

new products

Whether you're looking for a present for that special PC user in your life or just fancy a well-earned treat for yourself, there's a wealth of impressive new products for you to splash out on. Here are a few of the latest to consider



← Canon PowerShot S50

Digital camera

Canon's high-spec 5Mp (megapixel) PowerShot offers a 3x optical zoom that covers focal lengths of 35-105mm, so it's suitable for both professional photographers and everyday snappers. The tiny device uses information from the zoom position, scene brightness and other systems such as Canon's Digid (digital imaging core) technology to determine what the captured subject is in order to optimise autofocus speed and exposure accuracy. There's 13 shooting modes to choose from, as well as a fast sequence and movie mode. The camera can create RAW files, Jpegs and voice memos or sound files.

□ Canon: 0870 514 3723 □ www.canon.co.uk □ £549 ex VAT

→ Sharp LL-T2020

Flat-panel display

Measuring a whopping 20in with a 350:1 contrast ratio and wide 170-degree viewing angle, this flat-panel is designed with the graphic designer in mind. The LL-T2020 is capable of displaying one billion colours with 10bit gamma correction and, according to Sharp, this adds up to a more natural reproduction of colour and detail. Offering dual DVI-I ports, you can hook up to both analogue and digital signals and can connect up to four PCs at one time. The screen, which weighs in at 6.5kg, is available in an ivory or black finish, and comes with a tilt-and-swivel stand as well as a basic software bundle.

□ Sharp: 0800 138 8879

□ www.sharp.co.uk □ £1,499 ex VAT



← AlphaSmart Dana

Palm-powered laptop

AlphaSmart's Palm-powered Dana is aimed at professionals who need to work on the go. Supplied with a full-size keyboard and large display the device is surprisingly light. The mono LCD screen includes a backlight and provides 560x160 pixel resolution. The Dana offers 8MB of memory with SD and MMC expansion slots to attach other peripherals or beef up storage. Supplied with Quick Office and spreadsheet software, users also have access to a variety of Palm OS applications. The rechargeable battery has a claimed life of 30 hours.

□ www.alphasmart.co.uk/ordering

□ £300 ex VAT

to be reviewed

→ Rock Pegasus Centrino

Notebook

The Pegasus is one of the first market arrivals to feature Intel's Centrino mobile processor. This chip has been designed specifically for notebooks to cut down on power consumption while maintaining high performance levels. The Pegasus' 1.7GHz processor should handle power-hungry applications, while its lightweight dimensions mean it's still portable. The Centrino, which incorporates wireless technology allowing users to connect the device to hundreds of hotspots throughout the country, is also able to prolong battery life to a claimed span of 4.5 hours. The notebook features a 14.1 XGA TFT display, up to 80GB of hard drive space, a swappable DVD/CD-RW combo drive and a built-in four-in-one card reader for extra storage.

□ Rock: 0870 990 8888 □ www.rockdirect.com □ £999 ex VAT





← Canon Bubble Jet i70

Inkjet printer

Advances in semiconductor manufacturing have allowed Canon to redesign its inkjet nozzles and thus the compact A4 Bubble Jet is, according to the company, 40 percent smaller than its contemporaries at just 310mm wide. The stylish i70 boasts a sleek titanium-effect finish and a claimed top print speed of 13ppm (pages per minute). This is also Canon's first portable model to offer direct printing from its digital cameras and camcorders as well as borderless printing.

□ Canon: 0870 514 3723

□ Website: www.canon.co.uk/bubblejet □ £299 ex VAT

to be reviewed

→ Hi-Grade Notino C1000

Notebook

Based on Intel's new Centrino mobile processor and wireless communications chipset, this "ultra thin and light" notebook provides easy wireless connection and a very acceptable four hours of battery life. Offering 1.3GHz of processing power, the device, according to Hi-Grade, delivers performance equivalent to a clock rated Pentium 4. The Centrino's IEEE 802.11b wireless capability makes connecting to Wi-Fi networks and public-access 'hotspots'. Because wireless technology can drain battery life, the adapter has five different settings to allow a trade-off between performance and battery consumption. Despite being just 2.7cm thick and tipping the scales at a mere 2.2kg, the Notino manages to cram in 256MB of DDR RAM, a 30GB hard disk, integrated CD-RW/DVD-ROM combo drive and PC card adapter.

□ Hi-Grade: 020 8532 6100 □ www.higrade.com

□ £999 ex VAT



to be reviewed



← Waitec Storm 52

CD-RW drive

With a writing rate of 52-speed, Waitec claims the Storm 52 is faster than any existing CD-RW drive. Such a high rotation speed could cause an unbalanced disc to be wrongly written due to the excessive vibrations, but Waitec's so-called DDS (dynamic dampening system) technology reduces vibrations by up to a third. The Storm 52 features Easy Write technology which lets you move, store and share data, audio, image and text files as easily as if you were using a floppy drive. The 52-speed audio extraction means you can rip a full CD within minutes.

□ MP3 Plus: 01225 785 188

□ www.waitec.com □ £43 ex VAT

→ Fujifilm FinePix F410 Zoom

Digital camera

The F410 Zoom is Fujifilm's first camera to incorporate its fourth-generation SuperCCD technology. In simple terms, SuperCCD is designed to deliver a 50 percent more effective pixel count, making for brighter and clearer images. This is achieved by the honeycomb arrangement of the pixels and photodiodes – the aim of which is to improve the signal-to-noise ratio and achieve a higher resolution while retaining the same sized chassis. So while the tiny F410, which replaces the old model of the same name, has a 3.1Mp (megapixel) rating, it promises the same results as a 6.2Mp camera. It sports a metallic finish and cool blue flashing lights, plus a 3x optical zoom and a 3.6x digital zoom.

□ Fujifilm: 020 7586 1477 □ www.fujifilm.co.uk □ Price: TBA

