

12 ESSENTIALS FOR PC PLAYERS

Is your computer still on a desk, with a printer and file cabinets nearby? That's pathetic! Unless you're pretending to work on spreadsheets or something, ditch that biz-boy setup and invest in a full-fledged game-nasium. Here are a few ideas for building the *ne plus ultra* gaming rig.

FALCON-NORTHWEST PC

This squat PC squeezes maximum action into a minimal footprint (10.8 x 8 x 14.8 inches). Components are easily upgradable, and the 520-watt ATX power supply will juice even the most demanding graphics cards.

[**Fragbox 2:** \$2,656, www.falcon-nw.com]



APC UNIVERSAL POWER SUPPLY

What if power fails while you're deep in a battle? The ES725 will save your PC from surges, plus buy you an hour of game time during a blackout. Frag on while neighbors fumble for flashlights. [**BackUPS ES725 Broadband:** \$100, www.apcc.com]

SHARP 3-D MONITOR

Sharp's pioneering 3-D display technology is finally making its way to your desktop. This 15-inch monitor beams slightly different images at each of your eyes, which your brain decodes as, say, a three-dimensional firefight.

[**LL-151-3D:** \$1,500, www.sharpsystems.com]



FELLOWES TOOL KIT

Call it modder's little helper. The kit comes with a six-piece screwdriver set, wire stripper, chip extractor, flashlight, and an X-Acto knife to keep all those warranty seals in mint condition.

[**100-Piece Tool Kit:** \$115, www.fellowes.com]

ZBOARD MODULAR KEYSAT

Here's a cool keyboard shortcut: button layouts tailored to each game. Swap out the *UTK4* keyset for the *Doom3* layout, with a hot key for toggling between your flashlight and your BFG.

[**Doom3 Keyset:** \$20 (keyboard base \$50), www.zboard.com]



SENNHEISER USB HEADPHONES

The neighbors don't need to hear every virtual shotgun blast. The PC155 headset engulfs you with personal 3-D sound, so all they'll hear is you cursing at the competition.

[**PC155:** \$140, www.sennheisercommunications.com]

LOGITECH LASER CORDLESS MOUSE

Goose your response time with an optical mouse. The MX 1000 has 20 times the resolution of its peers and follows movement on any surface – even a mirror.

[**MX 1000:** \$70, www.logitech.com]



FUNC INDUSTRIES SURFACE TREATMENT

Excess friction is no fun. That's why swingers apply Astroglide and gamers get Liquid. This silicon emulsion turns your desk into a glassy-smooth mouse surface.

[**Liquid:** \$10, www.func.net]

GAME CABINETS CONTROLLER

Playing emulated arcade classics with a keyboard and mouse sucks. The Stinger has enough buttons for *Defender*, dual joysticks for *Robotron*, a trackball for *Missile Command*, and even side-mounted buttons for pinball.

[**Stinger:** \$500, www.gamecabinetsinc.com]



JOLT CAFFEINE GUM

Red Bull is the standard fuel for all-night LAN parties, but there's a speedier fix. Jolt gum takes effect in less than five minutes, and two pieces have as much caffeine as a cuppa joe, plus guarana and ginseng. Power up!

[**Gum:** \$9 (six packs), www.joltgum.com]

GAMEDECK COCKPIT

This desk-chair combo is modular and fully adjustable, with pneumatic swing arms to accommodate all sorts of peripherals. Wanna play a driving game? Pull the steering wheel forward and stomp the gas pedal!

[**Navis:** \$4,400, www.thegamedeck.com]



STADIUM PAL CATHETER

Don't interrupt *EverQuest 2* for a mere bathroom break. Instead, strap on a catheter and attach a "collection pouch" to your ankle. Add an IV drip and you'll never have to get up again!

[**Catheter:** \$30 (ladies' "leg bag": \$35), www.stadiumpal.com]