

Choose Your Gizmos

Gadgets have become an integral part of our daily life. They have made our tasks easy, fast and more efficient. Let's take a look at some of the new gadgets being offered in the market

■ ABHIJIT PAUL CHOUDHURY

Apple's Magic Mouse

Apple has designed a new mouse named 'The Magic Mouse,' which uses the same multi-touch technology first introduced in the iPhone. This multi-touch feature enables interaction with portable devices through gestures. Gestures are introduced in a mouse for the first time.

The main component of this mouse is an in-built chip. This chip tells the mouse what exactly the user wants to do? Whenever you double click, scroll or rest your hand on the mouse, the chip interprets your gestures and responds accordingly. This mouse also uses laser tracking technology and can be wirelessly connected to any Mac using Bluetooth. Moreover, you can have a secure connection up to 10 metres away. It also saves battery power as it can identify the lean period when the mouse is not in use when it enters



Price
Rs 3890
Warranty: 1 year limited
warranty
Availability in India: Through
its distributors

into a low-power-consumption mode.

The minimum system requirement for this mouse is a Bluetooth-enabled Mac computer, Mac OS X v 10.5.8 or later with wireless mouse software update 1.0 or Mac OS X v10.6.1 or later with wireless mouse software update 1.0. This new magic mouse will come with every new iMac but is also available independently.

Kingston DataTraveler 200

Kingston has recently launched its new DataTraveler 200, which comes in blue and black (32 GB), yellow and black (64 GB) and pitch black (128 GB) colours. This Flash drive is an improvement over Kingston's earlier DataTraveler 150 Flash drive. Featuring high capacity of data storage in its 7.04cm x 1.24cm x 2.26cm dimension, DataTraveler 200 also has a retractable USB connector and security features. The software that comes along with it is Password Traveler. Using the software, you can create a secure area called 'Privacy Zone,'



which can be accessed only with the Password Traveler software.

The Flash drive also supports Windows Ready Boost. It is compatible with Windows, Linux and Mac OS. The read and write transfer of DT 200 is 12 MB/s and 10 MB/s, respectively. A few demerits of this product are: it is quite bulky and two DT 200 cannot be connected in adjacent USB ports due to their size. The password features are not supported in Linux or Mac. Kingston provides 5 years warranty for this product and lifetime tech support.

Price:
128GB—Rs 24,200
64 GB—Rs 14,000
Warranty: 5 years
Availability in India: Through
Kingston

Transcend's MP330 digital music player

Transcend Information, Inc., has released its new MP330 digital music player. With a simple design, compact size and superb sound quality, the feature-rich MP330 is a definite must-have for users with expressive personal tastes and active lifestyles.

Transcend's MP330 has an in-built USB connector, which makes it a portable storage device, allowing users to transfer files without the hassle of carrying around bulky cables. Available in three capacities (8GB, 4GB and 2GB) and in two colours (black and white), the player supports file formats such as Free Lossless Audio Codec (FLAC), MP3, WMA, WAV and even WMA-DRM10 protected music files.

Besides featuring a signal-to-noise ratio of over 90 dB, MP330 provides seven advanced equaliser effects to choose from. A special user-customisable option allows music playback to be tailored to match user's specific music taste.

The compact (83mmx25.5mmx11.5mm) and lightweight (25gm) music player is equipped with a removable sport clip that gives users more flexibility to match their listening habits. The player also features an extra bright easy-to-read



Price:
2GB—Rs 2350
4GB—Rs 3000
8GB—Rs 4000
Warranty: 2 Year
Availability in India: Through its distributors

OLED display.

MP330's line-in feature can be used to record music from an external source like a CD player. MP330 also includes an FM radio and sing-along synchronised lyrics display which supports 14 different languages.

Sony Vaio W series

Weighing only 1.7 kg, Sony Vaio W series notebook comes with a 25.65cm LED-backlit display with 1366 x 768 resolution. Having a wide screen, it lets you view an entire web page in one go, which is a better feature compared to the Sony pocket PC. The built-in Wi-Fi lets you get connected to your home network or hotspot areas. The laptop also comes with an in-built camera and microphone. It offers you 160 GB of hard disc space.

