

TOP 10 POWER AND BUDGET NOTEBOOKS

Power notebooks		Last month's position	First reviewed	PC World-Bench	Price	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	Dell Inspiron 8100 0870 907 5668 www.dell.co.uk	1	Oct 01	210 (2000)	£1,999	1-year collect and return	Intel Mobile Pentium III/ 1.13GHz	256MB	48GB	56K	Y	326x276x44mm	3.3kg	15in/TFT	1,600x1,200	nVidia GeForce2 Go	32MB	Intel Speedstep	6x (combo drive)	internal	24x/4x/4x (combo drive)	lithium-ion	Windows 2000 Professional, Microsoft Office XP SBE
2	Compaq Evo N600c 0845 270 4222 www.compaq.co.uk	NEW	Feb 02	103 (WB4)	£1,537	3-year parts and labour	Intel Mobile Pentium III/ 1.06GHz	128MB	20GB	56K	Y	305x249x30mm	2.7kg	14.1in/TFT	1,024x768	ATI Radeon Mobility	16MB	Intel Speedstep	8x (combo drive)	N/A	N/A	lithium-ion	Windows 2000 Professional
3	Samsung GT9000+ 020 8862 9311 www.samsung.com	2	Nov 01	193 (2000)	£1,999	1-year collect and return	Intel Mobile Pentium III/ 1.13GHz	256MB	30GB	56K	Y	325x269x37mm	3.2kg	15in/TFT	1,280x1,024	ATI Radeon Mobility	16MB	Intel Speedstep	8x (combo drive)	internal	24x/8x/4x (combo drive)	lithium-ion	Windows 2000 Professional, Norton AntiVirus
4	Fujitsu Celsius Mobile A 01344 475 555 www.fujitsu-siemems.co.uk	3	Jan 02	106 (WB4)	£2,411	3-year parts and labour	Intel Mobile Pentium III/ 1.13GHz	256MB	30GB	56K	Y	340x278x40mm	3.1kg	15in/TFT	1,400x1,050	ATI Mobility Radeon M6	32MB	Intel Speedstep	8x	internal	24x/12x/4x	lithium-ion	Windows Me, Easy CD Creator
5	Pico Professional 0870 729 6199 www.picosystems.co.uk	4	Nov 01	192 (2000)	£1,500	1-year return to base	Intel Pentium III flip chip/ 1GHz	512MB	30GB	56K	Y	358x280x50mm	4.2kg	15.1in/TFT	1,400x1,050	ATI 3D Rage Pro	16MB	N/A	8x	internal	N/A	lithium-ion	Windows 2000
Budget notebooks																							
1	Atlas Flyer 3400 1.2T Celeron 020 8532 6111 www.hi-grade.com	1	Jan 02	91 (WB4)	£1,099	1-year collect and return	Intel Tualatin Celeron/ 1.2GHz	256MB	30GB	56K	Y	315x256x39mm	2.9kg	14.1in/TFT	1,024x768	Sis 630/730	user-definable 8/16/32MB	N/A	8x	internal	40x/6x/4x	lithium-ion	Windows XP, Office XP
2	AJP 4600 020 8208 9744 www.ajp.co.uk	NEW	Feb 02	73 (WB4)	£1,399	1-year return to base	Intel Mobile Pentium III/ 1.13GHz	512MB	20GB	56K	Y	312x273x38mm	3.5kg	14.1in/TFT	1,024x768	Integrated ATI M6-P	32MB DDR RAM	Y	8x	internal	24x/4x/4x	lithium-ion	Windows XP Professional, MS Works 6.0
3	Hi-Grade Notino T9400 020 8532 6111 www.higrade.com	2	Dec 01	162 (2000)	£1,249	1-year collect and return	Intel Mobile Pentium III/ 1GHz	256MB	30GB	56K	Y	310x255x29mm	2.2kg	14.1in/TFT	1,024x768	onboard	shared 8/16/32MB	Y	8x	internal	N/A	lithium-ion	Windows Me, Power DVD, McAfee AntiVirus
4	Rock Sigma Si 0870 990 9090 www.rockdirect.com	NEW	Feb 02	85 (WB4)	£1,349	1-year collect and return	Intel Mobile Pentium III/ 1.2GHz	512MB	30GB	56K	Y	308x254x38mm	3.2kg	14.1in/TFT	1,024x768	Sis 630S onboard	user-definable 8/16/32MB	N/A	8x	internal	24x/4x/4x	lithium-ion	Windows XP Home McAfee AntiVirus Scan
5	Packard Bell Easy One Silver 3100 01628 508 200 www.packardbell.co.uk	3	Dec 01	148 (2000)	£1,155	1-year collect and return	Intel Pentium III flip chip/1GHz	256MB	20GB	56K	Y	310x256x40mm	3.4kg	14.1in/TFT	1,024x768	onboard	shared 8/16/32MB	N/A	8x	internal	N/A	NiMH	Windows Me, MGI PhotoSuite, Norton AntiVirus

