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GTX 1080 Ti vs RTX 20: Buyer's Decision Guide

When 11GB of VRAM justifies an old Pascal card on Proxmox, and when drivers, DLSS or AMD should win.

Updated **2026-10-29** · Full guide: www.mrplanb.com/blog/the-gtx-1080-ti-still-has-the-vram-but-the-future-has-moved-on-without-it

> The GTX 1080 Ti's 11GB of VRAM still looks good next to a 6GB RTX 2060, but driver support, DLSS and vGPU limits count against it. For gaming, a 2070 Super or 2080-class card is the smarter long-term pick. For non-gaming VM work where VRAM matters most, the 1080 Ti can still make sense if you accept older driver branches. For Linux-first, VRAM-heavy setups, AMD may be saner.

11GB
VRAM on the GTX 1080 Ti

6GB
VRAM on the original RTX 2060, the card to avoid if VRAM is the worry

20GB
VRAM on the Radeon 7900 GRE suggested as a sweet spot

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buying lanes: 1080 Ti, RTX 20 series, AMD Radeon

Pick by job

Job	Best fit	Why
Gaming	RTX 2070 Super or 2080-class	DLSS and driver support matter more than VRAM
Non-gaming VMs, VRAM first	GTX 1080 Ti	11GB works if older driver branches are acceptable
Several VMs sharing one GPU	Pascal Quadro, not a hacked consumer card	vGPU unlock is hit-or-miss
Several LXCs sharing one GPU	Any supported card	LXCs can share a GPU without unlocking
Linux-first, VRAM per dollar	AMD Radeon	Drivers work out of the box

The case for the 1080 Ti

- 11GB beats a 6GB RTX 2060 for multiple guests and heavier workloads.
- Non-gaming VMs may not need the extra horsepower of newer cards.
- The key word from the thread is need, not want.
- It can still be a good buy at the right price, for the right workload.

The case against it

No proper DLSS
It can use FSR or Intel-style upscaling, but not DLSS, which changed the value story for Turing cards.

Driver support
The GTX 10-series is past NVIDIA's long-term support line. You may need to curate driver versions.

Dependency circle
Buy it for VRAM, then lower settings until the workload no longer needs the VRAM.

vGPU unlock
May need a custom GPU BIOS and could risk bricking the card.

Before you buy

- [ ] Decide whether the job is gaming, non-gaming VMs, shared GPU or Linux-first.
- [ ] Confirm you truly need the VRAM, not just want it.
- [ ] Check you can live with frozen driver versions and kernel update friction.
- [ ] For several VMs on one GPU, do not plan around vGPU unlock.
- [ ] Remember LXCs and VMs follow different GPU-sharing rules.
- [ ] Look at AMD if the pain is VRAM per dollar and Linux driver sanity.

AMD lane

- Suggested: Radeon cards with 16GB, or a 7900 GRE with 20GB, strong performance and reasonable power draw.
- The original poster found AMD drivers on Linux painless because they work out of the box.
- NVIDIA keeps advantages in CUDA-heavy workflows, some media stacks and certain software ecosystems.

Sources and notes: Community discussion thread summarized on the page · NVIDIA driver support status as described by commenters