

SilverStone SUGO SG03

One of the best micro-ATX cases we've seen

Price £81.67 inc VAT • **Supplier** www.novatech.co.uk
Manufacturer www.silverstonetek.com • **SKU number** SST-SG03B

Unless you're some kind of gruff, Land Rover-driving old man, you have to admit the SilverStone SUGO SG03 has the cute factor pretty well nailed. Indeed, walking with this tiny micro-ATX case from the lab to our desk coaxed the words 'Aawww, it's so small!' from several ladies. That said, we wouldn't recommend bringing it out on a Friday night in a bid to increase your pulling prowess.

Not only is the case made with the same unyielding build quality synonymous with SilverStone cases, but it appears that the company has mastered the technology used by Dr Who's TARDIS. The case may be no larger than a big shoebox, but the amount of PC kit you can fit inside this case is surprising.

The SUGO is capable of housing two hard disks, one external 3.5in device, one external 5.25in device, a regular ATX PSU and two double-slot, 10.5in-long graphics cards. While SilverStone is correct in saying that you could install a pair of ATI Radeon HD 4870 X2s in the SG03, we'd heartily recommend opting for a much larger case for such a hot setup.

On either side of the metal-mesh fascia, two slim vanity panels run from top to bottom, hiding the front-panel ports. Under the brushed aluminium finish there are two USB 2 ports, one FireWire port, headphone and microphone sockets, and the reset button. The vertically orientated bay cover for the external 3.5in device is also tucked away just below the USB 2 ports. The power button can be pressed without opening the panels, as it resides on the top of the case towards the right-hand front corner.

The mesh that accounts for roughly half of the fascia allows the front 120mm intake fan to suck air into the case. Only this single 120mm fan is supplied, although an additional 120mm fan can be fitted at the front. The small size of the case means that air can be quickly pulled from the front and exhausted from the rear, which makes for effective cooling. The back of the chassis is riddled with ventilation holes to help accommodate the airflow.

The left-hand side panel is also largely meshed, again to allow for greater airflow. The PSU is mounted above the CPU area of the motherboard, so a power unit with a bottom intake fan can be mounted to suck in air through the side panel and directly exhaust it out of the rear. The unusual mounting of the PSU means that you'll need to use a low-profile CPU cooler (the Intel and AMD reference coolers fit fine), and this may also limit your choice of CPU and ability to overclock it.

It's possible to mount the PSU with the fan directed inwards but this will probably create an airflow conflict with your CPU cooler, which could cause instability. We also don't recommend trying to use the fan of a PSU to suck out heat from a passive CPU cooler; a PSU creates enough heat on its own without the heat of a CPU too.

Overall, the installation process is simple, but only if the various stages are executed in the correct order. With the bottom and the side panels removed,

You can fit in a dual-slot graphics card and, as the case weighs 3.3kg, it's a good case for a portable gaming rig

it's easier to begin installation with the motherboard, memory and HSF assembly. Once the motherboard is inside the case, you can add your expansion cards, although the case provides only four slots for these.

The bottom of the case holds the bays for the hard disks that install vertically via a simple but sturdy tool-less bracket system. The two bottom panels of the case are made from very thick, ridged aluminium, which supposedly acts as a heatsink for installed hard disks. Coupled with airflow from the front of the case blowing over the top of the hard disks, the SUGO provides decent cooling for your disks. With the motherboard installed, the hard disks can be slotted into the case, and you can then slide your optical drive in.



+SUGO
Solid build quality; very small; cleverly designed

-SUMO
Limited cable management options; only one fan included; restricted to low-profile CPU coolers

Next, the power supply fits neatly into a bracket attached to the underside of the 5.25in bay to hold it in place. Due to the limited internal space, the cable management options are sparse to say the least, but this is the point at which it's easiest to perform any cable tidying. Due to the SUGO's small dimensions, we'd advise using a modular power supply to keep unwanted cables to a minimum.

Finally, the bracket for the external 3.5in device needs to be fitted. This might seem odd, as it has a neat fold of metal to further support the PSU you've already fitted, but installing this bracket any earlier in the build process severely restricts access to the case's internals.

CONCLUSION

The SilverStone SUGO SG03 is a smart-looking case and a clever piece of engineering. Everything slots cleverly together and the case makes efficient use of its surprisingly small dimensions. There's sufficient cooling to allow you to build a reasonably fast PC, although you're limited to low-profile CPU coolers, which could limit your overclocking potential. However, you can fit in a dual-slot graphics card and, as the case weighs only 3.3kg, it's a good candidate for a portable gaming rig. The £80 price tag may seem a lot of money to pay for a micro-ATX case, but the SUGO's clever design, versatility and great build quality all help to justify the cost.

mark mackay

IN DETAIL

Dimensions (mm)	200 x 312 x 360 (W x D x H)
Material	Aluminium
Colour	Black
Weight	3.3kg
Front panel	Power and reset switches, 2 x USB 2, FireWire, stereo, mic
Drive bays	One external 5.25in drive bay, two internal 3.5in drive bays, one external 3.5in bay
Form factor(s)	Micro-ATX
Cooling	2 x front 120mm fan mounts (1 x fan included)
PSU	Not supplied

SCORES

83% FEATURES
33/40

73% EXPANSION
28/40

80% VALUE
18/20

78% OVERALL
78/100