

HANDS-ON REVIEW

A week with the ASUS TUF FX505DU



Budget gaming laptops usually come with a red flag or two, but to my surprise the ASUS TUF Gaming FX505DU left little to be desired. As far as gaming laptops go, it boasts great specs at a relatively affordable price point. And it's not only a good gaming machine but also a reliable workstation. There are a few different configurations available for the FX505 series of laptops. We had the FX505DU-AL092T version which comes with 8GB RAM, a GTX 1660 Ti and a Ryzen 7 3750H. With that being said, it's time to get into the thick of it.

Performance and Build
While I thought that it was a plastic finish through and through, the top lid is actually made of some kind of metal and the laptop is certified to meet military standards in terms of durability. The laptop also has great cooling with a dual-fan setup located on the back of the chassis. So while it did get loud during prolonged gaming sessions, the top of the laptop stayed cool throughout. Speaking of things getting loud, the left and right speakers are one of the best I've found on any laptop ever. There's a red protective lining on the air exhaust vents and on the speakers to stop dust from getting into the device, doesn't hurt its aesthetics either. The laptop weighs approximately 2.2 Kg and by gaming laptop standards it's one of the lighter ones on the market. The 15.6 inch 1080p display features really small bezels to the side with a sizeable chin down bottom. What makes the screen great however is

the 120Hz refresh rate making it ideal for gaming.
Gaming
Sure it's a gaming laptop, but can it run Crysis? Yes it can run Crysis and then some. In fact, there were only a few moments where I ran into issues with FPS counts when running games in ultra. Battlefield V clocked in at an average on

VERDICT

The ASUS FX505DU is a reliable and affordable gaming laptop. It's also built like a tank when comparing against its plastic laden competition. Most games will run smoothly at 1080p but hitting 60FPS on some demanding titles will probably require some tweaking. While it does not have the best battery life or touchpad on the market, the new AMD Ryzen 7 3750H performs smoothly and the pairing with the Nvidia GTX 1660 Ti is what makes the laptop super affordable while still being a proper gaming laptop.

60FPS with some dips into the higher 50s, same with Apex Legends. The laptop chugged the most with Far Cry New Dawn and The Witcher 3 with Far Cry pushing 35 to 40FPS on ultra-settings. The Witcher 3 however presented some new issues in the form of rendering Geralt's free flowing hair. Hairworks in The Witcher 3 is a highly demanding graphical feature which most setups struggle to cope with in ultra-settings. It was hitting 50-55FPS sure, but it was also all over the place with the frame rate dropping to the lower 20s. Turning off Custom HD textures and Hairworks fixed the issue and the game ran at a smooth 60FPS with some dips into the higher 50s. The last two games I had the chance to try out were Metro: Exodus and Devil May Cry V both of which ran smooth as butter on the system. There were however some dips into 40FPS during the desert section of Metro: Exodus.
In short, it's a gaming laptop

SPECS

Processor: AMD Ryzen 7 3750H
Processor 2.3GHz (6M cache, up to 4.0GHz)
Graphics: NVIDIA GeForce GTX 1660 Ti
GDDR6 6GB, IGPU-AMD VEGA Graphics
RAM: DDR4 2666 8GB (Total 2x slot, 1x blank)
Storage: PCIE NVME 256G M.2 SSD, SATA 1TB 5400RPM 2.5" HDD
Display: 15.6" FHD 1920x1080 16:9 120Hz IPS
Weight: 2.20 Kg
Webcam: 720P HD
Keyboard: Illuminated Chiclet Keyboard RGB
Operating System: Windows 10 (64bit)
Battery: 48WHrs, 3S1P, 3-cell Li-ion
Price: Tk 107,000/-

and it delivered on that front, running current generation AAA games at their highest settings. The interesting pairing of the Ryzen processor and Nvidia graphics card

works well and manages to provide very satisfactory in-game results.
Battery
The battery life on this machine isn't the best but it was serviceable. Around 5 hours of YouTube and casual browsing is all I was hoping for and the device made good on that expectation. It can by no means run games efficiently on battery. But for numbers sake, The Witcher 3 ran at a whopping 15FPS and the battery only lasted for an hour. And while turning on high performance mode on battery did push the FPS into the lower 30s, the battery lasted for just over 40 minutes. But ultimately if and when you do game on the system, you will almost always be plugged in. For everything else like browsing the web, using Facebook or YouTube, the battery works just fine.

