





POWER AND BUDGET NOTEBOOKS

| Power notebooks | | Last month's position | First reviewed | World-Bench 4 | Price (ex VAT) | Warranty | Processor type/clock speed | RAM | Hard disk capacity | Modem | Network card | Dimensions (width x depth x height) | | Weight | Screen size/ type | Maximum resolution | Graphics card | Graphics memory | Dual-speed processor | DVD drive speed | Internal/ external floppy disk drive | CD-RW read/write/rewrite rate | Battery type | Operating system & other extras | |
|---|---|--|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|-------|--------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|---|
|  | 1 | Hi-Grade Ultinote M6400-1800-I 020 8532 6100 www.higrade.com | 1 | Apr 02 | 118 | £1,509 | 2-year return to base | Intel Pentium 4/ 1.8GHz | 512MB | 40GB | 56K | yes | 313x263x36mm | | 3kg | 14.1in/TFT | 1,024x768 | ATI Mobility M6 | 16MB | N/A | 8x (combo drive) | external | 24x/8x/4x | lithium-ion | Windows XP Home, Office XP SBE |
|  | 2 | Hi-Grade Notino R5400-2000 020 8532 6100 www.higrade.com | 2 | Sep 02 | 91 | £1,509 | 2-year including accidental damage | Intel Mobile Pentium 4/2.0GHz | 384MB | 40GB | 56K | yes | 313x257x30mm | | 2.4kg | 14.1in/TFT | 1,024x768 | S3 ProSavage DDR | 32MB | Intel Speedstep | 8x | optional external | 24x/8x/8x | lithium-ion | Windows XP Home, Works Suite 2002, McAfee AntiVirus, Office SBE |
| | 3 | Dell Inspiron 8200 0870 152 4699 www.dell.co.uk | 3 | Jun 02 | 109 | £1,549 | 1-year collect and return | Intel Mobile Pentium 4/1.7GHz | 256MB | 40GB | 56K | yes | 331x276x45mm | | 3.6kg | 15in/TFT | 1,600x1,200 | nVidia GeForce4 440 Go | 64MB | Intel Speedstep | 8x | internal | 24x/16x/10x | lithium-ion | Windows XP Home, Microsoft Office SBE, WinDVD |
| | 4 | Rock Quaddra 0870 990 9090 www.rockdirect.com | 4 | Sep 02 | 113 | £1,514 | 3-year collect and return | Intel Pentium 4/ 2.4GHz | 512MB | 40GB | 56K | yes | 331x280x44mm | | 3.2kg | 15in/TFT | 1,024x768 | SIS 650 | 32MB | Intel Speedstep | 8x | optional external | 20x/4x/4x | lithium-ion | Windows XP Professional, McAfee Virus Scan 2.0 |
| | 5 | Toshiba Satellite Pro 6100 0870 444 8944 www.toshiba.com | 5 | Jun 02 | 103 | £1,799 | 2-year return to base | Intel Mobile Pentium 4/1.7GHz | 256MB | 40GB | 56K | yes | 330x289x35mm | | 3.1kg | 15in/TFT | 1,024x768 | nVidia GeForce4 420 Go | 32MB | Intel Speedstep | 8x | internal | 24x/8x/8x | lithium-ion | Windows XP Home, WinDVD, Spanworks |
| Budget notebooks | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | 1 | ACI Impression 020 8830 1958 www.aciplc.com | 1 | Oct 02 | 102 | £1,249 | 1-year collect and return | Intel Mobile Pentium 4/1.6GHz | 256MB | 20GB | 56K | yes | 312x266x33mm | | 2.8kg | 14.1in/TFT | 1,024x768 | nVidia GeForce4 420 Go | 32MB | Intel Speedstep | 8x | internal | N/A | lithium-ion | Windows XP Home, Lotus SmartSuite Millennium Edition |
|  | 2 | Mesh Pegasus 14.1 Pro 020 8208 4702 www.meshcomputers.com | 2 | Mar 02 | 82 | £899 | 2-year return to base | AMD Mobile Athlon 4/1.2GHz | 384MB | 20GB | 56K | yes | 308x254x38mm | | 3kg | 14.1in/TFT | 1,024x768 | S3 Twister K | user-definable 8/16/32MB | AMD PowerNow | 8x | internal | N/A | lithium-ion | Windows XP Home, Microsoft Works Suite 2002 |
| | 3 | Fujitsu Amilo M-7300 01344 475 555 www.fujitsu-europe.com | 3 | Sep 02 | 75 | £1,154 | 1-year collect and return | Intel Mobile Pentium 4/1.6GHz | 256MB | 30GB | 56K | yes | 310x255x29mm | | 2.9kg | 15.1in/TFT | 1,024x768 | S3 Pro Savage 8DDR | user-definable 8/16/32MB | Intel Speedstep | 8x | N/A | 24x/8x/4x | lithium-ion | Windows XP Home, Microsoft Works Suite 2002 |
| | 4 | NEC Versa Premium P1200 0870 010 6328 www.nec-online.co.uk | 4 | Jul 02 | 89 | £1,065 | 1-year collect and return | Intel Pentium III/ 1.2GHz | 128MB | 20GB | 56K | yes | 310x265x40mm | | 3.4kg | 14.1in/TFT | 1,024x768 | SIS 630ST | user-definable 8/16MB | n/a | 8x | internal | 24x/8x/8x | lithium-ion | Windows XP Professional, StarOffice, Norton AntiVirus |
| | 5 | HP Pavilion zt 1121s 0870 547 4747 www.hp.co.uk | 5 | May 02 | 68 | £850 | 1-year return to base | Intel Mobile Celeron/ 1.06GHz | 128MB | 20GB | 56K | yes | 318x273x36mm | | 2.6kg | 14.1in/TFT | 1,024x768 | S3 Savage | 32MB | Intel Speedstep | 8x | N/A | N/A | lithium-ion | Windows XP Home, Microsoft Works Suite 2002, Works 6.0 |

