GEFORCE GARAGE: VR SERIES, VIDEO 1

HOW TO BUILD A VR READY PC

FEATURING
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As one might expect from a technology that needs to render the equivalent of a 3024x1680 screen at 90 frames per second, VR requires some serious horse-power to work its magic. And there's not a lot of room for cutting corners—the occasional framerate drop in a standard 3D game is merely an annoyance, but lag can ruin a VR session by inducing nausea and vertigo.

The minimum recommended specs for a VR-ready system are pretty reasonable, and it's likely that even if your system doesn't quite meet them, you may only need to upgrade your GPU to pass muster. But if you'd prefer to build a new rig from the ground up while your Vive or Rift headset is en route, we've spec'd out a list of components for a VR gaming system that comes at just a hair over $800 [confirm before publication]. And check out our video guide [TK link] to see how our rig holds up in CCP's deep space dogfighting sim *EVE: Valkyrie*.

Not sure if you're current gaming rig is ready for VR? Here's the easiest way to check: Launch GeForce Experience, click the "My Rig" tab, and on that page click the "Virtual Reality" tab. GeForce Experience will report on whether or not your system meets the minimum spec for VR, and if not, which components fall short of the mark.

LEVEL: TECHNICIAN

TIME: 3 HOURS

COST: $$$

COMPONENTS:

GPU: **EVGA GEFORCE GTX 970**

CPU: **INTEL CORE I5-4590 (3.3GHZ)**

RAM: **CORSAIR VENGEANCE 8GB (2 X 4GB) DDR3 1600**

CASE: **COOLER MASTER ELITE 130 MINI ITX CASE**

PSU: **EVGA 500W**

MOTHERBOARD: **ASROCK LGA 1150 INTEL H97M-ITX**

HARD DRIVE: **WD 1TB 7200 RPM SATA 6G**

OS: **WINDOWS 10**

TOOLS:

SCREWDRIVER

CPU:

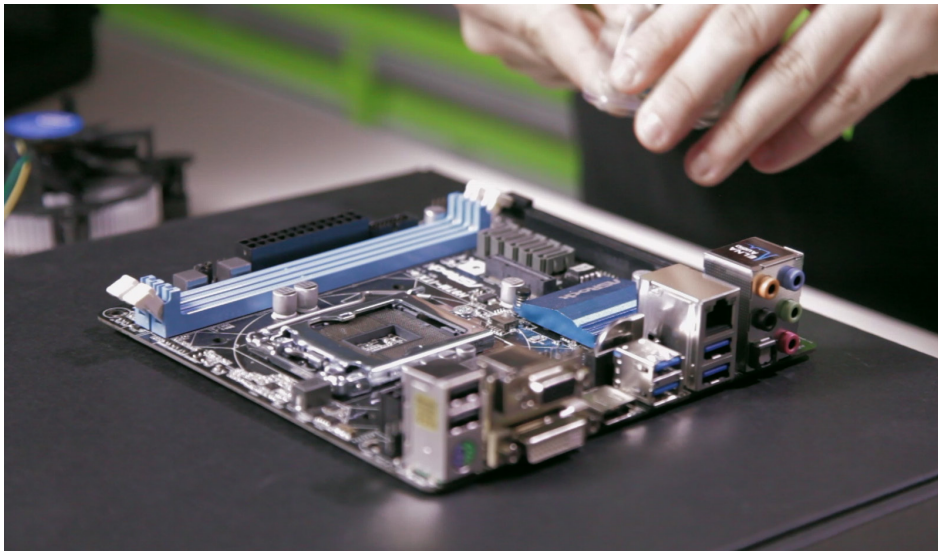
Intel Core i5-4590 (3.3GHz)
Intel's 3.3GHz Core i5-4590 is a relatively inexpensive proc that'll do just fine while allowing you to invest more in the GPU (where most of the heavy lifting in VR gets done).

RAM:

Corsair Vengeance 8GB 1600MHz DDR3.
We're keeping costs down by sticking with the minimum recommended spec for RAM, with two 4GB sticks of Corsair Vengeance 1600MHz DDR3.

CASE:

Cooler Master Elite 130 Mini ITX.
We chose the slick and affordable Elite 130 Mini ITX case from Cooler Master. If you'd prefer to go with a different case, just make sure it includes USB 3.0 ports in the front panel for VR headsets. (At least until headsets go wireless.)



MOTHERBOARD:

ASRock H97M-ITX

If you're not building a system from scratch, make sure your motherboard supports USB 3.0 like our ASRock H97M-ITX. Otherwise, you'll need to buy a USB 3.0 adapter card (preferably, one that can be wired to your case front panel).

PSU:

EVGA 500W

Otherwise known as the EVGA 100-W1-500-KR, this compact and quiet PSU is a perfect fit for our case.

HARD DRIVE:

WD 1TB WD10EZEX

A solid-state hard drive would be great, but mechanical hard drives that operate at 7200RPM like our 1TB WD10EZEX still provide more than enough throughput at a much lower price per gigabyte.

FIGHT AND FLIGHT

Once you've installed Windows 10 (it's still free!) and your VR headset software, we strongly recommend treating yourself to *EVE: Valkyrie*. There's simply no better way to experience the overwhelming immersiveness and intensity that VR is capable of than a blazing, chaotic battle viewed from the cockpit bubble of a deep space fighter.