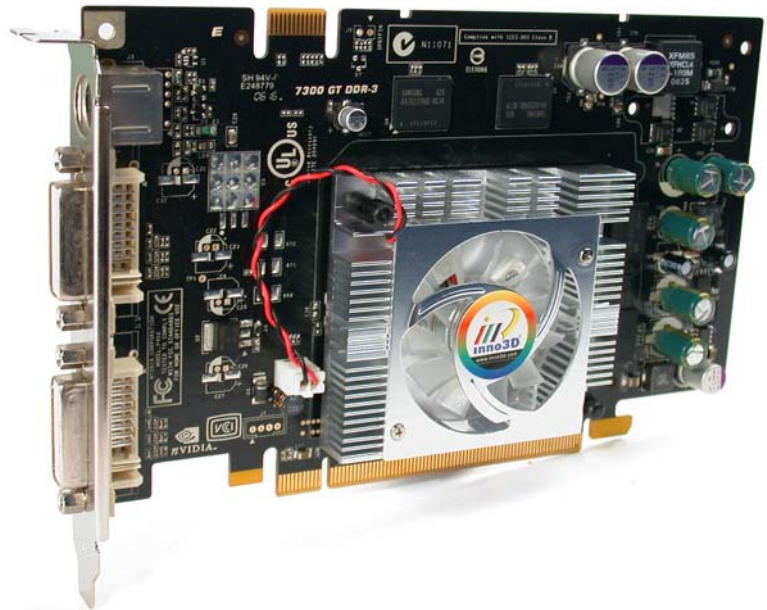


Challenging For The Top Spot

Inno3D GeForce 7300GT

BY LESTER CO & VINCENT CHANG



By now, there is no need for introductions when it comes to the newest NVIDIA kid on the block - the GeForce 7300 GT. We have seen the GPU blaze through the tests with Gainward's Bliss. But before we talk of results, we must stress that NVIDIA designed the GeForce 7300 GT to be very flexible in terms of core clock and memory type and clock with their vendors' implementation. The result: a boom in creativity where we find NVIDIA partners with a myriad of variants.

Inno3D has armed its GeForce 7300 GT (yes, it's got a boring name) with very capable hardware that's almost the equal of the Gainward Bliss 7300 GT PCX. Crucially, this includes 256MB of DDR3 memory clocked at 1400MHz. This is 100MHz faster than the Gainward and has a latency of 1.4ns, similar to those found with 7600 GTs. The core is clocked at the higher end of the spectrum for a GeForce 7300 GT at 500MHz, though still 50MHz behind the Gainward. Another rare treat with the Inno3D is the inclusion of two DVI outputs and that deserves two thumbs up in our book. Targeted for the budget mainstream market, we didn't really expect much out of this card's bundle, and as expected, there wasn't much in the packaging. Users will find only a single disc, where the graphics drivers and some rather dated

InterVideo DVD applications are located. There weren't any games bundled and we also found the accessories rather skimpy but, then again, this was a typical sight in value products.

As we predicted for 3DMark 2005, the Gainward and Inno3D were within 2 - 4% of each other, with the Gainward taking the lead. The ranking of the cards remained unchanged for 3DMark06 too but nevertheless, the Gainward maintained its slender lead over the Inno3D.

In our game tests, there wasn't much to separate the Gainward and Inno3D cards in the following benchmarks involving Splinter Cell and Unreal Tournament. Both cards had almost identical scores and were indisputably the faster cards for these two benchmarks. Moving on to Quake 4, again there was hardly any difference between the top two and the honors went equally to both the Gainward and the Inno3D. It is interesting to note that the higher memory clock of the Inno3D had more impact on its performance when anti-aliasing was enabled as we saw the Inno3D edging out the Gainward.

There is no overclocking headroom for this card. The Inno3D even failed on even a minor 10MHz

increment in the core and memory frequencies and it dropped out of 3DMark06 halfway through the stress test. This observation alone shouldn't deter consumers from placing this card in their shortlist.

While the Inno3D name may have a reputation for budget quality, with a price of PHP 4,495, it's definitely got an edge - even a small one - over the competition here especially since its performance closely rivals the Gainward Bliss 7300GT and even surprises us by including dual DVI-D.

SPECIFICATIONS

GPU	Memory	Interfaces	Bus	Price
GeForce 7300GT	256MB DDR3	Dual DVI-D	PCI Express	PHP 4,495

GPU: NVIDIA GeForce 7300GT
ASIC: G73
Core clock: 500MHz
Memory: 1400MHz (1.4ns) 128-bit 256MB DDR3
Transistors: 177 Million
Vertex pipelines: 5
Pixel pipelines: 8
Video output: Dual DVI-D, mini-DIN (for video out)
Interface: PCI Express x16
Bundle: 1 x DVI-to-VGA adapter, 9-pin mini-DIN to Component dongle, S-Video to Composite cable, User Manual, Quick Installation Guide, Driver CD, InterVideo WinDVD, InterVideo WinDVD Creator
Warranty: 1 year
Contact: Axis Global Technologies Inc.
Tel. No.: (632) 724-3340
Website: www.inno3d.com

RESULTS

Synthetic Test	3DMark 2005 Pro				3DMark 2006	
	1024 x 768 No FSAA/AF	1024 x 768 4x FSAA/8x AF	1280 x 1024 No FSAA/AF	1280 x 1024 4x FSAA/8x AF	1024 x 768 No FSAA/AF	1280 x 1024 No FSAA/AF
Inno3D GeForce 7300 GT 256MB DDR3	4661	3810	3765	2991	2879	2309
Gainward Bliss 7300GT PCX 256MB DDR3	4789	3870	3898	3048	2986	2401
NVIDIA GeForce 7600 GS 256MB	3773	2920	3169	2321	2547	2074

Game Test	Splinter Cell Chaos Theory 1.3		Unreal Tournament 2004 (AS-Convoy)			Quake 4		
	1024 x 768 SM3.0 HDR / 8x AF	1280 x 1024 SM3.0 HDR / 8x AF	1024 x 768 4x FSAA / 8x AF	1280 x 1024 4x FSAA / 8x AF	1024 x 768 HQ, No FSAA/8x AF	1280 x 1024 HQ, No FSAA/8x AF	1024 x 768 HQ, 4x FSAA/ 8x AF	1280 x 1024 HQ, 4x FSAA/ 8x AF
Inno3D GeForce 7300	40	29	86	83	84	62	58	40
Gainward Bliss 7300GT	42	30	86	83	86	64	57	39
NVIDIA GeForce 7600	34	25	78	72	66	47	39	26

HWM Testbed:
Hardware: AMD Athlon FX-55 (2.6GHz), MSI K8N Diamond Plus, Kingston 1GB DDR400 (dual channel, low latency) memory, Seagate 7200.7 SATA HDD Software: Microsoft Windows XP Pro SP2, DirectX 9.0c, NVIDIA ForceWare 91.29

HWM'S VERDICT

Features: **7.5**
Performance: **9.0**
Value: **9.0**

9.0
Out of 10

One of the faster 7300GTs around. Package bundle is slightly lacking though.



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