
Subject: MacBook Pro- advise needed.

Posted by [emarenot](#) on Sun, 18 Nov 2007 14:40:01 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

This is a multi-part message in MIME format.

-----=_NextPart_000_0009_01C829C6.FD80CFC0

Content-Type: text/plain;

charset="iso-8859-1"

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

He's got an MBox for an interface, FW output. 1999.00. He's pretty committed to using a laptop -wants to be able to bring it to possible (occasional) gigs, and to friend's house to do some lite duty recording. He's really interested in Live. Any thoughts on the laptop? (One thing I generally don't like about laptops is that I can't get in there and replace or upgrade components like I can in some sort of tower configuration. Is this true for macbooks, or are they more accessable?) 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 backups. I'm also wondering if Live will be able to work with his Mbox. As I understand it though he's probably going to buy a separate audio interface for the laptop, so, if any of you kind folks have thoughts on other portable, laptop compatible interfaces I'd be interested in hearing them. I'm guessing his budget will probably be around 500.00 for the AI.

-----=_NextPart_000_0009_01C829C6.FD80CFC0

Content-Type: text/html;

charset="iso-8859-1"

Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

```
<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.0 Transitional//EN">
<HTML><HEAD>
<META http-equiv=3DContent-Type content=3D"text/html; =
charset=3Diso-8859-1">
<META content=3D"MSHTML 6.00.2800.1555" name=3DGENERATOR>
<STYLE></STYLE>
</HEAD>
<BODY bgColor=3D#ffffff>
<DIV><FONT face=3DArial size=3D2></FONT>&nbsp;</DIV>
<DIV><FONT face=3DArial size=3D2>I'm just askin', and I'd rather get the =
info from=20
you guys than a sales-person. Anyhow, this is a serious bunch of=20
questions.&nbsp;  Worlds hang in the balance ;-)&nbsp;  A firriend of mine =
is=20
considering buying a Mac Book Pro with the following specs</FONT></DIV>
<DIV><FONT face=3DArial size=3D2></FONT>&nbsp;</DIV>
<DIV><STRONG><FONT face=3DArial size=3D2>Apple MacBook Pro Notebook =
Computer=20
Features:</FONT></STRONG></DIV>
<DIV><FONT face=3DArial size=3D2>15" widescreen display</FONT></DIV>
<DIV><FONT face=3DArial size=3D2>.2GHz Intel Core 2 Duo</FONT></DIV>
<DIV><FONT face=3DArial size=3D2>667MHz frontside bus and main =
memory</FONT></DIV>
<DIV><FONT face=3DArial size=3D2>2GB 667MHz DDR2 SDRAM</FONT></DIV>
<DIV><FONT face=3DArial size=3D2>PCI Express architecture</FONT></DIV>
<DIV><FONT face=3DArial size=3D2>120GB 5400rpm Serial ATA hard =
drive</FONT></DIV>
<DIV><FONT face=3DArial size=3D2>NVIDIA GeForce 8600M GT graphics =
controller=20
</FONT></DIV>
<DIV><FONT face=3DArial size=3D2>ExpressCard/34 slot</FONT></DIV>
<DIV><FONT face=3DArial size=3D2>One FireWire 400 port, one FireWire 800 =
port, two=20
USB 2.0 ports</FONT></DIV>
<DIV><FONT face=3DArial size=3D2>Slot-loading SuperDrive</FONT></DIV>
<DIV><FONT face=3DArial size=3D2>Mac OS X Tiger </FONT></DIV>
<DIV>&nbsp;</DIV>
<DIV><FONT face=3DArial size=3D2>He's got an MBox for an interface, FW =
output.&nbsp;</DIV>
1999.00.&nbsp;  He's pretty committed to using a laptop -wants to be able =
to=20
bring it to possible (occasional) gigs, and to friend's house to do some =
lite=20
duty recording.&nbsp;  He's really interested in Live.&nbsp;  Any thoughts =
on the=20
```

laptop? (One thing I generally don't like about laptops is that I =
can't=20
get in there and replace or upgrade components like I can in some sort =
of tower=20
configuration. Is this true for macbooks, or are they more =
accessible?)=20
Can this thing be loaded with a second drive or do you have to use an =
external=20
HD? If so, what's fast enough to do audio production? I'm so =
used to=20
setting up internal drives and only using external drives for =
backups. I'm=20
also wondering if Live will be able to work with his Mbox. As I =
understand=20
it though he's probably going to buy a separate audio interface for the =
laptop,=20
so, if any of you kind folks have thoughts on other portable, =
laptop=20
compatible interfaces I'd be interested in hearing them. I'm =
guessing his=20
budget will probably be around 500.00 for the AI. =20
</DIV></BODY></HTML>

