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Build an Awesome PC, 2014 Edition

Easy Steps to Construct the Machine You Need

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Mike Riley

Edited by Jacquelyn Carter

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The team that produced this book includes:

Jacquelyn Carter (editor)
Candace Cunningham (copyeditor)
David J Kelly (typesetter)
Janet Furlow (producer)
Ellie Callahan (support)

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Bling

Did you try toggling on and off the front and side fan LEDs of the 500R PC case? Pressing the fan's light button on the front panel of the PC case will turn on the white LEDs on the front- and side-panel fans, as shown in Figure 78, *The two front-panel case fans with LEDs turned on*, on page 8. Even though these lights add no computational value to the PC, they elevate spinning plastic and metal to a mood-inducing level of cool.

PC lighting has become an art form in and of itself, further defining the individualized nature of the personal computer. As you continue to enhance and improve your computer with hardware upgrades, you can highlight these components with recessed LED strips that backlight the operating gear. If the default blue lights are too subdued for your tastes, you can swap out the chassis fans with different-colored replacements.

Even graphics cards like the GTX 780 Ti that we installed have unique lighting schemes. For example, the GeForce logo along the top of the card can fade on and off, blink, and even pulsate in time with audio playback. You can access these settings via NVIDIA's GeForce Experience LED Visualizer,[4] as shown in Figure 79, *The GeForce logo lighting style on the top of the GTX 780 Ti card can be modified via the LED Visualizer dialog*, on page 8.

Naturally, to showcase the lighting schemes inside the case, you need to either replace the case sides with see-through plastic or entirely replace the case with a model that intentionally showcases the interior hardware. But now that you know how to assemble a personal computer from start to finish, transplanting your hardware from one case to another should be a stress-free procedure.

In addition to lighting, there's the option to deck out the fans, wires, and tubes with different color schemes. Fan blades and rings can be obtained in a variety of colors, along with matching LED backlighting. Enhancing your PC with such colorful additions can really set it apart and further define its operating intentions to match the personality of its owner. Have fun personalizing your awesome PC!
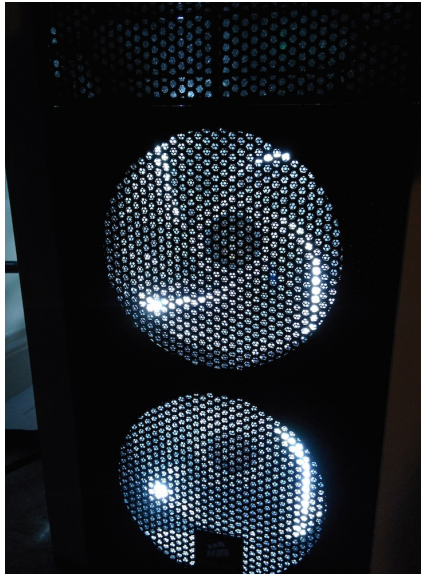
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4. http://www.geforce.com/geforce-experience

Figure 78—The two front-panel case fans with LEDs turned on

Figure 79—The GeForce logo lighting style on the top of the GTX 780 Ti card can be modified via the LED Visualizer dialog.