Alienware has its own RTX 3080 GPU, and its new monitors are bringing the hertz

When it comes to pre-built desktops, I've nearly bought an Alienware Aurora several times over the years, because the company's toolless upgradable chassis and bang-for-the-buck has been pretty hard to beat. Now, the Alienware and have *also* become a way to get Nvidia's extremely hard to find RTX 3080 and 3090 GPUs — and they're like no RTX 3080 or 3090 you've seen.

The boards and cooling have been tweaked by Alienware itself to be *shorter* than any RTX 3000-series card we've heard about yet, at just 267mm (10.5 inches) in length, the better to fit into smaller cases like the Aurora R11. Believe it or not, Nvidia's own RTX 3080 Founder's Edition is actually one of the smallest cards on the market at 285mm (11.2 inches) long, and this is even shorter.

Plus, Alienware says its custom 10mm-heat-pipe-and-vapor-chamber solution, with dual fans, only takes up 2.5 PCIe slots. It uses a standard pair of 8-pin power connectors, instead of Nvidia's 12-pin cable.

Of course, the new cards don't come cheap, adding $825 to the base price of either Aurora, or an additional $1,625 for an RTX 3090. Still, you could walk away with a full RTX 3080 PC for as little as $1,800 — after adding the 1,000-watt power supply. (Dell ships a 550W PSU by default, but Nvidia recommends 750W or higher for these cards.)

Grid View



- Dell

- The Alienware Aurora R9. Dell

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- The Dell G5 gaming desktop. Dell
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- Optional translucent panel. Dell

- The Alienware 510K mechanical keyboard with RGB lighting and low-profile Cherry switches.

- Here are those low-profile switches. Dell

- And a better view of the whole keyboard in white. Dell

- Note the much higher key height on the cheaper Alienware 310K.

- The Alienware 610M flagship wired/wireless gaming mouse. Note the relative dearth of buttons…

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The Alienware 510M. Far more buttons, but also a cord you need to plug in.

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The Alienware 310M. It’s wireless, with no wired option, and the same buttons as the flagship 610M. Dell

Personally, I’d recommend spending at least $2,000 to make sure you’re getting 16GB of RAM and a solid-state boot drive, and I might drop an extra $100 for a faster CPU unless you’re pairing this PC with a fairly high-resolution monitor. I’m currently running a RTX 3080 in a rig with a slightly slower processor and a 1080p screen, and benchmarks suggest my CPU is what’s holding back the framerate.

Speaking of screens, though, Alienware also has a new set that might intrigue you, including three new gaming monitors and a new 360Hz 1080p panel for the Area-51m laptop that’ll cost you

an extra $150. (It also requires an RTX 2060 or better; we’re seeing configs with it as low as $2,419.99.)

Meanwhile, the Alienware 25 (AW2521H), Alienware 27 (AW2721D) and Alienware 38 (AW3821DW) monitors will start at $899.99, $1099.99 and $1899.99 respectively when they arrive next month.

Grid View



While their screen sizes should be pretty obvious from their names, they’re separated by more than a vast expanse of pixels: the Alienware 25 is a blazing fast 360Hz 1ms Fast IPS G-Sync monitor with a fairly standard 400-nits of brightness and 1080p resolution, while the Alienware 27 has a 240Hz, 2560 x 1440 1ms Fast IPS panel with 98 percent of the DCI-P3 color gamut, G-Sync Ultimate and DisplayHDR 600 certifications (though it’s rated at a typical brightness of 450 nits, FYI).

DisplayHDR 600 is better than DisplayHDR 400, but it’s no DisplayHDR 1000

Then there’s the Alienware 38, a 144Hz, 3840 x 1600 1ms Fast

IPS monitor with a 2300R curved screen, a 21:9 aspect ratio and 95 percent DCI-P3 coverage, G-Sync Ultimate and the same DisplayHDR 600 cert (and 450-nit typical brightness) as the Alienware 27. All three monitors come with a pair of HDMI 2.0 ports, a DisplayPort 1.4 (which you'll need to use for maximum refresh rate), a bevy of USB 3.2 ports, and an ambient light sensor for auto-adjusting brightness.

The Alienware 25 had previously been tipped as one of four 360Hz monitors to support Nvidia's new Reflex Latency Analyzer feature for what could potentially be a slight edge in e-sports, and as we predicted, it doesn't come cheap.

Correction 11:26 PM ET: *The Alienware 38 is a 3840 x 1600 screen, not 3440 x 1440. We regret the error.*

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