Big Elephant Cache 486DX2 model asia 486, Big Elephant Enterprises

Even in an excellent field, one system has to be best, and this is it. Big Elephant climbs to the top by offering great price/performance and customer service.

The Big Elephant turned in excellent benchmark scores. It was one of the few systems to do as well on the Windows tests as on the BAPCo suite. This hot performance can be attributed to several factors, including the Promise Technology caching controller (equipped with 1MB of cache) and the ATI Graphics Ultra video accelerator.

The system also offers plenty of room to grow. It gives you a total of eight drive bays, five of them externally accessible. You get eight 8/16-bit slots, four of which are free because one's slot cover holds extra I/O ports. The system also has a proprietary 32-bit local bus slot, which according to Big Elephant accepts only Big Elephant's Cache Point 32 video board. It's unoccupied and can double as a regular 8/16-bit ISA slot.

As for service, all calls to Big Elephant's tech support were answered quickly, politely, and almost completely accurately. Tech support is also available through a fax-back program. Big Elephant provides a year of free on-site service and two-day turnaround on factory repairs.

You'd expect to pay top dollar for such an accomplished system, but at $2595 the Big Elephant is one of the least expensive systems in the review. You can't go wrong with high system performance, good expandability, low price, and excellent customer service in one machine. That winning combination makes this machine the overall Best Buy.