











TOP 10 POWER & BUDGET NOTEBOOKS

			Power notebooks	Processor Dual-speed	WorldBench 4 score on battery	RAM Hard disk capacity	Dimensions (wxdxh) Weight	Battery type	
1		ACI Centurion 020 8830 1958 www.aciplc.com LAST MONTH 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £1,750 inc VAT • 1-year collect & return warranty • First review Oct 03 	1.5GHz Intel Pentium M Speedstep	116	768MB 60GB	330x273x29mm 2.6kg	lithium-ion	
				WorldBench 4			118		
2		AJP D480W 020 8208 9710 www.ajp.co.uk LAST MONTH 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £1,616 inc VAT • 1-year parts & labour, 2-year labour only warranty • First review Oct 03 	2.8GHz Intel Pentium 4 no	115	1GB 80GB	329x275x37mm 3.8kg	lithium-ion	
				WorldBench 4			124		
3		Rock Quaddra DTS 0870 990 8888 www.rockdirect.com LAST MONTH 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £1,644 inc VAT • 3-year collect & return warranty • First review Oct 03 	3.06GHz Intel Mobile Pentium 4 Speedstep	107	512MB 80GB	329x275x37mm 3.6kg	lithium-ion	
				WorldBench 4			127		
4		Hi-Grade Notino C6700-1700 020 8532 6120 www.higrade.com LAST MONTH 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £1,879 inc VAT • 2-year collect & return warranty • First review Oct 03 	1.7GHz Intel Pentium M Speedstep	129	512MB 80GB	352x260x30mm 2.7kg	lithium-ion	
				WorldBench 4			129		
5		Toshiba Portege M100 0870 444 8944 www.toshiba.co.uk LAST MONTH 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £1,761 inc VAT • 3-year collect & return warranty • First review Oct 03 	1.2GHz Intel Pentium M Speedstep	115	256MB 40GB	270x248x34mm 1.9kg	lithium-ion	
				WorldBench 4			115		

			Budget notebooks	Processor Dual-speed	WorldBench 4 score on battery	RAM Hard disk capacity	Dimensions (wxdxh) Weight	Battery type	
1		Multivision Solus 1010 0870 066 0882 www.multivision.co.uk LAST MONTH 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £939 inc VAT • 2-year collect & return warranty • First review Sep 03 	1.86GHz AMD Mobile Athlon XP 2500+ PowerNow	116	512MB 60GB	328x283x27mm 3.1kg	lithium-ion	
				WorldBench 4			118		
2		Advent 7027 0870 546 4464 www.pcworld.co.uk LAST MONTH 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £1,300 inc VAT • 1-year collect & return warranty • First review Oct 03 	3.06GHz Intel Pentium 4 no	116	512MB 40GB	325x285x39mm 3.3kg	lithium-ion	
				WorldBench 4			118		
3		Mesh PowerView 15.1 Plus 0870 046 4747 www.meshcomputers.com LAST MONTH 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £1,174 inc VAT • 3-year collect & return warranty • First review Oct 03 	3.06GHz Intel Pentium 4 no	104	512MB 40GB	329x275x37mm 3.2kg	lithium-ion	
				WorldBench 4			112		
4		Pico Innovator 0870 729 6111 www.picosystems.co.uk LAST MONTH 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £1,174 inc VAT • 1-year RTB, 2-year labour only warranty • First review Oct 03 	2.8GHz Intel Pentium 4 no	111	512MB 60GB	329x275x37mm 3.2kg	lithium-ion	
				WorldBench 4			122		
5		Acer Aspire 1700 0870 900 2237 www.acer.co.uk LAST MONTH 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £1,409 inc VAT • 2-year collect & return warranty • First review Oct 03 	3.06GHz Intel Pentium 4 no	107	512MB 120GB	378x320x55mm 7.1kg	lithium-ion	
				WorldBench 4			119		

Buying advice: notebooks

If you're planning on using your notebook largely at home plugged into the mains then you'll want a desktop replacement system. These often use processors designed to be used in desktop PCs and feature larger-than-average screens, although they tend to have poor battery life. If you're after something to use on the move then go for an ultra-portable device. These are smaller and lighter and

generally offer better battery life. Bear in mind, though, that fewer screen inches mean it can be quite difficult to use such systems for long periods of time.

- **Processor** Desktop replacement models tend to use Intel Pentium 4 chips – you can get anything up to a 3GHz processor at the moment, even in the Budget category. There are also two mobile chips available from Intel: the Mobile Pentium 4 and the Pentium



