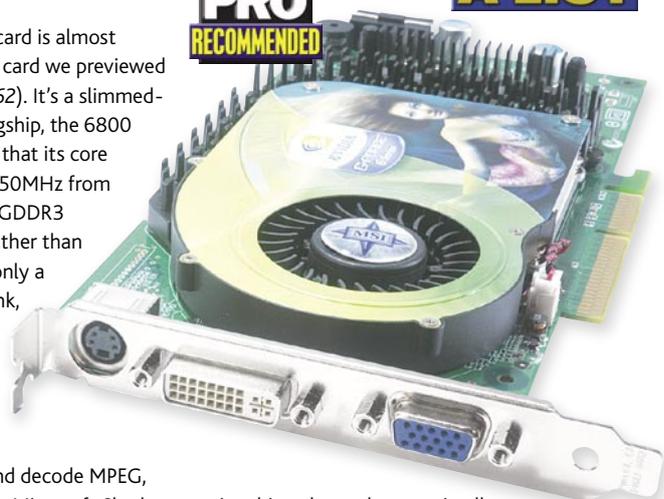




MSI NX6800GT-TD256

**PC
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RECOMMENDED**

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A LIST**



This PCI Express graphics card is almost identical to the 6800 GT card we previewed last month (see *issue 119, p62*). It's a slimmed-down version of nVidia's flagship, the 6800 Ultra (see *issue 117, p66*), in that its core clock has been reduced to 350MHz from 400MHz, and its 256MB of GDDR3 memory runs at 500MHz rather than 550MHz. As such, it needs only a single-width fan and heatsink, although it does still require a six-pin power connector at the rear.

It also has nVidia's advanced integrated video controller, able to encode and decode MPEG, and support for HDTV video. Microsoft Shader Model 3 support is there too, and a patch for Far Cry has already appeared to take advantage.

The NX6800GT comes with one DVI connection, one D-SUB and an S-Video output. Cables for all of these are supplied, as well as S-Video-to-phono and DVI-to-D-SUB converters. MSI also includes plenty of software, such as Prince of Persia and XIII.

Running in conjunction with a 3.6GHz Pentium 4 and an Intel 925X motherboard,

it achieved superb scores in all our tests: identical to the preview card last month, in fact. For example, at 1,600 x 1,200 with 4x anti-aliasing and 8x anisotropic filtering, it scored 37fps in Far Cry and 65fps in Unreal Tournament 2004.

Quite simply, this is the best value performance graphics card around.

PRICE £269 (£316 inc VAT)

SUPPLIER www.overclock.co.uk

OVERALL ★★★★★★