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Aywun AI-EI-LP

Time to give that stock heatsink the flick.

Altech

www.altech.com.au

\$19

Cheap, speed control, effective.

No copper core, not for overlocking, not mind-blowing.



We all know that a decent gaming machine needs an aftermarket cooler for the CPU, even if you aren't overlocking. They run quieter, cooler and are less prone to dust build-up.

But what about your HTPC? Or

worse, that desktop you got guilted into building for your long-lost aunt? In most cases, the stock Intel or AMD fan is pretty good and it doesn't make sense to install a \$50 heat pipe cooler – that's if there's even room.

While low-cost alternatives have traditionally been scarce, Aywun has a CPU cooler that fits the bill. Most importantly it's dead cheap, with a \$19 RRP and a street price as low as \$10. Not only does it fit all modern AMD and Intel CPUs, it's also very low profile and comes with an adjustable speed fan.

The Aywun AI-W1-LP weighs just 226g so there's no need to worry about putting any extra load on your motherboard.

Of course it's fair to be sceptical of the performance of such a low-cost chunk of metal. For a start, it has no copper core; rather the aluminium fins meld together and

contact the CPU surface directly.

To test its performance, we dropped the Aywun onto an older Intel E7200 CPU in place of the stock heatsink to compare performance. Interestingly, the included coppery heatsink compound is surprisingly liquid, though it seems to flow on very smoothly and provide solid contact.

At the desktop our CPU ran at 44°C, compared to 45°C with the Intel cooler. Under load, the temperature for the Aywun spiked to 56°C, while the stock cooler peaked at 61°C.

While the temperature difference between the two is not mind-blowing, the 92mm fan on the Aywun runs much quieter (especially under load), making it an obvious choice for a home or office PC or even that HTPC you've been itching to put together.

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