

Designer chic abounds this month, from Felicidade's ultra-hip iPod handbag and Microsoft's leather-effect desktop set to Hoojum's dare-to-be-different PC and La Cie's Porsche-styled drives. Canon continues to impress with its latest digital EOS camera, and we've got clever software that either remembers your passwords or wipes them from your system forever

CANON EOS 300D Digital camera

Canon's EOS 300D brings all the power of a professional digital camera to the enthusiast market, offering a 6.3Mp CCD, seven-point, high-speed predictive autofocus, 2.5fps (frame per second) burst rate and 35-zone metering. It offers a zoom range equivalent to 28-90mm which is popular among 35mm film EOS users. The 300D also supports PictBridge, so you can print your pictures direct to compatible photo printers.



- £999.99 inc VAT with lens
- www.canon.co.uk

FELICIDADE TOTE BAG iPod carry case

The iPod is arguably the most stylish digital audio player out there but its nasty black carry case just doesn't do it justice in the fashion stakes. For the more trendy girl about town, the Felicidade Tote Bag is the ticket. This classy white handbag with integrated speakers is the ultimate in desirability. Looking achingly gorgeous, it's not only designed to hold your player - and show it off - but there's lots of space for all those other bits you just can't leave home without.



- £100 inc VAT
- www.channel-dynamics.co.uk

HOOJUM CUBIT P4 Desktop PC

It's a PC, but not as we know it. The team behind the Cubit P4 has as much experience in designing computers as building them - something which is obvious from the system's sleek chrome contours and impressive specs list. The P4 supports up to a 3.2GHz Pentium 4 processor, dual-channel DDR-RAM and a slimline, slot-loading DVD writer, and features two Serial ATA channels - all tucked into a 210x147x300mm box.



- from £1,468 inc VAT
- www.hoojum.com

SECURECLEAN SCANNER 4.0 Utility software

If you are worried about leaving traces of personal data on your PC, such as credit card details, passwords or old emails, SecureClean 4.0 is designed to put your mind at rest, deleting all such sensitive information from your hard drive. It will scan your computer looking for traces of data you thought you had erased - including old internet caches and cookies - and make sure it is all permanently eradicated from your system.



- \$49.95 (£31 inc VAT) download; free 15-day demo
- www.whitecanyon.com

CREATIVE INSPIRE T2900 2.1 speakers

Speakers are one area where PC makers tend to skimp, so upgrading is often a wise investment.

Creative is one of the leading names in PC speakers and the T2900 2.1 set is one of its latest systems. It consists of a 17W RMS subwoofer and two 6W RMS satellites.

The set includes an Audio Control Pod, a wired remote control that integrates M-Port connectivity for direct audio playback from Creative Muvo digital audio players.



- £69.99 inc VAT
- www.europe.creative.com

PASSHOLDER Utility software

Keeping track of all your passwords is such a pain. What with the random combinations of letters and numbers you need to log on to Windows, your email, your bank and so on, it's easy to get confused and end up locked out of vital applications.

Passholder was created to solve this problem. It stores all your passwords on a USB pen drive, which you protect with one easy-to-remember code. Plug it in to your PC and it will auto-fill passwords in common applications, such as Notes or Outlook.



- £94 inc VAT
- www.passholder.net

HP DVD MOVIE WRITER DC3000 DVD writer

HP's dc3000 external DVD writer is aimed at consumers who want to capture, edit and transfer video to DVD. It combines DVD writing capabilities with built-in analogue capture, which means there's no need to buy extra hardware to transfer VHS footage on to DVD discs. The device claims to be simplicity itself. Just hook it up to your PC, plug a video or camcorder into the standard video and audio ports on the drive, and let the HP video transfer wizard guide you through the rest of the process.



- £279 inc VAT
- www.hp.com

CRUCIAL HI-SPEED USB 7-IN-1 CARD READER USB card reader

Crucial specialises in memory of every type but this product is designed not to add memory but to read it.

It supports seven different types of media card CompactFlash Type I and II, IBM Microdrive, SmartMedia, SD and MMC, Memory Stick and Memory Stick Pro, and connects via USB 2.0, boasting data transfer speeds of up to 480Mbps. But most notably, it offers all of this for just £20.



- £20 inc VAT
- www.crucial.com/uk

LA CIE MOBILE DRIVE

Portable hard drive

La Cie has twinned with the Porsche Design team to offer a stylish range of optical and hard drives, including DVD, CD-RW, internal and external hard drives. You can choose from a number of options to add functionality to your PC. The Mobile Drive (pictured) connects via FireWire or USB 2.0 to a Mac or PC and comes in capacities from 20-80GB.



