



BENCHMARKS

3DMark
Fire Strike

3,788
3,788

SPECS
CPU
Intel Core i7
4700MQ
MEMORY
16GB DDR3
1,600MHz
STORAGE
256GB SSD + 1TB
HDD
OPTICAL DRIVE
Blu-Ray writer
GPU
NVIDIA GTX 770M
3GB

GIGABYTE P25W Gaming Notebook

Supplier Rectron Website www.gigabyte.com RRP TBA

GIGABYTE is at the forefront of many computer components and devices, but perhaps less so when it comes to notebooks. As a brand, it's never really made the changes required to reinvent itself in line with the modern day offerings. This is especially true when talking about the high-end gaming notebooks where, prior to this effort of the P25W, GIGABYTE was essentially making regular notebooks with great specs.

A high-end component list is a great start but there's something extra that needs to go into it that makes one consider paying so much money. It has everything to do with the package, presentation and build quality. That which specs on paper cannot account for.

In light of this, our experience with the P25W was one that left us feeling positive about the strides GIGABYTE is making in the notebook department, despite the P25W having missed several opportunities to distinguish itself from the rest. This is not in the specs but in how they are all brought together into a package that makes it that much easier to spend your money on.

For instance, the keyboard is backlit which is great. It's a full layout and easy to type on, but unfortunately towards the right side, close to the number pad, the keyboard mounting seemed to give in a little when pressed. Something that could be isolated to our particular sample, but none the less it was something that can be annoying if you end up with such a unit. The keys also happen to have a very plastic feel to them, a crucial part

of a gaming notebook which should never be overlooked. In contrast to that, the touch pad felt fantastic, sensitive and precise. Given that this is a gaming notebook, one is likely to plug a mouse into one of the USB ports and this is where an opportunity was missed for G-STYLE (the formal name for GIGABYTE's notebook unit) to include one of the several great mice that GIGABYTE makes, such as the Krypton.

Another aspect of this notebook, and possibly the most inadequate, is the audio quality. For a notebook that's supposed to have a subwoofer and four speakers, the audio was anything but impressive. Headphones were much better and we can't say the speakers are usable for anything other than a quick viewing of streaming video. You'll want headphones for this notebook; perhaps consider the GIGABYTE FLY headset. (Yet another missed opportunity).

Other than that however, the rest of the notebook is great. In fact it's better than one would have imagined it to be. Not only is the performance superb, but the 15.6" matte finish LCD is wonderful to work on. Powered by NVIDIA Optimus technology, switching between the Haswell grade GPU and the GTX 770M results in good battery life without sacrificing graphics performance. Worth noting as well is that small things like the ability to charge devices while the notebook is hibernating or on standby via the USB ports are much appreciated.

Aesthetically, it's not going to challenge

any of the more established gaming notebook brands, but the yellow does look great and the finish is of the highest quality. The notebook may not look much like a gaming machine, but this does allow it to be used inside a boardroom without it looking juvenile. Thus, we'll take no points off for aesthetics even though it could do with a few more angular lines perhaps. Other than that, being a Windows 8 notebook, paired with a RAID configuration of SSDs, the start-up time is phenomenal, booting to the Metro UI within seconds of pressing the power button. Overall, the P25W is a good notebook, certainly better than GIGABYTE's previous attempts. It's not firing on all cylinders yet, but the P25W is definitely a notebook worth purchasing if you're in the market. **NAG**
- Neo Sibeko



GIGABYTE's most recent attempt at a gaming notebook is certainly heading in the right direction, a worthy alternative to other brands.

PLUS

NVIDIA GTX 770M GPU / 128GB SSD in RAID 0 / Great display

MINUS

Keyboard build quality / Audio is underwhelming / No mouse included