
Subject: Re: Which Motherboard?

Posted by [Chuck Norris](#) on Mon, 11 Aug 2008 15:24:37 GMT

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I don't live in Canada, but consensus is that NCIX is better than Tiger Direct. Did you try looking there?

Why SLi the 8600GT? A single 8600GTS would probably be faster in most cases (the 8600GT SLi might be faster in some cases), and an 8800GT would eat both alive. A Radeon HD4850 can be had for \$200 and is better still. SLi is a waste, especially for such low end cards. With nVidia enabling use of a second card for physX, and even recommending using one card dedicated for processing and one card dedicated for physX, even in already existing SLi setups, that's pretty much nVidia themselves admitting SLi is a waste. 2x the cost (actually more, for a better PSU and SLi capable motherboard) for not even close to 2x the performance.

By the way, I know it wasn't until the X38 that PCI Express 2.0 (dual 16x instead of 16x and 8x) came about for Intel chipsets. I don't know nVidia's chipsets, but I'd guess you'd need at least a 680i. That might not even be 2.0 capable, since the X38 is newer, and I'm pretty sure was the first to support PCI Express 2.0. It won't really matter though. 8600GT SLi won't be fast enough to be hindered by the slower speed.

As for audio, it's actually the other way around. In the past, a separate audio card was worth it, but these days, it's less so. Onboard audio is good if it's a modern one. A sound card is better yes, but it has to be an expensive one, and it's no longer necessary. Onboard sound is the equivalent of a \$50 sound card now versus a \$10 sound card back then. You'd have to make the sound card pretty expensive for it to be a worthwhile upgrade from what you already have with what motherboards these days offer. A \$10 sound card would certainly be a step backwards, not even lateral, versus modern motherboard audio.
