

THE 50 HOTTEST GADGETS COMING YOUR WAY

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# T3

The Gadget Magazine



## APPLE TABLET THE RIVALS

Slate PCs out to  
spoil Apple's party



## KILLER TECH 2010

3D CAMCORDER  
HYBRID LAPTOP  
THINNEST EBOOK YET  
SUPER-SLIM 3D TV

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE NEXUS ONE

# GOOGLE PHONE

## 8-PAGE ANDROID SUPERTEST

Why now is the time to upgrade to Android



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Your kit, your way

**BIG BLU-RAY TEST**  
HD for every budget

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16 hot new apps





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MODEL OLEKSANDRA VOLKOVA @ NEXT MODELS  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY RICHARD GRASSIE @ JACKIE GIBBS  
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**GOOGLE PHONE**

9-PAGE ANDROID SUPERTEST  
Why now is the time to switch to Android



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TURN ON TOMORROW



# SLIDE INTO MOBILE ENTERTAINMENT



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# EDITOR'S LETTER



March 2010 / Issue 174

## Contributors



**MARTIN STANFORD**  
Urbane Sky News anchor Martin has a raw hunger for tech, with his unique nightly show taking its agenda from the stories making waves on the net. He muses on the future of TV news coverage on p50



**RICHARD VAUGHAN**  
Richard writes for the *Times Educational Supplement*. He's been discovering what education will look like in the future, courtesy of the technologies flooding the classroom. Pay attention to p100, and no talking



**DAN GEORGE**  
This month, Dan was at The Venetian, Las Vegas for CES, venturing out to sample the latest hi-fi gear and play the slots. His failure on the latter means he was available to review noise-reducing earphones on p94...



**T**he Consumer Electronics Show in Vegas threw up some exciting new products even if, as expected, the talk was almost entirely of 3D and tablet computing. While tablets had an all too brief run of popularity back in 2003, Apple, along with Windows 7, is busily ensuring that this false dawn becomes a bona fide daybreak. We are, of course, more than a little smug that we got there first with our Medion Smartpad concept, but this is no time to gloat.

Then there's 3D – the Great White Hope of the technology industry over the coming year, whether we're talking cameras, camcorders, TVs or gaming, you can guarantee there's a 3D application on its way. Rest assured **T3** will be right there at the bleeding edge to guide you through the 3D mire, but while this is great news for this fine industry of ours, what of the punters who've hocked themselves into next year on a 50-inch HD plasma or LCD? We suggest a scrappage scheme, just like the car industry's overwhelmingly successful model, but one that allows TV owners to trade in last year's cutting-edge hi-def goggle box for the latest in 3D loveliness.

Speaking of which, who among us is going to take the plunge around World Cup time when the 3D battle proper kicks off? I'd be very interested to hear whether you're planning to wait or dive straight into 3D in 2010. Given that you read this magazine, I'm pretty sure a fair few of you have already got the necessary funding in place to add an extra dimension to your viewing. Do let me know by email or via the gift of Twitter.

I'll leave you with this should you happen to be connected as you read this: <http://bit.ly/1oQ8Hk>. Pure, unadulterated genius that sums up our collective tech obsession. Till next month, then...

**MICHAEL BROOK** Editor

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Right to left: tablets do Vegas, p30. Vuzix's augmented reality specs and Toshiba's telly are both 3D-ready on p34. Dell's super-slim Adamo XPS reviewed on p44



Don't forget the next issue, on sale March 4



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 Overseas queries: +44 (0)1858 438795 Email: T3@subscription.co.uk www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk

UK Newsstand distributor: Seymour Distribution Ltd, 2 East Poultry Avenue, London, EC1A 9PT. Tel: 020 7429 4000

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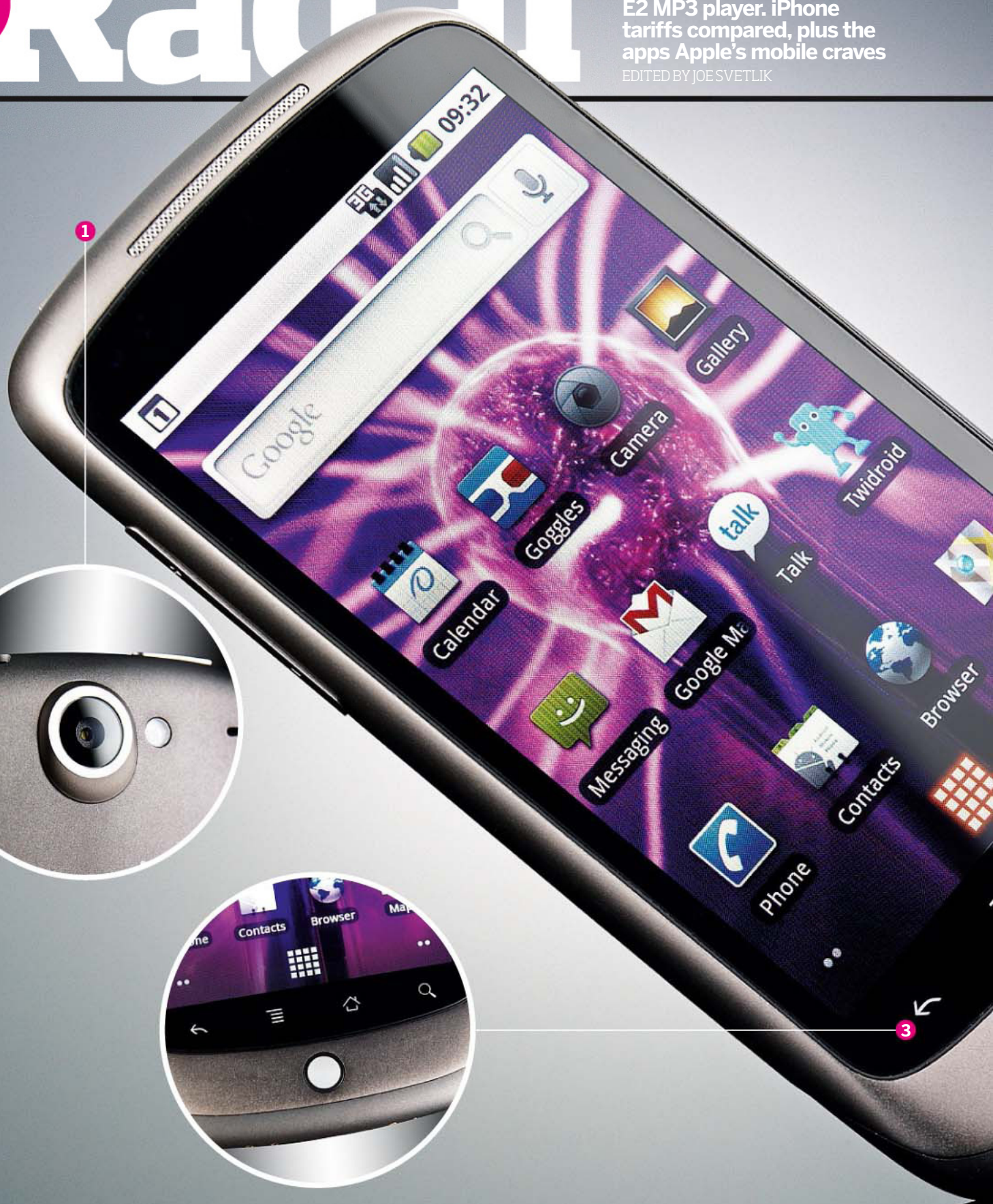


# Radarr

THIS MONTH'S HOTTEST GEAR

**This month** The 4x4 Mini powers up. Cowon's tiny E2 MP3 player. iPhone tariffs compared, plus the apps Apple's mobile craves

EDITED BY JOESVETLIK







**Sony Ericsson  
Hazel and Elm**  
They love planet  
Earth and their  
specs are none  
too shoddy P22



**Cloud concepts**  
When cloud  
computing takes  
over, these will  
be the must-have  
gadgets P20

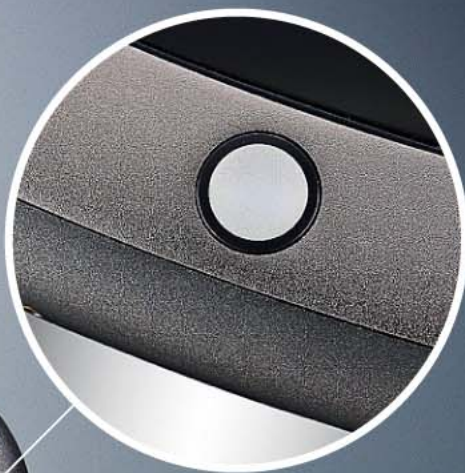


**First review:  
Dell Adamo XPS**  
The reigning  
World's Thinnest  
Laptop, exclusively  
reviewed in **T3** P44



# GOOGLE PHONE NEXUS ONE

The search giant's own Android mobile is  
the closest thing yet to an iPhone debagger



## The details

### 1 Camera

The Nexus One has a five-meg sensor. That's two more than the iPhone's camera and there's a flash too, albeit only an LED one

### 2 Trackball

Use this to scroll around websites and documents with fluid ease

### 3 Buttons

The touch-sensitive Back, Menu, Home and Search buttons have haptic feedback, so they vibrate reassuringly when pressed

**I**t was the worst kept secret in recent memory, and here, finally, is the Google phone. Named the Nexus One, allegedly after the humanoid robots in *Bladerunner*, it's the first phone to be sold by Google, although it's constructed by Android stalwarts HTC, and the first to run Android 2.1 software. But first, the hardware...

The screen is 3.7 inches across, with an 800x480 resolution. Both stats are higher than the iPhone and it's also AMOLED, so it really makes photos, web pages and video sing, as long as you're not in bright sunlight. The camera is five megapixels with a flash to the iPhone's flash-less three. If you take a picture, it'll automatically geo-tag it and ask if you want to upload it to Picasa or YouTube.

Of course, now smartphones are all basically screens with differently coloured frames and broadly similar tech specs, the software matters a lot, and the Nexus One doesn't disappoint.

The Nexus One actually feels slightly nipper than the iPhone, with no lag whatsoever moving between screens, even with an app running in the background.

Android 2.1, aka Eclair lets you sync more than one email account, including Exchange, so you get all your work and personal missives.



Quick Contact lets you get in touch in many ways: tap a person's name, and it'll give you the option to contact them by text, email, tweet, Facebook message, or even by an old-fashioned phone call, if they're elderly. The iPhone, by contrast, makes you open email, SMS or Facebook or however you want to communicate before selecting the contact. You can also now search all texts and multimedia messages, and there's an improved on-screen keyboard.

Squeezing more battery from it is also simpler with options for turning off life sapping functions such as Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, screen brightness and more right up the top

## THE NEXUS ONE LOOKS LIKE IT COULD FINALLY PASS APPLE IN **T3**'S TOP TEN MOBILES CHART...

of the menu. Another neat touch are the living wallpapers, which move, some reacting to music or touchscreen presses, and the voice control is unparalleled, helping with everything from dictating messages to finding points of interest on *Google Maps*.

Negatives? There are about 80,000 fewer apps available for it and although the Nexus One has multi-touch, strangely it is not properly supported out of the box (see p18).

There have also been moans about the 3G speed and Google's approach to customer service – hopefully both will have been sorted by the time the Nexus One hits the UK, where Vodafone was the first to confirm it'll be carrying it. There's not much in it, but this looks like it could finally squeak past Apple in **T3**'s Top Ten mobiles chart. Watch this space...

£529 (UK PRICE TBC), [WWW.GOOGLE.COM/PHONE](http://WWW.GOOGLE.COM/PHONE), OUT SPRING 2010

### Specifications



← 59.8mm → | | 11.5mm

**SCREEN** 3.7 inches, 800x480 pixels, AMOLED  
**PROCESSOR/RAM** Qualcomm Snapdragon 1GHz/512MB  
**STORAGE** 512MB + microSD up to 32GB (4GB included)  
**CONNECTIVITY** 7.2Mbps HSDPA, Bluetooth 2.1, 802.11b/g Wi-Fi, A-GPS, 3.5mm audio  
**BATTERY** 7 hours 3G talk, 7 hours video, 20 hours audio  
**CAMERA** 5-meg, LED flash, autofocus/720x480, 20fps  
**SIZE/WEIGHT** 119x59.8x11.5mm/130g

### Three ways it outdoes the iPhone

#### 1 CAMERA

The Nexus One has a two-meg advantage over the iPhone, as well as a 2x digital zoom and LED flash

#### 2 SCREEN

The 3.7-inch AMOLED screen is 0.2-inches larger than the iPhone's, with the 800x480 resolution comfortably beating the iPhone's 480x320

#### 3 CONTACTS

You can call, text, tweet or email your contacts directly from the phonebook, saving both time and hassle

## 10 top tips for using the Google Nexus One

1 ➤

**Touch and hold text in messages: if it contains a number you can call it instantly, addresses open in Google Maps, or you can copy and paste**

2 ➤

Search using your voice: click the mic on the search widget, say "Navigate to pizza" and *Google Maps* shows your route to the nearest pizza place. Smart

3 ➤

**The Power Control widget lets you turn battery-draining functions like Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, Sync and GPS on and off directly from your home screen**

4 ➤

Touch and hold the home screen to choose from a selection of live wallpapers which include Smoke, Grass and Rain, which mimics rain falling on your screen

### Industry opinion

**Andrew Harrison, UK CEO of The Carphone Warehouse**



"Google's unveiling of the Nexus One at CES represents a landmark development in the world of smartphones. Using the revolutionary Android 2.1 operating system, this phone really advances the capabilities of a handset to offer people even more from their mobile phone.

The recent growth in this area, epitomised by the launch of the Nexus One, is giving consumers more choice than ever before. With the battle of the smartphones really starting to hot up, this is an exciting time for the industry as we wait to see what direction future developments will take us in, and whether the reign of Apple's iPhone will ever come to an end..."

With Android 2.1 and a 1GHz processor, Google's Nexus is the One to watch



# SPEC SHOWDOWN

The Google Nexus One goes head to head to head with the iPhone and Milestone



**GOOGLE NEXUS ONE**



**APPLE IPHONE 3GS**



**MOTOROLA MILESTONE**

PRICE	£332	£449 (16GB), £549 (32GB)	£449
WEBSITE	<a href="http://WWW.GOOGLE.COM/PHONE">WWW.GOOGLE.COM/PHONE</a>	<a href="http://WWW.APPLE.COM/UK">WWW.APPLE.COM/UK</a>	<a href="http://WWW.MOTOROLA.CO.UK">WWW.MOTOROLA.CO.UK</a>
SCREEN	3.7 inches, 800x480 pixels, AMOLED	3.5 inches, 480x320 pixels, LCD	3.7 inches, 854x480 pixels, LCD
MULTI-TOUCH	On certain apps only	Yes	Yes
KEYBOARD	On-screen	On-screen	Slide-out QWERTY and on-screen
PROCESSOR	1GHz	600MHz	550MHz
RAM	512MB	256MB	256MB
STORAGE	512MB plus microSD (4GB included, supports up to 32GB)	16GB or 32GB	512MB plus microSD (8GB included, supports up to 32GB)
CONNECTIVITY	7.2Mbps HSDPA, 802.11b/g Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR, A-GPS, 3.5mm audio	7.2Mbps HSDPA, 802.11b/g Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR, A-GPS, 3.5mm audio	10.2Mbps HSDPA, 802.11b/g Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR, A-GPS
BATTERY – 3G TALK TIME	7 hours	5 hours	5 hours
3G WEB BROWSING	5 hours	5 hours	Not quoted
WI-FI	6.5 hours	9 hours	Not quoted
VIDEO/MUSIC	7 hours/20 hours	10 hours/30 hours	Not quoted
CAMERA	5-megapixel, LED flash, autofocus, 2x zoom	3-megapixel, autofocus	5-megapixel, LED flash, autofocus, 4x zoom
VIDEO	720x480 at 20fps	640x480 at 30fps	720x576 at 25fps
SIZE	119x60x11.5mm	116x62x12.3mm	116x60x13.7mm
WEIGHT	130g	135g	165g
APPS	20,000+	100,000+	20,000+

**5** ➤

To use the Nexus One as an external hard drive, plug it into your computer via USB, open the notification bar and click USB Connected then Mount

**6** ➤

To call up recently used applications quickly and easily, hold down the Home button and you'll receive shortcuts to all your most-used apps

**7** ➤

Press and hold any of the app icons in your applications list to instantly add a shortcut to the Nexus One's home screen for quick access

**8** ➤

Slide the unlock bar on the left hand side of the handset to mute the phone. It's a quick and easy way to silence your phone in meetings or at the cinema

**9** ➤

You can add important contacts to your home screen by holding down their icon in the phonebook, then selecting Shortcuts and Contact

**10**

Dictate your messages, emails or tweets by bringing up the virtual keyboard and selecting the mic icon to the left of the space bar

# NEXUS ONE: THE FIRST VERDICTS

Opinions on the Nexus One from the web and beyond

**GIZMODO.COM**

"The trackball is basically useless, you'll only use it for its colour-based notifications that tell you when you have a new email, text message or missed call without turning on the screen."

"The four touch buttons – Home, Back, Menu and Search – do have haptic feedback, but they're not that phenomenal either. Half of the time they don't register a press when you want them to, and the other half of the time they think you're hitting it when you're not."

"The photo gallery thumbnails tilt as you move the phone, which is fairly distracting. The apps screen is even worse. Instead of just quickly scrolling onto or off the screen, the apps are wrapped around the surface of a cube. This would be fine if the extra 3D effect didn't cause any slowdown, but it does."

"These effects are cool, don't get me wrong, but I'd prefer it if Google was spending its man hours improving speed and performance."

**TECHCRUNCH.COM**

"This is the best Android-powered phone to date. It's also the fastest and most elegant smartphone on the market today, solidly beating the iPhone in most ways. In this rapidly evolving market there is sure to be something better just around the corner, but if you're looking to buy a high-end smartphone right now, this is it."

"On the downside, the phone's primary microphone is located on the bottom of the device, to the left. I noticed that on calls, when I cradle the phone between my neck and shoulder, my voice is muted. This is a design error that should be changed in future versions."

"It's Google's vision of the perfect Android device, from the huge, beautiful screen and massively fast Snapdragon processor to the software elegance of Google Navigation, Live Wallpaper and the Voice Keyboard. When combined with Google Voice there's no phone on the market that can touch the Nexus One."

**ENGADGET.COM**

"The Nexus One is nothing if not handsome and, while it's unmistakably HTC, there are plenty of design cues that feel authentically Google as well. It's that balance which makes the phone such an intriguing piece of hardware."

**CNET.COM**

"The Google Nexus One has a gorgeous display, a lightning-fast processor and a fully-loaded feature set. The enhanced voice capabilities worked flawlessly and the phone delivers a solid all-round performance."

**DAILY TELEGRAPH**

"The Google Nexus One effortlessly plugs in to the web, social media sites, your email provider, calendar, search functions and all your contacts. Perhaps the company that already dominates the web search market should simply start making the computers as well?"

**THE NEW YORK TIMES**

"THE NEXUS ONE JUST DOESN'T ATTAIN THE IPHONE'S FIT AND FINISH. THE BUTTONS UNDER THE SCREEN OFTEN IGNORE YOUR FINGER PRESSES COMPLETELY AND ONE OF THE ANIMATED WALLPAPERS FREEZES THE PHONE... BUT MAYBE IT DOESN'T MATTER IF THE NEXUS ONE ISN'T NIRVANA. GOOGLE SAYS IT'S ONLY THE FIRST OF MANY..."

"The display is as good or better than any Android phone, but, like most AMOLED screens, it's a nightmare to see in bright light and taking photos on a sunny day is like shooting with your eyes closed."

"Class-leading processor, vibrant display, sexy shell and just a sprinkling of geekiness that only Google could pull off this effortlessly."

"Like other Android phones, the Nexus One forces you to store apps on the internal memory. The media player remains average, and it's missing some features such as multi-touch support, dual-mode capability for GSM and CDMA networks and hands-free Bluetooth dialing. Currently, Outlook calendar syncing isn't available either."

"It doesn't have all the features we'd like, but the Nexus One greatly enhances the Google Android family with a fast processor, good call quality and improved voice control features. What's more, we love that all versions of the phone will be unlocked."

"The five-meg camera is a few leaps ahead of most Android phones... Photo quality is satisfying."

"The effective voice operation for controlling the phone's functions and writing emails is the Nexus One's most surprising feature. This is the first time I've seen a version of that technology that is genuinely usable."

"The biggest problem Google faces: an iPhone is a web-browsing, every-song-in-your-pocket, phone-call-making pleasure to own. It's part of an entire ecosystem, with accessories, covers, speaker systems and even ties that are made specifically for your iPod."

"There are satnav capabilities built in that cost Apple users extra, and a fast processor means the Nexus One operates quicker than any phone currently on sale in the UK."

Does the Nexus One have multi-touch or not?



Whether the Nexus One has multi-touch or not has been a cloudy issue thus far. Google doesn't officially support multi-touch on the phone's basic software or any official Google apps, but third-party apps can and do support it.

At Android Market you can download the Dolphin app – a multi-touch browser – and PicSay, which allows pinch-to-zoom.

Will Google include multi-touch in future software upgrades? "Possibly", a Google spokesman tells us...

**T3.COM**

"GOOGLE'S NEXUS ONE STOLE THE SHOW AT THIS YEAR'S CES WITHOUT EVEN MAKING AN OFFICIAL APPEARANCE. THE NEXUS ONE IS THE BEST ANDROID PHONE SO FAR, WITH THE MOST UP-TO-DATE SOFTWARE AND THE KIND OF SPECIFICATIONS THAT MAKE THE IPHONE LOOK OLD HAT... AND IT'S ONLY THE FIRST OF GOOGLE'S PROMISED RANGE OF 'SUPERPHONES'. WE'RE EXPECTING BIG THINGS."

**What are its inspirations?**

The Google Nexus One: a technological melting pot



IPHONE	MOTOROLA DEXT
44%	15%
HTC SMART	SAMSUNG OMNIA II
20%	21%

**Google Nexus One in numbers**

**20,000**  
SALES OF THE NEXUS ONE IN THE US IN THE FIRST WEEK

**50,000**  
UK SALES OF THE IPHONE ON VODAFONE ON THE FIRST DAY

**\$100**  
DROP IN THE PRICE OF THE NEXUS ONE ON T-MOBILE US A WEEK AFTER GOING ON SALE. ANYONE WHO HAD PAID FULL PRICE WAS ENTITLED TO A \$100 REFUND



## ALWAYS TAKE THE WEATHER WITH YOU

Never get caught in a storm with WeatherBug, a free app on Android Market™ which lets you check live weather forecasts wherever you are. Just one of over 20,000 apps available on the LG InTouch Max GW620, the new smartphone from LG.



## LG InTouch max GW620

[www.lge.co.uk/intouchmax](http://www.lge.co.uk/intouchmax)



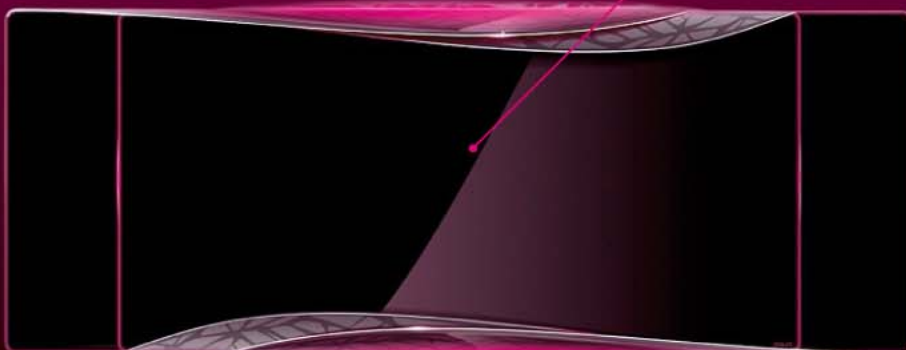
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# CLOUD GAZING

Concepts that shape the future of mobile computing

**F**or years, cloud computing has promised to do away with conventional methods of working and playing, storing everything online rather than on your hard drive, meaning unlimited storage, and remote access to all your files and applications from wherever you are. So far it's failed to really take off, but if these concept products from Asus ever see the light of day, they'll usher in completely new ways of accessing information. They're all part of a concept called Waveface, and are designed to make getting at your data seamless and easier than ever, wherever you happen to be.

UK.ASUS.COM



## The details

### 1 Casa

When not in full use as a TV and web portal, a decorative cover obscures all but small areas of the screen, showing only relevant info like music controls

### 2 Light

The whole of this laptop is touch-sensitive, including the keyboard. You can use as a regular notebook or fold it flat and use it as a tablet PC

### 3 Ultra

Wear this watchphone on your wrist and it lets you access all your documents and data wherever you are, via the cloud. Don't leave your biodome without it...



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# IPHONE APPS OF THE MONTH

The latest ways to customise your iPhone, from making an insurance claim to augmenting reality to rocking out like a bad-ass mother



#### IPASSWORD PRO

Remembers passwords for websites, so you don't have to. If your iPhone is lost, your passwords are safe. £4.99



#### AXADENT

Guides you through what to do in the event of an accident and logs the location using GPS. Free



#### BEBO

Keeps you connected to Bebo, Facebook and Twitter, as well as letting you update your own profile. Free



#### METER READ

Enter your meter readings and it'll send them to British Gas, meaning no more estimated bills. Free



#### EBUDDY

Aggregates MSN, Yahoo, AIM, Facebook Chat and others. Even delivers messages after closing. Free



#### FT LBBT

The Little Book of Business Travel reveals etiquette, cultural tips and spots for entertaining clients abroad. Free



#### GOOGLE MOBILE

Links to Google apps, letting you search by voice, find contacts and pinpoint local businesses. Free



#### LINKEDIN

The business networking site's redesigned app has a new user interface and quicker load times. Free



#### MIX ME IN

Breaks songs into parts, letting you remix them by taking out some elements and tweaking others. £1.19



#### PROCHORDS

Helps you write songs using over 9,000 pre-loaded chord progressions, suggesting routes to take. £3.49



#### PROONGO EXPENSE WITH RECEIPT READER

Take a picture of a receipt and it'll store it as an expense form. 59p



#### SPY PIX

Lets you send hidden images to other iPhones - only those with SpyPix will see what's there. 59p



#### THEODOLITE

Augmented reality app that superimposes details such as direction and altitude over what's actually there. 99p



#### PLANET ROCK

Plays the eponymous radio station and lets you bookmark songs for buying at the iTunes Store. Free



#### HIPSTAMATIC

Change virtual lenses for different photography effects. More options can be purchased later. £1.99



#### COPILOT LIVE UK & IRELAND

Turn-by-turn satnav that's notably cheaper than its TomTom equivalent. £26.99

## Tarrific!

All the iPhone 3GS tariffs compared

	PER MONTH	MINUTES	TEXTS	16GB	32GB
<b>Orange</b>					
<b>18 MONTHS</b>	£30	150	250	£189	£280
	£35	600	500	£189	£280
	£45	1200	500	£89	£179
	£75	3000	500	Free	£99
<b>24 MONTHS</b>	£30	150	250	£128	£230
	£35	600	500	£89	£179
	£45	1200	500	Free	£99
	£75	3000	500	Free	Free
	£125	Unlimited	Unlimited	Free	Free
<b>Vodafone</b>					
<b>18 MONTHS</b>	£40	600	Unlimited	£89	£179
	£50	1200	Unlimited	Free	£89
	£80	3000	Unlimited	Free	Free
<b>24 MONTHS</b>	£30	300	Unlimited	£149	£239
	£35	600	Unlimited	£89	£179
	£45	1200	Unlimited	Free	£89
	£75	3000	Unlimited	Free	Free
<b>O2</b>					
<b>18 MONTHS</b>	£30	75	125	£189	£279
	£35	600	500	£189	£279
	£45	1200	500	£89	£179
	£75	3000	500	Free	£99
<b>24 MONTHS</b>	£35	600	500	£89	£179
	£45	1200	500	Free	£99
	£75	3000	500	Free	Free
	£75	3000	500	Free	Free
<b>Tesco Mobile</b>					
<b>12 MONTHS</b>	£20	up to 300*	up to 600*	£320	£407
<b>24 MONTHS</b>	£60	Unlimited	Unlimited	Free	Free

\* £60 of calls and texts, charged at 20p a minute and 10p a text, but with half price on each for five numbers.

## The verdict

### Who's actually cheapest?

#### 1 Budget callers

Tesco's 12-month contract is the cheapest route to an iPhone. If you want a longer contract, Orange is cheapest over 18 and 24 months but in both cases offers fewer minutes/texts than its rivals.

#### 3 Big callers

Tesco's £60 a month deal offers the same allowance as Orange's top tariff, but for £65 less per month, although Orange's includes 100 minutes and 20MB browsing in Europe.

#### 2 Moderate use

At £45 a month over two years Vodafone is £10 cheaper than Orange and O2, with the same minutes but unlimited texts.

#### 4 Pay as you go

Tesco is cheapest here too, with calls priced at 20p per minute, texts 10p, and half price calls to five numbers of your choice.



# GREENER MOBILES

Eco-friendly phones with decent specs

**S**ony Ericsson's Hazel slider and Elm candybar are "GreenHeart" mobiles made from recycled plastics and free from polluting chemicals. They're both the same on the inside, with a five-meg camera with autofocus and face detection, and the ability to back up your data at Sony Ericsson's website. A *Widget Manager* app lets you address all your social networking needs from the home page, and Noise Shield, Clear Voice and Intelligent Volume Adaptation tech ensure your calls are clear. With other allegedly eco-friendly functions including a step counter, your calls will also not be drowned out by the racket of Mother Earth's bitter sobbing, which is nice.

FROM FREE ON CONTRACT, WWW.SONYERICSSON.CO.UK, OUT MARCH

## Green credentials

### 1 BUILD

Both the Hazel (left) and Elm are made from recycled plastics and come with minimal packaging, saving waste

### 2 ECO APPS

A green calculator lets you see how much CO2 you've saved by not using the car, and the *Walkmate* application acts as a pedometer, so you can see how much good walking is doing you as well as the planet

### 3 CHARGER

Both have a low power consumption charger, which uses 30mW – that's one tenth the drainage of a regular charger. It reminds you to unplug once charged, too, saving more energy

# RE: SHUFFLE

● Fancy an alternative to Apple's singing stick of gum, the iPod Shuffle? Cowon's titchy E2 uses BBE+ technology to bring out detail in compressed music files, scoring points over the more workmanlike audio of the Shuffle. A one and a half hour charge will give you 11 hours of playback and it's happy with MP3, WMA, WAV, OGG and FLAC. If you need to change tracks, there are even buttons on the side, not on the earphone cable only, while the loop on the top lets you hook the E2 stylishly to your keyring or belt.

2GB: £35, 4GB: £45, WWW.AMP.CO.UK, OUT NOW



# SUBSCRIBE

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AND RECEIVE AN INTEMPO IDS-01 UNPLUGGED IPOD DOCK. WITH 12 WATT STEREO SPEAKERS, THE IDS-01 PRODUCES A MEATY SOUND AND CAN BE POWERED FROM THE MAINS, OR LOADED WITH AA BATTERIES AND TAKEN ON THE ROAD FOR 20 HOURS OF MUSIC, AL FRESCO... SIGN UP NOW AT WWW.MYFAVOURITEMAGAZINES.CO.UK/TTT/P071. SEE PAGE 56 FOR MORE INFO







The new Nikon D5000.  
Shoots stills. Shoots movies.  
Shoots around corners.

The Nikon D5000. 12.3 Megapixels. Hi Def video.

Nikon's unique 2.7" LCD Vari-angle monitor makes it easy to take pictures from any angle.

**D5000**

12.3 megapixels and EXPEED image processing system for high definition images. Live View with four AF modes. Enhanced creativity with HD movie function for high impact movie clips. View life from any angle with the D5000. Welcome to Nikon.



**2 YEAR**  
WARRANTY





**The details**

**1 CHASSIS**

Extended springs and larger wheels add height, while a four-wheel drive transmission system matched to clever traction make this Mini capable of serious off-road action

**2 INTERIOR**

A rail extends from the instrument panel through the car and into the boot. Use it to safely attach your iPods, laptops, GPS devices and suitcases

**3 EXTERIOR STYLING**

The short front and rear overhangs underline the Beachcomber's off-road prowess and the bulging bonnet promises engine power aplenty. There's no official word on specs yet, but expect turbos and a return of Mini's Stop/Start system, which cuts the engine when stationary

**Wheel life**

With Nick Trott, editor of *EVO* magazine



Where do you go next after designing the most iconic cars of the last decade? Having created the new Mini Cooper, the reborn Fiat 500, the Ferrari F430, Ferrari 612 and the Maserati MC12, Frank Stephenson could have simply proclaimed "I'm done" and put away his drawing board.

Instead he's taken on one of the toughest jobs in the industry – designing a range of sports cars intended to beat not only Porsche, but also his former employers at Ferrari. As Design Director at McLaren Automotive, he's employing some brand new technology that could change car manufacture forever.

McLaren is building the first of its new generation of sports cars, the MP4-12C, as you read this. The car goes on sale later this year, with preparations being made for two more to follow. On a recent trip to McLaren's Norman Foster-designed Technology Centre, Stephenson told me, rather enigmatically, that he

was keeping an eye on 3D holographic technology. He refused to divulge more than that. Intriguing, no?

So what could 3D holographic tech have to do with car design? Well, soon the technology will exist whereby an entire holographic "skin" can be created for any car. Theoretically you could, at the flick of a switch, make your Mini look like a McLaren, or your McLaren look like an F-22 Raptor warplane. The "skins" could even be available for download from an iTunes-type shop – the Halfords of the future, perhaps? Best of all, the companies that make those "My other car's a..." bumper stickers may go out of business.

**Three to drive**

**This month's best rides**

**1** ➡➡

**Aston Martin Cygnet**

This pocket-sized Aston has a 1.3-litre, 97bhp engine – slightly less powerful than James Bond's six-litre DBS £20,000, [ASTONMARTIN.COM](http://www.astonmartin.com)



**2** ➡➡

**Brabus GLK**

The world's fastest SUV has a 740bhp V12 engine with two turbochargers and a top speed of 211mph £355,000, [WWW.BRABUS.COM](http://www.brabus.com)



**3** ➡➡

**9FF GT9R**

Mental: this Porsche-based supercar pulls over 1120bhp – more than an F1 car – and has a top speed of 260mph £450,000, [WWW.9FF.DE](http://www.9ff.de)



# MINI 4X4

## The Mini bulks up, gets ready for adventure

**T**his is a glimpse at the future of the Mini, and as you will have noted, it's lacking doors or a roof. It's the Beachcomber Concept, a precursor to the improbable sounding but imminent 4x4 Mini.

While no Mini has ever been this big – the Beachcomber is over four metres long – it isn't the first stab at a Mini Chelsea tractor. John Cooper, of Mini Cooper fame, built the original four-wheel drive model back in the 60s, but

wrote off the car – and very nearly himself – in a massive prang on the Kingston Bypass.

This time things look more promising. The Beachcomber has already successfully taken on some of the toughest rally courses in the world, and if the rumours are to be believed, Mini will be returning to the World Rally Championship in 2010 with a car a lot like this... albeit with doors and a roof.

£18,000 TO £26,000, [WWW.MINI.CO.UK](http://www.mini.co.uk), OUT LATE 2010





# THE MONTH IN **NUMBERS**

Numerical nuggets about super-speed broadband, apps, music and more

# 98 per cent

The proportion of singles bought as downloads in 2009. Single sales were up 32.7 per cent to a record 152 million. Albums sales fell 3.5 per cent, with one in eight bought online

# 20,000

**APPS ARE AVAILABLE FROM ANDROID MARKET AND 62.2 PER CENT OF THEM ARE FREE, ACCORDING TO ANDROLIB**

# 35%

More vinyl albums were sold in 2009 than 2008 in the US, according to Nielsen Soundscan

# 100

The speed in Mbps that BT says its fibre-optic broadband will reach by 2012 – double the speed of Virgin's premium service. It'll be available to about 40 per cent of the UK

# 20

The percentage of TVs to go on sale in Europe this year with internet connectivity, according to Futuresource

# 183

Billion US dollars will soon be invested in improving broadband in 17 American states, according to vice president Joe Biden

# 30

POUNDS PER MONTH FOR 18 MONTHS IS THE CHEAPEST TARIFF FOR THE IPHONE 3GS AVAILABLE ON VODAFONE. THAT'S THE SAME PRICE AS ORANGE'S AND .55 LESS THAN O2'S CHEAPEST DEAL

# 59

The percentage leap RIM is claiming for its profits in the third quarter of 2009. They say it's due to ten million BlackBerry sales in the period

# 4,500,000

People used a music streaming service like Spotify or Last.fm in the UK in November, according to Rajar

### Quote of the month

**"YOU CAN LEND TO ONE FRIEND, ONE TIME... IT'S SOPHIE'S CHOICE"**

Amazon founder Jeff Bezos' unfortunate literary reference basically compares choosing who to lend an ebook to on the Nook to choosing who should live or die, in an interview with *The New York Times*



# 3 + 6 + 9 MONTHS AWAY



The Gadget Show  
**LIVE**  
HELIX Birmingham  
8 - 11 April 2010

**EVENT**  
**The Gadget Show Live**

The **T3** team joins Jason Bradbury, Suzi Perry and the other one for a celebration of the latest must-have gadgets and cutting-edge technology. Want to be there? Head to page 129 for a ticket offer **APRIL 8-11 2010**



**GAME**  
**Metal Gear Solid: Peacewalker**

The first PSP version of *Metal Gear Solid* to be directed by series creator Hideo Kojima, *Peacewalker* is set just after the action of *MGS 3*, and features co-op play and lashings of stealth **JUNE 2010**



**FESTIVAL**  
**Hard Rock Calling**

This will be the fifth annual Hyde Park rock bash, the last of which concluded with Paul McCartney and Neil Young performing *A Day in the Life*. Perhaps non-pensioners will be allowed to play this year... **JULY 1-5 2010**



**SPORTS**  
**Wimbledon 2010**

Recently dumped for allegedly playing *Call of Duty* too much, Andy Murray should now have enough time on his hands to get into Federer-beating form for the 124th Wimbledon tournament **JUNE 21 - JULY 4**



**GADGET**  
**Google Nexus One**

The iPhone-botherer has already hit US stores and will be available in the UK on Vodafone in the coming months. Can't wait? You can buy it now for around £400, SIM-free and unlocked, via [www.google.com/phone](http://www.google.com/phone) **EARLY 2010**



**GAME**  
**Pirates Of The Caribbean: Armada Of The Damned**

In this open-ended RPG the seas are yours to explore, with towns, vessels and caves to plunder. Rum, sodomy and the lash unlikely to feature, it being Disney **SEPTEMBER 2010**



**FILM**  
**The American**

George Clooney plays Jack, a hitman hiding out in Italy waiting to learn the target of his one last job. He tries to live a normal life, befriend the local vicar and romancing the ladies, but his past catches up **SEPTEMBER 2010**



**SOFTWARE**  
**Gnome 3.0**

Gnome is the thorn in Windows 7's paw; a constantly improving Linux platform running free, open source software. Version 3.0 promises the most slick, fluid and aesthetically pleasing experience yet **SEPTEMBER 2010**



**FILM**  
**Saw VII 3D**

Yes, they're genuinely on the seventh instalment of this torturous film franchise already. This one is filmed in 3D, so expect limbs to be thrown and blood to be projected as Jigsaw claims several more victims **OCTOBER 2010**



**EVENT**  
**Final US space shuttle mission**

NASA's got big plans for the coming decades, but none of them involve the now iconic space shuttle Orbiter design. It'll retire this year, to be replaced by the hopefully Mars-bound Orion **LATE 2010**



**FILM**  
**Tron Legacy**

Jeff Bridges returns, Daft Punk have penned the soundtrack, and it's all in 3D. The net effect is likely to be as headache-inducing as the first one was 18 years ago, but hopefully the plot will make sense this time **DECEMBER 2010**



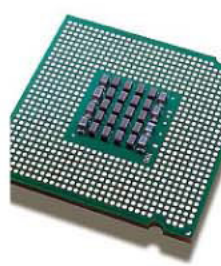
**CAR**  
**Rolls-Royce Phantom**

Word is that a fully electric Rolls-Royce Phantom is soon to go into production. Whisper-quietness and eco-smugness are very appealing, even if it does take a battery the size of a Ford Fiesta to shift the thing **END OF 2010**



**FILM**  
**The First Avenger: Captain America**

Continuing down the increasingly rushed road to a 2012 *Marvel Avengers* film, leader Captain America will get a reboot next year - updating his story from its WWII roots **JULY 22 2011**



**CHIPSET**  
**Intel 22 Nanometer**

With 2.9 billion transistors on a fingernail-sized sliver of silicon, Intel's new processing tech promises to offer twice as much power and speed as today's high-end chipsets. Moore's Law strikes again... **2011**



**GAME**  
**Diablo III**

Prepare to cast Chain Lightning and swing your Great Sword: Blizzard's three-years-in-the-making continuation of the genre-defining dungeon hack 'n' slash series is finally poised for release... **2011**

PHOTOGRAPHY: REX FEATURES



# love

at first sight

ASUS Ultra-Slim **Designo MS Series** LCD Monitor

Be the envy of those around you

MS246 / 236 / 227 / 226 / 202



**50000:1**  
High Contrast

**2ms** **40%**  
Trace Free Power Saving



[amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk)

[ANVIKA](http://ANVIKA)

[MISCO.co.uk](http://MISCO.co.uk)

[SCAN](http://SCAN)

# Great <sup>AND</sup> LOATHING

# in LAS VEGAS



CES in Vegas is the greatest gadget show on Earth. We went, and came back with **Alaska THE BEST NEW Gear for 2010**  
Words: Rob Temple, Joe Sveloff, Michael Brock, Kieran Alger, Rhi Morgan, Chris Smith

Photography RICHARD GRASSIE  
Styling RACHEL BAKWEL  
edited by LISA MARIE PRICE







# TABLETS

Touchscreened up to take on Apple's slate



## HP SLATE PC

**H**ewlett Packard's touchscreen slate, expected to go on sale later this year for "under \$500", was demonstrated running a PC Kindle app to a 3,500-strong crowd by Microsoft chief Steve Ballmer. The excitable CEO stated: "It's a beautiful little product... as portable as a phone and as powerful as a PC running Windows 7." Next to no specs were available at time of going to press, but on first glance we're not sure if it'll be a real contender to Apple's tablet. Microsoft's Courier concept, with dual screens that open like a book, looked far more interesting when it was previewed late last year, though the prospect of Windows 7 on such a small device is mouth-watering and demonstrates where technology is headed in 2010.

