

A HIS For Tough Times

HIS Radeon HD 4850

BY MUZAFFAR ISMAIL



HIS graphic cards are typically exemplified by their trademarked IceQ cooling system. Instead of going the standard reference card design way that so many other graphic card makers have done, HIS stands out mainly because they like to have their own custom cooling systems which for the most part work better than the normal standard fansink cooler combos.

With the current economic crisis, tough times are upon us and HIS recognizes this by offering a line of HIS graphic cards that are geared for the suddenly more financially constrained user. Since adding-on its own custom cooling systems will incur higher costs, HIS are adopting the - open card with big giant fansink - school of design which so many other budget graphic card makers have been doing for some time. Amongst this line of budget-based graphic cards is the HIS Radeon HD 4850.

Based-off of a blue PCB with a big black heatsink and a transparent blue plastic fan stuck on it, the card looks like any other budget card complete with a single S-video port and two DVI-I ports on the back. Like other HD 4850s, this card only needs a single 6-pin power connection with a recommended

PSU of 450 Watts. The card has CrossFire X tabs available for later use. It also comes packing a 625MHz core clock and a 1986MHz memory clock with 256-bit memory interface and 512MB worth of GDDR3 memory.

In terms of performance the card does reasonably well with a 3DMark Vantage score of P7256 and a 3DMark06 score of 12270. You should be able to run most of today's games with most settings maxed-out as we ran the Far Cry 2 benchmark on Ultra High and still got more than a 40 FPS frame rate. Older DX10 games like Company of Heroes will probably fly with the card as it managed a score of 54.5 FPS in the Company of Heroes benchmark test. Although we've yet to see any game as demanding as Crysis you can still get the card to run on 1280 x 1024 resolutions using High advanced settings and 4x anti aliasing. Granted, you'll have to cut some of the advanced settings and deactivate the anti aliasing completely if you're using a widescreen resolution like 1680 x 1050 but gameplay is still fairly smooth with very little lag.

Surprisingly enough, under load the card is actually cooler than some of the IceQ renditions we've seen from HIS with the card

only slightly warm to the touch. The design works very well with the fan being fairly silent and powerful. This makes the card just perfect for the budget gamer looking to overclock for more frames as you should be able to push the card a reasonable amount. This factor coupled with its already good performance makes the HIS Radeon HD 4850 a very good buy for the gamer on the look-out for a good deal.

SPECIFICATIONS

Slot	Radeon	Memory	CrossFire	Price
PCIe2	HD 4850	512MB	Yes	TBA

Model: H485FN512P
Core: 625MHz
Memory: 1986MHz
DirectX Support: 8 and below, 9.0a (Shader Model 1), 9.0b (Shader Model 2), 9.0c (Shader Model 3 / HDR), 10 (Unified Shader Model 4 / Vista), 10.1 (Unified Shader Model 4.1 / Vista SP1)
I/Os: 2x DVI-I, 1x S-Video
Cooling System: Fansink / Double-Layer
PSU Required: 450W, 6-pin Single
Contact: Ban Leong Technologies Sdn Bhd
Telephone: (03) 7956 6300
URL: www.hisdigital.com

Available at
PLAZA LOW YAT
 shopping centre

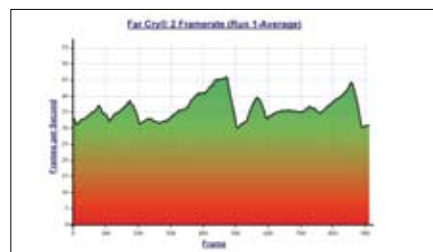
HWM'S VERDICT

Features: **8.0**
 Performance: **8.0**
 Value: **8.5**

8.0

Out of 10

A good HD 4850 for the gamer on a shoestring budget



Far Cry 2 performance was good