

# new products

Sneak a peek at the latest PCs, peripherals and gadgets before our reviewers get their hands on them. These products are hot from the factory or about to be launched. Here are our first impressions



## Apple iPod

### Digital music player

Opinions are divided at *PC Advisor* over the iPod. This is partly due to the split in publishing – the production people use Macs while the editorial bunch stick with trusty open architecture PCs. So the rift is over the fact that the iPod is a portable digital music player that doesn't work with PCs.

The iPod relies on Apple's MP3 software, iTunes, which the company "has no intention of porting to Windows", according to UK chief Mark Rogers. The iPod has some great features, not least of which is FireWire support, which speeds up the transfer of files immeasurably. Another bonus is that the device charges its lithium-polymer battery as it downloads songs – something many device makers could learn from. There's a 5GB hard drive and support for both MP3 and WAV files. Dimensions are 102x62x20mm and it weighs 183g, making it the smallest high-capacity MP3 player around. Apple: 0800 039 1010 Website: [www.ipod.com/uk/](http://www.ipod.com/uk/) Price: £349

## Sony Clié PEG-T415

### Personal digital assistant

Sony's latest Clié PDA (personal digital assistant), which isn't out in the UK for a while yet, can replace most of the remote controls in your home. The Clié PEG-T415 has a 320x320 resolution monochrome screen and uses version 4.1 of the Palm OS. It also features a Dragonball VZ 33MHz processor, 8MB of SDRAM and 4MB of flash memory.

The infrared port has a 4.6m range for controlling audio and video equipment. This adds to the Clié's functionality at a time when Palm-based devices are under threat from the success of Microsoft's Pocket PC OS and Compaq's iPaq. Sony: 0870 542 4424 Website: [www.sony-europe.com](http://www.sony-europe.com) Prices: around £210



## Canon EOS-1D, PowerShot S40 and S30

### Digital cameras

Canon has a camera for every budget this month. The EOS-1D is a professional model with a price tag to match. Canon claims the EOS offers a continuous shooting speed of 8fps (frames per second) which it can sustain for 21 frame bursts. Its 4.15Mp (megapixel) CCD (charge-coupled device) allows it to create a true 11.7MB file in a photographic 2:3 aspect ratio.

Moving down the price scale, Canon's compact cameras are the PowerShot S30 and S40. These offer maximum resolutions of 3Mp and 4Mp respectively, and both feature 3x optical zoom. The S30 has a 3.2x digital zoom, while the S40 beefs this up to 3.6x.

Canon: 0800 616 417

Website: [www.canon.co.uk](http://www.canon.co.uk)

Prices: EOS-1D £4,680, PowerShot S40 £552, PowerShot S30 £467



## NEC Powermate ML3

### Desktop PC

Combining a 17in flat-screen and a slim tower, the Powermate ML3 offers functionality with extreme affordability. It is aimed at the mainstream professional user who wants maximum technology for minimum investment.

The ML3 is available with a 1.5 or 2GHz Pentium 4 processor, offers up to 512MB of memory and will perform all your business tasks with ease. The compact design offers a space-saving alternative to usual desktop PCs, but still features sufficient room for drivers and add-on cards. NEC has also taken into account the importance of security and has included a Kensington lock hole

on the chassis and the keyboard and mouse are fitted with an antitheft function. NEC: 0870 010 6328 Website: [www.nec-online.co.uk](http://www.nec-online.co.uk) Price: from £399



## Siemens C45

### Mobile phone

Siemens has introduced a new mobile phone – nothing exciting in that, perhaps, but this one does have a unique feature to recommend it. Rather than use the boring blue or grey cover that comes with it, for £39.99 you can have a personalised Clipit cover. Just visit [www.my-siemens.com/city](http://www.my-siemens.com/city), upload your photo and you can have a cover made up with a picture of your pet, spouse, child or favourite celebrity.

The C45 also offers WAP 1.2, enhanced messaging (which lets you add sounds and images to SMS texts), interactive gaming in the shape of BM Kung Fu and dualband 900/1,800MHz GSM. Not bad for a phone that costs £19.99 on contract. To find out if it featured in our Top 10 mobile phones chart see page 134.

Siemens: 01344 396 000

Website: [www.my-siemens.com/city](http://www.my-siemens.com/city)

Price: £19.99 inc VAT with contract; £99.99 inc VAT without contract



## Nokia 5510

### Mobile phone/digital music player

Nokia's latest addition to its mobile range comes in the form of this cute and chunky digital music player/phone combo. The 5510 allows you to download music files and play them while on the move. A built-in FM radio allows you to tune in to your favourite channels – and you don't even have to break your radio connection if you want to send messages or play games. The 64MB of memory lets you listen to up to two hours of near CD-quality music before you need to recharge.

The Nokia's split keyboard isn't just a design gimmick – it allows for faster typing than can be achieved on a normal mobile handset. Measuring 134x58x28mm, the 5510 isn't exactly shirt-pocket size, but then it's not just a mobile. Featuring multiple chat and multiple SMS you can send out a batch of messages in one go, saving more time to play any of the five games already installed on the phone.

