

PERSONAL COMPUTER WORLD

Best buys

ENTRY-LEVEL PC

Carrera Lynx W533



Sporting Intel's 533MHz Celeron CPU, this PC is built around a PC99-compliant Supermicro motherboard with on-board sound and graphics. There is 128MB of RAM installed as a single PC100 module and the bundled monitor is a 17in model from Hansol. Also included is a Panasonic DVD drive, an AMR V.90 modem and a 12.6GB IBM Deskstar hard disk.

Review April 2000, p73 **Price** £821.33 (£699 ex VAT)
Contact Carrera 020 8307 2800 www.carrera.co.uk

MID-RANGE PC

Atlas Meridian A850



This is a very well-specified machine with its 850MHz Athlon chip, 128MB of RAM and 22GB IBM Deskstar hard disk. The impressive Hercules 3D Prophet DDR-DVI graphics card drives a 19in Mitsubishi Diamond Pro 900u monitor which produces a crisp image at a resolution of 1,280 x 1,024. If you're after the latest AMD has to offer, this should top your list.

Review April 2000, p81 **Price** £2,109 (£1,795 ex VAT)
Contact Atlas 07000 285 275 www.atlasplc.com

HIGH-END PC

Hi-End Armari R8-S2000



The R8-S2000 from Armari is a cracking machine for developers, renderers, or just about anyone who fancies an unbelievably responsive system. The build quality and choice of components from Armari are superb and the 840 chipset in particular looks like it could beat at the heart of this year's highest performing PCs.

Review April 2000, p74 **Price** £3,288.83 (£2,799 ex VAT)
Contact Armari 020 8993 4111 www.armari.com

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** £2,348.53 (£1,999 ex VAT)
Contact Gateway 0800 55 2000 www.gateway.com/uk

ULTRA-PORTABLE NOTEBOOK

Sony Vaio 505SN



The latest in the popular 505 range is just as much a smash hit as the previous incarnations. Using a Pentium II 400MHz processor and 64MB of RAM, it makes an excellent compromise between speed and portability. The TFT screen has an amazing 1,024 x 768 resolution and, despite its tiny size, the keyboard is still extremely comfortable to use.

Review April 2000, p180 **Price** £1,702.57 (£1,449 ex VAT)
Contact Sony 0990 424 424 www.sony.co.uk

PDA

Psion Series 5mx



Retaining the Series 5's good looks, the 5mx has 16MB of memory and a processor speed of 37MHz. The email software is built into the ROM and now supports UUEncoded attachments and MIME for both incoming and outgoing messages. The web browser has also been upgraded to support frames and Java 1.1.4.

Review August 1999, p92 **Price** £429.99 (£365.91 ex VAT)
Contact Psion 0990 1430503 www.psion.com

DIGITAL CAMERANikon
CoolPIX 700

Both physical controls and the on-screen menu system are well laid out and the results from the 2.1 megapixel CCD are impressive – wonderfully clean, detailed, natural-looking images at 1,600 x 1,200.

Review January 2000, p175 **Price** £499 (£425 ex VAT)
Contact Nikon 0800 230 220 www.nikon.co.uk

COLOUR INKJETHewlett-Packard
DeskJet 895CXi

For all-round excellence you can't do better than the HP 895CXi. The quality of its output for both text and graphics is impressive given the swift speed at which they are produced.

Review October 1999, p177 **Price** £210.32 (£179 ex VAT)
Contact Hewlett-Packard 0990 474747 www.europe.hp.com

BUSINESS LASER PRINTERHewlett-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

GRAPHICS CARDCreative 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

WEBCAMCreative
WebCam Go

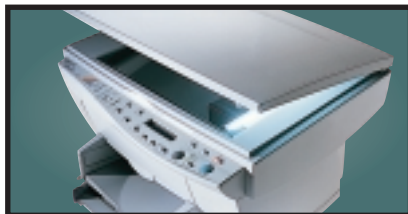
Not only is this a regular webcam offering 30fps at 352 x 288 or 15fps at 640 x 480, but when you disconnect the USB cable it becomes a standalone digital camera that can store JPEG images on its internal 4MB memory.

Review March 2000, p78 **Price** £119 (£101.28 ex VAT)
Contact Creative Labs 0800 973 069 www.europe.creative.com

BUDGET LASER PRINTERBrother
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

MULTI-FUNCTION DEVICEHewlett-Packard
Office Jet R45

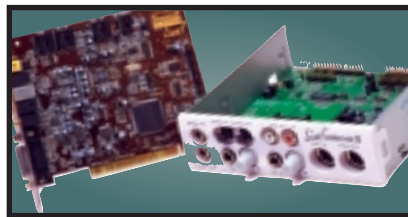
A 600dpi colour inkjet printer, colour scanner and a fax all in one. Colour output is rich and vibrant. The 30bit scanner supports a maximum optical resolution of 600dpi.

