Cyberpower Infinity X123 RTX Gaming PC

A stylish RTX 3050 system that's great value, although keen upgraders will need a high-end motherboard

SCORE ★★★★☆

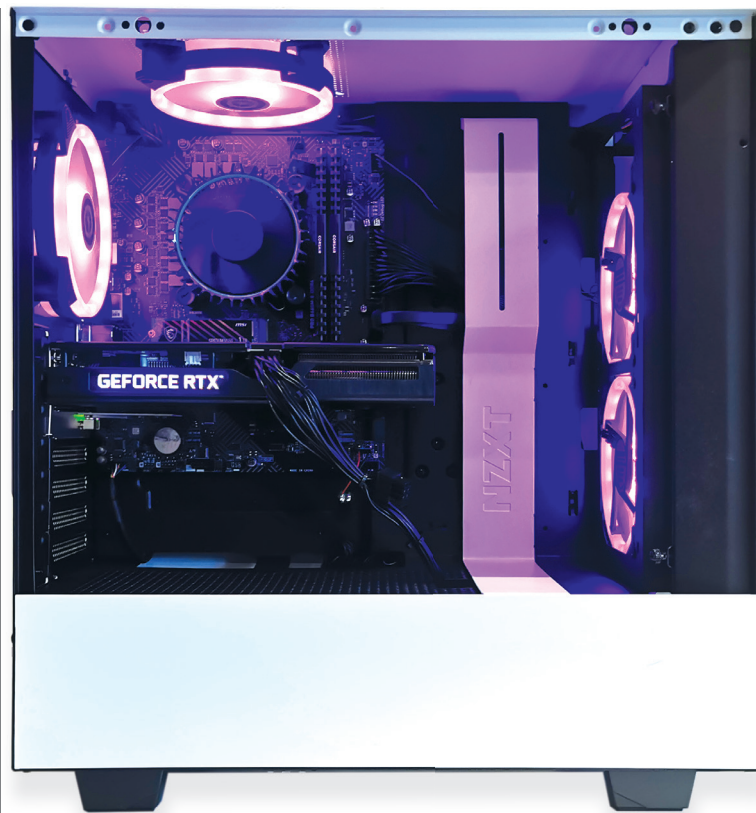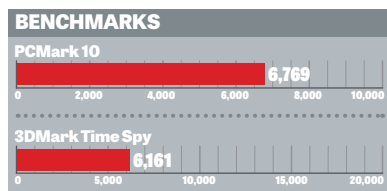**PRICE £833 (£1,000 inc VAT)** from cyberpowersystem.co.uk

Elsewhere this month we've shown what you can buy for around £2,000 in the Box Cube Legendary Elite (*see p54*) and around £3,000 in the HP Omen 45L (*see p50*). To complete the triumvirate, meet the more budget-friendly but still speedy Cyberpower Infinity X123 RTX.

Despite its more affordable price, Cyberpower has its eye on gamers with Nvidia's GeForce RTX 3050 graphics card. This remains a great choice for 1080p gaming, averaging above 60fps at High or Ultra settings in demanding games such as *Shadow of the Tomb Raider* (122fps, High), *Hitman 3* (119fps, Ultra), *Dirt 5* (79fps, High) and *Metro Exodus* (61fps, High).

You'll also find more than playable frame rates at 1440p, with scores of 82fps, 77fps, 62fps and 45fps in those same games. And remember, those are with High or Ultra settings. You'll need a faster graphics card to enjoy 4K gaming in such titles, though, with those scores dipping down to 49fps, 40fps, 37fps and 26fps. The first three are playable, but my key word in the previous sentence is "enjoy".

Cyberpower has performed the minor miracle of including a GeForce RTX 3050 at this price by opting for a Core i3 rather than an i5 or i7. It's a 12th generation chip, the Core i3-12100F, which packs plenty of power into its four Performance cores (P-cores). These all support Hyper-Threading, too. What you don't get is any Efficiency cores, which is a shame as these cleverly steal away low-demand tasks in Windows 11 to leave the P-cores to tackle intensive tasks.

