Subject: Which Motherboard?
Posted by trooprm02 on Mon, 11 Aug 2008 01:37:56 GMT

Ok, so basically my new system will be running 800mhz 4GB ram, socket am2 6000, and 2x8600GT sli. Im looking for a good mother board with built in sound card but to my surprise there was VERY limited selection to socket am2 period. Ive been using a few sites, tigerdirect.ca is the cheapest and ships to canada so don't suggest newegg, etc.

 http://www.tigerdirect.ca/applications/SearchTools/item-details.asp?EdpNo=3642074&CatId=2050

^Cheaper, basically has the same features as the asus, minus firewire and dual gigabit lan. But better intergrated audio (7.1 hd altek)

 http://www.tigerdirect.ca/applications/SearchTools/item-details.asp?EdpNo=2824015&CatId=2050

^Almost double, worse audio card, bigger in size (worried the msi one might not be able to bolt down correctly to my case) e-sata, firewire and dual gigabit lan, of those 3 I don't use a single one but im thinking ahead (resale), and better brand name +well known model (M2N, and its the higher end SLI-Deluxe).

Basically, is the asus worth the extra money? Any have experience with MSI? If you have ever toyed with overclocking with MSI, mind detailing the experience (how OC friendly is MSI)?

P.S: The msi is actually 8x-8x sli, which is basically sli v1, but im not sure if the Asus sli is the same. For my current board it is (A8N-Sli Deluxe), does anyone know or can find if the M2N Sli-Deluxe is "true sli" (16x-16x)? Thanks.

Subject: Re: Which Motherboard?
Posted by Doitle on Mon, 11 Aug 2008 05:32:44 GMT

Are you seriously planning to use integrated audio?

Subject: Re: Which Motherboard?
Posted by Goztow on Mon, 11 Aug 2008 06:54:08 GMT

Doitle wrote on Mon, 11 August 2008 07:32Are you seriously planning to use integrated audio?
10 $ for a dedicated sound card? Trust me: it's very much worth it!

Subject: Re: Which Motherboard?
Posted by JPNOD on Mon, 11 Aug 2008 07:14:31 GMT

trooprm02 wrote on Sun, 10 August 2008 21:37Ok, so basically my new system will be running 800mhz 4GB ram, socket am2 6000, and 2x8600GT sli. Im looking for a good mother board with built in sound card but to my surprise there was VERY limited selection to socket am2 period. Ive been using a few sites, tigerdirect.ca is the cheapest and ships to canada so don't suggest newegg, etc.

  http://www.tigerdirect.ca/applications/SearchTools/item-details.asp?EdpNo=3642074&CatId=2050

^Cheaper, basically has the same features as the asus, minus firewire and dual gigabit lan. But better intergrated audio (7.1 hd altek)

  http://www.tigerdirect.ca/applications/SearchTools/item-details.asp?EdpNo=2824015&CatId=2050

^Almost double, worse audio card, bigger in size (worried the msi one might not be able to bolt down correctly to my case) e-sata, firewire and dual gigabit lan, of those 3 I don't use a single one but im thinking ahead (resale), and better brand name +well known model (M2N, and its the higher end SLI-Deluxe).

Basically, is the asus worth the extra money? Any have experience with MSI? If you have ever toyed with overclocking with MSI, mind detailing the experience (how OC friendly is MSI)?

P.S: The msi is actually 8x-8x sli, which is basically sli v1, but im not sure if the Asus sli is the same. For my current board it is (A8N-Sli Deluxe), does anyone know or can find if the M2N Sli-Deluxe is "true sli" (16x-16x)? Thanks.

Basically, is the asus worth the extra money? Any have experience with MSI? If you have ever toyed with overclocking with MSI, mind detailing the experience (how OC friendly is MSI)?

OC friendly enough, there is hardly andy bad motherboard makers out there. Some claim they use better components thought.. this could be very well true Gigabyte uses advanced japanese mosfets on there motherboards, and Ferite core chocke Coil.

But since you want to overclock why do you make the choice for an AMD 6000? and not a Core 2 duo or Qaud.? Even on stock speed the AMD gets outrun...

Subject: Re: Which Motherboard?
Posted by JPNOD on Mon, 11 Aug 2008 07:18:23 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Doitle wrote on Mon, 11 August 2008 01:32Are you seriously planning to use integrated audio?

It does make a difference, but now a days onboard audio isn't bad unless your a audiophile..tou'd probably hear the difference for hardcore games it might give that 1 or 2 fps extra. (If it does at all).

Nvidia Soundstorm used to be top knotch integrated audio found on the Nforce 2 chip.

