

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 out there

→ Panasonic GS Series

DV camcorder

Remember when you used to record your home movies straight to VHS in those incredibly large and clunky camcorders? Well, with its new line of GS digital video cameras, Panasonic reminds us just how far we have come. Smaller and more compact than before, these cameras should fit comfortably into the palm of your hand. Their 10x optical and 500x digital zooms allow the freedom to focus clearly on distant objects, and each of the four models in the range has an 800,000 pixel CCD, providing high resolution and vibrant colour reproduction.

□ Panasonic: 08705 357 357

□ www.panasonic.co.uk □ from £550 ex VAT



↗ Orange Micro Orange USB 2.0 Hi-Speed Hub

USB 2.0 hub

Channel Dynamics is shipping a cost-effective USB 2.0 hub that allows for the connection of multiple USB devices to an existing port. Orange Micro's Orange USB 2.0 Hi-Speed Hub lets users add performance peripherals such as high-resolution video-conferencing cameras, and the new generation of USB 2.0 scanners, printers, and fast storage devices. It's fully backwards-compatible with all USB products, but any USB 1.1 devices attached to it will operate at 1.1 speeds. Measuring 100x70x22mm, the hub is a compact expansion solution for any USB-equipped computer.

□ Channel Dynamics: 08706 070 540 □ www.channeldynamics.net

□ £49 ex VAT

→ Asus SpaceLink B+W

Wireless hub

Unsure of which wireless connection best suits your local or personal area networking needs? Asus has come up with an interesting solution, shaped like a dolphin's fin, that has dualband Wi-Fi and Bluetooth capabilities. The SpaceLink B+W sits outside a PC but comes with a PCI card slot attachment that is fitted to a motherboard. It supports 802.11a and b Wi-Fi standards for a maximum data transfer rate of up to 54Mbps. With the B+W you can create access points for PCs or notebooks and Bluetooth allows you to wirelessly link compatible peripherals such as mobile phones, PDAs, cameras or printers.

□ 0870 755 4747 □ www.scan.co.uk □ £155 ex VAT

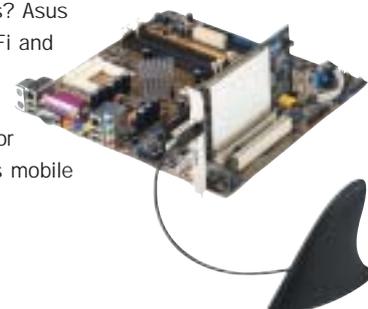
↓ Visioneer OneTouch 9220 USB

Flatbed scanner

You might have upgraded to a digital camera, but many users still need scanners to copy documents and other materials. Visioneer is attempting to remain competitive with its OneTouch 9220 USB, a powerful 48bit, Hi-Speed USB 2.0 scanner. According to Visioneer, this newest addition to the slimline OneTouch series is perfect for the photo enthusiast who wants to scan traditional prints, 35mm slides or negatives. It also claims that the 9220 can scan a 4x6in photo at 300dpi (dots per inch) in less than 10 seconds and a full colour page at 300dpi in less than 15. With this speed, a fair price and a driver designed for Windows XP to ensure stability, the OneTouch should certainly help keep Visioneer competitive.

□ Visioneer: 01483 445 480 □ www.visioneer-europe.com

□ £129.99 ex VAT



→ Brother HL-7050

Mono laser printer

With the launch of the HL-7050, Brother brings the world the first printer to achieve the TCO 99 global standard. This mono laser unit had to pass strict tests of ergonomics, energy consumption, emission levels, and ecological soundness in order to achieve the TCO badge. The label was originally designed to allay fears over the health risks posed by monitors, and has since evolved into the world's most rigorous standard for all business equipment. According Brother: the emission levels on the HL-7050 are 50 times lower than the UK's leading workgroup printer. Designed for workgroups in the corporate and industrial environment, this printer has a quoted print speed of 28ppm (pages per minute).

□ Brother: 0870 544 3075 □ www.brother.co.uk □ £638 ex VAT



↑ Canon Powershot A60/A70

Digital cameras

Canon is offering two new digital cameras that will replace its PowerShot A30 and A40, targeting the 2Mp (megapixel) A60 and 3.2Mp A70 at home and family users. According to Canon, the cameras offer versatility, excellent resolution and a high specification at an affordable price. Both cover focal lengths of 35-105mm and provide a 2.5x/3.2x digital zoom. Each model also features Canon's five-point AiAF (artificial intelligence auto focus) system for focus accuracy, and shutter speeds of 15-1/2,000sec. The Powershots have digital video recording facilities and a direct printing system that allows them to be linked directly to compatible Bubble Jet printers.

□ Canon: 0870 514 3723 □ www.canon.co.uk/digitalcameras
□ A60: £195; A70: £254 ex VAT



← Sharp LL-T18A1

18in flat-panel display

By giving the LL-T18A1 a price tag of £426, Sharp is attempting to extend its range of LCD data monitors beyond the high-priced models used by graphic designers. While this flat-panel might not sport some of the slick features of models like the LL-T2020 (see the May 03 issue), it is a staggering £1,000 cheaper. Measuring 18in with a 350:1 contrast ratio and a 160-degree viewing angle, this display is designed for general home and office use and comes with digital and analogue inputs, so it can support digital signals from newer PCs. According to Sharp, its sRGB colour management feature makes the LL-T18A1 perfect for applications such as gaming and web surfing. The monitor is available in ivory or black.

□ Sharp: 01923 434 647 □ www.sharp.co.uk □ £426 ex VAT



↓ Sony PCG-Z1SP

Power notebook

Sony extends its range of business notebooks with two models styled around Intel's new Centrino Mobile Technology processor. The PCG-Z1SP and PCG-Z1MP combine a 14.1in screen with a slender chassis that weighs just over 2kg. Finished in a silvery, magnesium casing, they feature a slimline combined DVD/CD-RW drive and include an iLink interface for high-speed audio and video transfers; a MagicGate Memory Stick slot for easy data storage and exchange; an optional port replicator; two USB 2.0 ports (up to 40 times faster than the original USB 1.1 interface); and an ethernet port. The software bundle comprises Sony's PictureGear Studio, SonicStage, Dvgate, MovieShaker, Adobe Premiere 6.0 LE, Photoshop Elements 2.0 and Norton Antivirus 2003. Both models run Windows XP Professional.

□ Sony: 08705 424 424
□ www.vaio.sony-europe.com
□ £1,701 ex VAT

