

Finding a GPU

Finding a GPU is really annoying. You really have to be one of the fastest clicks in the west, so to speak.

I also mean "the west" as in the US, if you have any info for another country, I can add it to this.
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Thanks to:

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Iku Tri

Discord Servers

NerdSpeak

<https://discord.gg/PpgU5z5Ypu>

I highly recommend adding this server. They have a bot that you can react to that will assign roles for what part model you'd like. (Base chip model (3090), not a specific AIB sku (EVGA FTW3 ULTRA 3090)).

They also have a Best Buy plugin now, but lately there's been only in-store and (?) seemingly random drops. The latter I'd like to confirm.

GPU DROPS

<https://discord.gg/b8qrsb3xT7>

New server to me.

Falcodrin

<https://discord.gg/falcodrin>

New server to me as well. Noticed all of his streams link it. YMMV. Has guides per store.

Twitter Accounts

If you prefer.

NerdSpeak

https://twitter.com/NS_ALERTS

The Stock Supply ⚡ GPU Stock Alerts ⚡

<https://twitter.com/TheStockSupply>

PS5, Xbox Series X, GPU - Restock Alerts

<https://twitter.com/StockTrackerr>

Rapid Stock Checker (GPU, XBOX, PS5 Stock Alerts)

<https://twitter.com/RapidStockCheck>

GYX Deals EU

<https://twitter.com/GYXdealsEU>

Kings RTX Stock (Canada)

<https://twitter.com/GPUStock>

Video Alert Streams

fixitfixitfixit

<https://youtu.be/P1pUkhX4PKg>

DataLover

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GfyJ5XBchoQ>

DataLover (Canada)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z_GodGqvc-A

Nvidia GPU Only - Falcodrin

<https://www.twitch.tv/falcodrin>

AMD 5900X and 5950X - Falcodrin

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SB1FYz_q5jQ

AMD Radeon GPU Only - Falcodrin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0t3v0BBavII>

Stores:

MicroCenter

I've heard that they're increasing measures to limit sales to 1 per person...per 30 days. Not bad. I've had friends go and get one that day, without planning as well. Your experience might differ based on the location and time you go, but a lot still are queueing. Haven't had a reason yet to go myself.

Newegg

Don't forget to do the shuffle every day. It's basically a free lotto ticket to get scalped, as you usually have to buy something else (and return if so) along side it. Usually RAM and Motherboards, but I've seen EVGA's capture box and a few other items there.

The biggest thing to look out for are Gigabyte PSU's. It's a known issue now, but Newegg dumped their inventory on Shuffle winners. You can look up the Gamers Nexus video(s) on it if you're into the techy details, but I'd just consider it e-waste and wouldn't even consider plugging it in. Don't dissassemble it either - just dispose of properly or make it a conversation piece in your home.

Amazon

Don't bother. You might get lucky but it's the easiest to bot currently. Want a CPU? I had to leave NerdSpeak and rejoin because I was getting flooded with AMD CPU alerts. Those might be better supplied still, which is a strong improvement.

B&H/Adorama

These get covered by those above alert services, I've had gpu's in my cart for a minute instead of a second. Most people don't know about these stores as much as the franchises.

BestBuy

Get that plugin and pay attention, the drops are telegraphed through the grapevine pretty well due to their market penetration in the US. I heard a rumor that the in-person drops have good store ratings, but could have been a disgruntled store manager on reddit.

Walmart

They cancelled my Ryzen order before I got one. No other experience so far with it. Maybe try for a console here instead? Seems more likely to show up there.

ADD IN BOARD PARTNERS

It sure is a great year to be a unpopular AIB IMHO, since people will take any card right now.

EVGA

Get a time machine and go back to racing to place in the queue early. Talk to your gamer friends - they might have gotten lucky and then gotten their EVGA notification. One friend of mine did that for another and it worked out well.

I like NVIDIA but considering Jensen knows the sky's the limit, I'd just put an entry in your calendar to eventually stalk the 4000 series launch. I'm also curious if they might consider letting people "step-up" (EVGA has nice US customer support and lets you trade-in) to 4's from 2's, but could drain supply for people insane enough to double dip upgrades during the shortage.

ZOTAC

I tried to get my friends to do a "Brotherhood of the Traveling ZOTAC" as a meme since someone got one but planned to upgrade. I think NerdSpeak knows some ZOTAC people so I was cracking jokes about it for a while. Too bad they're pretty expensive on MSRP. EVGA's top tier 3090 is US \$1889, theirs is US \$2799.

It's so expensive it's in stock on their site right now. Why get scalped when you can pay overpriced MSRP?

Other Stores

Every other site seems to be constantly out of stock. You could try Distill or another browser extension to keep tabs on sites you like. That's how I got a Dark Hero motherboard from ASUS itself. It just constantly loads the site at intervals you set, then rings an audio que.

OTHER IDEAS TO GET ONE:

PREBUILTS

Increasingly an idea, think the shuffle but worse, almost. A lot of YouTubers are taking it on themselves (Gamers Nexus is one, but a lot of small channels too) to review them due to the trend rising.

There are other advantages to prebuilts too, but you're better off having a friend do it for you in a normal market. Unless you really want a single warranty. Most of the GPUs are gonna be from the OEM unless it's a Gamer brand or a more third party option.

The DELL GPU's aren't amazing - they don't have heatsinks on the VRAM that hits 90-100C and is considered normal for the 3000 series, for one. That irks a lot of people but the cards have too small of a sample size to really tell right now.

LINUS TECH TIPS AND THE VERIFIED ACTUAL GAMER PROGRAM

You're gonna have to meme with Linus Tech Tips.
<https://youtu.be/HDmtEK3GFww>

It's been a few months since the last one. He did mention another wave of GPUs were coming, but he's done hidden video drops to actual setups where he games with random Canadians.

More info here:

https://youtu.be/Yd_Y7FQPNJ8

REDDIT /r/HARDWARESWAP and /r/HOMELABSALES:

I see a few of these happen every week. You might need karma on the site first. I think I just heard /r/colorists' dusty wooden door just creak open. Was that the wind?

WHAT IF CRYPTO CRASHES AND GPU_s FLOOD THE MARKET?

Gamers and Miners don't trust each other, turns out. And this fab ain't big enough for the both of 'em.

I've seen gamers be wary of miner cards and the *exact opposite* from miners. The latter think the erratic loads on GPU_s games create is objectively worse for wear and tear.

Mining is like rendering - if you do decide to buy a shipping container full of GPU_s and quit your job to be a full time tech pirate, just ask the guy about the setup it was in and temps.

You want memory space and performance with eth, but you can underclock your power limit.

As long as it was cooled well and kept dust free, it's no different from an old post house card. Just find out how toasty the RAM got.

WHEN WILL THIS END IAN?

Lol 2025? When the TSMC Fab in the US starts production. Hopefully it finishes in 2024 and speeds up quickly.

That's my guess at least, unless the pandemic suddenly grinds to a halt. Then sooner, maybe. Depends on the chip contracts. It's easy to blame crypto, but GPU_s are really useful now. That and the fact that almost all humanities tech uses what comes out of a Fab (huge facilities that cost government level amounts of money to run)... it feels like a bad bite.