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Subject: Fragbox Build

Posted by [nikki6ixx](#) on Sat, 27 Dec 2008 21:40:46 GMT

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Since I got a very good response for my media center box on these forums, with the build turning out very nicely, I figured I'd ask for some advice for my next box.

Simply put, I'm torn. I want to build a box for about \$1,500 Canadian. The problem is mainly Core2 vs Core i7.

On one hand, I can build up a box with the E8500, a P45 and all sorts of good stuff for just over a thousand bucks. However, that might only last for say 2-3 years before needing a big upgrade.

Core i7 is awesome, but it's also totally expensive, with a 920, and a decent board with both CF, and SLI running at almost 800 bucks!

I've poked around for a decent amount of time on possible builds, options, as well as guides from TomsHardware, and TechSpot, but like last time, I want to see if someone can configure a good system for me. I don't care if it's dual core, quad core, DDR2, DDR3, SODIMM, SODUMB, P45, X48, 790GFX-7438921SPIDARPLATFORMZ or whatev.

This will be mainly for gaming, and that's about it. I have no preference for nVidia or ATI, because both brands have been good to me. In this case, an X58 board would be optimal because I could change up brands if need be.

Also, for what it's worth, I could easily sit on a decision until Socket AM3 makes its debut.

My monitor's resolution is at 1680x1050, so I don't need a large resolution, but I'd like smooth framerates. I'm also open to overclocking as long as there are decent guides.

So to sum up, , I'd like the fastest, most optimal configuration for around \$1,500, bonus points if you can bring it in under that! I'm not sure how long I'd want it to last until the next upgrade, but my needs are likely pretty modest compared to many other gamers. Still, I'd like something potent.

I have three websites that I can use that list in Canadian Dollars.

[www.tigerdirect.ca](http://www.tigerdirect.ca)

[www.ncix.com](http://www.ncix.com) (might need to select the maple leaf flag)

[www.newegg.ca](http://www.newegg.ca)

So if any of you have some killer configurations, or suggestions, or even testimonials, I'd love to hear them. Feel free to ask questions too.

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Subject: Re: Fragbox Build

Posted by [Ethenal](#) on Sun, 28 Dec 2008 07:12:26 GMT

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nikki6ixx wrote on Sat, 27 December 2008 15:40790GFX-7438921SPIDARPLATFORMZ  
This here is a winner.

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Subject: Re: Fragbox Build  
Posted by [EvilWhiteDragon](#) on Sun, 28 Dec 2008 10:58:44 GMT  
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I personally would wait say 2-3 months till there are at least reviews of the Phenom II. That way you can see whether it offers a better bang for the bucks than the Core7i. Also, when the Phemon II comes around, a core 2 duo/quad should be much cheaper.

Besides of which processor you take, I would suggest it'd be a quadcore, and has DDR3 ram if possible. This way you're the most future proof

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Subject: Re: Fragbox Build  
Posted by [luv2pb](#) on Sun, 28 Dec 2008 20:01:55 GMT  
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Quadcore is going to be the best bang for your buck. I believe the 2.8 is now the most cost effective one. I also agree with EWD, make sure it is DDR3. Though the cost of RAM has gone up recently you will be good for a while.

Also, I have had very good luck with ASUS mother boards over the past few years. Nvidia cards have come down in price which helps the build too.

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Subject: Re: Fragbox Build  
Posted by [CarrierII](#) on Mon, 29 Dec 2008 10:05:18 GMT  
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I'd also vouch for ASUS boards, rock solid, I've been less than kind to this one and it's still working. They're overclock friendly, powercut/surge friendly, testing malfunctioning parts friendly etc

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Subject: Re: Fragbox Build  
Posted by [EvilWhiteDragon](#) on Mon, 29 Dec 2008 12:43:23 GMT  
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While my Asus P5B deluxe is now doing quite alright, I had to RMA it first. That is basically the

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experience with all my asus boards I've had. You got to RMA them at LEAST ONCE in the warranty period.

Personally I prefer DFI. Might be a bit more expensive, but they'll survive almost anything. Either that or Abit, but I think they have gone bankrupt.

And, now I come to think of it, the best recent motherboard abit made was the NF7-s, which happens to be OLD (Atlon XP timeline )

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Subject: Re: Fragbox Build

Posted by [nikki6ixx](#) on Mon, 29 Dec 2008 19:18:29 GMT

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I know Asus is an awesome brand, but I've been eying this Gigabyte board, not because it's a bit cheaper, but because plenty of people I've talked to also love Gigabyte.

Here's something of a tentative Core i7 build...

Board: <http://www.ncix.com/products/index.php?sku=34543&vpn=GA-EX58-UD5&manufacture=Gigabyte>

CPU: <http://www.newegg.ca/Product/Product.aspx?Item=N82E16819115202>

RAM: <http://www.ncix.com/products/index.php?sku=34801&vpn=TR3X3G1600C8D&manufacture=CORSAIR>

GFX: <http://www.newegg.ca/Product/Product.aspx?Item=N82E16814102809>

What's making this hard, is that those four things add up to over 1,300 bucks. I can build a Core2Quad Q9550 system with everything for the same price.

As of right now, I'm leaning towards a Core2 system because I'm not sure my gaming will use much Core i7's power, and won't be worth the cost.

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Subject: Re: Fragbox Build

Posted by [nikki6ixx](#) on Thu, 19 Feb 2009 00:29:40 GMT

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\*Bump\*

After looking at my budget, and priorities, I've decided to go for something more midline, and AMD based.

CPU: AMD Phenom II 720

(<http://www.newegg.com/Product/Product.aspx?Item=N82E16819103649>)

Motherboard: <http://www.newegg.com/Product/Product.aspx?Item=N82E16813128377>

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GFX: XFX Radeon 4850

(<http://www.newegg.com/Product/Product.aspx?Item=N82E16814150337>)

Power Supply: Corsair 750TX

(<http://www.newegg.com/Product/Product.aspx?Item=N82E16817139006>)

I need recommendations for a case that's built well, and has good ventilation; bells and whistles are not a huge deal.

I also need input as to what RAM I should select. I've looked at different DDR3 Dual Channel kits of varying speeds, but I'm having trouble setting my sights on one. 2GB should be enough for now.

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