| | Editors' Top Picks by Wendy Taylor | | | | |
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| | Category | Top Pick | The Buzz | The Stats | Issue Reviewed |
| Systems | High- Performance Pentium PC | Gateway P5-120 | A rocket disguised as a PC. EDO memory gives this 120MHz Pentium its edge. | $4,199, 120MHz Pentium, 16MB RAM, 1.62GB hard drive. | See page 62. |
| | Pricewise Desktop PC | Polywell Poly 590P3 | 120MHz Pentiums are here, and P6s are in the wings; 90MHz systems hit the sweet spot. | $3,180, 90MHz Pentium, 16MB RAM, 540MB hard drive. | See February, page 136. |
| Portables | Portable Desktop Replacement | Toshiba Satellite T1250CD | The award-winning Portege design finally migrates to the Satellite line-- CD-ROM drive in tow. | $4,899, 75MHz 486DX4, 8MB RAM, 500MB hard drive. | See April, page 58. |
| | Lightweight Traveling Companion | IBM ThinkPad 701C | Better than George Jetson's car-- the full-sized "butterfly" keyboard fans out when you open the case. | $5,149, 50MHz 486DX2, 8MB RAM, 510MB hard drive. | See March, page 56. |
| | Low-Cost Color Portable | Dell Latitude XP 4100CX | Survived our annual torture tests and our Usability Labs. And how about | $2,299 to $4,199, 100MHz DX4. | See January, page 124. |
| Printers | Desktop Laser | HP LaserJet 5P | that 4.5-hour battery life? It's small, affordable, and prints brilliantly. Plus, who needs cables? | $850, 6 ppm, 600 dpi, PCL5 (PostScript optional), infrared port | See page 37. |
| | Network Laser | HP LaserJet 4Si MX | You can beam jobs to the infrared port. Pages sail out so fast that you won't even mind sharing it. | $4,249, 17 ppm, 600 dpi, PCL5, PostScript Level 2. | See December 1994, page 134. |
| | Portable Printer | Citizen PN60 | Less ballast in your briefcase than an umbrella, and the pages look great too. | $365, 300-dpi thermal fusion, 2.25 pounds, 2 ppm. | See February, Page 64. |
| | Personal Color Printer | Epson Stylus Color | Knock-your-socks-off color that could pass for laser--at a fraction of the cost. | $529, 720 by 720 dpi, ink jet. | See October 1994, page 58. |
| Video | Monitor | Nanao FlexScan T2*20 | One look and there's no going back. Besides, it pays for itself in just a few months in improved usability. | $1,041 to $1,339 (17 inch), $1,990 (20 inch). | See January, page 88. |
| | Graphics Accelerator | Matrox MGA Impression Lite | The 128-bit Imagine from Number Nine is faster, but we'll take the Impression for its 3-D features. | $299, 2MB VRAM, 1,280 by 1,024 at 76Hz, PCI interface. | See February, page 70. |
| Storage | High-Capacity Hard Drive | Western Digital Caviar AC 31600 | Be greedy. At under 37 cents per megabyte, why not get two? | $600, 1.62GB, enhanced IDE, 9ms. | See page 62. |
| | CD-ROM Drive | NEC MultiSpin 4Xe | The fastest quad-speed around. Look for prices to drop into the $200 range as 6X drives arrive. | $415 internal, $515 external, plus $80 for interface kit. | See March, page 74. |
| Peripherals | Color Scanner | Canon IX-4015 | Throw the paper onto the glass, press the Autoscan button, and you're done. | $849, 400 by 800 dpi, 24-bit color, Ofoto software. | See December 1994, page 152. |
| | Sound Card | Sound Blaster Awe 32 | Sound so real it will make your teeth shake. Works with anything from Windows to Doom. | $299, wavetable synthesis, 16-bit programmable DSP. | See December 1994, page 148. |
| | High-Speed Fax Modem | U.S. Robotics Courier V.Everything | Connects to everything but alien spacestations at 28.8Kbps. | $399, V.32, V.32terbo, V.34, V.Fast Class, flash ROM upgradable. | See December 1994, page 154. |