Nokia: 08700 555 777

Website: [www.nokia.com](http://www.nokia.com)

Price: £99.99 (with contract)



## EFX retractable modem

### Modem cable casing with winder

The EFX retractable modem is designed for use in the home and the office. In fact, measuring approximately 3in in diameter, this modem is small enough to fit in your bag so that you can hook up to the internet wherever you are. This makes the EFX a perfect solution for business travellers.

Stretching out to 1.9 metres, this modem cable incorporates a spring-loaded mechanism to facilitate ease of retraction. With a stylish blue plastic cover and an aluminium centre you wouldn't be ashamed to have it on show. At just over a tenner, it's certainly a useful gadget to have around.

EFX: 01789 450 916

Website:

[www.efx.co.uk](http://www.efx.co.uk)

Price: £10.45



## Wacom Cintiq 15x

### Interactive pen display

Wacom's Cintiq interactive pen display is a TFT (thin-film transistor) screen, combined with a graphics tablet and pressure-sensitive pen that works on the display surface. The display has been specially designed to be glare-free, so you get a much clearer image. Now for the science bit: the transparent layer on the LCD (liquid crystal display) is thinner, so that the deviation point between where the pen touches the screen and the actual LCD is closer. This means that the perception of the pen's point is improved. The 15x also boasts increased levels of pressure, which allows for better control of line width and colour saturation.

The Wacom connects to a PC via a USB port and can be viewed from any angle. The stand can even be removed, so that the screen can be placed directly on to the user's lap or desk edge, just like a real sketchpad. The model is still pricey, although it is 50 percent cheaper than any of Wacom's earlier models.

Computers Unlimited: 020 8358 5858

Website: [www.wacom-europe.com](http://www.wacom-europe.com)

Price: £1,195



## BUSINESS PRODUCTS



## Comtech IACM 4000

## Call-waiting unit

The IACM 4000 is really just a high-tech answerphone for your PC. Connecting your phone socket and modem, it flashes and beeps to alert you of incoming calls and then displays the caller's name and number on its LCD (liquid crystal display). Basically, it means you can surf the internet without ever missing a phone call, unless of course you choose to. You can then pick up the handset and the IACM will automatically disconnect your web connection. The Comtech stores up to 80 callers' details, so that you can scroll through past calls or store them in the unit's phonebook, which holds a maximum of 40 numbers.

The down side is that users will have to subscribe to call waiting and caller display services, which cost around £5.50 per quarter from BT. However, this is still far cheaper than having to shell out the cost of a second dedicated internet line, which costs nearly £50 for installation and further £11.99 a month rental from BT.

Comtech: 01942 851 800

Website: [www.comtechproducts.co.uk](http://www.comtechproducts.co.uk)

Price: £39.95

## Fellows PDA Keyboard and case

## PDA peripherals

Inputting information into a PDA (personal digital assistant) using graffiti and character recognition can be time consuming. Fellows believes that its full Qwerty keyboard add-on is just what PDA users have been waiting for. The pocket keyboard sits inside the fold-out case or can be clipped directly on to the portable. Measuring 70x98mm, it can be used in your hand or can be detached and balanced on its stand for desktop use.

The keyboard also incorporates a numerical pad and

Windows navigation

and command buttons. The Fellows add-on keyboard is compatible with Palm III, Palm V and Handspring PDAs.

Fellows: 01302 885 331

Website:

[www.fellows.com](http://www.fellows.com)

Price: £99.99



## Sony DVP-F21

## DVD player

Sony has given plenty of thought to its stylish new DVD player – glass topped and encased in chrome, the DVP-F21 gets full marks in the style department. It can be placed vertically, horizontally or hung on the wall, which makes it fantastic for storing pretty much anywhere. However, measuring 252x183x60mm it is rather chunky compared to other DVD models. A new feature Sony has incorporated is the Precision Drive2 system, which includes a high-speed stepping motor and a dynamic tilt compensation mechanism, for faster more accurate playback of DVDs. As well as playing CDs and DVDs it also features CD-R/CD-RW playback capabilities, so you can also enjoy your latest music collection.

Other technologies include the SmoothScan picture search, for seamless transition between video frames, and a parental control facility, which prohibits access without a personalised code.

Sony: 01932 817 000

Website: [www.sony.co.uk](http://www.sony.co.uk)

Price: £280



## Western Digital WD Caviar

## 120GB/100GB desktop hard drives

Western Digital WD Caviar is a 100GB special edition hard drive that uses an 8MB buffer. This is the largest buffer available in any 7,200rpm (revolutions per minute) desktop Eide hard drive – to deliver data to users in record time. The buffer also incorporates a 'pre-fetch' mode, which stores previous searches and information that is likely to be requested in the near future. The additional buffer storage means read and write commands are more quickly queued and served to the user.

The 120GB ATA model additionally offers massive storage capacity, meaning you can store up 2,000 digital photos, five hours of digital video, 45 hours of music, 22 games and 35 software programs.

Western Digital: 01372 360 055

Website: [www.westerndigital.com](http://www.westerndigital.com)

Price: £420 100GB special edition, £329 120GB

