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Subject: Can some one give me some Laptop recommendations?

Posted by [Rod Lincoln](#) on Mon, 08 Dec 2008 17:16:47 GMT

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I've mentioned this before, but never got around to getting a laptop computer.

I'm going to get one now. I'm looking for advice on what to get.

I'll be using it for transportable audio production. Running Cubase, stylus, reason, etc. I'll probably want to put protocols le on it. (I had to borrow a friends laptop with protocols a couple times recently to shlep some protocols sessions into Paris. Cost is not the biggest issue, but would obviously rather pay less, instead of more, if I can.

Thanks

Rod

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Subject: Re: Can some one give me some Laptop recommendations?

Posted by [JeffH](#) on Mon, 08 Dec 2008 17:56:51 GMT

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Rod,

What kind of interface are you going to be running (pc card, expresss car,d Firewire, usb?) THat will probably affect the recommendations.

Jeff

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> pay less, instead of more, if I can.

> Thanks

> Rod

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Subject: Re: Can some one give me some Laptop recommendations?

Posted by [Rod Lincoln](#) on Mon, 08 Dec 2008 20:14:19 GMT

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Don't know. I guess I need some advice on that also.

Rod

Jeff Hoover <jkhoover@excite.com> wrote:

>Rod,

>

>What kind of interface are you going to be running (pc card, expresss

>car,d Firewire, usb?) THat will probably affect the recommendations.

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>Jeff  
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>> pay less, instead of more, if I can.  
>> Thanks  
>> Rod

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Subject: Re: Can some one give me some Laptop recommendations?  
Posted by [Chris Ludwig](#) on Mon, 08 Dec 2008 20:53:51 GMT  
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Hi Rod,

You picked a hard time to get into laptops if your buying a new one.\nAlmost all the sub \$2000 laptops on the PC side are sporting the new GM45 Montevina platform chip set. Which has excellent performance but is having allot of compatibility issues with express slot and fire wire devices. Intel for what ever reason didn't find it necessary to allow for firewire to be part of the spec so most all of shell manufacturers do not have on board FW. If they do it will tend to be a J-micron, Ricoh or Agere all of which either have performances issues or don't work at all for audio devices. You will see that same thing happening on the Apple side with the new 15" MAC Book Pro and the MAC Books. People are already reporting firewire issues with them and are now waiting companies to have to rework there drivers again and again every time Apple releases a new laptop. Currently the 17" MAC Book pro is still the "old" technology so it has TI firewire and a more compatible chip set so seems to be working fine.

We are still researching lower priced laptops sense all the shell makers discontinue "last years" model with out any warning lately. Currently only the 17" models we sell have compatible FW and cpu chip sets. We haven't found any 15" or smaller models that work well in our opinion for audio use. Tested about 15 laptop models so far with no luck...

If your want a 15: or smaller I would recommend trying to find "last years" tech. For a 17" then there still a bunch for good choices for PC and MAC.

With any of the laptop you would want to insist on the following things to reduce compatibility issues.  
Intel chip set and CPU, Texas Instruments or Via firewire only. Non-Integrated graphics (i.e.,

shared memory).

Integrated graphics is hard to avoid on budget laptops so if you have no choice go for the NVidia based ones not the Intel Graphics ones.

Chris

Rod Lincoln wrote:

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> pay less, instead of more, if I can.  
> Thanks  
> Rod

--

Chris Ludwig

ADK Pro Audio  
(859) 635-5762  
www.adkproaudio.com  
chrisl@adkproaudio.com

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Subject: Re: Can some one give me some Laptop recommendations?

Posted by [Rod Lincoln](#) on Mon, 08 Dec 2008 23:30:04 GMT

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>You picked a hard time to get into laptops if your buying a new one.\nWould it be a good or bad idea to look at the used market? (ebay etc)\nWhat about vista? do I want to avoid that, and go with XP?  
>For a 17" then there still a bunch for good choices for PC and MAC.\nI don't necessarily want a 15, so what would be good in a 17?  
Probably a PC, but I'm not apposed to a mac either. Since my home and audio\ncomps are PC, I was thinking it would be a better fit to go with PC as far\nas compatibility.

Thanks  
Rod

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Subject: Re: Can some one give me some Laptop recommendations?

Posted by [Chris Ludwig](#) on Tue, 09 Dec 2008 05:38:06 GMT

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Hi Rod,

Rod Lincoln wrote:

>> You picked a hard time to get into laptops if your buying a new one.\  
> Would it be a good or bad idea to look at the used market? (ebay etc)  
maybe but no warranty unless its a refurb. warranties tend to be more  
likely to be used on laptop.

> What about vista? do I want to avoid that, and go with XP?

Vista if it is business or ultimate are fine but you are still subject  
to the same issues of bad hardware and bad drivers.

>> For a 17" then there still a bunch for good choices for PC and MAC.

> I don't necessarily want a 15, so what would be good in a 17?

The Clevo based we and other sell are excellent.

From us the the 8500SR and the 9000 SR models are the best performers.

The 9000 especially is extremely powerful. It can use a desktop Quad  
core CPU, up to 8 gigs of ram, 3 internal hard drives, and very high end  
video card options. Of course it is not light weight and sleek but it is  
more powerful than any other laptop model on the market.

Not really designed for general business unless your business is pro  
audio, video editing, 3D and CAD work or high end gaming.

A similar as possible configure of the 9000 compared to a 17" Mac Book  
Pro is only a couple hundred dollar difference with the 9000 having a  
Quad core and the ability to use all the current desktop Quads 8 gigs  
and 3 drives. So it actually has an upgrade path unlike a MBP.

So if all you apps are PC it would not make much sense to invest in a  
MBP. If you really wanted to go the MBP route I would look at some of  
their refurds.

Chris

> Probably a PC, but I'm not apposed to a mac either. Since my home and audio  
> comps are PC, I was thinking it would be a better fit to go with PC as far  
> as compatibility.

>

> Thanks

> Rod

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Subject: Re: Can some one give me some Laptop recommendations?

Posted by [chuck duffy](#) on Tue, 09 Dec 2008 15:41:10 GMT

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Rod,

I would defer to Chris Ludwig, but IME the AlienWare laptops are the best performing laptops I have ever seen.

They are very capable desktop replacements, on the pricey side. Smoking fast drives, RAM, bus, processors and video.

Chuck

"Rod Lincoln" <rlincoln@nospam.kc.rr.com> wrote:

>

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>Rod

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Subject: Re: Can some one give me some Laptop recommendations?

Posted by [Chris Ludwig](#) on Tue, 09 Dec 2008 16:36:10 GMT

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Hi Chuck,

They currently do not have any models comparable to 9000 but all but one are similar to the 8500SR. But as usual they do not list the chip sets used so he will have to contact their support if they even know.

The M17 model is based on the problematic PM45 chip set I discuss int he

other email but again they hide what chip sets are being used for on

board components.

Chris

chuck duffy wrote:

> Rod,

>

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> performing laptops I have ever seen.  
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