



## ◀ A whiter shade of pale

Everyone's calling it Apple's great white hope, but it looks transparent to us. The iMac isn't just a concept machine; it'll be available to buy from September. It has a 233MHz G3 processor, but the controversial bit is that it doesn't have a floppy-disk drive, so you'll need to either attach a USB storage device to one of the two ports, or hook it up to a network, if you want to get any files off it. Looks pretty though, and the price will certainly raise some eyebrows. Full review next month.

**Price** £999 (£850 ex VAT)

**Contact** Apple

0870 6006010

[www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com)



## Purple haze ▶

It's purple, it's green, it's cuddly and it's got electronic insides. It's Microsoft Barney, one of a new range of "ActiMates" for your sprog. Barney has sensors in his eyes and switches in his hands, feet and toes. He's got a vocabulary of 4000 words and cries "peek-a-boo" when you cover his eyes. Not only that, but he sings songs when you squeeze his foot, and does oodles of other cutsey-pie things, too.

**Price** £99.95 (£85 ex VAT)

**Contact** Microsoft 0345 002000

[www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com)



## △ Power to the people

A definite candidate for most bizarre product of the year is the PinUPS uninterruptible power supply from Advance Galatrek. Styled by Pininfarina and based upon — wait for it — the Ferrari F50, this is a device for the technogeek who really does have everything. A UPS, in case you didn't know, protects against power surges and supplies emergency juice from a large internal battery if the mains fail completely. So obviously, it's essential that it looks good.

**Price** From £159 (£135 ex VAT)

**Contact** Advance Galatrek 0800 269394

## ▽ Boxes that go bing

If you've got Windows 98 and USB ports on your PC, you don't even need a sound card to enjoy the 80 Watts of pure gaming joy afforded by the Microsoft Sound System 200's subwoofer and satellite set-up. It's still got bog-standard analogue inputs, though. The speakers will be available in the autumn.

**Price** Around £180 (£153 ex VAT) **Contact**

Microsoft 0345 002000

[www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com)





## ◀ Purple haze (reprise)

Not content with removable storage, Iomega is branching into video capture. Pretty sensible when you think about it, since lots of storage is just what you need when you're messing about with digital video. The Buz consists of a proper internal Ultra Wide SCSI card, plus the purple breakout box for video ins and outs. We don't know why it's called the Buz, but at least it's better than Fuz.

**Price** £189 (£161 ex VAT)

**Contact** Iomega 0800 973194

[www.iomega.com](http://www.iomega.com)

## Lumberjacks ▶ queue here

Following in the footsteps of the Husky "kick it, drop it and go surfing on it" notebook in last month's PCW, we have the RT-200. It's not quite as durable as the Husky, since it's got a hard drive and standard ports with rubber caps on them. But we've seen the test report and can confirm that it'll withstand a 40G, 11-millisecond, terminal-peak shock pulse. Oh, and it works in the rain, too.

**Price** From £3524 (£2999 ex VAT)

**Contact** Notable 0161 455 7600



## ◀ Executive dreams

Here's the sexy Siemens Nixdorf Scenic Mobile 800. The metallic sheen on the case is due to the fact that it's made of magnesium alloy. The keyboard is detachable and has an infra-red link, so you can type for hours in your hotel room in perfect comfort. The battery in the keyboard is automatically recharged when it's reattached, so no worries there. See next month's full review.

**Price** £5286 (£4499 ex VAT) **Contact** Siemens Nixdorf

01252 555312 [www.siemensnixdorf.co.uk](http://www.siemensnixdorf.co.uk)



## Telly mad ▶

We're not quite sure if this is a good or a bad idea — ACi's MD-1000 turns your £2000 notebook into a portable telly. There's no denying it could be fun — at least for a while. And when *EastEnders* has finished, you can use its video capture ability for something a little more serious.

**Price** £293 (£249 ex VAT)

**Contact** ACi 0181 357 1116 [www.aciweb.co.uk](http://www.aciweb.co.uk)

