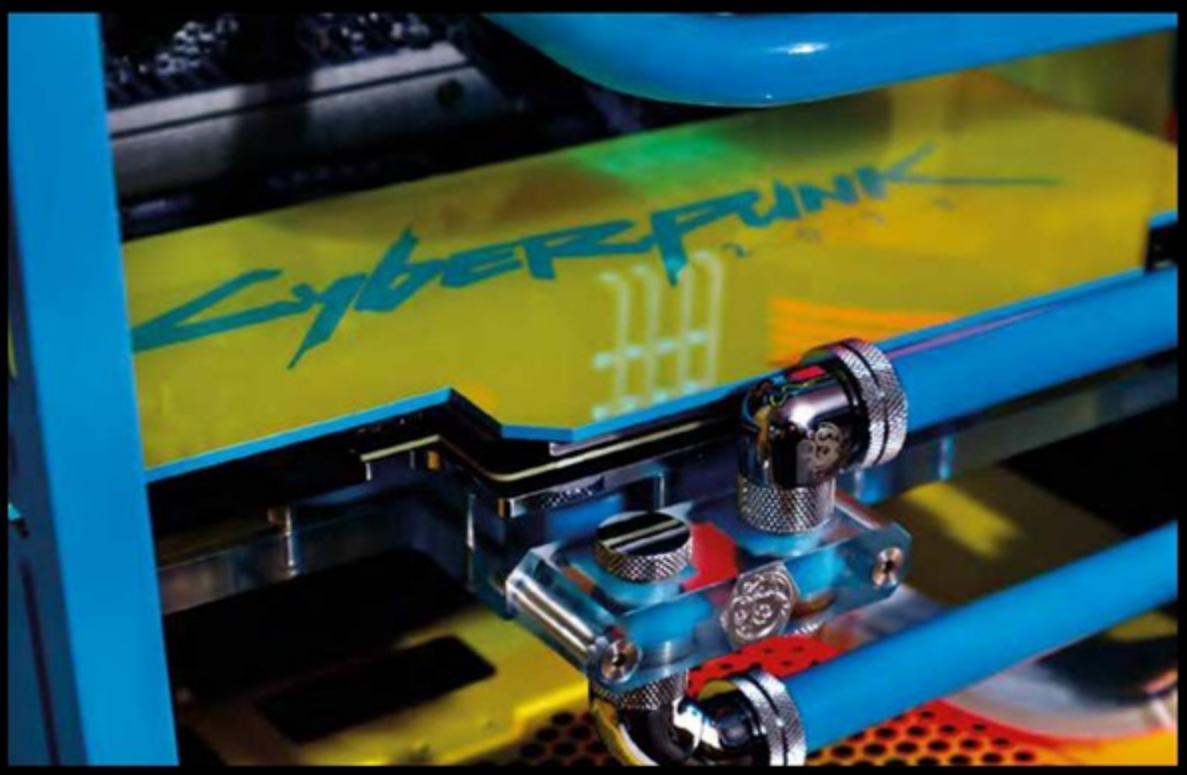
CPC: Who made the distribution plate at the front?
Richard: The distribution plate in this build was made by Bitspower, but I also make custom ones.

