

## Kingston's Data Traveller II Plus Migo Edition

### Working Was Never Easier

Here's an easier way to carry your work—the Kingston Data Traveller II plus migo edition. The concept of this USB 2.0 Flash Drive is to store your PC's settings and then give you the freedom to work on different computers in different locations, using your own machine's Microsoft Outlook contents, Internet Explorer settings, favourites and history, plus your files and folders.

The 'Main Computer' is the primary computer on which you would normally save most of your files and a 'Guest Computer' is any other desktop or laptop that you would temporarily access. The whole idea is to personalise the Guest Computer to look and feel like your Main Computer. All this is possible thanks to the implementation of 'migo'.

Migo helps you synchronise the Main Computer into the Flash drive, and then allows the customising of a Guest Computer to look like your desktop. Migo also saves your Internet Explorer settings, Microsoft Outlook contents, Desktop settings, and of any other file.

Kingston also provides software known as the SecureTraveller, which is a configuration utility program

that works on Windows, allowing users to set up a public and a password protected privacy zone within the Flash drive. The privacy zone is invisible to Windows, and it can only be accessed by entering a password. It therefore provides powerful data security for home and office use.

On the 512 MB version we tested, transfer of 100 MB of assorted files and a single file was timed at

15 seconds and 6 seconds respectively. Results of the SiSoft Sandra test were also positive, with sequential read and write speeds of 26 Mbps and 19 Mbps respectively.

All in all, the DataTraveller II plus is a fast USB Flash drive that offers data-securing capabilities and the option to synchronise your data with any Windows-based machine

anywhere in the world.

Company **A A Infoways**

Price **Rs 2500 (for 512 MB)**

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Web site **www.kingston.com/asia**

Rating



# New & Notable

## Sony PlayStation2

### Gamers Rejoice!

Unlike in most parts of the world, console gaming is still in its infancy in India. It has been limited to Nintendo clones such as the Little Master, which were popular in the early '90s.

With Sony and Microsoft having launched their respective consoles last year, it was time for a change! Since the launch of the PlayStation in the US and Japan back in 2000, Sony has sold an astounding 90 million units.

The PlayStation2 is an incredibly slim-and-slick black box. There's an Ethernet port for games, which supports online multiplayer gaming. It has two memory card slots to save game states and configurations. But Sony's decision to stick with Magic Gate (its proprietary data encryption technology) is irritating, as it prevents you from using any standard memory card format with the console.

The PS2 can even play PS1 games, and doubles up as a CD/DVD player. And the Dolby Digital surround sound support will foil an enemy soldier's attempt to take you by surprise from behind!

At the heart of the PS2 lies the powerful Emotion Engine, a 128-bit CPU with integrated graphics processing capabilities. Sony designed this souped-up rig keeping in mind its primary function of simulating 3D environments. We played a few games on it and were totally floored—menu

backgrounds are incredibly dynamic, simulated fog looks like the real thing, transparency effects are invoked regularly, human faces are life-like, and Batman's cape casts an unearthly shadow.

The PS2's massive game library includes such best-selling titles as *Tony Hawk Pro Skater*,

*Grand Theft Auto*, *Final Fantasy*,

*Burnout* and *Metal Gear Solid*. Titles such as the genre-defining *Gran Turismo 4* (700 different cars ranging from Ford Model T to Nissan Skyline, over 50 racetracks, and real-life physics) and the *Katamari Damacy* have catapulted the PS2 to the top of a gamer's wish-list.

Sadly, Sony doesn't include a memory card, a second controller or a game with the package. While the PS2 is available in the US for as low as \$130 (Rs 5,850), it's selling in India for almost double that price. And with the next generation of consoles—the Xbox 360 and the PS3—only months away, this price is not justified.

