



£919 / GAMING PC

## 3XS P55 OC

Sub £1,000 with Windows 7 pre-installed, so where's it going wrong?

### VITAL STATISTICS

**Price** £919 **Manufacturer** Scan Computers **Web** [www.scan.co.uk](http://www.scan.co.uk) **CPU** Core i5 750 @3.8GHz **Motherboard** MSI P55-CD53 **Memory** 4GB Corsair 1,600MHz DDR3 **Storage** 1TB Samsung **Graphics** 896MB Asus GTX 275 **Power** 550W Corsair VX Series **Optical drive** SATA DVD writer **OS** Windows 7 Home Premium 64-bit **Price check** [www.techradar.com/reviews](http://www.techradar.com/reviews)

Right now it's all about CyberPower in the bid for PCFormat's top P55-based rig. Its Achilles machine from a couple of issues ago took the coveted PCF Gold Award thanks to a combination of excellent bundle (coming with a 22-inch panel included in the price tag) and quality overclock to 3.6GHz. Scan, though, is determined to make its presence felt in the rig-building world (£10K rigs aside) with this sub-£1,000 Windows 7 Core i5 machine.

With the 3XS P55, Scan has undercut the CyberPower rig, but for that saving you miss out on a panel. This isn't a huge issue, as the chances are if you're forking out the best part of a grand on a new rig you might well have a decent screen already plugged into the last machine you bought/built. Where it does win out over the Achilles in the specs department, though, is the amount of storage available, with the Samsung 1TB drive and the slightly faster GTX 275 taking care of graphical duties.

### Debit card

This, though, represents one little niggle. Despite the fact the GTX 275 is a fantastic card, this is the first rig through our testing labs with Windows 7 and, as such, the lack of a DX11 card is notable. For only an extra £50, you could have had a 5850 ticking that DX11 box. This says more about the current lack of physical cards than anything about its price/performance, though. The GTX 275 is very close to the 5850 in terms of rendering speed,

so it depends on whether you'd rather keep that £50 to yourself or slot in a card that will render tessellated flags.

Scan has, though, worked to achieve a mammoth +1GHz overclock on this system, thanks mainly to the excellent and incredibly quiet Scythe Gentle Typhoon cooler purring away on top of the CPU. Hitting 3.8GHz as a factory overclock (and hence as part of the warranty) means that in terms of CPU performance alone, it absolutely flies. Across the board, it comes out tops in our benchmarking suite, the Achilles only keeping pace in the *ArmA II* test thanks to its own factory overclock.

### Not pretty

It's definitely no looker though, with an uninspiring CoolerMaster Glite chassis housing your high-end componentry. But that's just me trying to find fault with the build and, as you can tell, I'm really stretching. The components are well chosen, the overclock's stable and thoroughly tested and the insides are as tidy as the

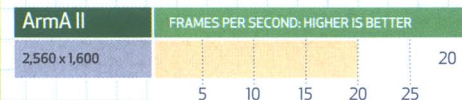
cell of a nun with OCD. The whole thing runs incredibly quietly too, despite that huge overclock, another testament to that impressive Scythe cooler.

The 3XS P55 is under a grand, comes fully equipped with the latest OS and all it's really missing is the check-box feature of a DX11 graphics card. With the AMD cards representing the definition of few and far between at the moment, and DX11 gaming still something of an ephemeral beast, that's not something you're really missing out on for now at least. Kudos to Scan then; turns out it can do reasonably priced rigs too. **Dave James**

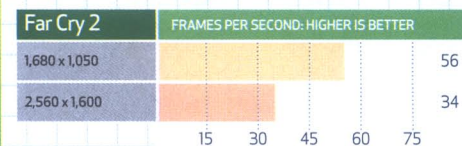
### Technical analysis

It may only be by a few extra frames per second, but the 3XS P55 has got the competition beat by virtue of its slightly more extreme overclock, mainly thanks to some voltage tweaking and a quality CPU cooler.

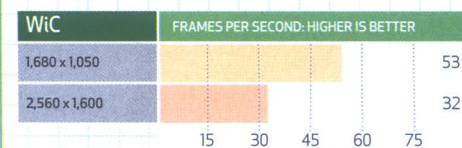
#### CPU gaming performance



#### High-end gaming performance



#### DX10 gaming performance



### PCFormat Verdict

- ✓ Good value
- ✓ Top performance
- ✓ Impressive OC
- ✗ No DX11

An excellent rig that bests the CyberPower Achilles on everything but the bundle.

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