

Ray Tracing on M18xR2 - RTX 3000 MXM Upgrade!

Discussion in 'Alienware 18 and M18x' started by ssj92, Oct 24, 2021.

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ssj92
Neutron Star
Reputations: 2,406
Messages: 4,406
Likes Received: 5,603
Trophy Points: 581

Hey everyone, for those who don't know I've been working on getting a Quadro RTX 3000 MXM GPU for my M18xR2. RTX 3000 is basically a Quadro variant of the RTX 2060 (TU106).

The GPU I found happens to be about MXM 3.0b in layout made by ADLINK. This GPU is also available from Aetina and PNY in the exact same form factor. I chose this because it requires no mods besides INF and it provides the latest RTX features on an old platform.

I made a video of MXM in general here including the raptor NVMe card:



The laptop has 32GB 2133MHz RAM, Wi-Fi6E + BT 5.2 as well. It is basically up to spec.



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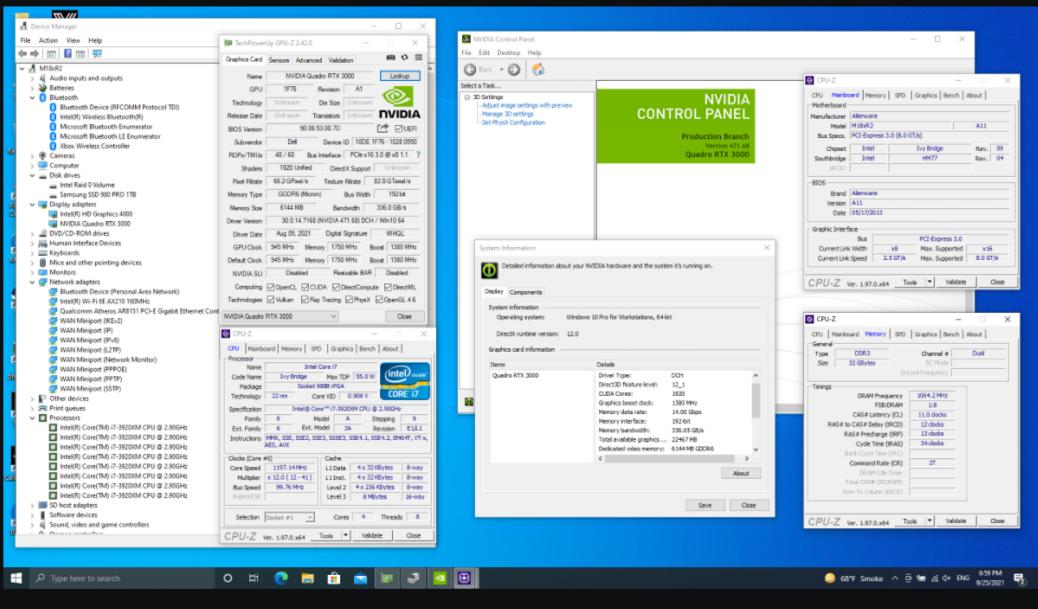
No heatsink mod needed:

Spoiler

Here's some benchmarks and pictures:



11



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Benches:

Spoiler

11

ssj92, Oct 24, 2021

#1

TheDancee, maro97, Semmy and 14 others like this.



Clamibot
Notebook Geek

Reputations: 628
Messages: 1,113
Likes Received: 1,502
Trophy Points: 181

The longevity of the old alienwares is amazing. I don't think we'll ever see something like this again in the laptop space because of the pursuit of maximum profit rather than the pursuit of good enough profit and amazing technology to back it up.

I understand the whole point of a business is to make money, but there's a point where enough is enough. If all laptops were like this one, we'd have much less e-waste. Not to mention a company could resell the same laptop in used condition multiple times to different buyers if they implemented a buyback program, which kind of makes the whole point of pushing BGA crap for maximum profit moot. I would think being able to resell the same product multiple times (albeit at decreasing prices each time) would be a profit driven company's dream. Not everyone wants to buy the newest stuff, so you can cater to the used market as well.

Some of the Alienware employees must be surprised how long this model lasted.

Clamibot, Oct 24, 2021

#2

Ashtrix, Papusan, Maxware79 and 2 others like this.



ssj92
Neutron Star

Reputations: 2,406

Messages: 4,406

Likes Received: 5,603

Trophy Points: 581

If I can get A4000 mxm next year then this M18xR2 will have a newer GPU than my Area-51m LOL.

ssj92, Oct 24, 2021

#3

maro97, DreDre, Ashtrix and 5 others like this.



Maxware79
Alienware died in 2014

Reputations: 206

Messages: 1,254

Likes Received: 846

Trophy Points: 131

Great job mate!

Maxware79, Oct 24, 2021

#4

Ashtrix, Clamibot, Papusan and 1 other person like this.



toastofman
Notebook Guru

Reputations: 3

Messages: 57

Likes Received: 13

Trophy Points: 16

That's great, super good news for my M17x R4 I guess! Looks good, nice work.

toastofman, Oct 25, 2021

#5

Star Andy, Clamibot, ssj92 and 1 other person like this.



ssj92
Neutron Star

Reputations: 2,406

Messages: 4,406

Likes Received: 5,603

Trophy Points: 581

toastofman said:

That's great, super good news for my M17x R4 I guess! Looks good, nice work.

Looking at the whitepaper, it seems this card may be wired for all DP only. Meaning on 120Hz display there may be no image displayed and it would only work on 60-Hz displays in SG mode.

Speculations of course, I don't have M17xR4 or AW 17 R1 with 120Hz to test.

ssj92, Oct 25, 2021

#6

Clamibot likes this.



M18x-oldie
Notebook Evangelist

Reputations: 14

Messages: 385

Likes Received: 129

Trophy Points: 56

That really is a wonderful project!

Where did you source these two, the card and the velociraptor, and how much did they cost?

M18x-oldie, Oct 25, 2021

#7

Semmy likes this.



long2905
Notebook Virtuoso

Reputations: 2,443

Messages: 2,314

Likes Received: 114

Trophy Points: 81

been awhile since i browsed this forum and you guys still deliver haha. well done on this!

long2905, Oct 25, 2021

#8

Ashtrix, M18x-oldie, ssj92 and 1 other person like this.



ssj92
Neutron Star
Reputations: 2,406
Messages: 4,406
Likes Received: 5,603
Trophy Points: 581

M18x-oldie said:

That really is a wonderful project!
Where did you source these two, the card and the velociraptor, and how much did they cost?

RTX 3000 found on ebay, cost around \$532

Raptor card bought from @UltraGSM I think it was like \$110, originally he purchased from @Baddemichl

ssj92, Oct 26, 2021

#9

Clambot and M18x-oldie like this.



toastofman
Notebook Guru
Reputations: 3
Messages: 57
Likes Received: 13
Trophy Points: 16

ssj92 said:

Looking at the whitepaper, it seems this card may be wired for all DP only. Meaning on 120Hz display there may be no image displayed and it would only work on 60Hz displays in SG mode.

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Yessir, mine is a 120hz eDP m17x R4!

toastofman, Oct 27, 2021

#10

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Vahal
Dec 14, 2021

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