

⬇️ Fujitsu/Microsoft tablet PC

Tablet PC

Uncovered at Comdex 2001, Fujitsu is just one of the partners Microsoft has roped in to develop a range of tablet PCs – others include Compaq, Toshiba and NEC. The tablet combines the portability of a laptop and the convenience of pen and paper with, of course, Microsoft software – the devices are expected to retail with Windows XP in mid-2002. Microsoft is currently perfecting an application called Journal, which turns handwritten matter into editable text. Fujitsu has been selling a similar version of its tablet PC to medical professionals for nine years, but Microsoft backing could be just the boost it needs. Microsoft: www.microsoft.com Price: TBC

➡️ Yamaha DJX 11

Digital keyboard

This massive keyboard will unleash the DJ in all of us, providing a platform for creating and mixing your own music. There are hundreds of new samples from hip hop to garage to keep you at the cutting edge of today's newest styles. With improved real-time intuitive controls, filters and creative facilities, it's all you need to start creating your own hits. The onboard digital recorder allows you to save and edit all your tunes, mix them and then apply special effects such as flange and distortion to give it a professional feel. Yamaha: 01908 369 276 Price: £99

⬅️ Sony Aibo ERS-210

Robotic dog

Sony's latest edition to the Aibo range isn't as cuddly as some of its models. The ERS-210, however, offers some fundamental changes from the neck up, including 21 flashing lights and a retractable headlight. Its movements are also noticeably smoother, with the addition of more joints. Sony has made a few changes on the software side, allowing for a 75-word vocabulary and enhanced photo-taking capability. Aibo Step lets users change the noise the robot makes when it walks, while Aibo Boost, gives the robot dog-like reactions, such as excited and curious.

Sony: www.sony-europe.co.uk
Price: £1,050



⬆️ Teleadapt Optical Mini Mouse, PDA Sync charger and USB 4 SlimHub

USB connection devices

Teleadapt has introduced a new range of USB devices for the ultimate in mobility and connectivity. The Optical Mini Mouse, which is a mere 6.5cm long, can be easily attached to any laptop and used on almost any surface. It has no moving parts, such as a roller ball, which negates the need for cleaning. The USB 4 SlimHub expands one USB port into four, meaning you can increase the functionality of your device without having to shell out for expensive hardware upgrades. Finally, the PDA Sync charger charges internal PDA (personal digital assistant) batteries – perfect for business travellers who can leave their cumbersome AC adapters behind.

Teleadapt: www.teleadapt.com

Prices: Optical mouse £29.99; USB 4 SlimHub £39.99; PDA Sync charger £39.99



⬅️ Lotus Esprit 2002

Sports car

To celebrate the Esprit's 30th birthday, Lotus has given the car a well deserved facelift. The rear panel has been redesigned to include two round lights set in pairs, while the front has inherited a lip spoiler which ensures greater stability at high speeds. The V8 3.5 litre twin turbo engine still offers a whopping 350bhp to ensure rapid acceleration in all five gears, reaching 60mph in 4.8 seconds. Fancy one? You'll need a spare £50,000, plus an extra £10,000 for running costs. Lotus: www.lotuscars.co.uk Price: £49,995

⬇️ National Semiconductor Origami

Mobile communicator

This mobile communicator is called the Origami because it 'folds' eight devices into one and still weighs just under 500g. The device has been designed to show off the capabilities of the company's Geode processor and can be twisted into, among other things, a digital camera, videophone and web-surfing pad. The Origami features a 4in touch-screen LCD (liquid crystal display), built-in microphone and USB hubs. What's more, it could eliminate the need for a PC for some users since it encompasses almost all its functionalities. The model is available with either Bluetooth or 802.11 standards. National Semiconductor: www.national.com Price: TBA

➡️ HP Photosmart 100

Photo printer

The Photosmart 100 is a compact, lightweight, easy-to-use photo printer designed especially for use with a digital camera. The end result is borderless, professional-looking prints and, best of all, you only need to pay for the pictures you want. The Photosmart is compatible with most digital cameras on the market that use built-in readers for CompactFlash, SmartMedia or Sony Memory Stick, and it connects to the PC via USB making it simple to just plug and print. HP: 01344 360 000 Price: £129



⬅️ Sony DCR-PC120BT

Bluetooth camcorder

Sony's DCR-PC120BT proves that you achieve more with a camcorder than you can with film. The Bluetooth connectivity lets it automatically connect to other devices within a certain radius, so you can surf the web, email images to friends or post pictures (if you were vain enough) on Sony's picture sharing web portal image station. This Bluetooth module only supports speeds of 56Kbps (kilobits per second), though, and connects to analogue phonelines – something Sony may need to update to achieve optimum sales.

If you want to know more about digital video camcorders see page 95.

Sony: www.sony.com
Price: approx £1,500