| Desktop Apps | Software Suite | WordPerfect PerfectOffice 3.0 | Runs nose to nose with Microsoft Office, but the cross-application integration is better. | $659, 25MHz 386 or faster, 8MB RAM, 40MB hard drive. | See November 1994, page 85. |

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| | Word Processor | WordPerfect 6.1 | More features and you might get hurt. | $249, 386 or faster, 6MB to 8MB RAM, 28MB hard drive. | See December 1994, page 160. |
| | Spreadsheet | Microsoft Excel 5.0 | You won't go wrong with Quattro Pro or 1-2-3 for Windows, but usability extras make Excel our top pick. | $320, 386 or faster, Windows 3.1, 4MB RAM, 20MB hard disk. | See December 1994, page 168. |
| | Database | Lotus Approach 3.0 | Throw anything in it, any way you like--no programming required. Usability approved. | $329, 386 or faster, 4MB RAM, 8.5MB hard disk. | See March, page 146. |
| Graphics | Presentation Graphics | Microsoft PowerPoint 4.0 | Makes you feel like a pro every time you use it, even if you load it only a few times a year. | $300, 386 or faster, 4MB RAM (8MB recommended). | See December 1994, page 178. |
| | Personal Desktop Publisher | Microsoft Publisher 2.0 | The usability champ; turns any PC into a vanity press. | $89, 386 or faster, Windows 3.1, 4MB RAM, 3MB hard disk. | See December 1994, page 163. |
| | Professional Desktop Publisher | QuarkXPress 3.3 for Windows | Industrial-strength page layout and design with tight typography and color control. | $570, 486 or faster, 8MB RAM, 15MB hard disk. | See December 1994, page 163. |
| | Business Graphics | Shapeware Visio 3.0 | Click, drag, done. | $125, 386 or faster, Windows 3.1, 4MB | See December 1994, page 205. |
| | Drawing and Illustration | CorelDraw 5 | Draw, edit, print, and present with this all-in-one graphics tool kit. | $500, Windows 3.1, 4MB RAM, CD-ROM drive. | See December 1994, page 205. |
| Finance | Personal Finance | Intuit Quicken 4 Deluxe for Windows | Find out what that cup of coffee and muffin every morning is costing you over the long haul. | $60; 386 or faster, 4MB RAM, 7MB hard disk. | See April, page 186. |
| | Business Accounting | Peachtree Accounting 3.0 for Windows | The least offensive CPA we've ever met. Coming soon: a CD edition with a Web browser. | $139, 386 or faster, 4MB RAM, 7MB hard disk. | See October 1994, page 88. |
| Communications | Communications Software | Delrina Communications Suite 2.1 | One-button fax and modem control--WinFax Pro 4.0, WinComm Pro, and great I-Way support. | $109, 486 or faster, 4MB RAM, 10.5MB hard disk. | See January, page 126. |
| | Web Browser | Netscape Navigator | What are you waiting for? Download a copy from ftp.mcom.com. | Free ($39 commercial version), Windows 3.1, 4MB RAM. | See April, page 52. |
| Organization Tools | Project Manager | Primavera Systems SureTrak Project Manager | Take charge. Keep your projects on time and under budget. | $299, 386 or faster, Windows 3.1, 4MB RAM, 11MB hard disk. | See March, page 80. |
| | Personal Information Manager | Lotus Organizer 2.0 | Not just for people who iron their underwear. | $119, 386 or faster, Windows 3.1, 8MB hard disk. | See February, page 118. |
| | System Utility | Vertisoft Systems Remove-It | Take back your hard drive. Reclaim megabytes from disk-hogging fonts, orphan DLLs, and other file flotsam. | $39, 386 or faster, 2MB RAM, 2MB hard disk. | See March, page 84. |
| | Reference | Microsoft Bookshelf 1995 | "There is no distinctly native American criminal class except Congress." Who said it? Look it up. | $79, 386 or faster, Windows 3.1, CD-ROM drive, 30MB hard disk. | See December 1994, page 206. |