\$499 (£300), [www.hp.com/uk](http://www.hp.com/uk), OUT EARLY 2010



## SONY DASH VIEWER

● Sony's quirky sidecar to the tablet bandwagon was this seven-inch touchscreen Wi-Fi "Personal Internet Viewer", which runs the Linux-based Chumby OS. Users will be able to access the 1,000+ free Chumby apps for news, weather, photos etc and it also can be propped up like a photo frame. One for home users, in short.

\$199 (£120), [www.sony.co.uk](http://www.sony.co.uk), OUT APRIL



➔ **VEGAS IN NUMBERS** THERE ARE ROUGHLY 198,000 SLOT MACHINES IN VEGAS



### T-Mobile Vega

Available in the UK later this year, the Vega from T-Mobile and Innovative Converged Devices (ICD) is one of the first tablets to run on Android. With a 15-inch touchscreen and powered by an Nvidia Tegra 250 mobile web processor, it's designed for family use within the home – T-Mobile calls it a "family communication network". It can be accessed remotely by multiple users. Pricing is still to be announced.

£TBC, WWW.T-MOBILE.CO.UK, OUT EARLY 2010



## Where to stay

### Ten swank hotels in Vegas

#### 1 The Bellagio

Built: 1998  
Rooms: 3,933  
Best for: High rollers

#### 2 The Venetian

Built: 1999  
Rooms: 4,049  
Best for: Larger people – every room is 700sq ft

#### 3 Caesar's Palace

Built: 1966  
Rooms: 3,443  
Best for: Traditionalists

#### 4 Circus Circus

Built: 1968  
Rooms: 3,773  
Best for: First-time visitors

#### 5 Mandalay Bay

Built: 1990  
Rooms: 4,774  
Best for: A bit of peace

#### 6 MGM Grand

Built: 1993  
Rooms: 5,044  
Best for: Aficionados of fake art deco

#### 7 Wynn Las Vegas

Built: 2005  
Rooms: 2,716  
Best for: Garth Brooks fans

#### 8 Paris Las Vegas

Built: 1999  
Rooms: 2,916  
Best for: Francophiles

#### 9 Luxor

Built: 1993  
Rooms: 4,408  
Best for: Egyptologists

#### 10 Excalibur

Built: 1990  
Rooms: 3,993  
Best for: Kids



# MORE TABLETS



## LENOVO IDEAPAD

The 11.6-inch IdeaPad U1 hybrid from Lenovo features a detachable, tablet-style screen. When the screen is locked in to the chassis it's a Windows 7 Home Premium laptop with an Intel Core 2 Duo processor. When it's pulled from its shell it becomes a Qualcomm Snapdragon-powered, multi-touch slate with 16GB of storage, running Lenovo's Skylight Linux system. The notebook has built-in Wi-Fi and can use the tablet's 3G connectivity to get online. Better still, whether you use the notebook or tablet to create documents, all data will be synchronised once the hardware is re-attached. A novel approach to the standard tablet design.

\$999 (£610), WWW.LENOVO.COM/UK, OUT SUMMER

### The details

#### 1 THE LAPTOP

The scarlet red exterior weighs just 1.7kg

#### 2 THE TABLET

When the 11.6-inch, 730g, multi-touch screen is removed it becomes an independent slate

#### 3 THE BATTERY

You'll get over five hours of 3G web browsing and 60 hours of 3G standby



## FREESCALE SMARTBOOK

Texas-based electronics company Freescale Semiconductor unveiled this "smartbook" concept at CES. With a seven-inch, 1024x600 display and a weight of just over 0.3kg, it includes Wi-Fi, Bluetooth and USB connectivity, as well as 3G as an optional extra, with 512MB of RAM and between 4GB and 64GB of storage. The touchscreen is only resistive, but hey, with a price tag of under \$200, it's hard to complain. We expect to see other manufacturers using this concept device as the basis for a welter of cheap and cheerful tablets, hopefully added the extra bonus of touchscreen capability.

\$199 (£120), WWW.FREESCALE.COM, OUT EARLY 2010

### View from Vegas

Michael Brook, editor of T3 magazine



If 3D was the top story from this year's CES, then tablets were a close second. Apple didn't announce its tablet pre-CES, preferring instead to size up the competition first, but there were plenty of other manufacturers joining the tablet revolution.

It's been over five years since we last saw tablet machines hitting the market in numbers but, with Windows 7 fresh in the mind, the tech world and his wife appear to be committed to making 2010 The Year of the Tablet. HP's slate PC and Lenovo's U1 hybrid were two standout examples of tablet power.

## DELL ANDROID SLATE

This sexy looking slate is currently referred to as the "Dell Concept Tablet", being as it's a tablet concept made by Dell. It's got a five-inch screen, runs the Android OS and also totes a five-meg camera with LED flash. The device is expected to have 3G and Wi-Fi capabilities and there are rumours of a SIM card slot and a choice of different screen sizes...

£TBC, WWW.DELL.CO.UK, OUT 2010





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# 3D TECH

The future of entertainment is here



## PANASONIC FULL-HD 3D CAMCORDER

**P**anasonic's latest pro camcorder is called the Twin-lens Full HD 3D, and that's what it is. Unlike current 3D HD set-ups, which require two cameras to be rigged up together, this has the lenses, camera head and recorder integrated into a single, lightweight body. Rather than tape or a hard drive, storage is on the universally available, super-compact, super-cheap SD or SDHC format – a 32GB card should be sufficient for several hours of 3D HD footage, by our back-of-a-fag-packet calculations. This and the fact that it's lighter and smaller than current 3D rigs means that full-HD 3D videos can be produced in more challenging shooting environments, and it'll also almost certainly cost less than standard, two-camera 3D rigs.

£TBC (UNITS MADE TO ORDER ONLY), WWW.PANASONIC.CO.UK, OUT APRIL



## LG 3D PROJECTOR

● The CF3D from LG is the world's first consumer full-HD 3D projector. Combining two projection engines working in tandem to create the 3D image, the CF3D also features 300 ANSI lumens of brightness and TruMotion 100Hz technology for smoother motion. For your no-doubt considerable outlay you also get two HDMI sockets and a USB input.

£TBC, UK.LGE.COM, OUT 2010



## View from Vegas

Rhi Morgan, staff writer at T3.com



CES 2010 was the year of 3D. You couldn't move for folk in 3D specs gawping at a video wall making cooing noises, and every big name was in on the act. LG and Samsung displayed production-ready 3D TVs. Sony took it a step further with its own 3D channel, in association with Discovery, while Toshiba's Cell TV can actually "upscale" 2D to 3D and Panasonic revealed the world's first HD 3D camcorder. The problem with 3D remains the glasses, so the jury's still out on whether we'll all be watching it this year, but there's no doubt that the big manufacturers have faith that we will...



## AUGMENTED REALITY GLASSES

● Vuzix unveiled the Wrap 920AR augmented reality glasses, complete with a pair of cameras that look into the world. The specs allow users to mesh augmented reality content with real life, with video game characters brought to life before your eyes and virtual signposts giving information on the people and places in your line of sight. You see a single 1504x480 image that can be viewed in 3D, giving the illusion of a "67-inch display from ten feet". All you need add is content from a console, computer or portable device...

\$800 (£500), WWW.VUZIX.CO.UK, OUT MID 2010



# MGM



Toshiba BDX3000 3D Blu-ray player  
The Toshiba BDX3000 was announced alongside the BDX2500 and BDX2700, which are both built with streaming online content in mind. Toshiba says: "The BDX3000 adds 3D playback to the full slate of features found on the BDX2700." Pleasingly, this includes built in Wi-Fi...  
£TBC, WWW.TOSHIBA.CO.UK, OUT LATE 2010



THE  
FI



## Tasty 3D TVs

The pick of the CES crop

1 ➤  
LG LD360

Available in time for the World Cup, this 47-inch 3D TV will be compatible with services such as Sky 3D  
£TBC, UK.LGE.COM, OUT APRIL



2 ➤  
Samsung C9000 3D

8.5mm deep, this televisual masterpiece can convert 2D content to 3D. Oh, and the remote has a screen on it  
£TBC, SAMSUNG.CO.UK, OUT 2010



3 ➤  
Toshiba ZX900 Cell

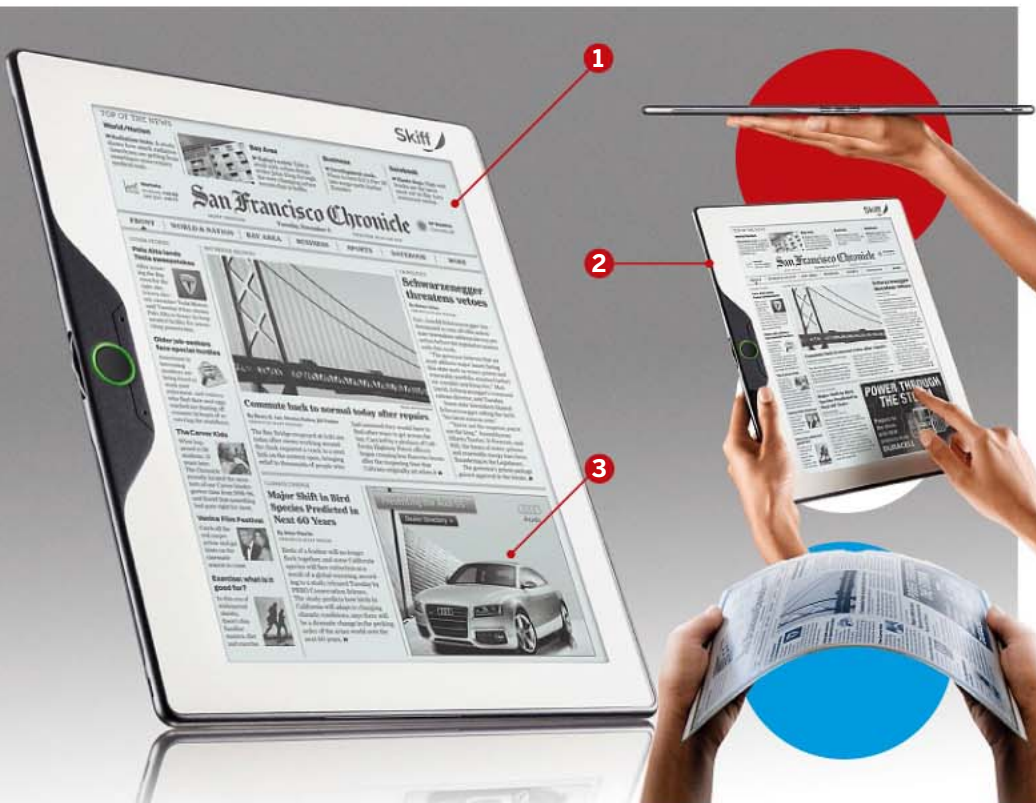
Using the same processor as the PS3, the Cell can convert regular 2D TV to 3D and has a built-in Blu-ray player  
£TBC, TOSHIBA.CO.UK, OUT 2010





# EBOOKS

Doing for reading what the iPod did for music



## SKIFF READER

The first device to use the "metal foil" e-paper technology developed by LG, this is the thinnest ebook reader available. At just 6mm thick it's slimmer than this magazine, but retains all the clarity you expect from a reader, on an 11.5-inch screen that's actually the biggest available, dwarfing the Amazon Kindle's 9.7-inch number. At the risk of sounding like a QVC presenter, that's not all. The foil tech should also make it more durable as it's flexible, so it'll give if you bend it, rather than cracking like the brittle glass used in previous e-ink screens. In short, reading a magazine or newspaper on this will be as close as you can get to the real thing. It's made in conjunction with Hearst, the people behind *Esquire*, *Good Housekeeping* and numerous newspapers, so there should be plenty to read on it.

£TBC, WWW.SKIFF.COM, OUT SUMMER

## SAMSUNG E6 AND E101

● Samsung's six-inch E6 and ten-inch E101 are its latest gunshots in the ebook reader war – its first, the Papyrus, never made it to the West. They slide open like mobile phones, revealing controls and offer access to the Google Books catalogue, so millions of classics will be up for grabs. A stylus is provided for writing on the screen, and both pack Wi-Fi.

E6 \$399 (£249), E10 \$699 (£437), WWW.SAMSUNG.COM, OUT SPRING



### The details

#### 1 THE SCREEN

The 1200x1600-pixel touchscreen is 11.5 inches across – that's bigger than Amazon's Kindle DX

#### 2 THE CASING

Thanks to next-gen e-paper, it's just 6mm thick

#### 3 THE CONNECTIVITY

It has 3G on board thanks to Sprint in the US. UK availability is TBC



## AMAZON KINDLE DX

● The Kindle DX, Amazon's super-sized ebook reader is now available in the UK, although as with the standard Kindle you'll need to order from Amazon.com, and use a plug adaptor. At 9.7 inches the screen is larger than anything this side of the Skiff (left) and it's barely 9mm thick, for easy portability. Ideal for reading magazines and newspapers as well as books, it's packing 3G for downloading wherever you may roam – at no extra cost – and you also get free access to Wikipedia, which could be handy in a pub quiz. It must be said that the price of shipping it to the UK is a little bit mad, once you've added VAT.

£370, WWW.AMAZON.COM, OUT NOW

### View from Vegas

Kieran Alger, T3.com editor



Ebook readers are one of the top areas of tech to watch in 2010, and the technology is shaping up nicely. Prior to CES they were all pretty much the same – just a boring-looking frame with a six-inch screen, and maybe a keyboard if you were lucky – but that's all changed. The Skiff is the largest and thinnest, and the one I reckon will conquer the e-magazine and newspaper market, while Samsung's lets you draw on the screen, which is great for note taking (or doodling). Expect over-the-air book and periodical downloads via 3G and Wi-Fi to become standard this year too.





### enTourage eDGe

We know, we know. You'd think the makers of an ebook reader would be able to sort out their usage of upper and lower case letters. This is the first reader to pack two screens: one 9.7-inch e-ink that you can make notes on, and one 10.1-inch LCD for emails, internet, video and so on, with a virtual keyboard for typing. It syncs with the e-ink screen, so you can quickly look up terms online, and you can expect an ebook store, automatic backing up on enTourage's servers, and sharing between devices.

\$490 (£300), WWW.ENTOURAGEEDGE.COM . OUT NOW (US ONLY)

## Literary Las Vegas

### Ten ebooks to download

#### 1 Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas

Hunter S Thompson's drug-addled trip through Sin City

#### 2 Leaving Las Vegas

Heart-warming tale of an alcoholic and a prostitute

#### 3 Winner Takes All

Profiles the men behind the town, by *Wall Street Journal* scribe Christina Binkley

#### 4 When the Mob Ran Vegas

Stories of old school money and murder

#### 5 Witch

The true story of the city's most infamous serial killer, Brookey Lee West

#### 6 Learning from Las Vegas

Analyses the architecture of the strip and urban sprawl

#### 7 Bringing Down the House

Six "math" students rinse Vegas casinos for millions

#### 8 Reading Las Vegas

Cultural analysis of the town, from its seedy side up

#### 9 Fight Town

A tribute to the boxing matches Vegas has hosted over the years

#### 10 The Enforcer

Tony "The Ant" Spilotro's journey from Chicago mobster to Vegas bigwig





# IMAGING

A look through the viewfinder into the future



## SANYO XACTI VPC-CS1 AND SH1

Forget having a separate camera and camcorder; the CS1 is Sanyo's smallest, thinnest and lightest "dual camera" yet, and despite looking like a pistol grip camcorder, the eight-meg stills are by no means poor relations to the full HD video. Barely the thickness of two iPhones taped together, it can be set to record sound in the general direction it's pointing or you can focus the mic on what you're zoomed in on. You get a 10x optical zoom, digital image stabilisation, face chasing and an HDMI-out to boot. Sanyo also announced the SH1, a compact 'corder in the traditional "Coke can" shape that shoots full HD at 60fps as well as ten-meg stills.

CS1: £300, SH1: £500, WWW.SANYO.CO.UK, OUT FEBRUARY

## CANON A3100S

● This foolproof snapper has Easy Mode, which removes unnecessary icons and deactivates some buttons, simplifying photo-taking. Face Select and Track lets you prioritise a face in a crowd, and FaceSelf Timer takes a shot once an extra face has entered the frame, so you can duck into shot after setting up. Need to know: 12 megapixels, 4x zoom, 2.7-inch screen.

£190, WWW.CANON.CO.UK, OUT FEBRUARY



### The details

#### 1 THE FORMAT

The CS1 supports the widely compatible H.264 as well as iFrame, which makes importing and editing footage on a Mac or PC even easier

#### 2 THE THINNESS

Just 124x63x26.9mm and a mere 42g, the CS1 is half the width of Sanyo's Xacti HD1000 of last year

View from Vegas  
Chris Smith,  
multimedia reporter at T3.com



Digital imaging may have played third fiddle to the myriad TVs and tablets on show at CES, but there were still plenty of significant developments. If the newly-streamlined Sanyo Xacti dual camera can retain the image quality of its predecessors we're looking at a market-leading pistol grip, which is exciting news. I'd expected a host of gimmicky compact cameras with front-loaded LCD screens, projectors and a whole host of kit cashing in on the third dimension, but the big companies are keeping themselves in check, at least for now...



## KODAK SLICE

● The Slice is Kodak's first touchscreen compact, with a 3.5-inch 16:9 LCD on the back with anti-reflective coating for a clear view even in bright sunlight. You can search through pics on the Slice using face recognition, allowing you to view all pictures featuring one person, for example. Snaps can be shared easily too, with uploading to Facebook, Kodak Gallery, Flickr, YouTube and your email account. Capturing 14-megapixel stills and recording video in 720p HD, it's more than capable on both fronts. Couple it with Kodak's Pulse Wi-Fi picture frame, which has its own email address so anyone can send pictures straight to it from anywhere in the world via email or Facebook.

£300, WWW.KODAK.CO.UK, OUT APRIL



Rollei Flexline 100 inTouch

The sexiest touchscreen camera to come out of Vegas was the Rollei, which marks the 90th anniversary of the company. Sinuously curved and available in three colours, the Flexline 100 packs a ten-megapixel sensor, smile and face recognition, and the ability to edit pics in-camera. Add the ability to fire off 30 shots a second and you've got a technically proficient camera that's also damnably fine looking.

£180. WWW.ROLLEI.COM. OUT NOW





# AND THE REST...

High-tech miscellany, live from Las Vegas



## PARROT AR.DRONE

Now this is a proper big boy's toy. As you fly this quadcopter – a craft with four rotors – using your iPod Touch or iPhone, a nose-mounted camera beams a pilot's eye view to your device. It uses augmented reality to overlay computer generated enemies onto the real-life video feed – shoot them by tapping the screen. If a friend also has one, you can engage them in an aerial dogfight. It generates its own Wi-Fi network for uninterrupted wireless control. This sounds like the first killer app for augmented reality to us, and it'll be in shops later this year. Don't expect it to be cheap, but do expect to have an awful lot of iPhone-controlled fun.

£TBC, ARDRONE.PARROT.COM, OUT MID 2010



### The details

#### THE CONTROL

You control the AR.Drone using your iPhone's accelerometer, with the Drone moving whichever way you tilt it. The screen shows footage from the front-mounted video camera and overlays graphics for games



1



3



2

4



### Four more choice items

**1**  
LG Magic Motion

Compatible with the new INFANIA TV range, this magic wand works like a Wii remote. Using the new Magic UI, it'll access all your channels, media and games with a twang of the wrist  
£TBC, UK.LGE.COM, OUT 2010

**3**  
Sony NWZ A845

Sony has unveiled its slimmest ever Walkman. Just 7.2mm thick it weighs 62g and sports a 2.8-inch OLED screen. A 16GB model is set to launch Stateside in February  
£TBC, WWW.SONY.CO.UK, OUT 2010

**2**  
iLuv App Station

A compact iPod dock that uses the screen of your iPhone or iPod Touch to display a clock face. Once you've downloaded the iLuv app it becomes a nifty and accurate alarm clock  
£80, WWW.I-LUV.COM, OUT NOW

**4**  
Samsung MyFit

An MP3 player that measures your body fat and stress levels, counts calories burned and generally "enters the realm of wellness monitoring"  
£TBC, WWW.SAMSUNG.CO.UK, OUT SPRING

### View from Vegas

Joe Svetlik,  
T3 news editor



As ever, there was a stack of less high-profile, slightly more wacky tech at CES this year. There was the Polar Bear TV from Hanspree, an LCD screen with a toy polar bear frame, and Teleepoch's WMDP Qualcomm-powered concept phone with no buttons – you tilt the screen to browse contacts. I can't see either of those catching on, but Samsung's MyFit phone fits with our health-conscious times, while Parrot's AR.Drone is a cinch to control and likely to be a real hit. Sony's slightly slimmer Walkman was less thrilling, but even so, "viva Las Vegas!"

## PORTABLE PROJECTOR

● The Light Touch uses holographic laser projection to create a 10.1-inch, WVGA virtual screen on almost any surface. Created by British firm Light Blue Optics, it integrates an infrared touch sensing system to allow users to interact with the screen and has Wi-Fi and Bluetooth connectivity, 2GB of storage plus microSD and a two-hour battery life.

£TBC, WWW.LIGHTBLUEOPTICS.COM, OUT 2010





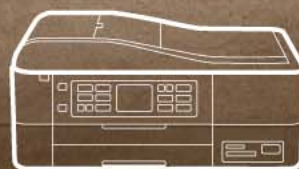
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† Based on default speed of model shown - Epson PX810FW



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**Radar** 360° first review



1

2

5





# DELL ADAMO XPS A NOTEBOOK MORE SLENDER

Dell takes the laptop to new style heights



## The details

### 1 THE BUILD

The Adamo XPS's casing is purest anodised aluminium

### 2 THE CONNECTIONS

There are two USB ports, one on either side

### 3 THE STAND

The Adamo XPS's lid acts as a stand when it's open

### 4 THE LOCK

Pass your finger over the capacitive latch to open

### 5 THE KEYBOARD

A superbly usable effort with stylish metallic keys



Two years ago the MacBook Air started a minor revolution. It aimed to turn the humble notebook from a work tool of seemingly never-changing design into something iconic to be lusted after. The resulting product was selling to something of a niche market, but other manufacturers have also made a play for the "give me slim stylishness or give me death" crowd, with Dell's Adamo XPS being the latest Air rival.

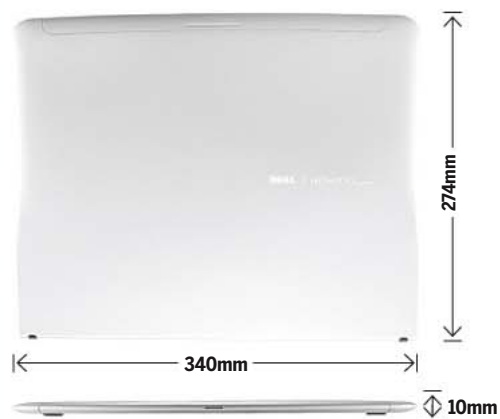
The original Adamo altered perceptions of Dell computers as dull boxes for grey men, but the Adamo XPS is even better: it's stunning looking. The chassis is fashioned from a single piece of aluminium giving it a seamless look and high-quality feel. At a fraction under 10mm deep, it's the world's slimmest notebook and looks like little more than a folded sheet of exceedingly stylish metal.

The flat keyboard doesn't suffer at all from being crammed into such a tiny space – it cunningly fits into the display when it's shut. Typing on it is such a pleasure, we actually preferred it to the MacBook's keyboard, although the trackpad isn't a patch on the Air's multi-touch.

You get 128GB of solid state storage. You can hook up an external drive if it's not sufficient, although that'll take up one of only two USB sockets. You'll also need to shell out for a USB DVD drive because there's no room for one inside the Adamo XPS's tight little casing.

Other connectivity is minimal. DisplayPort lets you add a monitor, and there's a 3.5mm headphone socket. 801.11n Wi-Fi and

## Specifications



OS Windows 7 Home Premium  
**PROCESSOR** Intel Core 2 Duo ULV 1.4GHz  
**GRAPHICS** Intel GS45 integrated graphics  
**SCREEN** 13.4 inches, 1440x900 pixels  
**STORAGE** 128GB solid state drive  
**MEMORY** 4GB  
**BATTERY** Quoted: 2 hours 30 mins, 5 hours with optional extended battery  
**T3 tests:** 2 hours (standard battery)  
**CONNECTIONS** 2x USB, 3.5mm audio out, Wi-Fi N, Bluetooth 2.1, DisplayPort  
**CONNECTIONS VIA DONGLE** Ethernet, DVI, VGA  
**SIZE/WEIGHT** 340x274x10mm/1.44kg



Although less than 10mm deep the Adamo XPS has a superb keyboard, tilted up for your typing pleasure

Bluetooth 2.1 are built in. There's ethernet too, but only via a supplied adaptor.

At 13.4 inches the classy screen is a good size for viewing movies in 720p hi-def, with LED backlighting giving improved colours and helping to muster up a detailed picture. The tiny speakers lack depth and volume, though.

The Intel Core 2 Duo processor is fine for day-to-day tasks and you can have

## THE DELL ADAMO XPS MAKES A MAJOR STYLE STATEMENT BUT IT'S A SOLID PERFORMER TOO

multiple apps open without suffering undue sluggishness. With just an integrated graphics card, gaming isn't really a possibility, however.

The battery doesn't impress, giving a pitiful 86 minutes of DVD playback and about two hours when running the internet via Wi-Fi and knocking up a few *Word* documents. Dell's optional, larger battery with double the stamina is an advisable purchase – price TBC, alas.

Dell's Adamo XPS makes a major style statement, but it's a solid performer too. The keyboard and screen are particularly fine, and the processor's good for anything that's not too data intensive. Even with the premium feel, the £1,750 price tag is a bit much, though.

£1,750, [WWW.DELL.CO.UK](http://WWW.DELL.CO.UK)

### Details

**LOVE** Bright screen. Stunning design. Excellent keyboard. Handles multiple day-to-day applications  
**HATE** Very expensive. Poor battery. Puny speaker. No built-in optical drive



## Accessories... Dell Adamo XPS

Elegant accessories coming soon to accompany the Dell Adamo XPS...

### 1 Optical drive

With a body just shy of 10mm deep, there's no room on the Adamo XPS for a DVD drive. You'll spend around £50 for one that plugs into a USB port

### 2 Cables

The Adamo XPS comes with two bundled adaptors. One that connects to ethernet via USB and one to attach a monitor via DVI. If you want to attach a monitor via VGA you'll need an additional cable which will set you back around £10

### 3 Car charger and aeroplane adaptor

You'll need to charge regularly with the XPS's paltry battery life. A car charger and aeroplane adaptor set costs around £50 online

### 4 Power cable

Dell's ensured that the bundled power pack is colour-coordinated

### 5 Storage

On-board storage is via a 128GB solid state drive (SSD). Extend this with a coordinating 250GB external drive, from £86\*

\* Dell has yet to confirm UK pricing and availability



## The Contenders Slim laptops in a skinny head to head



MAKE/MODEL	DELL ADAMO XPS	APPLE MACBOOK AIR	SONY VAIO X SERIES
PRICE	£1,750	£1,378	£1,900
WEBSITE	<a href="http://WWW.DELL.CO.UK">WWW.DELL.CO.UK</a>	<a href="http://WWW.APPLE.COM/UK">WWW.APPLE.COM/UK</a>	<a href="http://WWW.SONY.CO.UK">WWW.SONY.CO.UK</a>
DESIGN	The innovative keyboard and stand integrate into an unbelievably slim body. Stunning. <b>WINNER</b>	At just 23mm deep the MacBook Air is skinny, but its Apple design tropes now look a little tired. <b>LOSER</b>	Weighing 780g and only 16mm deep, the X Series is the most compact option, but also the dullest. <b>LOSER</b>
BUILD	It's fairly solid, but the stand feels as if it could become less stable over time. <b>LOSER</b>	With an aluminium unibody, the Air is the most sturdy slimline laptop. <b>WINNER</b>	It may be small, but the X Series' carbon fibre lid feels worryingly wobbly. <b>LOSER</b>
SPECIFICATIONS	An Intel Core2 Duo 1.4GHz ultra-low voltage processor and 4GB of RAM, but graphics lag behind the Air. <b>LOSER</b>	An Intel Core2 Duo 2.13GHz processor. There's only 2GB memory, but the graphics card is top dollar. <b>WINNER</b>	Underpowered netbook specs including an Intel Atom Processor and 2GB memory. Graphics also weak. <b>LOSER</b>
EASE OF USE	Full keyboard for easy typing but the stand can be awkward when working on a lap. <b>LOSER</b>	No complaints about the keyboard and the multi-touch trackpad is a boon. <b>WINNER</b>	Despite its tiny dimensions the keyboard is usable. More space would be good. <b>LOSER</b>
BATTERY	Dell quotes 2.5 hours but that seems optimistic. Optional battery pack advisable. <b>LOSER</b>	Apple quotes 5 hours with Wi-Fi on. Battery can't be swapped by user. <b>LOSER</b>	Sony quotes 8 hours for general use. We managed 3 hours of DVD play. <b>WINNER</b>
CONNECTIONS	Two USB ports, a 3.5mm jack, Wi-Fi N, Bluetooth and DisplayPort. Ethernet, DVI and VGA connections via an adaptor, too. <b>LOSER</b>	Much the same as the Adamo XPS, except there's only one USB port. There's also no ethernet – very futuristic and wireless, we're sure. <b>LOSER</b>	Two USB ports, ethernet, a 3.5mm jack, VGA, Bluetooth, a mic and 3G connectivity make the tiny X Series the best connected. <b>WINNER</b>
VERDICT	Innovative design makes this Adamo stand out, but the battery and price both suck.	Connectivity is poor, but for slimmness, desirability and power, the Air is top banana.	The X-Series is perfect for commuting, but it's none too stylish, and is madly pricey.
RESULT	<b>LOSER</b>	<b>WINNER</b>	<b>LOSER</b>



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flash memory

Supports  
CD, CD-R/RW,  
MP3, WMA disc

Reference 600:  
80+80W  
CRH-500: 40W+40W



iPod not included  
Reference 600



Reference 500/600



Reference 500



Reference 600



Reference 500/600



# WE'VE GOT mail

Email your thoughts to us at [T3@futurenet.co.uk](mailto:T3@futurenet.co.uk), speak out in a message board manner at [T3.com](http://T3.com), tweet us @[t3dotcom](https://twitter.com/t3dotcom), or send letters to our palatial offices at 2 Balcombe Street, London NW1 6NW

Your emails, tweets and letters in green ink

## HAPPY 'APPY JOY JOY

**T3's** 60 best iPhone apps feature (**T3** 173) failed to mention loads of great apps that I use regularly – *Shazam*, *iFooty*, *Photoshop*, *Lyrical*, *Flickster*, *Taptu*, *Last.FM*, *Cod Zombies* and *Pricerunner*, to name a few – and put in several really rubbish ones. If you want a truly comprehensive list of the best apps out there, let us, the readers, vote for our favourite apps in each genre and then we'll see what comes out on top.

GAVIN RISBRIDGER VIA EMAIL

Good idea, sir. We don't agree that any of the ones we listed are "rubbish", but the app market is expanding at such a pace it's getting hard to sidestep the turkeys. We'd welcome your help: tell us about hot new apps either via email, or by tweeting us @[t3dotcom](https://twitter.com/t3dotcom). In the meantime, go to p21 for more of **T3's** recent favourite iPhone apps...



## NO PEDALS REQUIRED

The Maserati Velocity (**T3**173) costs a staggering £6,088 and you don't even get pedals? That's a bit steep isn't it? The Colnago Flight's seat tube shape doesn't seem quite right either. The bend in the tube should follow the wheel's bend, this creates less turbulence and drag making it a faster ride. It would also be helpful if you listed the weight of each bike, you wouldn't feature a laptop without it.

LES VIA EMAIL

As you obviously well know, Les, anyone splashing that kind of cash on a bike is going to want to fit their own pedals, according to their cleat system preference.

## CAMERA LOOKALIKES

I'm amazed at the sheer number of cameras that look exactly the same as each other. Whilst flicking through **T3** issue 173 I couldn't believe the similarity between the Nikon D3000 on page 52 and the Sony A350 in The Guide. It's uncanny.

IVOR VIA EMAIL

Apologies. We'd clearly had too much Christmas spirit when we put that page together.

## GOING NUCLEAR

I've been looking to buy my own property, but with the current financial climate I've been having trouble getting together the capital. I think I've found an answer to my dilemma in your latest issue (**T3**173) though; I'm going to buy my own nuclear bunker. At £13,000 it's an absolute snip and the 11mm thick steel walls should keep out the noise from the neighbours.

VINCE, VIA EMAIL

We hope you don't suffer from claustrophobia then, Vince. That buys you a shelter 6x6x12ft!

## GENERATION X

Does **T3** know which network provider will be offering the Sony Ericsson Xperia X10? I'm currently on Vodafone and willing to sell my soul to get an X10, but all Vodafone offers me are Nokias or other networks' cast-offs.

ANDY VIA EMAIL

Sony Ericsson's response: "All networks will be announced at the time of release". That means no word until February and we're going to press in January. Check [T3.com](http://T3.com) for the answer, then...

## IPHONE UPGRADE

Could you have a word with Apple about implementing the following upgrades:

1. Allow copy and paste in the calendar.
2. Store incoming numbers instantly.
3. Save the state of an app, so that you don't lose your high scores when somebody rings you.
4. Create shortcuts for switching off Wi-Fi and Bluetooth to save battery life.
5. Add SMS templates for quick texting.
6. Make it possible to search email content.

ANDI VIA EMAIL

Yeah, we'll pass on your demands, Andi.

## TWITTER DEBATE...

How excited are you at **T3** about the Google Nexus One? Is it an iPhone killer, or not?

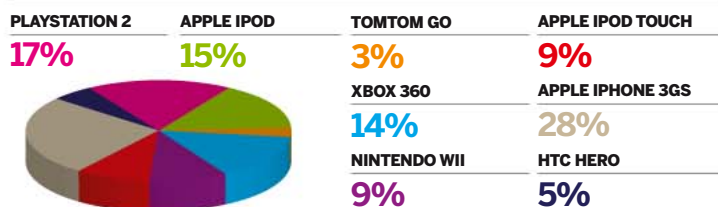
@FLOZZ096 VIA TWITTER

Head to page 14 to find out, "Flozz". There's five pages dedicated to the Google phone.

**T3** APOLOGISES FOR MISQUOTING GERRY O'SULLIVAN IN **T3** ISSUE 172. 3D GLASSES TECHNOLOGY WAS PORTRAYED IN A POSITIVE LIGHT BUT THIS WAS MISCOMMUNICATED IN THE COLUMN.

## T3.com poll

What's your favourite gadget of the decade?



## SEND MAIL; WIN THIS

The author of this month's prize-winning letter is Gavin, who bags a Hitachi 500GB rugged, portable hard drive. Water- and shock-resistant, it comes with a foldaway USB cable for easy connection and handy LED power display. Fancy winning one yourself? Send us a pithy missive or head directly to [www.hitachigst.com...](http://www.hitachigst.com...)



HITACHI



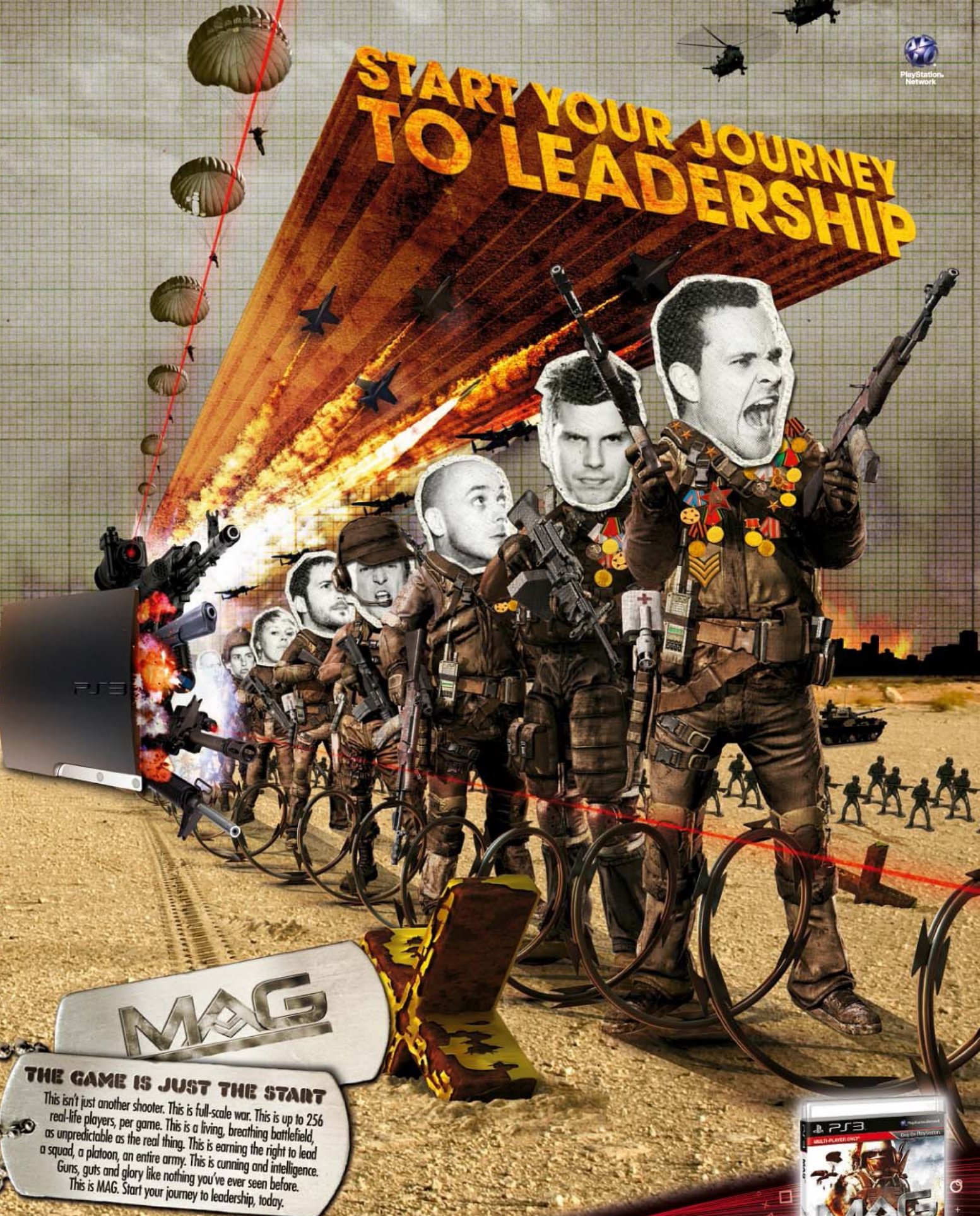
16

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# MAG

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This isn't just another shooter. This is full-scale war. This is up to 256 real-life players, per game. This is a living, breathing battlefield, as unpredictable as the real thing. This is earning the right to lead a squad, a platoon, an entire army. This is cunning and intelligence. Guns, guts and glory like nothing you've ever seen before. This is MAG. Start your journey to leadership, today.



**SONY**  
make.believe





**The top anchor** reveals how the latest tech advancements are helping television news to compete with the wealth of free and instant content that's available 24 hours a day online...



