

BUYER'S **guide**

Handheld Computing Devices

This month, we surveyed a selection of handheld computers. As the market for handhelds has grown and the technology continues to develop, the old concept of the handheld as a personal digital assistant or organizer is fading.

Today's handhelds are not only full-fledged computers, but many can serve as cell phones, MP3 players, digital cameras, and GPS units. These can be loaded with a variety of commercial and open-source educational software. In addition, add-on hardware such as detachable keyboards and a wide array of networking options make these units practical alternatives to traditional desktop or even laptop computers.

Each of the companies surveyed offers a variety of handhelds. Because of the wide variety of models and options available, we limited our survey to handhelds in the \$400–\$600 range. The prices listed are the manufacturer's suggested retail pricing; discounts are often available for educators.

This list is far from definitive, and innovations occur on an almost weekly basis. At press time, Palm Inc. announced that a version of the company's Treo smartphone will be available using the Windows Mobile operating system beginning in 2006.

Company & Model	Price	URL	Size (l x w x d) & Weight
 Asus MyPal A730W	\$530	http://usa.asus.com	4.63" x 2.87" x .67" 6.0 oz.
 Dell Axim X51	\$499	http://www1.us.dell.com	4.7" x 2.9" x 0.7" 6.2 oz.
 Garmin iQue M3	\$499	http://www.garmin.com	5.0" x 2.8" x 0.74" 5.9 oz.
 HP iPac Pocket PC hx4705	\$599	http://www.hpshopping.com	5.17" x 3.03" x .59" 6.6 oz.
 HP iPac Pocket PC h6320/h6325 Phone Edition	\$599	http://www.hpshopping.com	5.42" x 2.94" x .82" 6.7 oz.
 Palm Treo 650	\$399	http://www.palm.com	4.4" x 2.3" x .9" 6.3 oz.

Operating System	Memory	Processor	Display	Wireless	Input	Notes
MS Windows Mobile 2003 SE	64 MB Flash ROM, 128 MB SD RAM	Intel 520 MHz XScale	640 × 480 3.7 inch	802.11b, Bluetooth	Touchscreen, CF/SD slots	1.3 megapixel camera
MS Windows Mobile 5.0	256 MB Flash ROM, 64 MB SD RAM	Intel 624 MHz XScale PXA270	640 × 480 3.7 inch	802.11b, Bluetooth	Touchscreen, CF/SD slots	Special pricing for K-12
MS Windows Mobile 2003 SE	32 MB ROM, 64 MB RAM	Intel 312 MHz XScale PXA271, 48 MHz ARM7 GPS coprocessor	320 × 240 3.5 inch	IrDA	Touchscreen, SD slot, USB	
MS Windows Mobile 2003 SE	128 MB Flash ROM, 64 MB SD RAM	Intel 624 MHz XScale	640 × 480 4.0 inch	802.11b, Bluetooth, IrDA	Touchscreen, CF/SD slot, USB	
MS Windows Mobile 2003 Phone Edition	64 MB ROM, 64 MB SD RAM	Texas Instruments OMAP1510	320 × 240 3.5 inch	GSM/GPRS, 802.11b, Bluetooth, IrDA	Touchscreen, CF/SD slot, USB	Cell phone service through Cingular Wireless / 0.3 megapixel camera on some models
Palm OS 5.4 (MS Windows Mobile available in 2006)	32 MB	Intel 312 MHz XScale PXA270	320 × 320	GSM/GPRS/CDMA, Bluetooth, IrDA	Keyboard, touchscreen, CF/SD slot, USB	Service through Verizon Wireless/ 0.3 megapixel camera