mid

CYBERPOWER GAMER INFINITY 8800 PRO

IF THIS IS A MID-RANGE SYSTEM, WHO NEEDS THE TOP SHELF?

PC GAMER EDITORS' CHOICE

SYSTEM SPECS

- ➤ **POWER SUPPLY** | Thermaltake Toughpower 600W
- ➤ **MOTHERBOARD** | eVGA nForce 680i
- ➤ **CPU** | Intel Core 2 Duo E6850 3.0GHz Processor
- ➤ **MEMORY** | 1GB Mushkin DDR2-800 RAM
- ➤ **STORAGE** | eVGA GeForce 8800 GTS 320MB
- ➤ **OPTICAL DRIVES** | Western Digital Caviar SE16 500GB 7,200RPM (SATA)
- ➤ **SOUNDCARD** | Logitech X540 5.1
- ➤ **KEYBOARD** | Logitech Value 100
- ➤ **MOUSE** | Logitech Optical Wheel
- ➤ **OS** | Microsoft Vista Home Premium

Gamer Infinity 8800 Pro CyberPower
www.cyberpowerpc.com

$1,599.00

As someone who's been playing PC games since it was OK for pregnant ladies to smoke (in elevators), I can honestly say that there's never been a better time to be a PC gamer. I mean, the scene is *insane*. Just three months ago, I reviewed an entry-level DirectX 10–capable system for under a grand; today, CyberPower's hitting triple-digit benchmarks with settings *maxed* in a system with a top-of-the-line case, for less than $1,600.

The highlight of this machine—by far—is the Cooler Master Cosmos 1000 case, which, despite the '70s sci-fi name, is the finest piece of aluminum that's ever left the CM shop. It's a mostly tool-less case designed for gamers who like to rummage around inside, swapping components in and out without hassle. Optical drives pop out with the push of a button, and it's a snap to add hard drives by sliding them into one of the six side-mounted hard drive trays (similar to the stellar HP Blackbird 002 case I reviewed here last month). No other mid-tower case offers as much elbow room to work in, and CyberPower keeps things tidy with a first-class cabling job that's unobtrusive and secure, but not ridicu-

lously tight (which can put motherboards and components in jeopardy during shipping). The Cosmos 1000—aside from resembling one of the Cybermen from *Dr. Who*—is also one of the most overclocker-friendly cases you can find, with an elevated base and intake fan and built-in acoustic foam, as well as plenty of room at the ceiling for a water-cooling jobbie, should you decide to take your Gamer Infinity 8800 Pro beyond its stock clock.

But there's hardly any rush to overclock, as the Gamer Infinity packs a swift and brawny Core 2 Duo E6850 running at 3GHz on eVGA's 680i motherboard. Unfortunately, CyberPower only backs it up with a pitiful 1GB of Mushkin RAM—totally inadequate for a Vista Home Premium system—so I strongly recommend throwing in an additional gigabyte with your order and making your own lunch instead of eating out for a couple weeks. An eVGA GeForce 8800 GTS with 320MB does a very respectable job of pushing the pixels to the bundled 22-inch Sylvania widescreen LCD.

While the Gamer Infinity 8800 Pro costs over 50 percent more than an entry-level machine, the benchmark returns are nearly ten-

fold, with triple-digit frame rates at maxed-out settings. That makes buying a lower-priced system seem wasteful, especially when this "mid-level" system has so many of the trappings and detail of a much, much more expensive rig.

High-end "boutique" vendors—you know who you are—have a serious problem on their hands. Better drivers, plummeting prices on DirectX 10–compatible hardware, and slicker craftsmanship for relatively little cash are going to make it hard to recommend systems that cost two to three times as much for framerate differences that only people with cybernetic eye implants can detect. Rich people will still buy them, of course, while the rest of us will enjoy the privileges and luxury of high-performance gaming systems like the Gaming Infinity 8800 Pro as we sharpen our pitchforks and quietly wait for the revolution. ✖

BENCHMARKS	3DMARK06[1]	DOOM 3[2]	F.E.A.R.[3]	HALF-LIFE 2: EPISODE ONE[4]
GAMER INFINITY 8800 PRO	3DMARKS: 9,718 CPU: 2,652	1600x1200 **148** fps	1600x1200 **127** fps	1600x1200 **121** fps
IBUYPOWER GAMER MAGE 550-SLI (reviewed June 2007)	3DMARKS: 3,489 CPU: 1,900	1600x1200 **15.8** fps	1600x1200 **14** fps	1600x1200 **23** fps

PC GAMER **FINAL VERDICT** **91**%

🚩 PCG RATING

0%   BETTER ▶▶▶   100%

HIGHS | Amazing benchmarks for a mid-range system; kick-ass case; almost silent.

LOWS | 1GB of RAM doesn't cut it; case got hit with the ugly stick.

BOTTOM LINE | A powerful mid-range machine that's perfect for overclockers.

EDITORS' CHOICE