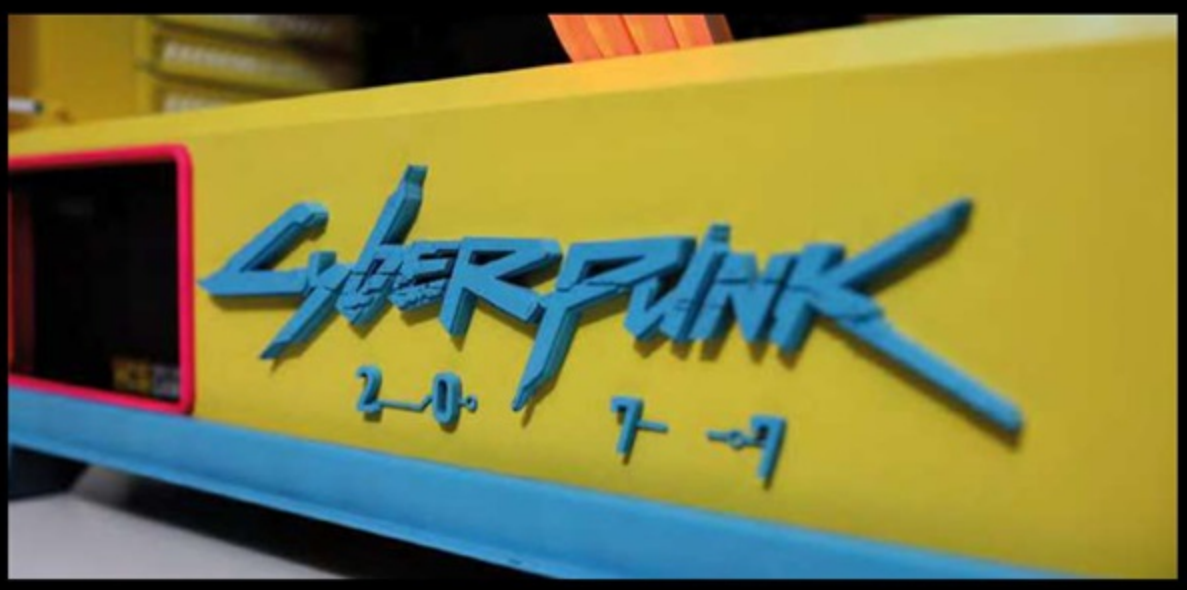
CPC: What type of hard tubing did you use?
Richard: I used EK's 16mm PETG tubing, and there aren't any wild bends in it – I kept it simple with 90-degree bends.

CPC: Is that a Lian Li Strimer set on the power cables?
Richard: Yes it is – I thought it would look good in this colourful build.

CPC: There's barely a cable in sight. How did you plan the cable routing, and is it as tidy at the back?
Richard: It was very easy in this case – there's lots of space at the back and it even had a built-in fan and RGB hub.

CPC: Is the cooling system geared more towards cooling power or quiet operation?
Richard: I've slowed down the fans, so it's a very quiet system – I haven't tried to overclock the CPU yet. To be honest, with this build, I was also surprised by how much airflow the case produced.





SYSTEM SPECS

CPU Intel Core i9-10900KF

Case Antec DF600 Flux

GPU MSI RTX 2080 Gaming X Trio

Storage 1TB Seagate Firecuda M.2 SSD

Memory 32GB G.Skill Trident Z Neo

Motherboard MSI MPG Z490 Gaming Carbon WiFi

PSU Antec HCG 650W

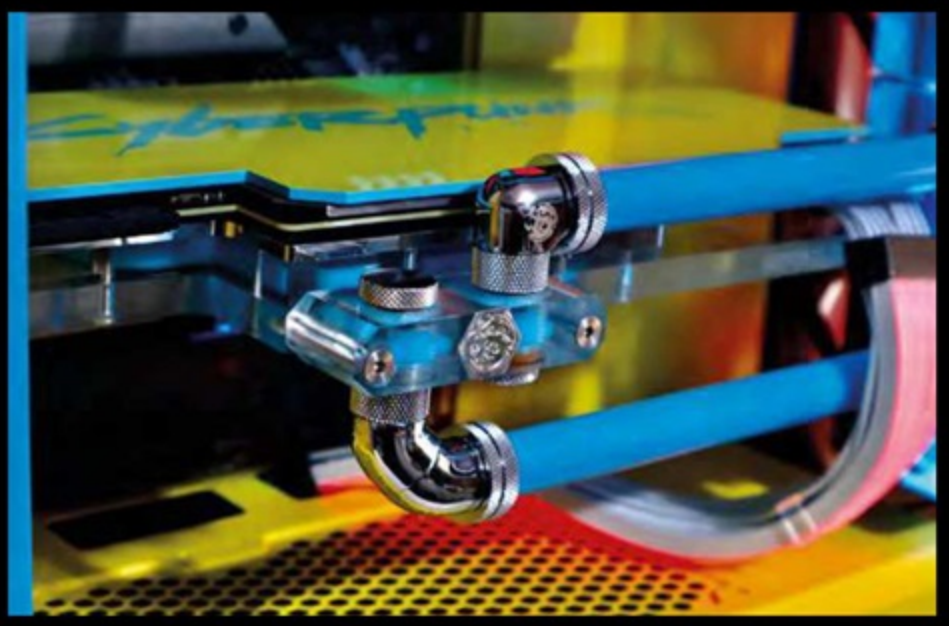
Cooling Custom water-cooling loop with parts made by Bitspower

CPC: How did you plan the lighting coordination, and where are all the lights?
Richard: For this build, all the light comes from the case fans, motherboard, graphics card waterblock and distribution plate.

