











TOP 10 POWER & BUDGET NOTEBOOKS

		Power notebooks		Processor	RAM	Dimensions (wxhxd)	Battery type	
				Dual-speed	Hard disk capacity	Weight		
1		Evesham Voyager 5815 2.4 0870 160 9500 www.evesham.com NEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £1,500 ex VAT • 2-year return-to-base warranty • First review Spring 03 	2.4GHz Mobile Pentium 4 Speedstep	512MB 60GB	332x280x42mm 3.6kg	lithium-ion	
				WorldBench 4		119		
2		Dell Inspiron 8200 0870 152 4699 www.dell.co.uk LAST MONTH 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £1,549 ex VAT • 3-year collect-and-return warranty • First review Dec 02 	2.2GHz Mobile Pentium 4 Speedstep	512MB 60GB	331x276x45mm 3.6kg	lithium-ion	
				WorldBench 4		100		
3		AJP 8880E 020 8208 9710 www.ajp.co.uk NEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £1,749 ex VAT • 2-year return-to-base warranty • First review Spring 03 	2.8GHz Intel Pentium 4 no	512MB 60GB	360x299x55mm 4.9kg	lithium-ion	
				WorldBench 4		117		
4		Hi-Grade Ultinote M6400-1800-I 020 8532 6100 www.higrade.com LAST MONTH 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £1,509 ex VAT • 2-year return-to-base warranty • First review Apr 02 	1.8GHz Intel Pentium 4 no	512MB 40GB	313x263x36mm 2.95kg	lithium-ion	
				WorldBench 4		118		
5		AJP 8880 020 8208 9710 www.ajp.co.uk LAST MONTH 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £1,525 ex VAT • 2-year return-to-base warranty • First review Nov 02 	2.5GHz Intel Pentium 4 no	512MB 60GB	360x300x55mm 5.5kg	lithium-ion	
				WorldBench 4		112		

		Budget notebooks		Processor	RAM	Dimensions (wxhxd)	Battery type	
				Dual-speed	Hard disk capacity	Weight		
1		Multivision Ionix XT 0870 066 0882 www.multivision.co.uk NEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £999 ex VAT • 1-year collect-and-return warranty • First review Spring 03 	2.53GHz Intel Pentium 4 no	512MB 60GB	332x281x40mm 3.4kg	lithium-ion	
				WorldBench 4		115		
2		Rock Agenda XP 0870 990 8888 www.rockdirect.com NEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £1,199 ex VAT • 3-year collect-and-return warranty • First review Spring 03 	Athlon XP Mobile 2200+ PowerNow	256MB 30GB	328x283x27mm 3.1kg	lithium-ion	
				WorldBench 4		121		
3		Hi-Grade Ultinote M6600 020 8532 6100 www.higrade.com NEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £1,499 ex VAT • 2-year collect-and-return warranty • First review Mar 03 	2.4GHz Mobile Pentium 4 Speedstep	512MB 60GB	332x285x35mm 3.4kg	lithium-ion	
				WorldBench 4		119		
4		AJP 8640D-T14 020 8208 9700 www.ajp.co.uk NEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £1,345 ex VAT • 2-year return-to-base warranty • First review Spring 03 	2.66GHz Intel Pentium 4 no	512MB 60GB	332x285x39mm 3.4kg	lithium-ion	
				WorldBench 4		118		
5		ACI Antares 020 8830 1959 www.aciplc.com NEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £1,106 ex VAT • 1-year collect-and-return warranty • First review Spring 03 	2GHz Intel Pentium 4 no	256MB 20GB	330x275x42mm 3.9kg	lithium-ion	
				WorldBench 4		104		

TOP 10 POWER NOTEBOOKS

1 **Evesham Voyager 5815 2.4**
Displacing the Hi-Grade Ultinote that reigned the Power notebook chart for nearly a year, the Evesham Voyager 5815 2.4 is this month's brand new Best Buy. Boasting Intel's latest Mobile Pentium 4 processor, which runs at an impressive speed of 2.4GHz, the

Evesham achieved 119 in our WorldBench 4 tests – a score that wouldn't look out of place in the Power PC chart.

