The Ultimate Gaming

PC/Computer Buyers Guide in

2022

Is Now a Good Time to Buy?
Gaming PCs are now worth anywhere from £500 to £6,000+. You don't drop all that money just to play next-gen games with 4K resolution or to get the competitive edge with mouse-and-keyboard in shooter accuracy. Gaming PCs are a social play environment. They offer access to an ecosystem of multiplayer games, in which you, friends, and strangers occupy the same digital space. Gaming PCs are channels for passive socializing, a way to stay in touch with friends or make new ones.

How Are Prices & Budget?
Covid-19 has thrown much of the manufacturing world into flux. A lot of PC component manufacturers are based in China, which was hit hard by Covid-19. PC shipments have fallen 8 percent this year.

On the other hand, both AMD and Intel described PC and PC component prices as stable in interviews with WIRED. "We haven't seen much volatility outside of the typical pricing competitiveness that we're used to in our industry," says Frank Azor, AMD's chief architect of gaming solutions.

Don't let your budget spoil things great machines can be made from £300 or like a lot of our clients built in stages so you can start with a good Motherboard, Ram, and Processor and then save or wait until your Birthday and Christmas to add that good Graphics card you always wanted this way you are building what you want rather than rushing in buying items that are not what you wanted just to get a full setup from the start!

What Can I Do With a Gaming PC?
Let's talk about gaming first. If you want to spend your spare time looming over a rainbow-lit mechanical keyboard in a dark room playing Fortnite and eating frozen pizza, we are completely behind that.

The online multiplayer gaming lifestyle is more inclusive than it ever was. Game companies have realized, finally, that by making their games easy for newcomers to understand, they can sell more games and in-game items. Barriers to entry are getting lower, with a lot of games going free-to-play and offering free trials, so if you want to dip your toe into the competitive multiplayer games your friends can't stop raving about.

Because the image of a gaming PC is so focused around games, it's easy to forget that gaming PCs are bigger than their marketing pitch. They're full entertainment systems, Compared to a Games Console PC aren't just used for Gaming. Students can do coursework, surf the net & binge on that favourite Netflix series.

Gaming PCs double as excellent and reliable home offices too. If you can ignore the temptation to catch an occasional game, a powerful gaming PC might help boost your productivity too. Plus, with peripherals, your setup may be even nicer.

Should I Buy a Gaming PC or Build One?
Great question! Whenever someone talks to us about buying a gaming PC, the first response they get is "Why don't you build one instead? It's probably a tad more expensive but you can get a much better spec and better hardware.

The benefit of building a gaming PC, however, is the same benefit as buying any off the shelf, but you do get what you pay for, and for us building a PC not only give you the exact specification you need, but the parts are generally newer and there can be much less bloat were compared to an off the shelf PC. Plus you get extras like local technical support, this is great should you run into problems down the line with a glitchy component, software issues, games not working right, replacements in case anything arrives broken or defective. But remember we can help build your dream PC to save you more time.

You'll likely pay a premium to save that precious time with an off the shelf PC, but it's not completely without benefit. If you are willing to pay that premium, make sure you're doing it to save time, and not just because a PC brand is up charging you for a fancy badge or unique case. Some

prebuilt PCs sell for fair prices because the stores buy parts in bulk, or has special deals with the manufacturer, but this option in some cases can be a little bit cheaper in price, it's just for us they seem to set in specification.

So What Should I Buy?

There used to be a time when gaming PCs were exorbitantly expensive to the point where it really, even with the benefits we mentioned, didn't make sense to pay someone else to essentially put the pieces together for you. That's changed though: Whole-PC prices are more in line with component prices, and there are way more options to choose from.

There are so many components to talk about but here goes:

Case

A very personal choice here with a large range of cases with different sized fans, many shapes and an array of RGB LED lights the world is your oyster so again the best thing we would advise here is to work with your budget to get the best case for your needs.

