Microsoft has finally released the Surface Studio 2

Announced in October, you can finally buy the Surface Studio 2 – though its components are a generation behind.

The long wait is over – the Surface Pro 6 is finally available on sale as of today in the UK.

Announced last October as part of the expanded Surface family from Microsoft, the 'iMac you can draw on' delivers greater performance to your creative apps, making it an interesting all-in-one option for artists and designers looking for a sweet spot between tablet and desktop.

While the original Surface Studio used a number of mobile components you'd normally find in a laptop, they approximated desktop power. There was a 2.7GHz Intel Core i7-6820HQ and Nvidia's GeForce GTX 980M 4GB GPU, plus a whopping 32GB of memory, a massive 2TB hard drive, and a 128GB SSD for caching.

For the Surface Studio 2, you might think that Microsoft has moved up to 8th-gen quad-core Core i7 CPUs, but it hasn't: there's a 7th-generation Core i7-7820HQ instead, which does make for noticeably less powerful rendering speed. Anyone looking for a higher-powered option would do well with the odd-looking Lenovo A940, or better yet go with a Cintiq paired up with any PC (or Mac Mini, if your budget extends far enough).

Also of note is that the new Studio uses a lower-tier NVIDIA GeForce GTX 1060 Graphics Card and comes with a 2TB SSD, ditching the first Studio's hybrid drive entirely.

The good news is the accompanying Surface Pen, with 4,096 levels of pressure and best-in-class ink latency. The new display design also uses a different transistor, with a

smaller pixel but a greater aperture.

With the new LCD material, Microsoft was able to better align the LCD to the polariser, giving it 22 percent more contrast and 38 percent greater brightness – over 500 nits of total luminance.

You can purchase the Surface Studio 2 from the Microsoft Store, John Lewis and Currys PC World. RRP starts at £3,549.

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