
Subject: Re: Which Graphics Card?

Posted by [Pavel A. Romashkin](#) on Fri, 08 Jun 2001 18:24:32 GMT

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Hi David,

I just went through this graphics card choosing business for building a PC for a friend and upgrading my own, although on a different budget level. GeForce3 is the hottest 3D gaming accelerator, but is overpriced (as all new products) and not many programs take advantage of its features. GeForce3's advantages are in shadowing, lighting and massive fill rates used for rendering 3D virtual worlds in games. However, for 2D CAD applications (and possibly IDL's OpenGL?) you might want to check into expensive (\$300 and up) professional cards that outperform the GF3 hands down. They are useless for games but superb for CAD.

I found out that a cheap (\$70) Radeon LE 32Mb DDR card is totally adequate for my needs. By adding a couple of registry entries, you turn it into a \$150 RadeonDDR :-). I have not tried IDL on it yet (the CD is in the mail supposedly), and will report as soon as I try it.

Cheers,

Pavel
