

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

→ Sony Clie PEG-X73V

Handheld PC

With built-in Bluetooth you can hook up the Clie PEG-X73V to similarly equipped devices with no need for extra cables. It also offers two expansion slots – Memory Stick and CompactFlash. The handheld is powered by a 200MHz processor and, Sony says, offers longer battery life than previous models based on Palm OS 5.0. It features a flip-and-rotate design and built-in digital camera, while the 320x480 resolution colour screen can swivel 180 degrees.

□ Sony: 08705 424 424 □ www.sony-europe.com/clieplaza □ £384 ex VAT

← Peak Mini Shotz

Digital camera

This metal-encased digital camera is about the size of a box of matches, making it ultra portable. It has a 350,000 pixel resolution and can store up to 380 quality Jpeg photos. Its 30fps (frames per second) video facility allows you to send footage over the internet – you can even use it as a webcam. Handily, the Mini Shotz's built-in rechargeable battery is automatically charged when the device is plugged into your PC's USB port, while a power-saving utility switches the shooter to standby mode if it is not used for 30 seconds.

□ Peak Developments: 01489 796 979
□ www.shotzimaging.com
□ £42.50 ex VAT

→ Sony CRX300A

CD-RW/DVD combo drive

Noticeably slimmer than Sony's previous offerings, the CRX300A combo drive is an ideal choice for users with limited desk space. It reads DVDs at 16-speed, while CD ratings are an impressive 48/48/24-speed (read/write/rewrite). Sony's PowerBurn buffer underrun error protection technology (quite a mouthful) ensures that CD writing is smooth and the company claims you can record 650MB of data on to a CD-R in three minutes, while a CD-RW takes just under four. In terms of software, the unit is bundled with Nero Burning ROM, InCD and PowerDVD.

□ Sony: 08705 424 424 □ www.sony.co.uk □ £60 ex VAT

➤ Amacom EZ2

Portable hard drives

Offering capacities of up to 250GB and either a USB 2.0 or FireWire connection, the EZ2 range of portable hard drives is aimed at those who require extra storage on their PC or notebook. Each drive is housed in an attractive aluminium case that, according to Amacom, dissipates heat quickly as well as offering a robust exterior designed to survive the rough and tumble of portable life.

□ Amacom: 020 8993 7373
□ www.amacom-tech.com □ from £119 ex VAT



→ Creative PC-Cam 880

Digital camera

Creative's PC-Cam offers 3Mp (megapixel) still images and 640x480 video clips. Thanks to 16MB of built-in memory, the 880 stores up to 112 snaps or 76 seconds of video. A 1.6in LCD previews your work or connect the PC-Cam to a TV or video to view footage onscreen. For tasks such as video-conferencing the 880 can also be tethered to your PC. If you require extra storage the PC-Cam takes both Secure Digital and Multimedia Cards. A generous software bundle, including a photo-editing and archiving program, rounds off the package.

□ www.europe.creative.com □ £111 ex VAT



↑ Belkin 8-in-1

USB 2.0 media reader & writer

Using a USB 2.0 connection, which is up to 40 times faster than its predecessor, the Belkin media writer allows users of flash memory-based devices – such as digital cameras and PDAs – to rapidly transfer data from a media card to their PC and vice versa. Not only that, the 8-in-1 can drag and drop files from one memory card to another and even transfer files simultaneously from four media cards. The device reads the following formats: Secure Digital, CompactFlash I and II, SmartMedia, Multimedia Card, IBM Microdrive, Sony Memory Stick and MagicGate Memory Stick.

□ Belkin: 00 800 223 55 460 □ www.belkin.co.uk □ £34 ex VAT

↓ La Cie Dual DVD Recorder Drive

DVD-RW/DVD+RW drive

La Cie is covering every base with the release of its all-format DVD writer. It offers 12/quad/dual-speed (rewrite/write/read) facilities for both DVD-RW and DVD+RW as well as 32/16/10-speed CD facilities. It also has dual connectivity options, so it can hook up to either a FireWire or USB 2.0 port. The drive comes bundled with the required cables, a power adapter plus an extensive software package.

□ La Cie: 020 7872 8000 □ www.lacie.com/uk □ £224 ex VAT



← Eizo FlexScan L695

Flat-panel display

The FlexScan L695 adds two new features to Eizo's line-up of flat-panel displays. ActiveRotation can display images in portrait or landscape mode with no need for extra software. As the L695 uses a USB connection, switching between modes can be done on-the-fly with no need to unplug and plug in the screen. The second new feature, ActiveShot, lets users perform two tasks on one screen – such as inputting data on one while watching share prices on the other. One thing to note, though, is that you can't use ActiveShot and ActiveRotation at the same time.

□ Eizo: 01483 719 500 □ www.eizo.co.uk □ £669 ex VAT