

TAKE IT FROM A GEEK.™

THE BUILDS



BUDGET



MID-RANGE

INGREDIENTS

PART		PRICE
Case	BitFenix Nova TG	\$55
PSU	450W EVGA 450 BT 80+ Bronze	\$30
Mobo	ASRock AB320M-DGS	\$50
CPU	AMD Ryzen 5 2600 NEW	\$165
GPU	Gigabyte GeForce GTX 1060 3GB NEW	\$200
RAM	8GB (2x 4GB) Patriot Viper 4 @ 3,000MT/s NEW	\$60
SSD	120GB SanDisk SSD Plus	\$24
HDD	1TB Hitachi GST Ultrastar A7K1000	\$35
OS	Ubuntu Desktop Linux 18.04 LTS 64-bit	\$16

Approximate Price: \$635

WE'VE TAKEN A SIGNIFICANT HIT on the budget build this issue, but not without gain. We've managed to switch out that aged GTX 1050 Ti for our favorite GPU of the last two years, the GTX 1060 3GB. It's a budget 1080p killing machine. Yeah, perhaps the 3GB of VRAM isn't as future-proof as we'd like, especially in the bigger AAA memory-hogging titles, but it's difficult to argue with how much better value this thing is over its 1050 Ti sibling. For \$20 more, you get 50 percent more CUDA cores than the Ti, plus significantly higher boost clocks and memory clocks. We've also plumped out some more cash to upgrade the Ryzen 3 1200 to the Ryzen 5 2600, a six-core 3.9GHz processor. This effectively gives us an additional eight threads to play with, and an impressive 0.5GHz increase to the boost clock, along with all the memory latency enhancements Zen+ offers up.

INGREDIENTS

PART		PRICE
Case	Fractal Design Meshify C	\$90
PSU	550W EVGA SuperNOVA 550 G2 80+ Gold NEW	\$70
Mobo	Asus ROG Strix B450-F Gaming	\$125
CPU	AMD Ryzen 7 2700	\$270
Cooler	Corsair Hydro H100i Pro 240mm RGB AIO	\$110
GPU	Asus GeForce GTX 1070 Dual NEW	\$335
RAM	16GB (2x 8GB) G.Skill Aegis @ 3,000MT/s	\$103
SSD	250GB Samsung 970 Evo M.2 PCIe SSD	\$78
HDD	1TB Hitachi GST Ultrastar A7K1000	\$35
OS	Windows 10 Home 64-bit OEM	\$100

Approximate Price: \$1,316

NOT MUCH CHANGE to our mid-range build. We've been able to keep the price to \$1,300 bucks or so, but the great savings we managed to secure last issue on our GTX 1070 Ti are no longer available, and it has bounced back up to \$450 as a minimum. That's a shame, as those GPUs essentially act as a slightly nerfed GTX 1080, but for about \$100 less usually. We'll keep an eye on that, as we expect it might be foreshadowing a GPU release. Yup, we're talking the RTX 2060, or whatever it'll be called. If it's not as powerful as a GTX 1070 Ti, we'll be highly surprised. Hopefully, it will be priced accordingly, and we can slot it straight into our mid-range GPU slot. In a few months (with the advent of multiple QLC drives), it might be time to swap out that hard drive, too, for something a bit more flashy. Rumor has it Samsung is about to drop some seriously cheap 1TB \$150 drives, so we're holding out on that, too.



UPGRADE OF THE MONTH



1TB SAMSUNG 860 EVO

Nothing says enjoyment quite like instantaneous load times, especially in game. Samsung's 860 Evo is exceptionally good value for money now. You can currently get the 1TB variant for a little under \$148, which is just awesome. A year or two back, this thing would have set you back near enough \$350. The margin between hard drives and flash seems to be shrinking, something we thought would never happen, but given the way things are developing, old-school hard drives may very well be on the way out.

There are a few other options out there for solid-state storage at this capacity and this price point, but with a five-year warranty and some impressive performance, there's very little reason not to go with Samsung right now.

\$148, www.samsung.com

WOW, WE'VE SAVED \$200, and are under \$3K. This turns into a bit of a contest for us each issue, trying to spec the right parts, with the right performance, at the right price. We've made some substantial changes this time. The motherboard's been switched to ASRock's X399 Phantom Gaming 6, thanks to an impressive \$50 saving compared to last issue. We've also decided to err on the side of caution for cooling, and have gone for a full-sized Noctua air tower. The NH-U14S is specifically designed for Threadripper, packing a full-sized CPU block, and enough grunt to tackle even the most heady of overlocks on our 2950X, no sweat. She's a beast, and if you can get past the beige and brown, there's something quite attractive about it, especially if you can get the fans spinning at a low RPM.

Other than that, we've just played around with the models more than anything else. We've gone with EVGA's RTX 2080 Black Edition, to save us \$50, and have been lucky enough to receive some heavy discounts across many of the remaining products.

What we will say about this build is that it's really flexible, depending on how many cores you need. The 2950X is a fine processor, and with 16 cores, it'll manage whatever you throw it at. If you game more, though, we recommend the 2920X instead; and if you need something more "enterprise," throw the memory out for some ECC stuff, and chuck in a 24-core or 36-core WX part instead.

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	\$100
Mobo	ASRock X399 Phantom Gaming 6 NEW	\$250
CPU	AMD Threadripper 2950X	\$900
Cooler	Noctua NH-U14S TR4-SP3 Air Tower NEW	\$80
GPU	EVGA GeForce RTX 2080 Black Edition NEW	\$700
RAM	32GB (4x 8GB) Corsair Vengeance LED DDR4 @ 3,000MT/s	\$270
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: \$2,868

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