



ADATA XPG Spectrix D40 / £213 incVAT

SUPPLIER www.amazon.co.uk / MODEL NUMBER AX4U320038G16-DRS

As the second cheapest 3200MHz 16GB dual-channel RGB memory kit on test, the ADATA XPG Spectrix D40 is a more affordable option than G.Skill's Trident Z RGB if you want to add a splash of RGB pizzazz to your PC. In fact, if you're prepared to step down to 2400MHz, you can buy the same kit for under £180 inc VAT if you shop around. The fairly loose timings of 16-18-18-38 might make you yearn for the G.Skill Trident Z RGB kit we also looked reviewed month (see p45), but these timings didn't impact performance much, and both of these kits use Samsung's B-die chips too.

The ADATA heatsinks are fairly paltry and thin-feeling compared with the likes of the Team Group and G.Skill kits, though, and they're also not particularly attractive either – they're better viewed from above than from the side although, to be fair, that's mainly what you'll see through a windowed side panel.

The RGB LEDs in the DIMMs are also fairly obvious single points of light, and they don't look as smoothly diffused as the ones in the G.Skill Trident Z RGB modules, for example. However, you can control each of the five LEDs independently, or apply a variety of lighting effects that show off this ability – they look fantastic with darts of light travelling across each module. ADATA's software works well too, unlike Team Group's. It looks a bit like an Asus Aura clone, but it thankfully also worked fine on our Gigabyte test motherboard, which is great news.

The height might be an issue for some people as well, as the modules rise up by nearly 0.5cm above the G.Skill Trident Z RGB at 48mm, so you'll need to account for this height if you plan to place these modules under a CPU cooler.

Thankfully, there were no issues when overclocking, and the ADATA modules reached the joint top result of 3466MHz using

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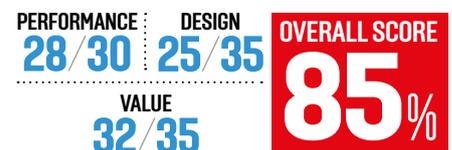
a DDR voltage of 1.4V, providing a decent 266MHz increase over the stock frequency of these Samsung B-die modules. This result was achieved with a notch higher on the memory multiplier than the Team Group Night Hawk RGB kit managed too. The ADATA memory also ran happily at a frequency of 3200MHz in our AMD Ryzen test system.

Conclusion

It's great to see plenty of alternatives to G.Skill and Corsair's RGB memory kits, and ADATA's XPG Spectrix D40 is a solid dual-channel kit. The addition of multi-LED lighting control and issue-free software means that, for a large chunk of cash less than the G.Skill Trident Z RGB kit, you can own a capable RGB LED

memory kit that offers a huge range of lighting effects, even trumping Corsair's Vengeance RGB modules.

Aesthetically, we do prefer the diffuse lighting of the other modules on test this month, but if visibly individual LEDs are more to your taste, and you want multi-LED RGB lighting on your modules, the ADATA XPG Spectrix D40 is a great option. As a bonus, our sample was also able to get to 3466MHz too. Not all kits overclock equally, but it's a good sign that ADATA is rating its kits conservatively. If you want high-performing memory, RGB lighting and decent software, but can't afford the premium for G.Skill's Trident Z RGB kits, the ADATA XPG Spectrix D40 is a solid choice.



VERDICT

Multi-LED RGB lighting, good overclocking, issue-free software and a reasonable price.

/SPECIFICATIONS

Memory chip Samsung B-die
 Timings 16-18-18-38
 Voltage 1.35V
 Height (from base) 48mm
 Stated software compatibility Asus Aura