

# Jetway MiniQ 860TWIN

MiniQ reloaded with Intel board

As enthusiasts, we strive to make our computers stand out by pushing it to its potential. Whether it's accenting our computers with clear side panels or covering the painted finish with a car-envying clear coat, the computer enthusiast scene is all about deviating from the boring cookie-cutter PC. With the latest craze being small form factors, we've taken the once boring cookies and put sprinkles of enthusiasm on it. And now everyone has taken notice, especially Jetway. This month, Jetway is back again with another MiniQ – the MiniQ 860TWIN, but this time sporting Intel's 865 chipset.

So what's different? Not too much. The Intel 865 chipset, a different heatsink, no dual onboard VGA, and the addition of Serial ATA are among the main differences between the two. The MiniQ has all the makings of a normal micro-ATX 865G motherboard with some extra icing: two slots for dual-channel memory, onboard video, onboard sound, USB 2.0, FireWire, optical sound output and Serial ATA. Even though these are all normal to SFFs, it's a good thing Jetway didn't try to cut corners and leave them out.

All the construction inside and out stayed the same, but it is now available with either a silver or black front panel. The 860TWIN packages the same trackball-style remote, which works rather well, while continuing to sport Jetway's blue LCD, dubbed the LCM. For those who didn't get a chance to read the last Jetway article, the LCM is a blue backlit LCD that displays information like CPU temperature, fan speed and it even shows the time. The MiniQ still has a spacious interior that welcomes any beefy video card or elaborate cooling solution, but a bit of caution should be taken when putting in an extremely beefy video card due to potential heat problem. On the plus side, the

strategically-placed front vents will keep your hard drive from burning up, something most SFF manufacturers tend to overlook.

Since we're on the topic of heat, I'd like to point out the new heatsink that Jetway has included. Imagine one five-inch long by three-inch wide heatsink, and then cut it in half. Stack the two halves together so that the fins are pointing at each other, then use the heat-piping technique to connect the bases of the two halves and, voila, you have Jetway's heatsink solution. Compared to the AMD counterpart, it seemed to keep the noise level lower, while still adequately cooling the P4 processor.

During the testing, the new heatsink kept the CPU temperatures right around the 49° C range during load, and while idling, not much would change; it only dropped to around 46° C. Due to major air flow restrictions and the compact nature of the case, this is actually quite impressive. On the software performance side, everything seemed to perform right around reference levels. With scores of 14,034 and 4,852 in 3DMark2001SE and 3DMark2003, respectively, it's clear that the 860TWIN can keep up with the other SFFs. In addition, the PCMark2002 CPU score looked promising at 6,918 and PCMark2004's total score came out to be 3,720. Final Fantasy's benchmark also dished out an impressive 4,583. After completing the normal barrage of tests and proving everything normal, there was one more test to go – Jetway's exclusive Magic Twin software.

If you didn't know, Jetway's Magic Twin software allows two people to use the computer simultaneously

without being aware of slow downs. Jetway is able to do this by slicing up the CPU's operations in small units and devoting every other unit to each user. The timesharing idea isn't new, but implementing it in a SFF is. While using the Magic Twin this time, things seems to run a bit smoother than the AMD version we were testing before. There was less choppiness and lag when both users were doing more intensive tasks, like watching video clips. But this could be attributed to the fact that the 860TWIN is being tested with a 2.8GHz P4 and the AMD was tested with an XP 2100+.

There are too many factors that goes into selecting your next PC, so Jetway simplifies that for you. Simply by including all the desirable features in the MiniQ 860TWIN, Jetway won't leave you feeling short changed. Now it's down to personal preference about aesthetics. While it doesn't quite stack up to the hot looks of MSI's MEGA PC, the MiniQ's sleek design keeps it above average. In the end, Jetway proves itself to be a worthy adversary to companies like Biostar, FIC, or even Shuttle. Throw Jetway's exclusive Magic Twin in the mix and you get yourself the perfect family, budget-friendly PC. ■

**-LAWRENCE "STRYKER" TRAN**



[www.jetwaycomputer.com](http://www.jetwaycomputer.com) • price:\$280

#### FINAL VERDICT

##### HITS

Great trackball remote that works well in Windows; vents placed perfectly to keep your hard drive cool; and Magic Twin software works pretty well with faster processors.

##### MISSES

Even with the large interior, high-powered video cards can get toasty; aesthetics might not please everyone.

# 8.5