POWER NOTEBOOKS

1 Hi-Grade Ultinote M6400-1800-I

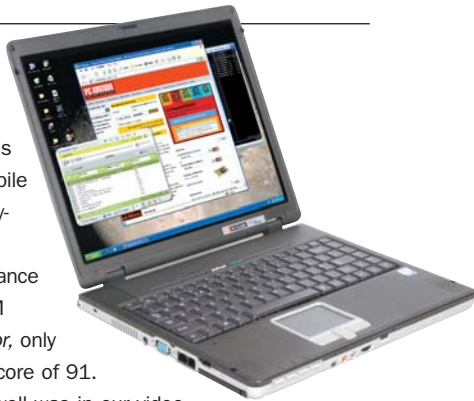
Still at number one is the Hi-Grade Ultinote M6400-1800-I, which uses its 1.8GHz Pentium 4 processor to great effect. The processor is twinned with 512MB of RAM and a 16MB DDR (double data rate) RAM ATI Mobility M6 graphics chip. This sterling setup enabled the Ultinote to pull in a WorldBench 4 score of 118, giving it the fastest performance score in our Power notebook chart and, at just £9 over our starting cost of £1,500, the Ultinote is a worthy winner.

As with all notebooks using a power-hungry desktop processor, battery life is not this model's particular strong point and the Hi-Grade claims a life of just 1.5 hours. However, if you are happy to use the Ultinote as a desktop replacement PC, this won't be a problem. It comes with a 40GB hard drive and a combo DVD/CD-RW drive, offering eight-speed DVD and 24-/eight-/quad-speed (read/write/rewrite) CD-RW facilities. It also features a 14.1in screen capable of a maximum resolution of 1,024x768. In terms of software, the Hi-Grade is bundled with a copy of Windows XP Home and Office XP SBE.

2 Hi-Grade Notino R5400-2000

The Notino bundles Intel's fastest mobile chip into a military-approved chassis. Its 2GHz Mobile Pentium 4's performance failed to better previous P4M machines seen by *PC Advisor*, only managing a WorldBench 4 score of 91. Where the Hi-Grade did fair well was in our video encoding tests – crunching down 500MB of DV (digital video) footage to Mpeg-2 took just 10 minutes 53 seconds. The R5400 is well equipped, bundling 384MB of DDR (double data rate) RAM, a 40GB hard drive, DVD/CD-RW combo drive, three USB 2.0 ports, FireWire and TV-out as standard. There's also optional integrated Bluetooth. The Recommended Notino doesn't offer the highest performance score, but it will cope with life on the road. The keyboard is spill-proof and the machine passes the military 810E standard, covering shock and vibration resistance. Hi-Grade supplements this with a two-year international warranty that even covers accidental damage.

