

Antec and Quiet Computing

For years now Antec has promoted the concept of Quiet Computing™. Even before using that term Antec emphasized the quietness of our SmartPower power supplies, with thermally controlled variable speed fan, as far back as the mid-1990's. As time went on, Antec continued to offer products that focused on performance as well as products that focused on being quiet.

TruePower was our second series of quiet power supplies designed particularly with quietness in mind to hit the market. With it we introduced Antec Low Noise Technology, which not only made the PSU quieter but also allowed users to control the speed of their case fans according to temperature, thus allowing the entire case to become quieter while still responding to load and environment. Overall more than 1.5 million TruePower units have been sold around the world.

With TruePower such a huge hit, it was time to launch an entire case designed for quiet. We took what we learned about cases and power supplies and put it together in the form of the Sonata PC case. Before launching it, we had it tested by an independent lab (would you trust any other form of test?) and found Sonata to be the quietest mass produced case in the world. And Sonata quickly became one of Antec's best selling cases of all time.

Our tireless product development team didn't rest there, however. They continued working countless hours to bring about more products designed to stop the endless drone of computers assaulting our customer's ears.

Some of the simplest improvements were modifying our case designs to accommodate 120mm cooling fans where possible. This gave greater airflow at lower RPM's compared to our then standard 80mm cooling fans, thus providing more cooling for less noise.

They also introduced thermally controlled case fans (SmartCool) that would slow down and become quieter when more cooling wasn't needed, and more cost effective variable speed switched fans (TriCool) that performed similarly. Quiet computing took a major place in our design ethos, and had an effect on all manner of projects.

Finally it became time to develop our next generation of power supplies. Four new lines of power supplies were in development at about the same time, and some unique Quiet Computing solutions resulted.

SmartPower 2.0 went with a dual fan front/back set up. The idea was to have the thermally controlled main fan inside the case, where it was muffled from the ears of the computer user. And at a specified load/temperature the outer fan would then turn on to exhaust additional heat.

TruePower 2.0 went to a single thermally controlled, variable speed 120mm fan from the previous 80/92mm rear/bottom fan set up of the original TruePower line of power supplies. This was essentially following the current trend in power supply manufacturing that a single 120mm fan was quieter and better than the 80/92mm or single 80mm designs that had preceded TruePower2.0.

Phantom, our original concept, was our fanless power supply. To really make this work we needed to have a high efficiency design, for the less heat the power supply generated the less heat we had to worry about removing. To help dissipate said heat we went with extruded aluminum fins connected to the internal heatsinks. Phantom 500's hybrid design, with a fan that stayed off completely until certain temperatures were reached, was aimed at high end gamers who still wanted a quiet system when not gaming.

With Neo HE we implemented a high efficiency power supply paired with a low speed, thermally-controlled 80mm fan. The main reason for that was that, since NeoPower had done so well, Antec wanted to continue to offer a PSU line with modular cables. Beyond expectations, we found the low speed 80mm fan to be so quiet that the independent test lab we hired to test Neo HE had to reconfigure their test chamber to be sure they could get readings from the it!

Quiet Computing has been a company goal since the days of the original SmartPower, and Antec has given it more thought and development effort than any other company in our area. Examples of this continue to emerge from our Product Development group—like our Studio Series rackmount cases, a series of quiet rackmounts developed for audio and video professionals, and our Fusion media center case with dual chamber design.

We can proudly say that, if Quiet Computing is what you want, Antec is the company for you.