

● SLATE TABLET PC

# Motion Computing LE1600

PRICE £1,509 (£1,773 inc VAT)

DELIVERY Depends on reseller

SUPPLIER Motion Computing via website

INTERNET [www.motioncomputing.co.uk](http://www.motioncomputing.co.uk)

VERDICT Motion Computing's designers had their thinking caps on for this one; it has great battery options and the flexibility to support any vertical market application.

Tablet PC makers face a big challenge: making the unit light enough to be comfortable to hold, while keeping the performance and battery life of a regular notebook. The LE1600 is tablet specialist Motion Computing's most determined attempt yet to crack this conundrum.

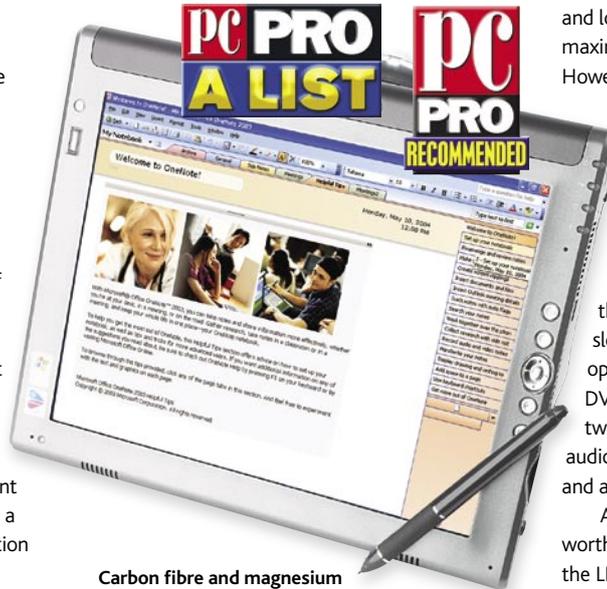
At 1.5kg, the LE1600 may not be featherweight, but most people will have little issue holding this slate in the crook of an arm. Yet it's a no-compromise machine, and Motion has tried hard to incorporate the performance and features you'd expect in a modern business notebook, including USB 2, 802.11b/g and Gigabit Ethernet.

The 1.5GHz Pentium M 758 low-voltage processor supplies a fair amount of processing power – certainly enough for a tablet PC. However, our real-world application benchmarks returned a disappointing 0.98 overall. It's good to see Motion resisted the temptation to cram in an over-the-top CPU to boost power, but we expect to see better results from a 1.5GHz chip. Intel's 915GMS Express chipset supplies a 400MHz FSB and supports DDR2 400 (PC3200) memory. On the motherboard, there's 512MB of RAM, but our review sample had another 256MB (save £45 on the price quoted above without

it) in the user-accessible slot – 1.5GB is the maximum total.

The primary lithium-ion battery clips on to become part of the top bezel. This offers reasonable stamina for

The Flex Dock is available as an option if you'll use the LE1600 at a desk.



Carbon fibre and magnesium alloy materials make the LE1600 both light and strong.

its size, at three hours, 44 minutes with light use and a dimmed screen, although you're likely to need more with a tablet. However, the LE1600 has a trick up its sleeve in the form of an optional clip-on extended battery (£129). A larger primary battery, as you find with notebooks, wouldn't have worked because it would protrude from the case and alter the balance. Instead, the thin hot-swappable battery clips to the underside of the LE1600. It's only 6.5mm thick and leaves the centre of gravity unaffected, although it does take the weight up to 1.9kg. However, the big news is that battery life is boosted to an amazing seven hours, 45 minutes under light use, so you can potentially run it a full day between charges.

The design elsewhere is equally well thought out. Highlighting this are the three microphones on the bezel, designed to collect your voice properly from landscape or portrait mode; it works well in practice too, with our recordings impressively clear. There's also an ambient light sensor for adjusting display brightness, plus a fingerprint reader and a TPM (Trusted Platform Module) chip to boost security and help manage multiple users. There's a great software interface too, called Motion Dashboard. It collects the main configuration options in one place, where you can alter display and power properties, calibrate the digitiser, adjust speaker and microphone settings, and control the wireless connections. The only

grumble is that hardware buttons are poorly labelled, but as they're programmable we can forgive them being generic.

