

VOLT!

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EXCLUSIVE PREVIEW! Beyond 5GHz!

Malaysian overclocker
Coolice pushes the
new AMD Phenom 2!

REVIEWED:

- ASUS X58
(Core i7/Nehalem)
gaming board
- ASUS Core 2 cooler
- Cooler Master
Storm Sniper casing

INSIDE: Grand Theft Auto 4 (PC) Tweaks | Also – Gaming accessories | Plus – Overclocking news

CoolerMaster Storm Sniper Casing On Target Sniper

By Muzaffar Ismail

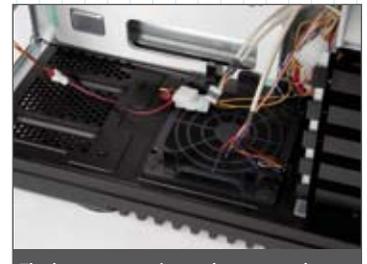
- SECC, ABS Plastic, Mesh bezel
- 551mm (H) x 255mm (W) x 567mm (D)
- 10.6kg
- Black
- Supports Micro-ATX / ATX
- 5.25" External x 5, 3.5" External x 1, 3.5" Internal x 5
- Expansion Slots x 7
- Price: TBA
- AV Future Link Sdn Bhd, Ban Leong Technologies Sdn Bhd
- 03-77830011, 03-79566300
- www.coolermaster.com



The main control panel allows you to rev up the fans when you need them



The casing comes with plenty of internal fans to keep every part well cooled and targeted



The bottom vent airway dust cover where you can install another fan to help complete overall airflow

These days, performance casings are so full of holes that it's a wonder that anything is actually covered. With almost all casings having vents here, there and everywhere, performance casings have to take it a step further with most of their inner structure consisting of tough mesh wrapped around a roll cage. High class performance casings like the ones from CoolerMaster take it even further by coming with an inner structure designed for optimal airflow.

The CoolerMaster Sniper not only comes with almost all sides with vents and mesh, it also comes with two 200mm fans targeted for the top and front and one 120mm fan at the back with a general airflow design to suck the hot air out from the bottom and straight out the back. Combine this with a built-in

control box and you have a coolheaded sharpshooter that can increase the cooling performance of your rig when and where you need it.

At first glance, the Sniper is all ribbed casing and wire mesh. Apart from the solid motherboard backing, practically every available surface has some sort of mesh or vent for better passive ventilation. Overall, the casing doesn't come across as ultra cool looking – just extremely functional. The main feature of the Sniper is its front control panel as it not only has four USB ports, one 1394a port, one e-SATA port and the usual mic and headphone jacks, it also has a knob that controls the RPMs and brightness of the fans situated in the casing. So when you need that extra kick to cool down your rig, all you need to do is crank up the

main control knob to increase the RPMs or brightness of the LEDs of the fans.

The insides of the casing are equally as impressive. Apart from its tool-less installation bays for add-on cards and drives, the casing has a specially designed airflow mechanism. This begins with an upper vent airway leading to the top 200mm fan to suck in all the cool air, this passes over the motherboard and its various cards leading to a bottom vent airway complete with removable mesh dust cover where you can also attach a suitably sized fan to suck out all the hot air and out the bottom vent airway. The rear 120mm fan works as backup to provide general cooling to the overall more powerful airflow. This effective design guarantees optimal airflow for all the components involved

although if you're going to have multiple graphic cards, it's probably a good idea to install that bottom vent airway fan for a better airflow.

What We Say

The CoolerMaster Sniper is a tough and functional fan powered air conditioning casing that targets all the right places in the casing along with plenty of built-in fans for optimum cooling. The Sniper's control knob helps immensely as you can determine how much cooling power you need when and where you need it. The Sniper may not look like the coolest casing on the market but it is definitely one of the coolest casings in terms of thermal performance, which should make it perfect for the enthusiast or performance user who has overlocked everything to breaking point.