Motherboard

Motherboards are among the most critical components of your build. Not only is the motherboard responsible for supporting your processor, but it is also the central hub to which all other components connect. Not only that, but the motherboard also takes power directly from the power supply and efficiently distributes it among all the components on the board. Buying a motherboard can be very simple if you want it to be, but it can also become extremely complex if you are a true enthusiast looking for the very best for your build.

We would always invest the best money we can into our builds with regards the motherboards as not only is it a core component, but quality boards always last longer than the cheaper one. Plus motherboards are always the hardest component to upgrade down the line on your build.

Desktop motherboards usually come in three different sizes. These different sizes allow the users to have flexibility in their choice of cases and form factors. Many users prefer a compact case that does not take much space on their desk, while others prefer full-sized motherboards that are packed with more features. The three common form factors are:

- **ATX:** The standard size for the desktop motherboards is ATX which measures 12 x 9.6 inches. It usually has 7 expansion slots (PCI Express slots) and almost all of the ATX motherboards have 4 RAM slots. Some special motherboards for HEDT or Extreme Edition CPUs can even have 8 RAM slots. This size is the most common one and it is also a bit more expensive than the smaller sizes due to the extra cost of production. ATX motherboards also have the most ports and the most expandability options.
- **Micro-ATX:** The smaller variant of ATX boards that measures 9.6 x 9.6 inches, the MicroATX form factor offers most of the functionality of ATX boards in a smaller footprint. MicroATX boards are generally cheaper than ATX boards and provide very similar functionality. They can also have 4 RAM slots although many of the cheaper boards have only 2 RAM slots. These motherboards have 4 expansion slots commonly and also lack some headers and extra USB ports.
- **Mini-ITX:** This is the smallest desktop motherboard and it is meant for ultra-compact builds in small cases. It measures 9.0 x 7.5 inches and only has 1 PCIe slot generally. Due to the limited space, there are only 2 DIMM slots on these boards. Moreover, these boards have very few headers and ports due to a lack of space.

We always recommend a ATX case where possible to give your fans and build the best air flow and stop any overheating.

Processor

Whether you're upgrading a dated system or building a new PC from scratch, the choice of CPU matters a lot. Considerations like high clock speeds and core counts can make a whole difference in matters performance, resulting in a speedy system, butter-smooth gameplay and short execution of intensive tasks like video editing and transcoding. Also, the CPU you choose will ultimately dictate the motherboard options, since each processor runs a specific CPU socket and set of chips.

Again, like most aspects of mainstream consumer tech, you really have to settle on the best processor that's available right now and for the budget you want to spend, but you can as well decide to wait and see what next-generation chips bring to the table.

AMD or Intel?
Up until 2017, AMD always lagged behind Intel. However, after launching its Ryzen/Threadripper 2000 series chips, the company gained parity with its perennial competitor. Particularly, for those who run RAM-intensive applications, AMD's latest Ryzen 3000 CPUs are ahead of the game, and if you factor the latest security patches that have arrived over the past year, AMD is clearly no longer an underdog. Still, some fans have strong opinions, but if you don't have your choices cast on one brand or the other, you should be open to either.

That said, Intel still holds a slight lead in gaming at 1080p in some games, especially when you need to draw the most frames-per-second possible out of your graphics card to display on your high-refresh monitor. But in recent years, AMD has narrowed that gap considerably with its new Zen2 architecture, and it even tends to offer more cores and threads, making its CPUs ideal for professional-grade video editing and animation tasks.

The excitement of spending more much on a CPU is ever present, but you might be better off saving some of the money for other components. The rule of thumb is: Determine the processor you need and max out the budget based on what you need your computer to do.

Basic computing: £50-£100 range. If all you need is a chip that will let you watch videos, browse the Web, and do basic productivity tasks like word processing and light spreadsheet work, then a budget entry-level chip with two or four cores might be all you need. However, if you find yourself doing more than those tasks simultaneously, you're better off with a stepped-up model or two. In that case, consider a Ryzen 3, like the AMD Ryzen 3 1300X or AMD Ryzen 3 2200G, or even Intel Pentium that are on the high end of this price range and an Intel Celeron or chips like AMD's Athlon 200GE on the lower price tier.

