

# INTEL X79 ENTHUSIAST MOTHERBOARDS

## ASROCK X79 EXTREME9

**STREET PRICE** \$410 / **CONTACT** ALTECH COMPUTERS

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We've generally only looked at ASRock motherboards in the budget price range before now, making this top-of-the-line X79 board a bit of a departure. And as you'd expect, given how generous the vendor can be with lower-end offerings, the X79 Extreme9 has a lot going on. The board itself leaves little room for complaint, with a massive 12 SATA ports (eight of them SATA 6Gbps) affording extensive fast storage, quad CrossFire and SLI support, and oodles of rear connectivity: eight USB ports, half of them USB 3.0, FireWire, dual eSATA and single

Gigabit Ethernet. However, ASRock has gone further still, with a discrete PCI-E Game Blaster card bundled in, offloading network and audio processing duties via a Creative 3D sound card and a second teamable Gigabit Ethernet port. It's a great addition on its own, but given that the Game Blaster can be carried across to subsequent motherboards, also a decent value add. With strong performance, a straightforward yet very tweakable BIOS, and



good build quality, we're surprised to say that this \$410 motherboard is good value for demanding users.

**PC User says:** Comprehensive features and strong performance help this one stand out.