

# Scan 3XS i3 OC

Overclocked to 4GHz, but weighing in at just over £700

Price £706.05 inc VAT • Supplier [www.scan.co.uk](http://www.scan.co.uk) • Manufacturer [www.scan.co.uk](http://www.scan.co.uk) • SKU number 3XS i3 OC

Scan's latest pre-built 3XS PC is a pre-overclocked budget-conscious gaming rig that weighs in at a reasonable £706, which includes a copy of Windows 7 Home Premium.

If you're looking to grab a pre-built system, one of the key reasons for choosing a manufacturer such as Scan rather than a mega system-builder such as Dell is that you know in detail exactly what hardware you're getting. To some people, this can make all the difference. For example, in this system, the supplied memory is 4GB of Corsair's XMS3 1,600MHz with 9-9-9-24 timings, and the motherboard is a Gigabyte GA-H55M-UD2H [see Issue 79, p44]. As it's a retail product geared towards enthusiasts, the



**+ BLISS**

Great value for money; above average warranty

**- MISS**

A little noisy

Gigabyte has an array of BIOS options for overclocking, and Scan has taken full advantage of this.

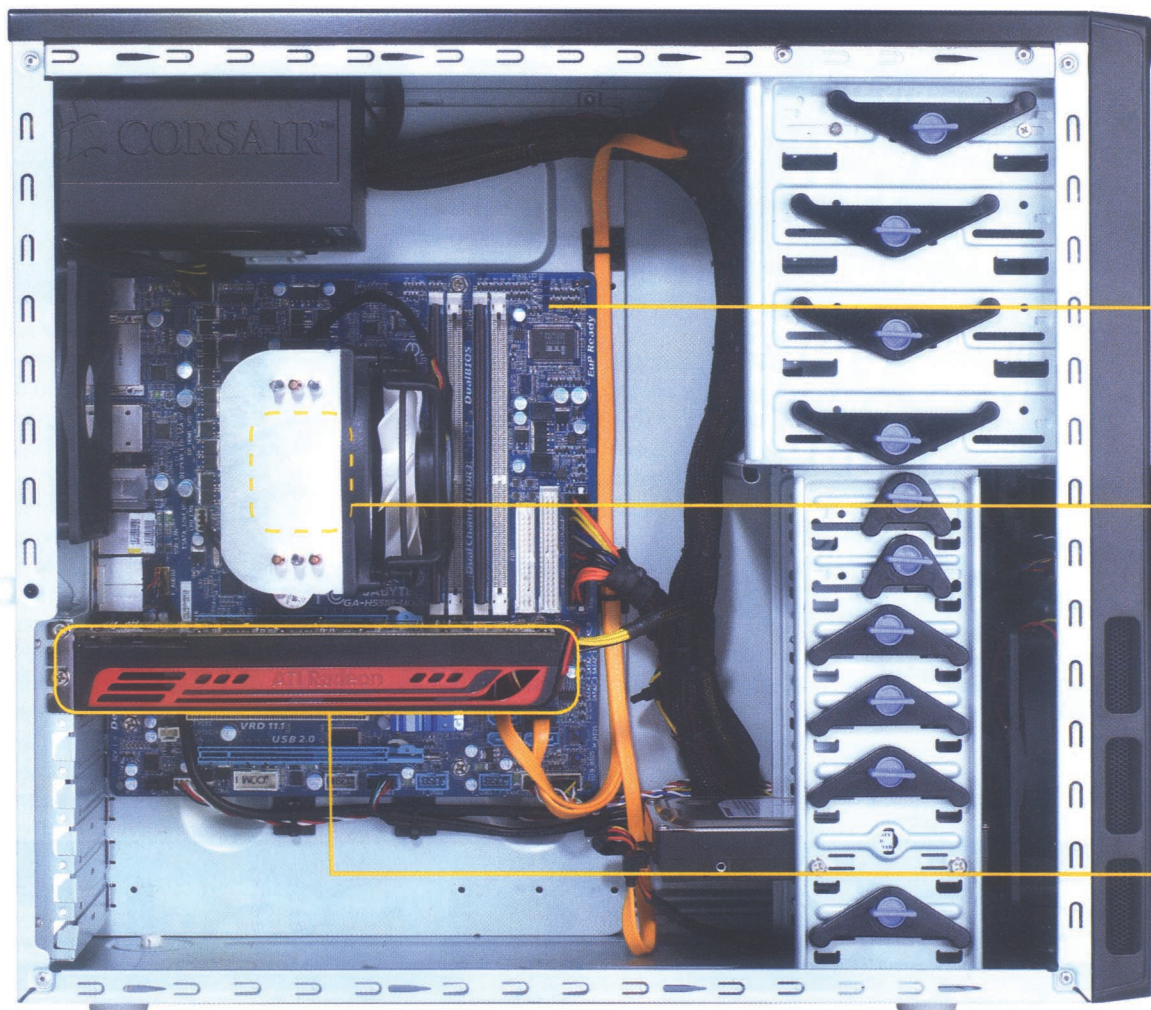
The 2.93GHz dual-core Core i3-530 has been cranked up to an impressive 4GHz and is guaranteed to remain rock-solid stable.

For the less tech-savvy readers out there, or those who simply don't have the time to build a rig themselves, the 3XS i3 OC has the potential to be the ideal choice of PC. The same applies to those who just want a solid, well-priced gaming rig and have no real interest in any of the above tomfoolery. A system such as this has the potential to run rings around a stock-speed PC; flexibility and bang for buck is the name of the game.

Opening up the box, you'll find a well-packaged Cooler Master Elite 335 case. It's a reserved but decent-looking case with a black mesh fascia. At the front are two USB 2 ports and 3.5mm jacks for stereo audio out and a microphone input. To the right of these are the power and reset buttons, and above is a black Sony 24x SATA DVD writer.

Removing the side panel reveals impressive attention to detail. The Elite 335 chassis isn't the biggest case in the world, but thanks to the use of the Gigabyte micro-ATX motherboard, it looks positively sparse inside. Scan has further helped this with excellent cable management, allowing optimal airflow for the 120mm fans at the front and rear of the case. CPU

## UP CLOSE



The use of the excellent micro-ATX Gigabyte GA-H55M-UD2H motherboard means that the interior is as neat as possible. Scan has further added to the feeling of sparseness by executing an exemplary cable-routing job.

The Intel Core i3-530 is overclocked to 4GHz as standard, and we managed to squeeze another 260MHz more from it with only a little extra tweaking in the BIOS. For a £700 PC, the i3 OC delivers plenty of performance.

Scan has even overclocked the graphics card, with a hefty boost to both the GPU and memory frequencies. The Radeon HD 5770 GPU at the heart of this XFX card is already pretty fast for a £120 card, and the extra increase in frame rate makes it even more so.

