

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



← Microtek ScanMaker 5900

Flatbed scanner

While many of us have moved on to digital cameras, there is still plenty of demand for scanners among those who need to digitise printed material. This is good news for Microtek as it has just added the ScanMaker 5900 to its line-up. The 5900 supports USB 2.0 for swift data transfer and offers a top resolution of 2,400x4,800dpi (dots per inch). It also comes with a built-in transparency adapter. It boasts 48bit colour depth and packs all these features into a slimline design. Despite its diminutive size the scanner uses six rows of CCD (charge-coupled device) sensors to capture your original image.

□ 01327 844 880 □ www.microtekeurope.com □ £153 ex VAT

↓ Ulead Cool 3D Studio

3D animation software

The Studio version of Ulead's 3D animation software, Cool 3D, offers extra tools aimed at video professionals. It is designed to allow video editors to streamline their 3D text and graphics work. It allows you to create animated 3D titles and graphics for output as stills, video, GIF animations, image sequences and 3D Flash movies. These can be added to video, web or presentation media. The software can be integrated with Ulead's video-editing software, and project files can be imported directly into the video editor timeline. It includes new effects including comic, pen and sketch as well as extra particle effects for snow and fire.

□ 01327 844 880

□ www.ulead.co.uk

□ £68 ex VAT



➤ AcoustiCase

Soundproofing PC case

If your PC drives you spare with its noisy whirring then the AcoustiCase could be the answer. The case, which supports ATX, AT and MicroATX motherboards, is made of 1mm steel sheeting which Quiet PC claims reduces noise and aids cooling. It also has the benefit of rubber anti-vibration feet and offers screwdriver-free access to the internals. There are plenty of expansion slots – four 3.5in and two 5.25in bays – and non-techies are catered for too as it comes with full assembly instructions.

□ 0870 321 4620

□ www.quietpc.com

□ £99 ex VAT

↓ USB-Stick11

USB wireless networking adapter

Corega has come up with an innovative use of the USB stick by making it into a wireless adapter. The tiny device can be plugged into a desktop or notebook via the USB port, and will then communicate wirelessly with similarly enabled devices. It comes bundled with Wi-Fi utility software, USB extension cable and a neck strap and has a range of up to 300m. One serving suggestion the makers have is to buy two in order to create your own peer-to-peer wireless gaming network.

□ 01235 827 526

□ www.corega-international.com

□ £45 ex VAT





← Toshiba RD-X3

Hard disk and DVD video recorder

Okay we admit it, the RD-X3 is more likely to be found on a wishlist than the shelves of your local electronics retailer, but Toshiba says it'll be over in the UK by this summer. It's the latest word in video recorders, combining a 160GB hard drive with a DVD video recorder, which means you can store up to 208 hours of programming recorded from the TV and burn your favourites to a high-capacity digital disc. It supports both DVD-RAM/R, squeezing up to 12 hours of video on a double-sided 9.4GB DVD-RAM disc. It also features internet connectivity which means it can be hooked into a home network so you can control it via a PC or mobile phone.

☐ 08704 424 424 ☐ www.toshiba.co.uk ☐ approx £1,000



↓ US Robotics SureConnect 9000 and 9003

ADSL USB modem and ethernet USB router

US Robotics hopes to cash in on the current broadband craze with its ADSL USB modem and ethernet USB router. The modem (model 9000) allows you to connect a single PC to an ADSL connection via the USB port, while the router (model 9003) offers built-in support for up to three broadband users simultaneously. Although add on some more wireless networking products, and you can boost support for the number of connected PCs to 200. The router also offers firewall and parental control features.

☐ 01628 640 140 ☐ www.usr-emea.com ☐ £68 modem; £102 router both ex VAT

↑ Epson EMP-52

Digital projector

Epson has added another model to its projector line-up in the shape of the EMP-52. This entry-level model has a brightness rating of 1,200 Ansi lumens and a top resolution of 800x600. It has six different presentation modes tailored to suit different environments. These include Meeting, a setting in which high contrast is maintained to make charts and text more readable, and Theatre mode for projecting movies. It weighs in at a relatively portable 2.9kg and a remote control card is bundled to make operating the projector easier.

☐ 0800 220 546
☐ www.epson.co.uk
☐ £1,199 ex VAT



↘ Vtec XS-Drive USB

Portable storage device

This clever storage solution for digital camera users combines a six-in-one memory card reader with a portable hard drive. The XS-Drive allows users to swiftly transfer data from memory cards to its built-in hard drive, so users don't have to buy lots of memory cards or carry a laptop around. It's available in capacities ranging from 20GB to 80GB, but weighs just 288g and measures 130x25x75mm. You can connect the drive to a PC to download stored images via the USB port. Cards supported by the reader are: CompactFlash Type I and II, SmartMedia, Memory Stick, Secure Digital, MMC and IBM Microdrive. The device will work with both Macs and PCs.

☐ 01264 336 901 ☐ www.vtec.co.uk ☐ from £176 ex VAT





← NEC Versa C150

Budget notebook

If a notebook is what you want but your budget is tight, then NEC has a selection of low-cost portable PCs aimed at business users. Based on AMD's Mobile Athlon platform the top of the range runs on a 1900+ chip, though a slower model will cost you less. Memory can be specified up to 1GB of DDR RAM although, again, this much will set you back a fair bit more than the basic. You can choose from a range of hard drives offering 20-40GB of storage, while regardless what specs you pick the screen size is set at 15in.

☐ 0870 010 6328

☐ www.nec-online.co.uk

☐ from £552 ex VAT



← Ezquest Boa 52x FireWire and USB CD-RW

CD writer

Burning a CD should be faster than ever using Ezquest's latest drive which offers 52-speed burning and reading and 24-speed rewriting and comes in FireWire or USB versions. A 2MB buffer is built in to help eliminate buffer underrun errors when in fast write mode. The drives can be used with a Mac or PC and come with software for both platforms. They can be carried between PCs and come in a fully metal shielded silver finish case.

☐ 0870 607 0540 ☐ www.channel-dynamics.co.uk ☐ Price: £149 ex VAT

↓ Archos Ondio

Digital audio player

Audio player specialist Archos has decided that small is beautiful with its Ondio MP3 player/recorder which measures 81x25x47mm. It comes with 128MB of memory, plus a smartcard slot so you can add extra capacity. The really interesting feature of this player is the onboard FM radio which is twinned with a 30-second retro-recording buffer so you can both listen to and record from the radio while on the move. Battery life is promised to be three hours and files can be transferred to and from a PC via USB.

☐ 01793 441 510

☐ www.archos.com

☐ £144 ex VAT



← Perstel Adapt DR-101

Portable digital radio

Perstel's take on the digital radio is the portable Adapt DR-101, a petite silver device designed to be carried around in your pocket. It features a telescopic aerial, headphone socket and push-button controls for power, volume and tuning. It also has an LCD display to show station and programme information. You can switch between good old FM radio

and DAB digital radio. In digital mode, the

DR-101 will automatically tune in any available stations, allowing you to scroll through to choose the one you want. It's powered by two AA batteries and can also be plugged into the mains.

☐ 020 8263 6123

☐ www.perstel.co.uk

☐ approx £169