
Subject: MacBook Pro- advise needed.
Posted by [emarenot](#) on Sun, 18 Nov 2007 14:40:01 GMT
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This is a multi-part message in MIME format.

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Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

I'm just askin', and I'd rather get the info from you guys than a sales-person. Anyhow, this is a serious bunch of questions. Worlds hang in the balance ;-). A friend of mine is considering buying a Mac Book Pro with the following specs

Apple MacBook Pro Notebook Computer Features:
15" widescreen display
..2GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
667MHz frontside bus and main memory
2GB 667MHz DDR2 SDRAM
PCI Express architecture
120GB 5400rpm Serial ATA hard drive
NVIDIA GeForce 8600M GT graphics controller
ExpressCard/34 slot
One FireWire 400 port, one FireWire 800 port, two USB 2.0 ports
Slot-loading SuperDrive
Mac OS X Tiger

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Subject: Re: MacBook Pro- advise needed.
Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Sun, 18 Nov 2007 16:28:27 GMT
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I decided to wait until Macworld Expo in early January to get a laptop to see what is announced. But that's mostly because the 17" doesn't have LED backlighting yet. The 15" already has LED backlighting.

I presume you mean the 2.2GHZ Core 2 Duo. That should be plenty fast and is the most affordable Macbook Pro. The 2.2 implies a 128MB graphics card, the smallest currently offered. That's still plenty for almost all uses including audio. I'd go for the 256 option myself (or larger if available when I buy) only because I use Apple's Motion compositing/FX software and some animation software which would benefit from more graphics RAM.

MacOSX Tiger (10.4) is one version back, the current version of OSX is Leopard (10.5). Tiger is fine, I still use it for now, but he should make sure he gets update disks to leopard included with the purchase if it's a new machine. Otherwise it's an extra \$130 for Leopard (discounts available at Amazon and elsewhere).

An external drive should work fine for audio. Choices are Firewire, USB 2 or a SATA interface card via the card slot. SATA would be fastest but depending on his needs FW or USB may be fine.

I HAVE heard of someone pulling out the optical drive and replacing it with a second internal hard drive. He might check into that. Probably not easy though.

I don't think the HD is user-replacable on the Macbook Pro, although it IS user-replacable on the Macbook. I hope they add that to the MBP in January (I have no evidence they will, just a hope). Despite it not being as easy as the Macbook, some people HAVE replaced their own HD in the MBP - google it, there are probably instructions.

RAM is easily user-replacable on all Mac laptops. Apple's RAM is overpriced. If he wants to max it out at 4GB he can buy a couple of 2GB sticks from crucial or another reputable supplier and save hundreds.

The current laptops and those one generation back are often available as refurbs at the online Apple store if he wants to save a couple of bucks, or discounted at Amazon or a few other dealers. If he's a student or teacher there are educational discounts.

For even more savings at the same CPU speed, the regular Macbook is another option. Pros: more compact; the HD IS user replacable; and it can take the same maximum 4GB of RAM. The MacBook was just updated within the last month or so. Cons: no expansion card slot; I think the firewire is 400 not 800 (note: I use FW400 on my G5 for my FW audio interface and it's fine); slightly smaller screen; no LED backlighting yet; slower integrated graphics system (which may not matter much for most people, it's still pretty fast for general use).

I can't answer the MBox and Live questions, other than they ought to work fine, as should other interfaces and Mac audio software. It will probably come with Garage Band which can do light duty recording out of the box.

FWIW the MOTU 828MII firewire interface has worked well on my G5, and my wife has been liking the TC Konnekt 8 firewire interface on her G4 Macbook.

Cheers,
-Jamie
www.JamieKrutz.com

Mike R. wrote:

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Subject: Re: MacBook Pro- advise needed.
Posted by [Chris Ludwig](#) on Sun, 18 Nov 2007 16:51:10 GMT
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- > 15" widescreen display
- > .2GHz Intel Core 2 Duo

Is it a refurb or used? Apple has only offered 2.2ghz as the smallest CPU choice for a few months now.

- > 667MHz frontside bus and main memory
- > 2GB 667MHz DDR2 SDRAM
- > PCI Express architecture
- > 120GB 5400rpm Serial ATA hard drive

I would get the 160 gig 7200 gig drive. Depending on how large is projects are it may keep him from dragging around an external drive.

- > NVIDIA GeForce 8600M GT graphics controller
- > ExpressCard/34 slot
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The current models are coming with Tiger installed and separate Leopard disks. Not sure how much longer they will be doing that before just installing Leopard.

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- > some sort of tower configuration.

He will have too much stuff to bring around if he is just going back and forth to friends houses. Laptops are alot faster now. The hard drive is the only thing now that is slower than the the equivalent desktop.

- > Is this true for macbooks, or are they more accessable?)

Mac Book Pros are no different than PC laptops at this point. Made at the same factory.

Here is a list of stuff that has to be repaired at an authorized Repair center or at Apple.

Monitor

Motherboard, this includes usb,firewire, nic, express slot, video out and video card.

keyboard

touch pad

Here are the field replaceable/upgradeable internal parts-

hard drive

ram

dvd drive

- > Can this thing be loaded with a second drive or do you have to use an

> external HD? If so, what's fast enough to do audio production? I'm so
> used to setting up internal drives and only using external drives for
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External only but the internal drives are gonna be fast enough for most things as long as it is a 7200 rpm one.

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\$500.00 range I would go for a MOTU Ultralite. Most all of the cheaper units from Presonus, Focusrite don't have very good low latency performance. I would test the MBox with the laptop and if it works just bring that around instead of buying a 2nd one.

Oh and get the Apple Care Plan. You barely have any warranty otherwise..

The above configuration can have 4 gigs of ram for only \$100 extra when you get it from us. :)

<http://www.adkproaudio.com/apple.cfm>

Chris

--

Chris Ludwig

ADK

chrisl@adkproaudio.com <<mailto:chrisl@adkproaudio.com>>

www.adkproaudio.com <<http://www.adkproaudio.com/>>

(859) 635-5762

Subject: Re: MacBook Pro- advise needed.

Posted by [emaren0t](#) on Sun, 18 Nov 2007 18:09:19 GMT

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Thanks for the feedback Jamie. Whichever way this guy goes, he's going to be a very happy camper. Old guitar hound just getting into digital recording and his eyes are popping out of his head!

MR

"Jamie K" <Meta@Dimensional.com> wrote in message <news:47406951@linux...>

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Posted by [emarenot](#) on Sun, 18 Nov 2007 18:10:32 GMT

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Thanks Chris. Just sent an email via your website. ADK has grown, wow!

MR

"Chris Ludwig" <chrisl@adkproaudio.com> wrote in message
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> <http://www.adkproaudio.com/apple.cfm>
>
>
> Chris
>
>
>
>
> --
> Chris Ludwig
> ADK
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> (859) 635-5762