-----=_NextPart_000_0009_01C829C6.FD80CFC0--

Subject: Re: MacBook Pro- advise needed.
Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Sun, 18 Nov 2007 16:28:27 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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 refurbis 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.JamieKruz.com

Mike R. wrote:

>
> 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
>
> He's got an MBox for an interface, FW output. 1999.00. He's pretty
> committed to using a laptop -wants to be able to bring it to possible
> (occasional) gigs, and to friend's house to do some lite duty
> recording. He's really interested in Live. Any thoughts on the
> laptop? (One thing I generally don't like about laptops is that I can't
> get in there and replace or upgrade components like I can in some sort
> of tower configuration. Is this true for macbooks, or are they more
> accessable?) 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 backups. I'm also wondering if Live will be able to
> work with his Mbox. As I understand it though he's probably going to buy
> a separate audio interface for the laptop, so, if any of you kind folks
> have thoughts on other portable, laptop compatible interfaces I'd be
> interested in hearing them. I'm guessing his budget will probably be
> around 500.00 for the AI.

Subject: Re: MacBook Pro- advise needed.
Posted by [Chris Ludwig](#) on Sun, 18 Nov 2007 16:51:10 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Hi Mike,
> 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

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
- > One FireWire 400 port, one FireWire 800 port, two USB 2.0 ports
- > Slot-loading SuperDrive
- > Mac OS X Tiger

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.

- >
- > He's got an MBox for an interface, FW output. 1999.00. He's pretty
- > committed to using a laptop -wants to be able to bring it to possible
- > (occasional) gigs, and to friend's house to do some lite duty
- > recording. He's really interested in Live. Any thoughts on the
- > laptop? (One thing I generally don't like about laptops is that I
- > can't get in there and replace or upgrade components like I can in
- > 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
> backups.

External only but the internal drives are gonna be fast enough for most things as long as it is a 7200 rpm one.

> I'm also wondering if Live will be able to work with his Mbox.

Haven't tried the fire wire Mbox with Core Audio apps. Not sure all the I/O and if the performance is as good as other audio devices.

> As I understand it though he's probably going to buy a separate audio
> interface for the laptop, so, if any of you kind folks have thoughts
> on other portable, laptop compatible interfaces I'd be interested in
> hearing them. I'm guessing his budget will probably be around 500.00
> for the AI.

\$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 [emarenot](#) on Sun, 18 Nov 2007 18:09:19 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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...>

>
> 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.JamieKruz.com
>
>
>
>
> Mike R. wrote:
> >
> > 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
> >
> > He's got an MBox for an interface, FW output. 1999.00. He's pretty
> > committed to using a laptop -wants to be able to bring it to possible
> > (occasional) gigs, and to friend's house to do some lite duty
> > recording. He's really interested in Live. Any thoughts on the
> > laptop? (One thing I generally don't like about laptops is that I can't
> > get in there and replace or upgrade components like I can in some sort
> > of tower configuration. Is this true for macbooks, or are they more
> > accessable?) 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 backups. I'm also wondering if Live will be able to
> > work with his Mbox. As I understand it though he's probably going to buy
> > a separate audio interface for the laptop, so, if any of you kind folks
> > have thoughts on other portable, laptop compatible interfaces I'd be
> > interested in hearing them. I'm guessing his budget will probably be
> > around 500.00 for the AI.

Subject: Re: MacBook Pro- advise needed.
Posted by [emarenot](#) on Sun, 18 Nov 2007 18:10:32 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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

MR

"Chris Ludwig" <chrisl@adkproaudio.com> wrote in message
news:47406e92\$1@linux...

> HI Mike,

> > 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

>

> 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

> > One FireWire 400 port, one FireWire 800 port, two USB 2.0 ports

> > Slot-loading SuperDrive

> > Mac OS X Tiger

> 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.

>

> >

> > He's got an MBox for an interface, FW output. 1999.00. He's pretty

> > committed to using a laptop -wants to be able to bring it to possible

> > (occasional) gigs, and to friend's house to do some lite duty
> > recording. He's really interested in Live. Any thoughts on the
> > laptop? (One thing I generally don't like about laptops is that I
> > can't get in there and replace or upgrade components like I can in
> > 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 allot 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
> > backups.
> External only but the internal drives are gonna be fast enough for most
> things as long as it is a 7200 rpm one.
> > I'm also wondering if Live will be able to work with his Mbox.
> Haven't tried the fire wire Mbox with Core Audio apps. Not sure all the
> I/O and if the performance is as good as other audio devices.
>
> > As I understand it though he's probably going to buy a separate audio
> > interface for the laptop, so, if any of you kind folks have thoughts
> > on other portable, laptop compatable interfaces I'd be interested in
> > hearing them. I'm guessing his budget will probabaly be around 500.00
> > for the AI.
> \$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
