

GIGABYTE P27K Gaming Notebook

Website / www.gigabyte.com

ERP / R19,299

Supplier / Rectron

SPECS

CPU	Intel Core i7 4700HQ
GPU	NVIDIA GTX 765M 2GB
MEMORY	16GB DDR3
STORAGE	256GB SSD (RAID 0) + 1TB Storage drive
OPTICAL DRIVE	DVD writer
GPU	NVIDIA GTX 765M 2GB

Gaming notebooks have always had a tough time going about their purpose at a decent price. More so than desktops, many were limited by what technology could offer and as a result, desktop replacement machines in particular were always the worst. For the most part, this continues to be the case. Fortunately however, here we don't have a desktop replacement machine. The P27K is a simple gaming notebook, which is designed to be appealing in a gaming context, but also appropriate for use in a working environment.

In other words, it is not as vulgar as some units we've seen before. It's simple yet appealing aesthetic works and GIGABYTE has done a great job with it.

Like most 17.3" notebooks, the P27K is not light by any measure, as it tips the scales at 3.2kg. It is still lighter than many desktop replacement systems, but heavier than other competing products. That said, the weight distribution is great and it isn't particularly heavy on any one side.

Aesthetics aside, this notebook is primarily about performance and it must be said that disk performance is incredible. Thanks to the RAID 0 configuration, the machine is very snappy and there is no waiting for any program to open. From pressing the power button to the desktop, it takes a few seconds. You'll be hard pressed to find better disk performance from any notebook for any amount of money. We tested the RAID configuration and recorded scores of 947MB/s in sequential reads and 629MB/s in sequential writes. 4K (QD32) performance was equally brilliant at 471MB/s and 456MB/s respectively. To put this into perspective, there's not a single 2.5" SATA 6Gbps or SAS SSD you can buy that could deliver this kind of performance.

As with the P35K, the full HD screen is great, offering respectable viewing angles and consistent colour reproduction. It is one of the better panels on the market and certainly makes videos and games come



BENCHMARK RESULTS

PC Mark8 Creative Suite
(OpenCL accelerated): **3,732**
Battery time: 2H:49m: **45s**
3DMark FireStrike: **2,599**
Catzilla 1080p: **3,426**

alive. This would be an even better display had it been paired with a faster GPU in the form of the GTX 770M. The GTX 765M is an acceptable GPU, but just doesn't have the oomph to drive the display at the native resolution. Unlike the desktop GTX 760, the 765M only has at its disposal 64GB/s of memory bandwidth. That means it has even lower bandwidth than what you'd find on a GTX 650 Ti for instance. Since that GPU isn't capable of 1080p gaming, it stands to reason that any similarly configured GPU would not be and this is the case with the 765M as featured in the P27K. We do feel that sacrificing some other features on the notebook would be worth it just so that the GPU would be a GTX 770M instead as that would make virtually all games playable at 1080p with medium to high detail settings.

That aside, we were once again underwhelmed by the speakers on the 27K. They simply lacked the bass and clarity we would expect from such a notebook, which is another wasted opportunity. Given that there are several general use notebooks that offer better audio, you may want to consider headphones rather than using the built-in speakers.

Overall, this is a fairly good notebook, but it's not quite ready to challenge for the top spot when gaming comes to mind. There are some component decisions that offset what is otherwise a sublime machine. For the right price however, it is certainly an attractive offer and should allow you go about your gaming without much trouble. If you're looking for something a little special perhaps, do consider GIGABYTE's other notebooks instead.

- Neo Sibeko

7 Much like the P35K, the P27K is decent at playing current games and offering a solid computing experience. It can still be improved upon, however at lower to similar pricing.

PLUS / Phenomenal disk performance / Great display

MINUS / Keyboard could do with improvement / Speakers are poor / Heavier than necessary