When it comes to data input, the stylus is a delight to use. The 11mm-diameter rubberised grip is comfortable to hold, there's a right-click button on the barrel and an eraser button at the back. It tucks away in a slot on the right of the machine, although left-handed users will find that awkward. As is so often the case with tablets, the screen itself lacks brightness and looks rather dull on bright days even at maximum, but viewing angles are good.

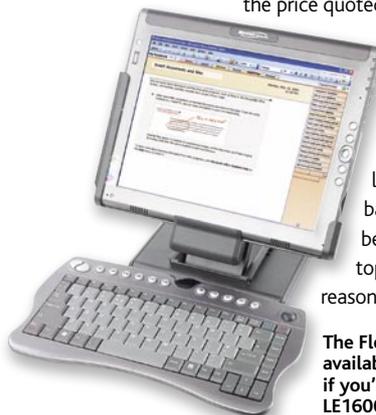
However, our LE1600 included the optional View Anywhere display (worth £165; subtract this from our £1,509 price if you don't require it) optimised for outdoor as well as indoor viewing. It isn't transfective, so you still need the backlight, but it is readable in strong light.

Below the pen on the right-hand side, there's an SD card slot, a Type II PC Card slot, infrared and the power socket. The opposite side has Gigabit Ethernet, VGA, DVI-D (this requires a £28 breakout adaptor), two USB ports, a Wi-Fi switch and 3.5mm audio jacks. That leaves only the docking port and a powered accessory port at the bottom.

Although the £160 Flex Dock is optional, it's worth considering for anyone who wants to use the LE1600 regularly at a desk. It positions the tablet like a TFT screen with tilt adjustment and portrait/landscape rotation, charges both batteries and supplies connections for audio, Ethernet and USB. A cheaper (and portable) alternative is a neat keyboard/stand/mini-dock, which also clips on as a screen cover (£94). A notebook-size Bluetooth keyboard (£80) and a USB CD-RW drive (£115) are further options.

Motion's LE1600 is incredibly well thought out, packing a great range of features into a solidly built 1.5kg slate tablet. The extended battery, security features and wide range of optional accessories are particularly welcome. Had the performance been better, it would take this tablet PC into full notebook-replacement territory and improved value for money, but battery performance is paramount, and here it excels. Overall, it's a brilliant design, and if you're looking for a fully loaded, long-lasting slate tablet, the LE1600 will impress.

ROGER KIRKWOOD



● RESULTS

**PRIMARY BATTERY**

1:45 3:44

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

HOURS-MINUTES INTENSIVE TEST LIGHT-USE TEST

**EXTENDED BATTERY (TOGETHER WITH PRIMARY)**

4:04 7:45

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

HOURS-MINUTES INTENSIVE TEST LIGHT-USE TEST

**2D SPEED**

0.98

0 1 2 3 4

WP/SPREADSHEET: 0.82 DATABASE: 1.24

2D GRAPHICS: 1.05 MEDIA CREATION: 1.23

BETTER

**PC PRO RATINGS**

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★

FEATURES & DESIGN ★★★★★

VALUE FOR MONEY ★★★★★

OVERALL ★★★★★

**SPECIFICATIONS** 1.5GHz Intel Pentium M 758; 768MB PC3200 SDRAM; 30GB Toshiba MK3006GAL hard disk; 128MB Intel 915GMS graphics; 12.1in 1,024 x 768 TFT with View Anywhere; Gigabit Ethernet; Bluetooth; 802.11b/g WLAN; 2 x USB 2; SD card slot; Type II PC Card slot; integrated stereo speakers; DVI-D out; VGA out; Windows XP Tablet PC Edition 2005; 1yr RTB warranty. Dimensions: 296 x 247 x 20mm (WDH). Weight: 1.5kg.