Screen size Max resolution	Graphics card Memory	CD-RW read/ write/rewrite rate DVD read rate	Operating system, software and extras	Comments
15.1in 1,400x1,024	ATI Mobility Radeon 9000 64MB	24x/24x/10x 8x	Windows XP Professional	With its long battery life – a shade under four hours – and a weight of 2.6kg, the Best Buy ACI Centurion is the perfect travelling companion for the busy executive. Its slim profile and silver casing are easy on the eye, but the ACI isn't just a pretty face – it's a capable and versatile notebook that offers excellent performance.
MobileMark 2002 battery life (minutes)			235	
17in 1,440x900	ATI Mobility Radeon 9000 64MB	32x/16x/8x 8x/2x/1x (DVD-ROM/-R/-RW)	Windows XP Home	One of only two entries that sport a 17in widescreen display, the AJP is a desktop replacement system. With specifications that wouldn't look out of place in a desktop PC, its performance score shows it's definitely up to the task. AJP also has an ace up its sleeve in the shape of a DVD writer – ideal if you need to back up large amounts of data.
MobileMark 2002 battery life (minutes)			111	
17in 1,440x900	ATI Mobility Radeon 9000 64MB	24x/24x/10x 8x	Windows XP Home, Ability Office 2002, Panda AntiVirus Titanium	The Quaddra's 17in widescreen is the real selling point of this model – great for DVD playback. With five speakers outputting strong audio, the Rock doubles up as an entertainment centre as well as a desktop replacement system. There's an internal floppy drive, which is a great, cheap way to store small files, while the CD-RW takes care of higher capacity backup needs.
MobileMark 2002 battery life (minutes)			107	
15.2in 1,280x854	nVidia GeForce FX Go 5200 64MB	32x/16x/8x 8x/2x/1x (DVD-ROM/-R/-RW)	Windows XP Home, Microsoft Works 7.0, Panda AntiVirus Titanium	The most expensive model in the chart, the Notino C6700-1700 beats the existing Power notebook WorldBench 4 record. Battery life was pretty good as well – we managed to get just over three hours out of the Notino. For backup the CD-RW drive doubles as a DVD writer, managing dual-speed burning rates to DVD-R media and single-speed to DVD-RW discs.
MobileMark 2002 battery life (minutes)			181	
12.1in 1,024x768	Intel integrated up to 64MB	24x/12x/8x 8x	Windows XP Professional	This tiny model from Toshiba is a real pocket rocket. Although the Portege M100 weighs only 1.9kg, it has plenty of processing power. The Portege is definitely aimed at the traveller. It managed 223 minutes in our battery life tests and there's even room for two Type II PC Card slots. The 12.1in screen isn't ideal for prolonged periods of use, though.
MobileMark 2002 battery life (minutes)			223	

Screen size Max resolution	Graphics card Memory	CD-RW read/ write/rewrite rate DVD read rate	Operating system, software and extras	Comments
15in 1,400x1,050	ATI Mobility Radeon 9000 64MB	24x/24x/10x 8x	Windows XP Home, Ability Office 2002	When it comes to giving you the most for your money there are few manufacturers that can compete with Multivision. If your focus is on power then you'll be hard pushed to find a better deal than this. The Solus 1010 impresses with its low price tag, all-round specification, stylish black casing and decent performance score.
MobileMark 2002 battery life (minutes)			168	
15.1in 1,024x768	ATI Mobility Radeon 9000 64MB	32x/16x/10x 8x/2x/1x (DVD-ROM/-R/-RW)	Windows XP Home	Though the Advent nearly hits the price ceiling of our Budget notebook category, it offers good value for money and throws in a couple of extras. The DVD writer means that backing up large amounts of data is quick and easy. It houses an absolute powerhouse of a processor and, even though this chip's designed for desktop PCs, offers excellent battery life.
MobileMark 2002 battery life (minutes)			180	
15.1in 1,400x1,050	ATI Mobility Radeon 9000 64MB	24x/24x/10x 8x	Windows XP Home, Microsoft Works Suite 2003	With its chunky styling, the PowerView isn't going to win any awards for its looks. Storage is disappointing but the 15.1in screen is good quality and visuals are handled smoothly. Other nice touches include Bluetooth and Wi-Fi facilities, a built-in camera and an internal floppy drive – something seldom found in notebooks these days.
MobileMark 2002 battery life (minutes)			111	
15.1in 1,400x1,050	ATI Mobility Radeon 9000 64MB	24x/24x/10x 8x	Windows XP Home	Based on exactly the same chassis as the third-placed Mesh, Pico has opted for a different combination of components in its Innovator. It houses a 2.8GHz Pentium 4 chip. Although in theory this component isn't as powerful as the Mesh's 3.06GHz P4 processor, in practise it helps the Pico to a speedy WorldBench 4 score of 122 – the highest result in the Budget notebook chart.
MobileMark 2002 battery life (minutes)			123	
17in 1,200x1,024	SIS integrated up to 64MB	24x/24x/10x 8x	Windows XP Home, Norton AntiVirus 2003	The term 'desktop replacement' has never been so apt. The 7.1kg Aspire 1700 was certainly not meant to be carried around – when you close the lid it feels more like shutting the bonnet of a Mini Metro. But it has plenty of grunt under that hood, including an absolutely huge 120GB hard drive. The onboard graphics chip isn't up to playing games but for other purposes it's adequate.
MobileMark 2002 battery life (minutes)			100	

M. The former can run at anything up to 3GHz but the latter runs at a much lower frequency. Centrino notebooks use the Pentium M and offer good performance without draining battery life. In terms of AMD processors, the Mobile Athlon XP is a good chip but struggles to challenge the dominance of Intel's range at the moment.

- **Memory** The standard offering in both categories is 512MB at the moment, although some power models offer more.

The more memory you have the smoother your notebook will run.

- **Hard drive** It's very difficult to upgrade a notebook's hard drive so you need to make sure the one you buy is big enough for your needs. If you are buying a desktop replacement go for at least 80GB. If you will just be using it on the road then you won't need as much.
- **Visuals** What you intend to use the screen for dictates the number of inches

you'll need. If you're after a desktop replacement then go for at least 15in – for DVD movie playback 17in widescreen models are perfect. For ultra-portables, look to get something no bigger than 14in.

If you want to play games or watch DVDs then choose the 64MB ATI Mobility Radeon 9000 or one of the 64MB GeForce FX Go cards. If you won't be doing such high-intensive visual work then an integrated onboard chip is adequate.