There's plenty of storage space courtesy of the 60GB Fujitsu hard drive and Evesham has also been rather generous on the memory front, bundling into the Voyager 512MB of DDR (double data rate) RAM.





2 Dell Inspiron 8200



Despite all the chopping and changing in the Power notebook chart this month, the Dell Inspiron holds tight at number two thanks to a price drop and improved warranty. Powered by the 2.2GHz Mobile Pentium 4 processor, the Inspiron 8200 only manages a WorldBench 4 score of 100 – the lowest in either of the notebook charts. However, if speed is not the most important factor then the Dell is a great buy, offering quality components and a competitive price.

The 15in screen is possibly the Inspiron's most outstanding feature – images on the display are crystal clear and it stretches to a resolution of 1,600x1,200. The graphics setup is another impressive feature. Dell has opted for the ATI Radeon Mobility 9000 with 64MB of DDR (double data rate) RAM. It's pretty fair to say that this card's graphics performance is close to that of a mid-specified desktop PC – something that will please gamers and users of graphics-intensive applications.

The Inspiron is light at 3.6kg but that doesn't mean it's a flimsy model that could break easily. It also comes with a generous software package including Microsoft Works 7.0. The £1,549 price tag is very reasonable for the deal on offer here, especially as there's a spare battery and a three-year collect-and-return warranty thrown in.

Overall its low WorldBench 4 score was the only factor that stopped Dell claiming the Best Buy award this month.

3 AJP 8880E

AJP claims third place in the Power notebook chart with its latest release, the 8880E. The powerful 2.8GHz Pentium 4 processor spurred the AJP on to achieve a

	Screen size Max resolution	Graphics card Memory	DVD read rate	CD-RW read/write/rewrite rate	Operating system, software and extras
	15in 1,024x768	nVidia GeForce4 420 Go 32MB	8x	24x/8x/8x	Windows XP Home
	15in 1,600x1,200	ATI Mobility Radeon 9000 64MB	8x	24x/24x/10x	Windows XP Home, Microsoft Works 7.0
	15.7in 1,280x1,024	ATI Mobility Radeon 9000 64MB	8x	24x/24x/10x	Windows XP Professional, MP3 player
	14.1in 1,024x768	ATI Mobility M6 16MB	8x	24x/8x/4x	Windows XP Home, Microsoft Office XP SBE
	15.7in 1,280x1,024	ATI Mobility Radeon 7500 64MB	8x	24x/14x/8x	Windows XP Professional, TV tuner, MP3 player, remote control

	Screen size Max resolution	Graphics card Memory	DVD read rate	CD-RW read/write/rewrite rate	Operating system, software and extras
	15in 1,280x1,024	ATI Mobility Radeon 9000 64MB	8x	24x/8x/8x	Windows XP Home
	15in 1,400x1,050	ATI Mobility Radeon 9000 32MB	8x	24x/8x/8x	Windows XP Home
	15.1in 1,280x1,024	nVidia GeForce4 420 Go 32MB	8x	24x/16x/10x	Windows XP Home, Microsoft Works 6.0
	14.1in 1,024x768	nVidia GeForce4 420 Go 32MB	8x	24x/8x/8x	Windows XP Professional
	15.1in 1,400x1,050	ATI Mobility Radeon 8500 64MB	8x	24x/8x/8x	Windows XP Home

The 15in display is of a high quality and, combined with the 32MB nVidia GeForce4 420 Go graphics card, you can expect a crystal-clear output.

Unlike many notebooks in the Power category, Evesham has managed to keep the Voyager at a lightweight 3.6kg. If you're likely to find yourself regularly on the road with your notebook then this Best Buy won't be a pain to lug

about. With four USB 2.0 ports and a FireWire port the Evesham Voyager offers connectivity options galore.

The best feature of the Voyager, however, is the price. For £1,500 ex VAT not only are you spoilt with a well-made, robust and speedy notebook, you also get a reasonable two-year return-to-base warranty and a spare battery, which is always a bonus.