Subject: Re: Which Motherboard?
Posted by Speedy059 on Mon, 11 Aug 2008 10:02:48 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

All the computers/servers I have built...I would use MSI. I have to many vendetta's against Asus so my opinion is biased

Subject: Re: Which Motherboard?
Posted by Doitle on Mon, 11 Aug 2008 12:16:20 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Integrated Audio is not the same now a days. Get a seperate sound card.

I would reccomend the Asus. Asus tech support is really good about sending you a new one if it breaks. When my motherboard died, in such a way that it would turn on then immediately shut off. This was literally the conversation. "Ok when you turn it on it shuts back off after a few seconds. I tried removing every part and no matter what is in there it does it. However the light on the mobo that means it is ok is still on." "Hmm ok... well you started it without the CPU-1 power connector in right?" "Yeah" "Ok is the CPU out right now?" "No" "Ok well just remove that for me will you?" "Ok... Still does it." "Alright well let me get you an RMA number, hang on..."

I am currently using the Asus M2N32-SLI Deluxe Wifi Edition.

Subject: Re: Which Motherboard?
Posted by CarrierII on Mon, 11 Aug 2008 13:30:47 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

I'm a big fan of Asus. The last three PCs I have built have used ASUS boards and only once have I had a DOA board (which was promptly replaced) and besides that I have had no complaints at all.

I use my onboard audio, but then all my music is in relatively low bitrate MP3's and I have a quad core so it takes a lot before I notice load (even on Vista...)

Subject: Re: Which Motherboard?
Posted by trooprm02 on Mon, 11 Aug 2008 15:01:36 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Well, ive decided to go with Asus again (go with what I know), and because I found a lower price on that same board. My current system has a good sound card (even forgot what it is lol...), but it also has intergrated sound, and I really notice no difference it all sounds the same for me.

P.S:I just realized both boards run the 570 chipset meaning neither supports "true sli", but ohwell.

Subject: Re: Which Motherboard?
Posted by Chuck Norris on Mon, 11 Aug 2008 15:24:37 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

I don't live in Canada, but consensus is that NCIX is better than Tiger Direct. Did you try looking there?

Why SLi the 8600GT? A single 8600GTS would probably be faster in most cases (the 8600GT SLi might be faster in some cases), and an 8800GT would eat both alive. A Radeon HD4850 can be had for $200 and is better still. SLi is a waste, especially for such low end cards. With nVidia enabling use of a second card for physX, and even recommending using one card dedicated for processing and one card dedicated for physX, even in already existing SLi setups, that's pretty much nVidia themselves admitting SLi is a waste. 2x the cost (actually more, for a better PSU an SLi capable motherboard) for not even close to 2x the performance.

By the way, I know it wasn't until the X38 that PCI Express 2.0 (dual 16x instead of 16x and 8x) came about for Intel chipsets. I don't know nVidia's chipsets, but I'd guess you'd need at least a 680i. That might not even be 2.0 capable, since the X38 is newer, and I' pretty sure was the first to support PCI Express 2.0. It won't really matter though. 8600GT SLi won't be fast enough to be hindered by the slower speed.

As for audio, it's actually the other way around. In the past, a separate audio card was worth it, but these days, it's less so. Onboard audio is good if it's a modern one. A sound card is better yes, but it has to be an expensive one, and it's no longer necessary. Onboard sound is the equivalent of a $50 sound card now versus a $10 sound card back then. You'd have to make the sound card pretty expensive for it to be a worthwhile upgrade from what you already have with what motherboards these days offer. A $10 sound card would certainly be a step backwards, not even lateral, versus modern motherboard audio.

Subject: Re: Which Motherboard?
Posted by trooprm02 on Mon, 11 Aug 2008 15:44:03 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Well actually, for nvidia chipsets you only need the 590 series, mine is just 1 set under that, but those pci-e 2.0 boards are like $250 for a good one, so fuck that. And actually, my current gpu s (2x7600GTs, overclocked) out benchmarked a single 8600GTS, and my soon to be gpu s will outpower most of the entire geforce 9 series and so on, with a bit of fine tuning. And the MSI did have a better brand name (altek) intergrated sound card, but that would mean this higher level Asus must be better.

Subject: Re: Which Motherboard?
Posted by Doitle on Mon, 11 Aug 2008 16:22:24 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

It has nothing to do with sound quality, integrated audio taxes your CPU and you will have slowdowns and "chirping". Glitchy scratchey high pitch sounds when you are playing something CPU intensive.