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Walton marches forward

Local electronic and automobile conglomerate Walton has been stepping up its game in the last few years with expanding its business in new territories. What started as a small trading company back in 1977, has now grown into a nation's premier hub for producing electronic home appliances.
After meeting local demand, Walton has now entered in the era of exporting its good under its own brand as well as an Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM). They have been exporting to several countries in the Middle East for several years now at a good quantity. Mostly these exports are under the Walton brand name while some of these exports were done as OEMs. Well, things even got better, when last week Walton announced it entered a deal to supply 100,000 units of refrigerators and twenty thousand units of ACs to Hyundai Electronics. Hyundai will import the products through its partner Goldenarch Consumer Electronics. Walton also arranged a press briefing the very same week to announce it entering the US market via e-commerce giant Amazon to sell ICT products i.e. laptop, smartphone, home appliances and other electrical solutions.
But that's not the biggest news. Rather the biggest news for Walton is that it has recently signed an OEM deal with Reliance Group, one of the biggest business entities of India, to supply 180,000 units of refrigerators. And further negotiation is ongoing to supply TV, AC and other home appliances to Reliance Group.
When asked about what more is in the pipeline, Augustin Sujon, Deputy Director, Walton Group informed that Walton is currently in discussion more than 100 international brands from Europe, North America and the



Middle East. He also added that, OEM or not, all the products of Walton is going have 'Made in Bangladesh' tag on them.
In order to expand the business even more, Walton has hired Italian designers, Japanese R&D experts and has upgraded the entire production facility to meet the global demand. To expand the OEM business it has opened up an office in the USA, Germany and several other countries. Since last year, Walton has hired several international consultants to roll-out the OEM business.
But does that mean the focus is shifting from local to international? Not really, according

to Uday Hakim, Executive Director, Walton Group. He said that out of the local demand of 25,00,000 refrigerators per year, Walton is supplying more than 75%. Till last month, Walton has produced more than 16 Lakh refrigerators from its factory that can produce around ten thousand refrigerators per day. Being one of the fifteen countries of the world producing compressor, Walton wants to leverage that to expand its business locally and international, he added.

SHAHRIAR RAHMAN

Cool as ice or shallow like a pond?

Speculating Intel's 10th generation processors

2018 was not an ideal year for Intel. Given a run for their money by AMD, the 10th generation processors from Intel has to step it up and make some drastic changes if the company wants to ascertain their position as the top dogs.
Intel's 10th generation processors come in 10nm and 14nm chip design and are being dubbed Ice Lake and Comet Lake respectively. Prior to the announcement of the 14nm chip, Intel's primary focus was on the Ice Lake processors. The 10nm design will first be available for laptops and tablets so newer laptops like the Dell XPS 13 2-in-1 and Inspiron laptops will feature Intel's latest and greatest. Intel has already advertised faster speeds, higher frame rates in 1080p gaming but in what could possibly be the most exciting update, they are going to be adding Thunderbolt 3 support for the next gen processors. There is also word of Wi-Fi 6 being introduced along with the new chipsets so Intel haven't been shy about hyping up enthusiasts and consumers. But with none of this being confirmed as of now and with the

added effect of the XPS 13 2-in-1 being delayed, has created room for skepticism regarding whether or not Intel is properly integrating the new technology. But on paper, the performance upgrades from the previous generation look really promising with Intel claiming double the graphical performance and an 18 percent increase to performance.
All of the information above have been released in regards to the Ice Lake processors but Intel's recently announced Comet Lake chips are more exciting simply on face value. Namely the new Intel Core i7-10710U processor, the company's first Hexacore U-series processor. But Comet Lake processors won't pack in the same graphical prowess and will be found mostly on laptops and tablets.
It's not too long before Intel releases the new 10th generation processors but with no pricing announced as of yet, it's only fair to take all the information with a grain of salt.

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