

ASROCK FATALITY P67 Professional

Sandy Bridge gets overclocked mouse ports and Fatal1ty's face in the BIOS.

Supplier ASROCK
Website www.asrock.com

Specifications Socket 1155; Intel P67 chipset; ATX Form Factor; 3 x PCI-e x16 (2 x x8, 1 x x4 electrically); 2 x PCI-e x1; 2 x PCI; 6 x SATA 6Gb/s; 4 x SATA 3Gbps, DDR3 2133



It seems that a large chunk of the component industry doesn't get the difference between gamers and overclockers. It also breeds an environment where somebody serious thinks that people want to spend their time in the BIOS staring at Johnathan 'Fatal1ty' Wendell's brooding face.

The Fatal1ty brand is one of the most enduring in the PC industry. One of the standout features of the Computex trade show musing through last decade was that you would invariably turn a corner to find Fatal1ty sitting outside a shopping centre pwning noobs for whatever company was using him as a brand that year (He's actually a really nice guy, but we shouldn't let that get in the way of branding).

The latest brand to bear his trademark red and black colour scheme and 1337ified name is ASROCK, who has named their high end gaming P67 board after him. Fatal1ty has also had input into the design, apparently, which manifests itself in special 'overclocked' USB ports designed for maximum mousing potential. We're somewhat dubious of these claims, and haven't noticed any difference when gaming on the overclocked mouse ports.

Apart from this, the Fatal1ty is a decently featured P67 motherboard whose main claim to fame is being cheaper than competing options. It has four USB 3 ports on the back and a header to drive front panel USB 3 (it comes with two USB 3 ports that mount in a 3.5in drive bay for cases without USB 3 front ports). These use a controller chip from Etron, which at the time of writing had still not received certification from the USB Implementers Forums, which is worth considering if USB 3 is important to you. The I/O plane also includes eSATA, IEEE1394 and dual gigabit LAN with teaming support.


The board has the P67's obligatory four DIMM slots and there's enough room around the CPU socket to fit a monster-sized cooler and only

obscure a single slot. PCI-Express connectivity is delivered through three x16 and a sole x1 slot - ASROCK is using an nV200 chip from NVIDIA to drive the extra PCI-E lanes. For those with legacy hardware there are also two PCI slots (although the design means that one of the PCI slots will inevitably be blocked by a graphics card). There are also a total of ten SATA ports on the edge of the board - six of these support SATA 6Gbps while the other four are the standard P67 SATA 3Gbps ones.

This all combines to make this a very feature-rich offering at a reasonable price. ASROCK has added a swathe of overclocking options to the board as well, and while it isn't in the same class as the Gigabyte and ASUS boards reviewed in the issue, we were happily able to set it to the maximum 'auto' setting of 4.8GHz on the Core i7 2600K CPU and it was stable and ran our benchmarks without issue.

For a motherboard targeted at gamers this is pretty impressive. It not only offers stable performance but great overclocks are but a few

clicks away in the UEFI-enabled BIOS. In our testing the results were pretty much as we'd expect, slightly behind those delivered by the 5GHz overclocks on the GIGABYTE and ASUS boards. Where the board did manage to shine was in the Cinebench testing, where the results were simply outstanding.

For a board targeted at gamers though, bleeding edge overclocking is less of a focus than the board running stably in games. For it to do so with things cranked up to max is a great thing indeed. While Gigabyte and ASUS may have a much deeper overclocking focus, ASROCK's Fatal1ty is a pretty good all rounder - we just worry that the selling points are pure marketing novelty and not something that gamers will actually care about. 

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2600K	100x48; DDR3-1866 9-9-9-24	100x35; DDR3-2133 9-9-9-24
PiFast	15.55s	10.61s
wPrime 32M - single thread	29.143s	37.112s
wPrime 32M - multi-thread	7.74s	7.74s
CineBench R10 64bit - single thread	8006	6089
CineBench R10 64bit - multi-thread	31429 (3.93x efficiency)	22995 (3.78x efficiency)