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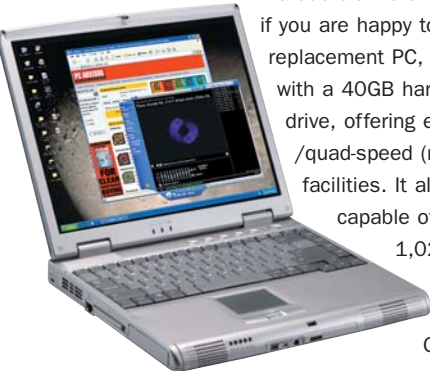
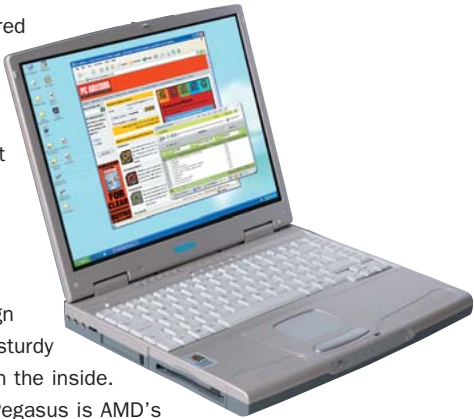
1 ACI Impression

ACI continues to makes an impression, hanging on to its Best Buy award that it stole from our longstanding chart-topper, the Mesh Pegasus, last month. Its outstanding performance is due in part to an unbeatable WorldBench score of 102. This top score can be attributed to the winning combination of a 1.6GHz Mobile Pentium 4 processor, 256MB of RAM and an nVidia GeForce4 420 Go graphics card with 32MB of DDR (double data rate) RAM. The Impression also offers some handy extras including a hotswappable floppy disk, which changes places with the eight-speed DVD-ROM drive. There's also a built-in SmartMedia slot, FireWire port and three USB ports, so adding external devices to the setup is no problem. The screen measures 14.1in and is capable of a maximum resolution of 1,024x768. The Impression offers an attractive package, but what sets it apart from the crowd is its immense speed and top-notch graphics capabilities. As it stands, ACI has won a deserved award this month.

2 Mesh Pegasus 14.1 Pro

Mesh's well-considered package remains our Recommended Budget notebook. Although the Pegasus 14.1 Pro couldn't match the performance of all its competitors and lacks a CD-RW drive, it has many redeeming features. The machine's plain metallic design isn't a head-turner, but it's a sturdy model with plenty of beauty on the inside. At the heart of the Mesh Pegasus is AMD's Mobile Athlon 4 processor, running at a speed of 1.2GHz, which is twinned with 384MB of SDRAM. As the WorldBench 4 score of 82 demonstrates, there's little difference in performance between Intel's and AMD's processors. A 20GB hard drive is standard and there are enough ports to make it a decent desktop replacement, although we'd like to see a FireWire port included. The rest of the specification is reasonable – a DVD drive, user-definable graphics memory and a 14.1in screen.

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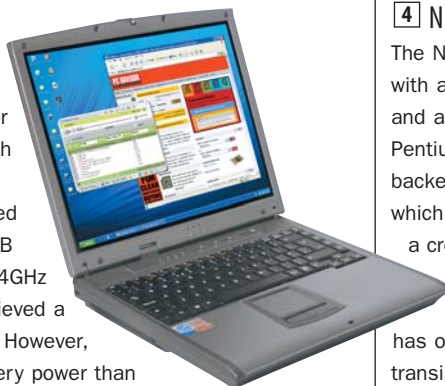
3 Dell Inspiron 8200

The clunky-looking Inspiron operates on a level that is way beyond aesthetics. Its 256MB of RAM is combined with a 40GB hard drive and Speedstep-enhanced Mobile Pentium 4 chip running at 1.7GHz. This specification achieved a WorldBench 4 score of 109 which, although powerful, isn't far ahead of the competition. However, thanks to the new 845MP chipset, the Inspiron has been designed to perform better in multimedia content creation and, as an entertainment system, the 8200 is second to none. The Dell manages to be a decent business performer and entertainment system in one, while defying the standard specifications of both. Another bonus is that Dell has recently reduced the price of the Inspiron 8200 to £1,549, so it's slightly more affordable.