Gaming: £150-£250 range. If you're shopping for a chip primarily for gaming, the least you can settle for is a midrange Intel Core i5 or AMD Ryzen 5 CPU. Remember, the graphics card you choose is more important when it comes to gaming over the processor, meaning you can save money by not getting a more powerful Core i7 or Ryzen 7 chip, then top it up with a powerful GPU.

Creative Media: £250-£350 range. For the professional creatives who need more cores or speed for tasks like video editing – or simply need a fast, capable system with extra overhead for power-intensive tasks, max out with a Core i7, core i9 or Ryzen 7 chip. These are the chips f choice if you'll consider overclocking, though, AMD's lesser Ryzen chips can be overclocked as well.

Raw workstation power: £400+ range. If your work involves rendering 3D animations or processing 4K videos, or you deal with massive databases and complex math, but don't have all day to wait for the tasks to complete, its time you considered an Intel Core X or AMD Threadripper CPU. These chips pack massive amounts of physical cores (up to 32 as of this writing) for extreme multitasking, gaming at high settings while streaming and editing and even time-consuming computing tasks.

What Are The Key CPU Specs? Which One(S) Should I Care About?
If shopping for a CPU, there are lots of specs and numbers that. Can be confusing. Let's break it down, and suggest what to look out for.

Clock speeds: Higher is faster. Measured in gigahertz (GHz), this denotes the speed at which the chip operates, with higher being faster. Most modern CPUs adjust their clock speeds up or down based on the task and their temperature, so you'll come across a base (minimum) clock speed and a turbo (maximum) speed listed.

Cores: At least four cores are sufficient. These refer to the processors within the processor. In modern CPUs, you find between two and 32 cores, and recently AMD teased a 64-core chip with 128 threads (codenamed Rome, art of the newest Epyc processor) built for the datacenter and can handle server workloads. Most daily use processors contain four to eight cores, with each being able to

handle its own tasks. Unless you're shopping on a tight budget, you're fine with at least four cores.

Threads: More threads mean better multitasking. This is the number of independent processes a chip can handle at once, which in theory would be the same as the number of cores – but it isn't. This is because many processors have multithreading capability, which allows a single core to create two threads. Intel calls this Hyper-Threading and AMD calls it SMT (Simultaneous Multithreading). With more threads, you can comfortably multitask, and it means you have enhanced performance on heavily-threaded apps such as video editors and transcoders.

TDP: Higher TDP coincides with faster performance. The Thermal Design Profile (abbr. as TDP) is the maximum amount of heat that a chip generates (at stock speeds), measured in watts). Knowing that is important, for instance the Intel Core i7-8700K has a TDP of 95 watts, meaning you can make sure you have a CPU cooler that can handle that amount of heat dissipation and also that your PSU can provide enough power for the same. One thing to note is that CPUs put out significantly more heat when overclocked. As such, it's good to know your TDP so you can get the right cooling and power equipment to support your CPU. Therefore, it goes without saying that a higher TDP often coincides with faster performance.

Cache: You should really be concerned about it. A processor's on-board cache is the communication path that's used to speed up access to data and instructions between your CPU and RAM. There are three types of cache: L1 is the fastest, but cramped, L2 has room but is slower, and L3 is spacious but is fairly sluggish. That means that when the data a CPU needs isn't available in any of these places, it reaches for the RAM which is much slower – in part because it's physically farther away than a CPU's on-chip cache.

Thus, when buying a CPU, you shouldn't really put too much emphasis on cache size, because its not easy to equate to real-world performance, and there are lots of other factors to consider.

IPC: Not usually listed as a spec. The instructions per clock cycle (IPC) is heavily dependent on the CPU's architecture, meaning chips from newer generations (ex. 9th Gen Core i7 versus an 8th Gen Core i7) will be better than older ones. Again, even if you have CPUs that have the same clock speed and number of threads, if they're from different companies or built on different architectures from the same company, they will produce different numbers of IPC.In most cases, a CPU's IPC is not listed as a spec and can ordinarily be measured through benchmark testing, so the best way is to learn about is to read reviews.

