

new products

As ever, there are plenty of new gadgets on the market this month, so you might want to consider expanding your home or office setup. To help you see what's new on the market, we bring you news on some of the more striking product releases

Acer TravelMate 100

Tablet PC

The TravelMate is due for launch in the UK towards the end of this year and is expected to cost around £2,000, although no official price or exact specifications have been announced yet. The unit is the central device around which Acer is launching its new marketing campaign. The TravelMate can switch from notebook to a Tablet PC with a swivel of its 10in TFT (thin film transistor) screen, while integrated 802.11b support means it can work wirelessly. The US version, which is already available, is equipped with an 800MHz ultra-low voltage Pentium III processor and 256MB of RAM. The UK model is expected to have similar specifications.

Acer: 01753 699 200

Website: www.acer.co.uk

Price: approx £2,000



Canon XM2

Digital video camcorder

Canon's new XM2 camcorder is ideal if you need to create professional-looking pictures. It uses new pixel shift technology which, in simple terms, boosts both resolution and light sensitivity. This, Canon promises, results in sharper pictures. The XM2 offers a 20x optical zoom and 40x digital zoom and 470,000 pixel resolution. It incorporates two non-directional microphones for both the left and right channels for precise stereo reproduction. Other adjustments to its predecessor, the XM1, include colour gain and black level controls and custom preset, which allows you to store picture adjustments and apply them to all images. The Canon XM2's extra features include DV (digital video) control, which allows synchronisation with the hard disk of another camcorder, and date recording.

Canon: 0870 608 8855

Website: www.canon.co.uk

Price: £2,000 ex VAT



Hitachi CML 155XW

Flat-panel display

This 15in TFT (thin film transistor) display from Hitachi has been designed to minimise desk clutter with its dainty footprint and slimline dimensions. The 5.2kg 155XW offers a 130-degree viewing angle and a maximum resolution of 1,024x768. The model comes in two designs: the first is metallic blue while the second boasts a silver casing. The CML 155XW also incorporates speakers and a microphone, again to minimise desk space. The S-Video input and USB port mean the Hitachi display can be connected with ease to a number of peripherals such as cameras and PDAs (personal digital assistants). Hitachi: 01628 643 000
Website: www.hitachi-eu-img.com
Price: £399 ex VAT



Teac PowerMax 600

Speakers and subwoofer

If you fancy jazzing up your old PC for just a few pounds, why not treat yourself to a set of funky speakers? Teac's egg-shaped PowerMax 600 system comprises a small power unit with built-in amplifier. The unit is magnetically shielded, which should ensure there's no annoying sound distortion caused by electrostatic charges from other equipment or interference from nearby PC monitors. Integrated operator keys have been included on the front of one of the speakers to offer easy access and control. The PowerMax is designed to connect to a PC with ease, and the bundle includes all the required cables for connection to both computer and mains power supply. Teac: 01923 819 630
Website: www.teac.co.uk
Price: £36 ex VAT



Dane-Elec Photomate

Multi-memory card reader

Photomate, the ultimate six-in-one card reader, can access CompactFlash Type I and II, SmartMedia, Multimedia Card, Secure Digital, Memory Stick and Microdrive media. One of the first of its kind in the UK, according to Dane-Elec, the reader permits users of digital cameras, MP3 players, PDAs (personal digital assistants) and most removable memory systems to rapidly transfer, read and write data from memory cards to their PC or Mac. The Photomate also allows data to be moved between the memory cards it supports, offering flexibility to the mobile professional or gadget lover. The device plugs straight into a PC's USB port and users simply need to install the software from the CD included with the device to begin using it. The lightweight silver device is also portable so you can transfer data from your computer at work or home and then pop it in your pocket to transfer on to another PC. Dane-Elec: 0208 391 6900
Website: www.dane-elec.com
Price: £51 ex VAT



Olympus DS-330

Digital voice recorder

This tiny digital recorder offers up to 330 minutes of continuous dictation, which is stored on the model's 16MB of Flash memory. The advanced DSS (digital speech standard) file format promises top-notch data compression while maintaining sound quality. The Olympus DS-330 also features a noise cancellation feature to remove unwanted background distractions from recordings. Its convenient USB docking station means that data can be transferred at the touch of a button. A clearly laid out graphical interface provides all the information for archiving, transferring and editing files and notes, and messages may be stored in one of five separate folders, with the capacity to store up to 199 messages each.

One benefit of digital technology is that recordings can be overwritten, erased and moved between folders. Additionally, the user may insert information into an existing file at any point. Measuring just 108x41x21mm and weighing 75g (including batteries) the device is highly portable. See our full review in the November issue of *PC Advisor*.

Olympus: 0800 072 0070

Website: cf.olympus-europa.com/consumer/voice/index2.cfm

Price: £145 ex VAT



HP Jornada 928

Personal digital assistant

HP's Jornada 928 WDA PDA (personal digital assistant) is the company's first wireless handheld with built-in GSM/GPRS (global system for mobiles/general packet radio service). Like O2's Xda, the device runs Microsoft's Pocket PC 2002 Phone Edition. It features a dual-screen design that allows users separate access to phone and PDA features. The main screen is a 16bit reflective colour TFT (thin film transistor) screen, which provides an interface to all the applications, while a separate blue backlit display allows users to view phone functions. The 928 houses Texas Instruments' OMAP 710 processor, which offers integrated wireless, data, voice and multimedia connectivity. Another unique feature is its dual-battery system combining an integrated battery with a removable, rechargeable lithium-polymer cell. HP claims this system will deliver three hours talk time, 12 hours PDA usage and 150 hours standby. See a full review in the November issue. HP: 08705 474 747

Website: www.hp.com

Price: £390 (with contract) inc VAT



NEC LT260

Digital projector

September sees the launch of NEC's brand-new 2.9kg LT260 digital projector. This device offers a massive 1,300:1 contrast ratio, and is equipped with NEC's new 3D reform function (promising perfectly square images from any projection angle). It also boasts a glut of WLAN (wireless local area network) features which allow the projector to be fed images and slideshows from a number of different PCs. The LT260 is designed to function quietly, with the noise level ranging from a peaceful 32dB (decibels) in normal 2,100 Ansi lumens mode to a virtually inaudible 29dB with the brightness turned down.

NEC: 020 8993 8111

Website: www.nec.co.uk

Price: TBA