Price:
Rs 29,990
Warranty: 1 year limited warranty
Availability in India: Through Sony distributors

The new Sony VIAO W series also comes with certain efficient software. If you are into video or audio editing, then you can use VAIO Multimedia Suite that comes with this series. This software lets you create your own high-quality movies, slide-shows and more. Besides, it also has the Media Plus software with which you can stream photos, videos and music to enjoy it all through your PlayStation3 or a compatible TV. Moreover, the laptop comes with the Microsoft Windows XP Home Edition operating system.



Lenovo C300

Lenovo's new all-in-one computer has an attractive exterior and a large 50.8cm wide screen. It has been thoughtfully designed by Lenovo, as the speakers are perfectly hidden under the panel and the DVD drive is placed at the right edge of the computer. C300's large 50.8cm screen is suitable for watching movies. However, when it comes to the speaker, you may be a little disappointed. The speakers just do not suffice the large screen. You will need to add more speakers in order to enjoy movies or songs.

Price:
Rs 32,380
Warranty: 1 year
Availability in India: Retail outlets of Lenovo

It has an Intel Atom processor, C300 – 1.60GHz 533MHz 1MB. It comes preloaded with Windows Vista Home Basic. The system has 2GB RAM, 320GB hard disk, 1.3MP webcam. When you talk about the peripherals, it comes with six USB ports, Wi-Fi and LAN. Overall, this model of Lenovo has an attractive design, but when it comes to performance, its flaws become obvious.



Sony's Walkman series

Sony has introduced its new video MP3 player series that makes sharing music easy. Weighing only 52 gm, the new NWZ-S540 series comes in two models—NWZ-S544 and NWZ-545—with 8 GB and 16 GB memory, respectively.

The NWZ-S540 series comes with 6.1cm, high-resolution, 240 × 320



QVGA LCD screen. It integrates a new digital linear phase speaker system to enhance the sound quality.

The NWZ-S540 series has an extended battery life—42 hours of music playback and 6.5 hours of video playback. The audio formats that are supported by the players are MP3, AAC-LC, WAV and WMA. The NWZ-S540 incorporates an FM tuner which allows 30 preset stations and FM recording too. There is a microphone at the bottom of the device that lets you record voice. It also accepts JPEG images.

Overall, the special features that this model offers are good sound quality, dedicated volume control, sliding lock switch, good screen performance, built-in speakers, FM tuner and voice recorder. Moreover, the NWZ-S540 works with iTunes too.

Price: Rs 6990 for 8 GB
Warranty: 1 year
Availability in India: Through Sony

Genius G-ShotV1200-3

G-Shot V1200 digital camera is the new launch by KYE Systems Corporation. The main feature of this camera is its 12MP picture quality. It comes with a 6.86cm colour display and 3x optical zoom.



Its another attractive feature is 'anti-shaking' which avoids blurring of images. It also has an intelligent mode to help the user click photos by automatically detecting eight different types of scenes.

Other features that this model offers are 2.54/5.84cm CCD image sensor, image resolution of 4000×3000 pixels, video resolution of 720 × 400 pixels, focal length of 6.2mm ~18.6mm, optical zoom 3x zoom, digital zoom of 1~5x zoom.