**N**ew technology has always been a vital tool in the quest to get the breaking news first. Nowadays that means not just on TV – at Sky we aim to be device agnostic. You can now keep up with the news whenever, wherever and in whatever medium you want. For TV news, the images are key. The old rubric that a story is judged as much by its visual impact as its journalistic merit applies as much today as ever, only now there are far more platforms to get those news pictures on to as speedily and as accurately as we can. In spring 2010 these pictures will become more impressive than ever, as Sky News begin broadcasting in HD. Already cameras, editing kit, graphics and the studio equipment are being upgraded to meet the new demands. Even we presenters have undergone tests to make sure our clothing, make-up and lighting setup are just right. I've been told I have to

shave nearer to my on air time as any 5 o'clock shadow shows up big time at 1920x1080i! Advancements in technology are also allowing us to access people and places that would have been impossible a few years ago. I regularly use Skype to contact guests that we can't get the broadcast truck to. Portable gear is also getting ever more mobile. We are experimenting with kit that essentially puts together six sim cards to push a streaming video signal out over 3G networks. In decent conditions – where there is good 3G coverage and the networks aren't

**HOW DO YOU MAKE MONEY FROM CONTENT OTHERS ARE GIVING AWAY FOR FREE ONLINE?**

too busy – it works quite well. I can already envisage the time when our cameramen and women won't need a truck to go live; they'll just press a button and stream directly from wherever they are. The question for the big media organisations is, would you, the consumer, be willing to pay more for all this high quality, high definition, on air and online news? Online advertising alone won't be enough to fund the expensive business of journalism in the modern age. Can we make our news stories, our presentation and the quality of our pictures and story-telling so enticing that you'll dig a little deeper in your pockets to ensure you get the best news possible? With so many varied news sources freely available, it's questionable. The first person to discover how to make money out of content others are giving away for free will have hit the jackpot... *Martin Stanford presents Skynews.com at 7pm weeknights on Sky news*



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www.pegi.info



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**DUNCAN BELL**



**Video games are now a bigger economic force than Hollywood, and are proclaimed as a new artform. Why are they so achingly dull, then?**



**Y**esterday I killed about 30 men in cold blood and then made an unfunny quip about it. I did the same the day before, and the day before that. I never knew killing could be so banal.

Obviously, I didn't actually do this – ha ha! You thought I did, as I am bad man, no? In fact, I performed minor-league genocide in PS3 games, in between some wandering around and some picking up of the thing and taking of it to the place for the unlocking of the puzzle, to find the thing. This, as we know, is what happens in computer games.

Games are massive business now. Industry figures show that they grossed over 50 bajillion dollars last year; more than the combined earnings of Hollywood, Jonathan Ross and Baby Gap since the birth of my four nieces and nephews. Clearly all the money is going on ever more awe-inducing, 1080p visuals, because none is going to people who understand

plotting, scripting, acting or pacing.

The overwhelming majority of games involve one of two things: running around and killing things or creeping around and killing things. Some are in first person perspective and some in third, but that makes little difference. In every single one, you mow down countless enemies, never resting as sociopolitical events that would normally play out over decades are polished off in about four hours of real time – having a nice rest is almost never so much as implied in games.

Whilst doing this, you have to contend with

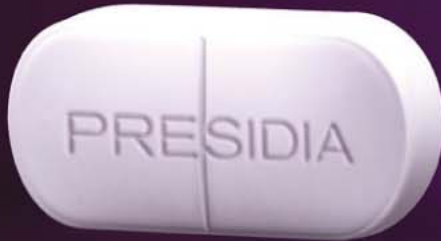
## GAME PLOTS ARE REGURGITATED FROM THE WORST STRAIGHT-TO-DVD MOVIES

The Three Evils of Modern Games. These are:

- 1) Plots and character types regurgitated from the fetid bowels of the world's least edifying, straight-to-DVD "blockbusters".
- 2) "Sassy" dialogue that will make you want to chew off your own ears.
- 3) Bad cameras. In third-person games, you get killed because when you're backed up against a wall the camera basically vanishes up your arse, giving you a hi-def colonoscopy made up of over a billion individually light-sourced polygons, or it reorientates as you're about to leap a chasm, plunging you to deathsville. In first person games, your low line of sight and lack of peripheral vision give you a feel for what it must be like to be a dwarf in a kennel.

And yet we're supposed to take games seriously as art, simply because they make pots of cash. But never fear. Next month, I will be back with some suggestions for making games *truly* into an artform. Join me then, then. Duncan podcasts for **T3** each week, via iTunes





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**The robotic** revolution is already underway on the battlefield. Soon, they could be cleaning our homes and operating on our brains... If we learn to trust them



**W**e're living in an autonomous age, where devices don't need to be told what to do anymore. They're just like those sisters the Eurythmics sung about: "doin' it for themselves," with no input from us.

The first major mass-market autonomous robot was the Roomba, hoovering homes since 2002, often with a fair degree of success. According to Belgian innovations company Creax's patent-tracking system, around the world, companies are currently working on machines that'll be able to do yet more things by themselves – like self-heal, self-propel, self-test, self-calibrate and self-drive.

It's not in the home, however, but on the battlefield that robots are making the biggest impact. "There are now more than 7,000 robotic systems in the air and 12,000 on the ground in Iraq, many of them armed," says Peter Singer, director of America's 21st

Century Defense (sic) Initiative and author of *Wired for War*. "We are now seeing everything from robotic snipers to robotic medics."

The Autonomous Rotorcraft Sniper System (ARSS – yes, really) is an unmanned, autonomous mini-'copter that searches out targets, then hovers within range while a remote operator lines up a .338 rifle to make the kill. The aim is actually controlled with a modified Xbox 360 controller.

There are robomedics too, such as the Robodoc. Professor Brian Davies at Imperial College's Mechatronics in Medicine Lab reckons that, although these autonomous

robots are fine for cutting through bones, they aren't so good at complex surgery. That's hardly surprising given that robots haven't even mastered vacuuming the carpet yet, but the time will come when they're sensitive enough to manage tasks such as brain surgery.

When robots become that highly skilled their commercial future will depend entirely on whether we can get our heads around the idea of trusting an autonomous device. To do that we'll all have to be more like the Japanese. "The first thing the Japanese researchers asked," Professor Davies told me about a fact-finding mission to Tokyo, "wasn't what did we think of their home robot's advanced technology but, 'Do you think it's cute?'"

People will always be excited at the prospect of new technology that does all of life's annoying, arduous chores for them. They're more likely to buy it if it has a smiling face rather than a gun in its hand, though... *James Wallman is a futurologist, analyst and freelance writer*

**THERE ARE OVER 19,000 ROBOTS IN IRAQ... THAT'S RATHER MORE THAN IN OUR HOMES**



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The iDS-01 is compatible with every iPod device, and also charges all of them except the Shuffle. A line-in connection is included if you favour a different variety of MP3 player. Available in a high-gloss black finish, the Intempo iDS-01 is the ideal musical accompaniment to your monthly reading of **T3**.

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**T3** Editor

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**This month**

Touchscreen PCs viewed,  
games previewed and  
Blu-rays reviewed...

**Plus the kit you need for  
the ultimate gaming set-up**

EDITED BY JOESVETLIK



# PLAY

SERIOUS ENTERTAINMENT >>>



**SWEETSPOT BALLERINA**

# Sit down and shut up

—> SO YOU OWN THE FINEST SPEAKERS, AMP AND CD PLAYER available to humanity. You may even have “cleaned” your mains electricity and bought “special” wipes for removing static. But do you have a chair that’s built specifically for listening to music? Thought not.

The Sweetspot Ballerina is the opulently crafted brainchild of Swedish designer Jonas Rylander and Michael Hollesen of Klutz Design. This audiophiles’ throne has a headrest that’s just 13cm wide, so it





Hollow armrests store your remote controls

It doesn't cover your ears. As a result, you'll enjoy every nuance of the music. The headrest can also be adjusted to exactly fit anybody, as it's attached using tiny neodymium magnets that slide to the desired height, instead of just the closest notch.

Indeed, the whole chair is easily adjustable, and when you find your perfect seat position, it can be locked tightly in place with a nut.

The legs are fashioned from aluminium like the best drum stands. That and the fact that each foot is only in contact with the floor for five centimetres helps to reduce unwanted vibrations issuing through the floor. The arms curl into an organic-looking hollow that you

## IT'S A HIGH-END PIECE OF AUDIO EQUIPMENT, BUT IT'S ALSO A VERY COMFY CHAIR...

can use to store a remote, so you never have to leave your seat to forage for it.

The Sweetspot Ballerina is a high-end piece of audiophile equipment, but it's also an extremely comfortable chair. The 5mm thick fibreglass frame provides ample support, while leather cushions provide a sumptuous look and feel. The base of each cushion has a layer of rubberised horse hair, providing the kind of optimum cushioning found in expensive sofas. On top of the horse hair is a layer of memory foam – a type of polyurethane with increased viscosity developed by NASA – that moulds to your body and remembers your shape, so that every time you sit, you settle into a bespoke buttock imprint.

The Sweetspot Ballerina may have been designed in the same country as Ikea, but it's a world away from flat-packed mundanity.

£446, [WWW.KLUTZDESIGN.COM](http://WWW.KLUTZDESIGN.COM)



"Dear oh dear, what cowboy's put that there? I can fix it, guv, but it'll cost you..." (sucks teeth)

# Dead Space 2

## GAMES

→ IF YOU DIDN'T PLAY SURVIVAL HORROR DEAD SPACE LAST year, you missed out on atmosphere by the tonne and dismemberment by the bucketload. All's not lost though, because the sequel *Dead Space 2* promises to be bigger, better and scarier than ever. Once again, space plumber Isaac Clarke is heading back to the city orbiting near the outer rings of Saturn, there to eviscerate alien zombies. For the sequel, EA's expanding on the excellent zero-G sequences of the original, with the ability to shoot out windows, sucking enemies and nearby scenery into the vacuum of space. As well as fresh zombie target practice, *Dead Space 2* also promises to flex an improved multiplayer mode.

XBOX 360, PS3, [WWW.DEADSPACE.COM](http://WWW.DEADSPACE.COM), OUT 2010



### The best bit

**Shoots you, sir**  
Isaac's new plumbing uniform is a jet-powered suit that allows ease of movement when blasting zombies in zero-gravity. Beats soiled dungarees any day...



### Splinter Cell: Conviction

**XBOX 360, PC**  
Ubisoft's latest stealth offering includes a whole host of multiplayer modes, including a co-op campaign that details the events leading up to the main story. [WWW.SPLINTERCELL.COM](http://WWW.SPLINTERCELL.COM), OUT FEBRUARY 26



### Batman: Arkham Asylum 2

**XBOX 360, PC, PS3**  
Early speculation about this sequel suggests you'll be able to go outside the walls of the Arkham Asylum to hunt down Mark Hamill's still-at-large Joker. [WWW.ROCKSTEADYLTD.COM](http://WWW.ROCKSTEADYLTD.COM), OUT LATE 2010



### Halo Reach

**XBOX 360**  
Rumoured to be the final Halo game, *Reach* is expected to include Spartan super-soldiers, *Modern Warfare*-style extras and simply stunning visuals. [WWW.BUNGIE.NET](http://WWW.BUNGIE.NET), OUT LATE 2010



### Prince of Persia: Forgotten Sands

**XBOX 360, PS3, Wii**  
Remember that 2008 *Prince of Persia* remake? It wasn't great was it? This time, Ubisoft is producing a more traditional, "hardcore platformer". [WWW.PRINCEOFPERSIA.COM](http://WWW.PRINCEOFPERSIA.COM), OUT MAY



# Up and away



To senility... and beyond!

## BLU-RAY

→THE KIND OF EXPERIENCE BLU-RAY WAS invented for, *Up* is the latest in an exalted line of lush-looking animations from Pixar that are ostensibly for kids, yet appeal to oldies with surprisingly adult themes. This one, in fact, has the most adult theme of them all: the day-to-day disappointments of growing older; the way we put aside childhood dreams as fixing the kitchen sink becomes a more pressing concern, then find death knocking on the door just as we retire and have time again. *Up* is not a patch on Pixar's last, *Wall-E*, but the candy-coloured visuals and so-so plotting are balanced out by the poignancy of having an elderly protagonist. There is also one absolutely killer recurring gag about a vicious, horribly powerful dog who just happens to talk in a ridiculous, helium squeak of a voice. Big LOLs.

£18 (DOUBLE BLU-RAY/DVD/DIGITAL COPY PACK), OUT FEBRUARY 15



### HD moment

The jungle  
Pixar's "Paradise Falls" CGIsapes  
are simply  
awe-inspiring

## MORE DISCS YOU URGENTLY NEED



1 2  
3 4



**1 Thirst** A sort of *Last Tango in Paris* crossed with *Near Dark*, this erotic vampire film is about as far from *Twilight* as it's possible to get. Little wonder: it's from the director of *Oldboy*. Bloody good it is, too. **£17, OUT NOW**

**2 Pandorum** If *Event Horizon* was a watering down of *Alien* with half-arsed supernatural elements, this is a watering down of *Event Horizon*. Dennis Quaid wears the face of a man suffering near terminal constipation throughout. **£15, OUT FEBRUARY 15**

**3 Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs** CG animation-lovin' kids will be in hog heaven this month, what with this and *Up*. There's no deep subtext for the adults here, but they will enjoy a dream cast that includes Bruce "Evil Dead" Campbell and Mr "I Pity The Fool" T. **£15, OUT NOW**

**4 Surrogates** In this movie, Bruce Willis battles people who have replaced themselves with robot replicas. If you're forced to watch it, you'll wish you could too. **£16, OUT NOW**

## THE STAR



Michael Jackson



*This Is It* is not the best way to remember the King of Pop – somebody really needs to get a Blu-ray video greatest hits out there – but it is an apt one. Its mix of weirdness, mediocrity, sentimentality and, yes, genuine magic sums the man up, for better or worse. **THIS IS IT, £16, OUT FEBRUARY 22**

## MUSIC



1 ←←  
**Massive Attack**

**HELIGOLAND**  
New album from the Bristol trip-hoppers, with Damon Albarn collaborating



2 ←←  
**Hot Chip**

**ONE LIFE STAND**  
Ten new floor-fillers from the Grammy-nominated electropop outfit



3 ←←  
**Ocean Colour Scene**

**SATURDAY**  
14 new songs to celebrate the Scene's 21 years in the middle of the road



4 ←←  
**The Sunshine Underground**

**NOBODY'S COMING TO SAVE YOU**  
Indie rock, out of Leeds



5 ←←  
**L'il Wayne**

**REBIRTH**  
Seventh album from the US rapper features forays into rock. Is that wise?



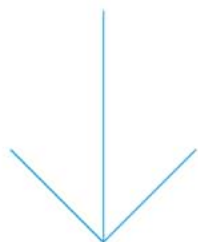
6 ←←  
**Groove Armada**

**BLACK LIGHT**  
Another album from the good ship Armada – this one's not a compilation



# Touch of class

All hail the new breed of touchscreen computers...



THE LAUNCH OF THE MORE FINGER-FRIENDLY Windows 7 has made touchscreen computing both appealing and accessible, and a new wave of affordable, multi-touch PCs have arrived to cash in. Built for scrolling through photos and breezing around the internet with but a swipe of your digit, there's one for every budget. Prod on...

**1 BEST... AVOIDED**

## ACER ASPIRE Z5610

£800, WWW.ACER.CO.UK

The 23-inch HD screen should be the Aspire Z5610's killer feature, but there's no Blu-ray drive to really show it off, and although the multi-touch interface is on the whole responsive, it can fail to register single touches.

It runs an Intel Core 2 Duo E7500 and has a 320GB hard drive, 4GB memory, four USB slots, a TV tuner and a remote control. Acer's software

interface lacks all the user-friendly qualities of Windows 7, though.

In short, the screen is a beauty, but equally important features have been sacrificed to keep the price below a grand.

**LOVE** That massive, full-HD screen

**HATE** Ropy, proprietary interface. No Blu-ray drive or HDMI port



**2 BEST... ALL-ROUND PERFORMER**

## HP TOUCHSMART 600

£1,500, WWW.HP.COM/UK

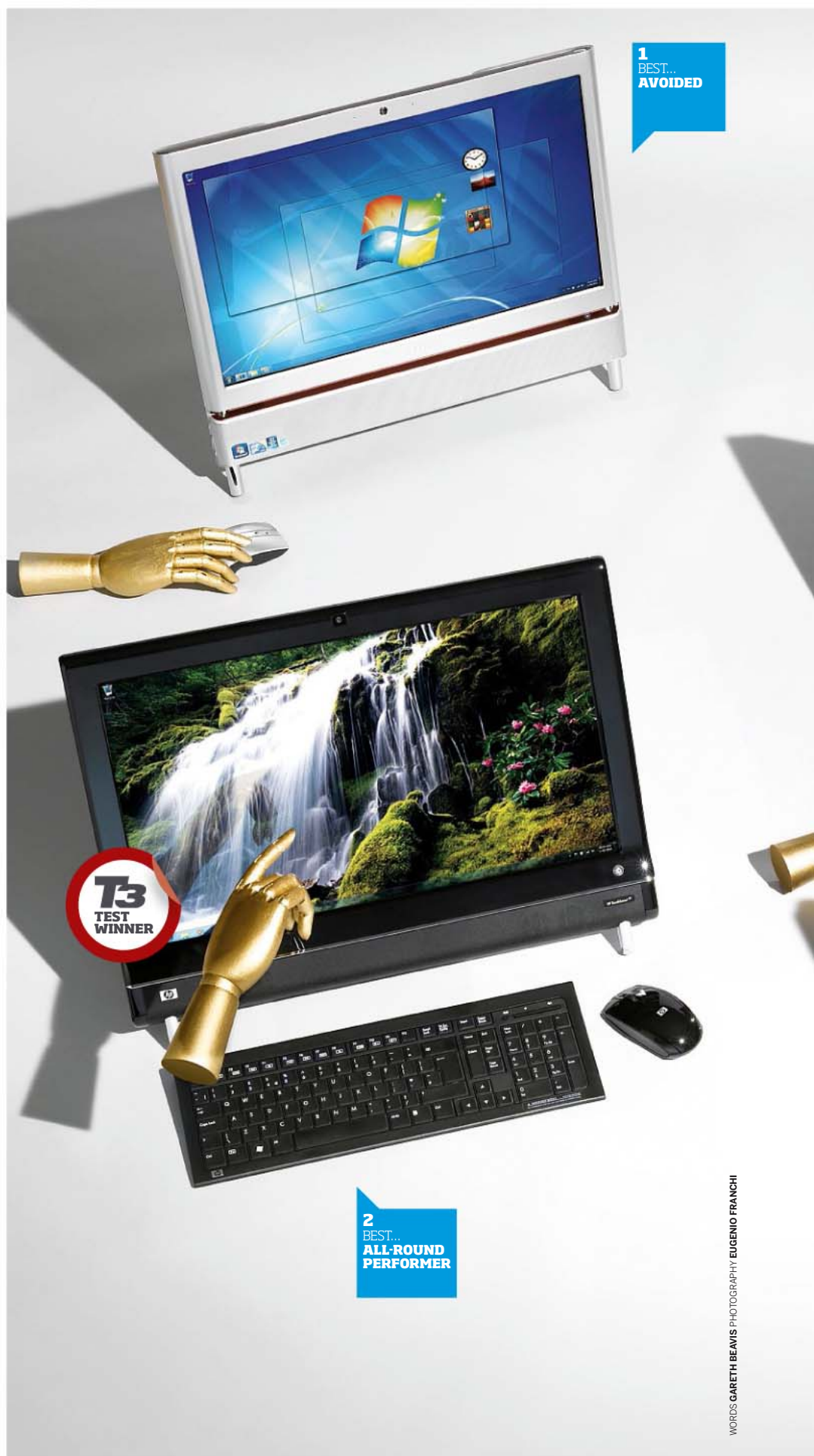
HP's latest touchscreen PC is its best yet, with a 2.13GHz Core 2 Duo processor and a 23-inch, 1920x1200-pixel screen that does justice to HD movies from the built-in Blu-ray drive. You also get an Nvidia GeForce GT 230 graphics card, 4GB of RAM, a 750GB hard drive, a built-in TV tuner, six USBs and even an HDMI input. Eat that, Apple!

The touch interface

can be sluggish at times, but top-notch software compensates, giving access to extra apps including a touch-friendly version of Twitter. If you're short of space, it can also be wall-mounted. Neat.

**LOVE** Touch-friendly software. Great spec

**HATE** Touchscreen lag at times. Premium pricing





**3  
BEST...  
ROCK  
BOTTOM  
PRICE****3 BEST... ROCK BOTTOM PRICE  
PACKARD BELL ONETWO M**

£600, WWW.PACKARDBELL.CO.UK

The cheapest touch PC on test understandably sports the weakest specs. The 20-inch screen has an adequate 1600x900 resolution but is overly glossy and often unresponsive. There's also no Blu-ray drive.

Running an Intel Pentium Dual Core T4300 processor, it does proffer Freeview and 5.1 surround sound, although speakers aren't

included, and the bundled TouchPortal user interface is simplistic but functional.

Packard Bell has concentrated on keeping the costs down, but a second-rate spec makes this a poor investment.

**LOVE** Bargain price tag. Built-in Freeview  
**HATE** Lower-res screen. No HDMI or Blu-ray drive

**4 BEST... MULTIMEDIA OPTION  
SONY VAIO VPC-L11S1E/S**

£1,400, WWW.SONY.CO.UK

Sony Vaio is known for making great multimedia machines and with a 24-inch, 1080p screen, a Blu-ray drive, TV tuner, HDMI port and five USB slots, this is no exception. A 3GHz Intel Core 2 Duo E8400 processor provides the necessary grunt and it's also wired for surround sound.

The touchscreen is responsive and great for navigating the internet,

while Sony's bundled applications, such as *Media Gallery*, make flicking through photos and your music a breeze. They can clash with some proprietary Windows apps, though.

**LOVE** Large, accurate touchscreen. No shortage of connections  
**HATE** Lukewarm audio. Media software issues

**4  
BEST...  
MULTIMEDIA  
OPTION****5 BEST... VALUE FOR MONEY  
ASUS EEE TOP 2203T**

£820, UK.ASUS.COM

Despite being planted at the cheaper end of the touchscreen PC spectrum, the Eee Top nonetheless includes a T6500 Core 2 Duo processor, 4GB memory, a 21.6-inch, full-HD screen, an HDMI port and a Blu-ray drive.

The flimsy disc drive and single-touch – as opposed to multi-touch – screen are two areas where costs have clearly

been shaved, and the screen is less responsive and more prone to glare than it should be.

However, although the Eee Top isn't a top performer, at well under a grand its shortcomings are by no means fatal.

**LOVE** Attractive design. Bargain price tag  
**HATE** Single-touch, unresponsive screen

**5  
BEST...  
VALUE FOR  
MONEY****WINDOWS 7 - TOUCH FEATURES**

From double tapping to flicking your way through browser windows, touch gestures are effortless on Windows 7. You can also pinch to zoom, much as you would on an iPhone. Even scrolling has been simplified, thanks to Windows 7's sterling "drag anywhere" system.




# Grown-up gaming

Video gaming powers up, reaches next level

WORDS JOE SVETLIK PHOTOGRAPHY PIXELEYES



—> GAMING KIT IS NO LONGER ABOUT tawdry “fun”. It’s a marker of your social standing, and the respect of your gaming peers rests on you owning a full collection of consoles and a quad-core gaming PC, the finest peripherals – from *Rock Band* to the Wii Wheel – and the biggest hi-def TV you can squeeze into your lounge. Turn the page for a full run-down of this, the best game gear that money can buy. Your reputation depends on it... 







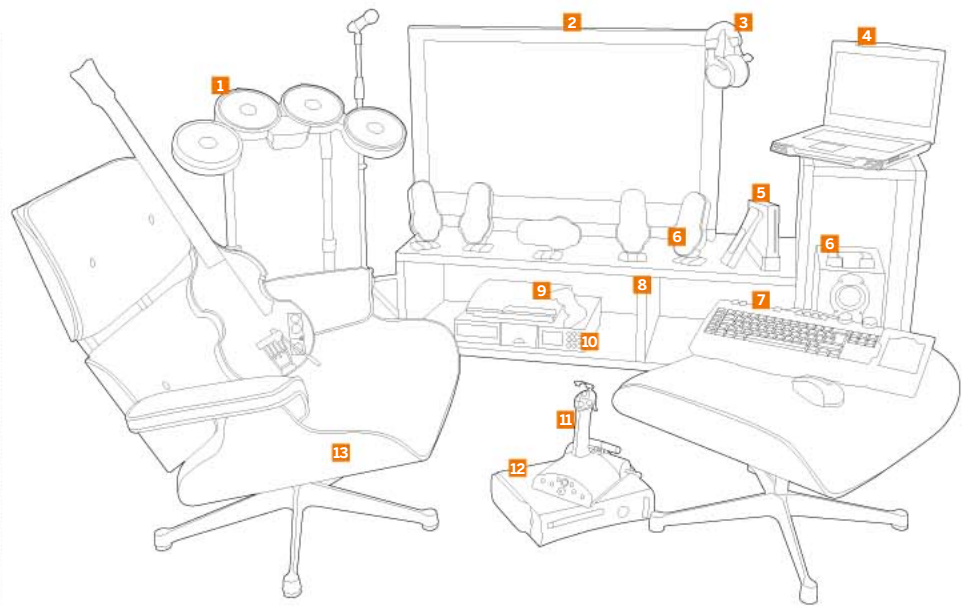
**1 The Beatles: Rock Band** The *Rock Band* franchise just got fabber, with new peripherals including a replica of Paul McCartney's Hofner bass, John Lennon's Rickenbacker 325, two microphones and an exact recreation of Ringo's drumset – okay, not the last one. The 45 tracks to play along to include *A Hard Day's Night*, *Ticket To Ride* and *Hello, Goodbye*. Full albums including *Sgt. Pepper's*, *Abbey Road* and *Rubber Soul* can be added, with download prices starting at £7.49. [£180, WWW.THEBEATLESROCKBAND.COM](http://£180, WWW.THEBEATLESROCKBAND.COM)

**2 Sony KDL-40Z4500** This 40-inch LCD TV is ideal for gamers. With three HDMI sockets, you can plug in your PS3, Xbox 360 and Sky+ HD box all at once. It's full 1080p/24, and a 200Hz Motionflow mode delivers four times the standard number of frames per second, making for ultra-smooth viewing even during fast-moving gaming action. If you're playing a game that demands hair trigger reactions, turn Motionflow off to get one of the fastest response times of any LCD telly. [£1,000, WWW.SONY.CO.UK](http://£1,000, WWW.SONY.CO.UK)

**3 Turtle Beach Ear Force X31** A headset like this will enhance your online gaming twofold: you'll be able to hear subtleties you don't get with speakers, like footsteps in the distance, or the sound of a gun reloading. More importantly, you can verbally abuse your online rivals. The stereo X31 is light and wireless, so you won't become entangled in cables at a critical juncture. [£90, WWW.TURTLEBEACH.COM](http://£90, WWW.TURTLEBEACH.COM)

**4 Alienware M15X** Containing the kind of graphical and processing power usually only found on desktop computers, Alienware's 15.6-inch range-topper will keep you one frag ahead of the competition. There's 4GB of DDR3 memory, Nvidia's GTX 260M graphics card and 64-bit Windows 7. Switch to Turbo Boost mode and the 1.6GHz Intel Core i7-720QM processor will be overclocked to run at the speed of a 2.8GHz model. The M15X's AlienFX lighting changes colour depending on what's going on – get shot and the lights on the keyboard, logo and speaker grills will flash red, for danger. [£1,199, WWW.ALIENWARE.CO.UK](http://£1,199, WWW.ALIENWARE.CO.UK)

**5 Black Wii** Nintendo's family-friendly console has been given a mean makeover and now comes in gothic black as well as its traditional angelic white livery. BBC iPlayer has been added



as a dedicated Wii channel and the black console also comes with a matching black Wii remote, Wii Motion Plus plug-in and nunchuk. [£180, WWW.NINTENDO.CO.UK](http://£180, WWW.NINTENDO.CO.UK)

**6 Logitech G51** To achieve the ultimate gaming experience you need high-quality surround sound. This 5.1 system beefs up the audio from your console of choice, filling the room with the thrilling sound of gunfire and explosions, or the soothingly fruity tones of Stephen Fry, if you're playing *LittleBigPlanet*. With 135 watts of RMS power the sound really booms, and FDD2 technology helps to create a uniform soundstage, so that you don't have to be sat directly in the sweet spot to reap the sonic whirlwind. [£150, WWW.LOGITECH.CO.UK](http://£150, WWW.LOGITECH.CO.UK)

**7 Microsoft Sidewinder X6 keyboard and X5 mouse** This keyboard and mouse combination is so intuitive it gives PC gamers who use it a real edge. The mouse has five programmable buttons so you can customise it to your game of choice, while the keyboard has a magnetic number pad that you can attach to either side, making it equally suitable for left handers. [X6: £70, X5: £50, WWW.MICROSOFT.CO.UK](http://X6: £70, X5: £50, WWW.MICROSOFT.CO.UK)

**8 Domino shelving unit** A gaming set-up of this calibre deserves a truly classy storage system. This wenge-stained shelving unit fits the bill. It contains enough space to store all your consoles, speakers and amps, and is sturdy enough to withstand the weight of a televisual behemoth such as the Sony KDL-40Z4500. [£260, WWW.CONRANSHOP.CO.UK](http://£260, WWW.CONRANSHOP.CO.UK)

**9 PlayStation 3 Slim 250GB** The PS3 recently slimmed down, losing a third of its previously ample girth, but for pure graphical grunt it still can't be beaten. PlayStation Network lets you compete online and download HD movies, trailers and exclusive PS3 gaming content and, thanks to a recent firmware upgrade, you can now enjoy the last seven days of BBC content on

BBC iPlayer via your PS3. All this, plus a Blu-ray drive and a substantial price cut. [£285, UK.PLAYSTATION.COM](http://£285, UK.PLAYSTATION.COM)

**10 Naim Uniti** This is a one-stop shop for all your audio needs, containing a powerful amp, a CD player, DAB, FM and web radio, an iPod dock, a USB port, plus Wi-Fi and ethernet connectivity for streaming tunes. Hook up your games console and a decent pair of stereo speakers and the Naim Uniti will provide an audiophile-grade musical soundtrack to your gaming antics, should you tire of the sounds of death and/or Stephen Fry issuing from your Logitech G51. [£1,995, WWW.NAIM-AUDIO.COM](http://£1,995, WWW.NAIM-AUDIO.COM)

**11 Saitek Aviator Flight Stick** This cockpit controller for Xbox 360 and PC – PS3 and PC versions are also available – has three buttons on the heavy duty analogue stick, plus a trigger, start and select buttons and a D-pad. You can change the layout of the controls depending on which game you're playing, so you'll always be in complete control of your warplane. [£40, WWW.SAITEK.COM](http://£40, WWW.SAITEK.COM)

**12 Xbox 360 Elite** This has a 120GB hard drive, waiting to be filled with choice nuggets from the finest next-gen gaming catalogue available to humanity. It also offers the best online gameplay plus HD movie downloads and exclusive extras like *Halo Legends* previews and unseen *GTA* content, via Xbox Live, as well as access to Sky's catch-up service, Sky Player. [£160, WWW.XBOX.COM/EN-GB](http://£160, WWW.XBOX.COM/EN-GB)

**13 Eames lounge chair and ottoman** First released in 1956, this classic chair and stool combo was designed by Charles and Ray Eames as a birthday present for Billy Wilder, the legendary director of *Some Like it Hot*. Constructed from moulded plywood and leather it's a design classic that's comfortable enough for hours of continuous gaming, while still looking impossibly elegant. [£4,000, WWW.CONRANSHOP.CO.UK](http://£4,000, WWW.CONRANSHOP.CO.UK)



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Zoom UK, 15 Weston Barns, Hitchin Road, Weston, Hertfordshire, SG4 7AX, UNITED KINGDOM  
Zoom Corporation, 4-4-3, Kanda Surugadai, Chiyoda Ku, Tokyo 101-0062, JAPAN

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Windows®. Life without Walls™. Samsung recommends Windows 7.

# Introducing the new Samsung R780 Notebook

With a new premium 'Touch of Colour' finish, crystal pattern design, mark and scratch-resistant durable casing, touch pad lighting and island style keyboard.



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# R

530

580

730

780

## R780

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Multimedia  
Features



Outstanding  
graphic  
performance



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transfer

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- 802.11bg/n\*, Bluetooth 2.1+ EDR

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\* Factory Options

**SAMSUNG**

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# ANDROID 'ANDSETS

The best of the current crop of mobiles packing Google's OS

Words **Gareth Beavis** Photography **Fullstop Photography, Will Ireland**

Having conquered the online search universe, Google has now set its sights on achieving the same in the mobile phone market. Its secret weapon: the open-source operating system Android.

Widely customisable, Android is a developer's dream. With a top notch web browser on board and the ever growing app Market, the number of Android phones is increasing rapidly. As a result, Google has the iPhone firmly in its cross hairs.

With Google's own **Nexus One** phone launched just too late for inclusion here, we've rounded up the best of the handsets from Google's external partners, from Android stalwart HTC to newcomer Acer.

Where's the Nexus One?  
The Google phone landed too late for this test, but head to p14 for an in-depth preview and keep posted for a full review soon...



**HTC HERO** £370  
T3's Gadget of the Year 2009, no less. Has its multi-touch smoothie started to pall yet?



**MOTOROLA MILESTONE** £450  
Called the Droid in the US, this has wowed our American cousins with its powers





**LG GW620** £250  
A brand new phone running an old version of Android? It is at a bargain price, though...



**SAMSUNG GALAXY I7500** £370  
A slimmer kind of Android, with an unusually good cam



**ACER LIQUID S100** £300  
The laptop maestros clamber into the mobile market with a 1GHz processor

# ACER LIQUID S100

## Details

£300 SIM FREE, WWW.ACER.CO.UK

- PROCESSOR** 768MHz Qualcomm Snapdragon 8250
- OS** Android 1.6 (Donut)
- STORAGE** 512MB + microSD (2GB supplied)
- SCREEN** 3.5-inch, 800x480
- CONNECTIVITY** 7.2Mbps HSDPA, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, A-GPS, 3.5mm audio
- CAMERA** 5 megapixels, autofocus
- VIDEO** 320x240 at 24 fps
- BATTERY** 5 hours talk time

1

## Dimensions



**HEIGHT** 115mm  
**WIDTH** 64mm  
**DEPTH** 13mm  
**WEIGHT** 135g

1

### THE KEYS

The glowing, touch sensitive buttons respond quickly to your prods

2

### THE SCREEN

The screen, though the same size as the iPhone, is dwarfed by the casing

3

### THE BROWSER

With a 7.2Mbps mobile connection speed, web surfing is lightning quick



## Acer's Android debut is fast but lacks any particularly knock-out features



### ROUND THE BACK

Next to the camera there's a tinny speaker that's not going to have audiophiles purring. Plug in your own cans via the 3.5mm socket instead

## Protect your phone

### PDAIR VERTICAL POUCH FOR LIQUID

This easily removed, leather skin lets you see when your Liquid is running low on juice \$28, WWW.PDAIR.COM



**A**cer is a big noise in the laptop market, but it's still a relative unknown when it comes to mobiles. This Android phone isn't going to do a heck of a lot to change that, although it's not actively bad.

The headline specs certainly aren't to blame. The Liquid's got a razor-sharp, hi-res, 3.5-inch screen and an industry-leading Qualcomm Snapdragon processor, although for some reason it's been slowed to 768MHz rather than sprinting at its full 1GHz speed. It still keeps things ticking along nicely, though.

The Android 1.6-based OS is admittedly not the most elaborate reskinning job you'll ever see – aside from scrollable media and internet bookmark bars on the left and right of the home screen, it's very vanilla indeed – but it's solid.

Exchange email is included and the browser is lightning quick. While the music player is nothing to write home about, it is complemented by a 3.5mm socket for your cans. There's also a speaker, but that's more for hands-free calling than hi-fi playback.

However, the build is an off-key symphony in cheap plastic and the battery struggles to last out the day if you get busy wit' it.

There are also some infuriating UI quirks. There's no slide-out QWERTY, yet the on-screen keyboard doesn't appear when you enter the text messaging application – that's a no-brainer, surely? Composing messages also isn't as fluid as it should be, thanks to ineffective predictive text input.

The camera has autofocus, but there's not so much as an LED flash to help out night-owls and bar flies. Despite the hulking, hi-res screen, video playback fails to impress.

In truth, while the Acer Liquid is fast, there's not enough here to make it stand out from the increasingly crowded Android set.

**LOVE** Speedy processor. Responsive touchscreen. Pin sharp video playback. Exchange email. Nippy browser  
**HATE** Poor battery life and cheap build take the gloss off somewhat  
**WE SAY** A decent enough Android phone, but there's nothing special to make it stand out







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# LG GW620

## Details

£250, UK.LGE.COM

**PROCESSOR** Not quoted  
**OS** Android 1.5 (Cupcake)

**STORAGE** 150MB + microSD (2GB supplied)

**SCREEN** 3-inch, 320x480

**CONNECTIVITY** 7.2Mbps HSDPA, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, A-GPS, 3.5mm audio

**CAMERA** 5 megapixels, autofocus, LED flash

**VIDEO** 720x480 at 30fps

**BATTERY** 7 hours 30 minutes talk time

## Dimensions



**HEIGHT** 109mm  
**WIDTH** 55mm  
**DEPTH** 16mm  
**WEIGHT** 139g

### 1

#### THE KEYS

LG's touch sensitive buttons are stylish, but too easy to accidentally knock

### 2

#### THE SCREEN

It's resistive and therefore a little harder to operate, with no multi-touch

### 3

#### THE JACK

A raised 3.5mm headphone socket offers a better connection for your cans



## Android mobile, going cheap. Decent battery life and social networking too



**ROUND THE BACK**  
A 1500mAh battery allows the GW620 to keep chugging away when others have given up the ghost. The tiny LED flash isn't amazing, though

### Protect your phone

**PROPORTA MAYA II**  
Handmade from real leather, this pouch features a scratch resistant lining to protect your mobile  
£15, WWW.PROPORTA.COM



**L**G's first stab at the Android jugular is a cheaper handset than its rivals. A smaller size, resistive rather than capacitive touchscreen and some other spec "tweakings" all help to bring the cost down to you, the belaboured punter. However, the battery is unusually good, so it's not all specification slashing.

The surprisingly sturdy build quality belies the GW620's price tag and the phone comes with a slide out keyboard that's one of the best we've seen on an Android. The well-spaced keys and a full set of dedicated number keys make typing out a bundle of emails or texts a very smooth task indeed.

By combining the best of its S-Class menu system with Google's own very decent interface, LG allows the user to choose between standard Android and a skinned menu and home screen experience.

Facebook and Twitter support is built in, letting you link contacts up to their profiles, then follow their every move. Thankfully the good, two-day battery can cope with all the constant correspondence. The music player is probably the best on test, thanks to a dedicated media button on the phone's side and a 3.5mm headphone socket.

Corners have been cut, and the most notable are the screen and OS. We're not fans of resistive touchscreens, what with this being the 21st century. This one's not so bad, and the smaller size doesn't lead to a drop in accuracy, but we'd still rather have a capacitive one.

Another gripe is that the GW620 runs ye olde Android 1.5. The looks are also anonymous in the extreme, and the camera is nothing special.

Even so, if you're in the market for an Android phone with stamina, this cheap option is a pretty enticing one. It's no trophy gadget, but it does the job.

**LOVE** Excellent battery life. Low price. Slick keyboard. Easy Facebook access  
**HATE** Relatively small display. Runs an older iteration of Android that's starting to show its age  
**WE SAY** The GW620 is a budget bullet that belies its price tag with good build and a smattering of premium features





# MOTOROLA MILESTONE

## Details

£450, WWW.EXPANSYS.COM

- PROCESSOR** 550MHz ARM Cortex A8
- OS** Android 2.0 (Eclair)
- STORAGE** 512MB + microSD (8GB supplied)
- SCREEN** 3.7-inch, 480x854
- CONNECTIVITY** 10.1Mbps HSDPA, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, A-GPS, 3.5mm audio
- CAMERA** 5 megapixels, autofocus, dual LED flash
- VIDEO** 720x480 at 24fps
- BATTERY** 4 hours 50 minutes talk time

1

## Dimensions



**HEIGHT** 116mm  
**WIDTH** 60mm  
**DEPTH** 13.7mm  
**WEIGHT** 165g

1

### THE QWERTY

Motorola has managed to cram a keyboard in a phone that's under 14mm thick

2

### THE KEYS

A set of touch-sensitive buttons offer easy navigation and look pretty

3

### THE "LIP"

This houses the antenna, helping the device to maintain its svelte frame



## Moto's best phone since the RAZR is an Android-packing powerhouse



### ROUND THE BACK

The only dual LED flash on this test. It's not as good as a xenon flash for photography, but it is a boon when looking for your keyhole in the dark

## Protect your phone

### PIEL FRAMA

The simple flip design with magnetic locking mechanism allows easy access. Like belt clips? It's got a very "cool" one  
£70, WWW.PIELFRAMA.COM



**M**otorola's prised itself off the old life-support machine with a brace of fine Android mobiles. Following the social networking frenzy of the DEXT, the Milestone is another touchscreen/QWERTY combo, but an altogether more serious one.

