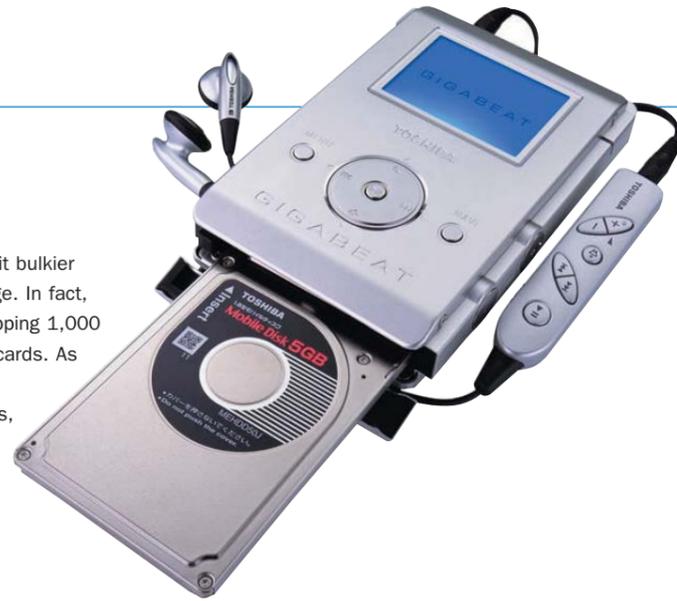


top gear

➔ Toshiba Gigabeat MEG50JS

Digital music player

The removable hard drive in Toshiba's music player makes it bulkier than the average device, but it does offer masses of storage. In fact, the Gigabeat's 5GB hard disk has enough space for a whopping 1,000 MP3 files, about 20 times the capacity of current memory cards. As it's PC Card format you can use the removable drive with notebooks and other devices that have the appropriate slots, and the USB 2.0 interface makes for faster data transfer. A UK release date hasn't yet been set for the Toshiba Gigabeat, but it is currently available in Japan. Toshiba: www.toshiba.com
Price: TBC



➔ Sharp VL-NZ100H

Super-slim camcorder

The VL-NZ100H is encased in a sleek brushed silver body and is small enough to carry around in a bag or pocket. Its ViewCam design offers a 270-degree rotating 3in colour LCD (liquid crystal display) screen, so you can film from any angle. The unit provides a 10x optical and 300x digital zoom, while digital image stabilisation helps steady the camera and enhance image quality. Pictures are downloaded via a USB port. Look out for a full review in a future issue. Sharp: www.sharp.co.uk
Price: £553

➔ JVC HR-XV1

DVD/CD player and VHS recorder

The HR-XV1 allows you to watch all your VHS tapes and DVDs on one player, so it's perfect for people who aren't quite ready to replace their old videos with DVD. The JVC is an audio disc player that's compatible with CD, CD-RW and MP3 files. It also keeps DVD and video users happy by allowing you to watch DVDs while recording a TV programme, or even to dub from DVD to VHS. JVC: www.jvc.co.uk
Price: approx £300



➔ Sony Ericsson P800

Smartphone

This pen-based smartphone combines the usual telephone functions with multimedia capabilities. It features a large colour screen, a fully integrated camera and storage space. Images can be sent via MMS (multimedia messaging service), email and Bluetooth, and you can add photos to your contacts list so you can see who's calling you. The P800 also supports GPRS (general packet radio service), high-speed data and WAP 2.0 with one-button access to the mobile web. Sony Ericsson: www.sonyericsson.com
Price: TBC

➔ Creative TravelSound stereo speakers

Stereo speakers

These slim, palm-sized speakers measure just 154x65x50mm and weigh in at 320g. The TravelSound incorporates 'wide-effect stereo', which Creative promises improves audio quality. The device unfolds like a book to reveal its twin speakers, which are optimised for low-profile and high-quality output, and a digital amplifier that, according to Creative, ensures in-depth impact. A magnetic shield ensures the TravelSound will not interfere with any other electronic equipment and its soft splash-proof carrying case makes the system extremely portable. Creative: www.europe.creative.com
Price: £59.99



➔ Impix L1501B

Flat-panel display

If you have ever lusted over those desirable Apple Studio Displays but you don't have a Mac, then this flat-panel from Atoz is the next best thing. With its attractive shiny black finish and chrome stand, the Impix L1501B was by far the prettiest new product at the recent Computex technology show. As well as adding bags of style to your desk, it also offers a 15in TFT (thin film transistor) screen with a maximum resolution of 1,024x768, a pixel pitch of 0.30mm and a contrast ratio of 350:1. The Impix screens are due for launch in the UK in August, so watch this space for an in-depth review soon. Atoz Image Industrial: www.atoz-image.com.tw
Price: TBC

➔ Porsche Cayenne

Sports utility vehicle

Okay, you've spotted that this Top gear entrant isn't a computer, but you need something to transport your notebook, don't you? And transport doesn't come much more stylish than the Porsche Cayenne. It's a change for the German manufacturer, better known for its sleek sports cars, as the Cayenne is its first SUV (sports utility vehicle). It was developed in collaboration with VW and, we have to admit, it looks more like something that would come from the latter's stable. The Cayenne will get its first public outing at the Paris Motor Show in September. Porsche: www.porsche.co.uk
Price: TBA



➔ Redten Howie computer

Ultra-compact computer

The Redten Howie conveniently hangs on the wall, leaving your desk free from clutter. The slim design takes up minimal space, with all the standard components packed away neatly into the 83mm case. There are two versions of the unit, Office and Home. Both contain an Intel Celeron processor, with the Home version running at 733MHz and the Work model running at 933MHz. The PCs both offer a 20GB hard disk and 15in monitor but, surprisingly, only the Howie Home offers touch-screen capabilities. There are no cables between the various components, allowing it to be wall-mounted without the need for a mass of wires. The silver keyboard and mouse are both radio controlled, again removing unnecessary cabling and allowing the user more freedom and movement from the screen. Redten: www.redten.com
Price: £1,000-1,500 depending on requirements