What Do You Need More: Clock Speed, Cores Or Threads?
The answer to this question primarily depends on how your regular computing tasks. A CPU with higher clock speed translates to quicker responsiveness and program load times (keep in mind RAM and storage speed is key here as well). Higher clock speeds also mean single-threaded tasks (like audio editing and transcoding) can happen faster. Many popular games are still slightly threaded.

However, many modern programs can take advantage of lots of cores and threads. If your computing needs involve lots of multitasking or editing high-res videos, or do other complex, RAM-intensive, CPU-heavy tasks, you should prioritize the number of cores. But for the vast majority of gamers and general-purpose computer users, a clock speed ranging from 3-4GHz with four to eight cores is sufficient enough.

Which socket does my motherboard need for this CPU?
Different processors require different socket types. If you already have a CPU but don't want to replace it, they you'll need to purchase a CPU that matches your board's socket. Alternatively, you need to ensure that the motherboard you buy is compatible with your new processor.

For starters, AMD adopted a single socket -AM4- in its current-generation Ryzen and Athlon parts (barring Threadripper), and pledged to support that socket until 2020. That means you should, with a BIOS update, be able to install first-generalization Ryzen chip into second-generation (and maybe third-generation) Ryzen motherboard, and vice versa.

While AMD offers backward compatibility, Intel on the other hand, has this tendency of not supporting backward compatibility with its new chips and older motherboards, even if the socket is effectively the same. For instance, the Intel LGA 1150 and 1151 sockets differ by a single pin, and the version of 1151 specifically designed for 8th Generation Core chips is physically the same as that designed for previous 6th and 7th Generation Core processors. Even with the similarity, those older 11651-socket motherboards don't work with newer 1151-socket CPUs, because (according to Intel) the newer chips (with more cores) have different power delivery subsystem needs.

It is a complexity that makes the future bleak, especially if you want to upgrade in the future, and it means you have to buy a newer, more-expensive motherboard for a current-gen chip, even if the more-affordable previous generation board bears all the features you want.

Ram
The number of RAM slots on the board is another consideration. In most desktop decent motherboards, the standard number of RAM slots is four, but there are also some more affordable boards that include only two RAM slots. Unless you are on a really tight budget, it is best to invest in a board that offers four RAM slots. This will ensure that you can use your current memory kit (usually two sticks) in the board while also preserving an upgrade path further down the line.

RAM compatibility is less of an issue nowadays as most motherboards can support a wide range of memory speeds in the BIOS. However, for peace of mind, it is always best to visit the motherboard's official product page and check whether your selected memory speed is supported by the motherboard, or give us a call if you are struggling.

DVD Drive
This can now be a big consideration as many cases now don't have a DVD drive as an option so you have to find the cases that do still keep a DVD drive bay or you can simply get a USB DVD Drive, this option works well if you are in an office environment with multiple PC's as you can use the drive on any PC.

Monitor
The monitor is the window to the PC's soul. Without the right display, everything you do on your system will seem poor, whether you're gaming, viewing or editing photos and video or just reading text on your favourite websites.

Hardware vendors understand how the experience changes with different display specs and features and have flooded the market with a bounty of options. But which features and specs are most valuable for how you use your monitor? Should you get 4K, 1440p, 1080p or just plain HD resolution—and what's the difference anyway?

Monitors what to look for:
* Determine your monitor's main purpose: gaming, professional or general use. Generally, gamers should prioritize fast refresh rates and low response times, professionals should prioritize colour accuracy and general use users have less specific needs but will often opt for a monitor with a high-contrast VA panel.

* The higher the resolution, the better the picture. A monitor's resolution tells you how many pixels a monitor has in width x height format. 1920 x 1080 (also known as 1080p, Full HD (FHD) and HD) is the minimum you need. But you'll get sharper images with QHD and even sharper with 4K and 5K

* Size matters too. Pixel density has a big impact on monitor quality, and our sweet spot is 109 pixels per inch (ppi). A larger monitor will have low pixel density if it's a lower resolution. For viewing from typical desktop distances, 32 inches is plenty 'big.' It's not hard to find a 32-inch gaming or general use monitor at 4K resolution for under £1,000.

