

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 CanoScan 3000F and 9900F

Flatbed scanners

The CanoScan 3000F is the latest member of Canon's entry-level flatbed scanner family. Boasting a built-in film adapter, the unit connects via USB 2.0, offers a maximum scanning resolution of 1,200x2,400dpi (dots per inch) and 48bit colour depth. Automatic colour balance is designed to create accurate results and there's a multi-photo scanning mode for auto-identification, cropping and straightening of images.

The high-end 9900F is Canon's first scanner to offer 3,200x6,400dpi resolution. This USB 2.0-based model also features an updated version of its Fare automatic film retouching technology and a film adapter unit capable of scanning up to 24 frames of 35mm film in a single pass.

□ Canon: 08705 143 723 □ www.canon.co.uk/canoscan

□ CanoScan 3000F: £84 ex VAT; CanoScan 9900F: £254 ex VAT

↓ GoldMine 6.0

Contact management software



FrontRange has completely updated its GoldMine business contact management software with the release of version 6.0. Aimed at small to medium-sized firms, this edition features a QuickStart Wizard to get new users acquainted with what the product can do. There's the option to customise your desktop, a redesigned Opportunity and Project Manager, and you can even tailor the software to suit your business.

The Calendar and Scheduling tools have a more user-friendly interface, a built-in Database Backup and Restore Wizard helps to keep your data safe and there's complete XML integration, allowing you to import and export data in this format.

□ FrontRange: 0118 938 7500

□ www.frontrange.com

□ £165 ex VAT for single user



→ Minolta-QMS magicolor 2350

Colour laser printer

Minolta-QMS claims the magicolor 2350 is the smallest networked colour laser. It's also relatively affordable at well under £1,000. It promises 4ppm and 16ppm (pages per minute) colour and mono printing and a maximum resolution of 1,200x1,200dpi (dots per inch).

Built-in ethernet accompanying the USB and parallel interfaces means it's network-ready, plus it sports PostScript 3, PCL 6 and PDF emulations to help it fit into a general office or design environment. The integrated Crown X technology enables remote printer management via a browser and cross-platform compatibility.

□ Minolta-QMS: 01784 442 255

□ www.minolta-qms.co.uk □ £723 ex VAT

↓ La Cie Universal Media Drive

Media reader

Digital camera enthusiasts will welcome La Cie's six-in-one card reader. The Universal Media Drive can read and write to SmartMedia, CompactFlash, Microdrive, Memory Stick, secure digital and multimedia cards. It's plug and play with both Macs and PCs, which should make transferring images from your camera or camcorder easy. You can also write images or data to cards for use with your handheld or notebook. The drive connects to a PC via USB and for users with the latest operating systems it doesn't require any drivers, so you could take it with you for use offsite.

□ La Cie: 020 7872 8000

□ www.lacie.co.uk □ £19 ex VAT



→ Freecom Traveller II Plus DVD-RW

Portable DVD writer

Freecom's latest portable external notebook DVD-RW drive offers eight-speed DVD reading, single-speed writing and rewriting, as well as 24-/16-/10-speed CD-RW capabilities.

Thanks to the Traveller II's integrated power module that automatically charges when plugged into a PC, there's no need for an external power source. You can hook the drive up to your computer via the supplied PC Card adapter or a USB 2.0 cable. It comes with PowerDVD software for playing movies and Roxio's Easy CD Creator 5.0 helps burn discs.

□ Freecom: 01423 704 700 □ www.freecom.com □ £298 ex VAT



↑ CTX PV722E

Flat-panel display

CTX's PV722E 17in flat-panel display has a fast USB 2.0 connection in addition to a DVI (digital visual interface) input. The pivot screen, which comes with a detachable speaker unit, is supported by PivotPro software that lets you swivel the panel into landscape or portrait view.

Resolution support extends to 1,280x1,024 and the PV722E has a pixel pitch of 0.26mm, a viewing angle of 170 degrees and contrast ratio of 500:1.

If you like to watch movies on your PC then this display has a movie mode that promises to optimise brightness levels and colour balance for best results for films.

