

GIGABYTE P35K



£1,178 inc VAT • From www.lambda-tek.com

VERDICT

A super-powerful 15.6in gaming laptop with lots of ports and a comfortable keyboard

GIGABYTE HAS IMPRESSED us in the past with gaming laptops such as the powerful P34G and the U2442F Ultrabook, but the P35K could be the best gaming laptop yet. This 15.6in device has a slim chassis that stands just 21mm tall when closed, and it's surprisingly portable for a gaming laptop. It does, however, weigh a relatively hefty 2.2kg.

There's some powerful hardware inside too. Its 2GB Nvidia GeForce GTX 765M is one of the most capable graphics chips we've seen. Other laptops with GTX 765M chips have regularly produced average frame rates of at least 70fps in our Dirt Showdown laptop test, but the P35K blew them away, producing a blindingly fast average of 103.2fps at 1,280x720 with graphics quality set to High.

The screen will only ever show 60fps due to its 60Hz refresh rate, but with so much power at your disposal you'll have no trouble playing many games in Full HD. The P35K even produced a stunning average frame rate of 73.1fps at 1,920x1,080 with 4x anti-aliasing and graphics quality set to High.

STRAIN TIMETABLE

To stress the P35K we ran our much more challenging Crysis 3 benchmark at 1,920x1,080 resolution and High quality with 4x anti-aliasing. Here the P35K produced a more modest 22.3fps, but it achieved a much more playable 29.8fps with the graphics quality at Low. This is impressive for a gaming laptop, and even a few frames ahead of the Chillblast Defiant Mini (see *Reviews, Shopper 313*).

The P35K's 2.4GHz Intel Core i7-4700HQ processor gives it desktop-grade processing power, as it can increase its clock speed to 3.4GHz when temperatures allow. Paired with 8GB of RAM, it scored a huge 95 overall in our multimedia benchmarks – just five points

behind our reference Core i5-3570K desktop processor. This is twice as fast as a typical Core i7-based Ultrabook, so you can be sure the P35K will handle any program you throw at it.

The P35K isn't just a great gaming laptop, though. Its enjoyable to use for any computing task. The fans are rather noisy, but its keyboard and large wrist rest make typing comfortable. The keys give plenty of tactile feedback and there's a numeric keypad. Just remember to keep your fingers away from the speakers and power button, though, as these became hot after long periods of gaming.

We weren't keen on the touchpad, as it didn't depress far enough when clicked. Its large, smooth surface is good for performing Windows 8 shortcuts and multi-touch gestures, but having separate buttons rather than integrated ones would've made navigating the Windows desktop easier.

DISPLAY TIME

Happily, the P35K's large 15.6in IPS screen looks great. Our colour calibrator showed that it was displaying only 67.1 per cent of the sRGB colour gamut, which is disappointing, but we didn't notice the screen looking particularly washed out during our subjective image tests. Our solid reds, greens and blues all looked bright and rich on the matt screen, and blacks were deep.

Our high-contrast images also looked good, but the screen's deep blacks tended to obscure finer shadow detail in some of our night shots. This is a shame, because its

contrast ratio of 900:1 is much higher than average. With no way of improving the contrast, we sometimes struggled in dimly lit game environments where it was difficult to see where we were going. We lost a lot of detail in the dark swamps of Crysis 3, for instance, so this may be a turn off for serious FPS fans.

The P35K is equipped with a comprehensive range of ports. It has four USB ports, two of which are USB3, VGA and HDMI video outputs, a headphone jack that doubles as an S/PDIF optical audio output, a microphone jack, an SD card reader, a Gigabit Ethernet port and a DVD

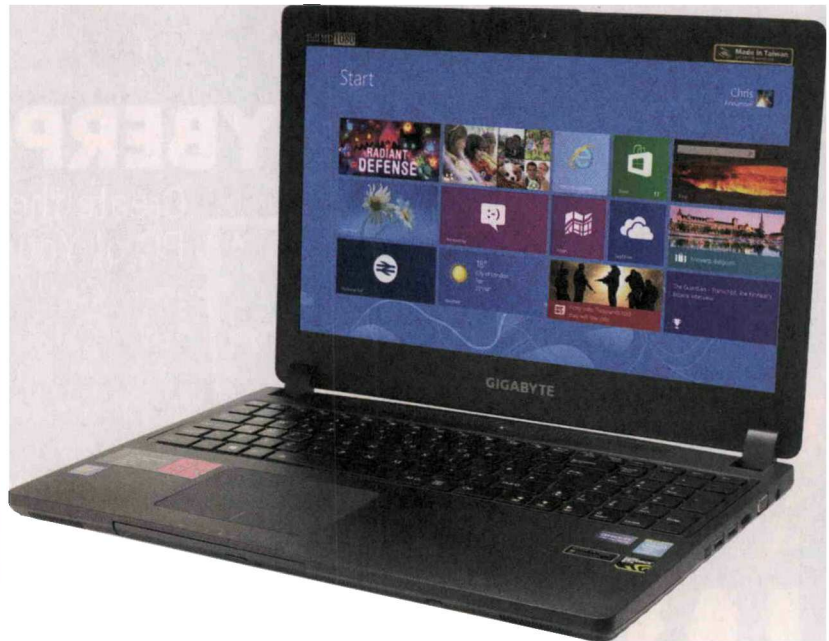


optical drive that's located on the front of the laptop. Some models also come with a mini DisplayPort, but this was blocked on our review sample.

Battery life was also surprisingly good for a gaming laptop, as the P35K lasted five hours and 20 minutes in our light-use test. Playing games will drain the battery much quicker, but this laptop lasts a good hour longer than most gaming models, enhancing its portability when you want to take out it with you.

With its powerful components and excellent keyboard, there's no denying that the Gigabyte P35K is one of the most capable gaming laptops currently available. It's a shame the screen doesn't have slightly better contrast, but for graphics performance this laptop outperforms its closest rivals, such as the MSI GE60 and Scan 3XS Graphite LG155. At £1,178, it's not quite as good value as the 13.3in Chillblast Defiant Mini, but if you want a large, portable gaming laptop, the P35K is a great buy.

Katharine Byrne



SPECIFICATIONS

CPU 2.4GHz Intel Core i7-4700HQ
RAM 8GB
STORAGE 128GB SSD + 1TB hard disk
GRAPHICS Nvidia GeForce GTX 765M
OPTICAL DRIVE DVD+/-RW +/-DL
DISPLAY 15.6in widescreen LCD (1,920x1,080)
OPERATING SYSTEM Windows 8
DIMENSIONS 21x385x270mm, 2.2kg
POWER CONSUMPTION 1W standby, 18W idle, 95W active
WARRANTY One-year RTB
PART CODE P35K-CF2
DETAILS <http://uk.gigabyte.com>

