Welcome to Issue 226

Highlights

08 Lost Arc
After all the hype, Richard Swinburne is disappointed by the no-show of Intel’s Arc desktop graphics cards.

10 Preserving Ukraine’s digital heritage
Tracy King looks at ways people are helping to backup Ukraine’s digital culture and history.

14 Intel Core i9-12900KS
Clocked to 5.5GHz, Intel’s new flagship CPU has arrived but can it take the performance crown?

16 AMD Ryzen 7 5800X3D
Sporting its much-hyped 64MB of 3D-stacked L3 cache, AMD’s latest CPU is aimed squarely at improving gaming performance.

19 Nvidia GeForce RTX 3090 Ti
The flagship of Nvidia’s 3000 series is here, but can it justify its sky-high asking price?

28 Acer 170Hz gaming monitor
With its dazzlingly wide colour gamut and 170Hz refresh rate, Acer’s latest 27in IPS panel has plenty going for it.

30 Creative T60 speakers
Creative’s latest desktop speaker set offers a host of useful features, such as USB and Bluetooth connections, all for under £60.

32 NZXT keyboard
NZXT has entered the peripherals market and its first keyboard offers hot-swappable key switches.

48 240mm AIO liquid coolers
Antony Leather puts seven of the latest 240mm AIO coolers through their paces.

58 Wi-Fi 6 mesh routers
Get wide and reliable Wi-Fi coverage without breaking the bank. Edward Chester puts five of the latest mesh router systems to the test.

71 Tunic
Blending the look and feel of Zelda with the brutality of Dark Souls makes for an intriguing combination.

78 Build a 4K Gaming PC
Learn how to put together a dazzling 4K–capable gaming PC based on the excitingly ‘now actually available’ GeForce RTX 3080 Ti.

88 PC audio explained
Learn all you need to know about getting the best audio from your PC.

94 Hobby tech
Gareth Halfacree checks out a swish aluminium case for the Raspberry Pi 4, along with the watch-sized RoundyPi and RoundyFi circular displays.

102 Make a custom stats display
Learn how to fit a customisable stats screen to your PC, so you can see information such as temperatures and fan speeds right there on your system’s case.

107 Retro tech – Windows 3.1 turns 30
Stuart Andrews looks back at the arrival of screensavers, colourful icons and proper fonts in the early 1990s with Windows 3.1.

110 Readers’ drives
Nick Falzone guides us through the creation of his stunning wooden scratch-built PC.
### Cover guide

**CUSTOM PC**

**BUILD A GAMING PC 4K**

- **Fastest gaming GPU ever tested**
- **Geforce RTX 3090 Ti**

![Custom PC Build 4K](image)

### Regulars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3</th>
<th>From the editor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Richard Swinburne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Tracy King</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Incoming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Custom kit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>How we test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64</td>
<td>Elite products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>Inverse look</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76</td>
<td>Reality check</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94</td>
<td>Hobby tech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99</td>
<td>For the win</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>Customised PC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>102</td>
<td>How to guides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>107</td>
<td>Retro tech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>110</td>
<td>Readers’ drives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>114</td>
<td>James Gorbold</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Reviewed

#### Processors
- **Intel Core i9-12900KS**
- **AMD Ryzen 5800X3D**

#### Graphics Cards
- **Nvidia GeForce RTX 3090 Ti**

#### Cases
- **SaharaGaming P44M**

#### Memory
- **Thermaltake Toughram RC DDR5**

#### Monitors
- **Acer Predator XB273UNV**
- **MSI Optix MPG321QRF-QD**

#### Speakers
- **Creative T60**

#### Keyboards
- **NZXT Function MiniTKL**

#### Mice
- **NZXT Lift**

#### Laptops
- **Alienware x14**

#### PC Systems
- **Scan 3XS Torrent Ti**
- **CyberPower Infinity X125 VR**
- **Chillblast Fusion Torrent Mini**

#### 240mm AIO liquid cooler Labs
- **ARCTIC Liquid Freezer II 240 RGB**
- **Corsair H100i Elite Capellix**
- **EK EK-AIO 240 Basic**
- **Lian Li Galahad SL 240**
- **NZXT Kraken Z53 RGB**
- **Phanteks Glacier One 240 T30**
- **Sapphire Nitro S240**

#### Wi-Fi 6 mesh router Labs
- **Asus ZenWiFi AX Hybrid XP4**
- **Linksys Velop MX8400**
- **Netgear Nighthawk Mesh MK63**
- **Netgear Orbi RBK752**
- **TP-Link Deco X50**

#### Games
- **Tunic**
- **Total War: Warhammer III**
- **Shadow Warrior 3**
- **Lost Ark**
- **Wanderer**

#### Hobby tech
- **Argon Eon**
- **RoundyPi and RoundyFi**
- **The Colouring Book of Retro Computers**