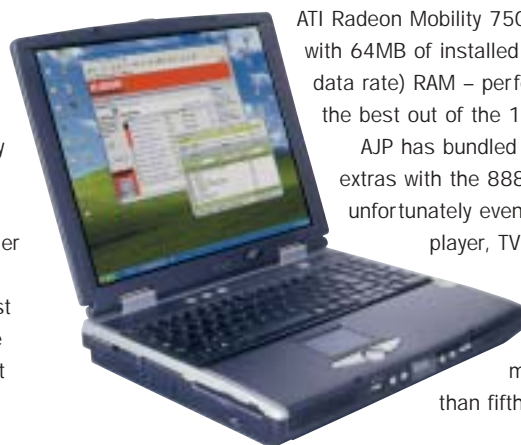


WorldBench 4 score of 117. As it is not a mobile processor, though, the 8880E's power consumption is likely to be high and is therefore more suited to being used while plugged to a mains socket.

There's 512MB of DDR (double data rate) RAM and a 60GB hard disk, both of which should be more than adequate for the average user. The 15.7in screen can reach a resolution of 1,280x1,024 and, combined with the ATI Radeon Mobility 9000 gives a superb graphics display.

However, there are a few areas where AJP doesn't match its rivals. Weighing in at 4.9kg the 8880E will wrench your arm out of its socket if you carry it around for too long. It's also pricey at £1,749 ex VAT, although includes a two-year return-to-base warranty and removable MP3 player.

4 Hi-Grade Ultinote M6400-1800-I
Falling from first to fourth place due to the two new entries and the revised pricing of the Dell Inspiron is the Hi-Grade Ultinote M6400. Even though the 1.8GHz Mobile Pentium 4 processor is starting to age, let us not forget the Hi-Grade's speedy WorldBench 4 score of 118. Weighing just under 3kg, the Ultinote is also the lightest model in both the Power and Budget notebook charts.



This machine's major flaw lies with the graphics chip – there's only 16MB of installed DDR (double data rate) RAM on the ATI Radeon Mobility M6, which is miserly compared to the opposition.

5 AJP 8880

Pushed down to fifth place this month is the AJP 8880, an older version of the third-placed Power 8880E. At 5.5kg this portable PC is a true heavyweight and we certainly wouldn't want to carry it around for longer than is absolutely necessary. However, the 8880 offers decent performance, scoring 112 in our WorldBench 4 tests. It also boasts an ATI Radeon Mobility 7500 graphics card with 64MB of installed DDR (double data rate) RAM – perfect for getting the best out of the 15.7in screen.

AJP has bundled some generous extras with the 8880 but unfortunately even the MP3 player, TV tuner and remote control can't raise this pricey model any higher than fifth place.

TOP 10 BUDGET NOTEBOOKS

1 Multivision Ionix XT

Multivision scoops the Best Buy award this month with its latest Budget notebook release, the Ionix XT. Offering an unbeatable combination of performance and components, the XT also comes in at a pleasingly low £999 ex VAT and is therefore a worthy winner.

The Ionix is the ultimate desktop replacement system.

It doesn't house a dedicated mobile processor which could have an effect on battery life. However, if you

mainly use your notebook plugged into the mains then it won't pose a problem. At the heart of the Multivision sits a 2.53GHz Pentium 4 processor. This might not offer any battery optimisation but it's a good performer. The WorldBench 4 score of 115 is a match for many notebooks that cost twice as much. With a generous 60GB of storage space there's also plenty of room for your data.

The Ionix offers a high-quality 15in screen and an ATI Mobility Radeon 9000 graphics card, which together provide an excellent display. Weighing in at 3.4kg, the Multivision is also light enough to carry around effortlessly while the distinctive black casing gives it a touch of class.



2 Rock Agenda XP

Narrowly missing out on the top spot, Rock certainly deserves its Recommended award. What really impressed us about the Agenda was its performance. Rock opted for the Athlon XP Mobile 2200+ processor – and what a good choice this was. The XP WorldBench 4 score of 121 is not only the highest in the Budget chart but it beats every Power notebook's performance rating as well.

If you regularly use your notebook on the train then the Rock is ideal. As mobile processors use less power than standard CPUs the battery shouldn't drain too quickly. It's also the lightest notebook in the Budget chart at just a shade over 3kg.