□ CTX: 01923 810 800
□ www.ctxeuropa.com
□ £407 ex VAT

↓ Guillemot Thrustmaster 5.1

Surround sound system

The Thrustmaster 5.1 is a complete sound package designed to work with games consoles, DVD and CD players or television sets. It combines a Dolby Digital AC-3 decoder, five satellite speakers, a subwoofer, all the audio cables needed for setup and an infrared remote control. The Dolby decoder automatically detects whether sound signals are stereo, Dolby Surround from a PlayStation, Pro Logic from a GameCube or Dolby Digital from an Xbox, then determines how best to render them.

□ Guillemot: 020 8665 1881
□ www.thrustmaster.com
□ £128 ex VAT



↓ HP dvd300i and dvd300e

DVD writers

If 650MB CDs no longer offer enough storage capacity, you might want to consider upgrading your backup to more capacious 4.7GB DVD media. HP's dvd300i internal drive and dvd300e external model both offer quad-/2.4-speed (write/rewrite) DVD rates, while DVD reading is eight-speed. They can also be used as a 40-/16-/eight-speed CD-RW drive and each uses either a USB 2.0 or FireWire interface to ensure fast data transfer. The pair support the DVD+RW format, as well as DVD-R, so your discs should be readable in most DVD players and DVD-ROM drives.

□ HP: 0845 270 4222
□ www.hp.co.uk
□ dvd300i: £212 ex VAT; dvd300e: £254 ex VAT





← NEC Versa P700

Budget notebook

NEC's latest Versa, the P700, is powered by an Intel Pentium 4 processor running at up to 2.2GHz and backed by a maximum of 512MB of fast DDR RAM. Hard drive capacities top out at 40GB, but you can beef up storage by slotting an extra drive into the free VersaBay IV which can also be used for a CD, DVD or DVD/CD-RW drive. The 15in screen offers a whopping 2,048x1,536 resolution, so you should be able to squeeze plenty of data on to the display. Graphics are handled by an ATI Mobility Radeon 7500 chip with 64MB of RAM. Connectivity options include two USB and two FireWire ports, as well as built-in ethernet and wireless support for Bluetooth or Wi-Fi.

□ NEC: 0870 010 6328 □ www.nec-online.co.uk □ from £1,299 ex VAT

→ Optoma EP737

Digital projector

Optoma's EP737 projector blurs the boundary between business and pleasure. Contrast has been upped to 1,800:1 and the noise level cut to 32dB. It supports both PAL and NTSC video formats, can display 16.7 million colours and has a 4:3 aspect ratio, although it's 16:9 compatible. At just 1.6kg this lightweight model is easy to carry home from the office for some movie viewing at the weekend.

□ Optoma: 01923 691 800 □ www.optomaeurope.com □ £1,999



↓ Linksys Wireless-G range

Wireless networking products

Linksys' Wireless-G networking products offer faster data transfer than existing Wi-Fi (802.11b) networks yet remain backwards-compatible with the older standard. The current top speed of Wi-Fi is 11Mbps (megabits per second), while the new 802.11g standard can hit 54Mbps. The kit on offer from Amazon includes everything you need to set up a wireless network at home or work.

□ www.amazon.co.uk/wireless-g
 □ Broadband router: £102 ex VAT; access point: £94 ex VAT; notebook adapter: £51 ex VAT; PCI adapter: £50 ex VAT



↑ Waitec DVD-X56s

DVD player

Waitec's enhanced optical pickup system, aimed at improving disc stability and compatibility, means the DVD-X56s can not only read/write to DVDs or CDs, but can also play video, audio and super video CDs as well as MP3s. The drive offers AC3 and DTS surround sound 5.1 digital playback for an enhanced audio experience. Weighing 2.5kg, the Waitec is supplied with a scart lead for easy connection to other electronic devices. The X56s will be revealed at the CeBit event – see page 29 for more about this tradeshow.

□ Waitec: +31 77 326 2040 □ www.waitec.com
 □ Price: TBC