

PERSONAL COMPUTER WORLD

BEST BUYS

YOUR GUIDE TO TODAY'S TOP PRODUCTS >>>>

ENTRY-LEVEL PC

Carrera Lynx W600



Sporting Intel's 600MHz Celeron CPU, this is perfect for home users not mad about games. It comes stocked with 128MB of RAM, a 13GB hard drive and an eight-speed Panasonic DVD-ROM drive. Graphics are handled by the onboard 810e graphics chipset, which isn't ideal for games, but there's also a modem and a copy of Lotus SmartSuite Millennium.

Review June 2000, p78 **Price** £821.33 (£699 ex VAT)
Contact Carrera 020 8307 2800 www.carrera.co.uk

MID-RANGE PC

Mesh Matrix 900 GT Live



This is a great high-specification machine at a reasonable price. It has a 900MHz AMD Athlon CPU backed up with 128MB of PC100 SDRAM. You also get a super fast GeForce 2 graphics card driving a 19in Mitsubishi monitor. Mesh is shooting for the high-tech enthusiast with the Matrix, and it's got the balance just about perfect.

Review July 2000, p77 **Price** £1,878.82 (£1,599 ex VAT)
Contact Mesh 020 8208 4706 www.meshplc.com

HIGH-END PC

Dell Dimension XPS B1000 Special Edition



The first in the new wave of 1GHz Pentium III-equipped systems, the B1000 Special Edition, partners the power of the 1GHz PIII with 128MB of RAMBUS RDRAM and Dell's custom GeForce 256 graphics card with 64MB of DDR memory. You also get a spacious 30GB EIDE hard drive that can be backed up using the eight-speed CD-RW. A scorcher.

Review June 2000, p75 **Price** £3,136 (£2,669 ex VAT)
Contact Dell 0870 152 4850 www.dell.co.uk

FULLY-FEATURED NOTEBOOK

Gateway Solo 9300 LS



Making use of Intel's 600MHz SpeedStep processor this notebook has blistering performance. The screen and keyboard are both excellent, and the notebook enables you to do some basic video editing using the composite in and out ports at the back through the ATI mobility video card, or for digital video there's a FireWire port.

Review April 2000, p158 **Price** £2,243.08 (£1,909 ex VAT)
Contact Gateway 0800 55 2000 www.gateway.com/uk

ULTRA-PORTABLE NOTEBOOK

Sony Vaio PCG-Z600RE



Sony has taken the ultra-portable genre a step further with this slim, sexy, Pentium III, 500MHz machine with 128MB of RAM and a 12GB hard disk. You also get a 56K PC Card modem and a built-in Ethernet adaptor. With a 12.1in TFT screen sporting a 1,024 x 768 resolution and a Memory Stick slot for Sony's own solid state media, this is the coolest notebook around.

Review June 2000, p76 **Price** £2,301.82 (£1,959 ex VAT)
Contact Sony 08705 424 424 www.sony.co.uk

PDA

Ericsson MC218



Based on the Psion Series 5mx, the MC218 has 16MB of memory and a processor speed of 37MHz. The email software is built into the ROM and supports UUEncoded attachments and MIME. Frames and Java 1.1.4 are supported by the web browser. Ericsson has even bundled an IrDA modem for connecting the device to its range of mobile phones.

Review May 2000, p204 **Price** £379 (£322 ex VAT)
Contact Ericsson 0990 237 237 www.ericsson.com

DIGITAL CAMERA

Canon PowerShot S20



The S20 is almost the same as the S10 with a champagne gold finish. The 3.3 megapixel model gives you 2,048 x 1,536 pixels. The S20's card slot is CF-II-compliant and can swallow an IBM MicroDrive hard disk.

Review June 2000, p104 **Price** £699 (£594.89 ex VAT)
Contact Canon 0121 666 6262 www.canon.co.uk

WEBCAM

Philips Vesta Pro

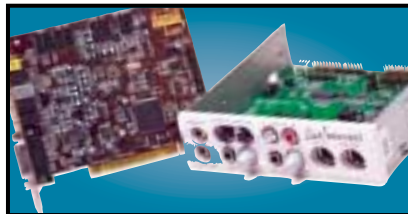


This is a very well designed unit with built-in USB microphone. The 640 x 480 pixel CCD can deliver up to 15fps at VGA resolution or smooth 30fps at lower resolutions down to 128 x 96. An excellent package at a remarkably cheap price.