Naturally, with eight threads still on hand this is a nippy and responsive system, helped along by 16GB of Corsair Vengeance LPX DDR-3200

memory and a 1TB MSI Spatium M450 SSD. The latter is a Gen 4 SSD, so I hoped for even higher sequential reads than 2,349MB/sec, but was suitably impressed by sustained write speeds of 2,819MB/sec.

The lack of cores compared to a Ryzen 5 or Ryzen 7 – which have six and eight respectively – means this PC falls behind in benchmarks designed to exploit multiple cores such as Cinebench R23, where it returned a relatively modest 8,371 to the Box's 13,011. It was a similar story in *PC Pro*'s own benchmarks, with 223 a long way behind its rival's 370. However, switch to a more "rounded" benchmark such as PCMark 10 and that gap narrows considerably, with the Cyberpower scoring 6,769 against 7,818.
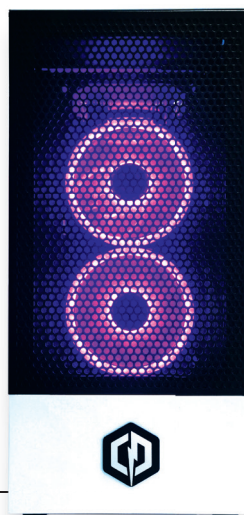
This emphasises that you will only see a true difference in speed when pushing all the cores and threads to their limit, and for most people that means photo- and video-editing tasks. Games are rarely affected.

A bigger stumbling block comes if you decide you want to upgrade the Cyberpower PC. It has a basic MSI Pro B660M-E microATX board, which includes only

two DIMM sockets and one M.2 slot. And with no integrated Wi-Fi, Cyberpower occupies the sole PCI-Express slot with a Wi-Fi 5 card. There are four SATA 6Gbps connectors, which you can exploit by removing the right-hand side of the chassis to reveal a cage for two 3.5in hard disks and mounting plates for two 2.5in SATA SSDs.

Cyberpower sent us the white version of NZXT's new H511 Flow chassis, a boxy and understated affair. It lacks the high-end build quality of the chassis provided by Box and HP, but it's substantially more compact and stylish in its own, almost art deco way. The mesh grille at the front allows the two RGB 120mm fans to shine through – a simple remote control adjusts the colour – with a further two RGB 120mm fans at the rear and top. With a stock Intel air cooler, and two fans to cool the graphics card, that brings the total to seven, but you'll rarely be bothered by fan noise. It's only when games kick into action that it goes beyond a low-to-medium hum.

The whole caboodle is backed by Cyberpower's trademark five-year warranty, with the first six months including collect-and-return cover (where it pays courier costs) and the first two years including parts and labour. The final three years are labour-only, but still useful.

Should you buy the Infinity X123? Provided you aren't a keen upgrader, then yes. It offers a great package for today, with affordable 1440p gaming thanks to a wise combination of a 12th generation Core i3 processor and Nvidia's RTX 3050 card. **TIM DANTON**

ABOVE Four RGB fans show off the Infinity's potent graphics card

PC PRO RECOMMENDED

"Should you buy the Infinity X123? Provided you aren't a keen upgrader, then yes. It offers a great package for today"

LEFT The compact NZXT chassis has a style all of its own

SPECIFICATIONS
4-core 3.3GHz (4.3GHz boost) Intel Core i3-12100F processor ● MSI Pro B660M motherboard ● 16GB DDR4-3200 RAM ● 8GB GeForce RTX 3050 graphics ● Intel air cooler ● 1TB MSI M450 NVMe PCI-E 4x SSD ● Addon Wi-Fi 5 card ● NZXT H511 Flow chassis ● InWin 650W A65E PSU ● Windows 11 Home ● 210 x 428 x 460mm (WDH) ● 5yr warranty (first 6 months C&R then RTB; 2yr parts and labour, 3yr labour only) ● idle, 50W ● peak, 261W

BENCHMARKS

PCMark 10: 6,769

3DMark Time Spy: 6,161