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REVIEW

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The ultimate Valve Big Picture machine **by Gordon Mah Ung**

Steiger Dynamics LEET Core

\$6,095 www.steigerdynamics.com



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I'll admit, I had already decided before the box cutter came out that this PC was way out of place for gamers based on the price alone. This was, after all, no \$1,337 gaming rig or even some fire breathing multi-GPU tower PC taller than a 7-year-old kid. No, Steiger's Leet Core was a living room gaming box with a price tag north of \$6,000. But I was wrong. Hear me out on this one.

First of all, the Steiger Dynamics Leet Core boasts a build quality that seems lovingly hand crafted and not built by a robot in Building 35, section 18 in Shenzhen province. Power the Leet Core on, and the interior is illuminated by a ring of white LEDs, while the front-mounted LCD informs you that its Intel 3.5GHz Core i7-3770K is humming along inside at 4.7GHz. And you need that display because without it, it would be hard to tell

that the liquid-cooled EVGA GeForce GTX 690 Hydro Copper is even on.

That's a big bonus on any gaming PC, but one destined for the living room must be near-silent—which the Leet Core is, even while driving *Far Cry 3* at 2560x1600 in 3D. It can go on a desktop, but the Leet Core's best destiny is proudly being displayed under your giganormous HDTV serving up games in ways that no console that'll be made in the next 10 years could dream of matching in visual quality. (The gaming performance easily outstrips the Falcon Tiki that we reviewed in the Holiday 2012 issue. But the Tiki also costs about a third of the price.)

Not all is fine with the Leet Core though. The rig came without any TV tuner, which would make filling the four 3TB WD Caviar Red drives a chore. We'd also prefer toughened glass for the top panel

over the plastic, for a bit more class, and the rig's front port hatch was ever so slightly off kilter. Finally, did I mention that the company is a newcomer to the gaming PC business, and doesn't have the track record of others? That alone will be a turn off to many.

Still, I'm not too big to admit that my assumptions were wrong—the Leet Core is an extraordinary machine. You might boast that you could do it yourself with a screwdriver and one big-ass Newegg.com order, but my experience says you can't. Sometimes it's just better left to the professionals. ■

VERDICT

The price may not be attractive, but the case, the performance, and the nearly silent operation certainly are.

PC GAMER
90

PC GAMER
EDITOR'S
CHOICE
★★★★★

SPEC ♦ **CPU** Intel 3.5GHz Core i7-3770K overclocked to 4.7GHz ♦ **RAM** 32GB DDR3/2133 Corsair Dominator Platinum ♦ **GPU** EVGA GeForce GTX 690 Hydro Copper ♦ **Motherboard** Asus Maximus V Extreme ♦ **Storage** Two 240GB Corsair Neutron SSD in RAID 0, four 3TB Western Digital Caviar RED in RAID 5 ♦ **Blu-ray** Combo drive ♦ **Case** Custom