Review November 1999, p96 **Price** £478.23 (£407 ex VAT)
Contact Hewlett-Packard 0990 474747 www.europe.hp.com

EIDE HARD DRIVESeagate
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 MB makes it a bargain.

Review April 2000, p197 **Price** £168 (£143 ex VAT)
Contact SMCdirect 01753 550333 www.seagate.com

SOUND CARDCreative Labs
SB Live! Platinum

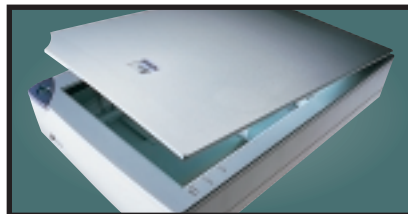
This is exactly what gamers and budding PC musicians have been asking for – great sound quality and excellent bundled software make it a winner. We think it's the best sound product ever.

Review February 2000, p83 **Price** £167 (£142 ex VAT)
Contact Creative Labs 0800 973 069 www.soundblaster.com

COLOUR PHOTO PRINTEREpson
Stylus Photo 750

Easy installation, a five-colour cartridge for photo printing and feature-rich software make this printer attractive. Its photo reproduction could not be faulted and job turnaround is fast.

Review October 1999, p180 **Price** £199 (£169.36 ex VAT)
Contact Epson 0800 220 546 www.epson.co.uk

FLATBED SCANNEREpson
GT-7000 USB

This 600dpi scanner has good colour accuracy, text reproduction and picture quality. USB installation is a breeze and we were impressed with the robust build quality.

Review November 1999, p191 **Price** £149 (£126.81 ex VAT)
Contact Epson 0800 220 546 www.epson.co.uk

SCSI HARD DRIVESeagate
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** £645 (£549 ex VAT)
Contact SMCdirect 01753 550333 www.seagate.com

SLOT 1 MOTHERBOARD

Supernano Super PII/SCA

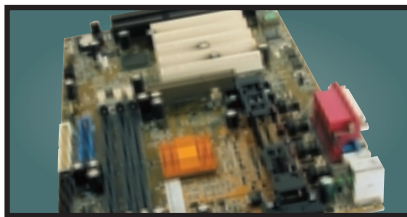


Targeted at people looking to upgrade their systems, this board includes both DIMM and RIMM slots. The documentation is excellent, and all the necessary cables, RIMM spacer and driver CD are included in the box.

Review March 2000, p186 **Price** £128.08 (£109 ex VAT)
Contact Dabs Direct 0800 138 5124 www.supernano.com

SLOT A MOTHERBOARD

Gigabyte GA-7IX

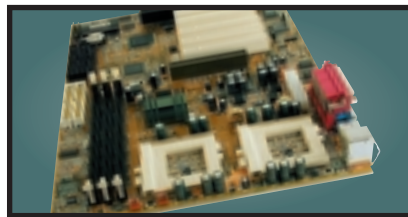


This board has four PCI slots, one ISA and one shared slot. It was very stable in our tests and the manual spells out clearly what the jumpers do and takes you through each of the Award Modular BIOS settings step by step.

Review March 2000, p182 **Price** £105.75 (£90 ex VAT)
Contact Dabs Direct 0800 138 5214 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** £276.12 (£235 ex VAT)
Contact Dabs Direct 0800 138 5124 www.ctxeurope.com

19IN MONITOR

Taxan Ergovision 980



Based on the 19in Mitsubishi Natural Flat Diamondtron tube, this offers superb image quality and comprehensive OSD. There's also a built-in USB hub.

Review November 1999, p208 **Price** £586 (£499 ex VAT)
Contact Taxan 01344 484646 www.taxan.co.uk

21IN MONITOR

Sony GDM-F500



Sony's flagship monitor has a 21in FD Trinitron tube and excellent image clarity. Its aperture grille pitch is just 0.22mm and it can achieve a resolution of up to 1,880 x 1,440 at 80Hz.

Review April 1999, p189 **Price** £1,292.32 (£1,099 ex VAT)
Contact Sony 0990 424424 www.sony.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** £1,173.82 (£999 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 sterling package includes the 4 x 4 x 24 EIDE CD-RW drive and everything you need to mount it in your PC. Bundled software includes the Nero Burning ROM CD writing program.

Review March 2000, p84 **Price** £175 (£149 ex VAT)
Contact Creative Labs 0800 973 069 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-D101 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** £391.71 (£333 ex VAT)
Contact Dabs 0800 138 5204 www.panasonic.co.uk