Subject: Re: Which Motherboard?
Posted by Chuck Norris on Mon, 11 Aug 2008 16:58:22 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

I don't experience that, and never have, and I'm using onboard sound right now.trooprm02 wrote on Mon, 11 August 2008 11:44Well actually, for nvidia chipsets you only need the 590 series, mine is just 1 set under that, but those pci-e 2.0 boards are like $250 for a good one, so fuck that. And actually, my current gpu s (2x7600GTs, overclocked) out benchmarked a single 8600GTS, and my soon to be gpu s will outpower most of the entire geforce 9 series and so on, with a bit of fine tuning. And the MSI did have a better brand name (altek) intergrated sound card, but that would mean this higher level Asus must be better.The 8600GT is little to sometimes no faster than the 7600GT. That's no joke. Look up on it. You may as well stick with your current SLi setup in that case.

Secondly, the 8600GT in SLi would not beat even an 8800GT across the board. The 8800GT has almost double the stream processors of the other two COMBINED (112 on the 8800GT vs 64 for the two 8600GTs combined), and on top of that, as I said, SLi doesn't double the power. With SLi, you get twice the processing power, and that's about it. Memory does not double, and you're still stuck with the same memory limitations, so you don't get 2x the performance. The 8600GT in SLi is not that good and is bad at the cost for performance ratio.

http://www.google.com/search?hl=en&q=8600GT+SLi+vs+8800GT&btnG=Google+Se arch

Save yourself the money and get an 8800GT or HD4850 (the latter is better).

Subject: Re: Which Motherboard?
Posted by CarrierII on Mon, 11 Aug 2008 17:56:11 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

I don't notice slips in sound when playing Ren and listening to music. I imagine a dual core or higher will easily take care of the extra load...

Subject: Re: Which Motherboard?
Posted by Romaner on Mon, 11 Aug 2008 23:36:50 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

troop i own 2x8600gt cards, and trust me on this they are garbage. i recently rma'ed my 8800gt because it failed, and the one week i had to go back to those two cards reminded me how lucky i am to have 8800gt lol. those two cards would barely run crysis on lowest settings.

now as for motherboard. i have asus M2N32-SLI Deluxe/Wireless Edition. it can support quad core but only to 2000MT/s which will not let phenoms get to full potential.

i would suggest for you to go with M3A32-MVP Deluxe/WiFi-AP. it is crossfire, so you will not be able to do sli on it. however, good ati cards right now are pretty cheap compared to their nvidia counterparts. this mobo can go up to 1066mhz on ram frequency, so you can plan ahead. another thing is that hyper transport. the motherboards you are looking at have hypertransport 1.0 which will not let your phenom processor (quad core amd) go to its full potential. you need over 3600MT/s on your board to let the phenom precessor achieve its full potential. the mvp can go up to 5200 so again leaves you room to put better stuff into it later on. this mobo has onboard sound aswell but im not sure what it is 5.1 or maybe not...

the fact that these motherboards state that they are socket am2+ means you can put a quad core in them and it will work. it doesnt mean it will work to its full potential. so if you put a quad into one of those motherboards there is no point overclocking it since it can never work at full capacity.

Subject: Re: Which Motherboard?
Posted by trooprm02 on Tue, 12 Aug 2008 00:35:59 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

My current 7600GT's can run Crysis on medium (with a few settings off), but the main reason im upgrading to the geforce 8 series is for DX10, right now my cards only "really" support DX9 with a DX10 emulation thing installed. Ram im not looking to exceed PC6200+, because im going to stick to dual core (2000 bus), so I will probably be able to get a AMD X2 6000+ to atleast 3.4/3.5, ive gone into things people have mentioned here, but that screws everything up (for example looking for a single better video card), because that means I need to look for new ram, same socket type (am2 has very limited selection, im still extremely confused as to why but k), so this is like a lower end-high end gaming system and its look about $1200, and its easier to just leave it at that, final build:

HDD (500GB Seagate Sata):

http://www.tigerdirect.ca/applications/SearchTools/item-details.asp?EdpNo=356450 5&CatId=2459

CPU (AMD X2 6000+):
http://www.esng.ca/productDetail.php?category=Processors%20-%20CPU&subcategory=&pid=734200030772&isid=4931

Ram (OCZ XTC 4x1024MB):
http://www.canadacomputers.com/index.php?do=ShowProduct&cmd=pd&pid=01087 0&cid=RAM.346.307

Motherboard (Asus M2N-Sli Deluxe):
http://www.esng.ca/productDetail.php?category=Motherboards&subcategory=&pid=230200019028&isid=3656

GPU (2x EVGA 8600GT Sli):
http://www.tigerdirect.ca/applications/SearchTools/item-details.asp?EdpNo=304106 0&CatId=1839

