

Samsung SpinPoint P Series

**PC PRO
A LIST**

MODEL SP1604N **SIZE** 160GB
PRICE £83 (£98 inc VAT)
SUPPLIER Simply www.simply.co.uk
VERDICT A long warranty, good performance and competitive price make this the Ultra ATA hard disk of choice.

In the past, Samsung has marketed its hard disks on the strengths of quietness and reliability. But now that other manufacturers have worked on acoustics, Samsung has joined the performance race with the new SP1604N.

On paper, the specifications are certainly on a par with the best. A 7,200rpm spindle speed coupled with two 80GB platters and an average seek time of 8.9ms beats even Hitachi's Deskstar 180GXP. But, the 2MB buffer is a performance limiter. Or so we thought.

The first test results left us pleasantly surprised. Outer-zone transfer rates peaked at an impressive 53.5MB/sec, trailing off to 28.4MB/sec. The

overall average of 45MB/sec put the



SpinPoint fourth overall. Average access time

wasn't hugely inspiring at 15.5ms, but this didn't stop the disk placing second in our Access test with a credible 370 seconds. Photoshop performance didn't quite equal this – the SpinPoint turned in an average time. However, BootVis clocked the boot time at a blistering 23.4 seconds.

Continuing its commitment to reliability, Samsung backs the SP1604N with a three-year warranty. The usual NoiseGuard and SilentSeek features also mean that this is a supremely quiet disk – Samsung claims just 2.9 bels when seeking.

Thanks to strong performance and aggressive pricing, the SP1604N offers excellent value. Although not as widely distributed as its rivals' drives, Samsung's goals for market share look certain to be met.

PC PRO RATINGS
OVERALL
110
 FEATURES | PERFORMANCE | VALUE
 108 | 103 | 124
 100 IS THE AVERAGE