TOP 10 POWER NOTEBOOKS

1 Dell Inspiron 8100

Dell just can't be toppled from our top slot, and continues to sit pretty above the rest of the competition. The Inspiron 8100 is one of the most worthy winners of a Best Buy award we've ever seen, and is without doubt the best Power notebook to pass through our Test Centre. It may not be the most portable device around, nor the most stylish, but the Dell's speed is absolutely astonishing, making it the first mobile PC to leave many of the fastest desktops for dust.

The Inspiron 8100 is powered by Intel's latest incarnation of the Mobile Pentium III, running at 1.13GHz – the fastest mobile processor on the market today. This is backed up by 256MB of RAM, a 48GB hard drive and a 32MB GeForce2 Go graphics card. Dell's outstanding hardware setup won the Inspiron 8100 a WorldBench 2000 score of 210. What's more, space is saved by the choice of a DVD-ROM/CD-RW combination drive, offering six-speed DVD playback and quad-speed CD-rewriting.

2 Compaq Evo N600c

In the past, Compaq was synonymous with high price and poor performance. However, with the Evo N600c, it finally seems to have shaken off this unflattering image.

The Evo is a good looking, slimline notebook that offers top performance for a reasonable price. It houses a 1.06GHz Mobile Pentium III processor, 128MB of RAM and a 16MB ATI Mobility Radeon graphics card – all of which adds up to a WorldBench 4 score of 103, the second highest in our chart.

The top-quality screen is completed by a 20GB hard drive and eight-speed DVD-ROM. The latter can be swapped for a variety of other drives, such as CD-RW or a combo drive, or you can opt for a second battery instead. The Evo N600c is an affordable, high performance notebook. It is slim and light enough to remain portable, but it is equally useable on the desktop. The range of options make it flexible enough to meet all business needs.

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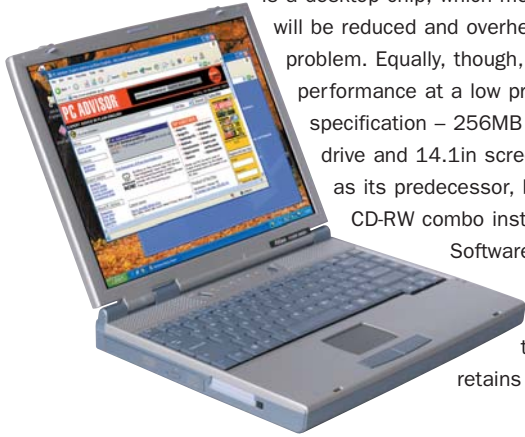
TOP 10 BUDGET NOTEBOOKS

1 Atlas Flyer 3400 1.2T Celeron

Last month, Atlas updated its Flyer notebook by replacing the Windows 2000 operating system with Windows XP Home. This change in OS did mean it ran our tests a little slower, but it still has the highest WorldBench 4 score of 91. However, the Flyer 3400 1.2T Celeron still manages to reach number one in our Top 10 Budget notebook chart, as this is unlikely to make a significant difference to the Flyer's performance.

The Atlas houses a 1.2GHz Intel Celeron processor. This is a desktop chip, which means battery life will be reduced and overheating could be a problem. Equally, though, you do get a good performance at a low price. The rest of the specification – 256MB of RAM, 30GB hard drive and 14.1in screen – is the same as its predecessor, but there's a DVD/CD-RW combo instead of a DVD-ROM.

Software comes courtesy of Office XP. Although not a major upgrade, the new Flyer 3400 retains the Best Buy award.



