

GIGABYTE P35W V2

With power where it counts there's a lot to love here, but it isn't quite perfect

VITAL STATISTICS

Price £1,399
Manufacturer Gigabyte
Web www.gigabyte.com
CPU Intel Core i7-4710HQ
Memory 16GB DDR3
Graphics GTX 870M GDDR6GB
Display 15.6in, 1,920 x 1,080
Storage 2x 128GB mSATA SSD + 1TB 5,400rpm HDD
Dimensions 385 x 270 x 21mm
Weight 2.3kg

Here we are once again, having that most delicious carrot waved in front of us – the promise of the gaming Ultrabook. With each new laptop that offers this dream-like prize we seem to be getting closer and closer to that particular gaming nirvana – but can Gigabyte actually deliver on the goods this time? Well it certainly puts in a darn good show.

The big sell for this machine, as far as gaming is concerned, is the graphics subsystem. The P35W v2 boasts Nvidia's GeForce GTX870M – at least until the mobile Maxwell GPUs roll out. This GK104 Kepler

GPU has 1,344 CUDA cores and lays claim to 6GB of GDDR5 memory, big by anyone's standards, and clearly enough to handle this laptop's 1,920 x 1,080 display.

This is joined by an Intel Core i7-4710HQ, which is a quad-core processor with hyperthreading. This Core i7 boasts 6MB of cache and has a default clock speed of 2.5GHz, which can turbo up to 3.5GHz. It's paired with 16GB of DDR3 RAM to offer up a base configuration that handles gaming and more serious day-to-day tasks with ease.

At high settings and at the screen's native 1080p resolution you're looking at smooth frame rates (above 30fps at any rate). This power isn't limited to making the most out of your games either, with that beefy core helping you to do more productive things with the 15.6in screen.

Speed and sound

While the processor and graphics subsystems are obvious hits with the P35W v2,

there is surprising power on the storage front too. The main boot drive is made up from a pair of 128GB mSATA drives in a RAID array to produce a speedy home for Windows 8 – a sequential read and write performance of 923MB/s and 595MB/s respectively. Impressive. This tails off a tad when it comes to 4k performance – 25.8MB/s and 51.8MB/s for reads and writes respectively – but you're still looking at a great home for your OS. This is backed up by a healthy 1TB data drive, so there's plenty of room for games and data too. The inclusion of the Blu-ray drive is impressive given the thin chassis, especially as Gigabyte has included a bracket that enables you to add even more storage to the machine.

While this all sounds very promising and would normally have us reaching for the gold award, there are a couple of factors that hold it back from receiving that cherished accolade. The first is the weight. While this is certainly a

thin machine, at 2.3kg it can't really be described as light. It's just that tad too heavy to be slung around easily. The price is a little on the high side too. You do get a lot for your pence, but it's still a high initial outlay.

Our main frustration though is something that has annoyed us since the very first gaming Ultrabooks appeared: when you stress the processor or the graphics subsystem, the cooling fans whirr noisily into action. It isn't jet-engine territory, but it's still loud enough to put you off your film watching, pull you out of your immersive game, or just plain annoy you. ■ **Alan Dexter**

PCFormat Verdict

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

A powerful gaming laptop for certain, but a loud and a slightly heavy one as well. The price isn't going to be for everyone either.

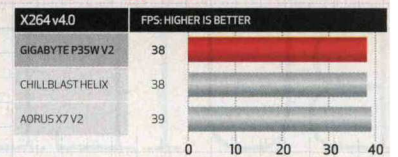




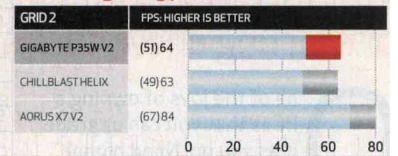
Technical analysis

The base specifications of this machine are remarkably close to the slightly cheaper Chillblast Helix we reviewed a couple of issues ago, and the performance isn't that different either. We've also compared it to the pricier Aorus X7 V2 that we saw last issue (£1,750), which boasts a pair of GTX 860M GPUs, but otherwise has a fairly similar spec.

CPU rendering performance



DirectX 11 gaming performance



DirectX 11 gaming performance

