

new products



← Minolta-QMS Magicolor 2300 Desk laser

Colour laser printer

Size – or lack of it – is everything when it comes to the Magicolor 2300 Desk laser, the latest offering from the Minolta-QMS stable of colour lasers. The company is certainly boasting about the diminutive size of this model, claiming it is the world's smallest colour laser. And with a footprint of 492x360mm it shouldn't be hard to find a home for the petite Desk laser. But its compact proportions don't hint of a pared-down features list, as this printer promises a built-in network adapter, 4ppm (page per minute) colour printing and 6ppm for mono and 2,400dpi (dots per inch) print resolution. To keep costs low it can even be configured to offer mono-only printing. For a full review see page 62.

■ Minolta: 01784 411 887 ■ Website: www.minolta-qms.co.uk ■ Price: £649

← US Robotics 22Mbps Wireless Internet Access Kit

Wireless networking suite

US Robotics has launched a range of 22Mbps (megabits per second) wireless access network devices. The suite of products, which includes a Wireless Access Point, Wireless Access PC Card and Wireless Access PCI Adapter card, allows you to wirelessly connect multiple PCs – including notebooks – for file sharing and a single internet connection. As well as promoting wireless networking in the home, US Robotics says the suite can be used equally well in a small office where users need to connect to the network wirelessly.

■ US Robotics: 01628 640 140
 ■ Website: www.usr-emea.com
 ■ Prices: Wireless Access Point £111; Wireless Access PC card £51; Wireless Access PCI Adapter card £60 inc VAT



↑ Handspring Treo 90

Personal digital assistant

The Treo 90 is the smallest colour Palm-based handheld to include a built-in keyboard, according to Handspring. It measures 108x71x16mm and weighs 113g, offering 16MB of memory, which can be expanded using SD (secure digital) cards. The personal information management applications stored on the Treo 90 have been optimised for thumb keyboard navigation, so getting at your data should be simple. It runs the Palm OS version 4.1.1H, is compatible with Palm software applications and the lithium-ion battery has a claimed life of 10 hours. For a full review see page 54.

■ Handspring: 020 7309 0134
 ■ Website: www.handspring.co.uk ■ Price: £212

→ Sony P82 and P232W LCD

Flat-panel monitors

The LCD (liquid crystal display) market has two new additions – Sony's 18in P82 and 23in P232W. These extra-wide screens sport super-slim bezels and Sony ensures top-quality images by offering an extra luminous, 300cd/m² panel; a high 400:1 contrast ratio; and native resolutions of 1,280x1,024 on the P82 and 1,920x1,200 on the P232W. Each is fitted with a 200MHz GPU (graphics processing unit) which, Sony says, enables them to deliver picture-perfect results. Both have digital or analogue connections.

■ Sony: 0870 511 1999 ■ Website: www.sony-cp.com
 ■ Prices: £849, P82; £2,399, P232W





← Logitech MX Performance Mouse Series MX700/500/300

Computer mice

Logitech's MX Performance Mouse Series are powered by an MX optical engine designed to provide maximum levels of precision, control and speed. The wireless MX700 is fitted with Logitech's Fast RF technology, which should make it as responsive as a USB-connected mouse. The MX500 and MX300 both require a USB or PS/2 connection, but boast internet forward and back buttons, Quick Switch program selectors and Cruise Control scrolling systems. The MX is designed to be ambidextrous. All three devices employ optical sensor technology for swift cursor control.

■ Logitech: 01753 870 900 ■ Website: www.logitech.com ■ Prices: MX 700 £59.99, MX 500 £39.99 and MX 300 £34.99 inc VAT

↓ Panasonic NV-MX500B Digital Video Camera

Digital camcorder

Panasonic's NV-MX500B digital camcorder combines high-end features with a compact design. It uses three CCDs (charge-coupled devices) to offer accurate colour reproduction and high-resolution 3Mp (megapixel) images. It has a mega-optical image stabilisation system to help eradicate shaky home movie syndrome, even when footage is captured on the go. It can record Mpeg-4 movies and store them on SD (secure digital) memory cards for use on the web. A 10x optical zoom allows you to capture your subject close up, while an optional adapter kit adds Bluetooth functionality so you can download movies to your PC wirelessly. As well as capturing film, it can also take still shots and a built-in flash will compensate in darker environments.