* Refresh rates: bigger is better. This tells you the number of times your monitor updates with new information per second and is measured in hertz (Hz). Bigger numbers equal better, smoother, less choppy images. Refresh rate is especially important for gamers, who'll want a monitor with at least 75 Hz (most monitors designed for gaming offer at least 120 Hz), combined with the lowest response

time you can find. If you're not gaming, a 60 Hz refresh rate should do.

* Response times: Shorter is better, but it's not a big priority unless you're gaming. Response time tells you how long a monitor takes to change individual pixels from black to white or, if its GTG response time, from one shade of grey to another. Longer response times can mean motion blur when gaming or watching fast-paced videos. For gaming monitors, the highest response time you'll likely see is 5ms, while the fastest gaming monitors can have a 0.5ms response time.

* Panel tech: For image quality, TN < IPS < VA. TN monitors are the fastest but cheapest, due to poorer image quality when viewing from a side angle. IPS monitors have slightly faster response times and show colour better than VA panels, but VA monitors have the best contrast out of all three panel types. For more on the difference between panel types, see the dedicated section below.

* Consider a curved monitor. Curved monitors are supposed to make your experience more immersive with a large field of view and are said to be less eye-straining. However, they can be prone to glare when viewing from certain angles (light sources are coming from various angles instead of one). Effective curved monitors are usually ultra-wide and at least 30 inches, which both point to higher costs.

Also find out what resolutions your games and software require below is a guide:
5K resolution = 5120 x 2880
4K resolution = 3840 x 2160
Ultra HD (UHD) resolution =   3840 x 2160
Quad HD (QHD) aka Wide Quad H resolution = 2560 x 1440
2K aka 1440p resolution = 2560 x 1440
WUXGA resolution = 1920 x 1200
Full HD (FHD) aka 1080p resolution = 1920 x 1080
HD aka 720p resolution = 1280 x 720

What panel should I pick?

	TN	VA	IPS
Performance	Fastest: low response times, highest refresh rates, minimal motion blur; Low input lag	Longest response times typically; Higher refresh rates possible	Slower response times than TN, faster response times than VA; Gaming-quality refresh rates are rare
Display	Worst viewing angles; Worst colour	Viewing angles typically better than TN, worse than IPS; Good colour; Best contrast; Best image depth	Best viewing angles; Best colour
Pricing	Cheapest	Pricier models can have performance comparable to TN	Most expensive
Best Use	Gaming	General Use	Professional

KEYBOARDS

Ergonomics It's a word no one had heard of until fairly recently yet now it's everywhere. It seems every electronic product nowadays is labelled 'ergonomic'. Certainly every mouse and keyboard which comes onto the market is lauded for its ergonomic properties, by its own PR team at least. Nevertheless, it is something we should take seriously.

Because we spend so much time using our mouse and keyboard they need to be designed to increase comfort and reduce the risk of strain or injury. A gamer will be looking at a mechanical device or a responsive membrane keyboard, whilst office workers will be looking more for comfort and design.

Wireless devices are more convenient and they don't leave trailing wires all over the desk. You also don't need to find a spare USB port for both keyboard and mouse. The downside to wireless, and conversely the upside of wired devices, is that they can lose their signal, take longer to respond to commands, and, very annoyingly, the battery can run out from time to time. Remember that some devices can also have a built in Bluetooth

Although wired keyboards do have the cable in that way we like the reliability they offer especially if you have an LED lit keyboard.

The type supplied with most PCs and the one used by the majority of us. All standard keyboards will have the QWERTY keys though, confusingly, not all will have a number pad. The lack of a number pad will impact on the size as well as the functionality of the keyboard. Most keyboards will have basic media controls along with some dedicated function keys such as home, end, and Windows.

