

new products

As usual there's a wealth of impressive new models and products hitting the market and we got hold of all the latest releases. So if you're planning to splash out, here's our first impressions to give you an idea of what's on offer

↓ Samsung SM-352

DVD/CD-RW drive

Samsung Electronics has launched a combo drive that boasts incredible 52-speed CD writing. This is combined with 52-speed CD reading, 24-speed CD rewriting and 16-speed DVD reading. It offers partial CAV (constant angular velocity) – a technique that ensures the disk rotates at a constant speed no matter what area of it is being accessed, so that recording rates can be kept at a constant high speed.

Samsung's own Buffer Under Run Proof technology, means data keeps flowing to the disc to help keep recordings error free. The drive also features 8MB of internal memory which aids smooth recording. It supports a wide range of writing modes including multi-session and variable/fixed packet writing.

- www.samsungelectronics.co.uk
- £68 ex VAT



↑ Palm Tungsten C & Zire 71

Palm-based PDAs

Palm has added two new handheld devices to its range – the Tungsten C, aimed at business users, and the Zire 71 for consumers. The Tungsten C uses Intel's latest PXA255 XScale processor running at 400MHz and offers integrated 802.11b wireless networking. It has 64MB of memory and a 320x320 TFT display. The Tungsten C runs the latest version of Palm OS, 5.2.1, and the updated Graffiti 2 handwriting recognition software. Expansion is via a SD/MMC (Secure Digital/Multimedia Card) slot.

Palm's second offering is the Zire 71, which includes a built-in digital camera and an optional digital audio player module. The slider design used in both reveals and activates the digital camera. Photos can be stored on the 13MB of free onboard memory or on an SD card. To listen to music and audio books you will have to invest in the extra MP3 Audio Kit which will be available this month priced £68 ex VAT.

- Palm: 0118 927 8700
- www.palm.com/uk
- Tungsten C: £340;
- Zire 71: £212 ex VAT

↓ ViewSonic Pocket PC V35

Pocket PC-based PDA
Monitor specialist ViewSonic is spreading its wings into the handheld market with the Pocket PC V35. Powered by a 300MHz XScale processor, the V35 runs the Pocket PC 2002 operating system. It has 64MB of RAM and 32MB of flash ROM, plus a built-in Secure Digital card slot for extra storage or functionality. It sports a 3.5in colour screen with a resolution of 240x320. Power is provided by a lithium-ion battery.

The unit features four launch buttons to take you to frequently used applications and locations, plus a jog dial for simpler scrolling. Software offers the usual set of productivity tools, such as contacts, to-do list and memos. It's backed by a one-year warranty and at 119g it is one of the lightest Pocket PC devices on the market.

- ViewSonic: 01293 643 900
- www.viewsoniceurope.com/uk
- £212 ex VAT



↑ Canon MV6iMC

DV camcorder

Canon's latest compact camcorder, the MV6iMC, measures just 49x106x89mm and weighs a lightweight 380g. But despite its diminutive dimensions it still packs in plenty of features. It combines a 10x optical zoom with a massive 400x digital zoom, and has a 1.6in type 800,000 pixel CCD (charge-coupled device) capability. Both an SD/MMC (Secure Digital/Multimedia Card) slot and all terminals – DV (in and out), AV, LANC, USB, DC and S-Video are featured on the body of the camcorder itself.

The MV6iMC can capture both still images and mini Motion-Jpeg movies that can be stored on a memory card and emailed out to friends or colleagues. For versatile filming options it has super night mode; night mode and low light mode, so it should ensure good results no matter what the lighting conditions. It is due for release in July.

- Canon: 08705 143 723
- www.canon.co.uk/digitalcamcorders
- approx £680 ex VAT

↓ Brother MFC-4820C & DCP-4020C

Inkjet multifunction devices

Once upon a time an MFD (multifunction device) was considered a jack of all trades and master of none, but now it's more likely to be considered a space and cost-saving alternative to housing and buying all its constituent parts. Brother is one of the many manufacturers cashing in on the MFD's new-found popularity with the MFC-4820C and DCP-4020C. These devices are prettier than the average with a sleek design and silver-looking finish.

The MFC-4820C packs seven functions: copying, printing, scanning, faxing, PC faxing, photo copying and telephone answering, while the DCP-4020C limits itself to the first four functions offered by its big brother. Each model has slots for CompactFlash, Memory Stick and Smart Media cards for simple photo capture. Print speeds are claimed to reach 13ppm for mono and 11ppm for colour, while the top resolution is 2,400x1,200dpi.

- Brother: 0870 830 4030
- www.brother.co.uk
- MFC-4820C £212;
- DCP-4020C £169 ex VAT



↓ HP Pavilion 754 & 784

Desktop PCs

HP's latest desktops feature several innovative extras to set them apart from the crowd. Each is fitted with an ADSL modem as standard so they are broadband ready, and both have 6-in-1 memory card readers while the Pavilion 784 also has built-in Bluetooth technology. The 754 (pictured) is powered by a 2.8GHz Pentium 4 paired with 512MB of DDR RAM.

Graphics are handled by a 64MB ATI Radeon 9000 card and it has an 80GB hard drive, plus a DVD-RW drive for backups. The 784 has a 3GHz Pentium 4 processor, 512MB of DDR RAM, a 120GB hard drive, 128MB GeForce4 Ti 4200 graphics card, DVD-RW drive and built-in Bluetooth. Each runs Windows XP Home and comes bundled with a wide range of software applications.

- HP: 0870 547 4747
- www.hp.co.uk
- Pavilion 754 £1,106 ex VAT;
- Pavilion 784 £1,446 ex VAT



↑ Sony DCR-PC105

DV camcorder

Sony's latest ultra-compact handycam, the DCR-PC105, features a new blue-grey metallic finish plus a vertical design which should fit more comfortably in your hand. Thanks to the bundled software you can now burn your movies direct to a CD by linking the camcorder to your PC via a USB cable and Vaio owners can link it up via FireWire and burn directly to DVD.

It has a 1.1Mp CCD, and Sony claims that 16.9 ratio recording has been enhanced on this model, ensuring against stretching or cutting. It has a built-in flash for better night or low-light shooting and to get up close to your subjects the DCR-PC105 sports a 10x optical zoom and 120x digital zoom. A 2.5in touchscreen LCD display allows you to preview footage and control your camcorder. The device will be available from June this year.

- Sony: 08705 111 999
- www.sony.co.uk
- approx £851 ex VAT

↑ NEC Versa S800

Notebook PC

NEC has added to its range of ultra-portable notebook PCs with the introduction of the Versa S800. At 17mm thick and weighing 1.14kg, this computer is certainly portable. It's powered by a 933MHz ultra-low-voltage Mobile Pentium III processor, twinned with 256MB of SDRAM and a 20GB hard drive. The screen is a 12.1in TFT display and graphics are integrated using 8MB of shared memory.

For easy wireless connectivity it has 802.11a/b technology built in, plus a standard modem and ethernet. To connect other devices, such as optical drives, there are three USB 2.0 ports. It has a one-year collect-and-return warranty and comes loaded with Windows XP Pro, plus a range of other software.

- NEC: 0870 010 6328
- www.nec-online.co.uk
- £1,099 ex VAT