Company **Milestone Interactive Software Ltd**

Price **Rs 12,990**

Phone **022-2820 3319**

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Web site **www.sony.com**

Rating



## MSI Sky Talk

### A Wire-Free Existence

Bluetooth, a feature earlier available only in high-end mobile phones and PDAs, has now made its way to mid-range models as well. More users want Bluetooth-enabled phones to transfer data and images, synchronise contacts and install applications on their devices wirelessly.

MSI Sky Talk is an all-in-one solution for such users. Its Bluetooth headset and USB dongle let you use your Bluetooth phone the way it should be used—sans wires. The headset has a main button and volume controls. There are three options to charge the internal rechargeable battery—the power adaptor, the USB cable, and the car adaptor.

A blinking LED on the front indicates various status modes—'standby', 'pairing', 'charging', 'battery low', and so on. Once paired, you can accept and reject calls, redial the last dialled number, and even voice-dial (if your phone supports it)—all from the headset itself.

We paired the headset with a few phones and found the device rather decent in terms of voice clarity, range, and battery life. The USB dongle confirms to Bluetooth v1.1. You just need to plug it into a PC or notebook, install the drivers, and voilà—you're ready to live the wire-free life!



Company **Micro-Star International**

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Web site **www.msi-india.com**

Rating



## Wipro LittleGenius Ultra Slim WLGCPU SL

The LittleGenius WLGCPU SL is part of Wipro's Ultra Slim range of notebook PCs—it weighs 1.35 kg and is 27 mm thick. Based on the Centrino Mobile technology, it is powered by an Intel Pentium M 1600 MHz processor with 256 MB of DDR RAM. It has a 12.1-inch monitor with a resolution of 1024 x 768. There's an external combo drive, which, quite unusually, is a top loading drive.

Connectivity options for the WLGCPU SL include three USB 2.0 ports and a high-speed FireWire port.

There's a slot for PCMCIA Type II cards.

There's no Bluetooth or infrared, but there is Wi-Fi b+g and a 10/100 LAN with a standard 56 Kbps modem. Its memory card reader supports SD, MS and MMC cards.

In the ZD-Bench Business Winstone 2004 test, it scored 16.4—an ordinary score for a laptop. In the battery life test, it lasted an hour and 34 minutes. Although bundled with Windows XP Professional SP2, eTrust Anti-Virus, Nero Burning ROM and Unistal Data Recovery software, the Rs 84,990 price tag will make buyers think twice.