Standard keyboards will usually have scissor switches. These are long-lasting and reliable keys which have a plunger under each key. This provides shorter key travel for faster, more accurate typing.

Budget keyboards will tend to have silicone dome switches. Membranes are beneath each key and the key has to be fully depressed to register. The effect is a springy, rather forced typing mechanism. The keys have a much shorter lifespan compared to scissor keys.

Gaming keyboards have more features than standard varieties. Functions can be customised with programmable macro commands, swappable WASD keys are a feature found on many gaming boards, and anti-ghosting technology is absolutely essential for the serious gamer.

Features such as USB pass-through ports, built-in software, and a metal chassis can also be found on these keyboards.

Most, if not all, gaming keyboards will have LED backlighting. As well as looking great the lighting can often be programmed to change according to the game being played. Lighting can also be used as a playing aid to quickly pick out individual keys.

However, the main difference between these and standard keyboards are the mechanical keys.

There are different types of mechanical keyboard, with the switches classified according to colour. All mechanical keyboards though are very tactile with a shorter key travel and produce a satisfying click when a key is pressed.

However, these keyboards aren't just for gamers. They are ideal for touch typists.   Once most typists use a mechanical keyboard they won't want to go back to any other.

But, a word of warning, some keyboards can be very loud. You might want to think twice if you are in an office with other people.

Gaming Keyboards

An issue with mechanical keyboards is the price. They can be very expensive and even the lower end boards are often in a price bracket well beyond what we want to pay for a keyboard.

Membrane keyboards

are more affordable and manufacturers are now improving the technology to improve their performance.

You can find some excellent membrane keyboards and, even though they aren't as responsive as mechanical models, they are certainly good enough for intermediate gamers. They also have plenty of features including backlighting, and are much more affordable.

Mechanical Feel

A relatively new genre, these keyboards look and sound like a mechanical keyboard. They have backlighting and other features, and also have the satisfying click-clack sound and tactile feel of a mechanical board. They can even have macro recording functions. However, they are very much cheaper.

If you're a gamer on a budget but want the look and feel of a mechanical device a mechanical feel keyboard is the ideal solution.

Portable Keyboards

Much more compact, and usually wireless, these portable devices are designed to be transported and can be used with any PC or laptop. They won't have a number pad, can often be foldable, and are extremely lightweight.

Whichever type of keyboard you decide upon you will want to look at the features it has and whether they are suitable for the purpose you have in mind.

Most full-size keyboards will have hot keys or media buttons. Hot keys allow the user to perform different tasks by pressing a single button whilst the media buttons will change volume, fast forward video etc. Check the product description of each keyboard to see which special function keys it has. Those who use the keyboard for pounding out documents or inputting data will be far more concerned about its comfort and ergonomic properties rather than how effectively it controls multimedia.

Mouse

The mouse is the peripheral we use the most. Generally though we don't spend too much time on choosing it and often just keep the one supplied with our PC. If we do decide to buy a new one, we often decide on the cheapest we can find. After all, a mouse is a mouse, right?

Well, not really. Yes, whichever mouse you have you basically move and click, but there is more to finding the best mouse than simply choosing the first or cheapest you see.

Certainly, you will want to replace the generic model which comes with your PC. So, what should you be looking at?

Probably the most important thing you should think about when buying a new mouse. Many mice claim to be ergonomic but not all are.

Because we use the mouse so much it not only needs to be comfortable but must also lessen the strain on our wrists. Aches and strains are a very real problem for those of us who use a mouse for hours at a time, gamers and office workers being particularly at risk.

An ergonomically designed mouse, and they are available at all price points, will position the wrist in a relaxed position preventing unnecessary strains.

However, some mice have built-in Bluetooth which, with a compatible laptop, would free up that USB slot. The drawback here is that maintaining the Bluetooth connection can sometimes be an issue. Additionally, Bluetooth mice are more expensive than other wireless and wired varieties.

Gamers will often chose a wired mouse as its response rate is fractionally better than a wireless model but, for normal everyday use, there is little difference between the two.

