







I/Os on the back

SPECIFICATIONS









Chipset: ULi M1695 North Bridge; ULi M1697 South

Bridge

Processor: Socket-939 AMD Athlon 64 / 64FX / 64 X2 nrocessors

Memory: 4x 184-pin DDR 400/333/266 SDRAM DIMMs Storage: 2x ATA133, 4x SATA2, supports RAID 0, 1, 0+1, 5. JBOD. 2x eSATA2

I/O: 1x floppy, 1x serial, 1x parallel, 2x PS/2, 8x USB 2.0 (4x ports via bracket), 2x IEEE1394 (1x ports via bracket), audio

ports for 6-channel audio, 1x RJ-45 Gigabit LAN Expansion: 2x PCI Express x16, 1x PCI Express x4, 3x 32-

hit PCL 1x Future CPU Port

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A Solid Sleeper Hit

ON TEST

ASRock 939SLI32-eSATA2

BY friday13

Hitting the performance jackpot

This new motherboard from ASRock offers a rather interesting feature set that is aimed at providing users with potential for future upgradeability and performance. Avoiding the conventional NVIDIA route, ASRock instead chooses to use the ULi M1695 North Bridge and ULi M1697 South Bridge and they perform remarkably well. Sporting the AMD Socket-939 platform (and Socket-940 using an optional Future CPU Port upgrade), this board will support AMD Athlon 64, 64FX and 64 X2 processors. With a 1000MHz Front Side Bus and AMD Cool 'n' Quiet Technology built-in, the 939SLI32-eSATA2 will take full advantage of any installed AMD CPU to offer outstanding performance.

Four DIMM slots allow up to 4GB worth of DDR

SDRAM to be installed. The slots will support DDR 400/333/266MHz chips of up to 1GB per slot. Additionally, the board provides a pair of PCI Express x16 slots to cater for two NVIDIA 3D accelerators running in SLI mode, providing better performance and higher frame rates in games and other 3D applications. The ULi M1695 chipset allows for both slots to run in full x16 mode, offering double the bandwidth of conventional PCI-E x16 slots.

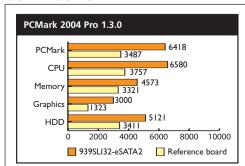
Obligatory components

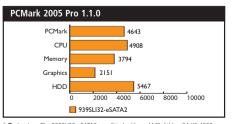
The 939SLI32-eSATA2 also offers plenty of storage options for today's increasingly huge applications and data. Two conventional ATA133 slots provide a cheap but reliable solution to most users' storage needs. For the more demanding user, the board offers six SATA II slots that are capable of RAID. In a time when eight channels of audio is commonplace, this is just a regular Realtek ALC660 CODEC that supports six-channel audio with High Definition Audio support.

The onboard Plug-and-Play support via eight USB 2.0 ports and two Firewire ports should satisfy most users' equipment though. The obligatory Ethernet LAN chipset is also present, in the form of a 10/100/1000Mbps Gigabit LAN. This comes in handy especially for broadband access, which a lot of users probably have these days.

The 939SLI32-eSATA2 from ASRock offers exceptional performance and, when installed with the ideal gear, will serve as the ideal gaming machine or high performance multimedia workstation for the modern PC user.

OUR RESULTS





* Test setup: The 939SLI32-eSATA2 was fitted with an AMD Athlon 64 X2 4800+ and matched to 2x 256MB DDR400 SDR4M modules and a GeForce 6600 128MB graphics card. The reference board was fitted with an AMD Athlon 64 3200+ and matched to 2x 256MB DDR333MHz SDRAM modules and a GeForce4 MX440SE 64MB graphics card.