Company **Wipro Limited**

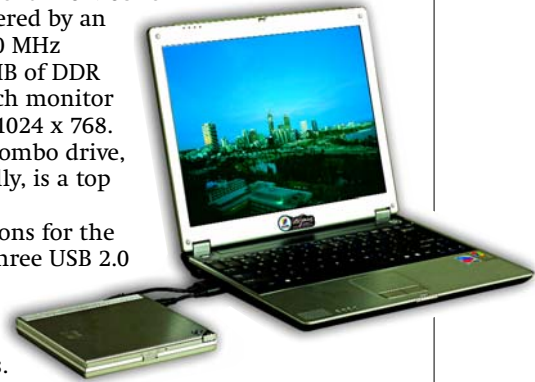
Price **Rs 84,990**

Phone **1600 3453312**

E-mail **littlegenius@wipro.com**

Web site **www.wipro.co.in**

Rating



## Philips PET710 Portable DVD Player

### Calling All Movie Buffs!

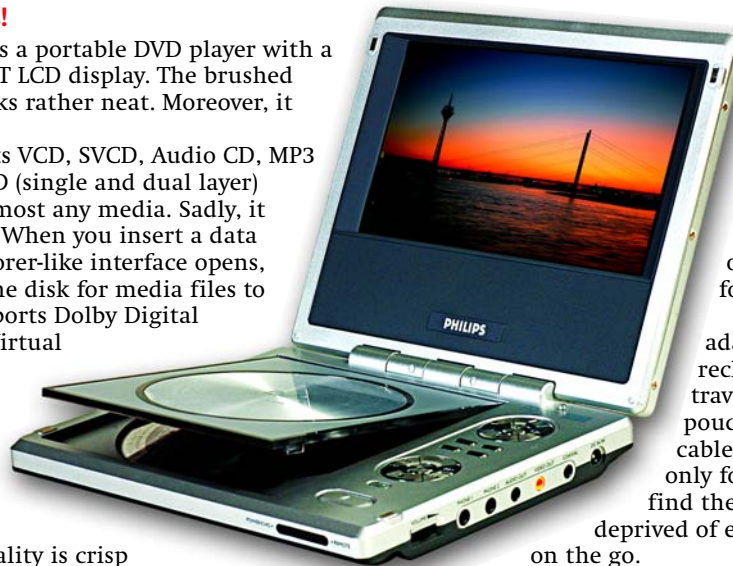
The Philips PET710 is a portable DVD player with a seven-inch wide TFT LCD display. The brushed aluminium finish looks rather neat. Moreover, it weighs just 0.8 kg.

The player supports VCD, SVCD, Audio CD, MP3 CD, Photo CD and DVD (single and dual layer) formats burned on almost any media. Sadly, it doesn't support DivX. When you insert a data disk, a Windows Explorer-like interface opens, and you can browse the disk for media files to play. Moreover, it supports Dolby Digital audio in addition to Virtual Surround sound.

A full-function remote control is also provided; however, the buttons are a bit too stiff and hard on the fingers.

The LCD image quality is crisp and bright. One thing we noticed is that it is fairly viewable even when used outdoors. The speakers, though, sounded tinny and produced all treble and no bass!

The unit functions as a regular DVD player when connected to a TV with the TV-out and audio-out using the supplied cables. There is even a digital coaxial audio-out, and dual headphone jacks so you can connect two headphones simultaneously.



This DVD player can be powered using the bundled power adaptor or a rechargeable Li-ion battery. When we tested it, the battery lasted three and a half hours, which surpassed the battery life claimed by the manufacturer by a good one hour. More than enough for any movie out there!

The PET710 comes with a car adaptor in case you wish to recharge and view it while travelling. It comes with a leather pouch along with all the necessary cables. Retailing at Rs 19,990, it is only for serious movie buffs who find themselves crippled when deprived of entertainment even when on the go.

Company **Philips Electronics India Limited**

Price **Rs 19,990**

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Rating



**Sony PlayStation Portable**

**Gaming On The Go!**

The moment you hold this marvel in your hands, you're struck by the large screen and glossy black exterior. Measuring 17 x 7.4 x 2.3 cm and weighing just 280 gm, the PSP is a tad bulky and not really convenient for carrying around in your trouser pocket! The screen apart, the front panel sports directional buttons, with an analogue stick on the left and four control buttons on the right.

The tiny stereo speakers are placed at the bottom edges of the screen, but we'd advise you to use the bundled earphones for better audio.

Below the speakers, you'll find smaller buttons for 'Home', volume, screen brightness, 'Sound', 'Select' and 'Start'.

The left and right trigger buttons are placed on either side at the top. Made of clear plastic, they look part of the design, and it takes a while to realise they're buttons!

A power-cum-hold switch is placed on the right whereas the Wi-Fi switch is located on the left of the device. Yes, it has 802.11b wireless integrated, which lets you play multiplayer games with another PSP! You can find the mini-USB connector and an eject button for the UMD slot on the top as well.

Apart from playing games, you can use the PSP to watch videos (MPEG-4 format), view images and listen to MP3s. It has an MS Duo Pro card slot. A 32 MB card is included with the package but is hardly enough to store anything substantial. The memory card is also used to store game



data such as user preferences, saved games and more. The 4.3-inch widescreen LCD can display 16.77 million colours, and is easily the best feature of the device.

