



This is the most important computer component for every gamer, the GPU or (GRAPHICS PROCESSOR UNIT).

This guide will be very helpful to you if you are building your first rig and you don't know much about GPUs or other computer components. If you plan to use your future computer to play GTA 5 on ULTRA settings but you bought too weak and cheap a graphics card, you won't have a great time playing video games.

Now let's get started with this guide.

The first thing you need to ask yourself are two questions:

1/ How much money do I want to spend on a GPU

2/ Which video games do I want to play and on what settings

You also need to be realistic

you can't spend €100 and expect to play a top tier game like "Witcher 3" on ultra-settings. Later in this guide we will talk about GPUs with the best price to performance ratio. The most demanding setting is the resolution, if you want to play at 720p, 1080p, 1440p or 4K this plays a significant role in which GPU you will buy.

For VR gaming a GPU is also the most important component so you should take that into consideration when choosing or buying the GPU, but if you are going for VR the headset will also be very expensive and you would need a high budget for that.

To give you an idea, current prices, as at July 2019 for GPU's.

The prices go from around €90 for very cheap GPUs up to €3,000+ for extreme gaming and video editing enthusiasts.



Some GPUs and their class

Low-end €90+ Radeon RX 550

Budget GPUs €130 to €160 GTX 1050, Radeon RX 560, GTX 1050 Ti

Mid-range €180 to €300 Radeon RX 570, GTX 1060, Radeon RX 580

High-end €300 to €599 GTX 1070, Radeon RX Vega 56, GTX 1070 Ti, Radeon RX Vega 64, GTX 1080, GTX 1080 Ti, RTX 2080

Extreme €1,600 to €3000+ Titan XP, RTX 2080 Ti, Titan V

Explanation of what you can realistically expect from your GPU

Please be aware that you still need to make sure that your CPU is powerful enough to run the GPU as well, but that's another article.

Low-end

Only for people who play older games, play very little or don't play at all. This is best if the computer isn't going to be used for gaming, but your CPU doesn't have integrated graphics.

Budget GPUs

Good gaming at 720p and decent gaming at 1080p. Good GPUs for mediocre gamers who don't need to play games on high settings and are satisfied with low medium settings. This class of GPUs will support games like "GTA V" or "Witcher 3" on low to medium settings.

Mid-range

This class we recommend to most gamers because today with these GPUs you will be able to play any game on high and ultra-settings at 1080p resolution.



These GPUs are best buy for 1080p gaming and with this type of GPUs VR compatibility starts to kick in.

High-end

Graphics Cards for gamers who want to play in VR, 1440p and 4K resolution. VR and 1440p gaming with this type of GPU will be excellent. 4K gaming is also very good but with the next class of GPU it can go even better. Personally we think that this is also more than enough for 4K

Extreme

Really only for the avid enthusiast who wants to build “the rig of their dreams”. Best 4K gaming and best gaming in general with these GPUs. The RTX cards also support new ray-tracing and A.I. tech.

Things you should also take into account?

If you’re planning to play at 1080p you will want to get a graphics card with at least 3GB of memory, but 4GB would be ideal. For gaming at higher resolutions like 1440p or 4K you should get a card with 8GB or more memory. When you are buying a GPU, you will need to check the power consumption and based on what your card needs you will know what power supply you will need to buy but of course we can help you with any information you need sales@gccy.co.uk For example, if your GPU needs 200W and your CPU 150W then you really want to buy a PSU with 500W or if you want to be extra safe 600W. You also want to check if your PSU has the power connectors to power your GPU because some cards use two eight-pin connectors, some two six-pin and some combine six and eight-pin connectors. If your PSU doesn’t have the connectors that the GPU needs, you threw your money away for nothing.



Check the dimensions of the graphics card

so you can make sure that there is room in the case for your GPU. Some graphics cards will also use more expansion slots (most GPUs take two slots), so if you are also buying a sound card please make sure that there is room for it on the motherboard and in the case. Many manufacturers are providing you with the same GPU but with different prices dimensions, number of fans, different clock and memory speeds. The fans are here for cooling the GPU, so if you won't be overclocking you won't need that beefy GPU with three fans. The different clock and memory speeds can make a difference in frame rates. Same GPU with a higher clock speed will be slightly faster but it will also be more expensive so make sure that you get the most of your money.

Compatibility, Compatibility, Compatibility,

Check double check and triple check before you buy! Most if not ALL of the components in your new build MUST be compatible, or you will end up throwing a lot of money down the drain. Having said that don't be daunted, we are here to help and happy to give advice and if you are considering building your own PC, be aware that all of these things need to be taken into consideration.

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