- Mobile Drive from £110 inc VAT; hard drive from £85 inc VAT; CD-RW drive from £70; Combo Drive Slim from £129.99 inc VAT; DVD+/-RW drive from £210; DVD+/-RW drive Slim from £290 inc VAT
- www.lacie.com

MICROSOFT WIRELESS OPTICAL DESKTOP ELITE EXECUTIVE EDITION

Mouse and keyboard

This is a desktop set for those who want a little bit more from the humble keyboard and mouse. Instead of the usual plastic finish, these two peripherals have the look and feel of luxurious leather. But they don't just look unique, they also benefit from wireless technology, so there's no need for ugly cables. The mouse supports tilt-wheel technology to allow side-to-side scrolling, while the keyboard has wider keys with softer edges for a more pleasant feel.



- £119.99 inc VAT
- www.microsoft.co.uk

MICROSOFT WORKS SUITE 2004

Productivity software

The latest version of Works Suite, Microsoft's consumer productivity suite, includes Works, Word and updated releases of Money, Encarta Standard, AutoRoute and Photo Standard - everything you need to get started with a new PC. And if you decide that Works isn't enough for your computing needs in the future, you can also purchase a discounted upgrade version of Microsoft Office 2003.



- Price: TBC
- www.microsoft.co.uk

AUDIOTRIEVE INBOXER

Utility software

Spam afflicts everyone who uses email but Audiotrieve says it has come up with a way to combat junk mail. Its InBoxer software takes a new approach, using language technologies and techniques, rather than rules and lists, to prevent unwanted messages reaching your Outlook inbox. The developer's speech recognition background has helped it to use the words commonly associated with spam to create personalised filters for each user.



- \$24.95 (£16) inc VAT download for the single-user version
- www.inboxer.com

SANDISK IMAGEMATE 8-IN-1 READER USB card reader

If you possess a plethora of devices that use a large range of media cards, SanDisk's ImageMate 8-in-1 Reader could be just what you need. The device can read a wide range of media, including CompactFlash Type I and II, SmartMedia, SD and MMC cards, Memory Stick (Pro and plain) and the latest xD-picture Cards. It connects via USB 2.0, so you should be able to benefit from the higher speed data transfer this product offers.



- approx £39.99 inc VAT
- www.sandisk.com

OLYMPUS CAMEDIA C-5000 ZOOM Digital camera

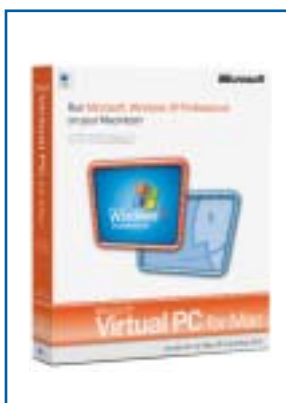
Olympus has added to its family of digital cameras, introducing the 5Mp Camedia C-5000 Zoom. This intermediate model has a 3x optical zoom and 4x digital zoom, and offers six preset scene programs which aim to get you the best results no matter what the conditions. A built-in flash should light up night-time and low-light shots, while a hotshoe connection offers the option of an clip-on external flash. The camera comes with a 32MB xD-picture card and a 1.8in LCD display.



- £399.99 inc VAT
- www.olympus.co.uk

VIRTUAL PC FOR MAC 6.1 WITH WINDOWS XP PRO Macintosh software

Microsoft is planning to dominate the desktop regardless of whether you use a PC or a Mac. Since buying Virtual PC for the Mac from Connectix, it has released its rebranded version, complete with a copy of Windows XP Pro, although you can buy cheaper versions with its other operating systems bundled. So if you can't live without your PC applications on your Mac, this is the solution.



- £229 inc VAT with XP Pro; £199 with XP Home;
- £229 inc VAT with Windows 2000; £139 without Windows;
- £99 inc VAT upgrade without Windows
- www.microsoft.co.uk

WAITEC SHINING T-BOX/S TV tuner box

This standalone TV tuner box allows you to watch TV on your PC screen even while you are working on other files, according to Waitec. It can receive 181 cable and terrestrial channels and will store a list of your favourites once it has automatically tuned in all of the available stations. The device has stereo input and output connectors and will display at resolutions of up to 1,024x768 at up to 75Hz. It can be used with PAL and Secam standards.



- £98 inc VAT
- www.waitec.com