

## Gigabyte P35K

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A stylish gaming laptop with power to spare. Too good to be true? Almost...

## VITAL STATISTICS

**Price** £1,200  
**Manufacturer** Gigabyte  
**Web** <http://uk.gigabyte.com>  
**CPU** Intel Core i7-4700HQ  
**Memory** 2x 8GB 1,600MHz DDR3  
**Graphics** Nvidia GeForce GTX 765M  
**Display** 15.6in, 1,920 x 1,080  
**Storage** 2x 128GB mSATA SSD  
**Dimensions** 385 x 279 x 21mm  
**Weight** 2.16kg

There appear to be two distinct types of laptop in this world – sleek Ultrabooks and powerful gaming machines. If you find yourself hoping the Venn diagram of these genres overlaps to produce a sleek and sexy gaming machine, you're probably eyeing up this Gigabyte P35K with lustful delight. Sadly, the reality doesn't live up to that dream.

Before we get on to the fundamental problem with this machine though, it's worth looking at what it does well. This is a 15.6-inch laptop from the Ultrabook-like school of thought. It isn't quite as thin as some of the more headline-

grabbing machines, but at just 21mm thick and weighing in at just over 2kg, it's hardly porky either. It looks great, and is nicely finished as well.

The 15.6-inch IPS screen offers great viewing angles and good colour reproduction, but we did find the brightness a little on the subdued side even at full whack. The 15.6in form factor permits Gigabyte to use a full-sized keyboard that is comfortable and accurate enough for serious work as well as gaming. The touchpad is annoying for anything but the most simple of prodding, but that seems to be the norm these days.

The core components are decent as well, with a quad-core, eight-thread Intel (Haswell) Core i7-4700HQ doing the heavy lifting. This has been paired with an Nvidia GTX 765M GPU; a decent mainstream gaming processor that can be cajoled into playing the latest games with only the lightest of touches at the screen's native 1080p resolution – something made

even easier by Nvidia's brilliant GeForce Experience utility.

Gigabyte has pulled out all the stops on the storage and memory front as well, packing this review unit with 16GB of RAM and not one, but two 128GB mSATA SSDs in a RAID array for blistering throughput speeds. There's also an optical drive, but this can be swapped out for more storage using the supplied bracket (a great idea).

## Sounds grate

Now for the fundamental problem. The P35K is just too loud. The moment you turn it to anything serious – be that gaming or simply some number crunching – the system fans ramp up to crazy levels to keep that thin chassis cool – and we were still hitting over 90°C with CPU-intensive tasks. It isn't just a little off-putting, it's straight up ridiculous. These components just don't belong in this form factor.

It's all very frustrating, because this machine can provide a decent gaming experience. Impressive, even.

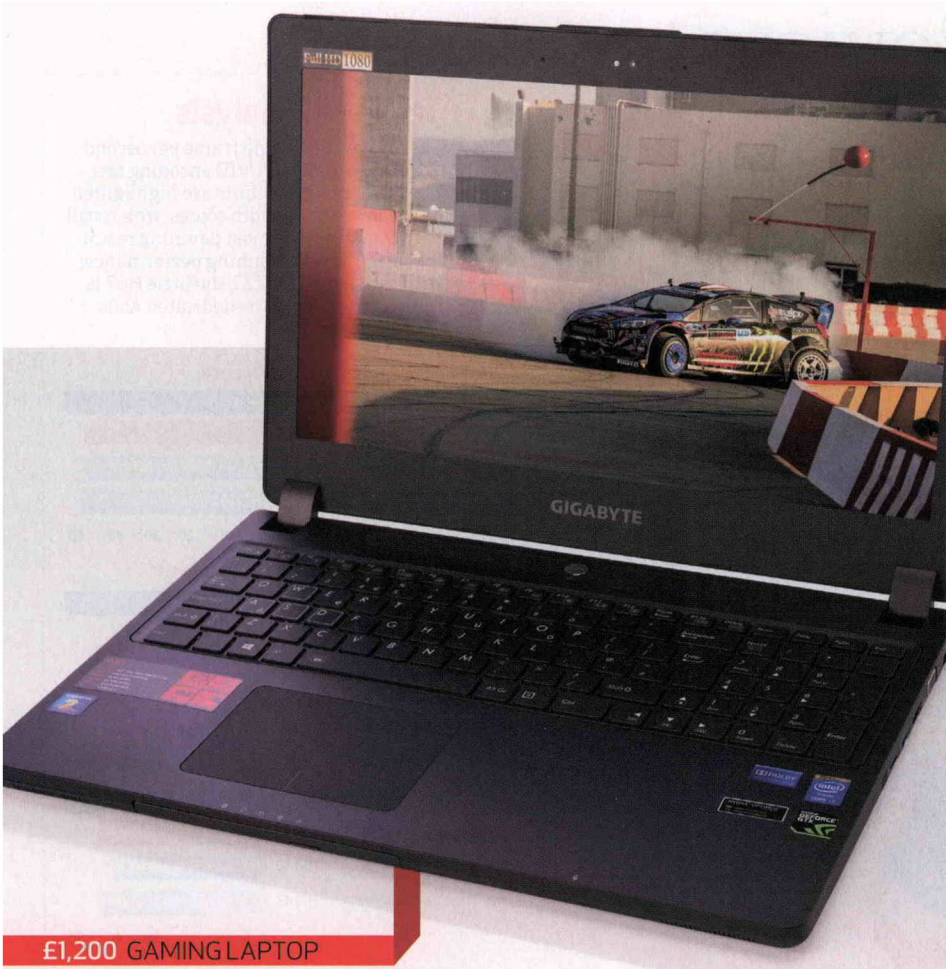
GRID 2 is buttery smooth, and even the silicon-munching *Metro: Last Light* is playable with some minor tweaking. Basically there's nothing wrong with the underlying hardware, and the general form factor is great, but when it sounds like it's cleaning the carpet while you're gaming, you're not going to love the experience, or be particularly proud of your purchase. This is a shame, because plenty of us would love a gaming machine that looked like this, but we definitely don't want it to sound like this. So sadly yes, it would appear it's just too good to be true. ■ Alan Dexter

## PCFormat Verdict

**Features** ★★★★★  
**Performance** ★★★★★  
**Value** ★★★★★

Potentially brilliant, but mismatched cooling produces a machine that's simply far too loud to be enjoyable.

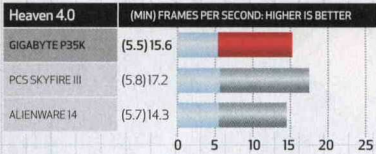




Technical analysis

Look at the figures without the drone of the cooling system, and there's a lot to like in the P35K. In fact, the overall gaming experience isn't far off that of our favourite 14-incher, the PC Specialist SkyFire III (which has a lower screen resolution of 1,600 x 900, but costs half as much). The similarly specced, but more expensive Alienware takes a thrashing too, but that's still quieter than the P35K.

DirectX 11 tessellation performance



DirectX 11 gaming performance (Ultra)

