



5 Steps to a Better HTPC

HTPC Builder's Checklist

Checklist

Step 1: Case

- The case will fit into the TV cabinet or where ever you plan to place it
- The case has enough internal drive bays for the hard drives

Step 2: CPU and Motherboard

- The form factor size of the motherboard is compatible with your case
- The motherboard supports selected CPU chipset
- CPU's thermal design power (TDP) is below 65W (for quiet operation)
- Memory modules are compatible with your motherboard
- The aftermarket CPU cooler will fit inside the case
- Thermal paste is included (if you use an aftermarket CPU cooler)
- The memory cards fit next to the CPU cooler

Step 3: Power Supply

- The size of the PSU is compatible with the case
- The PSU is powerful enough for the system (especially if you use a graphics card)

Step 4: Graphics Card (Optional)

- The graphics card is not too long or tall for your case
- The motherboard is compatible with your modern PCI Express 3.0 graphics card

Step 5: Storage

- Enough storage space for your media files (4TB or 6TB recommended)

Let's start building

I thought it would be helpful to create a recommended HTPCs page that you can always come to for the latest and tested component recommendations.

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