A laser mouse will (generally) have a higher DPI than an optical model. This means it is more sensitive and provides more accurate tracking. However, unless you are a gamer or graphic designer it's unlikely the extra precision will be all that important to you. Cost wise, a laser mouse will typically be a little more expensive than a comparable optical mouse.

Most mice are labelled as full-sized though there are travel alternatives. Travel mice are sometimes referred to as 'mini' and there are, confusingly, some mice described as mid-sized. Travel mice are obviously smaller and lighter than other types. They are ideal for packing away in a laptop bag when travelling, commuting or working at different locations. People with smaller hands will often find a travel model more comfortable than a standard version and there is no reason it can't be used as your main mouse.

There are no standard dimensions for full size mice, though they tend to be similar across all manufacturers. However, some models are noticeably bigger than others so paying attention to reviews can be helpful.

Left and right buttons, along with the scroll wheel, are found on all mice but some also have extra programmable buttons to increase functionality. These buttons can perform tasks ranging from controlling web browsing to recording macros.

Gaming Mouse

With DPI up to 10000 gaming mice can be highly accurate and, at the top end, boast a number of different features. These could include built-in software which can track stats or enable functions, programmable buttons, and LED lighting.
Buttons will be more responsive than on a standard mouse and you can choose from plenty of unique and innovative designs.

Track Ball

For those who may suffer from arthritis or find a standard mouse awkward to handle a trackball mouse could be the ideal solution. The ball is very precise and the ambidextrous design means they are suitable for all.

Track Pad

A more modern way to control your device mainly found in laptops, but in recent months we have seen a few in Keyboards and also separate slab devices that are USB and can be plugged into a laptop or a PC, but can be as big as an A4 Sheet with lots of function keys attached too!

Cables

There can be many cables that may be needed with your new custom built PC but the main few to have on hand would be:

HDMI – For your monitor.

Power Cable – From the mains socket to your Tower.

USB Cable – For your printer if you have one.

But depending on your setup you may need a few other cables or adapters.

If you are stuck we stock over 4000 adapters and cables so give us a call or send a photo of what is needed and we will get straight back to you with a price.

And What about Peripherals?

Peripherals are altogether a slippery slope, a rabbit hole, and any other cliché you can think of

Part of PC gaming culture is glamming out. That means keyboards, mice, headsets, mousepads, microphones, chairs, and webcams all customized to your taste and adorned with LEDs.

But because everything is so pretty, it's good to draw boundaries or you'll be dropping an extra few hundred plus on your setup.

Consider the following for your Gaming Setup:

* Headphones
* LED/RGB Keyboards
* LED/RGB Mice
* Gaming Chairs
* Printers
* Monitors
* LED/RGB Fans

* Furniture

Future Proof you Gaming Setup!

A final issue to consider before making a purchase is what your plans are for the future. Lots of hardware companies will talk about making your PC "future-proof," but really it's impossible to know what requirements might come along in the future. However, you can make some plans to ensure your system lasts longer before you need to replace it.

Firstly, think about how you'll upgrade your system down the road. If you get a PC with a good processor and motherboard but not such a good graphics card, you can buy a new graphics card later. You can also easily add more RAM to your build in the future.

But if you need to upgrade your processor, you'll usually need to upgrade your motherboard too, and then you'll often end up replacing the whole system.

That's why, if you're looking for longevity, you should prioritize your processor and motherboard. Although different types of motherboard probably won't have much impact on gaming performance, they will offer different features such as support for M.2 SSDs.

Even if you're not using an M.2 drive now, you might want one in the future. So you'd need to have a motherboard which supports that.

Conclusion

We see many builds on a daily basis of people simply buying parts and with no experience putting together a £4000 gaming PC, but approach with great care as we see a lot of damaged hardware yearly too……….. Make sure you do lots of research to ensure that you get the PC you want and if you need any help get in touch we have been doing this for 20 years and there isn't much we haven't seen ;-)

How Can We Help

We build gaming computers so for FREE impartial advice and all talk gaming, contact us by any method below or by clicking this link.

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