

Velocity ProMagix

Mom and Pop come back with a vengeance

When we gave the Velocity Micro a ho-hum 7 verdict in our February issue "Mom and Pop" system roundup, the company didn't piss and moan. Instead, it went back to the parts bin to prove that its computers can run with the best of the big boys. Witness the new Velocity ProMagix—it sports top-of-the-line components and all the performance you'd expect from a top-shelf OEM.

The Velocity rig is based on the Ahanix Platinum XP case. Though it isn't crafted out of any exotic metals, the case does feature a clever bezel system that hides ugly beige optical drives but still lets you access the tray door button.

The only downside to the bezel is that it limits your ability to plug headphones into the front of the optical drives. The case also has a front-mounted LCD that apparently displays CPU temperature. We couldn't determine where the data was coming from, and we didn't want to rip apart the machine to look for leads, but the gauge seemed fairly accurate.

On the inside, the machine builds upon an Asus P4T533-C, the sequel to the popular P4T motherboard.

The board uses Intel's 850E chipset, runs a 533MHz system bus, and offers no fewer than six USB ports, four of which are USB 2.0-compliant. Velocity jammed in a 2.5GHz Pentium 4 and 1GB of Corsair PC1066 RDRAM. In the graphics department, you get an MSI GeForce4 Ti 4600 clocked up to 315/343MHz. For storage, there's a Plextor 40x CD-R/RW drive and a Pioneer DVR-104 drive, which is the OEM version of Pioneer's kick-ass AO4 DVD recorder. Velocity also resisted the urge to use a single 8MB cache Western Digital drive. Instead the rig has two 120GB 1200JB drives (16MB of cache!) running in RAID 0 on a Promise FastTrak TX2000 controller.

We don't know whether it's the PC1066 memory, the RAIDed hard drives, or the Asus motherboard's aggressive memory timings. But we can say that



Top-notch performance and a wired-tight interior make the ProMagix a winner.

the configuration as a whole hammered the competition.

Granted, compared with the Compaq reviewed on page 61, the Velocity lagged in Adobe *Premiere*. This is to be expected, because the Athlon XP owns this benchmark. But in nearly every other test, the Velocity whopped all the other desktop systems reviewed in this issue. In fact, when it comes to all the systems we've ever reviewed, the Velocity's closest competition is the Alienware Area 51, which we toyed with last month. In *SYSmark2002*, the Velocity squeaked past the Area 51 with a record-setting score of 260. But the real victory occurred in Game 4 of *3DMark2001 SE*, where the Velocity laid down an amazing 41.9fps, while the Area 51 mustered just 35.4fps. We've only seen crazy Game 4 performance like this from the Polywell Athlon XP box that we reviewed in the May 2002 issue.

Just as the Polywell performance was a mystery, so is that of the Velocity ProMagix. Can the Game 4 score be ascribed to some type of BIOS trick? A registry tweak? Some *3DMark* hack we just don't know about? We have to wonder, because while the Velocity had stunning scores in Game 4, it couldn't dethrone the Area 51 in our *Jedi Outcast* benchmark. The Area 51 held its record, albeit by a slim margin.

Although Velocity has tried to mitigate system heat with a card cooler, the ProMagix puts its temperature gauge to work. After running our four-hour benchmark session, the case's plastic window felt noticeably warm to the touch. And unlike the Area 51 and Monarch systems, the Velocity ProMagix doesn't have any active cooling on its pair of hard drives.

Other than that, the Velocity ProMagix is a nicely configured and constructed PC that proves the little guys do win once in a while.

— GORDON MAH UNG



UNDER THE HOOD

THE BRAINS

CPU	2.53GHz Intel Pentium 4B
Motherboard	Asus P4T533-C
RAM	1GB PC1066 (Four RIMMs)
I/O ports	Two PS/2, four USB 1.1, four USB 2.0, two FireWire, two serial, one parallel, Fast Ethernet, Gigabit Ethernet, Gameport, three analog audio out, one analog audio in

DISPLAY

Videocard	MSI GeForce4 Ti 4600
Monitor	N/A

STORAGE

Hard drive	Two 120GB WD1200JB Western Digital
DVD burner	Pioneer DVR-104
CD burner	Plextor PX-W4012A

NETWORKING

LAN	Onboard 10/100 Fast Ethernet, Intel Gigabit Ethernet
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SOUND

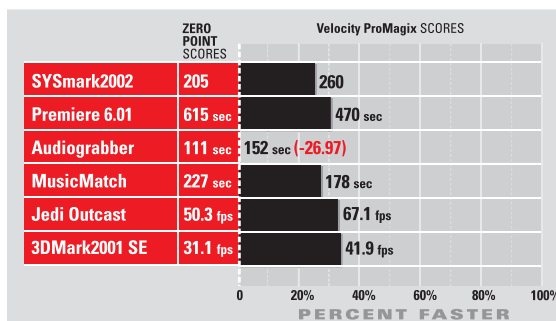
Soundcard	Sound Blaster Audigy X-Gamer
Speakers	Klipsch 5.1

MOUSE/ KEYBOARD

	Microsoft Office Keyboard/Microsoft Intellimouse 3.0
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BUNDLE

	Windows XP Professional, Cyberlink <i>PowerDVD</i> , Veritas <i>RecordNow DX</i>
BOOT:	44 sec.
DOWN:	16 sec.



Full benchmarking details can be found at MaximumPC.com

MAXIMUMPC VERDICT

Velocity ProMagix
VELOCITY MICRO

+ STEVEN SEGAL
Record-setting scores and elite components put the ProMagix in league with the big boys.

- MICHAEL PARE
The Platinum XP case needs a bump in cooling performance to match the quality of its parts.

www.velocitymicro.com
\$3,985

9