

GameRigs EGO

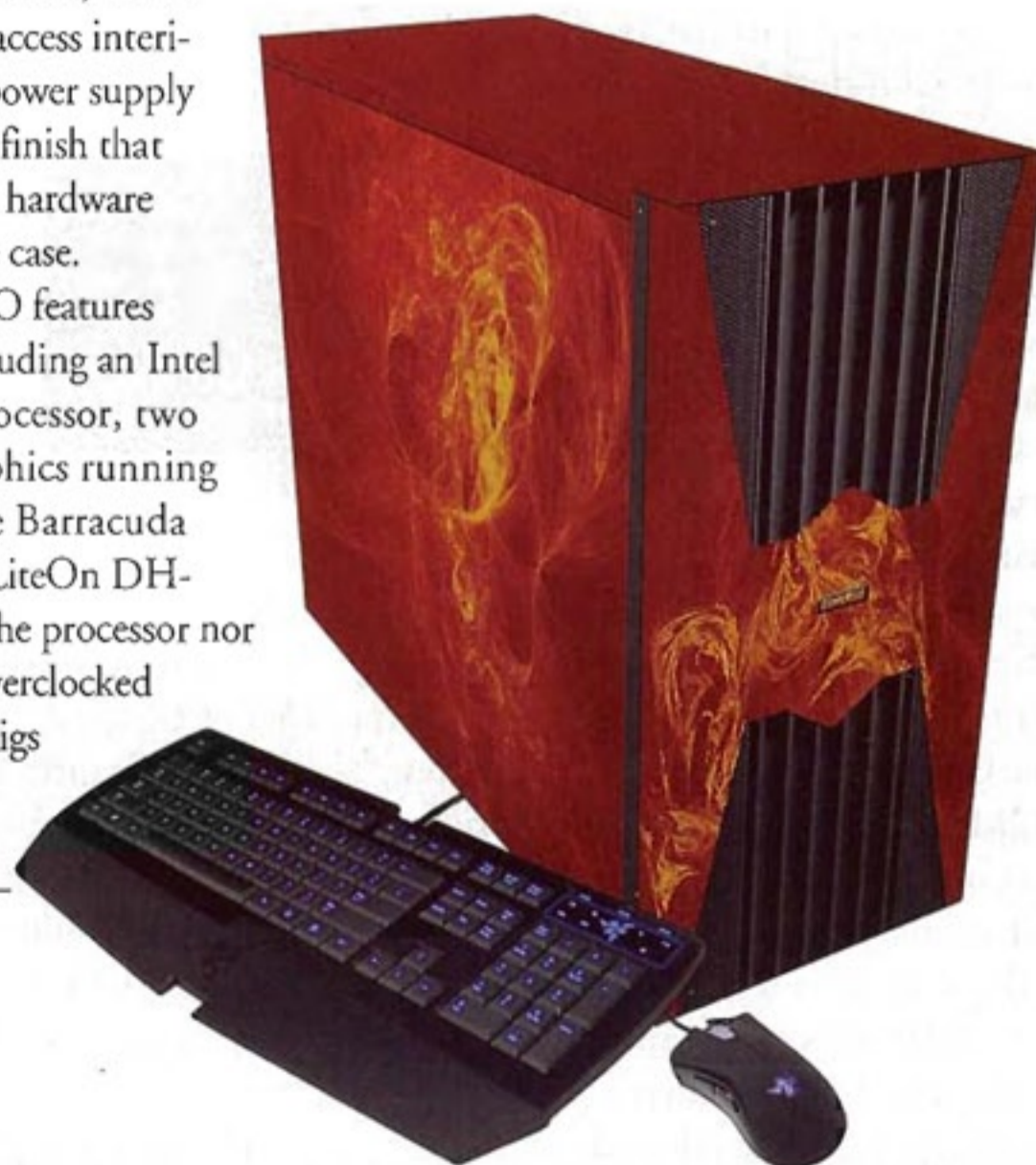
Known for its line of PCs that feature officially licensed artwork from popular games, GameRigs utilizes a "baked on" application process that makes the design on the case resistant to scratches and cuts. The EGO is a flame-embellished desktop that's priced between GameRig's affordable HEX and top-notch OMG system. With its solid, clean system design, the EGO is aptly named for those who enjoy showing off their PC.