There's no MotoBLUR here, just your unalloyed Android experience. It's Google's impressive 2.0 upgrade, although unlike the forthcoming Nexus One, not the even-more-impressive 2.1 version.

Android 2.0 (Eclair, as Google calls it) offers integrated social networking contacts as well as a faster camera, a quick contacts box for easier chum-messaging and Exchange for your email. Needless to say, Motorola has taken full advantage on the Milestone, though it's had to junk Google's turn-by-turn satnav app, *Navigation*, for its own shonkier MOTONAV due to the former not working over here.

Multi-touch is included on the UK version as standard and this makes zooming around the web and photos a piece of cake. Web pages don't support Flash at the moment, though Moto describes the phone as "Flash-ready", so a future upgrade may be in the offing, and it just pips the Hero to be the best browser here anyway.

The capacitive touchscreen is generally slick and responsive, reacting swiftly and serving up a decent onscreen keyboard – just as well given that the slide-out QWERTY is by no means great.

Video playback is the best on test, while battery life is decent enough; you'll probably need to plug it in every night, but you won't be sprinting to find a socket the second you walk in the door.

Overall, the Milestone is a fine phone and a very worthy alternative to the Hero. If it gets 2.1 and Flash support, it'll be even better...

- LOVE** Very solid build. Effective multi-touch and speedy interface. Uses the much-improved Android 2.0
- HATE** Poor quality camera. Chunky, angular chassis. Basic Android OS with no MotoBLUR overlay
- WE SAY** Speedy processing and quality build make this a tip top handset



# SAMSUNG GALAXY I7500

## Details

£370,  
WWW.SAMSONGMOBILE.CO.UK

**PROCESSOR** 528MHz  
Qualcomm MSM7200A  
**OS** Android 1.5 (Cupcake)  
**STORAGE** 8GB + microSD  
**SCREEN** 3.2-inch,  
320x240  
**CONNECTIVITY** 7.2Mbps  
HSDPA, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth,  
GPS, 3.5mm audio  
**CAMERA** 5 megapixels,  
autofocus, LED flash  
**VIDEO** 352x288 pixels  
at up to 30fps  
**BATTERY** 6 hours 10  
minutes talk time



1

2

3

## Dimensions



**HEIGHT** 115mm  
**WIDTH** 57mm  
**DEPTH** 13mm  
**WEIGHT** 116g

### 1 THE SLIMNESS

At just 13mm deep and 116g, this one will comfortably fit any pocket

2

**3 THE SCREEN**  
AMOLED means sharper video. It's supposed to improve battery life too...

3

**THE KEYS**  
Samsung's button layout makes one-handed navigation very easy

## A slimline phone with an AMOLED screen, let down by a poor battery



**ROUND THE BACK**  
Samsung was the first to add a five-megapixel camera with LED flash to an Android phone. Despite its age, it remains the best on test, though that's not saying much, sadly

## Protect your phone

**INVISIBLESHIELD FULL BODY SHIELD**  
A super-thin skin to cover your Galaxy, "developed from military technology"  
£18, WWW.EXPANSYS.COM



**S**amsung was the first company after HTC to enter the Android arena, with the Galaxy launching in Israel and Austria in June 2009 before hitting the UK in August – we think that's what you call a "soft launch".

The handset has a quick, 3.2-inch, capacitive screen, an underused D-pad and a 3.5mm headphone jack. It's very slim and quite attractive in its Samsung-y kind of way, and feels robust, although the fiddly, poorly-positioned keylock may drive you to homicidal thoughts.

The Galaxy runs the older 1.5 (Cupcake) version of the Android platform, and there's no Samsung overlay to speak of. Cupcake is still a perfectly reasonable OS but now we've seen the improved interfaces and advanced social networking support offered by handsets such as the Hero and DEXT, it feels both dated and bland.

Battery life is comfortably the worst on test, and it's not because the battery is underpowered, at 1500mAh. You can easily de-juice the phone before tea time with even moderate usage.

To its credit, Samsung has shoehorned in a generous 8GB internal memory as well as a microSD slot, and entering text using the on-screen keyboard is easy enough, even though there's no multi-touch. Tut tut.

The five-megapixel camera on the rear, despite being supplemented only by a single LED flash, is just about the best on test. The fact that the screen is AMOLED gives a certain extra zing to videos and snaps as well.

There's nothing massively wrong with the slimline Galaxy apart from the battery life. But unless you've got incredibly tight pockets, it's very hard to see why you'd choose it over the Hero or Milestone.

**LOVE** Slim design and quality build. Decent AMOLED touchscreen. A generous 8GB of storage plus card slot  
**HATE** Terrible battery life. Excessively fiddly unlocking system  
**WE SAY** An otherwise solid, very slimline Android phone from Samsung, let down by quite awful battery life





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# HTC HERO

## Details

£370, WWW.HTC.COM/UK

**PROCESSOR** 528MHz  
Qualcomm MSM7200A  
**OS** Android 1.6 (Donut)  
**STORAGE** 512MB +  
microSD (2GB supplied)  
**SCREEN** 3.2-inch,  
320x480  
**CONNECTIVITY** 7.2Mbps  
HSDPA, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth,  
GPS, 3.5mm audio  
**CAMERA** 5 megapixels,  
autofocus  
**VIDEO** 352x288 at 15 fps  
**BATTERY** 7 hours talk time



1

## Dimensions



**HEIGHT** 112mm  
**WIDTH** 56mm  
**DEPTH** 14.4mm  
**WEIGHT** 135g

### 1 THE TRACKBALL

Helps navigation when touch isn't accurate enough and useful for games, too

2

### THE JACK

This was also the first Android phone from HTC to have a 3.5mm socket

3

### MULTI-TOUCH

The Hero is still one of only a few Android phones to offer full multi-touch

## T3's Gadget of the Year 2009 is still coming on strong in 2010

**T**he Hero was 2009's best gadget – we confirmed as much at the **T3** Awards.

A handsome fella with a jutting “chin”, it was the first phone to run HTC's Sense overlay on top of Android, turbo charging Google's OS and sending it racing ahead of the competition.

Sense gives you seven home screens with a plethora of customisable widgets. It also lets you Tweet directly from the main display, and offers some natty new animations to boot.

Sense also brings Facebook integration directly to your contacts menu, meaning you can check status and photo updates directly from a buddy's profile, eliminating all the prodding needed to use Facebook mobile.

The screen almost matches the iPhone's. It's a smooth and responsive capacitive display. It's a little smaller at only 3.2 inches, but appears slightly sharper as the resolution is the same.

The browser is among the best on an Android device as well, with Flash video support and a superb pinch and zoom method that will make text fit to any size screen you desire.

The battery lasts just over a day if you make use of all the Hero's copious bells and whistles. The novelty, Teflon-coated shell feels comfortable in the palm, while the chin houses all the buttons, making one-handed operation much easier.

Currently the Hero runs Android 1.6, but an upgrade to 2.1 is promised “soon” – within the next six months, realistically. If HTC and Google can pull that off without losing any speed, it'll be a superb upgrade.

Even without 2.1, the Hero is ageing well. The lag it suffered from initially was largely – if not entirely – rectified by a firmware update. However, whether it can fend off the Nexus One to remain Android champ, we'll have to see...



### ROUND THE BACK

The Teflon coating helps keep the phone looking clean, although feels a bit odd against the tender skin of our palms. The five-meg camera is not amazing

## Protect your phone

### PROPORTA MIZU SHELL

A silicon skin that keeps your Hero safe but leaves the front buttons open for easy access  
£20, WWW.PROPORTA.COM



**LOVE** Super speedy browser. Excellent Sense UI. Social networking integration  
**HATE** Can still be sluggish at times despite a strong firmware upgrade  
**WE SAY** Still one of the best iPhone alternatives out there. The only trouble on the horizon is the Nexus One...





**Stats of truth**  
Android phones



PRODUCT	ACER LIQUID S100	LG GW620	MOTOROLA MILESTONE	SAMSUNG GALAXY I7500	HTC HERO
PRICE	£300	£250	£450	£370	£370
WEBSITE	WWW.ACER.CO.UK	UK.LGE.COM	WWW.EXPANSYS.COM	WWW.SAMUNGMOBILE.CO.UK	WWW.HTC.COM/UK
PROCESSOR	Qualcomm Snapdragon 8250 768MHz	Not quoted	ARM Cortex A8 550MHz	Qualcomm MSM7200A 528MHz	Qualcomm MSM7200A 528MHz
OS	Android 1.6 (Donut)	Android 1.5 (Cupcake)	Android 2.0 (Eclair)	Android 1.5 (Cupcake)	Android 1.6 (Donut)
STORAGE	512MB + microSD	150MB + microSD	512MB + microSD	8GB + microSD	512MB + microSD
CARD SUPPLIED	2GB	2GB	8GB	-	2GB
SCREEN	3.5-inch, 800x480	3-inch 320x480	3.7-inch 480x854	3.2-inch, 320x240	3.2-inch, 320x480
CONNECTIVITY	7.2Mbps HSDPA, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 2.1, A-GPS, 3.5mm	7.2Mbps HSDPA, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 2.0, A-GPS, 3.5mm	10.1Mbps HSDPA, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 2.1, A-GPS, 3.5mm	7.2Mbps HSDPA, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 2.0, A-GPS, 3.5mm	7.2Mbps HSDPA, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 2.0, A-GPS, 3.5mm
CAMERA	5 megapixels, autofocus	5 megapixels, autofocus, LED flash	5 megapixels, autofocus, dual LED flash	5 megapixels, autofocus, LED flash	5 megapixels, autofocus
VIDEO	320x240 at 24fps	720x480 pixels at 30fps	720x480 pixels at 24fps	352x288 pixels at up to 30fps	352x288 at 15fps
QUOTED TALK TIME	5 hours	7 hours 30 mins	4 hours 50 minutes	6 hours 10 minutes	7 hours
SIZE/WEIGHT	115x64x13mm/135g	109x55x16mm/139g	116x60x13.7mm/165g	115x57x13mm/116g	112x56x14.4mm/135g
LOVE	Speedy processor. Responsive touchscreen. Pin sharp video playback. Nippy browser	Excellent battery life. Low, low price. Slick keyboard. Easy Facebook access	Effective multi-touch and speedy interface. Android 2.0. Very solid build	Slim design and quality build. Decent AMOLED screen. 8GB of storage plus microSD	Super speedy browser. Excellent Sense UI. Social networking integration
HATE	Poor battery life and cheap build take the gloss off somewhat	Relatively small display. Runs an older iteration of Android that's showing its age	Poor quality camera. Chunky, angular chassis. Basic Android OS with no MotoBLUR overlay	Terrible battery life. Excessively fiddly unlocking system. Touchscreen lacks multi-touch	Can still be sluggish at times despite firmware upgrade
WE SAY	A decent enough Android phone, but there's nothing special to make it stand out	The GW620 is a budget bullet that belies its price tag with good build and neat features	Speedy processing and quality build make for a tip top Android combination	An otherwise solid, very slim Android phone let down by exceedingly poor battery life	Still one of the best iPhone alternatives. The only trouble on the horizon is the Nexus One...
RATING	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★

*Jargon slayer*

**MICROSD**

Holding a big stack of data on a disk smaller than a thumbnail, microSD is technically capable of up to 32GB storage, although 16GB remains the biggest card available in the UK

blind subjects and blow out detail, so more useful as an emergency torch than photo flash

**CAPACITIVE TOUCHSCREEN**

A screen that detects electrically when a finger is placed on it, rather than relying on pressure (as on a resistive touchscreen). Capacitive screens also allow for multi-touch, where more than one finger can be detected at once – handy for pinch-to-zoom

**BLUETOOTH 2.0**

A super-fast method of transmitting data between devices, Bluetooth 2.0 streams to wireless devices. Version 2.1 eliminates the need for a passcode, making pairing much easier

**LED FLASH**

A single diode capable of emitting strong, white light. Tends to

**1500MAH**

Most powerful battery currently available in a mobile handset. Expect over a day's juice

# 10 REASONS... TO CHOOSE ANDROID

*What is the secret of its power?*

**1 The Google Nexus One**

This Android phone produced by Google and announced during CES, will be available on Vodafone within weeks. Check it out on p14...

**2 The price**

SIM-free Android handsets range from £250 to £450. You can get the HTC Hero for free with contracts costing upwards of £30 a month – much cheaper than the iPhone.

**3 The interface**

The original Android interface is nothing to be sniffed at, but companies are free to tweak it and to develop their own interfaces. They've created some true beauties

– notably HTC's Sense skin, found on the Hero and Tattoo.

**4 The apps**

The majority of apps available on Android Market are free. At last count there was in excess of 20,000.

**5 Google Docs**

Word processing, presentations and spreadsheets for free, with multiple users able to edit documents

**6 It's open-source**

Android Marketplace is open-source, so anyone can develop apps without having to go through an Apple-style approval process. Head to android.market.com for info on how to develop your own app.

**7 The handset choice**

There's an ever expanding selection of handsets available from the likes of HTC, LG, Motorola and Samsung, with new ones from Sony Ericsson and Nokia arriving this year.

**8 Hotmail compatibility**

Unlike iPhone, Android syncs with your MSN Hotmail account for free.

**9 Other Android gadgets**

The Android OS isn't just for mobiles; the Archos 5 tablet and Barnes & Noble Nook also use it.

**10 Instant upgrades**

There's no need to sync with your computer for firmware upgrades, they download to the handset.

# THE FUTURE OF TV REVEALED

FROM 3D TO HD FREEVIEW, THE AUDIOVISUAL GIZMOS THAT'LL SHAPE 2010 WERE UNVEILED AT THE CONSUMER ELECTRONICS SHOW, LAS VEGAS

The big story at CES 2010 was television, whether hi-def, 3D or shaped like a polar bear. At the LG stand, announcements came thick and fast.

First up, the Korean giant declared that the lion's share of its big-screen tellies this year will support Freeview HD across LG's LED, LCD and plasma ranges, giving terrestrial viewers free access to hi-def finery.

LG's Freeview HD-enabled tellies will include the LED-backlit LE5900 range, which goes up to 55 inches and PK990 plasmas, available up to 60 big inches.

Also unleashed was the Magic Wand, a next-gen remote that use Wii-style motion-sensing to navigate the menus of LG's tellies, starting with the 6.9mm deep Full LED Ultra Slim, in September.



## CES: THE HIGHLIGHTS

### 1 INFINIA RANGE

Setting a new benchmark for slimness and style, LG's Infinia is its flagship range of plasma, LCD and LED TVs. They're all built with a seamless single layer with no external bezel, so as well as being incredibly slim and providing unparalleled brightness and clarity, with stellar contrast, they also provide a stunning centrepiece to your lounge, even when powered down.



### 2 3D TV

LG's flagship Infinia, the 47-inch LE9500, is just 23mm deep and fully 3D-ready, with passive 3D tech that doesn't require pricey shutter glasses. Hitting the stores first will be the LD920. Another passive 3D 47-incher, it'll be available from April. Also arriving in time for Sky and ESPN's 3D broadcasts of the World Cup will be the CF3D, the world's first full-HD, single lens 3D projector. Putting a nine-foot 3D image on your wall, it's a mouthwatering prospect.



### 3 INNOVATION AWARDS

LG won 12 awards at CES, with the 3D-ready, super-slim, microscopically bezeled and web-connected LE9500 scooping gongs for Best Honoree and Video Display, while the 8500 model winning for Video Display and Eco-friendly Design. The LHB335 is a similarly stylish 5.1, one-box Blu-ray home cinema with full networking capability for getting at your PC's movies and photos. It won out in the Audio Components category.

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 **LG**  
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This month  
2010's must-have ski  
kit. Bruno Senna's lust  
for F1 glory  
Plus compact cameras  
for adverse conditions

EDITED BY ROB TEMPLE

T3

# PULSE

TECH PUT THROUGH ITS PACES >>>

## Cruise control

The world's biggest ship

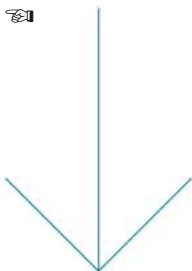
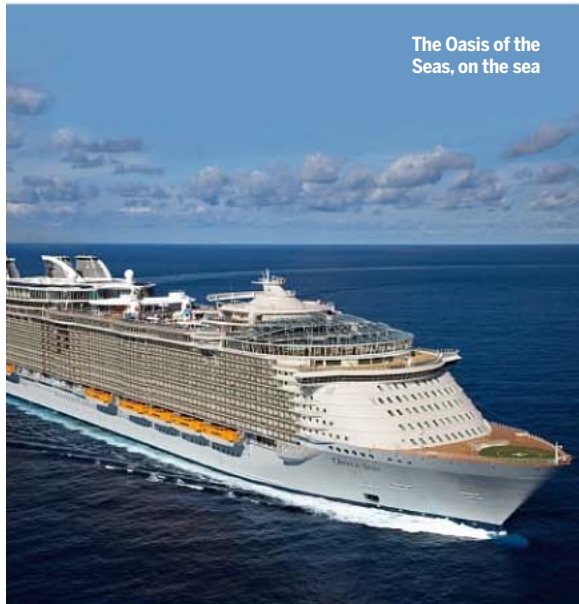
WORDS JOE SVETLIK PHOTOGRAPHY REGIS LEFEBURE

—> ROYAL CARIBBEAN'S OASIS OF THE Seas is the world's largest cruise ship. At 361 metres, if you stood it on its end it'd be taller than the Eiffel Tower and the Chrysler Building. There's space onboard for over 6,000 passengers, plus a couple of thousand crew members, and that still leaves acres of room for activities from swimming and surfing to rock climbing and hurtling from stern to prow on a massive zip wire.





The Oasis of the Seas, on the sea



### 1 Surfing and swimming

Two surf simulators – one for the adults, one for kids – called Flow Riders let you catch some waves without the inconvenience of leaving the deck.

A three-inch sheet of water is pumped over the surface of the 130x80cm installations, creating a constant wave. It's far safer than surfing in the sea – although less gratifying and with more chance of embarrassment should you wipe out.

Afterwards – or, indeed, instead – you can relax in one of the four pools and ten jacuzzis nestled around the fountains in the aquapark.

### 2 Zip wire

If you're brave enough to hop on, you'll enjoy a 25 metre glide above the top deck, hurtling over gawpers on the boardwalk below. Ensure the contents of your pockets are secure to avoid injuring the folk playing shuffleboard.

### 3 Climbing and fitness

Two 13-metre climbing walls tower above the boardwalk and on floor six you'll find a 3,650 square metre gym, with 158 machines catering for all types of exercise, from running to weights and cross training.

The Oasis of the Seas also has the longest running track on a ship. Grinding on for 700 metres, it has stunning sea views to make your daily jog seem less arduous. You can also play basketball on the top deck or master the miniature golf course.

**4 Leisure** If you're allergic to calisthenics, fear not: there's plenty of more sedentary onboard entertainments. The Oasis of the Seas is the first cruise ship with its own open-air park, with more than 12,000 trees. Situated around the park are five of the ship's 22 restaurants, along with seven bars, one of which, the Rising Tide, rises and falls between three decks of the ship – that could become confusing after a few cocktails.

Fancy a musical? Book your ticket at [www.royalcaribbean.com](http://www.royalcaribbean.com) and it's automatically added to your room card, called a Sea Pass Card – these are also scanned in the event of an emergency to ensure everyone's still onboard. The main Opal Theatre seats 1,350 and ice shows are performed on the huge indoor ice rink. The Aquatheatre has demonstrations of daredevil high diving and the comedy theatre has demonstrations of daredevil, ocean-going comedy. Oh, and there's also 3,000 square metres of shops to explore...

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# Tame the piste

Conquer the slopes in style this season

WORDS ADAM BUNKER PHOTOGRAPHY PIXELEYES





IF BRITAIN BEING BLANKETED IN SNOW HAS piqued your interest in skiing – it may be how we all commute in a few years, let's face it – it's time to hit the world's slopes. But before you book the log cabin and ski pass, make sure you've got only the best clothing and the latest ski equipment, not to mention a stack of hi-tech kit to keep you safe and entertained. We've thoughtfully compiled a list of everything you need, so you can just concentrate on enjoying the après ski...



**1 Musto Evolution jacket**  
Made from Gore-Tex with a fleece lining and wind-proof zips, the Evolution protects you from sub-zero elements and looks rather fly. **£175, WWW.MUSTO.COM**

**2 Sennheiser PMX 80 Sport II headphones**  
These sweatproof buds sit tightly in the ear and pump rich, detailed sound directly into your cortex. **£25, WWW.SENNEISER.CO.UK**

**3 Leatherman Squirt P4 Multi-tool**  
You shouldn't be without a Leatherman; they're useful for everything from sawing off frostbitten toes to opening bottles. **£45, WWW.GADGETSHOP.COM**

**4 Sony PSP Go**  
The ideal après-ski games machine, with 16GB of storage for downloading titles via Wi-Fi hotspots, in cold spots. **£225, WWW.SONY.CO.UK**

**5 Degree 7 M Bomb gloves**  
Keep your digits warm with Primaloft insulation and maintain pole grip. **£90, WWW.SNOWANDROCK.COM**

**6 Super slim walkie talkies**  
With a 16-hour standby battery life and

five-kilometre range, these keep you in constant contact on the slopes. **£50, WWW.GADGETSHOP.COM**

**7 Sanyo VPC-WH1 camcorder**  
Film your gnarly downhill stunts in HD with this ultra-tough, ultra-bright cam that's shock-proof and waterproof to ten metres. **£450, UK.SANYO.COM**

**8 Head iSupershape Magnus + Freeflex Pro 14 skis**  
As you speed up or take harsher turns, these skis' "Intellifibres" pick up rising levels of electro-charge, stiffening the skis to improve the ride. **£560, WWW.ELLIS-BRIGHAM.COM**

**9 Suunto Core Altimeter watch**  
Described by Suunto as a "wristop computer", the Core has an altimeter, barometer, compass and storm alarm. **£230, WWW.SUUNTO.COM**

**10 Mountain Hardware Dihedral backpack**  
Reinforced, hard-wearing straps can withstand a day's alpine skiing, while the contoured design makes your load feel lighter. **£120, WWW.SNOWANDROCK.COM**

**11 Oakley Terje Haakonsen Crowbar goggles**  
Behold: 100 per cent UV protection, with lenses that improve your peripheral vision to boot. **£115, WWW.ELLIS-BRIGHAM.COM**

**12 Burton Custom Snowboard**  
The pro's snowboard of preference now comes with added lightning bolts. Choice. **£470, THESNOWBOARDSHOP.CO.UK**

TAKE UP SNOWSKATING

Snowboarding and skiing not dangerous enough for you? Try snowskating. The most extreme alpine sport this side of ski-jumping onto sharp stakes involves riding a snowboard with a miniature ski grafted underneath. It gives the sensation of surfing on thick, powdered snow. **FROM \$275, WWW.FPSKATE.COM**



# Cold snaps

Compact cameras that can cope on the slopes



TAKING TO THE PISTES WITH A CAMERA might seem foolhardy. The cold conditions, moisture and threat of a nasty tumble surely add up to an excess of peril, while the snow is also likely to play havoc with your camera's white balance. There are hardy, all-weather snappers for the slopes however, and we've gathered five here...

## 1 BEST... ALL-ROUND PERFORMANCE CANON POWERSHOT D10

£240, WWW.CANON.CO.UK

This 12.1-meg camera with 3x optical zoom is waterproof to ten metres, shock-proof to 1.22m and freeze-proof to -10°C, leading Canon to claim it's "near indestructible". Even its 2.5-inch LCD screen is protected by a 2mm protective shield.

Smart Auto mode is helpful and avoids having to mess about with manual options on the slopes, while white

balance is consistently good and image stabilisation and motion detection help deliver sharp shots.

Video is only a so-so 640x480 pixels, but the D10 can be trusted to provide top shots in almost all conditions.

**LOVE** Tough build and high-quality shots  
**HATE** Bulbous design



## 2 BEST... HD MOVIE CAPTURE PENTAX OPTIO WS80

£140, WWW.PENTAX.CO.UK

The Optio WS80 has the usual selection of auto modes – face detection, smile capture etc – with a ten-meg sensor and an exposure-adjusting D-range that prevents snowy hills from looking underexposed to the point of whitewashing.

Waterproof to 1.5 metres, dust-proof and able to shoot HD movies, the Optio WS80 is tough and cheap. However it's

also lacking in finesse. In fact, the WS80's photos were the weakest on test, due mainly to a lack of image stabilisation, while the inwardly stacked 5x optical zoom makes it easy to further spoil shots with a wayward thumb.

**LOVE** Generous zoom. Affordable. HD movies  
**HATE** Poor results and no image stabilisation





**3**  
BEST...  
IMAGE  
RESULTS



**4**  
BEST...  
FOR THE  
TOUGHEST  
CONDITIONS



**5**  
BEST...  
BUDGET  
OPTION



**3 BEST... IMAGE RESULTS**

**PANASONIC LUMIX DMC-FT1**

£280, WWW.PANASONIC.CO.UK

This stylish, brushed metal camera produces some of the best results on test, producing sharp, realistically coloured shots via its 12-meg sensor and a 4.6x optical wide-angle zoom that's perfect for capturing snow-capped vistas.

There's a bright, 2.7-inch LCD screen and 1280x720 HD video, plus an Intelligent Auto mode that ensures users can

concentrate on staying upright in their skis instead of adjusting settings. Waterproof to three metres, shock-proof and dust-proof, the FT1 can withstand a lot of abuse, although it's not freeze-proof, alas.

**LOVE** Quality build and sophisticated styling. Excellent pictures

**HATE** No freeze-proofing



**4 BEST... FOR THE TOUGHEST CONDITIONS**

**OLYMPUS MJU TOUGH 6010**

£230, WWW.OLYMPUS.CO.UK

This solid-feeling camera offers 12 megapixels and a 3.6x internally stacked optical zoom. Built for tough conditions it's shock-proof, waterproof to three metres and freeze-proof to -10°C.

Image stabilisation keeps shots blur-free and there's an extremely useful Intelligent Auto mode. The 6010 is also able to shoot 640x480 video at 30fps. However,

image quality is unpredictable, with a lot of grain visible at higher light sensitivity (ISO) settings and unreliable white balancing. These issues blight what could have been a great cold-weather camera.

**LOVE** Solid build. Built to survive all conditions

**HATE** Unpredictable white balance and image noise



**5 BEST... BUDGET OPTION**

**FUJIFILM FINEPIX Z33WP**

£110, WWW.FUJIFILM.CO.UK

The Fujifilm Z33WP is waterproof, but it's not shock- or freeze-proof, so it's not as good for the slopes as others on test.

Its ten-meg sensor and 3x optical zoom do, however, produce sharp, consistent results, even if the location of the lens means it's easy for digits to creep into shot.

The Z33WP's white balance can require manual attention, but

extra features like the 640x480 pixel video capture and special, web-optimised blog mode make the Z33WP appealing value, if not ideal for the black run.

**LOVE** Decent image quality. Affordable

**HATE** Not shock- or freeze-proof. Poor lens positioning. White balance isn't consistent



**COLD WEATHER TIP**



**GIVE YOUR BATTERY AN EXTRA BOOST**

Extreme cold weather is the enemy of the camera battery, so it's useful to have a fully-charged one to spare. If you don't, you can use a hand-warming device such as the Magic Gel Reusable Hand Warmer Heat Pack, instead. The blast of heat will revitalise any frozen battery cells.

£4, WWW.AMAZON.CO.UK

THE F1 ROOKIE

# Bruno Senna

The nephew of the legendary Ayrton Senna talks Formula 1 and tech...

WORDS ROB TEMPLE IMAGE REX FEATURES

NAME  
**BRUNO SENNA**  
DATE OF BIRTH  
**15/10/1983**  
OCCUPATION  
**F1 DRIVER**



ON MARCH 14 BRUNO SENNA WILL MAKE HIS FORMULA 1 DEBUT for Campos Meta 1 in the Bahrain Grand Prix. Back in 1993, when Bruno was just ten years old, his uncle, F1 legend Ayrton Senna announced: "If you think I'm fast, just wait until you see my nephew". **T3** caught up with Bruno to discuss his late uncle's legacy and his burgeoning F1 career...



and Vettel. We can always hope for the odd surprise, though.

**When my uncle had his accident at Imola I was ten.** My family and I were watching the race together. It never made me reconsider my career, but it turned the rest of my family against it.

**Motor racing has come a long way since Ayrton's accident and nowadays cars, circuits and driver's equipment are much safer.** It's always a risk though. A racing driver has to be willing to live with that risk. I certainly am.

**The F1 car is very technologically advanced.** The steering wheel has more buttons than a PS3 controller and we have to operate it at 200mph. It takes concentration.

**I'm a gadget man. I own an iPhone because of the apps and functionality.** I play racing sim games on the PS3. When I had

more time to practice I competed online, but now the guys on the web are too quick for me.

**If I could invent any gadget it would be a mobile phone with notebook capability and a hologram screen.** It'd also be cool to have a battery that lasted longer than 24 hours.

**I'm obviously biased, but my racing hero is Ayrton.** Outside of the sport I admire my mother for all the work she's done with the Ayrton Senna Foundation in Brazil. We hope that the Foundation will start to create a better future for Brazil.

**There's a lot of expectation regarding my career, mainly due to my uncle's success.** I've grown up with these expectations and have found my own way to cope with them. I try to set objectives that keep my feet on the ground. It's worked well so far...

**Ayrton Senna has a lot of influence in my career.** I try to learn from his mistakes as well as his successes, but I have never tried or will try to emulate him or even compare myself to him. I race because I love it.

**I started driving go-karts when I was five years old and first began racing in 2004.** It's been a steep learning curve from there to coming second in the 2008 GP2 Series.

**I think the main challengers in the 2010 F1 season will be Alonso, Massa, Hamilton, Button**



# BORED SWIMMING?



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# CRYSTAL BALLS 2

Some predictions are searing in their foresight. And then there are these...



Words by **Rob Temple** Illustration by **Morten Morland@Debut Art**

**Trying to forecast** developments in the tech world is a fool's errand. Last year, **T3** named the brave souls who asserted that the iPod would flop, that the telephone would never replace messenger boys and that X-rays were "a hoax". We said we'd never do it again so now, inevitably, it's time for another round-up of embarrassing predictions...

## 1. IPHONE BASHING

In an interview with Bloomberg in 2009, Roger McNamee, partner of private equity firm Elevation Partners, which invested £325 million into Palm, stated: "Apple make great products... but our product, the Palm Pre, is just going to run rings around them on the web. If you want to go to the web, it's just going to be a million times – well, not a million times – several times faster." We tested it. It wasn't.

## 2. FLYING: IMPOSSIBLE

Canadian-American astronomer and mathematician Simon Newcombe stated in 1902 that: "Flight by machines heavier than air is unpractical and insignificant, if not utterly impossible." Just 18 months later, on December 17 1903, Orville and Wilbur Wright made the first manned flight on a heavier-than-air machine.

## 3. NOT SO ILLUMINATING

Even the inventions we today take for granted were ridiculed earlier in their lives, even by some of history's finer minds. After the closing of the 1878 Paris Exhibition, Oxford University professor Erasmus Wilson claimed that electric light would, "close with it and no more will be heard of it."

## 4. THE CAR'S GOING NOWHERE

In 1903 the President of the Michigan Savings Bank advised Henry Ford's lawyer, Horace Rackham, not to invest in the Ford company. He reasoned: "the horse is here to

stay but the automobile is only a novelty – a fad." Rackham ignored the bank's advice and bought \$5,000 worth of stock. Several years later he sold it, for \$12,500,000 – that's over \$130 million in today's money. We presume he switched banks.

## 5. COPY THAT!

In 1959, computer Goliath IBM informed the fledgling founders of Xerox that, "The world potential market for copying machines is 5,000 at most." By 1961 Xerox had amassed over \$50 million in revenue and by 1965 it had increased that to \$500 million. IBM's fatal error? It failed to factor in the overwhelming desire of office workers to photocopy their buttocks.

## 6. NOBODY'S WATCHING YOUTUBE

In 2005, YouTube featured a total of about 50 videos, leading co-founder Steve Chen to lament, "There are just not that many videos I want to watch." In November 2006 Google acquired the video site for \$1.65 billion and turned it into the Susan Boyle-promoting phenomenon it is today. Now Steve has over ten billion videos to choose from.

## 7. CINEMA IS A FAD

In 1916, London-born Hollywood legend Charlie Chaplin said: "The cinema is little more than a fad. It's canned drama. What audiences want to see is flesh and blood on the stage." Chaplin was wrong, and lucky for him: he went on to star in and direct over 70 movies, some of which were

"THE HORSE IS HERE TO STAY. THE AUTOMOBILE IS ONLY A NOVELTY"

among the highest grossing films of their era. In an ironic reversal of fortunes, the West End now relies on performances by cinema's big names to keep it afloat.

## 8. NO POWER IN THE ATOM

In 1917, New Zealand chemist and physicist Ernest Rutherford split the atom, and shortly afterwards proclaimed: "The energy produced by the breaking down of the atom is a very poor kind of thing. Anyone who expects a source of power from the transformation of these atoms is talking moonshine." In 1945 the US split the atom over Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing 120,000 people in a flash.

## 9. APPLE, R.I.P.

Before becoming co-founder of Intellectual Ventures, Nathan Myhrvold was chief technology officer at Microsoft. It was during his tenure at the big M that he stated, in 1997: "Apple is already dead." To be fair, the majority of the computer industry thought Apple wasn't in great health at that stage, but it seems they failed to inform Apple. It launched the iconic and groundbreaking G3 iMac the following year, marking the start of its return to glory.

## 10. THE INTERNET WILL COLLAPSE

In 1995, Robert Metcalfe, co-inventor of ethernet and founder of 3Com, predicted in a column in *InfoWorld* magazine that the internet would suffer a "catastrophic collapse" by 1996 and promised to "eat his words" if what he said in his column was proved wrong. When 1997 rolled around and the web was still going strong, he chose his keynote speech at the WWW International Conference as the perfect opportunity to put a print-out of his column into a blender and consume the resultant pulp. So Mr Metcalfe may have been wrong, but at least he can be trusted to keep a bet.

## 11. AC/DC... BUT WITHOUT THE AC

American inventor of practically everything, Thomas Edison claimed in 1889 that, "Fooling around with alternating current is just a waste of time. Nobody will use it, ever." AC is actually more efficient than direct current (DC) at distributing electricity across long distances, but Edison was dead against it. He even became involved in the development of the AC-using electric chair in an attempt to portray AC in a negative light compared to DC electricity.



computing



cameras



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mp3/mp4



portable



telephony



unique



GPS



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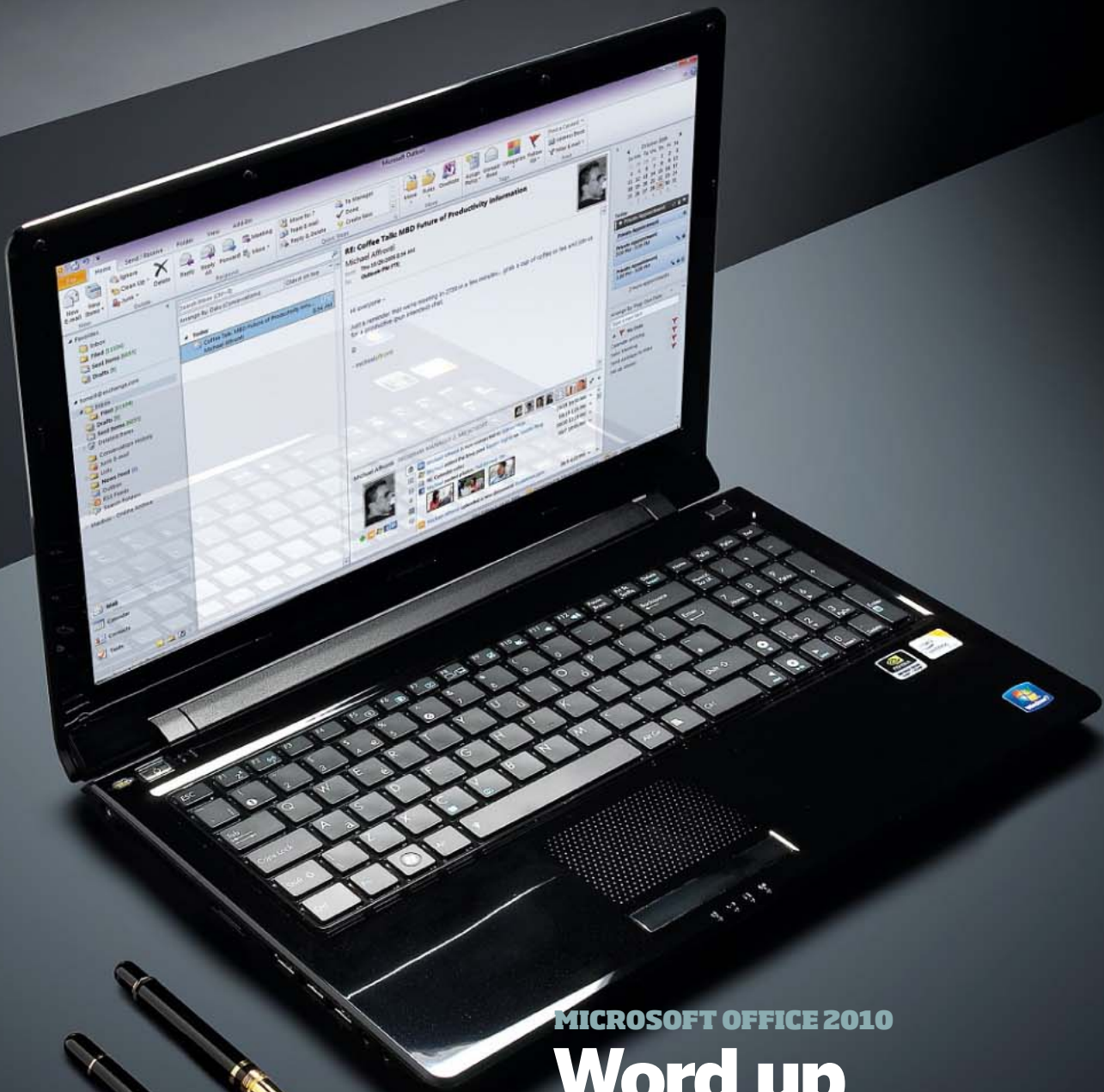
This month  
Orange's CEO tells all  
about his top tech.  
Noise-reducing 'buds  
Plus six productivity-  
improving websites

EDITED BY LUKE PETERS



# WORK

HIGH-FLYING GEAR >>>



MICROSOFT OFFICE 2010

## Word up

—> MICROSOFT OFFICE IS STILL THE SOFTWARE OF CHOICE for most workplaces – including ones that use Macs – and it looks set to continue that success with the release of *Office 2010*. With web-based computing at its heart, this is a thoroughly modern software suite.

In obvious retaliation to systems like *Google Docs* and *ThinkFree*, Microsoft has added *Office Web Apps*, which allows you to create and edit *Word* documents, *Excel* spreadsheets and *PowerPoint* presentations from within a web browser. Documents can be created online with *Web Apps* in *Firefox 3*, *Safari*, *Internet Explorer* and – unofficially – *Google's Chrome*. They can then be accessed, shared and synched with other *Office* users, potentially unleashing heights of collaborative creativity not seen since your office's last paintballing jaunt.



CEO, ORANGE UK

# Tom Alexander

The essential tech of Orange UK's commander in chief...

INTERVIEW LUKE PETERS PHOTOGRAPHY REX FEATURES



TOM JOINED THE ORANGE FOLD IN JANUARY 2008, BUT HIS CAREER IN TELECOMS BEGAN IN 1986 when he joined Telia. From there he went on to become the Deputy Commercial Director of BT Cellnet and the CEO of Virgin Mobile, from its launch in 1999 until its sale to NTL in 2006. Tom, a racing fanatic, was also once a member of the British Karting Team. **T3** chatted to the driving force behind Orange UK about his plans for the mobile marketplace and his favourite gadgets...

This new direction for Microsoft has led to one casualty – PC stalwart *Microsoft Works* has been axed. Instead, users now install one version of *Microsoft Office 2010* and purchase “keys” to unlock various other elements. So, while *Office Starter* doesn't include *PowerPoint 2010* or *Outlook 2010*, it does provide basic *Word* and *Excel* features, and allows you to view all *Office* documents.

A more controversial new arrival is the addition of advertisements in the space that

## OFFICE 2010 PROVES THE BIG M'S COMMITMENT TO WEB-BASED COMPUTING

used to be occupied by the Office Assistant – yes, Microsoft may actually have found something more annoying than being patronised by a talking paperclip. This potential onslaught of desktop spam begins with Microsoft's own ads, with third parties expected to join in later this year, though Chris Adams, office client product manager at Microsoft UK, was at pains to tell **T3** that these ads would never become content specific, in the style of Amazon or Google.

More welcome refinements and additions include SmartArt graphic support in *Web Apps*, and the promise of more powerful image and video editing tools within documents. You'll also be able to spice up your presentations in *PowerPoint 2010* by embedding YouTube clips. *Office 2010* documents are also compatible with WinMo 6.5 phones.

