
Subject: Oh, I got the video card blues...

Posted by [SuperFlyingEngi](#) on Thu, 24 Jun 2004 21:47:11 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

I need some quick help on the topic of video cards. I'm looking to upgrade my Dell 4300 [specs listed at bottom] with a Radeon 9700 Pro [I'm on a budget, so I opted down from a 9800.] So far, the best one I can find is here:

<http://www.newegg.com/app/ViewProductDesc.asp?description=14-131-199&depa=0>

Does that look like it's worth my time? Thanks for any input, and here's my comp specs:

Dell 4300:

1.6GHz Pentium 4 Processor

GeForce 2 MX 440 [Yechh!]

300 W Power Supply

512 Mb RAM [I believe it's DDR, but I'm on another computer and can't confirm that right now]

And so on and so forth. If I left anything else that you might need to know out of those specs, tell me and I'll fix the list. Thanks!

Subject: Oh, I got the video card blues...

Posted by [Yano](#) on Thu, 24 Jun 2004 21:49:13 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Check out the cards on ebay first, that will save you loads of money.

Subject: Oh, I got the video card blues...

Posted by [bigejoe14](#) on Thu, 24 Jun 2004 21:50:40 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

It's an ATI card. There is no need to consider a different card

Subject: Oh, I got the video card blues...

Posted by [icedog90](#) on Thu, 24 Jun 2004 21:52:54 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Before you get a new video card, you should upgrade your power supply to 350 watts atleast. I don't know anything about the Radeon 9700, nor the manufacture Power Color. I suggest either buying the Radeon 9800 Pro, or the Radeon 9600XT. If you're not too much into ATI, the Geforce FX 5900 is at the same price as the Radeon 9700 you found there, and I would also suggest getting that instead.

Here's what I found for you:

Cheap Radeon 9600XT 256MB -

<http://www.newegg.com/app/viewProductDesc.asp?description=14-163-109&depa=0>

Radeon 9800 Pro, most likely over your budget by \$20 -

<http://www.newegg.com/app/viewProductDesc.asp?description=14-131-238&depa=0>

Geforce FX 5900 deal -

<http://www.newegg.com/app/viewProductDesc.asp?description=14-145-072&depa=0>

Those are the cards I extremely suggest.

Subject: Oh, I got the video card blues...

Posted by [SuperFlyingEngi](#) on Thu, 24 Jun 2004 21:54:12 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Well, what I'm really wondering is if a 9700 will run on my computer without me having to put in new parts and/or my computer melting/exploding. Sorry if I wasn't more specific.

Subject: Oh, I got the video card blues...

Posted by [icedog90](#) on Thu, 24 Jun 2004 21:58:05 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Re-read my post above. I edited it with links to those cards for a good amount of money. All I suggest you replace in your computer is your power supply. I don't know about your motherboard though, but as long as it has 4x AGP atleast, you're fine.

Subject: Oh, I got the video card blues...

Posted by [SuperFlyingEngi](#) on Thu, 24 Jun 2004 22:04:35 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Yeah, I just saw your new post, I was responding to bigjoe's post. Thanks for finding those links to video cards, I'll look through those and probably pick one up, and again, thanks for spending your time!

Subject: Oh, I got the video card blues...

Posted by [mrpirate](#) on Thu, 24 Jun 2004 23:01:29 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

The Radeon 9700 Pro is a great choice for a video card. There's little reason to look for another one.

It's recommended by ATI that you have a 300 W PSU, which you do, and since you probably aren't also running a large number of hard drives or something, it seems like there should be no problem. Your motherboard may not support AGP 8x, but that's not a big problem--just run it in 4x.

Subject: Oh, I got the video card blues...

Posted by [SuperFlyingEngi](#) on Thu, 24 Jun 2004 23:17:52 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Alright - just one last question:

Which would you go with, a GeForce 5900XT or a Radeon 9700 Pro?

Thanks for the quick responses.

