

POWER TO GO

If it's freedom you crave, then look no further than these laptops. Ultra-light and compact, they can, and will, fit just about anywhere, making them barely noticeable when tucked under your arm, or in your bag. The road warrior's ultimate tool!



www.apple.com

Apple Powerbook G4

It is truly the discerning user's choice. The aluminium alloy casing is scratch- and stain-resistant, while still maintaining a sleek, sophisticated look. Considering the size of the laptop, the keyboard is large and offers a reassuring response to user input. The built-in DVD-CD/R optical drive performs flawlessly, while the standard PowerPC G4 1.5 GHz processor delivers perfectly. While in normal use, the battery runs about four and a half hours. It also offers the best display of the three systems looked at. The operating system is a dream to work with and a work of art itself.

Disadvantages:

The area under the left palm gets quite hot (the hard drive is placed there). The hard drive is not removable.

Processor Power:	PC G4 1.5GHz
Display:	12in TFT display
Memory:	512 MB DDR SDRAM
Disk Drive:	60 GB
Graphics Processor:	Nvidia Geforce FX Go5200 64 MB
Optical Drive:	Built-in 8x combo drive (plays DVDs – plays and burns CDs)
Wireless:	Built-in Airport Extreme (802.11g wireless)
Bluetooth:	2.0
Ethernet:	10/100 BASE-T
Other:	2 x USB 2.0 2 x Firewire 400 (IEEE 1394a) 56.6 kbps modem
Keyboard:	Full-size standard US
Dimensions:	27.7 x 21.8 x 2.5 cm
Weight:	2 kg (normal use)



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IBM ThinkPad X40

Like its T-series brethren, the X40 sports a rugged matt finish that can handle a lot of punishment. It sports quite a large keyboard with the typical ThinkPad feel, and is comfortable for all size hands. The 12.1-inch TFT displays rich, saturated colours. Its hard drive is removable, so if anything occurs to your laptop, you can keep your hard drive and data with you while it's fixed. There is an embedded LED on the lid which shines on the keyboard for low light situations, which is just plain handy. The battery life is also about four and a half hours of normal use. In such a small package, not much more should be expected.

Disadvantages:

The optical drive is external, and quite bulky at that, which just adds to the amount of stuff you have to carry. The overall design is unglamorous, especially if the extended-life battery is used.

Processor:	Pentium 4 M – 1.2 GHz
Display:	12in TFT display
Memory:	256 MB DDR SDRAM
Disk Drive:	40 GB
Graphics Processor:	Integrated 830 chipset
Optical Drive:	External DVD+CD-RW drive
Wireless:	802.11g wireless
Bluetooth:	1.0
Ethernet:	100/1000 BASE-T
Other:	2 x USB 2.0 56.6 kbps modem
Keyboard:	Full-size Standard US keyboard
Dimensions:	26.9 x 21.1 x 2.8 cm
Weight:	2.1 kg (normal use)



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Dell Latitude X300

Another well-designed product by Dell, the Latitude X300 is host to an impressive package in such a small size (like the other two laptops in this review). It has good quality finishes, although I'm not too crazy about the final colour used. The keys are well spaced out and click resolutely. The TrackPad offers a nice tactile feel, and the buttons (as in mouse buttons) have an interesting non-skid texture. It comes with a built-in DVD-ROM/CD-RW drive, a real breath of fresh air in these compact systems.

Disadvantages:

It doesn't offer Bluetooth, which is curious, since the laptop itself is geared towards the mobile user. The battery life is not very impressive, lasting only three hours in normal use.

Processor:	Pentium 4 M – 1.4 GHz
Display:	12in TFT display
Memory:	512 MB DDR SDRAM
Disk Drive:	40 GB
Graphics Processor:	Integrated 855 GM screen card
Optical Drive:	Internal DVD+CD-RW drive
Wireless:	802.11g wireless
Ethernet:	100/1000 BASE-T
Other:	2 x USB 2.0 2 x Firewire 400 (IEEE 1394a) 56.6 kbps modem
Keyboard:	Full-size Standard US keyboard
Dimensions:	26.9 x 21.1 x 2.8 cm
Weight:	1.9 kg (normal use)

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