Review July 2000, p224 **Price** £52.87 (£45 ex VAT)
Contact Microtronica 01189 633 733 www.pcstuff.philips.com

SOUND CARD

Creative Labs SB Live! Platinum



This is exactly what gamers and budding PC musicians have been asking for – great sound quality and excellent bundled software make it a winner. We think it's the best sound product ever.

Review February 2000, p83 **Price** £179 (£152 ex VAT)
Contact Creative Labs 0800 973 069 www.soundblaster.com

COLOUR INKJET

Hewlett-Packard DeskJet 930C



This uses the same engine as the higher spec P1100 and is a breeze to setup. Connection is via the parallel or USB interface and drivers allow you to adjust the printed page drying time.

Review July 2000, p201 **Price** £130.43 (£111 ex VAT)
Contact Watford 0870 729 5600 www.watford.co.uk

BUDGET LASER PRINTER

Brother HL-1250



This compact machine has everything you could reasonably ask for at the price, but Brother has gone one step further with the inclusion of both parallel and USB ports.

Review February 2000, p165 **Price** £245.58 (£209 ex VAT)
Contact Simply 08707 297 366 www.brother.com

COLOUR PHOTO PRINTER

Epson Stylus Photo 870



Aimed at the professional imaging user, our test photo was beautifully rendered, there was no evidence of undesirable banding and skin tones were accurately reproduced.

Review July 2000, p206 **Price** £207.98 (£177 ex VAT)
Contact Simply 020 8523 4020 www.simply.co.uk

BUSINESS LASER PRINTER

Hewlett-Packard LaserJet 4050TN



The 4050TN's 1,200dpi resolution is outstanding, and with a 133MHz NEC processor and 16MB of RAM it can turn out 16ppm. It also comes network-ready as standard.

Review September 1999, p96 **Price** £1,580.38 (£1,345 ex VAT)
Contact HP 0990 474747 www.europe.hp.com

MULTI-FUNCTION DEVICE

Hewlett-Packard Office Jet R45



A 600dpi colour inkjet printer, colour scanner and photocopier all in one. Colour output is rich and vibrant. The 30bit scanner supports a maximum optical resolution of 600dpi.

Review November 1999, p96 **Price** £364.25 (£310 ex VAT)
Contact Hewlett-Packard 0990 474747 www.europe.hp.com

GRAPHICS CARD

Creative Labs Annihilator Pro



Based on the DDR version of the GeForce 256 chipset from nVidia, this card offloads transform and lighting effects processing from your CPU to give outstanding results.

Review March 2000, p80 **Price** £218 (£186 ex VAT)
Contact Creative Labs 0800 973 069 www.europe.creative.com

EXTERNAL STORAGE

LaCie PocketDrive



This tiny external 6GB hard drive has two FireWire ports and a single USB connector. The FireWire ports mean the drive can be daisy chained to other FireWire peripherals.

Review July 2000, p108 **Price** £351.33 (£299 ex VAT)
Contact LaCie 020 7872 8000 www.elacie.com

EIDE HARD DRIVE

Seagate Barracuda ATA 28GB



This 28GB beast's spin speed of 7,200rpm helped it achieve 0.89Mbytes/sec in our random read and write test. It's a breeze to install and the £5.10 cost per GB makes it a bargain.

Review April 2000, p197 **Price** £160.97 (£137 ex VAT)
Contact SMCdirect 01753 550333 www.seagate.com

SCSI HARD DRIVE

Seagate Barracuda ST150176LW



The Barracuda may no longer be at the cutting edge of SCSI performance, but with its 7,200rpm spin speed and 50GB storage space its value for money is outstanding.

Review April 2000, p202 **Price** £692.08 (£589 ex VAT)
Contact SMCdirect 01753 550333 www.seagate.com

SLOT A MOTHERBOARD

Abit KA7



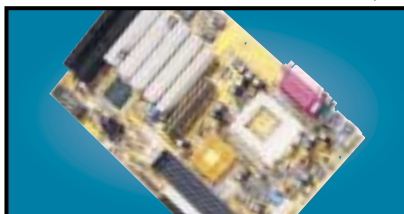
new

This uses VIA's Apollo KX133 chipset with the capability to run the memory at 133MHz plus support for AGP 4x. There are two Ultra DMA 66 channels plus the standard floppy connector and four DIMM banks.