From a distance, the EGO's laser-cut effects appear handcrafted, and close up we were impressed by the depth of red and orange hues on the case. For airflow, the door has two quadrilateral cutouts with mesh faceplates that allow the case's front panel fans to move outside air into the case. We also like that the front-panel door latches to the case, ensuring that the solid metal door stays shut when you close it. GameRigs did a good job of running the cables behind the motherboard, which results in a clean, easy-to-access interior. The Ultra X2 750W power supply features a mirrored glossy finish that neatly reflects the internal hardware when you work inside the case.

On the whole, the EGO features established hardware, including an Intel Core 2 Quad Q9950 processor, two GeForce 9800GTX graphics running in SLI, a 500GB Seagate Barracuda 7200.11 hard drive, and LiteOn DH-401S BD drive. Neither the processor nor the graphics cards were overclocked on the EGO, but GameRigs told us that customers can call and request that

the system be overclocked, which costs a flat fee of \$35. GameRigs did alter the timings of the Crucial Ballistix DDR2-1066MHz modules to lower latency and improve performance in games. The particular EGO sent to us also included Bigfoot's Killer NIC K1, as well as Razer's Lycosa keyboard and DeathAdder mouse.

Because the EGO is a midrange PC, we knew it wouldn't break any of our benchmark records. But in terms of performance, we've seen lower-priced systems deliver better frames per second in Company of Heroes (25.9), World in Conflict (10), and Crysis (3.4). The EGO achieved a near-playable resolution of 28fps in Crysis when we backed down the resolution to 1,900 x 1,200. Overclocking the processor would have helped the EGO in our Dr. Divx (4:44 [minutes: seconds]), POV-Ray 3.7 Beta (2,446pps), and WinRAR 3.71 (2:44) tests.



EGO
\$2,499 (as tested)
GameRigs
www.game-rigs.com



Specs: Intel Core 2 Quad @ 2.83GHz; Motherboard: Evga nForce 780i SLI FTW; RAM: 4GB Crucial Ballistix (PowerStix) DDR2-1066; HDD: 500GB Seagate Barracuda 7200.11; GPU: EVGA GeForce 9800 GTX (2x; SLI); PSU: Ultra X2 750W ATX; OS: Windows Vista Home Premium

If you're willing to pay a little extra for an impressive-looking system, it's worthwhile to check out GameRigs' EGO and other custom designs. Alternatively, if you strictly are interested in performance, you may be able to find a more affordable desktop for the job. ▲

by Nathan Lake

Benchmark Results GameRigs Ego

3DMark Vantage	
Overall	P13380
GPU	11197
CPU	32211
Cinebench 10*	
Multithreaded (score)	11585
Multithreaded (min:sec)	1:16
Dr. Divx 2.0.1*	
	4:44
POV-Ray 3.7 Beta**	
	2446
PCMark Vantage Pro 1.0	
Overall	5220
Memories	4502
TV And Movies	3318
Gaming	5043
Music	4436
Communications	5106
Productivity	5543
HDD	3986
SiSoft Sandra Lite XII SP1	
Processor Arithmetic	
Dhrystone ALU (MIPS)	44,244
Whetstone iSSE3 (MFLOPS)	34,822
Processor Multi-Media	
Integer x8 iSSE3 (itps)	351,425
Floating Point x8 iSSE2 (itps)	227,150
Memory Bandwidth	
Integer Buffered iSSE2 (GBps)	6.63
Floating-Point Buffered iSSE2 (GBps)	6.61
WinRAR 3.71*	
	2:44
Crysis 1.1	
	3.4
Company of Heroes 2.1.0.2 (4XAA)	
	25.9
World In Conflict 1.005 (4XAA, 16XAF)	
	10
S.T.A.L.K.E.R 1.0005	
	52

* minutes: seconds

** pixels per second

Games tested at 2,560 x 1,600