Adverts aside, *Office 2010* looks like a massive step up and its concentration on web-based applications shows just how serious the big M is about cloud computing.

£TBC, WWW.MICROSOFT.COM/OFFICE/2010

them and their interests.

I also believe that when HD Voice rolls out across all the mobile networks this year it will facilitate an improvement in the level of sound quality consumers can expect from their mobile calls. When listening to calls made using the service it sounds as if the person you're talking with is in the same room as you.

### What developments in the mobile market will you be getting most excited about in 2010?

I believe that advertising-funded technology and services will play a big part in the telecoms market over the next 12 months. By integrating it into mobile handsets we will be able to provide consumers with great brand offers, benefits and promotions that are not only timely, but also highly relevant to

Finally, advancements in the production of connected e-readers and large screen smartphones – both in the technology itself and the wider content partnerships currently being negotiated – will mean that these devices will become far more prevalent in 2010.

### What was your favourite gadget of 2009?

The LG Watch Phone was a show-stopper.

When I first used it I was incredibly impressed by the level of innovation and development it represented. I was really pleased that we at Orange were able to bring that to our customers in Britain.

### What gadgets could you not get through the working day without?

I use the Android-powered Moto DEXT handset as my main phone. I also have a nice wrist watch which I use when I'm not wearing the LG Watch Phone. I'm also a big fan of my mobile broadband dongle. The flexibility and convenience of mobile broadband allows me to keep in touch with the office, even during my long commutes on the train between Paddington and my home in the West Country. I'm a big advocate of

video conferencing. It makes it simple and easy to keep in touch with my European colleagues without leaving the comfort of my office, saving time, money and, in my own small way, the environment.

### What are your four gadget essentials?

I've grown my beard back after a staff poll in our internal magazine resulted in a seven-to-one vote in favour of its return, so my beard trimmer comes in handy most mornings!

The integrated satnav in my car has also proved invaluable a number of times, and when I'm not being directed by that, I'm driving my John Deere X300R Lawn Tractor.

Any other spare time I have is spent playing on the PS3 with my children. *Rock Band* is a particular family favourite.

## FOUR TIPS FOR THE TOP

BEING AT THE HELM OF A MULTINATIONAL CORPORATION TAKES BALLS OF STEEL. HERE'S TOM'S FOUR KEY TIPS FOR BUSINESS SUCCESS...



### 1 + Products and services

“Always ensure that you experience the products and services your business offers first hand. Only then can you understand what it's like to be one of your customers, and how you can improve their experience of your brand.”





NAME  
**TOM ALEXANDER**  
DATE OF BIRTH  
**MARCH, 1959**  
OCCUPATION  
**CEO, ORANGE UK**



**2** **Environment**

"Make sure your business is a great environment for your staff and that it encourages initiative and fresh thinking. This way you can be sure to have the best employees that will help your business to grow and flourish."



**3** **Future development**

"Always keep an eye trained on the latest technology and be aware of how it can assist you in the development of the products and services you provide. Being the first to utilise new technology will keep your business fresh."

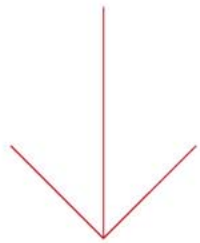


**4** **Risk taking**

"Be bold and don't be afraid to take risks. Some of my best returns have come from exploiting new opportunities in the market that others were too fearful to consider. You should always trust your business instincts."

# Quiet please

Blot out the office with noise-reducing earphones



NOISE-CANCELLING TECHNOLOGY COMES IN two varieties. Active cancelling electronically eradicates noise, while passive cancelling simply blocks out the sound of Nadine asking if you've borrowed her stapler with close-fitting, in-ear pads. The best noise cancellers of either hue also offer high standards of sonic fidelity.

## 1 BEST... COMFORTABLE FIT

### ETYMOTIC HF2

£100, WWW.ETYMOTIC.COM

Etymotic's HF2s weigh very little and come with an unrivalled choice of ear tips. With so many materials and shapes, you'll easily find a comfortable fit.

The best noise-reduction and bass comes from using the ear-canal tips that seal off all external sound, but despite the close fit, the HF2s perform poorly, with sub-standard audio.

The earphones include an in-line button that gives minimal control over music playback on the move, but despite that addition these 'phones simply aren't worthy of their price tag. **LOVE** Wide range of buds for a variety of ears **HATE** Audio performance struggles, even when using the ear-canal tips



## 2 BEST... OVERALL PERFORMANCE

### SENNHEISER IE7

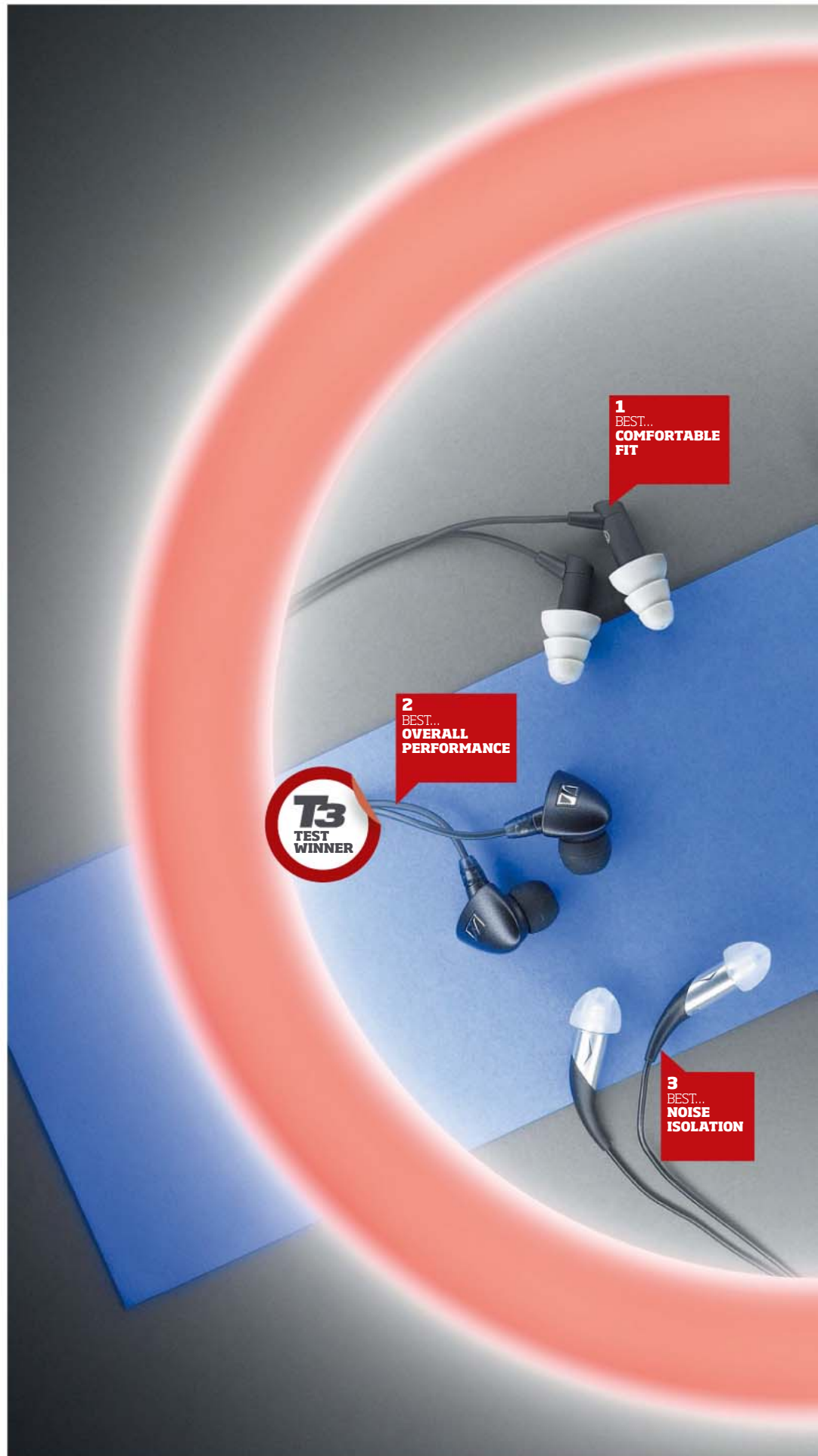
£180, WWW.SENNHEISER.COM

Light and comfortable to use, the IE7s are nonetheless much larger than the other earphones on test, thanks to a dynamic-type driver normally reserved for larger, on-ear 'phones.

The bulky, triangular buds look cumbersome, but actually feel very natural in the ear and the IE7s also happen to have the best sound quality here, with an

impressive amount of bass and class-leading noise-cancelling. Shop around online and you can easily find the IE7s for £50 or more below their RRP – at that price, they're a thoroughly sound investment.

**LOVE** Comfort. Winning sound quality with awesome bass prowess **HATE** Bulky looks







**4**  
BEST...  
INNOVATIVE  
DESIGN

**5**  
BEST...  
ACTIVE  
NOISE-  
CANCELLING

**6**  
BEST...  
SOUND  
QUALITY

**3 BEST... NOISE ISOLATION**  
**KLIPSCH IMAGE X5**  
£180, WWW.KLIPSCH.COM

The super-lightweight Image X5s require the inner ear to be sealed for effective noise cancellation. That approach doesn't appeal to everyone, but the patent-pending, bullet-shaped ear tips are quite comfortable.

The X5s intimate fit provides more effective isolation from noise than most earphones on test, and they also provide a

very well-balanced audio performance. Top marks also go to Klipsch for the sleek design, with a classy aluminium body that's very wearable. The price is a bit much, though.

**LOVE** Excellent sound quality and top noise cancelling. Sleek design

**HATE** Expensive. The inner-ear fit may not be to everyone's taste



**4 BEST... INNOVATIVE DESIGN**  
**PHONAK AUDEO PFE 122**  
£130, WWW.AUDEOWORLD.COM

Not heard of Phonak? The company's been making hearing devices for 50 years and is now turning that knowledge to the business of building earphones.

Small and light, the PFE – Perfect Fit Earphone – 122s are tipped with Phonak's Comply Foam, a heat-sensitive material that Phonak claims to offer an "optimal fit". To

further reduce ambient noise, silicon "ear guides" route the cable over and around the back of the ear, helping to eliminate the sound of cable-rub. Despite that, sound quality lacks punch and there's a lack of bass.

**LOVE** Lightweight design and attention to detail

**HATE** Lack of bass and overall tonal balance



**5 BEST... ACTIVE NOISE-CANCELLING**  
**AUDIO-TECHNICA ATH-ANC3**  
£100, WWW.AUDIO-TECHNICA.COM

Audio-Technica's active noise-cancelling tech, QuietPoint, employs two microphones in each earpiece to pick up background noise and cancel it out. Up to 85 per cent noise reduction is claimed and it certainly proves effective when you're out and about.

The electronics are positioned in-line along the cable's length and contain the required AAA

battery. The earphones can also be used without noise-cancelling, should the battery die, and still provide excellent sound quality. Available for just £60 online, the ANC3s are a proper bargain.

**LOVE** Excellent value. Great audio with genuine noise-cancelling tech

**HATE** Requires a battery, which adds weight



**6 BEST... SOUND QUALITY**  
**SHURE SE310**  
£210, WWW.SHURE.CO.UK

Shure claims that the SE310s achieve up to 90 per cent noise cancelling and, using the earplug-style foam tips they do block out a lot of noise. Using a precision balanced armature driver, the Shure SE310s also achieve fantastic all-round, precision-tuned sound, within a 22Hz-19kHz range.

The SE310s have a chunky design and the

ear pieces have a tendency to protrude from the ear more than most. The RRP is high, but again, these are available for significantly less online – about £140. They remain a fine choice for anyone who's serious about sound.

**LOVE** Pro-standard audio and fine noise-cancelling

**HATE** Uncomfortable fit



WORDS DAN GEORGE PHOTOGRAPHY EUGENIO FRANCHI



**1**  
BEST FOR... **SHIPPING FROM THE STATES**  
**BUNDLEBOX**

It's not uncommon for new tech to be launched in the States months before it hits UK shores and even with the enfeebled pound, it's usually a fair bit cheaper too. Sign up to Bundlebox for free and it will provide you with a US address so that you can buy US goods and have them shipped to Blighty. You'll need to pay international shipping costs, of course.

[WWW.BUNDLEBOX.COM](http://WWW.BUNDLEBOX.COM)



**2**  
BEST FOR... **SHARING FILES**  
**DROP.IO**

Drop.io can be used to share files between multiple users in real-time. Just head to the website, choose what files to upload and Drop.io will give you a unique web address to access them from. All "drops" are non-searchable and can be password-protected. Up to 100MB of data can be uploaded for free and there's an Outlook plug-in available for emailing large files.

[DROPIO](http://DROPIO)



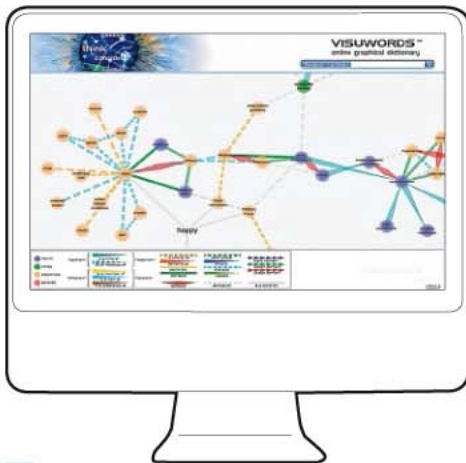
**3**  
BEST FOR... **PLAYING THE MARKETS**  
**POLLSTER**

Trading stocks and shares relies heavily on predicting market trends. Pollster may be US-centric, but it's an excellent aggregator of current trends, political surveys and public opinion. Designed by a former baseball statistician, the featured charts and graphs are interactive and can be adjusted to highlight information that's relevant to your business.

[WWW.POLLSTER.COM](http://WWW.POLLSTER.COM)

# Websites for work

The web's not just for checking Facebook updates, it can raise productivity too...



**4**  
BEST FOR... **WORDSMITHS**  
**VISUWORDS**

If your job requires you to be particularly loquacious, like what we are, you've doubtless got a dog-eared dictionary and thesaurus taking up space on your desk, but reference books are anachronistic in this day and age. Visuwords links related words and phrases in a graphical map. Double-click a word to view all alternate meanings and any related words and phrases.

[WWW.VISUWORDS.COM](http://WWW.VISUWORDS.COM)



**5**  
BEST FOR... **TEAMWORK**  
**GOOGLE WAVE**

Google's much-hyped Wave allows real-time, IM-like communication and collaboration between a group of people working on a single document. While IM clients only offer two-way traffic, Google Wave allows you and your colleagues to adjust text and image documents simultaneously across the web. You'll need to be invited by a current user as it's still in Beta.

[WAVE.GOOGLE.COM](http://WAVE.GOOGLE.COM)



**6**  
BEST FOR... **NOTE TAKING**  
**EVERNOTE**

Attempting to abolish the plucky, yellow Post-it note for good is this online note-taking tool. Type quick notes, grab web pages, make to-do lists, or upload photos and screenshots from your computer, iPhone or Android phone. Everything that you've captured is then stored in the cloud, with all notes clearly indexed and easily searchable from any device.

[WWW.EVERNOTE.COM](http://WWW.EVERNOTE.COM)





# THINK YOU GOT THE BLUES? SO DO WE.

From the Black Keys to Blind Lemon Jefferson, we've got what it takes to have you singing the blues all day long. Times might get better but the music will never be better than this.

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mp3  100% COMPATIBLE

# iChoose quality?

Are widely accepted music formats undermining the quality of the music we listen to on a daily basis?

## The Music Chain

Much is written about music and the musicians who entertain us, and we rightly exalt great musicians. But there is an interlinked chain of participants, two of which are I believe are crucial to our music scene in today's world. For centuries the music chain was a very short one – composers or songwriters, musicians and listeners, and the judgement on quality was immediate. Recording technologies have changed all this exponentially.

Today, we listen to most of our music from a recording and this gives recording engineers the opportunity to avoid poor acoustics, duff notes and off days. This, of course, means the chain has grown to include the recording engineers, the music distribution system (retailers or downloads), hi-fi manufacturers, hi-fi sellers and the hi-fi purchasers, the latter being the listeners. I should start by saying that hi-fi has become an adulterated term that no longer has its original meaning because it's applied to much equipment that certainly should not be termed high-fidelity.

It's said that a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. However, I believe there are two particularly strong links that, if removed from the chain, would seriously damage the quality of recorded music. These are the audiophile, or hi-fi connoisseur, and the specialist hi-fi retailer, the latter in nearly all cases also being the former because it's their interest that has driven them into their particular business. These are the people who most appreciate how exciting and involving music can be and how it can deliver an emotional experience.

## Hi-Fi Connoisseurs

So why is the hi-fi connoisseur so important to the music industry? By their nature, audiophiles are generally avid music lovers who enhance their enjoyment through listening to music at its very best quality level, which means playing great recordings through hi-end hi-fi to achieve the most outstanding results. Without the audiophile, the main driver for quality would probably be removed from the chain. Let's be honest, over recent years the majority of music listeners now settle for MP3 convenience and, therefore, mediocre sound quality. If the pendulum ever swings so far that all but a few listen to highly compressed formats such as MP3, music producers will not waste their resources on producing high quality recordings because it would be commercially unnecessary, even if their recording engineers wanted to achieve the best they could. After all, an MP3 or AAC file, the iTunes default format, downloaded at 128 kbps (the most popular download speed), is about one-eleventh the size of a full resolution CD track, 1411 kbps, so the quality is inevitably far inferior. Information is irretrievably lost and the full dynamic range is lacking. Using an iPod while jogging does not really raise a quality issue but playing low-resolution tracks through an iPod docking station that feeds into a decent hi-fi system, is a disaster area. It's rubbish quality made louder. Fortunately, there is still significant demand from audiophiles committed to sound quality to sustain the production of high quality recordings, but it would be a tragedy if there weren't. For example, most classical recordings downloaded as an MP3 or AAC file are a complete waste of time because there is so much information missing that they are reduced to just the essence of a tune.

## Specialist Hi-Fi Retailers

Just as essential a link in the chain as the hi-fi connoisseur is the specialist hi-fi retailer and the two are rightly dependent on each other. Without the specialist retailer the hi-end hi-fi manufacturer would have to rely on the internet and hi-fi magazine reviewers to try and assess the relative merits of different brands for their potential customers – a notoriously unreliable decision making process. Specialist hi-fi retailers are constantly being offered new products for assessment and potential stocking and, as it is also their hobby as well as their livelihood, they are greatly interested in achieving the best performance and seeking out the most outstanding combinations. More than that though is their relationship with audiophiles for, if they are to stay in business, they must satisfy the most discerning customers in the industry. The reality is that audiophiles and specialist hi-fi retailers are essential to each other.



## LISTED BELOW IS OUR SELECTION OF THE BEST HI-FI DEALERS IN THE UK.

They have been selected because they are known to do an excellent job in guiding customers towards hi-fi that will give years of musical enjoyment and total satisfaction.

### Future of Recorded Music

What are the future prospects of maintaining high quality music recordings? We must hope that audiophiles, or hi-fi connoisseurs, or perhaps most accurately described, music lovers, will continue to drive the demand for quality. But another important reason for hope within the mass-market is that there is no longer any overriding reason for MP3 and AAC to have such a following. These formats were designed to overcome very slow download speeds pre-broadband and small, expensive memory capacity but the trade-off has been quantity at the expense of quality. Download speeds and memory capacity are not significant factors for most people now and will be increasingly irrelevant with time. Full resolution, CD quality, downloads are already available and should become the norm as long as the general public can be made aware of the tremendous quality benefit. This has happened with HD TV so we know this awareness can grow rapidly. In the meantime, we must highly value hi-fi connoisseurs and specialist hi-fi retailers, of which the ones listed on this page represent the UK's finest. Specialist dealers know how to choose the products that combine as a superb system and how to get the best out of it by expert installation in the home. If there's a price premium over an internet purchase, it's probably a small one, but it's unquestionably worth the difference.

### STAR QUALITIES

VALUE FOR MONEY



SERVICE



FACILITIES



VERDICT



## OUR TOP 20 UK HI-FI DEALERS

### SOUTH

**Ashford, Kent**  
SOUNDCRAFT HI-FI  
40 High Street.  
01233 624441

**Chelmsford**  
RAYLEIGH HI-FI  
216 Moulsham Street.  
01245 265245

**Colchester**  
RAYLEIGH HI-FI  
33 Sir Isaac's Walk.  
01206 577682

**East Grinstead**  
AUDIO DESIGNS  
26 High Street.  
01342 328065

**Kingston-upon-Thames**  
INFIDELITY  
9 High Street,  
Hampton Wick.  
020 8943 3530

**Maidenhead**  
AUDIO VENUE  
36 Queen Street.  
01628 633995

**Rayleigh, Essex**  
RAYLEIGH HI-FI  
44a High Street.  
01268 779762

**Southend-on-Sea**  
RAYLEIGH HI-FI  
132/4 London Road.  
01702 435255

**Southampton**  
PHASE 3 HI-FI  
37 Bedford Place.  
023 8022 8434

### LONDON

**Ealing**  
AUDIO VENUE  
27 Bond Street.  
020 8567 8703

**N1**  
GRAHAMS HI-FI  
190a New North Road.  
020 7226 5500

**SW11**  
ORANGES & LEMONS  
61/63 Webbs Road.  
020 7924 2043

### SOUTH WEST

**Bath**  
AUDIENCE  
14 Broad Street.  
01225 333310

**Exeter**  
GULLIFORD HI-FI  
97 Sidwell Street.  
01392 491194

### MIDLANDS

**Banbury**  
OVERTURE  
3 Church Lane.  
01295 272158

**Birmingham**  
MUSIC MATTERS  
363 Hagley Road,  
Edgbaston.  
0121 429 2811

**Coventry**  
FRANK HARVEY  
163 Spon Street.  
024 7652 5200

**Leicester**  
CYMBIOSIS  
6 Hotel Street.  
0116 262 3754

**Nottingham**  
CASTLE SOUND &  
VISION  
48/50 Maid Marian  
Way.  
0115 9584404

### NORTH

**Cheadle**  
THE AUDIO WORKS  
14 Stockport Road.  
0161 428 7887

**Chester**  
ACOUSTICA  
17 Hoole Road.  
01244 344227

**Gateshead**  
LINTONE AUDIO  
7-11 Park Lane,  
Gateshead.  
0191 477 4167

**Sheffield**  
MOORGATE ACOUSTICS  
184 Fitzwilliam Street.  
0114 275 6048

**York**  
SOUND ORGANISATION  
2 Gillygate.  
01904 627108

### SCOTLAND

**Aberdeen**  
HOLBURN HI-FI  
441 Holburn Street.  
01224 585713/572729

**Edinburgh**  
LOUD & CLEAR  
Bonnington Mill,  
72 Newhaven Road.  
0131 555 3963

**Glasgow**  
LOUD & CLEAR  
520 St Vincent St,  
Finnieston.  
0141 221 0221

**Glasgow**  
GLASGOW AUDIO  
135 Great Western Road.  
0141 332 2200/4707



# THE CLASS

OF

## 2020

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Words by **Richard Vaughan**

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WHEN WE WERE YOUNG WE HAD CHALK AND BLACKBOARDS, A WOOD-PANELLED CRT TELLY AND BBC MICROS FOR GOALPOSTS. SINCE THEN THE ADVANCEMENT IN CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY HAS BEEN RAPID. TODAY, WE SEE SOPHISTICATED GADGETS HELPING OUR CHILDREN LEARN, WITH SCHOOLS ISSUING LAPTOPS AND EVEN IPOD TOUCHES TO PUPILS. MORE SOPHISTICATED TECH CAN ONLY HELP TO EXPAND THE MINDS OF THE YOUNG, BUT CAN WE AS A NATION AFFORD IT? **T3** TAKES A LOOK AT THE TEACHING TOOLS OF TODAY, AS WELL AS WHAT WE CAN EXPECT IN THE NEXT TEN YEARS...





# FOR MANY OF US, A TOP-LOADING VCR AND AN OVERHEAD PROJECTOR WERE AS HI-TECH AS SCHOOL EVER GOT...

WE LEARNED MORE ABOUT TECHNOLOGY FROM HOME COMPUTERS AND CONSOLES THAN WE EVER GOT FROM THE SCHOOL'S HANDFUL OF AGEING COMPUTERS.

It wasn't until the internet revolution that computers became commonplace in schools and a change in sentiment toward technology really began to emerge.

Set foot in a classroom today and you will be greeted with a very different picture from the misty memories of your own school days. The age of chalk and blackboards is over and gone.

Of course, the quality of information and communications technology ("ICT" is the educational jargon du jour) in schools depends entirely on the standard of the school and the teachers within it. A poorly managed school will more than likely have technology at the bottom of its list of priorities, but for the vast majority technology and education go hand in hand.

The Government is currently pushing through a change to the curriculum in all primary schools ensuring ICT is given as much attention as maths, English and science. However, the schools who are leading the charge to integrate tech and learning no longer regard technology as a separate entity; ICT lessons are not taught but rather are incorporated into every other subject.

The ESSA Academy in Bolton has been dubbed one of the most technologically advanced schools in Britain. Every GCSE pupil is handed an iPod Touch, which they use in and outside of class, and the school is planning to upgrade its facilities to incorporate writable glass walls instead of the interactive whiteboards that are now standard in schools.

The iPod Touch is currently the device of choice for many schools, according to Paul Haigh, senior assistant headteacher at Notre Dame High School in Sheffield. "We haven't

found a handheld device that is so easy to use, displays websites as well and is so easy to set up technically," he says. Another element in the Touch's favour is that, as many commentators have noted over the years, Apple's device is essentially an iPhone without the phone bit.

Alas, handing mobile phones to a room full of teenagers and expecting them to give the teacher their fullest attention is almost as far-fetched as a storyline from *Skins*. That's why teachers' unions have lobbied to have mobile phones banned from the classroom. One union even described mobile phones as "potentially offensive weapons" that could be used to "bully and abuse teachers."

The iPod Touch bypasses that problem, yet can be used to access Wi-Fi around the school so that work can be emailed straight to the teacher – the Touch's built-in Bluetooth is also easily fast enough for sending text-based work. If the teacher deems a certain piece of work to be particularly good, they can project the work onto the wall using the interactive whiteboard.

Teachers today expect work to be sent to them direct – hence, "my broadband went down" has replaced "the dog ate my exercise book." It is this ability to learn anywhere, anytime that Haigh believes will be a defining feature of technology in schools in the coming years.

As **T3** was going to press, the world was holding its breath in anticipation of Apple's long-gestating tablet. The education world was no different; forward-thinking educationalists are licking their lips at what the iSlate – or whatever it ends up being called – could bring to the classroom.

Haigh believes the new Apple product could

be the doorway to a new way of learning.

"We are very excited about the Apple tablet," he says. "It could pave the way for the device that students of the near future will be carrying in their bags as standard."

"Laptops for all students has been rolled out in some schools but they are heavy and generally fragile, and as a result they haven't really caught on. Netbooks are more portable but students find the small screen and keyboard tiresome for anything more than quick tasks. But a tough A4 tablet with Apple's touchscreen technology could be the future," Haigh adds.

Touchscreen technology is a battleground that will be hotly fought over. Microsoft, Apple's arch-nemesis, sees it as integral to its success in the schools sector.

The software giant is looking toward what it calls its "2019 vision". The work stems from its existing technology, such as the Microsoft Surface – a touchscreen computer the size of a coffee table that can identify devices that are placed on it and begin uploading information stored on its hard drive.

Ray Fleming, Microsoft's UK education marketing manager, says: "If you place a child in front of the Surface, the first thing they want to do is start to play with it. From there you can begin to plan the child's interactivity with it and they can start to learn from it."

"We are now looking at creating huge touchscreens the size of the classroom wall, that will allow real-time interaction between two classrooms anywhere in the world. You could have a school in England interacting with a school in India, using the touch wall to write, with real-time translation working."

According to Microsoft, teaching in the



classroom is still dominated by a “display mentality”, rather than an interactive one, despite the growth of interactive whiteboards.

“If you visit a school today you will mainly see the interactive whiteboard being used for display and not for interactivity purposes,” says Fleming, “but with these new applications and technology it will make it much easier for teachers and students to interact with the information. The technology is already there, it is just a question of building on it.”

Paul Haigh believes in ten to 15 years time, pupils using such mobile devices will be as normal as opening a textbook and exercise book and indeed, the rise of such devices is already placing question marks over the future of textbooks in schools.

Pilots have taken place in other parts of the world trialling school life free of textbooks, and last year California’s very own “Governator” Arnold Schwarzenegger announced that all schools within the state will be textbook free areas. It is worth noting that this was born more out of hard-nosed financial necessity than technological utopianism – the former *Terminator* star is attempting to reduce a massive \$24.5 billion budget deficit by cutting spending on books.

An entire school district in Tucson, Arizona took the step of abolishing textbooks four years ago and handed all its high school students Apple MacBooks. Last year, the first class of high school seniors graduated having never had to lug rucksacks laden with books around with them.

Experts believe the same will happen in the UK, but only once every child has access to a computer or portable device.

Adrian Hall is a former ICT policy decision-maker for the then Department for Education and Skills (now the Department for Children, Schools and Families). He now works as a strategic adviser for Magic Studio, a web-based learning network, and believes the move could be just around the corner.

Says Hall: “It is certainly possible to scrap textbooks now. The benefits of moving towards using portable computers and other mobile devices are that you would gain access to an enormous bank of resources. Unlike with textbooks, the information can always be brought up to date online,” Hall says.

This move to an entirely tech-based approach to teaching and learning “is feasible,” continues Hall, “but until you have that one-to-one access of pupil to computer it won’t be. If we were to go ahead with it today, all we would end up with are the haves and the have-nots. Realistically, if you want to ensure that children can learn any time and anywhere, then it will only be possible when the access is there.”

To this end, the Department for Children, Schools and Families last year launched a pilot scheme called Home Access. This £300 million programme is intended to provide pupils from more deprived backgrounds with a computer and access to the internet. The pilot is

## THE STATS: EDUCATION IN NUMBERS

**7.9 MILLION**  
PUPILS ATTEND MORE THAN  
24,000 SCHOOLS IN ENGLAND

**THIS REQUIRES OVER  
441,000 TEACHERS**



AT SOME UNIVERSITIES IN FINLAND IT IS HARDER TO GET INTO TEACHING THAN IT IS TO GET INTO MEDICINE

**49 PER CENT**

OF THIS YEAR’S GCSE ENTRANTS REACHED THE GOVERNMENT’S TARGET OF FIVE A\* TO C GRADES INCLUDING ENGLISH AND MATHS

**£33,000**  
THE AVERAGE UK TEACHER’S PAY

A SUCCESSFUL HEADTEACHER CAN EARN UPWARDS OF

**£150,000**



**SOUTH KOREA TOPS EVERY EDUCATION TABLE**

**7 PER CENT**

OF ENGLAND’S PUPILS ATTEND PRIVATE SCHOOLS, BUT 50 PER CENT OF OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE ENTRANTS ARE PRIVATELY EDUCATED



**GIRLS NOW OUTPERFORM BOYS IN EVERY COUNTRY  
ACROSS THE DEVELOPED WORLD**

THE WORLD'S TOP FIVE  
**TECH-SAVVY**  
 PLACES OF LEARNING

**ESSA Academy**

**BOLTON, GREATER MANCHESTER**

Tech used: Every GCSE student gets an iPod Touch to help with their learning. And love of music

**Empire High School**

**TUSCON, ARIZONA**

Tech used: One of the first schools in the world to abolish textbooks. Gave all its students Apple MacBooks instead

**Acklam Grange School**

**MIDDLESBROUGH, TEES VALLEY**

Tech used: Created a 3D virtual school in Second

Life. There, students can see the inner workings of a human heart in 3D or visit fair Verona for English lit

**American School of Milan**

**MILAN, ITALY**

Tech used: One of the first schools in Europe to give each of its pupils aged three to 18 a Dell laptop

**The Venerable Bede School**

**SUNDERLAND, TYNE AND WEAR**

Tech used: Installed an iris scanner for security purposes. It was removed a year later, however, as it was slow and held up lunch

FIVE TOP TECHNOLOGIES  
**COMING**  
 TO THE CLASSROOM SOON

**1 3Ducation**

Demonstrated at this year's BETT education show, 3Ducation brings 3D tech into the classroom. Pupils don shutter glasses and their lesson appears to come right at them. [www.3ducation.com](http://www.3ducation.com) Arriving: This year

once and also allows hi-def video conferencing. [www.panasonic.co.uk](http://www.panasonic.co.uk) Arriving: 2011

**4 Augmented Reality**

Dan Gärdenfors, Head of UX Research at TAT told **T3**: "The next big step in AR is mobiles with image recognition." Tech from companies such as Polar Rose ([www.polarrose.com](http://www.polarrose.com)) can link real world objects, printed media and info from the web, turning the mobile phone into an interactive textbook. [www.tat.se](http://www.tat.se) Arriving: This year

**2 Aurora faceREGISTER**

Long gone are the days of sneaking unnoticed into the back of a classroom. Tech-savvy schools will soon install Aurora's faceREGISTER, iris-scanning technology to log students' tardiness. [www.facerec.co.uk](http://www.facerec.co.uk) Arriving: This year

**5 Education as entertainment**

**T3's** futurologist, James Wallman, believes that "augmented reality will bring subjects to life." Imagine classes being able to explore a Roman fort or World War One trenches. Interactive, entertaining learning is the future... Arriving: 2015-ish

**3 Panasonic Education**

Panasonic's UB-T880 Elite Panaboard is a short-throw HD projector that creates an interactive, multi-touch whiteboard on any flat surface. It can be used by three students at

currently taking place in Oldham and Suffolk, with encouraging results.

Once every child has access to the internet both at home and in school, real advances are expected, as the power of the internet truly opens up to teachers and pupils.

Every school is already expected to have a "virtual learning platform" – an online space tailored to that specific school, which enables pupils to upload their work onto it, get in touch with their teachers, access resources and even converse with their peers. With each pupil in possession of a portable device and hooked up to the internet, this can only progress.

Paul Haigh says, "The way students communicate with each other and their teachers will be enhanced by the use of mobile devices and the exploitation of web 2.0 technology borrowed from the social networking world but translated into safe 'virtual school networks'.

"Students are already increasingly able to access support and collaborate with peers even when working away from the classroom. The sick feeling in the belly from struggling alone on homework will be a thing of the past as this becomes the norm," he adds.

Dianne Barratt, headteacher of Prospect House Primary School in west London, agrees. Her school was recently handed a Government award for excellence in ICT and is utilising its virtual learning platform to a great extent.

"Our teachers upload short video clips and podcasts to help the pupils if they get stuck with their homework," Barratt says.

"We used to find that when a pupil would have difficulty with, say, long division or long multiplication they would ask a parent and more often than not the parent would teach them a different way, but now they can access the learning platform and watch the video or listen to a podcast to help them when they run into difficulty."

With schools and their pupils being able to better harness the power of the internet, and with the possibility of learning anywhere and anytime, educationalists are beginning to question the need for a physical classroom. Just as ICT has allowed a boom in home working, will it also lead to an increase in solitary schooling? Microsoft's Ray Fleming, for one, believes not.

"Before we were asking the wrong questions, such as 'Why do we need to go to school at all?' With technology you can access information from anywhere, but you need the school for social interaction, so you can bounce ideas off each other," he says.

"Technology is about helping people to learn and making learning less formal. It is about opening up the opportunity for the learner to study things that they may not have been able to before. To access specialist teachers they may not previously have been able to, changing when and where they learn. But you will always need the physical interaction."

Fleming believes the classroom of the

future will be a more informal place that is much like the workplace, where pupils are no longer asked to sit facing the teacher as they are spoonfed information. "I think we will see the rise of the social classroom," he says.

"Today we have education as mass production; most children are learning the same thing at the same speed. In the future you will have a number of students learning different things at different speeds but all in the same place. They'll use their personal devices, online, but they will also be able to use their peers, even if they're all working on different things at the same time. After all, that's what we do in the workplace."

Dr Martina Roth, director of global education strategy, research and policy at Intel says the days of teachers standing at the front of a class lecturing are numbered.

"It will no longer be acceptable," Dr Roth says. "What we will see in the future is the teacher in the role of a manager. They will no longer be single subject specialists but instead they will be expected to offer guidance and advice on a range of subjects.

"The classroom will become more of a place where students learn about the ethical use of information that is gathered from the internet. The teacher will therefore need to be a leader more than ever before. The leadership role is one that cannot be underestimated in the future as teachers will be the ones pupils will turn to for advice on how to use resources best, both culturally and ethically," she says.

While the chances of pupils carrying the latest in Apple gadgetry, accessing their learning from their or their school's cloud is now in the realms of the possible, the chances of it happening across the board, in the immediate future, are slim.

The deciding factor, as with most things, is money. Over the last 12 years, the government has thrown enormous amounts of spending at education. The budget for the Department for Children, Schools and Families is second only to the Department of Health, and expected to hit £74 billion in the year 2010/11.

However, following the global economic collapse, recession and the country's £175 billion budget deficit, that kind of spending on schools will inevitably come to an end and headteachers will be forced to shift their priorities. Thus, plans to give all pupils a new iPod Touch or to install retina scanners at the school gate for security purposes are likely to be shelved.

There is a glimmer of hope, however. Following any economic downturn, politicians will always look to schools and education to provide the "green shoots of recovery", to ensure the country doesn't suffer as much when the bad times roll around again. Cutting-edge tech in schools is at the heart of this; the days of top-loaders and textbooks are gone for good... **T3**

Richard Vaughan is a writer for the Times Educational Supplement



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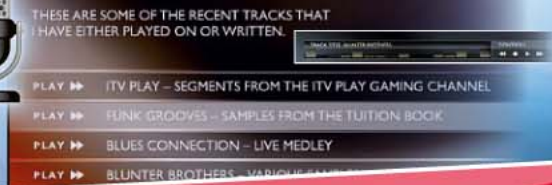
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**1** **GUILLERMO DEL TORO**

**THE FILM INTERVIEW**

He's the leading fantasist of our age and he hasn't even made *The Hobbit(s)* yet... **Guillermo del Toro** is one man set to rule them all, and so heads up our Future 100. "We are trying to make two films that flow with the trilogy but stand on their own," he tells Total Film.



**BUZZ**

**Up the Junction**

After *Avatar* and *Mad Max: Fury Road*, what's next for the most innovative filmmaker in the world? **James Cameron** on his new project, *Alita: Battle Angel*.



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**This month**

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EDITED BY HANNAH BOUCKLEY



# HOME

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# TV dinner

## Cooking up a richly flavoured future vision

GERMAN MANUFACTURER SIEMATIC HAS precision-crafted the S2, a thoroughly modern kitchen with a built-in TV and handle-free cupboards that you prod to open, creating a seamless, streamlined look. It's available from a very palatable £30,000 and you can also get it in other finishes including bronze and black.



**1 Television** This 19-inch, 720p LCD telly can sit flush with the oven or pull out and swivel to your desired viewing angle. There's an iPod dock lurking behind it should you tire of Nigella. **INCLUDED IN KITCHEN COST.** [WWW.URBANINTERIOR.CO.UK](http://WWW.URBANINTERIOR.CO.UK)

**2 Gaggenau B0271 oven** A stylish oven with over 16 cooking modes, this includes a core temperature probe to maintain accurate heat, a baking stone for bread and pizzas and a rotisserie spit for impromptu hog roasts. **£3,830.** [WWW.GAGGENAU.CO.UK](http://WWW.GAGGENAU.CO.UK)

**3 Breville Hot Cup** Previous quick-heating water dispensers only mustered up very hot but not boiling

water, but this goes all the way to 100° in just 40 seconds. It has a two-litre capacity and because it only boils 250ml at a time it's extremely energy efficient. **£60.** [WWW.BREVILLE.CO.UK](http://WWW.BREVILLE.CO.UK)

**4 Gaggenau AI 480 hood** This stainless steel, double-duct island hood has three output levels and an intensive mode for particularly pungent smells. **£5,600.** [WWW.GAGGENAU.CO.UK](http://WWW.GAGGENAU.CO.UK)

**5 Kitchen Aid Artisan** A 4.8-litre stand mixer that attends to all your stirring, kneading and blending needs. Comes in 16 colours. **£390.** [WWW.KITCHENAID.CO.UK](http://WWW.KITCHENAID.CO.UK)

**6 Kenwood kMix TTM021 toaster/CMO21 filter coffee maker** Toast 'n' coffee, available in this fruity shade of raspberry as well as other subtle tones. **£45.** [WWW.KENWOODWORLD.COM](http://WWW.KENWOODWORLD.COM)

**7 Ovetto bin** A recycling bin made of recycled materials, this has a trio of compartments for your plastic, paper and glass. **£130.** [WWW.BOUF.COM](http://WWW.BOUF.COM)



### 1 << Weigh

#### JAMIE OLIVER ELECTRONIC WET'N'DRY KITCHEN SCALE

These stainless steel scales measure liquids as well as dry goods, so you can dispense with the Pyrex measuring jug altogether. Your choice of metric or imperial measurements are displayed on the large, digital LED display. **£50.** [WWW.JAMIEOLIVER.COM](http://WWW.JAMIEOLIVER.COM)

### 2 >> Slice

#### MIYABI 7000D SANTOKU KNIVES

Japanese cooking knives are favoured by professional chefs. The versatile Miyabi 7000D can be used for cutting red meat, fish, vegetables and intruders. The symmetric, stainless steel blade has a high carbon content for extra durability and an ultra-sharp cutting edge. **£115 (150MM), £150 (180MM).** [SHOP.ZWILLING.COM/UK](http://SHOP.ZWILLING.COM/UK)







3   
**Grind**

**CHEF'N DUAL GRINDER**

Put your whole peppercorns and sea salt into the two separate compartments and then twist the top to select either one. You then squeeze the grinder's "ears" together to grind, making it simple to use one-handed while the other hand deals with the job of stirring the pan.  
£18, WWW.DEXAM.CO.UK



4   
**Steam**

**TEFAL CUBE RICE COOKER**

As well as cooking and warming eight cups of rice to perfection, you can use the Tefal Cube to steam vegetables and slowly cook soups. The removable bowl is non-stick so that it can be easily cleaned. A serving spoon, measuring cup and steam basket are also included.  
£40, WWW.TEFAL.CO.UK



# Blu-ray for all

Players to suit budgets from Spielberg to Ed Wood



EARLY ADOPTERS, REPENT YE: THE COST OF these once-expensive HD trinkets has gone into freefall, with the baseline price around £100, and extras like BD Live and an SD slot not adding much more. Of course, there are also still expensive, deluxe models for true cinephiles but whatever the price, Blu-ray's time is now. Get stuck in.

