



EXPECT TO PAY
£85

▲ The Antec Neo HE 500 uses less power and ^{it} cut down on the cable clutter inside your PC, too

■ MANUFACTURER: Antec ■ WEB SITE: www.antec.com
 ■ FEATURES 500W, modular cable system, six Molex connectors, four SATA connectors, two PCI Express connectors

Antec Neo HE 500

Upgrade your PC's power supply to something that's both quieter and ecologically sound

Power supply units (PSUs) are dull, right? All they do is provide the power for your PC – what's so exciting about that? Well, more than you might think, actually. Over the past few years there have been some interesting advancements in the PSU market, so if you're planning to upgrade some of the key components in your system, you might want to include this new power supply from Antec on your shopping list.

The first thing that you'll notice with the Neo HE 500 is that you can choose which cables you have running from it. This means that you no longer have to put up with all those legacy power connectors and extra Molex connectors unless you want them. Instead, you simply plug in the cables that you want. The upshot of this is that if you only have one hard drive and one optical drive in your system, for example, then you can get away with just the one cable with three Molex connectors on it instead of using several. As you can imagine, this cuts down on the clutter inside your case no end.

That doesn't mean that you're supplied with fewer connectors, though. In total there are six Molex connectors, four SATA connectors, two floppy drive power leads and if you want to run an SLI or CrossFire system, two PCI-Express power leads. The only limit you have is

that you can only connect five leads to the PSU at any one time.

Think green

The other major development within PSU design has been the reduction in the amount of power that they use. This not only means that you save money, but do a good turn for the environment, too. Furthermore, the unit doesn't become particularly hot and therefore doesn't require as much cooling, which means that the fans are smaller and it produces less noise, too. In tests the PSU made our office's air conditioning sound like an antiquated wind turbine, in comparison.

In these times of unpredictable global weather systems we should be more aware of the amount of power that we use, particularly concerning our computers. The PSU is the primary power user within your PC, so any way of improving its efficiency really ought to be considered. The Antec Neo HE 500 scores well on the environmental front, plus it's modular and has the necessary 'oompf' that you need. **HT**

PCAnswers VERDICT

Ease of use ●●●●
 Features ●●●●●●
 Performance ●●●●●●
 Value for money ●●●●

An ecological, customisable PSU 80%