

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



Pentax Optio 330 RS and 430 RS

Digital cameras

Pentax has expanded its Optio range of digital cameras with the release of the new Optio 330 RS and 430 RS. They may be the smallest and lightest digital cameras

in the series, but these Optio devices still boast several new features. There's a 3D mode that allows for 3D photographs to be taken and seen through a special viewer, a Slim filter enables the user to stretch or narrow the image as required, while the improved firmware ensures a faster second shot. The 330 RS and 440 RS models offer resolutions of 3.2Mp and 4Mp (megapixels) respectively, sport a 3x zoom lens and are equipped with an improved 1.6in higher resolution LCD (liquid crystal display) monitor.

Pentax: 01753 729 731

Website: www.pentax.co.uk

Price: £340 Optio 330 RS; £426 440 RS



Rock Xeno-m 2GHz

Budget notebook

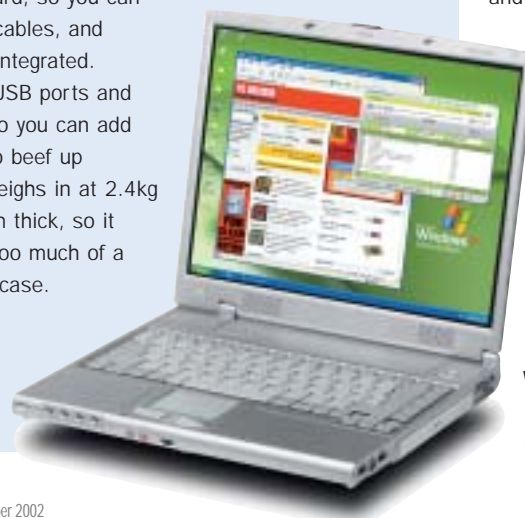
Rock aims to combine power with portability in the latest addition to its Xeno range of notebooks. The devices in the Xeno-m series are powered by Intel's Mobile Pentium 4 processors running at up to 2.2GHz, which can be backed by up to 1GB of DDR (double data rate) RAM for top performance. The hard drive offers 60GB of storage and the notebooks are equipped with a combo DVD/CD-RW drive and 14in TFT (thin film transistor) screen. Wireless technology is built in as standard, so you can network without cables, and ethernet is also integrated. There are three USB ports and a FireWire port so you can add external extras to beef up functionality. It weighs in at 2.4kg and is just 25mm thick, so it shouldn't make too much of a dent in your briefcase.

Rock: 08709 909 090

Website:

www.rockdirect.com

Price: from £999



InFocus LP240/ASK C40 and LP250/ASK C50

Digital projectors

InFocus is attempting to move the projector out of the boardroom and into smaller businesses and the education market. With this in mind it has released the LP240/ASK C40 and LP250/ASK C50, which are designed to be both affordable and easy to use. The models, which look identical, offer brightness ratings of 1,000 and 1,100 Ansi lumens respectively. Each can be connected up to a PC, VCR or DVD player to offer a home cinema setup. Both models include Projector Manager software offering users extensive control over all the image settings. Weighing in at 2.6kg these projectors are fairly portable, so you can take your show on the road if you like.

InFocus: 01628 666 6622

Website: www.infocus.com

Prices: £1,250 LP240/ASK C40; £1,800 LP250/ASK C50



Visioneer Photoport TV 100

Digital image viewer

Visioneer has digital camera users in its sights with the release of the Photoport TV 100. It allows you to view and edit your shots directly on a TV screen, with no need for a PC. It consists of an intelligent card viewer, a wireless keyboard, remote control, power adapter and video cable. You can transfer images from your camera's memory card to your television screen, where you can view and edit them. The device enables you to add captions, backgrounds and titles to pictures and to create an annotated catalogue of personalised photos. Once you have compiled and edited your photo album, it can be shown on TV and stored on video tape or memory card. This flexibility makes it possible to share your photos via a range of devices.

Visioneer: 01483 445 480

Website: www.visioneer-europe.com

Price: £85



NEC-Mitsubishi MultiSync LCD1550ME

Flat-panel display

The latest entry in the NEC-Mitsubishi range of 15in flat-panel monitors is the multimedia MultiSync LCD1550ME. The display includes two adjustable stereo speakers that will help cut down on desktop clutter and a headphone connector for quiet work. A pixel pitch of 0.30mm and contrast ratio of 400:1 should give a decent picture quality and there is a fast-switching mode to ensure smooth playback of DVD movies and video clips. The recommended resolution is 1,024x768 at a refresh rate of 75Hz and it offers a viewing angle of 120 degrees. With a new slim bezel design at 345x162x362mm and weighing 3.9kg, the LCD1550ME would be a light, compact addition to any desk.

NEC-Mitsubishi: 020 7202 6300

Website: www.nec-mitsubishi.com

Price: £285



HP Pavilion 442 PC and zt1231s

Desktop and notebook PC

HP has been busy updating its line-up following its merger with Compaq and two of the latest models off the blocks are the Pavilion 442 desktop PC (pictured) and the Pavilion zt1231s notebook. Both are aimed at the consumer market, in particular students. The 442 uses an Athlon XP 1800+ processor and comes with 256MB of RAM, 40GB hard drive, DVD-ROM and a CD-RW drive for backups. It is bundled with a good selection of Microsoft software. The zt1231s is a more portable solution. Reflecting its budget price it has a 1.33GHz Mobile Celeron processor, 256MB of RAM, a 20GB hard drive and integrated graphics. There's a 14.1in TFT (thin-film transistor) screen, a combo DVD/CD-RW drive and a good software bundle.

HP: 08705 474 747

Website: www.hp.com/uk

Prices: £680 HP Pavilion 442 PC; £1,020 zt1231s



Pure Digital DigiTheatre Platinum

Speakers



Pure Digital DigiTheatre Platinum employs an advanced 5.1 surround sound speaker system and can decode Dolby Digital, Pro Logic and DTS soundtracks. While this digital home cinema audio

setup shall pump out pretty big sounds, it has been designed to be discreet enough to fit easily into your living room. It has five dedicated speakers, a subwoofer, high-performance surround sound processor and a multichannel amplifier. The speakers are made from an acoustically non-resonant material to keep sound pure, while the subwoofer is an 8in long-throw model to allow enhanced low-frequency effects. The whole unit is finished in silver with a blue LCD (liquid crystal display) on the centre speaker and is bundled with a remote control. The Platinum can also be used with Xbox and PS2 games consoles. Pure Digital: 01923 277 488

Website: www.pure-digital.com

Price: £468



Olympus Camedia C-730 Ultra Zoom

Digital camera

Olympus has added the Camedia C-730 Ultra Zoom to its digital camera range. This 3Mp (megapixel) model, which aims to get you up close and personal with your subject, has an amazing 10x optical zoom that can be hiked even higher, should you need to, using the 3x digital zoom.

The Camedia C-730 is one of the first digital cameras to use the new xD-Picture Card memory format and comes bundled with a 16MB card. As an extra, Olympus claims you can use the 0.44in LCD (liquid crystal display) screen on the back of the camera to edit your images before downloading to a PC. You can use the display to crop and resize images directly on the camera. The Camedia has four My Mode settings, which allow you to store your own exposure programs and access them at the touch of a button.

Olympus: 08000 720 070

Website: www.olympus.co.uk

Price: £383

