



**DARWINmachine  
Hammerhead HMR989**

US\$2950 | darwinmachine.com

Some PCs have plain, modest boxes that belie their true power. Not so the Hammerhead, which scares off frumpy models with its ice-blue lighting and inside-out style. A CNC-milled, anodised aircraft-aluminium frame is set against translucent white ecoresin panels, and its quick release system allows you to rummage around in its guts with ease. Not that you'll need to swap its 3.4GHz Core i7 Sandy Bridge chip or Nvidia GTX 550 Ti graphics any time soon.

**...AND SOME FASCINATING FACTORY FACTS**

Building a 747 demands a fair amount of elbow room, so in 1966 Boeing built what is still the world's largest factory by volume, in Washington. It covers 98.3 acres (around 50 football pitches) and is so big that clouds once formed near the ceiling.

The world's first factory is thought to be the Derby Silk Mill, finished in 1722. Its revolutionary silk-spinning machines were copied from Italian designs by the mill's owner John Lombe, who was fatally poisoned by an Italian assassin in the same year.

Virgin Galactic has built the world's first spaceship factory in the Mojave Desert. Called FAITH, it's big enough for simultaneous construction of two models of both the Spaceship Two and its 'mothership' the WhiteKnight Two. Flights are expected to begin in 2013.

Volkswagen's 'Transparent Factory' in Dresden, Germany has walls that are made almost entirely from glass. To keep easily confused birds from flying into it, an outdoor speaker system mimics avian language to mark the territory as 'taken'.

[ Words: Julian Whitehorn Photographs: Pete Gardner ]