However, a few factors let the Agenda XP down. The 30GB hard drive will easily offer enough storage



space for most users, but it's only half the size of the hard drive offered by first-placed Multivision. The Rock also only houses 256MB of DDR (double data rate) RAM – we would have preferred to see 512MB – plus the Agenda costs £200 more than the Best Buy Multivision.



3 Hi-Grade Ultinote M6600

Entering the chart at number three is Hi-Grade's Ultinote M6600. The performance of this model is very good, it offers high-quality components and the bundled DVD-RW drive is a bonus. But with a price tag of £1,499, which hits the ceiling of our Budget notebook price range, the Ultinote M6600 can't achieve a higher chart placing.

Of course, if cost isn't an issue then the M6600 is worth a look. If you need to back up large amounts of data then the DVD-RW drive – a luxury in a notebook – will prove invaluable. There's also a 60GB hard drive which will give you plenty of room to store data.

The 2.4GHz Mobile Pentium 4 processor is Intel's latest Mobile chip and helped the Ultinote achieve one of the highest WorldBench 4 scores in the Budget chart. The battery optimisation means power shouldn't drain too quickly either.

4 AJP 8640D-T14

AJP's latest model only manages fourth place in the Budget notebook chart. However, at £1,345 the 8640D-T14 still represents reasonable



Buying advice

If you want a notebook to use on the go then a Mobile processor is a must.

Mobile models are specifically designed to use less power when running off the battery by dropping to a slower clock speed. At the Power end look for at least a 2.0GHz chip; for budget machines, Intel's Pentium III chips are becoming obsolete so a Pentium 4 chip is desirable. AMD's Mobile Athlon 4 is also strong; make sure your chip is at least 1.8GHz.

Memory is important as it ensures smooth performance. Power models tend to offer as much as 512MB these days. If you're investing in a Budget notebook then 256MB of memory is plenty.

Since notebook users tend not to load their hard drives with huge applications and suites, 40GB of hard drive space should be fine for a Power model. If you're after peace of mind go for 60GB or more. For a Budget notebook 30GB will suffice. Manufacturers are generally offering as much as 40GB in this price range, though, so get as large a hard drive as you can. A combination DVD/CD-RW drive is also handy if you need to back up large amounts of data.

If portability is the major factor then look for a 12in to 13in screen. A 14in or 15in screen will increase the notebook's size and weight enormously but, as these offer almost as much workspace as a 16in or 17in conventional monitor, such a move will pay dividends in terms of productivity. Remember that you can usually plug in an external monitor for use in the office so, depending on where you plan to use your notebook, a large screen may not be essential.

All the machines in our Budget notebooks chart have screens with 1,024x768 resolution and 32bit colour. Resolutions beyond this are possible on some models, but they mean you have to scroll around because they can't fit all the information on the screen.

Notebook graphics tend to be a step behind those in the desktop market, but if you're after good 3D performance then look for nVidia's GeForce4 Go or ATI's Mobility Radeon chips.

At the Budget end, onboard graphics with user-definable memory are still fairly common. They use system memory that can often be pushed up to 64MB, but can be minimised if you want to favour other functions. You can track down a standalone card, though, as they're becoming much more common at this price.

value for money. The 2.66GHz Pentium 4 processor contributed to the AJP's 118 points in WorldBench 4 – a score that a Power notebook would be proud of.

The only model in the chart to come with an external USB floppy drive, the AJP also provides a generous 60GB of storage space and 512MB of DDR (double data rate) RAM. The 3.4kg T14 is fairly light and portable but the 14.1in screen, which only stretches to a resolution of 1,024x768, is disappointing and could cause eye strain if used for long periods of time.

5 ACI Antares

Propping up the chart at number five this month is ACI's Antares. Offering slightly less in the way of components than the rest of the competition, this fifth-placed notebook loses out despite reaching a reasonable WorldBench 4 score of 104 and a low price of £1,106 ex VAT. On the down side, the Antares comes with a disappointing 20GB of storage space – the bare minimum even for a Budget notebook – and 256MB of DDR (double data rate) RAM. At 3.9kg the ACI also weighs in as the heaviest notebook in the Budget chart, while the warranty only stretches to one year's cover.