2 AJP 4600

The AJP 4600 combines a solid performance with some unique and innovative features. As an added bonus, the AJP is also one of the more attractive Budget notebooks we've seen, although it is rather bulky.

The 4600's components more than back up its good looks. It has a 1.13GHz Intel Mobile Pentium III chip – the fastest mobile processor in the chart – 512MB of RAM and a 20GB hard drive. In terms of graphics, you get an ATI M6-P chip with 32MB of DDR (double data rate) RAM. This top-notch specification worked together to win the AJP 4600 a WorldBench 4 score of 73. This may not be the fastest score in the chart, but it is still good enough to speed through everyday tasks.

The most interesting addition to the 4600 are the slots for SD (Secure Digital) and Memory Stick media, and the FireWire port. The AJP has everything needed to win our Recommended award: looks, performance and a few nice extras.

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TOP 10 POWER NOTEBOOKS

3 Samsung GT9000+

Samsung's GT9000+ is pushed down to number three this month. The GT9000+ is the third notebook we've seen using Intel's nippy 1.13GHz Mobile Pentium III processor. Along with 256MB of RAM and the 16MB ATI Mobility Radeon graphics card, the Samsung attained 193, the third highest score in the WorldBench 2000 test. The GT9000+ also includes fingerprint recognition. You may think this is just a gimmick, and for some users this level of security will be overkill. However, if you use your notebook to store sensitive information you'll be thankful of this protection.



4 Fujitsu Celsius Mobile A

Fujitsu has been very security conscious with the Celsius Mobile A. It incorporates a Bios-lock password system, hard disk protection, fingerprint recognition and support for smartcards. In our WorldBench 2000 test it scored 212, the highest score so far. However, the unit we tested came with Windows 2000 installed, whereas when it ships it will have Me. This operating system doesn't tend to turn in such a good score. At £2,411 the Celsius is expensive, and it's only down to the Fujitsu's excellent performance and array of features that it makes our chart at all.



5 Pico Professional

Pico's Professional is no oil painting, but it does have a lot to offer. Not least of its qualities is a 1GHz Pentium III flip chip, a massive 512MB of RAM, 30GB hard drive and a 16MB ATI 3D Rage Pro graphics card. This setup delivered a WorldBench 2000 score of 192. The Pico Professional offers a full keyboard, including the numeric keys normally missing from a notebook, plus a floppy drive and eight-speed DVD-ROM drive. If you want a powerful desktop replacement notebook for a good price, the Pico is a great choice.



TOP 10 BUDGET NOTEBOOKS

3 Hi-Grade Notino T9400

The Notino T9400 follows Hi-Grade's reputation for introducing cutting-edge technologies, backing up powerful specs with original features. The Mobile Pentium III processor, 256MB of SDRAM and 30GB hard drive result in our highest WorldBench 2000 score of 162.

Hi-Grade has opted for Intel's 815EM integrated graphics, which use between 1MB and 11MB of system memory. The floppy and eight-speed DVD-ROM drives are external, but it does have a strong 14.1in screen. Another bonus is the removable MP3 that can be slotted into the front of the notebook and holds about an hour's worth of music.



4 Rock Sigma Si

Rock's range of Sigma Si notebooks are usually favourites in our Budget notebooks chart. However, this month's offering hasn't managed to reach the dizzy heights of its predecessors. This is not because the Sigma isn't an impressive notebook, but is due to the ever-stiff competition. The Rock is a speedy performer, with a WorldBench 4 score of 85. It uses a 1.2GHz Pentium III flip chip processor, combined with 512MB of RAM and a 30GB hard drive. However, despite its decent specification line-up, its relatively high price keeps it at number four.



5 Packard Bell Easy One Silver 3100

The Easy One Silver 3100 drops from number three to five, this month, as it has been overtaken by the competition.

However, the Packard Bell is still a decent, if somewhat slow, performer. With a 1GHz Pentium III flip chip processor, 256MB of SDRAM and a 20GB hard drive, the Easy One's specification is adequate. However, the WorldBench 2000 score of 148 is low by current standards.

The 14.1in TFT (thin-film transistor) screen is large enough for watching DVDs, but the maximum resolution is only 1,024x768. The Silver 3100 comes with an XP upgrade card that offers the new operating system for £79, which is a boost if you want to upgrade.

