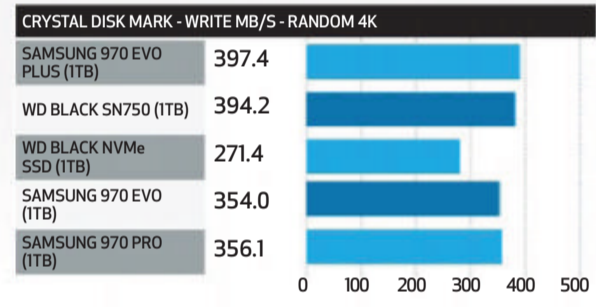
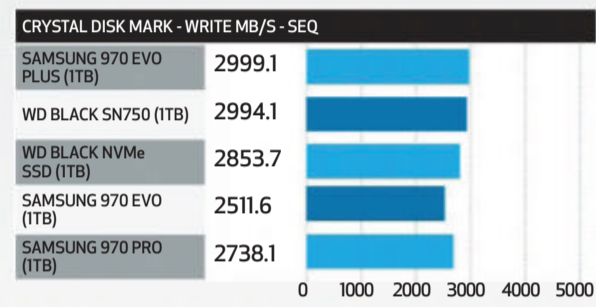
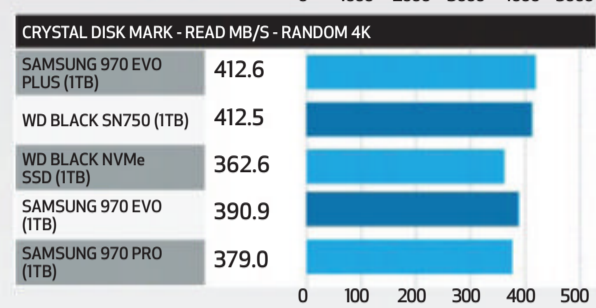
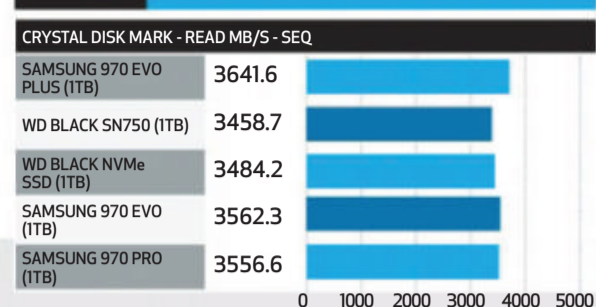




LABS BENCHMARK RESULTS



SSD

\$769 (2TB), \$385 (1TB), \$199 (500GB), \$139 (250GB) | WWW.SAMSUNG.COM/AU/

Samsung 970 Evo Plus

Samsung retakes the lead in the great SSD race.

We never expected to see a new NVMe solid-state drive (SSD) from Samsung this soon – especially with the 970 Evo and 970 Pro launching just last April – but here we are looking at the new Samsung 970 Evo Plus. While it might seem like a minor upgrade unworthy of a fully numbered sequel, the Samsung 970 Evo Plus is a worthy successor, with the fastest speeds and some of the lowest prices seen on its NVMe SSD products.

The entire NVMe SSD world is engaged in something of a race to the bottom to offer the cheapest and fastest storage, and it seems Samsung has had to bend to market dynamics. Samsung has brought its prices down across the board. Undoubtedly, these new price cuts are a result of WD entering the market with the affordable WD

Black SN750. Although it might seem like the 970 Evo Plus wasn't revolutionary enough to earn the name 980 Evo, it's the first drive from Samsung to introduce its new 96-layer V-NAND. The new form of memory is basically designed to stack higher, and reach higher speeds.

Specifically, the 970 Evo Plus is designed to write at 3300MB/s sequential writing speed – far outpacing the 970 Evo, which maxed out at 2,500MB/s, and even the 970 Pro's top 3,300MB/s – on sequential writes. Sequential writes remain at 3,500MB/s, but this is basically the gold standard among the fastest SSDs on the market. This new 96-layer V-NAND is especially significant as it makes Samsung one of the only companies to speed up its SSDs with new silicon, rather than just updated software. On paper, the 970

Evo Plus exceeds the specs of the WD Black SN750, which runs at up to sequential read and write speeds up to 3,470MB/s and 3,000 MB/s, respectively.

If you were hoping for some competition when it comes to the warranty, unfortunately (or fortunately) WD and Samsung offer the same five years of coverage and nearly identical total terabytes written endurance as seen above. The only difference is the 250GB 970 Evo Plus is rated for 150TBW, whereas the 250GB WD Black SN750 is rated for 200TBW.

The Samsung 970 Evo Plus' 96-layer V-NAND isn't just for show, this drive propels past both its predecessor and Samsung's previous star performer, the 970 Pro.

Considering that the Samsung 970 Evo Plus is meant to be a value-oriented, consumer SSD, we're really pleased by how

well it performed – even outperforming the enterprise-leaning 970 Pro.

The only mildly disappointing thing about the drive is that it couldn't maintain its rated 3,300MB/s sequential write speed under load.

As NVMe SSDs just keep getting faster and cheaper, it was time for Samsung to respond in kind – and it has done so, with its best drive yet. The Samsung 970 Evo Plus has reclaimed the throne as the best SSD, coming in at reasonable prices and delivering the best overall performance. ■

Kevin Lee

Verdict

Under assault from cheaper, faster NVMe solid-state drives, the Samsung 970 Evo Plus proves why it's the king.

