



Vantec Spectrum UV LED Fan
Reviewed by Barry Little - September 8, 2003
Manufacturer: Vantec USA
Model: Part No. SP80UVLED-OR
Price: \$8.99 at SVC

No one knows how important it is to have a case fan that cools as good as it looks than the PC Gamer, and Vantec is well known among the community for their top-quality power supplies and accessories. One of those accessories is the subject of this review—the **Vantec Spectrum UV LED Fan**. The *Spectrum UV Fan* is a high-quality, 80mm fan made of UV-reactive plastic with three imbedded UV LEDs, spinning at 2900 RPM with an air flow rating of 36 CFM, and comes in three solid colors (blue, green, orange), and two combo-colors (blue-green, and green-orange). The orange fan is featured here because I'll be using some in my latest rig building project, which will make its debut soon.

Compared to standard cold cathode or LED light sources used in PC case modding products, ultraviolet light doesn't have the same level of luminosity (brightness). Under low ambient lighting conditions when illuminating fans or other UV-reactive components, however, the effect has to be seen to be appreciated.



The fans come neatly packaged in a clear, plastic box and include mounting screws and a 3-pin-to-4 pin power adapter, so you can connect the fan to a 3-pin motherboard connector or using the adapter to connect it to a 4-pin Molex power supply connector. What's really nice about this fan is the power cable. While the majority of fans out there still use the same old messy and ugly red and black or red, black and yellow wires for power, Vantec breaks from the pack and uses sleek, silver wires sleeved in clear, flexible plastic. Not only does this look good, it makes for a much neater installation. And because the fans have UV LEDs imbedded in them, you don't have to have a separate UV light source (and the additional wiring and power connections) to make them glow.



Vantec also routed the LED wires through the fan's motor supports, rather than just attach the LEDs and wires to a flexible plastic band around the fan's body like some lesser-quality LED fans. This protects both the wires and LEDs from any possible damage during installation and insures maximum light transmission. The *Spectrum UV* only has three LEDs, but compared to brighter fans equipped with four LEDs it still throws out a respectable amount of light—certainly nothing that would be too distracting during those late-night gaming sessions if you had your PC sitting on top of your desk instead of underneath it. They also aren't as bright or look as good-looking as the UV cold cathode fans from *Sunbeam*, but they don't require the additional wiring, inverter and switch, are easier to mount in certain case configurations without interference, and cost almost half as much.



With a noise rating of 34 dBA, the *Spectrum UV LED Fan* is neither insanely loud nor whisper-quiet, but with your head phones on, or your speakers cranked up, you'll hardly notice. To put things in perspective, Vantec also makes an 80mm case fan called the *Tornado*, which has a noise rating of 55.2 dBA, and another called the *Stealth* with a noise rating as low as 20 dBA.

What probably should have been included but wasn't, was a fan grill. It wouldn't have made the *Spectrum UV* that much more expensive, and would have been a nice touch for someone looking for everything in one package, and doesn't care about the flashier (and more expensive) custom grills that usually have to be purchased separately.

The fan is available at *SVC* for only **\$8.99**—a real bargain even without a fan grill. If you're looking to add a bit of UV flair to your rig but don't want the addition expense (or hassle) of extra power cables, inverters and switches, the **Vantec Spectrum UV LED Fan** is an excellent choice.



Final Score:



Summary:

Highs: Doesn't require an additional UV light source, inverter or switch. Good airflow and relatively quiet. Sleeved power cable *and* 3-to-4 adapter. Overall high quality.

Lows: Only three LEDs (four would be better). More available colors would be nice. Fan grill not included.



Vantec Spectrum UV Fan

Manufactured by: Vantec (www.vantecusa.com/home.html)
Available from: SVC (www.svc.com)

Product Specifications

Fan Size: 80x80x25mm
Rated Voltage: 12 V
Rated Current: 0.25 A
Fan Speed: 2900 RPM
Air Flow: 36 CFM
Noise: 34 dBA
Weight: 68 gm
Life: 35,000 Hours
Bearing Type: Ball