

Alienware Aurora 7500 Desktop Computer

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Be Green With Envy

I'm really into green these days. Tranquil green grass, precious green emeralds, and my newest PC from Alienware—the Aurora 7500 custom-built computer in what else...Cyborg Green. Yes, you should be envious of the prestigious green-eyed glowing Alienware logo adorning the top of the uniquely sculpted Alienware Full Tower case. But before we get into the knock out specs of my custom Alienware configuration, let me give you some background regarding the company. Alienware is one of the elite computer brands worldwide. They have earned this reputation from the discriminating buying public who expect their systems to be a cut above in terms of product quality and award winning support. They also won PC Magazine's prestigious "Reader's Award" in 2005. Whether you're a discerning computer fanatic (and hardcore gamer) such as The Muscleman of Technology, or just seeking a computer with an extra stick of dynamite inside, the Alienware sales team can put together a system to match any budget or requirement. I personally have been buying Alienware computers since 1998. Alienware never stands still. They keep improving their brand, products, and support. Since my last review two years ago, Alienware has added an entire line-up of killer laptops and a newly branded consumer electronics line which includes MP3 players, flash drives, and more.

Power to the People

Needless to say the days of vanilla flavored white box computers are over. In fact, any high end computer today worth its salt has a few core requirements. Those are a mammoth powered Power Supply with at least 450 watts—I configured mine with a 650W monster to handle my Heat Exchanger. What's that? You want to know why there is a Heat Exchanger? Can you say "Liquid Cooling" or as Alienware calls it: AlienIce! If you look at the photo below you will notice Alienware even lets you select the color of AlienIce to match your case. I chose Terra Green to match my Cyborg Green case. Alienware's Liquid Cooling System works like this. It uses a high-flow, compact pump to circulate a thermally conductive liquid through a closed-loop system to remove heat

from the processor and expel it to the ambient air flowing through a liquid-to-air heat exchanger. By the way, the black thing on the left is the Heat Exchanger. The four red strips on the right are my system RAM. Not just any RAM, but Patriot brand premium memory low-latency dual channel DDR PC-3200 (at 333MHz) at 512MB each for a total of 2 Gig RAM!



Inside view: The Aurora 7500 hand made AlienIce Liquid Cooling in Terra Green

At the heart of my system is a stellar AMD Dual Core processor. I selected the AMD Athlon 64 X2 4400+ because I wanted a CPU that would scale and play nicely with Microsoft's new Windows Vista OS coming out mid 2006. The 4400+ actually draws less power than the single core AMD FX-55 processor. In fact, tests show that at full load the X2 4400+ uses 60% less power than the Intel 840 XE processor. The X2 4400+ simply hits the sweet spot in dual core processors for both value and performance. Although the current top banana is the X2 4800+, it's hard to justify the price tag as it uses the same Toledo core and the same amount of L1 and L2 Cache as my X2 4400+ (but the 4800+ is speedier).

I'm Seeing Double: Two GeForce 7800 GTX's Inside

Are you kidding me—let's talk Video cards and why I have no money for a cheeseburger. I may not get the top of the line processor, but I always get the top of the line Video card. You know, almost every new computer you buy at retail skimps on a first-class GPU (Graphics Processing Unit). Not with Alienware! They only serve the best, and I went for the top of the line Dual GeForce nVidia 7800 GTX's with 512MB each (in SLI mode) for a combined over 1 Gig of video RAM. SLI (Scalable Link Interface) delivers up to 2x the performance of a single GPU configuration for mind bending gaming experiences—it allows two graphics cards to run in parallel. Just some quick facts on these 7800 GTX please: Twice the performance of the GeForce 6800 Ultra, the 7800 GTX also uses a revolutionary new architecture with 2nd generation Nvidia SLI technology, has 302 million transistors, and will set you back a cool \$600 a pop! Can you say advanced 16x anisotropic filtering kids?



The coveted Nvidia GeForce 7800 GTX in all its oversized heat sink glory

Final Thoughts

This is my 5th Alienware computer since 1998 and I can honestly say I'm always wound up tighter than a firecracker when that big black Alienware box arrives at my house. You don't have to go to extremes like my rig, but considering the Alienware Aurora 7500 series starts out at just \$1,699.00 it truly represents the very best value for your money. By the way do you know what my 3DMark05 score is? How about 12,009 for a cool Sunday Morning workout! I urge you to visit Alienware.com and see for yourself the quality and pride this institution incorporates into every computer. Their motto "Build it as if it were your own" is spot-on accurate. It's the little things Alienware does which set them apart from everyone else. From the glowing bioluminescent logo alien eyes, to the 200-point quality checklist, to the exclusive AlienWiring and AlienCare 24/7 award winning Tech Support—you get it all...and on your terms! Even the easy open case reveals luxury craftsmanship throughout. The neatly exposed innards are firmly anchored and wired tidily with a pro's caring touch. Alienware's site offers a dynamic support page chock full of resources including interactive customer forums, driver downloads, instructional upgrade videos, game patches, FAQ's and much more. It's the "out of this world" Alienware treatment...from "First Contact" through "Lift-Off" that will have you permanently abducted into the Alienware family!