CPC: What spec is the PC, and how well do you think it will run Cyberpunk 2077 when it comes out next month?
Richard: I believe I won't have any issues with playing Cyberpunk 2077. The specs include an MSI GeForce RTX 2080 Gaming X Trio graphics card, as well as an Intel Core i9-10900KF CPU and 32GB of G.Skill Trident Z Neo memory.

CPC: Did you have to perform any custom modifications to the case, other than the paint job?
Richard: To be honest, no – I wanted to keep the case as close to its stock configuration as possible.

CPC: Did you come across any difficulties with this build?
Richard: Once I'd fitted all the hardware in the case, I hit a few issues with the length of the MSI GeForce RTX 2080 Gaming X Trio graphics card. I knew I didn't have a lot of space on the right of the case, and that's when I realised I needed to use a distribution plate in that location. It would give me the look I wanted to achieve, with the tubing running from right to left, and it would fit. Fitting the distribution plate wasn't easy either – I had to make a few custom brackets and spacers – this is where having a 3D printer comes in very handy.



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CPC: How long did it take you to complete this build, from start to finish?
Richard: I wanted to have a quick turnaround with this build, so it took around two weeks, with me doing a few bits each night around my family and my day job.

CPC: Have you got any tips for people who are interested in building a system with a custom paint job?
Richard: The best tip I can give you for doing custom paintwork is to make sure you prepare the area well for the type of paint you're using.

CPC: Are you completely happy with the end result, or do you wish you'd done some of it differently in retrospect?
Richard: That's a good question. When I first completed this build I was very happy with what I'd produced, and I also received a lot of very good feedback. However, anyone who knows me well will know that I always like to tinker with my builds, so I would be surprised if I don't end up changing something about it later.

Finally, I'd also like to just say a big thank you to all of the sponsors for this build – Intel, Antec, MSI, Bitspower and Seagate. CPC

WIN CORSAIR HYDRO X WATER-COOLING GEAR

CORSAIR

To enter your rig for possible inclusion in Readers' Drives, your build needs to be fully working and, ideally, based in the UK. Simply send us a couple of photos on Twitter (@**CustomPCMag**) or Facebook (**CPCMagazine**), or email low-res ones to **ben.hardwidge@raspberrypi.com**. Fame isn't the only prize; you'll also get your hands on some fabulous prizes, courtesy of Corsair.

Corsair Hydro X Series XD3 RGB Pump/Reservoir C

WORTH £151

The Corsair Hydro X Series XD3 RGB Pump/Reservoir Combo features a high-performance DDC PWM pump, integrated RGB lighting and in-loop temperature sensor to drive even the most compact custom cooling systems. It has a high-performance Xylem DDC PWM pump controlled via PWM to deliver the perfect flow balance for your loop. There are also 16 individually addressable RGB LEDs, which light up the pump head to produce stunning, customisable lighting effects to match your build.

Corsair Hydro X Series XC7 RGB CPU Water Block

WORTH £70

The Corsair Hydro X Series XC7 RGB CPU Water Block combines premium construction, vivid RGB lighting and extreme cooling performance to become the centrepiece of your water-cooling loop. It has a nickel-plated copper cold plate and more than 60 high-efficiency micro-cooling fins, which efficiently draw heat away from your CPU, lowering operating temperatures and allowing for maximum overclocks. You can choose the AM4/LGA1151 or LGA2066 version.

Corsair Hydro X Series XR5 240mm Radiator

WORTH £55

The Corsair Hydro X Series XR5 240mm Water Cooling Radiator delivers extreme custom cooling performance, with a 30mm radiator thickness and premium copper core. Its dual 120mm fan mounts on each side are ready for your most ambitious custom cooling build, and its 25 micron-thick cooling fins offer a high thermal transfer rate.