Multi DVD/CD (Lite-On Combo):
http://www.tigerdirect.ca/applications/SearchTools/item-details.asp?EdpNo=342438 2&CatId=4

Case (Aopen 5511):
http://www.tigerdirect.ca/applications/SearchTools/item-details.asp?EdpNo=254930 1&CatId=1520

Keyboard/Mouse (Logitech 350):
http://www.canadacomputers.com/index.php?do=ShowProduct&cmd=pd&pid=01343 9&cid=PE.146.159

Webcam w/mic (Microsoft Lifecam):
http://www.tigerdirect.ca/applications/SearchTools/item-details.asp?EdpNo=218400 3&CatId=130

PSU (OCZ GameXStream 700w):
http://www.directcanada.com/products/?sku=13220AC9376&vpn=OCZ700GXSSLI&manufacture=OCZ

Case Fan (Aopen 120mm):
http://www.tigerdirect.ca/applications/SearchTools/item-details.asp?EdpNo=347732 9&CatId=494

CPU Fan (Scythe Shuriken AM2):
http://www.canadacomputers.com/index.php?do=ShowProduct&cmd=pd&pid=01838 5&cid=FN.349

^^Meanwhile, im still looking for LCD screens, and it looks like im going to have to go with a widescreen which will fuck me over in renegade and cod4 hard....

Subject: Re: Which Motherboard?
Posted by Gen_Blacky on Tue, 12 Aug 2008 04:17:40 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

tbh newegg is the best for usa , look at biostar motherboards they have nice chipsets and award wining bios plus there a lot cheaper.

Subject: Re: Which Motherboard?
Posted by trooprm02 on Tue, 12 Aug 2008 05:41:28 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Im not looking for lower quality parts like ecs, biostar, galaxy etc, only top brand stuff. Anyway, ive decided to take the advice (and the million of google results boasting about the 8800 series), and go with a non-sli motherboard (cheaper, accepts 3/4 cores, pci-e 2.0, and 1066 mhz ram), and a PNY 8800GT, here is the new stuff:

 http://www.directcanada.com/products/?sku=11830BD0286&vpn=GA-MA78GM-S2H& manufacture=GIGABYTE

 http://www.tigerdirect.ca/applications/SearchTools/item-details.asp?EdpNo=343545 4&CatId=3670

^Oh, and I decided to scale down to a 600w PSU, but upgraded my CPU to the 6400+, hoping to put all the orders through tommorrow, but anyone else got any other video card suggestions? (512mb, pci-e 2.0, geforce 8800 series, under $150).

Subject: Re: Which Motherboard?
Posted by JPNOD on Tue, 12 Aug 2008 07:31:51 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

CarrierII wrote on Mon, 11 August 2008 13:56I don't notice slips in sound when playing Ren and listening to music. I imagine a dual core or higher will easily take care of the extra load...

Like a couple of here saying onboard now a days is very decent.. I don't know where Doitle gets his info from but back in the days this was would have been true (With exception of that Nforce chip). Hell people with Qaud cores are hardly using there potential. Just run VMware ESX for the fun and youle see what I mean to unleas the true potential of suchs kind of beasts.

Subject: Re: Which Motherboard?
Posted by Jonty on Tue, 12 Aug 2008 07:43:10 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

I've got onboard sound and a pair of Logitech X-230s, which I consider to be very good speakers, and I've never had any cause for complaint. Sure, on the 1.4Ghz Duron at work the onboard

sound does stutter quite a bit sometimes, but on this PC it's never done that. A dedicated sound card is just eating up another expansion slot to me.

Subject: Re: Which Motherboard?
Posted by nikki6ixx on Wed, 13 Aug 2008 18:38:47 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

129 bucks for an 8800 GT!? That's fucking awesome!

Subject: Re: Which Motherboard?
Posted by trooprm02 on Wed, 13 Aug 2008 18:42:26 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Thats what I said, so im going to pick up a copy. Plus ive been reading up on it and this one is very easily OC'd because the fan can be cranked to faster RPM's than most other 8800GT's. And this things beats out 2x8600GT for a cheaper price, although to be honest PNY wouldn't have been my first choise

---

Subject: Re: Which Motherboard?
Posted by Renx on Mon, 18 Aug 2008 12:56:55 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

First off, get away from tigerdirect. It's possibly one of the worst computer sites on the internet. Try www.ncix.com or www.directcanada.com. Both usually offer free shipping deals, and they always have better deals and lower prices on everything.

Secondly, why are you SLI'ing two 8600s? Just get a 8800GT...

http://www.ncix.com/products/index.php?sku=26781&promoid=1014