

new products

As ever, there are plenty of new gadgets on the market this month, so you might want to consider expanding your home or office setup. To help you make up your mind, we bring you news of some of the more striking product releases

TO BE
REVIEWED

Kodak DX4300 EasyShare

Digital camera

The DX4300 is the first digital camera in the EasyShare range to feature Kodak's new 4.5cm (1.8in) indoor/outdoor LCD (liquid crystal display), designed to improve picture capture in direct sunlight. The 3.1Mp (megapixel) device features Kodak's Retinar aspheric all-glass 3x optical

zoom and a 3.3x advanced digital zoom. It also includes a Share button, which allows users to mark pictures for easy printing and emailing, or to tag their favourites to help find them once they are downloaded on the PC.

The DX4300 stores up to 32 email addresses, so pictures can be tagged and emailed, while a docking port makes transferring pictures easy. A host of digital imaging software is supplied and it can also play back video with sound.

Kodak: 0870 243 0270

Website: www.kodak.co.uk

Price: £247 ex VAT



TO BE
REVIEWED

Fujifilm A202, A303 and A304

Digital camera range

Fujifilm's latest range of digital cameras incorporates the newly developed xD (Extreme Digital) storage card. It is about the size of a stamp and weighs just 2g, so cameras built around it can be compact and lightweight. The low-end FinePix A202 will be a 2Mp (megapixel) model, featuring a 2.5x digital zoom and a basic movie mode with no audio. The A303 offers 3x optical zoom, while the A304 (pictured) offers the same resolution but with a 6x optical zoom and a slightly larger LCD monitor and movie-recording mode. At present xD's maximum storage capacity is 128MB, with 256MB cards planned for launch around December. There are 1GB and 8GB versions in the pipeline for 2003.

Fujifilm: 020 7586 1477

Website: www.fujifilm.co.uk

Price: A202 approx £136, A303 approx £298, A304 approx £383 ex VAT

NEC Versa P440

Budget notebook

NEC's Versa P440 is aimed at the mobile business user. It houses a Mobile P4 processor, running at speeds of up to 2GHz, and a 40GB hard disk, although this can be upgraded to include a further 40GB. The Versa features a 14.1in TFT (thin film transistor) XGA display, though TV-out and VGA-out capabilities mean you can view images through a television or monitor. There is a choice of CD-ROM, DVD-ROM or DVD/CD-RW drive

and the P440 comes with up to 1GB of DDR (double data rate) RAM. The machine's eight-cell lithium-ion battery has a claimed life of 3.6 hours.

NEC: 0870 010 6322

Website: www.nec.co.uk

Price: £1,059 ex VAT



CSR B090S1

Bluetooth voicebox

The CSR B090S1 connects to any Bluetooth-enabled mobile phone to provide a microphone and speaker for in-car hands-free operation. You might think this doesn't sound very special,

but the system works even when the mobile is in your bag or your back pocket. The small box, which measures 63x92x25mm, is compliant with version 1.1 of the Bluetooth specification and is powered via your car's cigarette lighter.

The voicebox is a Class 2 device, which means you can connect with mobile phones within a 10m range – more than adequate for an average stretched limo. An automatic setting on the CSR lets calls be answered and immediately put through to the hands-free option, while a mute button allows privacy.

Flint Distribution: 01530 510 333

Website: www.csr.com

Price: approx £40 ex VAT



Formac Studio DV

FireWire video capture device

The Formac Studio DV allows Mac and PC users to capture and create video and sound recordings in professional DV (digital video) quality from analogue and digital devices. It's the easiest way to turn your computer into a video-editing suite. By simply connecting to a VCR, camcorder or DVD player the Studio DV will capture full screen movies straight to a PC or Mac at up to 30fps (frames per second). The Studio DV can also convert analogue movies into high-quality DVD footage to allow users to edit them and, if required, record them back to videotape. It has two FireWire interfaces and Formac claims it sustains data transfer rates of up to 400Mbps (megabits per second). The capture device is compatible with Adobe Premiere 6.0 and Final Cut Pro video-editing software.

Computer Warehouse: 020 8400 1234

Website: www.formac.co.uk

Price: £299 ex VAT



Sharp LL-T1520 and LL-T1620

Flat-panel monitors

Sharp's low-end flat-panel monitors, which come in black or grey, incorporate anti-reflection, anti-glare, black TFT (thin film transistor) technology and Sharp's ASV (advanced super view) which promises wider viewing angles. The 16in SXGA LL-T1620 model has a premium 1.3 megapixel display, which Sharp says offers 50 percent more dots than the 15in model. The 16in model has a top resolution of 1,280x1,024, while the 15in LL-T1520 offers 1,024x768. Both monitors come with an impressive claimed backlight life of 50,000 hours. This is enabled by the inclusion of the UHA (ultra high aperture) feature, which allows more light to be transmitted through the panel delivering, Sharp says, improved power consumption and higher brightness levels. Weighing 4.9kg and taking up minimal desk space, both units also feature built-in speakers and microphones.

