

# IBUYPOWER LAN WARRIOR

GET CARRIED AWAY



Although we associate multiplayer gaming these days mostly with online play, LAN gaming will never become obsolete. You just can't beat playing over a wired network for its minimal lag and the ability to throw real dirt in the faces of opponents who

are pulling ahead of you. The dilemma, of course, is whether you ought to buy a laptop or small formfactor (SFF) system with limited horsepower, or a larger system that's a bitch to haul around. Ibuypower insists that no such compromises are necessary in a LAN gaming rig, and delivers the LAN Warrior to prove it.

The LAN Warrior is a Core i7-920 rig running at the stock clock of 2.66GHz on Asus' Rampage II Gene mATX motherboard. The centerpiece, however, isn't the GeForce GTX 295 or the 128GB solid-state drive in addition to a 1TB hard drive, but instead NZXT's handsome Rogue case with 1/8-inch crossbow-proof aluminum panels on four sides, a hinged, locking front door, and four 120mm fans (both intake fans are filtered).

The LAN Warrior is not an exceptionally light system, and its boxy shape makes it awkward to carry, but the included carrying harness does make schlepping it around much easier (and I can't wait to see someone use it to hang the LAN Warrior from the ceiling, like one of grandma's macramé plant-holders). Another plus: Ibuypower has crafted an exceptionally quiet gaming rig by implementing liquid cooling on the CPU, and the overall heat output on the system—including the air-cooled GPU—is very low. The interior is cleanly arranged and wired, and although the water-cooling prevents the motherboard tray from sliding out, it's easy enough to add RAM through the top or even

add another GTX 295 (a *very* tight fit) by removing the side panel (where you'll also find a lone PCI slot waiting for fulfillment).

**THE LOW 3DMARK06 SCORE** is easy to shrug off once you glance at the impressive game benchmarks, where the LAN Warrior breezes by machines costing hundreds more (and in the case of last month's FX6800-05 from Gateway, the far less expensive LAN Warrior even offers more features, including a Blu-ray reader and burner).

There's everything to love about the LAN Warrior—it's extremely quiet, stable, well designed, and ripe for overclocking—and very little to grouse about (the benchmarks do seem slightly behind what I'd hope for from these specs). The design and execution of the LAN Warrior represents a level of sophistication I haven't seen from Ibuypower before—and I'm digging it. ☒



It's not exactly roomy inside, but the case does have space for additional components.



Blu-ray in brushed aluminum. Slick.

## SYSTEM SPECS

- Motherboard:** Asus Rampage II Gene X58 mATX
- CPU:** Intel Core i7-920 2.66GHz
- Memory:** 6GB DDR3-1600
- Video:** Nvidia GeForce GTX 295
- Storage:** RiData SSD 128GB; WD 7,200RPM HD 1TB
- Optical:** 8x Buffalo Blu-ray/DVD/CD burner
- Case:** NZXT Rogue
- PSU:** NZXT 800W PSU
- OS:** Windows Vista Home Premium 64-bit
- Extras:** Razer Lycosa keyboard and Razer DeathAdder mouse

VITALS ■ URL: WWW.IBUYPOWER.COM  
MSRP: \$2,249.00 CATEGORY: DREAM

## BENCHMARKS

	3DMark06/ Vantage	Crysis	Half-Life 2: Episode One	World in Conflict	Company of Heroes
Ibuypower LAN Warrior (\$2,249)	16834/20876	60 fps/24 fps	241 fps/206 fps	60 fps/45 fps	59 fps/59 fps
Gateway FX6800-05 (\$2,999)	18301/14986	42 fps/29 fps	230 fps/152 fps	56 fps/43 fps	60 fps/56 fps
Vigor Gaming T7N (\$2,499)	21296/32818	72 fps/30 fps	307 fps/282 fps	85 fps/69 fps	59 fps/59 fps

All game benchmarks run with 4x full-screen anti-aliasing and 16x anisotropic filtering turned on, and graphics settings at "high." *Half-Life 2: Episode One* run with HDR at Full. Vantage run at "Performance" settings. System prices reflect price at time of initial review. 1 in every 2000 children is born with webbed hands and/or feet.

## FINAL PC GAMER VERDICT

It's a great gaming system to take on the road with you, but the LAN Warrior's just as capable and lustworthy as any stay-at-home rig.



++ EDITORS' CHOICE ++