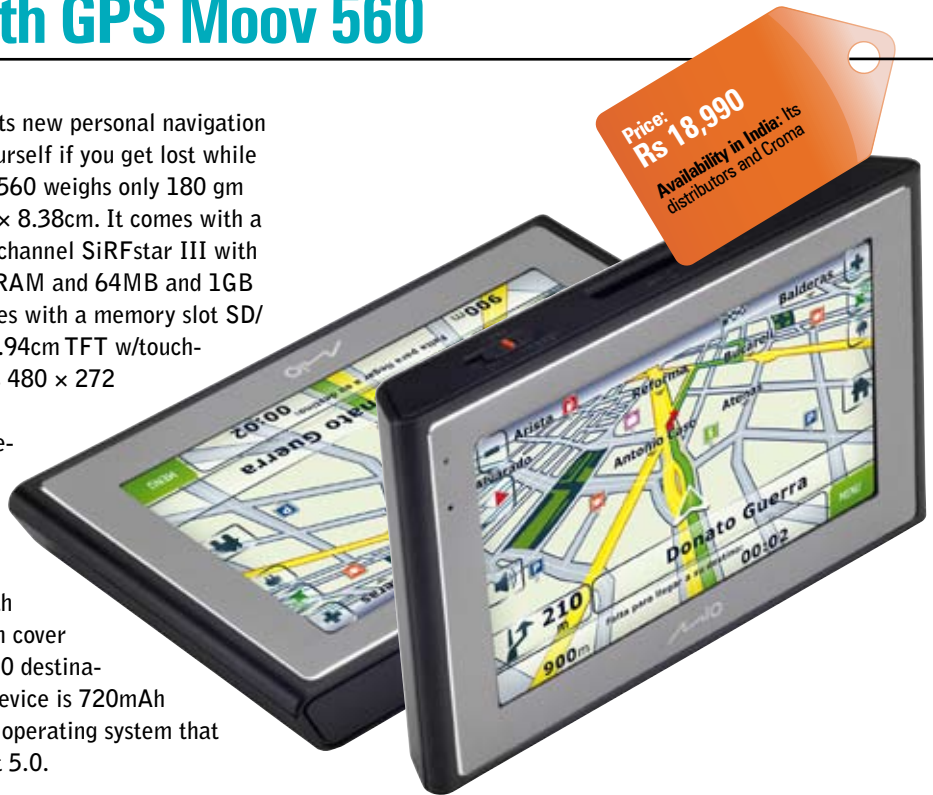
It comes with 32GB internal memory, of which 20 MB is available for images. The external memory supports SDHC up to 32 GB. The camera comes with an in-built mic and speaker. The flash of the camera supports such features as auto, red eye reduction, slow sync, forced on, forced off. The file formats that it supports are JPEG Exif 2.2, DCF, AVI. It runs on 2 × AA batteries and weighs only 125 gm without batteries.

Price: Rs 10,995
Warranty: 2 years
Availability in India: Through its distributors

Keep Track with GPS Moov 560

SatGuide has come out with its new personal navigation device to help you locate yourself if you get lost while you are on-the-move. Moov 560 weighs only 180 gm and has dimensions of 1.78x13.97x 8.38cm. It comes with a Samsung 2443-400MHz CPU, 20-channel SiRFstar III with IstantFixII – GPS chipset, inbuilt-RAM and 64MB and 1GB RAM memory, respectively. It comes with a memory slot SD/MMC. The size of the display is 11.94cm TFT w/touch-screen and the display resolution is 480 x 272 pixels WQVGA.

The Moov 560 has in-built Bluetooth, which lets you connect it to other devices. It also has an in-built entertainment system. Moov 560 gives turn-by-turn voice prompted directions and comes with pre-installed SatGuide maps, which cover 404 cities and more than 16,00,000 destinations. The battery capacity of the device is 720mAh and the battery life is 2 hours. The operating system that runs on this software is Win CENet 5.0.



Price: Rs 18,990
Availability in India: Its distributors and Cromia

Toshiba Laptop – M900

Toshiba has introduced its new range of laptops. These laptops are preloaded with the Windows 7 Home Basic operating system. M900 comes with a leather texture finish and is available in luxe brown colour. It is equipped

with a 33.78cm wide high-definition screen with CSV technology. It also offers 512 MB of dedicated video memory, thus providing the best-in-class experience.

For protection of data, 3D motion sensors are in-built within the system.

This laptop is quite heavy, as it weighs 2.15 kg. It comes with a T6600 processor, 2.2GHz, 2MB L2 Cache and 800MHz FSB. Further, it has a 3GB RAM and 320GB hard disk for better performance and high data storage. It gives you all the features that are required to get connected to the network or other devices, i.e., it comes with Bluetooth and Wireless LAN Intel 802.11 a/g/n. Its security features include face recognition, fingerprint reader and Bluetooth login. Moreover, it comes with two USB ports, one e-sata combo port and a six-cell battery.



Price: Rs 54,990
Warranty: 1 year limited warranty
Availability in India: Retail outlets of Toshiba

The author is a technical correspondent at EFY