Contents

Welcome to Issue 233

Highlights

08 Pricing problems

With pleasingly competitively priced new GPUs on the horizon, Richard Swinburne argues that AMD still needs to work on its AM5 system pricing.

10 Extreme recruitment services

The subject of games being a vessel for pushing players towards extremist views has reared its head again. Tracy King is having none of it.

14 Nvidia GeForce RTX 4080

Nvidia's second-rung Ada GPU boasts much improved ray-tracing performance, but can it justify its huge asking price?

18 AMD Ryzen 9 7900X

With its 12 cores and big clock speed boost over the 5900 X, the 7900 X is a powerful CPU but can it hold its own against stiff competition?

28 PCI-E4SSDs

While PCI-E 5 SSDs are starting to arrive, PCI-4 isn't done yet. Antony Leather checks out two new highend models from Samsung and WD.

30 Corsair Vengeance RGB DDR5

Corsair's latest Vengeance kits include support for AMD EXPO, and of course, the very latest in fashionable RGB lighting.

32 Free roaming rodents

Cooler Master and Corsair's latest wireless gaming mice have arrived. Edward Chester takes them for a test drive.



40 Mince Pie megatest

It's that time of year again. We've rounded up 19 of the nation's most readily available festive pastry offerings and taste tested until we're blue in the face. Which one will come out on top this year?

48 32in gaming monitors

Want a sizeable screen without the hassle of a huge resolution? Edward Chester puts six of the latest 32in 2,560 x 1,440 models through their paces.

66 Return to Monkey Island

Among the most celebrated pointand-click adventure game series of all time, Monkey Island finally gets a concluding episode.

70 Nvidia Ada Lovelace deep dive

Learn all you need to know about Nvidia's newest GPU architecture, including the arrival of a new version of DLSS that creates extra frames out of thin air.

80 RGB lighting demystified

RGB lighting might look lovely, but getting your head round all the different types of connectors, as well as different control systems, can be a nightmare. Antony Leather takes you through the tangled jungle of RGB cabling.

90 How to 3D-print PC accessories

Antony Leather guides you through 3D-printing basic parts for your PC, such as component mounts, quickly and easily.

94 Readers' drives

Daniel Hunter puts his aluminium window and door manufacturing skills to good use, building this hefty desk PC.

98 Ready for launch

Seldom has the CPU market been more competitive than now, but how is the sales race going so far? James Gorbold reveals the winners and losers.

Cover guide



Regulars

- 3 From the editor
- 8 Richard Swinburne
- 10 Tracy King
- 12 Incoming
- 39 Custom kit
- 44 How we test
- **58** Elite products
- 64 Inverse look
- **84** Hobby tech
- 88 Customised PC
- 90 How to guides
- 94 Readers' drives
- 98 James Gorbold







Reviewed

GRAPHICS CARDS

14 Nvidia GeForce RTX 4080

PROCESSORS

18 AMD Ryzen 9 7900 X

MONITORS

21 AOC27G2SPU

CASES

22 Jonsbo D30

MOTHERBOARDS

24 Asus ROG Strix X670-E Gaming

SOLID STATE DRIVES

- 28 Samsung 990 Pro
- 29 WD Black SN850X

MEMORY

- **30** Corsair Vengeance RGB DDR5
- 31 G.Skill Trident Z5 RGB

GAMING MICE

- 32 Cooler Master MM712
- 33 Corsair Katar Elite Wireless

PC SYSTEMS

36 Scan 3XS Fluid Torrent CS

Custom kit

- 44 Beurer TL41 Daylight Therapy Lamp
- 44 HyperX Pulsefire Mouse Mat
- 44 Kensington SD5700T Docking Station

32in gaming monitor Labs

- 49 Cooler Master GM32-FQ
- 50 Corsair Xeneon 32QHD165
- 51 Dell G3223D
- 52 iiyama G-Master GB3271QSU
- 53 MSI Optix MPG321QRF-QD
- 54 Philips Momentum 5000 32M1N5500VS

Games

- 65 A Plague Tale: Requiem
- 66 Return to Monkey Island
- **68** Grounded
- **69** Prodeus

Hobby tech

- 84 Eaton 3S Mini UPS
- 86 Keyboardio Model 100