Sharp: 01923 434 647

Website: www.sharp.co.uk

Price: from £425 ex VAT

Canon Bubble Jet S530D

Inkjet printer

The Canon S530D offers 2,400x1,200dpi (dots per inch) photo printing and claimed print speeds of up to 14ppm (pages per minute) in mono and 10ppm

in colour. It can print photos directly from the memory card within a Canon digital camera, without the need to connect up to a PC. Canon says it's capable of printing a 1,200x1,200dpi A4 image in approximately 1.5 minutes. The Bubble Jet offers the option of borderless printing on A4 paper, creating the look and feel of a real photograph. Featuring Canon's single-ink technology, it uses individual colour ink tanks so you don't have to replace the whole cartridge when just one colour runs out. From the control panel users can select print quality, paper type and image layout. To help select the correct images an optional colour LCD viewing panel is available on which you can view images held on the memory card during the selection process.

Canon: 0870 608 8855

Website: www.canon.co.uk

Price: approx £212; LCD panel approx £76 ex VAT



TO BE REVIEWED

Iridium Starlite LM95

Digital projector

With a maximum projection distance of 15m and image size up to 300in, the Starlite LM95 is designed to bring bright, clear presentations to your boardroom, lecture hall, training centre or conference room. It offers a maximum brightness rating of 2,000 Ansi lumens, native XGA (1,024x768) resolution, plus Micro Tuning Technology to help ensure crisp, detailed images. Hi-Fi LCD Drive Technology regulates signal quality and bandwidth, which should add up to a stable image. The Iridium has a 400:1 contrast ratio and its 200W lamp is claimed to last 2,000 hours.

Iridium: 08702 200 582

Website: www.iridium-uk.com

Price: £2,299 ex VAT



Creative SBS250

Speakers

Creative has a new addition to its range of PC speaker sets, the SBS250. These Creative models are aimed at the cost-conscious consumer thanks to their super-low price tag. The specifications are what you would expect at entry-level with two-channel audio at 2.5W RMS (root mean square) per channel. They also feature rear bass ports, designed to offer extra depth to output. To make the SBS250 speakers easier to use, all the controls are mounted on the front, as is the headphone socket, so plugging in cables isn't too fiddly. The speakers have magnetic shielding to prevent interference from nearby monitors. A smart black finish and attractive design mean that despite their low cost Creative's speakers don't look downmarket.

Creative: <http://uk.europe.creative.com>

Price: £12.75 ex VAT

Ultra Cordless Optical Mouse

Mouse

Gyration is making big claims for its latest cordless optical mouse, the Ultra. The wireless rodent has been designed for use both on and off the desktop, and the company says it will operate up to 25ft away from its base station. It can even be used in the air.

The Ultra Cordless Optical Mouse communicates via radio wave technology and can report data back at 80Hz, which Gyration says results in smoother tracking and a faster response rate. Another clever addition is a rechargeable battery that comes with a desktop charger. Gyration also produces an Ultra Cordless Optical Suite which adds a wireless keyboard to the package. The keyboard features the same long-range capabilities as the mouse and offers internet and multimedia hotkeys. Both are finished in black and silver, so look a bit more stylish than your average beige peripherals.

Gyration: 020 8282 6022

Website:

www.gyration.com

Price: £62; Ultra

Cordless Optical Suite

£84 ex VAT



Umax Astra 4700

Flatbed scanner

The Astra 4700 is one of the new breed of scanners to come on to the market boasting a fast USB 2.0 port. This new technology promises data transfer speeds up to 40 times faster than the old USB 1.1 standard, while retaining the easy plug-and-play operation.

Of course, you can only take advantage of the higher speeds the Astra 4700 offers if your PC is similarly equipped with a USB 2.0 port. Fortunately, though, the new standard is backwards-compatible, so you'll still be able to use this scanner with an old USB 1.1 port – you just won't see the same boost in performance. The specifications of the Astra include a top optical resolution of 1,200x2,400dpi (dots per inch), which can be software interpolated up to a huge 19,200dpi. You can choose between colour bit depths of either 24 or 48bit and there are three one-button commands

which allow you to automatically scan,

print or email

images. It comes

bundled with MGI

PhotoSuite II SE.

Abbyy FineReader

Sprint and PaperCom

Document Manager.

Umax: 0870 906 4400

Website: www.umax.co.uk

Price: £85



Symantec Norton AntiVirus 2003

Antivirus software

The year 2003 has come a few months early in the world of Norton AntiVirus, as Symantec has already announced this latest version of the software. The new edition includes automatic removal of malicious code and virus protection for email and instant messages. It also promises to keep virus definitions up to date without any user intervention. The new instant messenger scanner will check out messages from Yahoo and AOL Instant Messenger as well as MSN and Windows Messenger programs. An exclusive worm-blocking technology is designed to keep your PC safe from email worms like Nimda and Badtrans, stopping them before they spread via outgoing messages.

Symantec claims that the software can remove nasties like Trojan horses and worm viruses without stopping the user from working.

A Professional edition adds data recover and cleaning features to the basic package.

Symantec: 020 761 65600

Website: www.symantec.com/region/reg_eu

Price: Basic £34, upgrade £21; Professional

£42.54, upgrade £25