Review July 2000, p108 **Price** £129.25 (£110 ex VAT)
Contact Dabs Direct 0800 138 5240 www.dabs.com

FC-PGA MOTHERBOARD

Gigabyte GA-6BX7

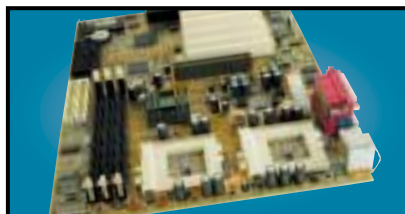


If you are going to use one of the latest Pentium IIIs you're going to need a FC-PGA (Flip Chip Pin Grid Array) compatible board. The GA-6BX7 uses the 440BX chipset and has one AGP, four PCI and one ISA slot. It also uses cheap SDRAM.

Review June 2000, p98 **Price** £99 (£84.26 ex VAT)
Contact Gigabyte 01908 362 700 www.gbt-tech.co.uk

SOCKET 370

Abit BP6



The BP6 allows you to use Intel's socket 370 Celerons in a dual-processor configuration. Even if you only use the board for a single processor, the BP6 still shines because it is one of the few Socket 370 boards to use the BX chipset.

Review March 2000, p195 **Price** £116.33 (£99 ex VAT)
Contact Top PC 0113 2422 416 www.abit.com.tw

17IN MONITOR

CTX PR711F



Using a Sony FD Trinitron tube, this monitor's slim casing somehow makes the display seem larger. Image quality is superb and a USB hub is built in to the base as standard.

Review January 2000, p79 **Price** £233.82 (£199 ex VAT)
Contact Dabs Direct 0800 138 5124 www.ctxeurope.com

19IN MONITOR

CTX PR960F



new

Equipped with an FD Trinitron tube this has a constant 0.24mm pitch across the screen. It also has an additional BNC input and a built-in USB hub as standard.

Review June 2000, p91 **Price** £363 (£309 ex VAT)
Contact CTX 01923 810 800 www.ctxmonitors.com

21IN MONITOR

Sony Multiscan G500



The name Sony is synonymous with high-quality displays and this 21in FD Trinitron monitor is no exception. It has dual-input connectors and remains crisp even up to 1,800 x 1,440 at 75Hz.

Review May 2000, p226 **Price** £911 (£775 ex VAT)
Contact Sony 0990 424 424 www.sony-cp.com

LCD MONITOR

Sony SDM-N50



This TFT display is a svelte 1.3cm thick and the screen is easy to position with its multi-pivoted stand. The display quality is first rate and it even has built-in speakers and a headphone socket.

Review April 2000, p96 **Price** £1,291.32 (£1,099 ex VAT)
Contact Sony 0990 424 424 www.sony.co.uk

SOUND SYSTEM

VideoLogic DigiTheatre



This set includes five speakers, a subwoofer and an integrated six-channel amplifier plus a decoder. Excellent sound quality at a fair price make the DigiTheatre a must-have.

Review January 2000, p81 **Price** £249 (£211.91 ex VAT)
Contact Videologic 01923 277 488 www.videologic.co.uk

CD-RW

Creative CD-RW Blaster CD-Studio



This 8 x 4 x 32 EIDE CDRW package has everything you need to get started. Not only is there an EIDE cable and screws to mount the drive, but also a CD-RW disc and 10 CD-R discs.

Review June 2000, p192 **Price** £193.87 (£165 ex VAT)
Contact Dabs Direct 0800 138 5114 www.europe.creative.com

ISDN TA

Eicon DIVA USB



Weighing in at 70g and no larger than a mouse, this USB ISDN TA opens up 128Kbits/sec bandwidth and supports G3 and G4 faxing as well as a variety of voicemail and file transfer facilities.

Review March 2000, p87 **Price** £99 (£84.35 ex VAT)
Contact Eicon Technology 020 8967 8000 www.eicon.com

BACK-UP

OnStream SC30



The SC30 has a 30GB compressed data capacity and using Backup Exec it achieved over 70Mbytes/min. Echo software provides drive-letter access so you can treat it like a hard drive.

Review September 1999, p102 **Price** £233.82 (£199 ex VAT)
Contact OnStream 0800 328 1204 www.onstream.com

REMOVABLE STORAGE

Panasonic LF-D103 U



This unit not only reads CD-ROM and DVD-ROM discs, but it also writes to PD and DVD-RAM discs, offering safe and affordable high-capacity backup.

Review October 1998, p98 **Price** £364.23 (£309.99 ex VAT)
Contact Insight 0800 073 7570 www.panasonic.co.uk