

# Industrial Design Computer System Recommendations | 2007

**DO NOT buy systems with MS Vista OS: Only XP until next year sometime.**

**When choosing a 3D computer: *What is the most important parts of your Alias workstation?***

**1] A professional graphics card is the highest priority** (gaming cards like the Gforce cards can be very buggy),

**2] At least 512 MB of ram, 1GB ram preferred, 2 GB even better.**

**3] 60-100 GB drive (7,200 rpm or better).**

The CPU will not affect interactive performance as much as render speed, and a RW DVD is good for back up...

Follow the list above when building your 3D workstation. Computer brands that are good to consider are Dell, BOXX, HP.

Below are a set of graphic board recommendations, based on the best value/performance and compatibility with Alias software:

WORKSTATION graphics boards	value-range	memory bandwidth	triangles per sec	texels per sec	approx. costs
<b>Nvidia Quadro FX 1500</b>	mid-range	40.0 GB/sec	144 million	6.0 billion	\$ 600
<b>Nvidia Quadro FX 3500</b>	high-end	42.2 GB/sec	174 million	9.4 billion	\$ 900
<b>Nvidia Quadro FX 4500*</b>	high-end	33.6 GB/sec	181 million	10.8 billion	\$1,200
<b>Nvidia Quadro FX 4600</b>	ultra-end	67.2 GB/sec	250 million	12.0 billion	\$1,500
<b>Nvidia Quadro FX 5500</b>	ultra-end	33.6 GB/sec	225 million	15.6 billion	\$2,200
<b>Nvidia Quadro FX 5600</b>	ultra-end	76.8 GB/sec	300 million	19.2 billion	\$3,000

Lap tops are a little more tricky, only a couple of graphics cards can handle CAD very well.

17" screens are great to work on, but make sure you get the high resolution versions (1920x1200 pixels).

Recommendations are listed below for both cards and specific machines:

MOBILE graphics boards	value-range	memory bandwidth	triangles per sec	texels per sec	approx. costs
<b>Nvidia Quadro FX 1500M</b>	mid-range	32.0 GB/sec	145 million	7.5 billion	built-in
<b>Nvidia Quadro FX 2500M*</b>	high-end	38.4 GB/sec	181 million	10.8 billion	built-in
<b>Nvidia Quadro FX 3500M*</b>	high-end	38.4 GB/sec	? million	? billion	built-in
<b>HP nw9440</b>	17" laptop	<b>Quadro FX 1500M</b> , 100 GB drive (7,200 rpm), 1GB ram,			\$2,700
<b>Dell M90</b>	17" laptop	<b>Quadro FX 1500M</b> , 100 GB drive (7,200 rpm), 1GB ram,			\$2,300
<b>Dell M90</b>	17" laptop	<b>Quadro FX 2500M</b> , 100 GB drive (7,200 rpm), 1GB ram,			\$2,500
<b>Dell M90</b>	17" laptop	<b>Quadro FX 3500M</b> , 100 GB drive (7,200 rpm), 1GB ram,			\$3,300

\* The FX 4500 (for towers) and the FX 2500M (for lap tops) are completely on par.

By using Bootcamp you can run Alias on the highest end Mac Pro towers [such as the new lab machines running Quadro FX 4500 cards] **BUT CURRENTLY Apple MacBook Pros are not selling with graphics cards in the Quadro FX 1500-3500 range, thus they will not work well for Alias CAD design work.** If and when they do these machines will work well also.