Subject: Oh, I got the video card blues...

Posted by [Sanada78](#) on Thu, 24 Jun 2004 23:33:46 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

I've had my Radeon 9700 Pro for well over a year now and had very little problems with it. The fan is starting to wear, and it blew up my 275W PSU before buying a 400W replacement.

I'd be my choice out of the two. Runs FarCry on max detail very smooth.

Subject: Oh, I got the video card blues...

Posted by [mrpirate](#) on Thu, 24 Jun 2004 23:54:49 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

The 9700 Pro should be a bit faster.

Subject: Oh, I got the video card blues...

Posted by [rm5248](#) on Fri, 25 Jun 2004 01:54:24 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

It's cheaper at <http://www.pricewatch.com>

Subject: Oh, I got the video card blues...

Posted by [Falconxl](#) on Fri, 25 Jun 2004 14:29:01 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

I currently own a Power Color Radeon 9700 Pro, which I bought from Newegg, and have had no problems what so ever since I got it in February of last year(2003). Its handled everything I've thrown at it and it runs so great I haven't had the need to overclock it.

Subject: Oh, I got the video card blues...
Posted by [icedog90](#) on Fri, 25 Jun 2004 19:23:18 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

rm5248It's cheaper at <http://www.pricewatch.com>

That's where I looked, and Newegg was at the top of the list.

You can buy the Radeon 9700, it's fine. I just wanted to show you those links so you can see the other ones and make a decision.

Subject: Oh, I got the video card blues...
Posted by [DanSolo](#) on Sun, 27 Jun 2004 22:29:06 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

I was given a Geforce FX5600 Pro by my brother who bought a 9800pro, and quite frankly the geforce is a piece of crap(not bad for free tho), the colours and the image quality suck. My advise get a Radeon 9700 or higher, dont even bother with the FX line.

Subject: Oh, I got the video card blues...
Posted by [prox](#) on Mon, 28 Jun 2004 01:55:06 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

mrpirateThe Radeon 9700 Pro is a great choice for a video card. There's little reason to look for another one.

It's recommended by ATI that you have a 300 W PSU, which you do, and since you probably aren't also running a large number of hard drives or something, it seems like there should be no problem. Your motherboard may not support AGP 8x, but that's not a big problem--just run it in 4x.

Yeah, but you can't enjoy the full quality of the card like that

Subject: Oh, I got the video card blues...
Posted by [mrpirate](#) on Mon, 28 Jun 2004 02:33:24 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Like what? There'd be a one- or two-percent drop in performance from using 4x AGP instead of 8x.

Subject: Oh, I got the video card blues...

Posted by [DanSolo](#) on Mon, 28 Jun 2004 13:06:16 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Mrp is correct there is a tiny performance loss with using AGP 4X, infact AGP 8x gives little or no performance increase. A modern card can run at 2X with no loss in quality and a fantastically marginal loss in FPS. You could easily recover the loss by optimising your bios, eg by enabling fast writes etc.

Subject: Oh, I got the video card blues...

Posted by [htmlgod](#) on Mon, 28 Jun 2004 18:56:53 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

The radeon 9700 is a very good graphics card, however, as a longtime Dell user, I can tell you that most of the Dell factory-installed motherboards have a very bad cooling system for the CPU. So, I would advise that you, instead of going out and buying a \$200 graphics card, first buy a \$20 CPU cooling system for your processor. A lot of the trouble I had with my Dimension 8200 was as a result of the bad cooling system (just an oversized Heatsink), particularly after I got an ATI Radeon 9800 Pro 256 MB cache. However, its possible that with a proprietary Dell motherboard, a new CPU cooling system you purchase may not fit properly, so be sure to ask customer support before you buy one. Depending on whether your motherboard has a proprietary CPU cooler mounting board, I would advise that you first try to soup up your CPU cooling system, and only when you've maxed out your capabilities in that department do you move on to replace your graphics card.