## 1 BEST... QUICKLOADER

### JVC XV-BP1

£260, WWW.JVC.CO.UK

JVC's debut Blu-ray player is extremely quick to load discs – 36 seconds – and will play MP3s, JPEGs and movies of almost any format. The picture's not overly colourful or crisp, but the quality is passable for a mid-priced player, with no smeared motion to despoil fast-paced action sequences.

Where the XV-BP1 falls down is round the

back, where the lack of multi-channel analogue outputs means your surround sound may lack punch. However, the interface is easy to use despite its rather lurid, purple graphics, and you do get BD Live as well. **LOVE** Fast disc loading. Plays most formats **HATE** Drab looks and limited connectivity



## 2 BEST... UNDER £300

### PANASONIC DMP-BD80EB

£250, WWW.PANASONIC.CO.UK

Panasonic's fourth generation player is a slimline, 5cm high slip of a thing. Its image quality is very crisp, lagging only just behind the pricier players on test. It's well connected too, with 7.1 analogue sound, an SD card slot and USB port and support for JPEG and AVC HD playback. You even get access to YouTube – good news for piano playing cat lovers.

The lower cost only tells in disc loading, which takes an abominable amount of time – over a minute. Despite that and a menu system that feels a little archaic, this is a reasonably-priced, slimline winner.

**LOVE** Picture quality. Well connected. YouTube **HATE** Slow to load discs. Basic, aging interface



WORDS JIM HILL PHOTOGRAPHY EUGENIO FRANCHI





**3 BEST... OVERALL PERFORMANCE**

**SONY DMP-BD760**

£400, WWW.SONY.CO.UK

The first Wi-Fi enabled deck, the DMP-BD760 gets itself online without the mess of ethernet cables. It's also really simple to use thanks to Sony's XrossMediaBar.

Blu-rays look bright and crisp with just a little shimmering loss of detail caused by fast on-screen motion. There are no sonic flaws and it comes complete with onboard decoding for all formats

and a 7.1 multi-channel output. DVDs are upscaled well, too.

Disc loading is still fairly sluggish, taking a tedious 54 seconds, but if you're willing to wait, this repays your patience.

**LOVE** Built-in Wi-Fi.

Simple user interface. Top picture quality and stunning 7.1 audio

**HATE** Slow disc loading



**4 BEST... PICTURE QUALITY**

**PIONEER BDP-LX52**

£550, WWW.PIONEER.CO.UK

Picture quality and sound are what set this player apart from the rest. During the initial set-up you have to select whether you're using an LCD or plasma TV so that the BDP-LX52 can optimise the settings accordingly. This logical feature ensures the best contrast and black levels possible. It also outputs a stable 1080/24p Blu-ray signal, so there's never

any danger of flickering during fast action.

There's no analogue multi-channel outputs or memory card slot, and the USB port is only for externally stored BD Live content, but it's the top imagery and sonics you're paying for here.

**LOVE** Optimised picture and sound quality

**HATE** Few extra features



**5 BEST... VALUE**

**PHILIPS BDP3000**

£100, WWW.PHILIPS.CO.UK

This budget belter from Philips can be found gracing the shelves for less than £100, but with slim styling and a smart interface, it doesn't look like your typical supermarket special.

Not surprisingly at this price, features are limited. You do get BD Live functionality and DTS HD Master Audio decoding and, with a 1080/24p feed and Deep

Colour activated, the image quality is bold and clear, with only slight grain in the picture.

With this kind of bargain available there's no need to resort to unknown brands for a cheap Blu-ray thrill.

**LOVE** Great user interface.

Slim styling. Super value **HATE** Some picture noise. Lacks extra features



**6 BEST... HIGH-END PLAYER**

**DENON DBP-4010UD**

£1,900, WWW.DENON.CO.UK

This weighty and serious Denon costs more than the other Blu-ray players on test put together, but you are getting a lot for your money. The DBP-4010UD's picture quality really is something else, with barely any noise and no loss of detail during even the most challenging camera whip-pans. Its 1080/24p output is from the top drawer and it even

makes upscaled DVDs look cinematic.

Built to audiophile standards, the Denon squats on a vibration-absorbing chassis, festooned with only the best components. It also plays both Super Audio CD and DVD-Audio.

**LOVE** Remarkably lifelike picture. High-end audio

**HATE** Insane price tag



5  
BEST...  
VALUE

6  
BEST...  
HIGH-END  
PLAYER



**1**  
BEST FOR... **BUILT-IN STORAGE**  
**AEG ELECTROLUX SW98820-5R**

This stainless steel wine cooler needs to be built into your kitchen cabinets. It can hold 36 bottles of wine and features a removable temperature divider that lets you split the cooler into two sections – one set to 12 to 18°C for storing red wine and a white wine section set to six to 12°C. There's also an air-circulation system, LED temperature display and an alarm on the door.

£1,500, [WWW.AEG-ELECTROLUX.CO.UK](http://WWW.AEG-ELECTROLUX.CO.UK)



**2**  
BEST FOR... **CONTROLLED CONDITIONS**  
**SAMSUNG RW52DASS**

It's not just temperature that needs to be correct when storing wine, maintaining the optimum humidity is also important, to prevent corks drying out. Samsung's 52-bottle wine cooler has separate compartments for red and white wine and keeps humidity between 55 and 75 per cent. The glass door is also resistant to UV, should you be forced to store your wine in direct sunlight.

£500, [WWW.SAMSUNG.COM/UK](http://WWW.SAMSUNG.COM/UK)



**3**  
BEST FOR... **SERIOUS COLLECTORS**  
**AMANA PRECISION W208SS**

One for true oenophiles, this jumbo freestander has room for 208 bottles, stored in three sections. The central zone is at 10 to 14°C for storage of red; there's a section at room temperature at the top for bottles you're ready to drink; the bottom is at six to eight °C, for white wine and fizz. Caution: your two-for-one bottles of Ernst and Julio may look a tad out of place here.

£3,500, [WWW.AMANA.COM](http://WWW.AMANA.COM)

# Wine coolers

Never serve claret at the incorrect temperature again



**4**  
BEST FOR... **AFFORDABLE STYLE**  
**CAPLE SENSE WI6223**

The Caple Sense Wi6223 sits flush with your kitchen cabinets and has separate compartments for vino of the red and white kinds. The temperature appears on the front-mounted LED and can be adjusted from 3-18°C. Fan-assisted operation prevents the cooler from becoming too humid and the glass features UV protection. It's ideal, affordable storage for up to 38 bottles.

£600, [WWW.CAPLE.CO.UK](http://WWW.CAPLE.CO.UK)



**5**  
BEST FOR... **TIGHT SPACES AND BUDGETS**  
**WINE ESSENTIAL CELLAR**

This compact unit is ideal for small kitchens or home bars. It keeps wine at your chosen temperature – between five and 22°C – using a convection system to keep air circulating evenly. You can only fit six bottles so if you're a true wine-lover you'll probably need more space, but it's a bargain-price option for those running out of room in fridges and cupboards.

£130, [WWW.DRINKSTUFF.COM](http://WWW.DRINKSTUFF.COM)



**6**  
BEST FOR... **SAFESTORAGE**  
**LIEBHERR GRAND CRU WINE CABINET**

This cabinet has six wooden shelves for holding up to 162 bottles at a constant temperature, from 5-22°C. There's a fan to keep humidity at an acceptable level and, with a sturdy lock and an alarm system, you can be sure that your prized bottles of Petrus or Margaux can continue to age to perfection, safe from wine thieves or house guests who are overly "anxious for the booze".

£1,175, [WWW.WINEWARE.CO.UK](http://WWW.WINEWARE.CO.UK)



# BLACKBERRY CURVE

## THE BLACKBERRY CURVE 8520 IS A SOCIAL NETWORKING ACE

RIM's BlackBerry Curve 8520 is built for web 2.0, with all your favourite social networking sites – Facebook, Flickr, Myspace – running simultaneously to keep you constantly updated. You can even upload photos from the two-meg camera or browse the wide variety of apps at BlackBerry's App World.

With 256MB of storage that can be expanded via microSD, the Curve 8520 is also an impressive media phone, with *Media Sync* plucking tracks from *Windows Media Player* and *iTunes*. Bluetooth 2.0, 802.11b/g Wi-Fi, EDGE and 4.5 hours of talk time complete the package. Head to your nearest O<sub>2</sub> store to sign up for the BlackBerry Curve 8520 today and you'll also get an official rugby shirt. Visit a store or shop online at [www.o2.co.uk/shoponline...](http://www.o2.co.uk/shoponline...)

### The deal

- **The BlackBerry Curve 8520 is included when you sign up from £25 a month**
- Sign up for a BlackBerry Curve 8520, or any other BlackBerry with O<sub>2</sub> and get an official rugby shirt
- **Make a statement with the new BlackBerry Curve 8520 in purple, available exclusively from O<sub>2</sub>**

### Why choose O<sub>2</sub>?

O<sub>2</sub> has won awards for customer service and the quality of its call centres. O<sub>2</sub> isn't resting on its laurels though. It's offering existing O<sub>2</sub> customers the same or better deal as new O<sub>2</sub> converts. All customers get access to online backup for texts and photos and priority tickets for The O<sub>2</sub> Arena and O<sub>2</sub> Academy venues



1

2

3

#### 1 Trackpad

The Curve 8520's trackpad makes scrolling through web pages a breeze

#### 2 Purple reign

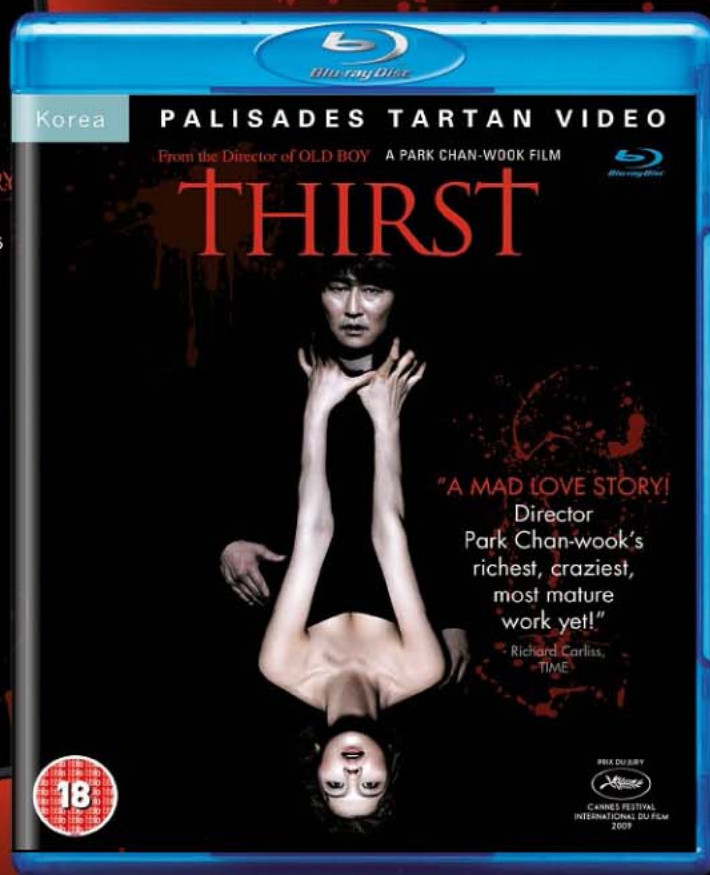
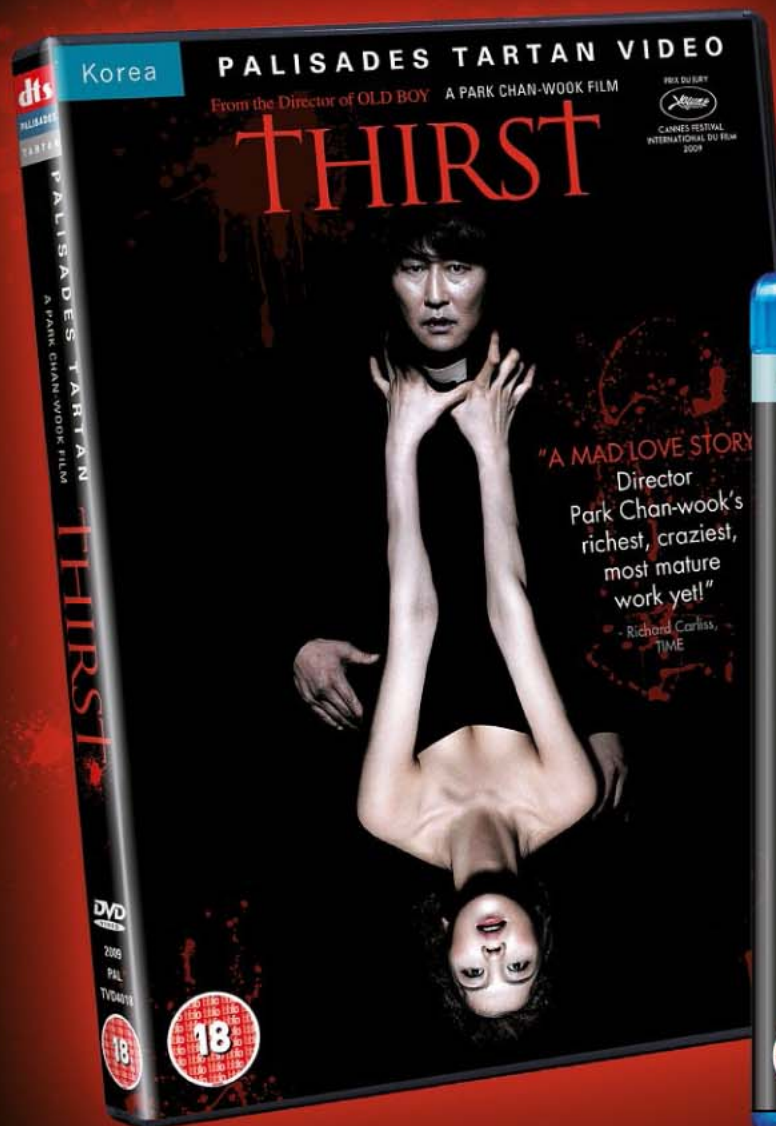
Tired of traditional black handsets? This purple hue is exclusive to O<sub>2</sub>

#### 3 Dimensions

Measuring in at just 109x16x13.9mm it still fits a full QWERTY keyboard



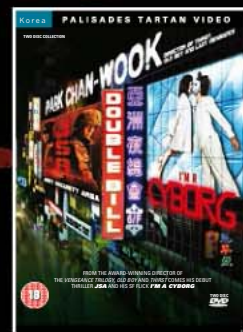
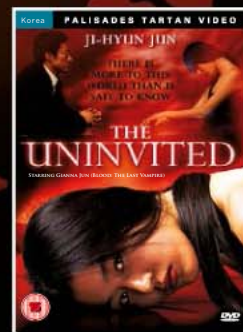
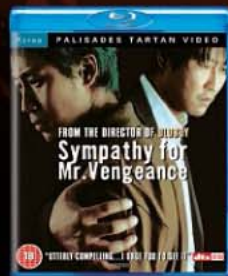
# FROM THE DIRECTOR OF OLD BOY AND LADY VENGEANCE



WINNER - CANNES FILM FESTIVAL, FANT-ASIA FILM FESTIVAL, SITGES CATALONIAN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

STARRING: SONG KANG-HO (THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE WEIRD; THE HOST; SYMPATHY FOR MR. VENGEANCE),  
SHIN HA-KYUN (WELCOME TO DONGMAKGOL; SYMPATHY FOR MR. VENGEANCE)

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# TELLY TO GO

Portable tech for TV on the move...

Words **Hannah Bouckley** Photography **Fullstop Photography**

With sites such as BBC iPlayer offering free online TV catch-up and a new breed of services offering to stream telly to your mobile phone or handheld games console, it's no longer necessary to stay in to watch your favourite shows.

We're not talking big-screen, HD viewing here. Rather, these are four solutions for when you need a quick telly fix on the bus, at the coffee shop or anywhere you need to kill time...





1

## MSI DIGIVOX DUO ON MSI WIND U200

DIGIVOX DUO: £30, WIND U200: £400, UK.MSI.COM

**The Digivox Duo tuner** plugs in via USB and, when an antenna is attached, can access up to 45 digital channels – including HD ones when they become available. It can take a few attempts to locate all channels.

The supplied media suite, *Arcsoft TotalMedia 3.5*, is overly convoluted, but the presence of dual tuners on the Digivox Duo means you can watch one channel and record another as long as the laptop is switched on. You can also pause

live TV and view an EPG, just like your home PVR.

The Wind U200 is an ideal laptop for TV on the go, weighing just 1.3kg, with an Intel SU3500 1.4GHz processor and 2GB memory. You will need to buy an external optical drive – from £17 – to install the Digivox Duo's required software, but once that's done the U200's LED-backlit, 12-inch screen makes the most of the picture quality, although slight blur and glare can detract from the action.

**1 TUNER**

Attach the tuner to a USB port and then plug in an antenna via coaxial

**2 HDMI**

The Wind U200 has an HDMI port so you can hook it up to a larger screen

**LOVE** Dual tuners and decent picture quality. A relatively cheap option  
**HATE** Reflective screen. Strong reception needed  
**WE SAY** Turns your laptop into a decent TV/PVR, but reception in built-up areas can be poor



## ELGATO EYETV HYBRID ON IPOD TOUCH/IPHONE

EYETV HYBRID: £120, EYETV APP: £2.99, WWW.ELGATO.COM; IPOD TOUCH FROM £152; IPHONE FROM FREE ON CONTRACT, STORE.APPLE.COM/UK

**Elgato's EyeTV app lets** you stream TV from your Mac to your Touch or iPhone. Connect a mini antenna and tuner, such as the EyeTV Hybrid, to your Mac, then as long as it's open and in sleep mode you can stream over Wi-Fi. You can also make and access recordings via an EPG and the intuitive UI.

Picture quality is clear and pretty much judder free on the Touch's 3.5-inch screen, and sound quality is fine.

Channel availability depends on signal strength – the best bet is to hook up an external antenna, of course.

While EyeTV only works over Wi-Fi, iPhone users can stream live TV over 3G using the web app [live3g.eyetv.com](http://live3g.eyetv.com).

EyeTV is an easy way to watch TV from a Wi-Fi zone and an affordable way to turn your Mac into a PVR. However, the fact you have to leave your Mac sleeping for it to work clearly won't appeal to everyone.

**1 HYBRID TUNER**

Connects to your Mac via USB and to an aerial via the usual coaxial cable

**2 MAIN MENU**

The EyeTV app is incredibly easy to use. Hit Live TV to view available channels

**LOVE** Easy set-up. Good picture quality. Cheap PVR gubbins on your Mac  
**HATE** It's for Apple iPod Touch and iPhone only  
**WE SAY** A very neat way for iPodders/iPhoners to achieve TV on the go



### Accessories

**ELGATO EYETV DTT DELUXE**

Windows users can use Elgato's DTT deluxe tuner. Just 35mm long, it's the world's smallest DVB-T stick £70, WWW.ELGATO.COM



2

2





## SKY MOBILE TV ON IPHONE

SUBSCRIPTION: £6 A MONTH, IPHONE 3GS: FROM FREE ON CONTRACT, WWW.SKYSPORTS.COM/MOBILE, STORE.APPLE.COM/UK

**Sky Mobile TV lets you** stream live Sky content. On compatible handsets from Vodafone, T-Mobile, Orange or 3, you can do so via 3G. On the iPhone, it's Wi-Fi only but with Sky Sports 1, 2 and 3, ESPN and At the Races as well as Sky News, it's still a sports fan's dream.

The requisite app is free and it then costs £6 a month on a rolling contract, enabling you to watch live Premier League football far cheaper than with a Sky Sports subscription.

Video quality is very impressive on the iPhone, with team colours bright and action judder-free when watching football. The England vs South Africa Test Match occasionally cut out when we tried to watch it. The app restarts the action where it broke off so you don't miss anything, but it still spoils the flow of the game. For itinerant sports fans, Sky Mobile TV is an essential purchase. Our only real gripe is the lack of 3G connectivity for iPhone.

**1 ACCELEROMETER**  
Ignoring the iPhone's accelerometer, Sky Sports only works in landscape

**2 TOUCHSCREEN**  
The responsive 3.5-inch touchscreen, work dandy with the app's simple UI

**LOVE** A cheap way to get Premier League access. User-friendly. Excellent picture quality  
**HATE** Wi-Fi only, with some connection blips  
**WE SAY** A cheap, effective way to get top sporting action on your iPhone



## PLAYTV ON PSP GO

PLAYTV: £70, PSP GO: £225, PS3 SLIM: £250, UK.PLAYSTATION.COM

**PlayTV is a miniature** PVR that, when plugged into your PS3 console, enables you to watch live TV and set recordings, using any Wi-Fi hotspot, on your PSP Go.

The 17 channels of live streamed TV aren't brilliant quality due to them being in a compressed format, but it's passable for short, sporadic viewing. As well as live telly, you can also access programs, music and video already stored on your PS3's hard drive.

Set-up is a complex process. You'll need to

prepare your PSP Go for Remote Play by connecting to your PS3 via any Wi-Fi signal and inputting your PSP's code. You can remotely launch your PS3 from standby though, so you won't have to leave it constantly turned on.

PlayTV isn't cheap, but if you're looking to cut costs you can pick up an older PSP online and update the firmware to allow PlayTV to work. It may be a bugger to set up, but with live TV and all your stored media available wherever you roam, it's a good deal.

**1 SCREEN**  
Controls slide out from beneath the Go's screen keeping it very compact

**2 PLAYTV**  
PlayTV plugs into one of your PS3's USB sockets and streams via Wi-Fi

**LOVE** Live TV and all your PS3's stored media available anywhere  
**HATE** Laborious set-up. Slightly over-priced  
**WE SAY** Turns your PS3 into a PVR and your PSP into a TV – not bad...



## Accessories

**ORANGE TV PLAYER**  
Available in France only so far, Orange's TV Player app lets iPhone users watch 60 channels live. No word as yet on when it'll hit the UK...

WWW.ORANGE.CO.UK



**Stats of truth**  
Take your TV anywhere



PRODUCT	MSI DIGIVOX DUO TUNER WITH WIND U200	ELGATO EYETV ON IPOD TOUCH/IPHONE	SKY MOBILE TV ON IPHONE	PLAYTV ON PSP GO
PRICE	DIGIVOX DUO: £30, WIND U200: £400	EYETV HYBRID: £120, EYETV APP: £2.99, IPOD TOUCH: FROM £152, IPHONE: FROM FREE ON CONTRACT	SUBSCRIPTION: £6 A MONTH, IPHONE: FROM FREE ON CONTRACT	PLAYTV: £70, PSP GO: £225, PS3 SLIM: FROM £250
WEBSITE	UK.MSI.COM	WWW.ELGATO.COM, STORE.APPLE.COM/UK	WWW.SKYSPORTS.COM/MOBILE, STORE.APPLE.COM/UK	UK.PLAYSTATION.COM
SCREEN SIZE	12.1 inches	3.5 inches	3.5 inches	3.8 inches
RESOLUTION	1366x768 pixels	480x320 pixels	480x320 pixels	480x272 pixels
STORAGE	320GB	8GB, 16GB, 32GB or 64GB	16GB or 32GB	16GB + MemoryStick Micro
CONNECTIONS	3x USB, 3.5mm, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 2.0, HDMI, card reader	3.5mm, Wi-Fi, 3G, Bluetooth 2.0	3.5mm, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 2.0	USB, 3.5mm, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 2.0
METHOD	TV tuner and software	Streams via a TV tuner and software over 3G and Wi-Fi	Streams from Sky over Wi-Fi	Streams via a TV tuner and software over Wi-Fi
BATTERY	6 hours 30 mins	10 hours video, 9 hours Wi-Fi, 5 hours 3G internet	6 hours video	3-6 hours
CHANNELS	45	45	8	17
SIZE	297x190x25mm	116x62x12mm	110x62x9mm	128x17x69mm
WEIGHT	1.5kg	135g	115g	158g
LOVE	Dual tuners and decent picture quality. A relatively cheap option	Easy set-up. Good picture quality. Cheap PVR gubbins on your Mac	A cheap way to get Premier League access. Great video quality	Live TV and all your PS3's stored media available on the go
HATE	Reflective screen. Strong reception is necessary	It's compatible with Apple iPod Touch and iPhone only	Wi-Fi only on iPhone, with occasional connection blips	Laborious set-up. Slightly over-priced
WE SAY	Turns your laptop into a decent TV/PVR, but reception in built-up areas can be poor	A very neat way for iPodders/iPhoners to achieve TV on the go	A cheap, effective way to get top sporting action anywhere	Turns your PS3 into a PVR and your PSP into a mobile TV – not bad...
RATING				

# SHOP SMART

Five things to consider when buying TV on the go kit...

## 1 Your requirements

Before you buy anything you first need to think about your viewing requirements. Do you want to watch the occasional show while you're out, or keep up to date with UK shows when you're abroad? Also, think about the device you'll be using to watch TV on. Is screen size important to you? If the iPod Touch's 3.5-inch screen is too small you may want to consider using a netbook with a tuner instead.

## 2 Reception issues

The majority of the products on test require you to be within a Wi-Fi zone to pick up TV channels. To receive a TV signal absolutely anywhere you'll need a service such as Sky Sports Mobile or Elgato's EyeTV web app, that works over 3G. TV tuners such as the MSI Digivox Duo need an

external antenna for good reception. In many cases reception is still likely to suffer in built-up areas or when you're away from a window.

## 3 Overall cost

If you plan to watch TV on the go you'll need to consider the overall cost. As PlayTV proves, you'll often need a whole host of equipment – PSP, PlayTV, PS3 – before you can begin viewing, while Elgato EyeTV involves a one-off fee and Sky Sports Mobile requires a £6 monthly subscription. If you choose to use a 3G service – such as Sky Sports Mobile on a 3G handset – make sure you check your data limits or you could face a hefty bill.

## 4 Legality

If you're purely using BBC iPlayer you can legally bypass the TV

licensing fee, but if you're watching live TV broadcasts there's no escaping the £142.50 a year charge. This charge should be covered by your existing home license, but there are exceptions. Your home TV license only covers battery-operated devices, so if you plug your laptop into the mains and watch live TV, the place you're plugged into will need its own license. Exceptions to this rule are trains, planes and boats.

## 5 International affairs

Not all mobile TV services work abroad. Sky Mobile TV only works in the UK and, because Freeview is UK only, the MSI tuner won't pick up any digital channels when outside of the UK, although you might get a few foreign analogue channels. The Elgato EyeTV app and Sony PlayTV both work abroad – just make sure you use Wi-Fi rather than 3G, or you could end up with a nasty bill...

## Jargon slayer

### HTTP LIVE STREAMING

Apple's mobile video streaming protocol, introduced with the iPhone 3.0 update, for live streaming over the web. It supports different streaming speeds, to suit differing data rates.

### REMOTE PLAY

Enables a PSP, with software version 3.50 or later, to communicate with the PS3 console. It can be used for streaming media, or to turn the PSP into a remote.

### DVB-T AND DVB-C

Digital Video Broadcasting (DVB) is an international

standard for digital television. DVB-T and DVB-C refer to the standards for streaming terrestrial and cable broadcasts.

### TVTV.CO.UK

This provides TV scheduling information – EPGs and recording schedules – to compatible PVRs, laptops and set-top boxes. The Elgato EyeTV Hybrid comes with a year's free subscription, which typically costs £17.

### DUAL TUNER

Allows you to watch one TV channel whilst recording from up to two other channels.





# MINI MEDIA MARVEL

## THE MEDION AKOYA MINI E2076 D

It's not just laptops that are slimming down for 2010. Thanks to the technological wizardry that has allowed components to shrink down while retaining the speed and power necessary for modern computing, pint-sized PCs are big news.

The space-saving Medion Akoya Mini E2076 D, which weighs just 800g, is designed to sit comfortably amongst your under-telly AV equipment and beam all the media-savvy features of Windows 7 Home Premium onto your HD-ready TV. Alternatively, if your monitor or TV supports it, you can attach the Akoya Mini directly to the back of it, thanks to the standard VESA mounting bracket.

Inside the compact Akoya Mini is a 1.6GHz Intel Atom N230 processor, 2GB of RAM and a 160GB hard drive. On the back there's a DVI-I port that supports a VGA and HDMI adapter for connection to HD screens. Also included is a Wi-Fi N dongle, two USB ports, Gigabit ethernet and a wireless keyboard and mouse.

Due to its diminutive size and processor, the Akoya Mini E2076 D also boasts much lower energy consumption compared to a standard desktop PC, so not only do you save space, you also help to save the planet.

### The details

#### 1 THE SIZE

The Akoya Mini measures 173x154x20mm and weighs 800g, making it small and light enough to position almost anywhere

1.6GHz N230 processor, a 160GB hard drive for storing your media and 2GB of RAM, plus Wi-Fi connectivity

#### 2 THE POWER

Inside the svelte frame of the Akoya Mini is a low-voltage Intel Atom

#### 3 THE MOUNTING BRACKET

If your TV or monitor supports it, you can attach the Akoya Mini to the back of your set using this VESA monitor bracket

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [WWW.MEDIONSHOP.CO.UK](http://WWW.MEDIONSHOP.CO.UK)

**DELL DESIGN STUDIO**

● Dell's Studio 15 and Studio 17 laptops are available to customise via the Dell Design Studio, making your computer, if you will, "an extension of your personality." A variety of colours and artworks are on offer, with the collection set to expand throughout 2010. Opt for Dell's charity-supportin' (PRODUCT) RED products to garner added Bono points.

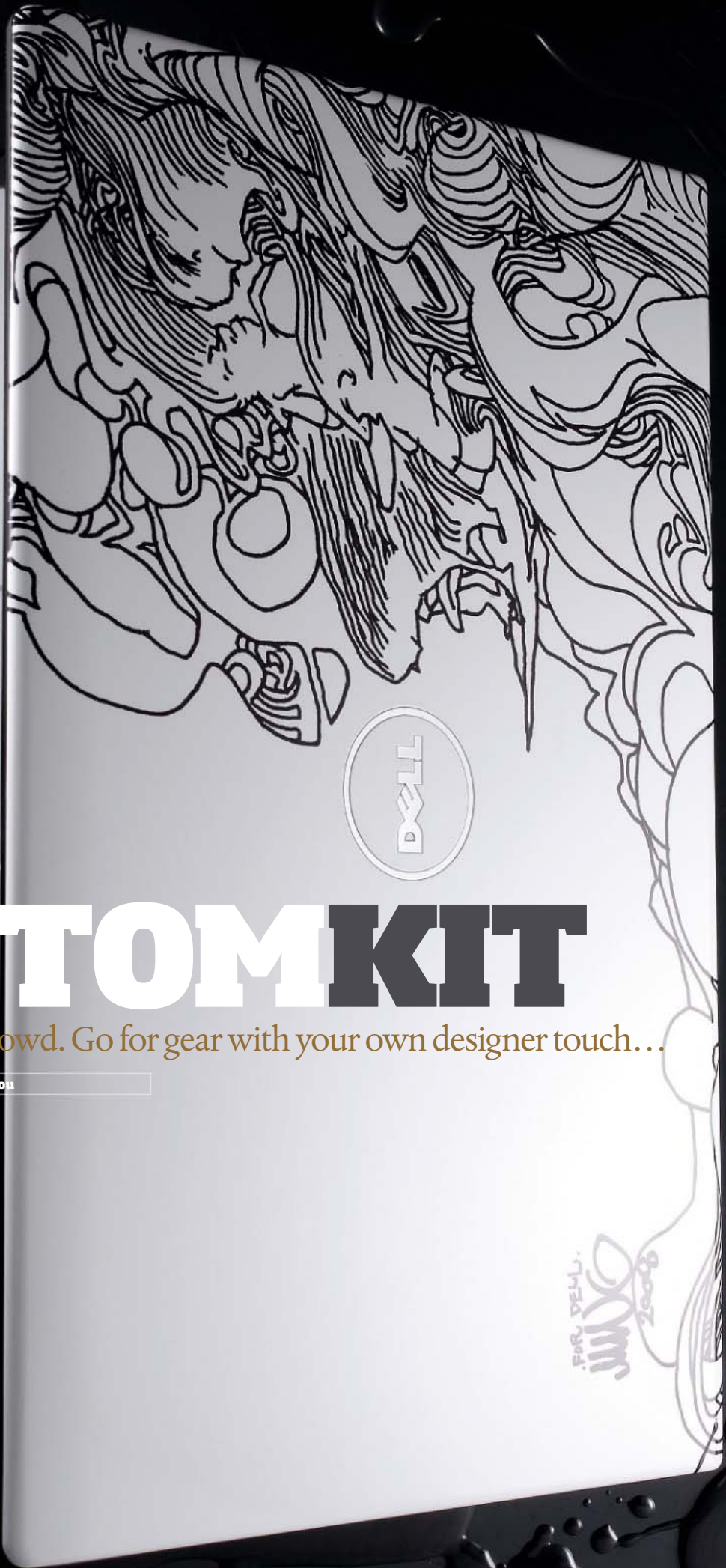
FROM £588, [WWW.DELL.CO.UK/DESIGNSTUDIO](http://WWW.DELL.CO.UK/DESIGNSTUDIO)

**OAKLEY CUSTOM**

● Look closely at these re-released, retro-style sunglasses – Oakley Custom Jupiter, since you ask – and you'll spot a tasteful and discreet spot of custom branding on one of the lenses, with font chosen by **T3**'s crack team of creatives. With Oakley's custom service you can also choose frame colour and finish, lens tint and Oakley icon colour.

MODEL SHOWN: £105, [WWW.OAKLEY.CO.UK/CUSTOM](http://WWW.OAKLEY.CO.UK/CUSTOM)





# CUSTOMKIT

Stand out from the crowd. Go for gear with your own designer touch...

Words by **Rob Temple** Photography by **Barry Makarion**

**NIKE ID**

● Want to go against the grain with your “creps”? Visit Nike’s online store, click on the Design Your Own tab and start fashioning the trainer, football boot or basketball sandal of your dreams – other clothing can also be styled up. Pick your own materials, colours and patterns, add graphics and numbers, then make them the perfect fit; the choice is large.

£105. NIKEID.NIKE.COM/UK





See and hear over **180 brands** with more booking all the time

# SOUND & VISION

## THE BRISTOL SHOW



26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2010. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. every day at the Bristol Marriott City Centre Hotel

**HI-FI, HOME CINEMA, FLAT SCREENS, PROJECTORS – IT'S ALL AT BRISTOL**  
and there are lots more surprises in store!

- ✓ Witness the launch of **dozens of new products** with many brought directly from CES in Las Vegas
- ✓ Visit the **What Hi-Fi? Sound and Vision** stand for a dem or an answer to any questions you might have
- ✓ **Win a great prize** in the Show Competition!
- ✓ Speak directly to the manufacturers and designers
- ✓ Pick up a fantastic **show bargain...** with deals on most purchases!
- ✓ Enjoy the Cabot Circus shopping and entertainment area with easy parking right next to the hotel
- ✓ It's the **biggest and the best show** of its type in the country - now in its 23rd successful year!

**NEWS:** The Show is known as **THE** place to see and hear all the latest products. Here are just a few things that you can see in Bristol, keep checking the website as more news is being added on a weekly basis.

**ARCAM** – see the new AVR500 HD Receiver. **BECHOCOLATE** – a new brand from Belgium, launching the Puroh all in one system. **CABASSE** – three new speaker launches, Ambrose 3, Bora and Santorin 30. **CHORD ELECTRONICS** – the Cyan Click and CPM 2800 digital amplifiers. **JVC** – reveal the XVIEW LT-32WX50 LCD Monitor only 7mm thick. **KEF** – The radical new Concept Blade is making its UK debut. **MONITOR AUDIO** – demonstrating the new Apex Series A10AV12 5.1 system. **NAIM** – the UK launch of the UnitiQute, compact, digital streaming, all-in-one audio player. **PMC** – the fact8 floorstander making its Show debut. **PROAC** – showing the new Studio 140 Mk2 loudspeaker. **REGA** – the first outing for the Isis and Osiris reference CD player and amplifier. Also, bring along your Rega turntable and get it serviced by Rega's trained staff, visit the website to book your turntable in! **REL** – New G1 (Gibraltar) Series sub woofers. **SENNHEISER** – see and hear more new models! **SIM2** – Mico 50 LED projector, C3X Lumis projector and much more... **VIENNA** – the new Klimt Series KISS speaker.

**BRANDS INCLUDE:** Acous-Tech, Acoustic Energy, Adam Audio, ANT, Analogue Productions, Anthem, Apollo Hi-Fi Furniture, Arcam, Armour Home Electronics, Atacama Audio, Atlantic Technology, Audica, Audience, Audio Note, Audio Reference, Audio Technica Headphones, Audiophilia, Audionet, Audioplan, AudioQuest, Audiovector, AV Forums, BDI, Back to Black, beCHOCOLATE, Bedini, Blue Horizon, Bryston, Cabasse, Canton, Carat, Chord Company, Chord Electronics, Classic Lps, Classic Records, Computers Unlimited, Crayon Audio, Cyrus, Dali, Deltac Precision Audio, Demagio, Denon, DIP International Ltd, Diverse Vinyl, Dynaudio, Edwards Audio, Electrocompaniet, Epson, Exposure, Fatman, Finders Keepers, Firestone, Focal, FoneL Audio, Four Men With Beards, Furutech, Future Publishing, Goldring, Grado, Guerresen, Heco, Heed Audio, Henley Designs, Hi-Fi Choice, Hi-Fi News, Hi-Fi World, Hi-Fi+, HiFi Critic, HiFi-Tuning, Home Cinema Choice, i.US, IAG, Icon Distribution, Icon Furniture, Ikon Audio Consultants, ISEM Audio, Isotek, Jamaican Recordings, Jelco, Just Racks, JVC, KEF, Keith Monks, Kimber, Kitsound, Leema Acoustics, Lehmann, Lillith, McIntosh, Marantz, Marigo Audio, Meridian Audio, Meridian Soolos, Merlin Cables, Michell Engineering, Mobile Fidelity, Monitor Audio, Multi-Room Company, Music First Audio, Music On Vinyl, MusicalLife Audio, Myryad, NAD, Naim Audio, Naim Label, Neat Acoustics, Nordost, Off The Wall, Onkyo, Optimum, Orbitsound, Ortofon, Paradigm, Philips, Pioneer, PMC, Power Wrap, Pro-Ject, ProAc, PSB, Pure Pleasure, Pure Sound, Q Acoustics, QED, Quadraspire, Quantum, Raidho, REAL Cable, Rega, REL Acoustics, Roksan, Roth, Rti, Russ Andrews Accessories, Salamander, Sennheiser, Screen Innovations, Shure, Silvermann, SIM2, Simply Vinyl, SmX, Sonic Design, Sonos, Soul Jazz, Soundway, Sound Foundations, Speakers Corner, Spectral, Spondor, STAGE ONE, Stereovox, Sundazed, Supra Cables, Sutra Amplification, T3 Magazine, Tannoy, Teac, Time Step, Three Black Feathers, Totem Acoustic, Trafomatic Audio, Tsakiriis Audio, van den Hul, Vienna Acoustics, Vinyl Lovers, Vinyls Best, Vita Audio, Walker Audio, WBT, Wharfedale, What Hi-Fi? Sound and Vision, Wilson Benesch, WireFree HiFi, World Designs, Xiva, Yamaha and more...