The playing experience is amazing and the PSP feels perfectly balanced when held in both hands in the playing position. It also uses the proprietary 1.8GB Universal Media Disk (UMD) on which more games and now, even movies are available. These mini disks are enclosed in a plastic casing inserted in the UMD drive at the top rear. We tried a few sample games including the *Ridge Racer*—its great graphics and immersive soundtrack kept us at it for hours.

The PSP is powered by a user replaceable 1800 mAh Li-ion battery that can be charged using the bundled AC adaptor. You can expect about three hours of continuous gameplay, depending upon the screen brightness and audio levels.

Overall, the PSP is a great device for portable gaming, but does not excel as a multimedia player. The high cost of the device and UMD disks may deter many buyers, except for the hardcore gamers.

Company **Milestone Interactive Software Ltd**  
 Price **Rs 19,990 (Games on UMD - Rs 2999)**  
 Phone **022-2820 3319**  
 E-mail **sales@milestoneinteractive.com**  
 Web site **www.sony.com**  
 Rating



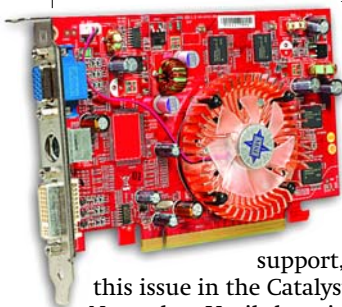
**MSI RX1300 Pro 256 MB**

Finally, ATI has brought out a graphics card supporting the Shader Model 3.0. The RX1300 Pro is based on the budget-oriented X1300, part of the new 1XK series. Manufactured using the 90 nm fabrication process, it has an entirely new architecture. ATI has implemented Ultra-Threading technology, which distributes the workload efficiently among numerous shaders.

It is CrossFire (a multi-GPU system) ready, just in case your hunger for graphics happens to grow. It also has the AVIVO display platform, which improves video playback quality.

In *Doom 3*, it scored just over half of what a GeForce 6600 scores. In *FarCry*, it came close to the GeForce 6600. But in *3DMark05*, the RX1300 finally outgunned the GeForce 6600, scoring 2,598.

ATI has had weak OpenGL support, but it has promised to address this issue in the Catalyst 5.11 drivers, due for release this November. Until then, it is best to wait and watch if this hot new card will really be the GeForce 6600 killer.



Company **Micro-Star International**  
 Price **Rs 8,000**  
 Phone **011-51758808**  
 E-mail **info@msi-india.com**  
 Web site **www.msi-india.com**  
 Rating



**ACi Securezza**

**In The Name Of Security**

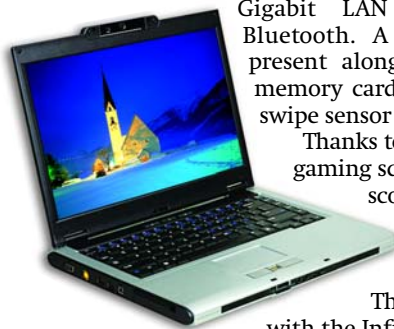
The Securezza from ACi is a business laptop targeted at the security-conscious. Inside lies an Intel Pentium M 2.0 GHz, 512 MB of 333 MHz DDR RAM, and a 60 GB hard drive.

The 14-inch widescreen display supports 1280 x 768. On the connectivity front, there's high-speed Wi-Fi IEEE 802.11 b+g, a Gigabit LAN port, and integrated Bluetooth. A PCMCIA Type-II slot is present along with a slot for an SD memory card. It also has a fingerprint swipe sensor and a swivel camera!

Thanks to the GeForce 6400 Go, the gaming scores were high. It also scored well in ZD-Bench Business Winstone 2004.

The battery, however, lasted only 98 minutes.

The notebook comes loaded with the Infineon Security Platform Solution software, a comprehensive toolset that provides additional security to this TCG (Trusted Computing Group) compliant laptop.



Company **Allied Computer International (Asia) Pvt. Ltd.**  
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 Rating