■ Panasonic: 08705 357 357 ■ Website: www.panasonic.co.uk ■ Price: £1,299



→ Epson Stylus CX3200

Multifunction device

For those of you who want it all, the new Epson Stylus CX3200 combines scanner, printer and copier technology. The colour printer offers 5,760dpi (dots per inch) optimised resolution and claimed print speeds of 14ppm (pages per minute) for colour and mono. It offers edge-to-edge printing for photo printing. Epson's Intellidrive technology monitors ink usage to ensure you don't run out halfway through a job. Colour cartridges will set you back £18.91, while black ink is a little more expensive at £22.71. The integrated flatbed scanner has a top resolution of 600dpi, and the standalone copy function can be used without a PC.

■ Epson: 0800 220 546 ■ Website: www.epson.co.uk ■ Price: £126.81



↑ Wacom Volito

PC tablet

Wacom's Volito is a data input kit for the PC comprising tablet, pressure-sensitive pen and ball-free mouse. The device offers an easy tablet alternative to a keyboard and mouse for fast and comfortable navigation. The Volito also benefits from additional capabilities, such as the 'six-pack' software bundle which incorporates a range of tools to help you process and edit photographs and create handwritten notes. The black, transparent tablet and battery-free pen and mouse are a stylish, quick and affordable solution for non-typists or pen-and-paper traditionalists. Windows 98, Me and 2000 compatible, the Volito has a two-year guarantee.

■ Distributors: Computers Unlimited 020 8358 9548 & Northamber 020 8296 7066
■ Website: www.wacom.com ■ Price: £34





↑ Ulead VideoStudio 6.0 DVD & CD Deluxe Edition

Video editing software

A three-in-one software product, Ulead's VideoStudio 6.0 DVD & CD Deluxe Edition is aimed at video-editing enthusiasts. The core of the bundle is VideoStudio 6.0, which is designed to make polishing up home movies a cinch. It also provides a step-by-step guide to burning your masterpiece to a CD or DVD. The other strings to its bow are Cool 3D, which allows you to create animated 3D titles and graphics to jazz up your footage, and Pick-a-Video Photo and Sound which comprises three royalty-free collections of films, images and audio.

■ Ulead: 01327 844 880

■ Website: www.ulead.co.uk

■ Price: £59



→ Palm Zire

Personal digital assistant

Six years after Palm initiated the idea of the Handheld PC, it has launched the first model targeted principally at the mainstream consumer market. The Palm Zire aims to combine function with affordability and offers all the basic organiser applications: contacts, diary, to-do lists and memo pad. But with just 2MB of storage and no expansion method this appears no more than an electronic upgrade to your existing paper diary. If your Filofax is a bit frayed at the edges and you want to synchronise your data with your PC via USB, then the Zire is a cheap and attractive choice. At 109g it won't weigh your bag down much more than a traditional little black book.

■ Zire: 020 7365 9820 ■ Website: www.palm.com ■ Price: £75.74



↓ HP PhotoSmart 7550 Printer

Colour inkjet

HP's PhotoSmart 7550 is its first consumer photo printer to offer seven-ink printing. It claims this new system allows it to offer a massive 1.2 million colours for photo-realistic results, as well as laser quality black output. For photo enthusiasts it has built-in slots for the popular memory cards used by digital cameras and an integrated colour LCD (liquid crystal display) screen for you to preview, select and edit images before you print. It connects via USB and has a second USB port on the front, which allows you to print direct from an HP digital camera. Print resolution is 1,200x600dpi (dots per inch) and HP claims print speeds of 13ppm (pages per minute) for colour and 17ppm for mono.

■ HP: 08705 474 747 ■ Website: www.hp.com ■ Price: £254



← Panasonic ToughBook CF-P1

Handheld PC

The ToughBook provides a robust computer that shouldn't falter when you're working in the field. This handheld PC supports both wide and local area network wireless communication, so you can stay online when you're out of the office. Panasonic claims its magnesium alloy design enables the ToughBook to withstand extreme temperatures, dust, vibration and drops of 120cm. The device has a 3.5in reflective colour screen and three input methods – touchscreen, cursor control button and integrated keyboard. Weighing 453g, this CF-P1 is robust enough to survive life on a construction site while remaining portable enough to be carried up the scaffolding.

■ Panasonic: 0870 0100464 ■ Website: www.panasonic.co.uk/toughbook

■ Price: £1,099