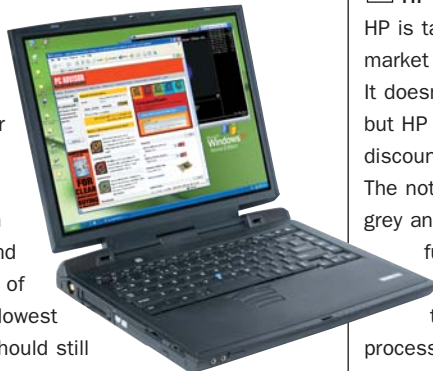
4 Rock Quaddra

Rather than taking the usual Mobile processor route, Rock has opted for a desktop Pentium 4 processor in its Quaddra notebook. With 512MB of DDR (double data rate) RAM, 32MB of dedicated graphics memory and a 40GB hard drive backing up the 2.4GHz Pentium 4, the machine achieved a WorldBench 4 score of 113. However, the P4 consumes more battery power than Intel's Mobile offering and runs at a higher temperature. The Quaddra's screen offers good-quality visuals, and the DVD/CD-RW combo drive provides extra backup and entertainment. If you want a notebook that will sit on your desktop and you're not particular worried about battery life the Rock is a good buy, especially with its three-year warranty.



5 Toshiba Satellite Pro 6100

The Toshiba may look like a giant compared to some of the sleek offerings in the Power notebook chart, but it's what's on the inside that counts. The 6100 houses a Mobile Pentium processor running at 1.7GHz and pulled in a WorldBench 4 score of 103. This may be the second-slowest in the chart, but the Satellite should still prove powerful enough. The Toshiba also boasts a top-notch graphics setup, with a 15in TFT display combined with nVidia's GeForce4 420 Go graphics mobile chipset. Overall, the Satellite Pro is a decent desktop replacement – if you've got the money, that is. At £1,799 this hefty portable is too expensive to sit further up the table.



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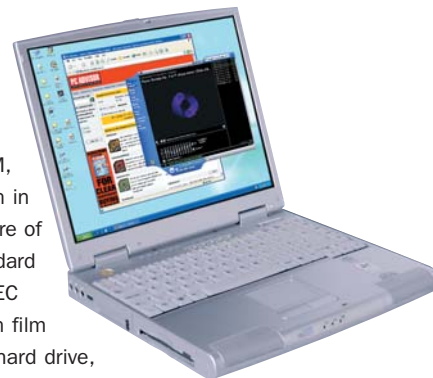
3 Fujitsu Amilo M-7300

The Amilo M-7300 just misses out on a Recommended award and has to make do with the number three position. The Fujitsu's WorldBench 4 score of 75 may be average but the review model we looked at only had 128MB of DDR (double data rate) RAM. Production units will be sent out with 256MB so expect better performance. Inside the Amilo you'll find a Mobile Pentium 4 chip running at 1.6GHz, a 30GB hard drive, combo DVD/CD-RW drive and, although there's no floppy disk, you will find a memory card slot. The lid overhangs slightly to accommodate a large, crisp 15.1in screen which is well complemented by the graphics chipset. The Amilo M-7300 comes with XP Home and the handy bonus of a good software package. We'd like to see a better warranty than a one-year collect-and-return, though.



4 NEC Versa Premium P1200

The NEC Versa Premium comes with a combo DVD/CD-RW drive and a slightly ageing 1.2GHz Pentium III processor. This is backed up by 128MB of SDRAM, which helped the system to turn in a creditable WorldBench 4 score of 89. As is becoming standard in a Budget notebook, NEC has opted for a 14.1in TFT (thin film transistor) screen and a 20GB hard drive, which is all wrapped up in an attractive matt silver case. Although the P1200's price tag is starting to look reasonable, it doesn't back this up with outstanding performance. On saying this, it is a reasonable powerful machine and has the added security of coming from a reputable brand.



5 HP Pavilion zt 1121s

HP is targeting the home and student market with its Pavilion zt 1121s. It doesn't run to a floppy drive, but HP offers you the option of a discount on an external USB unit. The notebook has an attractive grey and silver finish and some funky purple lights around the touchpad. Performance from the 1.06GHz Mobile Celeron processor twinned with 128MB of RAM, a 20GB hard drive and S3 Savage graphics card is not the best by any means – it could only achieve a WorldBench 4 rating of 68. However, what prevents this low score from taking the HP out of the chart altogether is its equally low price. You can get more for your money if you shop around, but not from a brand with such a good record for quality.

