

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	AJP 8880 020 8208 9710 www.ajp.co.uk	NEW	Nov 02	112	£1,675	2-year return to base	Intel Pentium 4/2.5GHz	512MB	60GB	56K	yes	360x300x55mm	5.5kg	15.7in/TFT	1,280x1,024	ATI Mobility Radeon 7500	64MB	n/a	8x	internal	24x/14x/8x	lithium-ion	Windows XP Professional
3	Hi-Grade Notino R5400-2000 020 8532 6100 www.higrade.com	2	Sep 02	91	£1,509	2-year inc accidental damage	Intel Mobile Pentium 4/2GHz	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
4	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
5	AJP 5600P 020 8208 9710 www.ajp.co.uk	NEW	Nov 02	99	£1,725	2-year return to base	Intel Pentium 4/2.6GHz	1GB DDR	60GB	56K	yes	330x290x45mm	4.5kg	15in/TFT	1,400x1,050	ATI Mobility Radeon 7500	64MB	n/a	8x	external	24x/8x/8x	lithium-ion	Windows XP Home
Budget notebooks																							
1	Multivision Visage 0870 220 2822 www.multivision.co.uk	NEW	Nov 02	108	£979	1-year return to base	Intel Mobile Pentium 4/1.8GHz	256MB	30GB	56K	yes	312x266x33mm	2.7kg	14.1in/TFT	1,024x768	nVidia GeForce4 MX 420 Go	32MB DDR RAM	Intel Speedstep	8x	internal	24x/8x/8x	lithium-ion	Windows XP Home
2	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	32GB	56K	yes	312x266x33mm	2.8kg	14.1in/TFT	1,024x768	nVidia GeForce4 420 Go	32MB DDR RAM	Intel Speedstep	8x	internal	n/a	lithium-ion	Windows XP Home, Lotus SmartSuite Millennium Edition
3	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
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 8/16/32MB	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, it is a very 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 comes bundled with a copy of Windows XP Home alongside Office XP SBE.

2 AJP 8880

The 8880 is as fully featured as you can get, sporting a 2.5GHz Pentium 4 desktop chip, 512MB of DDR (double data rate) memory plus built-in floppy, CD-RW and DVD-ROM drives. The 8880 is huge featuring a full-size keyboard and weighing a hefty 5.5kg. However, the desktop-replacement 8880 isn't meant to be carted around very often. AJP's 15.7in screen is a pleasure to use, offering a native resolution of 1,280x1,024. ATI's Mobility Radeon 7500 graphics controller means you can expect smooth DVD playback and comfortably run 3D games. Using the supplied software, you can also watch TV in full-screen mode, capture full-motion video and read Teletext pages. There's even a remote control. The feature list doesn't stop there. AJP has thrown in a USB MP3 player that also doubles as a removable disk. With a price tag of £1,675 the feature set and good performance show, little has been compromised. There are a few niggles, such as the slightly dark display and the so-so build quality, but as far as defining what a true desktop replacement is the AJP comes close.

→ Turn to page 128 to continue the Power notebooks chart



BUDGET NOTEBOOKS

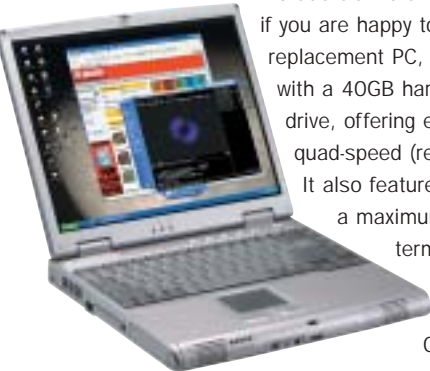
1 Multivision Visage

Rather than turning to Taiwan to find its portables, dependable desktop stalwart Multivision has looked closer to home and is rebadging Italian Olidata notebooks. This looks set to be a wise choice as the Visage, with its 1.8GHz Mobile Pentium 4 processor – the fastest we have seen in the Budget price range – 256MB of DDR (double data rate) RAM and 32MB DDR GeForce4 MX 420 Go graphics card has roundly beaten the competition. Its WorldBench 4 score of 108 speeds past last month's winner, ACI's Impression; indeed, it even beats two of our Power notebooks. You might think that with all this power under the hood the Visage would cost a bomb, but you'd be wrong. Perhaps with the help of its Italian suppliers, Multivision has matched its winning performance with a seductively low price. Well done Multivision: for a first effort this knocked our socks off. The build quality isn't the best we've seen and it's short on extras, but for sheer performance at an extremely affordable price the Visage can't be beaten.

2 ACI Impression

ACI drops to second position this month, but is still worthy of its Recommended award. Its WorldBench score of 102 may have been beaten by the Visage, but the Impression is still a speedy system. It houses 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. This is combined with 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.

→ Turn to page 128 to continue the Budget notebooks chart

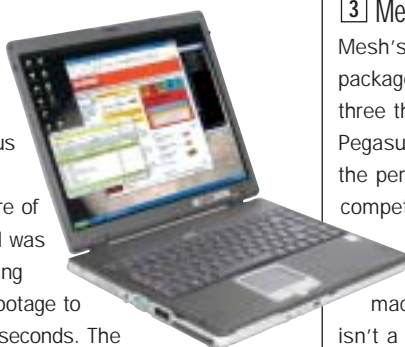




## POWER NOTEBOOKS

### [3] Hi-Grade Notino R5400-2000

The Notino bundles Intel's fastest mobile chip into a military-approved chassis. Its 2GHz processor'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 it 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 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.



### [4] 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.



### [5] AJP 5600P

The 5600P's chip runs at a beefy 2.6GHz and is supported by a whopping 1GB of DDR (double data rate) memory. However, when it came to testing, the 5600P's WorldBench score was 99, which is slower than its lower-specified sibling the 8880. Performance aside, the 15.1in TFT (thin film transistor) is sharp, bright and supports a native resolution of 1,400x1,050. The 5600P offers an ample 60GB hard drive and all the usual ports, including mini FireWire, SPDIF-out, four USB ports, a single Type II PC Card slot and infrared. By foregoing the floppy drive, AJP has restricted the weight and size of its system so it's a realistic desktop replacement. It's more expensive than the 8880, but power users fed up with their beige boxes should definitely be drawn to the high-end processor/memory combo.



## BUDGET NOTEBOOKS

### [3] Mesh Pegasus 14.1 Pro

Mesh's well-considered package falls to number three this month. 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.



### [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 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 reasonably 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.