**GREAT DEALS** and special offers only available at the Show. **WIN** superb prizes in our Show Competition!

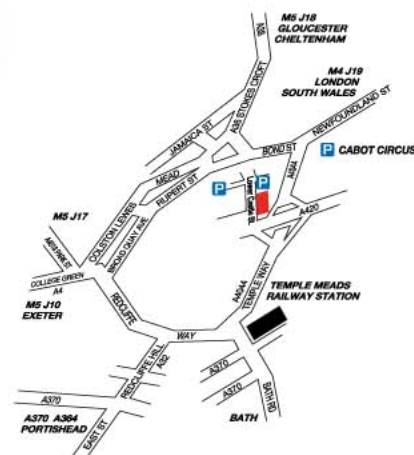
### GETTING TO THE SHOW

**BY TRAIN:** Temple Meads Station is a short distance from the Marriott.

**BY CAR:** From the M4 take J19 (M32 - Bristol). Follow signs for City Centre and RAC signs to the Show. For those using satellite navigation systems the hotel post code is BS1 3AD.

Easy local parking in Cabot Circus car park and Broadmead and Bond Street NCPs.

The Cabot Circus Car Park has over 2500 spaces. It is easily accessible from the end of the M32 off Newfoundland Street.



Organised by



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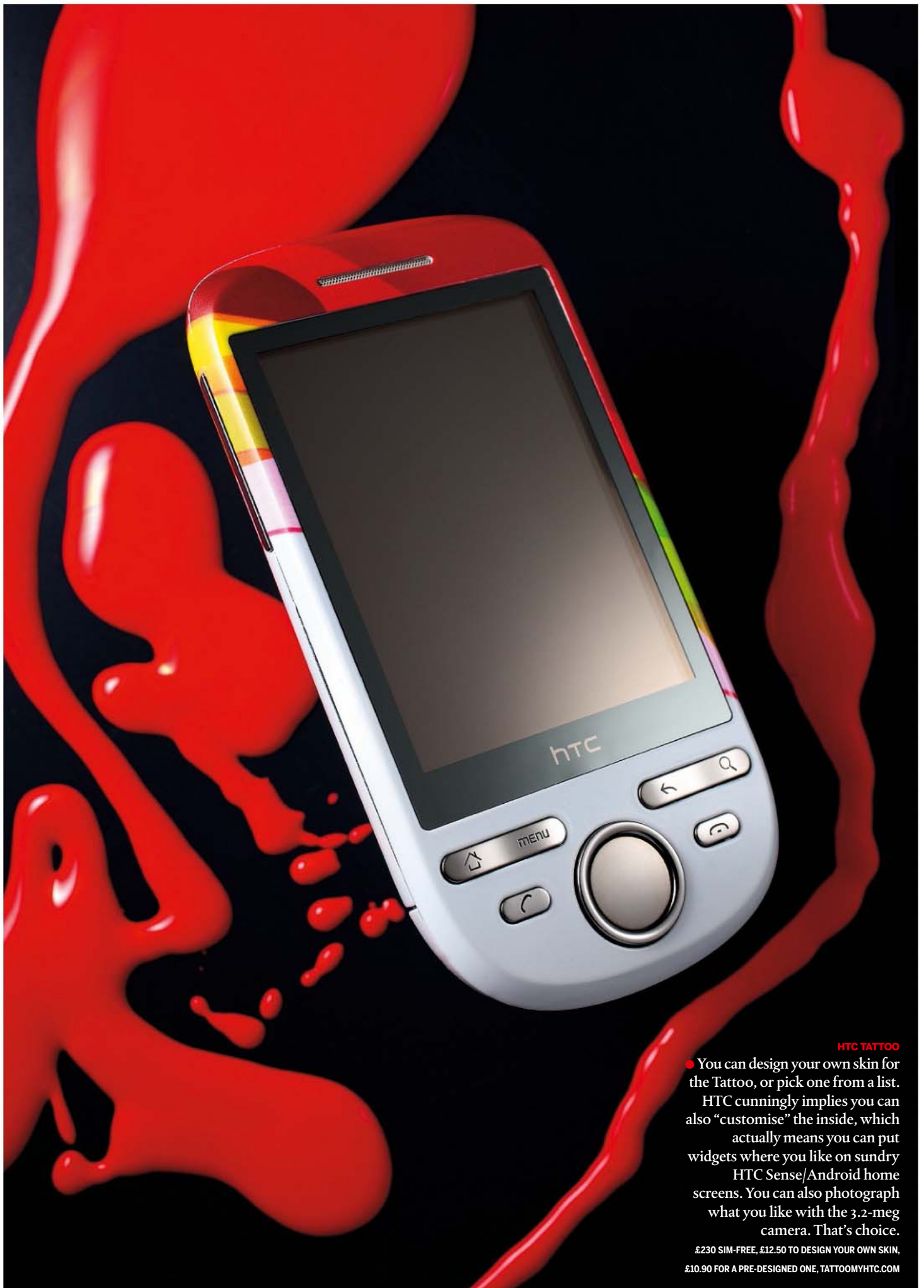


### ADMISSION

Adults £8.00;  
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For the very latest information please visit [www.bristolshow.co.uk](http://www.bristolshow.co.uk)

[www.storemags.com](http://www.storemags.com) & [www.fantamag.com](http://www.fantamag.com)



**HTC TATTOO**

- You can design your own skin for the Tattoo, or pick one from a list. HTC cunningly implies you can also “customise” the inside, which actually means you can put widgets where you like on sundry HTC Sense/Android home screens. You can also photograph what you like with the 3.2-meg camera. That’s choice.

£230 SIM-FREE, £12.50 TO DESIGN YOUR OWN SKIN,  
£10.90 FOR A PRE-DESIGNED ONE, [TATTOOMYHTC.COM](http://TATTOOMYHTC.COM)





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**LEICA À LA CARTE**

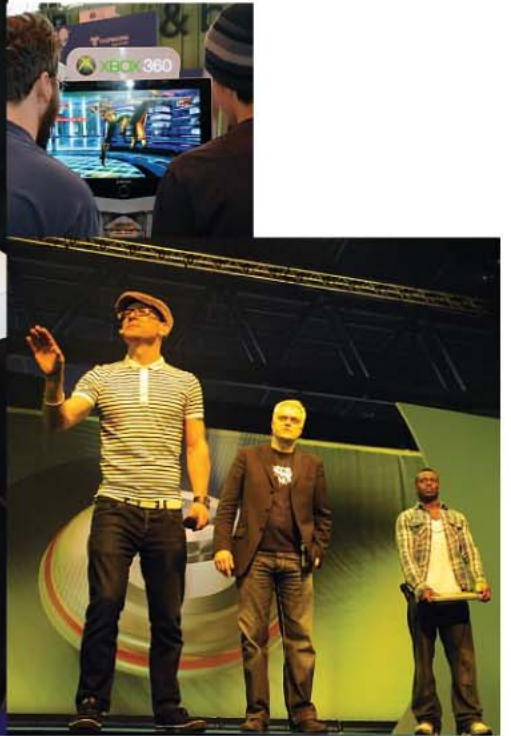
● The camera shown here is not an ordinary Leica MP. No, that would be common. This slice of green flash has been customised via Leica À La Carte, which offers around 4,000 different combination options, both technical and aesthetic, allowing you to build your own dream camera from the ground up.

FROM £3,235. CAMERA SHOWN: £4,000 WITHOUT LENS (£2,065) OR CASE (£350), UK.LEICA-CAMERA.COM



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WITH T3**

When booking your Gadget Show Live tickets make sure you quote **FUTURET3**. It'll save you £1!



# THE GADGET SHOW LIVE

**IT'S BACK, AND IT'S BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER BEFORE.  
EXPLORE THE FUTURE OF TECH AT THE GADGET SHOW LIVE  
APRIL 8-11 2010, BIRMINGHAM NEC**

The UK's largest consumer electronics event has almost doubled in size since its inaugural sell-out show in 2009. This year The Gadget Show Live is running for an extra day at Birmingham's NEC, from April 8-11 2010.

With more than 200 exhibitors displaying their latest must-have gadgets and many new interactive activities, it promises to be a must-see event for anyone interested in viewing, trying out and buying the latest high-tech kit.

Meet *The Gadget Show* presenters Jason Bradbury, Suzi Perry, Jon Bentley and Ortis Deley at the Super Theatre where they'll be competing in live challenges, offering you a chance to win some big prizes and introducing some very special guests.

Explore the Future Tech Zone, where you can meet the developers creating cutting-edge tech concepts – from robotics and augmented reality to computers controlled by your brainwaves. Get active in The Outdoor Zone, which features the best outdoor gadgetry for campers and extreme sports enthusiasts. Hone your photography skills at the new Photographic Workshop Theatre, with practical advice and support

from the UK's leading manufacturers or browse The Gadget Show Build Museum, which will showcase some of the best *Gadget Show* constructions, including go-carts powered by chainsaw engines and three incarnations of *The Gadget Show* hoverboard.

You can also watch international gaming teams battle it out in The Game Zone and take up the challenge yourself, if you're brave enough. Alternatively you could take a spin on a Segway at the The Test Track.

The Gadget Show Live is the perfect day out for those with an unquenchable thirst for the latest gadgets and gizmos. Tickets are selling out fast, but T3 readers can still claim £1 off of the price of an adult ticket if they book before March 31.

**The Gadget Show Live will be taking place at the Birmingham NEC from April 8-11 2010. For further information and to book tickets visit [www.gadgetshowlive.net](http://www.gadgetshowlive.net) T3 readers quote **FUTURET3** to book adult tickets for just **£11.95 + 95p booking fee** (normal advance prices are **£12.95 + 95p booking fee** or **£16 on the door**)**



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# THE GUIDE

THE BEST OF EVERYTHING

EDITED BY LUKE PETERS, JOE SVETLIK, ROB TEMPLE AND HANNAH BOUCKLEY

**T3's Top Five in every key category. The best of the best, with news, reviews, long-term tests and competitions. This month:**

**MOBILES:** *Nokia N97 Mini review p133* **PMPs:** *Logitech Ultimate Ears Triple.fi 10vi review p135* **GAMING:** *Win an Xbox 360 and a copy of Darksiders p137* **CAMERAS:** *Canon EOS 50D long-term test p138* **CAMCORDERS:** *Samsung HMX-U10 review p139* **COMPUTING:** *Google Chrome's rising popularity p141* **TV & PROJECTORS:** *The UK's first 3D projector p143* **HOME CINEMA:** *SlingBox Touch Control 100 p145* **HI-FI:** *Teac CR-H258i hi-fi p147* **MOTORS:** *Toyota iQ3 road test p148*

**Scores in The Guide.** The tech featured in The Guide is regularly reassessed against the current crop. As a result, we may re-rate older products periodically to reflect the current state of the market. **Prices in The Guide.** We've scoured the web and elsewhere for the best we can find at trusted retailers. Be sure to check for the most up-to-date deals before whipping out your credit card, though...



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# What can you do with a website?

## Well, a whole host of things actually.

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FOR THE FULL TOP 10 IN EVERY CATEGORY, GO TO  
**T3.COM**  
THE ULTIMATE BUYER'S GUIDE

## SMARTPHONES

### 1 APPLE IPHONE 3GS

FROM £440, WWW.APPLE.COM/UK  
**LOVE** Fast, elegant, powerful. A fine PMP as well as a great phone. Useful apps galore. Up to 32GB storage  
**HATE** Costly. Needs frequent charging



### 2 HTC HERO

£400, WWW.HTC.COM/UK  
**LOVE** Superb, customisable Android interface and a generally excellent multi-touch screen  
**HATE** Still a bit of lag at times



### 3 PALM PRE

£450, WWW.PALM.COM/UK  
**LOVE** Nicely intuitive interface and revolutionary webOS  
**HATE** A piffling 8GB of storage. Poor keyboard. Dodgy build



### 4 MOTOROLA MILESTONE

£449, WWW.MOTOROLA.COM/GB  
**LOVE** The first phone to run Android 2.0, the Milestone's a doddle to use  
**HATE** Battery drains quickly



### 5 NOKIA N900

£450, WWW.NOKIA.CO.UK  
**LOVE** Speedy and powerful. Great interface and browser. 32GB of storage plus microSD on top  
**HATE** Unresponsive touchscreen



## MUSIC PHONES

### 1 NOKIA 5800

£229, WWW.NOKIA.CO.UK  
**LOVE** Excellent audio. Comes With Music means near-infinite tunes at no extra cost. Decent screen, too  
**HATE** Bundled with an 8GB card only



### 2 SONY ERICSSON AINO

£390, WWW.SONYERICSSON.CO.UK  
**LOVE** Excellent audio and video. Great Bluetooth earphone adaptor  
**HATE** Hopeless touchscreen



### 3 LG CHOCOLATE BL40

£500, UK.LGE.COM  
**LOVE** A rather beautiful, four-inch, 21:9 aspect ratio touchscreen  
**HATE** Slow and confusing interface with an abundance of icons



### 4 SONY ERICSSON W995

£380, WWW.SONYERICSSON.CO.UK  
**LOVE** Sony Walkman has music cred and the handset is solid yet sassy  
**HATE** Sluggish accelerometer



### 5 SONY ERICSSON W902

£335, WWW.SONYERICSSON.CO.UK  
**LOVE** Excellent sound quality. Solid build. Reasonable camera  
**HATE** Showing its age



# CAMERA PHONES

Part mobile, part camera, all on this page

## SONY ERICSSON C905+

£320, WWW.SONYERICSSON.CO.UK  
**1** **PERFORMANCE** The C905 is superb in sunlight, while the xenon flash copes manfully indoors. Other features, including built-in BBC iPlayer, add further value  
**LOVE** Accurate, 8.1-meg camera with xenon flash and face recognition  
**HATE** Some lag. Prone to break downs

**SPECIFICATIONS**  
**CAMERA** 8.1-meg, xenon flash  
**SCREEN** 2.4 inches, 240x320 pixels  
**MEMORY** 160MB plus MS Micro  
**SIZE** 104x49x18mm/136g



## SAMSUNG i8910 HD

£500, UK.SAMSUNGMOBILE.COM  
**2** **PERFORMANCE** From its huge OLED screen to its 720p video to its slick, speedy, capacitive touchscreen, this oozes class. The eight-meg camera is first rate too  
**LOVE** Superb stills and video for a phone. Excellent PMP  
**HATE** It's a rather chunky animal

**SPECIFICATIONS**  
**CAMERA** 8-meg, LED flash  
**SCREEN** 3.7 inches, 360x640 pixels  
**MEMORY** 8GB plus microSD  
**SIZE** 123x58x12.9mm/149g



## NOKIA N86

£500, WWW.NOKIA.CO.UK  
**3** **PERFORMANCE** The Finns' first eight-meg phone is as fine an effort as you could wish, with excellent shots via a Carl Zeiss lens. There's 8GB of storage and microSD  
**LOVE** Crisp, detailed photos. Speedy start-up. Acres of storage  
**HATE** Double-LED rather than xenon flash

**SPECIFICATIONS**  
**CAMERA** 8-meg, dual LED flash  
**SCREEN** 2.6 inches, 320x240 pixels  
**MEMORY** 8GB plus microSD  
**SIZE** 103x51x16.5mm/149g



## SONY ERICSSON SATIO

£460, WWW.SONYERICSSON.CO.UK  
**4** **PERFORMANCE** The Satio contains arguably the best camera you'll find on a mobile phone. The media player also excels, and the interface has been improved a bit by firmware updates, too  
**LOVE** Crisp photos aided by face recognition and xenon flash. Good music and video playback. Feels very solid  
**HATE** Sluggish interface. Chunky size

**SPECIFICATIONS**  
**CAMERA** 12.1-meg, xenon flash  
**SCREEN** 3.5 inches, 360x640 pixels  
**MEMORY** microSD  
**SIZE** 112x55x13/126g



## LG VIEWTY GC900

£335, UK.LGE.COM  
**5** **PERFORMANCE** Pictures look great on the Viewty's three-inch screen and LG has placed a top of the range lens onboard  
**LOVE** Plenty of manual functions and a quality lens. Good Intelligent Auto mode  
**HATE** A good camera, but otherwise too light on features to win top honours

**SPECIFICATIONS**  
**CAMERA** 8-meg, LED flash  
**SCREEN** 3 inches, 480x800 pixels  
**MEMORY** 1.5GB plus microSD  
**SIZE** 109x56x12/102g



➔ FULL PRODUCT REVIEWS AVAILABLE ONLINE @ **T3.COM/TOP10 THE ULTIMATE BUYER'S GUIDE**



### Mini review Nokia N97 Mini

**LET ME GUESS: IT'S THE N97, BUT SMALLER?**  
Measuring just 113x52.5x14.2mm, the Mini is a whopping 5mm shorter than the full-fat N97. The D-pad is gone, the QWERTY, though smaller, remains easy to use, but the attractive 3.2-inch screen is less responsive.  
**HAVE THE FEATURES BEEN STRIPPED DOWN TOO?**  
Storage has shrunk to 8GB, battery life has dropped from 9.5 hours talk time to around seven and there's no FM radio or compass. The five-meg camera is still there, though. Compared to the prowess of the app-happy Android handsets and Nokia's N900 phone/tablet thing, the N97 Mini seems short of more than just millimetres.

T3.COM ★★★★★ £400, WWW.NOKIA.CO.UK

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





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## MP3 PLAYERS

### 1 IPOD NANO 16GB

£138 (8GB: £118), WWW.APPLE.COM/UK

**LOVE** Decent storage and a new VGA video camera with effects  
**HATE** Does nothing most phones don't do perfectly adequately



### 2 IPOD CLASSIC 160GB

£193, WWW.APPLE.COM/UK

**LOVE** Enough storage for weeks of music, plus plenty of pics and video  
**HATE** Less-than-cutting-edge design makes this the Touch's dowdy dad



### 3 CREATIVE ZEN X-FI 32GB

£199 (16GB: £100, 8GB: £95), UK.EUROPE.CREATIVE.COM

**LOVE** Very fine audio. Wi-Fi. An SD slot gives extra storage  
**HATE** Fiddly controls. Nasty feel



### 4 SONY NWZ-S544 8GB

£110, WWW.SONY.CO.UK

**LOVE** Decent sound quality and a gratifying 42 hours of music playback  
**HATE** Largely forgettable features



### 5 ECO MEDIA PLAYER REVOLUTION

£110, WWW.AMP3.CO.UK

**LOVE** Surprisingly superb audio. Minutely lower carbon footprint  
**HATE** Winding it up. Pokey screen



## HEADPHONES

### 1 SENNHEISER IE 8

£163, WWW.SENNHEISER.CO.UK

**LOVE** Superb all-round sound quality. Easily adjustable bass  
**HATE** Could be comfier. Could also be less bulky and cheaper



### 2 SENNHEISER IE 7

£130, WWW.SENNHEISER.CO.UK

**LOVE** Comfortable fit and outstanding sound quality, with an impressive amount of bass  
**HATE** A touch costly



### 3 SENNHEISER HD 650

£350, WWW.SENNHEISER.CO.UK

**LOVE** Cracking sound quality and unbeatable comfort  
**HATE** Pricey and for indoor use only



### 4 AUDIO TECHNICA ATH-ANC3

£53, WWW.AUDIO-TECHNICA.COM

**LOVE** Active noise-cancelling technology that actually works  
**HATE** Requires batteries



### 5 KLIPSCH IMAGE X5

£180, WWW.KLIPSCH.CO.UK

**LOVE** Comfortable, lightweight and stylishly designed earphones that deliver a well-balanced sound  
**HATE** Deep, inner-ear fit



# PMPS

Your do-it-all portable entertainment devices...

## IPOD TOUCH 64GB

£306, (32GB: £234, 8GB: £152), WWW.APPLE.COM/UK

1

**PERFORMANCE** The "funnest" iPod ever gets jollier yet, with new features, more storage, faster response times and more than 100,000 apps for all occasions  
**LOVE** A stupendous PMP, web browser, emailer, music and app store. The 64GB top-whack storage means more of absolutely everything, too  
**HATE** Quality costs money

#### SPECIFICATIONS

**SCREEN** 3.5-inch/480x320 pixels  
**EXTRAS** Wi-Fi, App Store  
**BATTERY** 36hrs audio/6hrs video  
**SIZE** 110x62x8.5mm/115g



## SONY X-SERIES WALKMAN 32GB

£230 (16GB: £170), WWW.SONY.CO.UK

2

**PERFORMANCE** Beats the iPod on audio quality with plenty of bass and noise cancelling built in. Video performance via the OLED screen is also impressive  
**LOVE** Crisp OLED screen and excellent audio even via the bundled earphones  
**HATE** Ropy web browser

#### SPECIFICATIONS

**SCREEN** 3-inch/432x240 pixels  
**EXTRAS** Noise cancelling, Wi-Fi  
**BATTERY** 33hrs audio/9hrs video  
**SIZE** 97x53x10.5mm/98g



## COWON S9 32GB

£259 (16GB: £199, 8GB: £169), WWW.AMP3.CO.UK

3

**PERFORMANCE** Really great audio makes Cowon's Touch-alike tempting. The low energy-consuming AMOLED screen and expanded 32GB storage also work a treat  
**LOVE** Great sound. Tasty AMOLED screen  
**HATE** Lacks extras such as Wi-Fi. Decidedly irksome interface

#### SPECIFICATIONS

**SCREEN** 3.3-inch/480x272 pixels  
**EXTRAS** Bluetooth  
**BATTERY** 55hrs audio/11hrs video  
**SIZE** 13x105x57mm/77g



## ARCHOS 5 60GB

£175 (120GB: £188, 250GB: £220, 500GB: £403) WWW.ARCHOS.COM

4

**PERFORMANCE** Add-ons such as the DVR station, which allows you to record TV, make the Archos 5 the best PMP for video. Audio is good too, but it is bulky  
**LOVE** Fantastic, 4.8-inch touchscreen. A host of paid-for add-ons available  
**HATE** Neither cheap nor small

#### SPECIFICATIONS

**SCREEN** 4.8-inch/800x480 pixels  
**EXTRAS** Wi-Fi, PDF viewer  
**BATTERY** 72hrs audio/7hrs video  
**SIZE** 127x78x13mm/250g



## CREATIVE ZEN X-FI2 32GB

£170 (16GB: £130, 8GB: £100), UK.EUROPE.CREATIVE.COM

5

**PERFORMANCE** Creative's added a generous three-inch touchscreen to the X-Fi, and excellent earphones  
**LOVE** Good quality audio with tasty bundled headphones. Sexy looks  
**HATE** Awkward touchscreen. No Wi-Fi, unlike the original X-Fi

#### SPECIFICATIONS

**SCREEN** 3-inch/400x240 pixels  
**EXTRAS** FM radio  
**BATTERY** 25hrs audio/5hrs video  
**SIZE** 102x57x11.6mm



➤ FULL PRODUCT REVIEWS AVAILABLE ONLINE @ **T3.COM/TOP10 THE ULTIMATE BUYER'S GUIDE**



### Mini review Logitech Ultimate Ears Triple. fi 10vi

#### WHAT'S THE USP HERE?

The Triple.fi 10vi headphones contain a trio of low, mid and high frequency drivers. The result is detailed, exceptionally clear sound, with bass and treble handled equally well. The snug in-ear fit cancels out a fair amount of noise, too.

#### ANY NOTABLE EXTRAS?

You get an aeroplane adaptor, plus a phone mic and an in-line control button, so you can swap between music and calls on an iPhone. The RRP is steep, for sure, but these Ultimate Ears work a treat, and they can be found cheaper online...

➤ **T3.COM** ★★★★★ £280, WWW.LOGITECH.CO.UK

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**GAMING PCS**

**1 CHILLBLAST FUSION FORTRESS**  
 £1,900, WWW.CHILLBLAST.COM  
**LOVE** A Blu-ray-packing "bargain" compared to other gaming rigs  
**HATE** Noisy fan and brutish design  
 [★★★★★]



**2 ALIENWARE AREA-51 X-58**  
 £3,284, WWW.ALIENWARE.CO.UK  
**LOVE** Hugely powerful innards  
**HATE** Few extras. Can only be found in the "financially crippling" aisle  
 [★★★★★]



**3 WIRED2FIRE DIABLO ICE DEMON**  
 £2,400, WWW.WIRED2FIRE.CO.UK  
**LOVE** Speedy, overclocked 4GHz processor. Ace graphics  
**HATE** No Blu-ray drive. Ropy audio  
 [★★★★★]



**4 NOVATECH X1 GTX PRO**  
 £2,626, WWW.NOVATECH.CO.UK  
**LOVE** Smart design, powerful graphics card, Blu-ray drive and HDMI connectivity  
**HATE** Dangerously weighty  
 [★★★★★]



**5 ASUS W90VP**  
 £2,400, UK.ASUS.COM  
**LOVE** Blu-ray drive, hi-def display and top-notch audio  
**HATE** Weighs a ton, and the cost isn't exactly lightweight either  
 [★★★★★]



**GAMES**

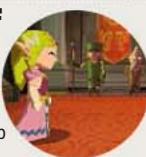
**1 LEFT 4 DEAD 2**  
 £38, XBOX 360/PC  
**LOVE** Still by far the best co-op game available  
**HATE** What's not to love about shooting killer zombies?  
 [★★★★★]



**2 BAYONETTA**  
 £35, XBOX 360/PS3  
**LOVE** Awe-inspiring combat and a kick-ass, female protagonist  
**HATE** "Very Easy" mode only requires you to use one button  
 [★★★★★]



**3 THE LEGEND OF ZELDA: SPIRIT TRACKS**  
 £27, DS  
**LOVE** The best DS game yet  
**HATE** Zelda's in need of a revamp  
 [★★★★★]



**4 THE SABOTEUR**  
 £30, XBOX 360/PS3/PC  
**LOVE** A beautiful, open-world environment and a foul-mouthed, Irish protagonist  
**HATE** Generic gameplay  
 [★★★★★]



**5 TONY HAWK: RIDE**  
 £75, XBOX 360/PS3/WII  
**LOVE** The bundled skateboard peripheral is entertaining  
**HATE** The game is less so  
 [★★★★★]



**CONSOLES**

Sony, Microsoft or Nintendo, sir... or perhaps all three?

**SONY PLAYSTATION 3 SLIM 250GB**

£270 (120GB: £230), UK.PLAYSTATION.COM

**1 PERFORMANCE** The slimmer, quieter PS3 now has the AAA titles it lacked in its early years. The built-in Blu-ray drive makes it a better all-round package than the 360  
**LOVE** Excellent Blu-ray player. Large number of quality games available. BBC iPlayer built in. Wi-Fi built in  
**HATE** Lags (just) behind the 360 in purely gaming terms, especially online

**SPECIFICATIONS**  
**STORAGE** 120GB HDD  
**DVD/BLU-RAY** Yes/yes  
**CONNECTIVITY** 2x USB, ethernet, Wi-Fi  
**HDMI OUTPUT** Yes



**XBOX 360 ELITE**

£200 (XBOX ARCADE: £120), WWW.XBOX.CO.UK

**2 PERFORMANCE** It's got a 120GB hard drive, a heap of great games and, in Xbox Live, the best online service going, even if you do have to pay for the privilege of using it  
**LOVE** Huge catalogue of AAA games. Good value for money. Great online service  
**HATE** Lumpy and loud. No Blu-ray or Wi-Fi

**SPECIFICATIONS**  
**STORAGE** 120GB HDD  
**DVD/BLU-RAY** Yes/no  
**CONNECTIVITY** 3x USB, ethernet  
**HDMI OUTPUT** Yes



**NINTENDO WII**

£165, WWW.NINTENDO.CO.UK

**3 PERFORMANCE** Destroying the Xbox and PS3 in sales terms, the loveable Wii nonetheless lacks the raw grunt to please a more hardcore, adult audience  
**LOVE** Cheap. BBC iPlayer access  
**HATE** Too many novelty games; not enough classics. Graphics aren't hi-def

**SPECIFICATIONS**  
**STORAGE** 512MB flash  
**DVD/BLU-RAY** No/no  
**CONNECTIVITY** 2x USB, Wi-Fi  
**HDMI OUTPUT** No



**SONY PSP 3000**

£140, UK.PLAYSTATION.COM

**4 PERFORMANCE** With a bright, 4.3-inch screen and a built-in mic for Skype calls the PSP 3000 is preferable to the new PSP Go, with plenty of quality games available  
**LOVE** Bright screen. Impressive range of multimedia bits. Decent games catalogue  
**HATE** Battery life could be longer

**SPECIFICATIONS**  
**SCREEN** 4.3-inch, 480x272 pixels  
**CONNECTIONS** Wi-Fi  
**BATTERY LIFE** 5 hours  
**SIZE** 169x71x18mm/189g



**NINTENDO DSi**

£130, WWW.NINTENDO.CO.UK

**5 PERFORMANCE** Dual-touchscreen, portable gaming legend with a massive game catalogue and easy pocketability  
**LOVE** Plenty of games with a huge grin factor. Improved screens and online store  
**HATE** Doesn't play GBA games. Short-lived battery. Less versatile than PSP 3000

**SPECIFICATIONS**  
**SCREENS** 2x 3.25-inch, 256x192 pixels  
**CONNECTIONS** Wi-Fi, Bluetooth  
**BATTERY LIFE** 6 hours  
**SIZE** 230x230x70mm/218g



➔ FULL PRODUCT REVIEWS AVAILABLE ONLINE @ T3.COM/TOP10 THE ULTIMATE BUYER'S GUIDE

**Win... An Xbox 360 and a copy of Darksiders**

**WHAT'S DARKSIDERS ABOUT?**  
 War, the first horseman of the apocalypse is tricked into bringing about the end of the world, inciting a conflict between Heaven and Hell. Disgraced, War returns to Earth to seek vengeance on those responsible. This first-person shooter combines the use of swords, guns and supernatural abilities to Biblically violent effect.

**HOW CAN I WIN THIS MASTERPIECE?**  
 First prize is an Xbox 360 and a copy of *Darksiders*. Five runners-up will also collect a copy of the game. To be in with a chance of winning just head to [www.t3.com/darksiders](http://www.t3.com/darksiders) and correctly answer the question. Now that's not too hellish, is it?

MOBILE PHONES  
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 GAMING  
 CAMERAS  
 CAMCORDERS  
 COMPUTERS  
 TV  
 HOME CINEMA  
 HI-FI  
 MOTORS



## COMPACT CAMERAS

### 1 CANON IXUS 980 IS

£290, WWW.CANON.CO.UK  
**LOVE** Sharp, detailed, 14.7-meg images. Useful manual controls  
**HATE** A trifle more expensive than most of its closest rivals



### 2 SONY CYBER-SHOT TX1

£269, WWW.SONY.CO.UK  
**LOVE** Attractive design and a responsive touchscreen. Great 10.2-meg snaps and 720p video  
**HATE** Lacks an HDMI out



### 3 PANASONIC LUMIX DMC-LX3

£313, WWW.PANASONIC.CO.UK  
**LOVE** Great for fast-moving action. Decent video quality. Luscious, retro looks  
**HATE** Limited zoom range



### 4 CANON IXUS 200 IS

£246, WWW.CANON.CO.UK  
**LOVE** Splendid 12.1-meg stills. Very good 720p video, with the bonus of an HDMI output  
**HATE** Lacks manual controls



### 5 NIKON COOLPIX P6000

£267, WWW.NIKON.CO.UK  
**LOVE** Superb 13.5-meg images, rugged build and off-beat extras  
**HATE** Does anyone really geotag?



## DIGITAL SLRS

### 1 SONY A350

£546, WWW.SONY.CO.UK  
**LOVE** Capable of truly stunning shots. Live View. Cheap price  
**HATE** Some noise at higher ISO settings. Burst mode is pretty poor



### 2 CANON EOS 50D

£705, WWW.CANON.CO.UK  
**LOVE** Whopping great. 15-meg images. Fast and accurate shooting and focusing  
**HATE** Noise at high ISO settings



### 3 CANON EOS 450D

£430, WWW.CANON.CO.UK  
**LOVE** Impressive 12-meg sensor and IS kit lens. Big, brash LCD screen  
**HATE** Lens, though very good, does have a slightly plasticky feel



### 4 NIKON D5000

£505, WWW.NIKON.CO.UK  
**LOVE** Quality 12-megapixel stills. Live View and 720p movie mode  
**HATE** Lack of autofocus can become infuriating



### 5 PENTAX K-X

£500, WWW.PENTAX.CO.UK  
**LOVE** Numerous features and very good 720p video recording  
**HATE** Basic controls and plastic feel. Limited accessory support



# BIG ZOOMS

More pro than a compact, less hassle than an SLR...

## PANASONIC LUMIX DMC-FZ38

£270, WWW.PANASONIC.CO.UK

1

**PERFORMANCE** Small but perfectly formed, the FZ38 takes top quality pictures with great image stabilisation and a speedy shutter. There's also a 720p, 60fps movie mode and HDMI slot  
**LOVE** High quality images. Excellent 18x zoom with top-notch anti-shake. Has a brilliant movie mode, too  
**HATE** Dull styling. Small screen

**SPECIFICATIONS**  
**MEGAPIXELS** 12.1  
**ZOOM** 18x  
**SENSOR** 1/2.33 CMOS  
**WEIGHT** 367g



## CANON POWERSHOT SX1

£354, WWW.CANON.CO.UK

2

**PERFORMANCE** Canon's Digidig IV processor ensures vivid pictures and the 20x optical zoom is impressive, if a bit bulky. Shoots full 1920x1080 video  
**LOVE** Big LCD screen, punchy colours and very quick shutter speeds  
**HATE** Heavy. Eats AA batteries

**SPECIFICATIONS**  
**MEGAPIXELS** 10  
**ZOOM** 20x  
**SENSOR** 1/2.3 CMOS  
**WEIGHT** 585g



## PANASONIC LUMIX DMC-FZ28

£230, WWW.PANASONIC.CO.UK

3

**PERFORMANCE** It looks dowdier than Susan Boyle, but the FZ28 makes up for a lack of good looks with a 18x zoom, 10.1-megapixels, and HDMI  
**LOVE** Extremely simple to use. Impressive, 18x optical zoom  
**HATE** It's the polar opposite of sexy

**SPECIFICATIONS**  
**MEGAPIXELS** 10.1  
**ZOOM** 18x  
**SENSOR** 1/2.33-inch CCD  
**WEIGHT** 370g



## SONY HX1

£322, WWW.SONY.CO.UK

4

**PERFORMANCE** Captures stunning landscapes with the Sweep Panorama mode and records HD video at 30fps  
**LOVE** Beefy 20x zoom. High quality lens. Great panoramas  
**HATE** Colours appear muted. Slow to process images

**SPECIFICATIONS**  
**MEGAPIXELS** 9.1  
**ZOOM** 20x  
**SENSOR** 1/2.4-inch CMOS  
**WEIGHT** 453g



## CASIO EXILIM PRO EX-F1

£534, WWW.EXILIM.CO.UK

5

**PERFORMANCE** The EX-F1 is able to shoot 60 frames per second, but can't focus fast enough to keep up with fast-moving action. It's impressive nonetheless  
**LOVE** Takes 60 snaps per second and shoots video at 1,200fps  
**HATE** Heavy and pricey

**SPECIFICATIONS**  
**MEGAPIXELS** 6  
**ZOOM** 12x  
**SCREEN** 1/1.8-inch CMOS  
**WEIGHT** 450g



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### Long term look... Canon EOS 50D

**EIGHTEEN MONTHS SINCE RELEASE AND STILL GOING STRONG?** Absolutely. It hasn't left the T3 top five since launch and with a firmware upgrade that sorted out the "vertical banding noise phenomenon" – boy did we hate that vertical banding – the 50D has remained a great option for those looking to leap from compact or bridge.

#### HAS THE PRICE COME DOWN?

Not really, even now with the 60D upgrade rumoured to be imminent. The fully automatic, point-and-shoot mode makes it a decent introduction for DSLR newbies, but delving deeper into its features makes it clear that the 50D is very much a semi-pro camera.

£705, WWW.CANON.CO.UK



FOR THE FULL TOP 10 IN EVERY CATEGORY, GO TO  
**T3.COM**  
THE ULTIMATE BUYER'S GUIDE

## ACCESSORIES

**1 SONY** HWL-20DW2 VIDEO LIGHT  
£75, WWW.SONY.CO.UK  
**LOVE** Super-bright halogen bulb that sheds light on proceedings  
**HATE** Only two brightness settings  
★★★★☆



**2 JOBY** GORILLAPOD  
£25, WWW.JOBY.COM/UK  
**LOVE** Space-saving, bendy tripod for steady shots  
**HATE** Only for small shoots  
★★★★☆



**3 KINGSTON** 32GB SD CARD  
£72, WWW.KINGSTON.COM  
**LOVE** Fits plenty of HD-quality footage on one card  
**HATE** Pricey for a memory card  
★★★★☆



**4 BELKIN** HDMI CABLE  
£15, WWW.BELKIN.COM/UK  
**LOVE** Hi-def footage on your TV, the easy and inexpensive way  
**HATE** Your neighbours' epic, four-hour-long, HD holiday videos  
★★★★☆



**5 CRUMPLER** JIMMY BO  
£35, WWW.CRUMPLER.CO.UK  
**LOVE** Quirkily styled, tough bag for shoulders or waist  
**HATE** Crumpler's awful logo  
★★★★☆



## HI-DEF CAMCORDERS

**1 PANASONIC** HDC-SD200  
£529, WWW.PANASONIC.CO.UK  
**LOVE** 3MOS technology produces vibrant images  
**HATE** Noise creeps in during low-light shooting  
★★★★☆



**2 SONY** HDR-520VE  
£954, WWW.SONY.CO.UK  
**LOVE** 240GB hard drive and the best image stabilisation  
**HATE** Too heavy for prolonged tripod-less filming  
★★★★☆



**3 CANON** HF11  
£800, WWW.CANON.CO.UK  
**LOVE** 24Mbps data saving + excellent lens = great footage  
**HATE** Short battery life and not-so-small price  
★★★★☆



**4 SANYO** XACTI VPX-FH1BK  
£386, UK.SANYO.COM  
**LOVE** Remarkably compact, sexy build. Alluring price  
**HATE** Lens isn't top drawer. Nor is the skittish zoom  
★★★★☆



**5 SANYO** XACTI WH1  
£277, UK.SANYO.COM  
**LOVE** A waterproof, robust and vividly coloured HD cam  
**HATE** Poor zoom. Only average video results  
★★★★☆



## Mini review Samsung HMX-U10



LOOKS A BIT LIKE THE FLIP, DOESN'T IT?

Yes it does rather, but it delivers ten-megapixel stills, 1080p video and is smaller than the Flip, with touch controls and a curved design that's more attractive, in our opinion. What's more, it supports 32GB SD cards, which trounces the Flip's 4GB built-in storage.

SOUNDS GOOD. HOW DOES IT PERFORM?

Not so great, to be honest. You need a USB cable to connect it, making it less convenient than the Flip. A slow shutter speed means you'll need a steady hand to achieve non-blurred stills, there's no HDMI port and the touch-sensitive controls aren't overly responsive.

T3.COM ★★★★★ £150, WWW.SAMSUNG.CO.UK

# POCKET CAMCORDERS

Portable camcorders record your life as it happens...

