Acer Predator Triton 500 SE review: I expected more

Spending a grip on a gaming laptop isn’t difficult; a cursory search on gaming laptops will net you several options that cost more than $4,000. But finding a laptop that’s giving you the greatest return on your investment is more of a challenge. If you’re spending around $3,000 on a gaming laptop like the Acer Predator Triton 500 SE, you want it to bury the competition, not just scrape by. Unfortunately, the Triton 500 SE is a bit disappointing and doesn’t flex its hardware enough to set it apart in a crowded market.

Housed in its all-silver chassis, the $2,999.99 configuration of the Triton 500 SE we tested includes a 12th Gen Core i9-12900H processor, RTX 3080 Ti graphics card, 32GB of RAM, and 1TB of PCIe NVME storage. This hardware is more than enough to take full advantage of its 16-inch 240Hz 2560 x 1600 display. Acer has less expensive models of the Triton 500 SE available, too; the base model, with an Intel Core i7-12700H CPU, RTX 3070 Ti, and 16GB of RAM, costs $2,099.99, about as much as a .




THE VERGE
ANOTHER LIVE-ACTION SPEED RACER IS COMING TO APPLE TV PLUS WITH J.J. ABRAMS BEHIND THE WHEEL
Big Tech is pouring millions into the wrong climate solution at Davos
THE UNSTOPPABLE



6 Verge Score

Acer Predator Triton 500 SE

$ 3000

ul]:py-0 my-12 [&>ul>li]:mb-0 [&>p]:mb-8 [&_*]:font-polysans-mono [&_*]:text-14 [&_ul]:font-light [&_p]:font-light [&_strong]:font-medium [&_li]:marker:text-franklin border-t border-franklin [&_a:hover]:shadow-highlight-franklin [&_a]:shadow-underline-black “>

The Bad

- Expensive
- Doesn’t do enough with its hardware
- Middling build quality

a:hover]:text-black [&>a]:shadow-underline-gray-13 [&>a:hover]:shadow-underline-black text-gray-13″>*On the right side: an SDXC card reader, USB-A, USB-C / Thunderbolt 4, and HDMI 2.1 ports.*



:last-child>:last-child]:mb-0 w-full bg-[#F8F5FF] rounded-sm bg-gray-200″ readability=”7″>

a:hover]:text-black [&>a]:shadow-underline-gray-13 [&>a:hover]:shadow-underline-black text-gray-13″>*The hinge produces a noticeable gap between the keyboard and screen.*

The 2650 x 1600 IPS display has a

16:10 aspect ratio, and Acer says it can hit 500 nits of brightness. It also supports G-Sync, with a maximum refresh rate of 240Hz. The hardware in the Triton 500 SE is remarkably powerful, but even an RTX 3080 Ti can’t hit 240fps in modern titles. Only *Counter-Strike: Global Offensive* got close, maintaining around 200fps at max settings and up to 333fps when I dropped the resolution to 1080p. It’s nice to have a screen with plenty of overhead, but the fact that it has adaptive sync is more important to most people than the refresh rate.





a:hover]:text-black [&>a]:shadow-underline-gray-13 [&>a:hover]:shadow-underline-black text-gray-13″>*The Predator logo is the only branding on the Triton.*

All of the benchmarks were performed while using the highest performance presets available through the Acer control software, which yielded excellent results, but I did most of my gaming in the aptly named “whisper

mode," which thankfully lives up to its name. I'm not sure you'd be able to market the Triton 500 SE without this feature, as the fans can be loud enough to be distracting if the system is under even a modest level of strain. This mode has the fans operating at their minimum, so some throttling would be expected here, but in testing, the 500SE still managed to provide solid performance when placed under these constraints. Playing *Doom Eternal* with the same settings, for instance, didn't change much, still managing up to 120fps when using DLSS performance mode. However, the *Shadow of the Tomb Raider* benchmark took some pretty serious hits, managing an average of just 50fps using the same settings.

Switching between performance

profiles is done through the Acer control software, which is simple and unobtrusive. You can summon this software via the desktop or by using its own dedicated macro key. The software lets you adjust fan speeds, performance profiles, and RGB lighting. But unlike some other gaming laptops, like the Asus ROG Zephyrus series, you can only change the performance profile while the laptop is plugged into an outlet. Even while at a nearly full charge, I found that unplugging the laptop causes the hardware profile to revert to its default balanced power state.

a:hover]:shadow-highlight-franklin [&>a]:shadow-underline-black dark:[&>a:hover]:shadow-highlight-franklin dark:[&>a]:shadow-underline-white md:text-40 lg:-ml-100″>Agree to Continue: Acer Predator Triton 500 SE

Every smart device now requires you

to agree to a series of terms and conditions before you can use it — contracts that no one actually reads. It's impossible for us to read and analyze every single one of these agreements. But we started counting exactly how many times you have to hit "agree" to use devices when we review them since these are agreements most people don't read and definitely can't negotiate.

As with other Windows 10 computers, the Acer Predator Triton 500 SE presents you with multiple things to agree to or decline upon setup.

The mandatory policies, for which an agreement is required, are:

- **A request for your region and keyboard layout**

- Windows 10 License Agreement
- A Microsoft account for sign-in
- A PIN

In addition, there are several optional things to agree to:

- Connect to Wi-Fi network
- Set up fingerprint sensor authentication
- Device privacy settings: online speech recognition, Find My Device, Inking and Typing, Advertising ID, Location, Diagnostic data, Tailored experiences
- Send Microsoft your activity history to sync your activity across Windows devices
- Connect your Android phone for My Phone services
- Opt to save files via OneDrive

- Sign up for Microsoft 365
- Allow Microsoft to access your location, location history, contacts, voice input, speech and handwriting patterns, typing history, search history, calendar details, messages, apps, and Edge browsing history to help Cortana provide personalized experiences and relevant suggestions
- Provide your name, region, and email address for Acer support and protection

That’s five mandatory agreements and 15 optional ones.

The Predator Triton 500 SE is in a tough spot. On one hand, it’s the least expensive gaming laptop we’ve tested with specs like these. Of the RTX 3080 Ti models we’ve tested, the

Razer Blade 17 has better build quality but a less powerful CPU and costs $1,000 more. The MSI GE76 Raider costs more and has a lower-resolution screen. But the Gigabyte Aero 16, which cost $5,000 when we reviewed it, is now only a few hundred bucks more than the Triton 500 SE. It's hot and loud and has bad battery life, too, but it also has a 4K AMOLED screen.

The RTX 3080 Ti is Nvidia's current top-of-the-line mobile graphics card (for now, at least), and 2560 x 1600 seems like the right resolution for it right now. You'll have to drop ray tracing and quality settings to hit 60fps on a 4K display, and 1080p is just too low-resolution for a 16-inch screen. Springing for a 3080 Ti instead of a 3070 Ti means you'll

have playable frame rates for longer, which means you’ll get more life out of your laptop before you have to upgrade.

On the other hand, the fans on my test unit were so loud that I spent most of my gaming time in quiet mode and got lower frame rates than a 3070 Ti. So why spend the extra money unless you have really good noise-canceling headphones?



