
Subject: Re: New Computer Research

Posted by [mision08](#) on Thu, 15 Jun 2006 21:41:24 GMT

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Asus is a real good board, that you can overclock without being the biggest geek in your town. It's OEM settings will be quicker than the DFI, wich needs more user interaction to get the best performance. Plus it has a model with a heat pipe for cooling the chipset. It's cool looking and it's more quiet, but it has to be inside the case like a normal board (no inverting or laying the board on it's side).

DFI has a million settings you can tweak, and can push 3.5v to the RAM, more voltage than it can handle without active cooling. OCZ XV (X-tream Voltage) will take 3.3v without voiding the warranty (I think, but it needs a fan over 3.1v IMO). I don't believe there is another board that can deliver as much juice without a booster, and that takes up a memory slot. And it should have more potential speed than other boards.

I don't recommend the XV series of memory. While it is very fast with tight timings. Fun to change the jumper block and shoot 3.3v to, it is only good if it can get high voltage. This limits the memory to DFI boards, or a purchase of a booster. I wish I could drop \$75 on a board with AGP interface and let my ATI card stretch it's legs, but I'm to cheap to buy memory. If I had TCCD or other fast low voltage memory I could just use it as well. I will survive.

I'm not sure what Gigabit has to offer, but I bet it's good. Stay away from MSI. The stock fan on any processor is a no no. Also, there is something about a clearance issue with the AM2 processor and HSF.

Study the forum of the board you go with for known issues that may kill memory modules. You may need to flash the BIOS when you set up the rig.

If you build a whole new computer, you will fire it up, let it POST and possibly flash the BIOS before you ever open the OS to install. Otherwise you risk corrupting the install of windows XP Pro. That you can purchase as the OEM for a reduced price, probably 100 bucks.