## SANYO XACTI VPC-HD2000

£372, UK.SANYO.COM

**1 PERFORMANCE** Truly a top-notch camcorder, this shoots full-HD footage at 60fps and takes very fine, eight-meg stills  
**LOVE** Quick-shooting and user-friendly. Impressive still shots. Full-HD video  
**HATE** Too big for pockets yet too small for easy grip in an average bloke's hand

SPECIFICATIONS  
**RESOLUTION** 1080p  
**STORAGE** SD card  
**SCREEN** 2.7-inch  
**SIZE/WEIGHT** 90x102x54mm/268g

T3 ★★★★★



## SONY HDR-TG7

£529, WWW.SONY.CO.UK

**2 PERFORMANCE** The world's smallest 1080i camcorder features geotagging and Highlight Playback, which claims to edit your footage for you and sort of works...  
**LOVE** Sleek design, large, 16GB built-in flash drive and a slick touchscreen  
**HATE** Mad price tag

SPECIFICATIONS  
**RESOLUTION** 1080i  
**STORAGE** 16GB, Memory Stick  
**SCREEN** 2.7-inch touchscreen  
**SIZE/WEIGHT** 62x117x30mm/290g

T3 ★★★★★



## CREATIVE VADO HD

£100, UK.EUROPE.CREATIVE.COM

**3 PERFORMANCE** The Vado HD features a built-in, flick-out USB stick for quick PC uploads to YouTube et al. HD recording in its simplest, most pocketable form  
**LOVE** Tasty 720p images and enough storage for up to two hours of HD footage  
**HATE** Fiddly buttons and small screen

SPECIFICATIONS  
**RESOLUTION** 1280x720  
**STORAGE** 8GB  
**SCREEN** 2-inch  
**SIZE/WEIGHT** 100x55x16mm/100g

T3 ★★★★★



## FLIP MINO HD

£168, WWW.THEFLIP.COM

**4 PERFORMANCE** The original Flip was a hit with YouTube enthusiasts and the Flip Mino HD has proved even more successful, with plenty of storage, easy uploads and the added bonus of 720p shootage  
**LOVE** The built-in USB stick  
**HATE** Tiny screen. No HDMI output

SPECIFICATIONS  
**RESOLUTION** 1280x720  
**STORAGE** 4GB  
**SCREEN** 1.5-inch  
**SIZE/WEIGHT** 100x50x10mm/94g

T3 ★★★★★



## SANYO XACTI CA-9

£239, UK.SANYO.COM

**5 PERFORMANCE** The pistol grip is ideal for use up to 1.5 metres underwater on this rugged cam, and you can eke almost four hours of HD-quality video from a 16GB SD card. The nine-meg stills are decent too  
**LOVE** Terrific 720p footage from a waterproof, rugged pistol 'corder  
**HATE** As ever with this sort of cam, it's less clever out of water. Overly dim screen, too

SPECIFICATIONS  
**RESOLUTION** 1280x720  
**STORAGE** 43MB + SDHC card  
**SCREEN** 2.5-inch  
**SIZE/WEIGHT** 70x111x41mm/192g

T3 ★★★★★



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- Integrated Freesat HD & Freeview Tuners
- USB Connection



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SONY. BLU-RAY PLAYER WITH EASY INTERNET FEATURES

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- Upscales Standard DVDs
- Wireless Photo Data Streaming
- 24P True Cinema



Model: BDP-S560



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- 720p / 1080i Resolution
- 3 HDMI Inputs
- PC Input
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5.1 BLU-RAY HOME CINEMA SYSTEM

- Full-HD Movie Playback
- Smart Setup with Auto Speaker Setup
- Various HD audio Decoders
- Integrated Universal iPod Dock



Panasonic Model: SC-BT205

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CALL US NOW FOR OUR LATEST PRICE

50" 1080P FULL HD VIERA PLASMA TV WITH FREESAT HD TUNER

- 600Hz Picture Processing
- 3 HDMI Inputs
- 2,000,000:1 Contrast Ratio
- SD Card Slot



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5.1 DVD HOME CINEMA SYSTEM

- 1000W Power Output
- 1080P Up Scaling via HDMI
- Multiple Playback formats
- Multiple Audio Decoders



JVC Model: TH-G60

CALL US NOW FOR OUR LATEST PRICE

5.1 BLU RAY HOME CINEMA SYSTEM

- 1080p Full HD Blu-ray Disc player
- Up-scales Standard DVD
- 1000W total Power Output
- iPhone / iPod Dock Included



SONY Model: BD-VE300

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- Bluetooth & USB connectivity
- 4 HDMI Inputs
- 3,000,000:1 Contrast Ratio



Model: LG 42SL5000

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## LAPTOPS

**1 APPLE MACBOOK**  
FROM £816, WWW.APPLE.COM/UK  
**LOVE** Apple über-stylishness and Mac OS X for less dosh  
**HATE** Polycarbonate finish rather than the Pro's aluminium  
★★★★★



**2 SAMSUNG X420**  
£600, WWW.SAMSUNG.CO.UK  
**LOVE** Decent battery life. Stylish, portable design. Powerful enough to multi-task with ease  
**HATE** Lacks storage. Poor graphics  
★★★★★



**3 ASUS UL50VG**  
£800, UK.ASUS.COM  
**LOVE** Sizeable keyboard. Good screen. Decent battery life  
**HATE** It's slimline, but by no means lightweight at 2.3kg  
★★★★★



**4 ACER ASPIRE AS4810TZG**  
£580, WWW.ACER.CO.UK  
**LOVE** A 1.3GHz processor and 320GB HDD for under £600  
**HATE** Unresponsive trackpad  
★★★★★



**5 DELL XPS STUDIO 16**  
£1,349, WWW.DELL.CO.UK  
**LOVE** 1080p screen, Blu-ray drive and great connectivity  
**HATE** Poor battery life  
★★★★★



## NETBOOKS

**1 LENOVO IDEAPAD S10E**  
£288, WWW.LENOVO.CO.UK  
**LOVE** Full feature list and impressive keyboard and build. Good price  
**HATE** Fiddly trackpad. Poor battery  
★★★★★



**2 ASUS EEE PC SEASHELL**  
£380, UK.ASUS.COM  
**LOVE** Highly portable and stylish. Truly excellent battery life and a decent enough keyboard  
**HATE** Distinct lack of ports  
★★★★★



**3 ASUS EEE PC S101**  
£450, UK.ASUS.COM  
**LOVE** Great looks, sharp screen and excellent performance  
**HATE** Only a 16GB flash drive and it's pretty darn pricey for a netbook  
★★★★★



**4 SONY VAIO W SERIES**  
£400, WWW.SONY.CO.UK  
**LOVE** Slick design. Stunning X-black screen. Well laid-out keyboard  
**HATE** The paltry battery life really lets the side down here  
★★★★★



**5 SAMSUNG X120**  
£500, WWW.SAMSUNG.CO.UK  
**LOVE** Superb keyboard, fast processor and an HDMI out  
**HATE** Dull looks and a very average battery life  
★★★★★



# DESKTOPS

Computing power with a touch of elegance, for office or home

## HP TOUCHSMART 600

£1,500, WWW.HP.COM/UK



**1 PERFORMANCE** Easily the most powerful and user-friendly touchscreen computer yet, with Blu-ray, HDMI, a TV tuner and six USBs thrown in. HD video looks stunning on the screen, which can be wall mounted  
**LOVE** HP's touch-friendly media software. Big, very vivid screen  
**HATE** Some touchscreen lag at times. The audio lacks a certain punch. Premium price

**SPECIFICATIONS**  
**SCREEN** 23-inch, 1920x1200  
**PROCESSOR** Core 2 Duo P7450  
**MEMORY/STORAGE** 4GB/1TB  
**OS** Windows 7  
★★★★★



## APPLE IMAC 27-INCH

£1,634 (MODELS RANGE FROM £969), WWW.APPLE.COM/UK



**2 PERFORMANCE** Apple's biggest iMac is now a gargantuan 27 inches across with a stunning 2560x1440 resolution. It's not cheap, but it is undeniably great gear  
**LOVE** Great performance. *iLife* software  
**HATE** The price is a bit much, considering that there's still no Blu-ray drive

**SPECIFICATIONS**  
**SCREEN** 27-inch, 2560x1440  
**PROCESSOR** Core i5 2.66GHz  
**MEMORY/STORAGE** 4GB/1TB  
**OS** Mac OS X  
★★★★★



## SONY L SERIES

FROM £999, WWW.SONY.CO.UK



**3 PERFORMANCE** A fantastic all-in-one PC, this features an X-black LCD touchscreen and a capable, 3GHz processor  
**LOVE** Huge 24-inch touchscreen. Freeview tuner and Blu-ray deck on high-end versions. HDMI port  
**HATE** Screen is all too easily smudged

**SPECIFICATIONS**  
**SCREEN** 24-inch, 1920x1080  
**PROCESSOR** Core 2 Duo 2.93GHz  
**MEMORY/STORAGE** 4GB/500GB  
**OS** Windows 7  
★★★★★



## PACKARD BELL IXTREME X6719

£630, WWW.PACKARDBELL.CO.UK



**4 PERFORMANCE** A quietly powerful home computer that has eight USB ports and front-mounted memory card slots. It's not sexy but it is capable and cheap  
**LOVE** A solid, affordable family computer  
**HATE** Could do with more storage, a faster processor and a Blu-ray drive

**SPECIFICATIONS**  
**SCREEN** N/A  
**PROCESSOR** Core 2 Duo 2.53GHz  
**MEMORY/STORAGE** 4GB/640GB  
**OS** Windows Vista  
★★★★★



## ASUS EEE TOP 2203T

£820, UK.ASUS.COM



**5 PERFORMANCE** An impressive selection of specifications for the price, including an HDMI port and a Blu-ray drive  
**LOVE** Attractive touchscreen computing with a credit crunch-friendly price tag  
**HATE** Single-touch, often worryingly unresponsive, touchscreen

**SPECIFICATIONS**  
**SCREEN** 21.6-inch, 1920x1080  
**PROCESSOR** Core 2 Duo 2.2GHz  
**MEMORY/STORAGE** 1GB/500GB  
**OS** Windows Vista Home Premium  
★★★★★



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### News... **Chrome now more popular than Safari**

**SAYS WHO?**  
According to the latest user statistics from Net Applications, Google's *Chrome* browser has overtaken Apple's *Safari*, and now nestles behind Mozilla *Firefox* and Microsoft *Internet Explorer* in the popularity stakes.  
**IS IT A LANDSLIDE VICTORY, THEN?**  
More a minor skirmish. *Safari*, now the fourth most popular web browser, is used by 4.46 per cent of users worldwide while 4.63 per cent opt for *Chrome*. That's well behind *Firefox* on 24.6 per cent, but it's *Internet Explorer* that's still the clear leader, with a whopping 62.7 per cent of the market. No, we don't know why either.  
WWW.GOOGLE.CO.UK/CHROME



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- 1 PHILIPS 42PFL9664**  
 £1,500, WWW.PHILIPS.CO.UK  
**LOVE** Ambilight Spectra 2. Wireless NetTV and five HDMI ports  
**HATE** You need to turn down the image processing for best results  

- 2 SAMSUNG UE40B8000**  
 £1,250, WWW.SAMSUNG.CO.UK  
**LOVE** Bright, LED-lit picture and great contrast. Online content via Yahoo widgets  
**HATE** Colours can appear lurid  

- 3 PANASONIC TX-P42V10B**  
 £1,100, WWW.PANASONIC.CO.UK  
**LOVE** Ace contrast, smooth motion and built-in Freesat HD  
**HATE** No USB input  

- 4 SONY KDL-52V5500**  
 £1,325, WWW.SONY.CO.UK  
**LOVE** Colossal 52-inch screen with superb colour and detail  
**HATE** Some smearing with fast motion. Standard-def suffers  

- 5 SONY KDL-40Z4500**  
 £1,019, WWW.SONY.CO.UK  
**LOVE** Smooth, vivid pictures and decent, if quiet, sound  
**HATE** The chubby frame and unusually fiddly remote  


**SET-TOP BOXES**

- 1 SKY+ HD**  
 FROM £49, WWW.SKY.COM  
**LOVE** Excellent range of HD shows and films  
**HATE** Irritatingly noisy fan. Tariffs can be costly  

- 2 VIRGIN MEDIA V+**  
 £150, WWW.VIRGINMEDIA.COM  
**LOVE** Multitude of HD channels. BBC iPlayer built-in  
**HATE** Sluggish interface. Baffling pricing  

- 3 TISCALI TV**  
 £50, WWW.TISCALI.CO.UK  
**LOVE** Slick interface. On-demand choice  
**HATE** No HD. Expensive sports channels  

- 4 BT VISION V BOX**  
 FREE WITH SUB, WWW.BTVISION.BT.COM  
**LOVE** Free with a BT landline and now packing HD movies  
**HATE** Paying for last week's telly may cause annoyance  

- 5 HUMAX FOXSAT HDR**  
 £300, WWW.HUMAXDIGITAL.COM/UK  
**LOVE** Excellent visuals without the bother of a monthly fee  
**HATE** Requires a dish and only has two HD channels  


**FULL-HD PROJECTORS**

Picture throwers that put huge, 1080p movies on your wall

**PANASONIC PT-AE3000**  
 £2,100, WWW.PANASONIC.CO.UK

- 1 PERFORMANCE** The latest in a long line of legendary Panasonic projectors, the AE3000 has a 60,000:1 contrast ratio, producing a first class picture  
**LOVE** Top connectivity with no fewer than three HDMI inputs. Awesome black levels  
**HATE** Overly vocal fan

**SPECIFICATIONS**  
**MAX IMAGE** 200 inches  
**CONTRAST** 60,000:1  
**CONNECTIONS** 3x HDMI, VGA, S-video, component



**SONY BRAVIA VPL-HW15**  
 £2,000, WWW.SONY.CO.UK

- 2 PERFORMANCE** Sony has endowed the HW15 with its own SXR chip, and a fine job it does, providing dazzling 1080p images at a 15,000:1 contrast ratio. It's just a pity that Sony failed to include the super-slick Xross Media Bar as well  
**LOVE** Stylish design. Easy to use and install. Great contrast and black levels  
**HATE** Some fan noise can occur

**SPECIFICATIONS**  
**MAX IMAGE** 300 inches  
**CONTRAST** 15,000:1  
**CONNECTIONS** 2x HDMI, VGA, S-video, component, composite



**SANYO PLV-Z3000**  
 £2,000, WWW.SANYO.CO.UK

- 3 PERFORMANCE** A solid performer, the Z3000 produces a fine quality, 15,000:1 picture up to 300 inches wide. An optical lens shift ensures accurate aim  
**LOVE** Excellent images, very hushed fan and a useful sliding lens cover  
**HATE** Slight chicken wire effect

**SPECIFICATIONS**  
**MAX IMAGE** 300 inches  
**CONTRAST** 15,000:1  
**CONNECTIONS** 2x HDMI, VGA, S-video, component, composite



**EPSON EH-TW5800**  
 £3,300, WWW.EPSON.CO.UK

- 4 PERFORMANCE** The latest generation D7 panels in the TW5800 produce very impressive results with a staggering 75,000:1 contrast ratio, but whether it's worth an extra grand is debatable  
**LOVE** Superb contrast ratio and quiet fan  
**HATE** Beyond expensive

**SPECIFICATIONS**  
**MAX IMAGE** 300 inches  
**CONTRAST** 75,000:1  
**CONNECTIONS** 2x HDMI, VGA, S-video, component, composite



**SONY BRAVIA VPL-HW10**  
 £2,000, WWW.SONY.CO.UK

- 5 PERFORMANCE** With SXR technology and an auto-iris the VPL-HW10 provides impressive definition, clarity and contrast  
**LOVE** Works well from a short distance. A 30,000:1 contrast gives great visuals  
**HATE** You can buy the upgraded VPL-HW15 for the same price. It's a no-brainer

**SPECIFICATIONS**  
**MAX IMAGE** 300 inches  
**CONTRAST** 30,000:1  
**CONNECTIONS** 2x HDMI, VGA, S-video, component, composite



➔ FULL PRODUCT REVIEWS AVAILABLE ONLINE @ **T3.COM/TOP10 THE ULTIMATE BUYER'S GUIDE**

**News... The UK's first 3D projector**

**SO IT'S NOT JUST 3D TVS ON THE WAY IN 2010?**  
 No, projectors are getting in on the action too. Viewsonic's PJD6381 is the first 3D projector to surface. It is expected to collect an NVIDIA 3D Vision certificate by the end of January, so, fingers crossed, it could already be on sale by the time you read this.

**WHAT IS THERE TO GET EXCITED ABOUT?**  
 Apart from the revolutionary 3D tech, it also has an incredibly short throw of 0.68:1, so you can get a 100-inch image by setting it up just four and a half feet away from the screen. One major let-down: it's not high definition. Odd considering its 3D credentials.  
 £689, WWW.VIEWSONIC.COM

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## Sony BD-VE300

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- Up-scales Standard DVD
- 1000W total Power Output
- iPhone / iPod Dock Included

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## Sony BDP-S560

Blu-Ray Disc player with easy Internet features

- Full HD 1080p Video Output via HDMI
- Upscales Standard DVDs
- Wireless Photo Data Streaming
- 24P True Cinema

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**LATEST DEALS & PRICES ONLINE**

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## MEDIA STREAMERS

### 1 WESTERN DIGITAL WDTV

£90, WWW.WDC.COM/EN  
**LOVE** Reasonably cheap and exceedingly easy to use  
**HATE** No internal storage



### 2 APPLE TV

FROM £195, WWW.APPLE.COM/UK  
**LOVE** Attractive Apple interface. Boxee hack  
**HATE** Fiddly PC connection. No official web telly mode



### 3 COMPRO VIDEOMATE T1000

£200, WWW.COMPROUSA.COM  
**LOVE** Downloads media files from BitTorrent. Looks quite dapper  
**HATE** Complex set-up



### 4 XBOX 360 ELITE

£195, WWW.XBOX.CO.UK  
**LOVE** A superb media streamer on top of everything else  
**HATE** It's noisy as hell and the size of a small bungalow



### 5 SLINGCATCHER

£199, UK.SLINGMEDIA.COM  
**LOVE** Quality local streaming. Attaches to just about anything  
**HATE** A bit too bulky for those who prefer travelling light



## BLU-RAY PLAYERS

### 1 SONY DMP-BD760

£400, WWW.SONY.CO.UK  
**LOVE** Built-in Wi-Fi. Great interface. Stunning picture and audio quality. Passable DVD upscaling  
**HATE** Slow disc loading



### 2 PANASONIC DBP-BD80EB

£250, WWW.PANASONIC.CO.UK  
**LOVE** Great video, YouTube access and a useful SD slot  
**HATE** Slow disc loading. User interface is rather archaic



### 3 LG BD370

£220, UK.LGE.COM  
**LOVE** YouTube videos available on tap. Well connected  
**HATE** Slow disc loading. Showing its age a bit



### 4 SAMSUNG BD-P4600

£260, WWW.SAMSUNG.CO.UK  
**LOVE** Smart, original design. Wireless ethernet option. Zippy disc loading  
**HATE** Poor DVD upscaling



### 5 DENON DBP-4010UD

£1,900, WWW.DENON.CO.UK  
**LOVE** Incredibly lifelike picture quality and audiophile sonics  
**HATE** Costs more than the other players in the top five combined



# BLU-RAY HOME CINEMA

One-stop hi-def movie-watching for your living room...

## SONY BDV-IT1000

£1,500, WWW.SONY.CO.UK

**1 PERFORMANCE** With elegant cabinet design and a pair of wireless rear speakers, this Sony Blu-ray system looks high-end. The sound and picture quality impress too. A result all round, then...  
**LOVE** Wireless rear speakers. User-friendly  
**HATE** No iPod dock or media streaming

#### SPECIFICATIONS

**POWER** 700W **CHANNELS** 5.1  
**CONNECTIONS** 2x HDMI in, HDMI out, S-video, component video, composite video, analogue audio, optical audio



## LG HB954PB

£550, UK.LGE.COM

**2 PERFORMANCE** A full 5.1 set-up with Champagne flute-inspired speakers, two HDMI inputs and the added convenience of an iPod dock and YouTube access  
**LOVE** Plenty of HDMI inputs and very impressive sound performance  
**HATE** Design won't be to everyone's taste

#### SPECIFICATIONS

**POWER** 1000W  
**CHANNELS** 5.1  
**CONNECTIONS** 2x HDMI, iPod dock, USB, phono



## PANASONIC SC-BT205

£700, WWW.PANASONIC.CO.UK

**3 PERFORMANCE** The SC-BT205 is crammed with features, including a powerful subwoofer, ethernet connection for BD Live content and YouTube access, and an iPod dock. The video and sound quality don't let the side down either  
**LOVE** Superb video and audio performance  
**HATE** A Blu-ray system with no HDMI inputs? That's a bit of an oversight...

#### SPECIFICATIONS

**POWER** 1000W  
**CHANNELS** 5.1  
**CONNECTIONS** HDMI out, component video, USB, phono, digital audio



## JVC NX-BD3

£600, WWW.JVC.CO.UK

**4 PERFORMANCE** This compact, 2.1 system apes surround sound very effectively and the DLNA media streamer is a useful addition allowing you to grab movies and tunes from your home network  
**LOVE** Believable surround sound mimicry  
**HATE** No BD Live – that's just not on

#### SPECIFICATIONS

**POWER** 420W **CHANNELS** 2.1  
**CONNECTIONS** HDMI, S-video, component video, composite video, Scart



## PIONEER LX01BD

£2,000, WWW.PIONEER.CO.UK

**5 PERFORMANCE** An awesome home cinema centrepiece with stunning performance and a design so stylish that it almost explains that price tag. Almost...  
**LOVE** Superb performance. Simple set-up. Gorgeous style. Lots of HDMI action  
**HATE** Many cables; high price

#### SPECIFICATIONS

**POWER** 400W **CHANNELS** 5.1  
**CONNECTIONS** 2x HDMI in, HDMI out, iPod dock, optical digital audio, stereo audio



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### First look SlingBox Touch Control 100

#### NICE CURVES. TELL ME MORE...

Designed to partner the excellent SlingBox TV streamer, the Sling Touch Control 100 bosses your SlingBox via Wi-Fi, gives access to the web-based SlingGuide EPG on its 4.3-inch capacitive touchscreen and can also be used to control other AV devices via infra-red.

#### COOL, SO I CAN REPLACE ALL MY REMOTES WITH THIS?

We're going to test it as soon as possible but yes, we expect it to work like a universal remote control – a turbo-charged universal remote control that has Wi-Fi to connect via your home network. A launch date is yet to be set but expect to read more about it here soon.

UK.SLINGMEDIA.COM

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HOME CINEMA  
HI-FI  
MOTORS

# BRENNAN JB7

Small enough to pick up with one hand.  
Big enough for a lifetime of music.

## What's the point owning CDs you don't Play?

What's the point in owning hundreds of CDs worth thousands of pounds if you never listen to them? The problem with CDs is that it's quicker to make a cup of coffee than dip into a CD. Try timing how long it takes to pick a CD, load it in the CD player, play a snippet from a track or two, eject it and put it back where it came from. Then there is the problem of finding music. The print on a CD spine is tiny. What if the track is on a compilation CD? What if the CD is in the car? Then there is the clutter. You need to keep your CDs near the player or you won't play them. So you are forced to share your living space with hundreds of cheap plastic boxes. CDs are great but they are also inconvenient, inaccessible and a bit of a chore - that's why Martin Brennan designed the Brennan JB7.

## Good news for CD owners

### British company re-invents the HiFi

*"Mr Brennan you are a genius. The JB7 is truly a wonderful thing. I have only owned mine for two days but already it feels like an old friend. I admire its simplicity of operation, its range of functions, its unobtrusive size, and the quality of sound simply delights me. It's all I could wish for. Thank you. Kind Regards"*



When Martin Brennan designed the Brennan JB7 he threw out the rule book.

The Brennan is a CD player with a hard disk that stores up to 5,000 CDs. It saves space and clutter and delivers near immediate access to an entire music collection. Customers rediscover/fall in love with their music again simply because the Brennan makes it so accessible.

The Brennan also records from vinyl and cassette so you can enjoy your entire music collection but keep it out of the way in another room or retire it to the attic. You can use the JB7 in two ways. You can use it with

loudspeakers or you can play it through your existing HiFi. The Brennan gives names to tracks and albums from a database of 2.6 million CDs as you load each CD. It takes a few minutes to load a CD.

The Brennan has a unique text search facility that shows a reducing number of matches as you press successive letters on the remote control. Once you get the hang of it you can find one track or album out of your entire music collection in a few seconds. So to find "Nessun Dorma" you would press letters "NES" or "DOR" and scroll through the shortlist of matches.

## The face behind Brennan



Martin Brennan

**Martin is a physicist and computer engineer. He has around twenty silicon chips to his name, written over a million lines of computer code and co-designed the world's first 64 bit games computer.**

"I always liked the promise of CDs. It wasn't so much the quality but the quick access to a given track. After vinyl and cassette that was a real plus. My first CD player was a five CD multi changer. My second was a ten CD changer for the car. I liked the idea of quick access to more than one CD and music that didn't repeat after 40 minutes. These players were fine but a bit clunky - there were several seconds of silence between CDs and in the car I could

never find the right CD. A few years ago I had a go at loading my cassette collection onto a PC. Cassettes were obsolete but I owned around 100 and the music on them reflected an important period in my life. I recorded all of the cassettes on to the PC over a period of several weeks. The thing is I never listened to the music on the PC. Somehow using the computer to listen to music never worked out. Maybe the computer was in the wrong place but I think it lacked the immediacy of a physical play button. In the end the computer got a virus and the music files were lost - I still had the cassettes thankfully. The JB7 is really my personal ideal music player".



## Key Points

### Three sizes - up to 5000 CDs

- One button plays the entire collection at random
- Text search finds tracks/ albums/ artists in seconds
- Browse albums by spinning the volume knob
- Display tracks by name as they play
- Load

- CDs in about four minutes
- 2.6 million album database - updated monthly
- Seven rainbow colour coded playlists
- 180 x 32 soft scrolling vacuum fluorescent display
- Segue function blends one track into the next
- One touch record from vinyl, cassette or radio
- Loads and plays MP3 from USB
- Remote control or front panel
- Volume knob pushes to use as a selector
- Delete tracks you don't like
- Clock with alarm
- 60 Watt power amplifier
- 4.8 x 16 x 22 cm steel and aluminium construction
- Small and tough enough if you are on the move
- Used by restaurants, hotels, pubs,

- dentists, schools
- Sold to more than 30 Countries
- Backup music to external USB hard disk for safe keeping
- "Superb" - Gramophone
- "Best Buy" - HiFi Choice
- "Huge fun to use...a great talking point" - Daily Mail
- Choice of colours Navy Blue or Gun Metal
- Optional matching loudspeakers
- Prices from £329

**"Huge fun to use... a great talking point"**  
Daily Mail



To get the whole story and order visit [www.brennan.co.uk](http://www.brennan.co.uk)



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**MUSIC STREAMERS**

**1 SONOS BU150**  
 £699, WWW.SONOS.COM  
**LOVE** Superb sound quality, format support and Wi-Fi reach  
**HATE** No WMA lossless support. It's a long way from cheapness



**2 LOGITECH SQUEEZEBOX DUET**  
 £269, WWW.LOGITECH.CO.UK  
**LOVE** Compact, attractive and NAS compatible  
**HATE** Requires both hi-fi and PC



**3 PHILIPS STREAMIUM NP2900**  
 £250, WWW.PHILIPS.CO.UK  
**LOVE** Immersive sound. Painless set-up. Big screen  
**HATE** Pricier than the Boom



**4 APPLE AIRPORT EXPRESS**  
 £64, WWW.APPLE.COM/UK  
**LOVE** Small, compact and cheap, yet musters up very reasonable audio  
**HATE** "Issues" occur with Windows



**5 LOGITECH SQUEEZEBOX BOOM**  
 £199, WWW.LOGITECH.CO.UK  
**LOVE** Easy set-up. Ace sonics  
**HATE** The screen's too small. Various networking niggles



**HI-FI SYSTEMS**

**1 CAMBRIDGE AUDIO SONATA**  
 £759, WWW.CAMBRIDGEAUDIO.COM  
**LOVE** Massive audio oomph from a compact hi-fi system  
**HATE** The cost of separate units can add up



**2 DENON RCD M37DAB**  
 £300, WWW.DENON.CO.UK  
**LOVE** Classic design and dynamic sound at a more than reasonable price  
**HATE** iPod dock costs extra



**3 CAMBRIDGE AUDIO ONE**  
 £349, WWW.CAMBRIDGEAUDIO.COM  
**LOVE** Decent connectivity and considerably more-than-decent sound  
**HATE** Limited LCD screen



**4 VITA AUDIO R4**  
 £500, WWW.VITAAUDIO.COM  
**LOVE** Lush walnut finish, warm sound and a handy iPod dock. Looks superb  
**HATE** Neither cheap nor lightweight



**5 TEAC REFERENCE SERIES 380**  
 £499, WWW.TEAC.CO.UK  
**LOVE** Audiophile-quality sound with a versatile internet radio perched on top  
**HATE** Hideously dated design



**IPOD DOCKS**

Wring the finest audio possible from your pocket jukebox...

**FATMAN ITUBE CARBON EDITION 2**  
 £270, WWW.FAT-MAN.CO.UK

**1 PERFORMANCE** A true music lover's dock, with great sound and vaguely Soviet industrial looks. Gives compressed digital music a lush analogue makeover  
**LOVE** Excellent audio quality with that warm, valve sound. Great looks and build  
**HATE** Cheap it is not

**SPECIFICATIONS**  
**POWER** 2x 25W  
**CONNECTIONS** 2x phono in, line in, S-video, composite  
**SIZE** 374x205x155mm



**VITA AUDIO R2i**  
 £299, WWW.VITAAUDIO.COM

**2 PERFORMANCE** The same quality audio that's provided by the original R2, but with the added bonus of an iPod dock  
**LOVE** 3D sound processing produces stunning sound. Future-proofing provided by the addition of DAB+  
**HATE** No official iPhone mode

**SPECIFICATIONS**  
**POWER** 20W  
**CONNECTIONS** 2x phono in, 2x line in  
**SIZE** 120x340x185mm



**B&W ZEPPELIN**  
 £390, WWW.BOWERS-WILKINS.CO.UK

**3 PERFORMANCE** The now-legendary Zeppelin may be getting on in tech-terms but it still sounds superb  
**LOVE** Audiophile-grade sound with bags of detail and that Zeppelin design  
**HATE** Could we not have a bit more bass for our dosh next time, please?

**SPECIFICATIONS**  
**POWER** 2x 25W + 1x 50W bass  
**CONNECTIONS** Line in, S-video, composite, USB  
**SIZE** 640x208x198mm



**B&W ZEPPELIN MINI**  
 £299, WWW.BOWERS-WILKINS.CO.UK

**4 PERFORMANCE** A small but perfectly formed mini-me of the Zeppelin (above). Its cradle rotates through 90 degrees to show off album art, and high-end sound processing buffs up MP3 a treat  
**LOVE** Superb sound quality. Handy USB link. Natty, rotating dock  
**HATE** Lacks the wow-factor of the original Zeppelin – oh, the humanity!

**SPECIFICATIONS**  
**POWER** 36W  
**CONNECTIONS** Line in, USB, 3.5mm jack  
**SIZE** 200x320x100mm



**LOGIC 3 VALVE 80 WITH SPEAKERS**  
 £279, WWW.LOGIC3.CO.UK

**5 PERFORMANCE** Logic 3's dock provides plenty of oomph and has plenty of speaker connections. It may "pay homage" to the Fatman, looks-wise, but it's no knock off  
**LOVE** Reasonably-priced Fatman clone with speakers included in the deal  
**HATE** It's not the Fatman

**SPECIFICATIONS**  
**POWER** 2x 40W  
**CONNECTIONS** 2x phono in, S-video, composite  
**SIZE** 152x368x165mm



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**News...  
 Teac launches compact hi-fi**

**LOOKS A BIT OLD SKOOL, DOESN'T IT?**

As we've come to expect from Teac systems, the design of the CR-H258i is reminiscent of a time when hi-fi was for high-earners and bands like Curiosity Killed the Cat were enjoying chart success.

**BUT THE TECH'S MOVED ON, RIGHT?**

Oh yes. The CR-H258i squeezes in DAB, FM and AM radio tuners, a CD player, playback from an SD card or USB stick and iPod docking into a unit that's compact and lightweight. The integrated amp has a combined output of 50W and iPod video footage can transferred to a larger TV screen. How thoroughly modern.

£290, WWW.TEAC.CO.UK

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## MOTORBIKES

**1 APRILLA RSV4 FACTORY**  
£14,999, UK.APRILIA.COM  
**LOVE** Massive V4 power. A single-minded track bike  
**HATE** Madly expensive  
★★★★★



**2 YAMAHA YZF-R1**  
£9,999, WWW.YAMAHA-MOTORS.CO.UK  
**LOVE** Instant injection of power and a Barry White-style engine growl  
**HATE** Poor fuel economy  
★★★★★



**3 BMW K1300R**  
£9,500, WWW.BMW-MOTORRAD.CO.UK  
**LOVE** 175bhp and the option of a quick-shift gearbox  
**HATE** Still not the best-looking thing on two wheels  
★★★★★



**4 TRIUMPH THUNDERBIRD**  
£9,499, WWW.TRIUMPH.CO.UK  
**LOVE** More power than a Harley Davidson and better handling  
**HATE** A tad over-sanitised  
★★★★★



**5 BUELL 1125CR**  
£8,080, WWW.BUELL.CO.UK  
**LOVE** The motor has an indiscreet amount of grunt  
**HATE** Build quality isn't up there with the big brands  
★★★★★



## CARS

**1 KTM X-BOW**  
£34,500, WWW.KTM-X-BOW.COM  
**LOVE** Enormous performance and classic KTM styling  
**HATE** Lacks certain features, like doors and a windscreen  
★★★★★



**2 ASTON MARTIN V12 VANTAGE RS**  
£150,000, WWW.ASTONMARTIN.COM  
**LOVE** Massive V12 power and aircraft-inspired construction  
**HATE** Preposterous cost  
★★★★★



**3 NISSAN GT-R**  
£52,900, WWW.NISSAN.CO.UK  
**LOVE** Obscenely reasonable price. Great performance  
**HATE** Aerodynamic but unfortunate styling  
★★★★★



**4 AUDI R8 V10**  
FROM £99,575, WWW.AUDI.CO.UK  
**LOVE** Flawless handling, exquisite interior and performance  
**HATE** Extremely heavy fuel consumption; green it is not  
★★★★★



**5 TESLA ROADSTER**  
£90,000, WWW.TESLAMOTORS.COM  
**LOVE** Groovy green credentials. Awesome, torquey electric motor. Near-silent driving  
**HATE** Foolish price  
★★★★★



## SATNAVS

Getting you from A to B with minimal palaver

### NAVIGON 7310

£280, WWW.NAVIGON.CO.UK

**1 PERFORMANCE** A very slick GPS device with voice control and 3D maps  
**LOVE** Punchy and bright screen. Voice commands. The 3D view is cool and it's pretty sexy, for a satnav at any rate  
**HATE** Fiddly mount. No multimedia features. Map updates cost extra

**SPECIFICATIONS**  
**SCREEN** 4.3-inch  
**MAPS** Europe  
**SIZE** 115x74x18mm



### TOMTOM GO 940 LIVE

£309 + £8 PER MONTH, UK.TOMTOM.COM

**2 PERFORMANCE** Probably the best satnav you can get, with LIVE services racing you around traffic. However, most drivers will be better off with a less feature-packed, cheaper satnav. Though if you demand the best, regardless of price, this is it  
**LOVE** Very impressive LIVE services. Superb mapping and interface  
**HATE** Expensive, especially with LIVE sub

**SPECIFICATIONS**  
**SCREEN** 4.3-inch  
**MAPS** Europe, US, Canada  
**SIZE** 127x23x85mm



### NAVIGON 4350 MAX

£190, WWW.NAVIGON.CO.UK

**3 PERFORMANCE** Lane guidance and text-to-speech are present, as well as MyRoutes and Clever Parking, that alerts you to the nearest parking spots  
**LOVE** Accurate maps and fast re-routing. Spacious, 4.3-inch screen  
**HATE** Not the easiest to use

**SPECIFICATIONS**  
**SCREEN** 4.3-inch  
**MAPS** Europe  
**SIZE** 119x76x21mm



### TOMTOM XL LIVE

£180 + £8 A MONTH, UK.TOMTOM.COM

**4 PERFORMANCE** The first mid-priced TomTom to include LIVE services the XL LIVE is a joy to use, with fast re-routing  
**LOVE** Great LIVE services and traffic features at a lower cost  
**HATE** No Bluetooth or text-to-speech. Monthly sub increases the cost

**SPECIFICATIONS**  
**SCREEN** 4.3-inch  
**MAPS** UK and Ireland  
**SIZE** 123x82x27mm



### GARMIN NÜVI 765T

£227, WWW.GARMIN.CO.UK

**5 PERFORMANCE** The Nüvi 765T features Lane Assist, hands-free calling, traffic alerts and 3D building views in built-up areas, plus MP3 and audio book playback  
**LOVE** Unrivalled simplicity. Vibrant screen. Quality finish  
**HATE** Map redraw can be jerky

**SPECIFICATIONS**  
**SCREEN** 4.3-inch  
**MAPS** Europe  
**SIZE** 120x760x200mm



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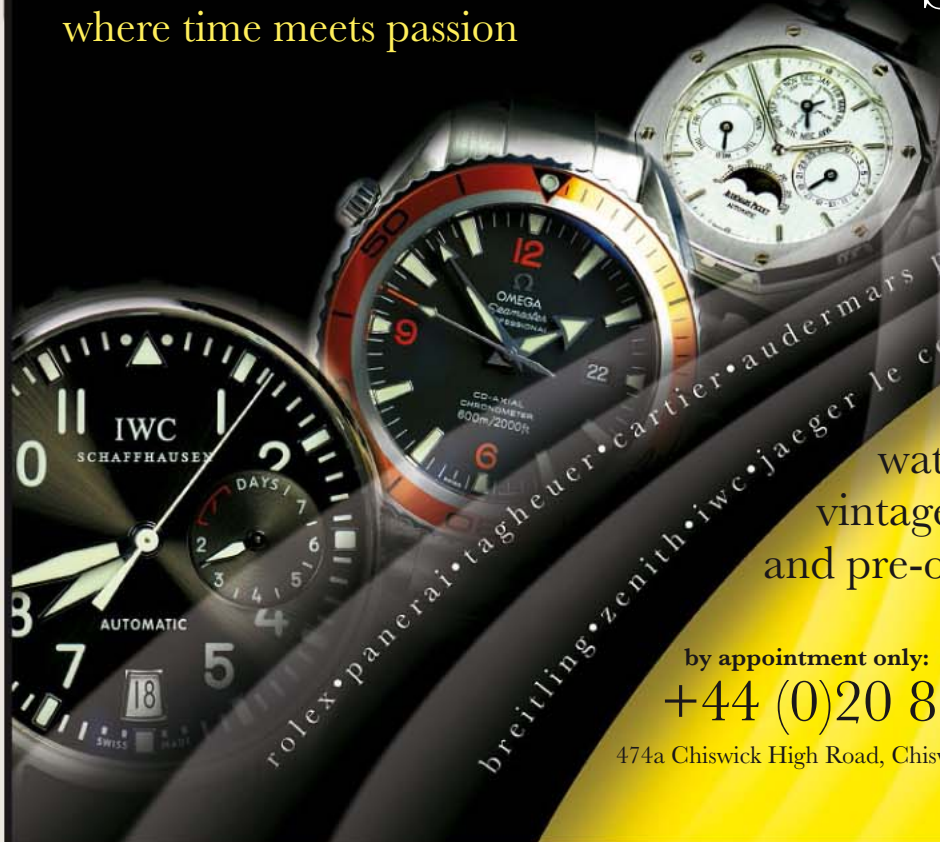
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# 10 LAUNCHES THAT DEFINED CES

Words by **Rob Temple** Illustration by **Neil Webb@Debut Art**



**We're just back from the world's biggest tech show, CES in Las Vegas, with our suitcases full of the must-have gadgets showcased in this issue. Will posterity see them as a match for these, our favourite CES launches of all time?**

## 1970 VIDEO CASSETTE RECORDER

Sony demonstrated a videocassette prototype in October 1969 and then diligently worked on setting up an industry standard with seven fellow manufacturers. In 1971, one year after demonstrating the prototype at CES, Sony unveiled the pioneering U-matic system.

## 1981 CAMCORDERS

First shown at the 1981 CES, the first camcorders from JVC and Sony required a wheelbarrow to move them. In 1983, Sony released the first

consumer camcorder, the Betamovie BMC-100P, which used Betamax cassettes, while JVC showed off the first camcorder to use the VHS-C format.

## 1982 COMMODORE 64

In 1975, Atari's home version of *Pong* was unleashed at CES. Atari's 2600 console subsequently changed the face of gaming forever but it was with the CES unveiling of the eight-bit Commodore 64 in 1982 that things got *really* interesting. With over 10,000 software titles created for it, the C64 was the true dawn of

mass-market gaming. Commodore's Amiga (1984) and Nintendo's world-conquering NES (1985) also subsequently debuted at CES.

## 1996 DVD

Yes, Digital Versatile Disc first shimmered into our lives just 14 years ago. With massively improved visual quality and instant navigation between "chapters" of film, it soon consigned pre-recorded VHS to the khazi of history. The first DVD recorder followed at CES three years later.

## 1998 HDTV

In 1998 the star of CES was the television. Sony, Zenith, Thomson, Panasonic and Philips all showcased HDTV sets, with most being large rear-projection units spanning over 50 inches.

## 2001 MICROSOFT XBOX

During Bill Gates' unveiling of the Xbox in his 2001 keynote speech, wrestler and actor The Rock made an appearance in support of the console, modestly saying: "Both The Rock and Bill Gates are on top of their industries." The Xbox went on to sell millions; The Rock went on to star in *Spy Hunter: Nowhere to Run*, whatever that was.

## 2004 BLU-RAY DISC

Providing a way to get HD movies on your expensive HD-ready TV, Blu-ray discs were unveiled at CES 2004. A short but brutal format war raged between this and the rival HD-DVD format until CES 2008, where Warners announced its exclusive love for Blu-ray, thereby stabbing HD-DVD in the heart and lungs.

## 2005 102-INCH PLASMA TELEVISION

These days you can't move around CES's trade floors without bumping into a ridiculously big television. The trend began in 2005 when Samsung showed off a 102-inch monster plasma.

## 2007 SONY OLED TVS

Three years ago Sony wowed CES audiences with its OLED TV prototypes. With scarily crisp, wafer-thin screens and a million-to-one contrast ratios, they consumed less power than LCDs, but cost more than gold-plated truffles.

## 2009 3D PORN

People first started taking notice of 3D again when porn was showcased in it at CES 2009. At the time we said it was, "a bit too realistic" and we haven't seen any since – honest.



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