

[B]Guide: Computers w/ AMD processors[/B]

[B]The Overview[/B]

AMD (Advanced Micro Devices) is an American based company that focuses on building computer processors and other related components.

The question you're probably asking yourself is, "What makes AMD different from Intel?".
:confused:

Setting all other factors aside, the main answer is [I]price to performance[/I]. All of AMD's mid to high range processors fall within the \$100-200 range, making budget builds much easier. Intel's processors are more expensive, but offer a bit of a boost when it comes to upgrading, and single thread performance which can affect the [I]efficiency[/I]. AMD also offers a inexpensive lineup of quad core "APU" (accelerated processing unit) processors that feature better graphics found in Intel machines.

Below are a list of computer builds at different price points that utilize an AMD processor at the heart. The listed parts are compatibe with each other given the processor and motherboard are both on the same socket.

[B]Computer Builds[/B]

Below I have put together 4 different builds at different price points. Priced on the hundreds from \$400-700 USD.

* Please keep in mind that prices do change on the daily and that the price of any system here may fluctuate up or down depending on sales or availability. Also keep in mind at all builds are priced prior to rebates.

[U]\$400 AMD System.[/U] <http://pcpartpicker.com/user/C4C/saved/9gk8TW>

For the \$400 price point, an APU build has been utilized.

[u]CPU:[/u] The A10-7850K is a quad core processor with integrated graphics. Good enough for medium graphics and 30-40FPS on most modern games, the A10 is a good alternative to choosing a processor without graphics. Lucky for you, AMD's A series allow you to add a discrete graphics card if needed always opening doors to better graphics capabilities.

[u]Mobo:[/u] The ASRock FM2A88XM is a well rounded motherboard featuring USB 3.0, tools for overclocking, and 7 SATA ports so you can expand your storage.

[u]RAM:[/u] 4GB may or may not be enough, but with only 1 stick, you can always increase the amount of RAM.

[u]Storage:[/u] To cut costs, we removed the SSD for the \$500 build. This is a standard drive made by Western Digital that has a capacity of 1TB (1,000GB) and will be able to store a lot of programs and documents.

[u]Case:[/u] This Enermax case is built nicely. It features front USB 3.0 ports and an acrylic side door. An alternative to this case for the \$50 price mark is the Corsair 200R.

[u]PSU:[/u] 400w is perfect but with the addition of a GPU this build will probably need a 500-600w power supply and Corsair offers a good line-up through the CXM series.

[U]\$500 AMD System.[/U] <http://pcpartpicker.com/user/C4C/saved/Pndv6h>

For the \$500 price point, we're still using an APU!

[u]CPU:[/u] At the heart is the same A10-7850K quad core powering the \$400 build.

[u]Mobo:[/u] The ASRock FM2A88XM is a well rounded motherboard featuring USB 3.0, tools for overclocking, and 7 SATA ports so you can expand your storage (and we'll be doing just that).

[u]RAM:[/u] 8GB is typically plenty to run even the most demanding of programs. At a speed of 2400MHz, the processor will be able to run graphics at a faster rate (graphics quality is based on RAM speed for APU's) and render better.

[u]Storage:[/u] This is a standard drive made by Western Digital that has a capacity of 1TB (1,000GB) and will be able to store a lot of programs and documents. Splurging with some extra cash, an SSD has been added to boot your OS extremely quickly. System programs can also be stored on this drive to make things faster. It is not necessary if you need to cut costs.

[u]Case:[/u] This Enermax case is built nicely. It features front USB 3.0 ports and an acrylic side door. An alternative to this case for the \$50 price mark is the Corsair 200R.

[u]PSU:[/u] 430w is plenty for this size, but will need to be increased if a dedicated card is installed.

[U]\$600 AMD System.[/U]

[U]\$700 AMD System.[/U]