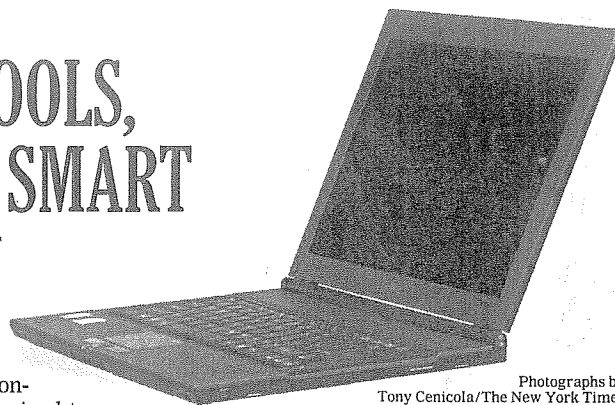


BUSINESS TOOLS, SMALL AND SMART

By MICHEL MARRIOTT



Photographs by
Tony Cenicola/The New York Times

INNOVATION has yielded a new crop of lean consumer electronics that are poised to transform how businesspeople do their work without compromising speed, power and function. Here are some useful technologies — not gadgets or gimmicks — that will not strain your shoulder or break your bag while you are on the go.

MOUSE Despite an inundation of computer pointing and scrolling devices, the mouse still stands as the most popular of them all. But it can't function when it is left behind.

Sure, the basic computer mouse (U.S.B. connected) has become so commoditized that anyone can pick one up at an airport shop or drugstore. But who needs to worry about a new mouse not performing smoothly during a presentation? Newton Peripherals, of Natick, Mass., has an elegant and ingenious answer: the MoGo Mouse.

This two-button mouse is wafer thin, hardly thicker than a stack of business cards, and stores in the PCMCIA slot found on most notebook computers. The mouse is also wireless, using the Bluetooth protocol to keep a connection up to about 30 feet from the computer. And it is optical, meaning no track ball and its traction troubles. The MoGo Mouse (\$70), sold through Tiger Direct and Gateway, recharges its battery in the PCMCIA slot while the computer is on.

The MoGo, which has a concealed "kick-stand" to angle the mouse up for a more natural position under the hand, works on computers running Windows (version 98 and up) and Macintosh (10.2.8 and later) operating systems.

CARD SCANNERS Exchanging business cards at meetings and professional conferences is a big part of doing business. But the cards are useless unless their information is kept in a meaningful way. For years, CardScan by Corex, an optical reader that sees business cards, digitizes them and imports their information into digital address books, has practically become a standard. Its newest model, CardScan Executive, is smaller, sleeker, faster and synchronizes with smartphones, Microsoft's Outlook, ACT!, Lotus Notes and GoldMine. It costs \$260.

ScanR, in Palo Alto, Calif., is taking a different approach. Beginning Sept. 25, its technology will let users photograph a business card with a camera phone (two megapixels or higher are required) and send it to its Web site (scanr.com). The card and information is e-mailed back to the user with

SLEEK Three new business helpers: the Fujitsu LifeBook, top; the MoGo portable mouse, center; and the Motorola Moto Q Smartphone.

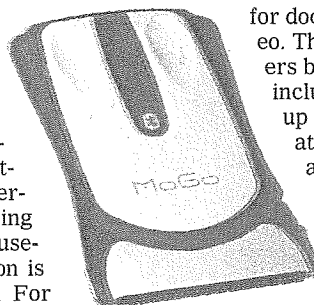
hertz Intel Core Solo U1400 processor. The high-end Q2010 has 1 gigabyte of midrange 533 megahertz RAM and an 80-gigabyte hard drive, while the entry model has half the RAM and a 30 gigabyte hard drive.

Both models are Wi-Fi (A, B and G) enabled and have a 12.1-inch screen. The high-end model also has Bluetooth. Shortcomings, however, include a slightly smaller than standard-size keyboard, about 94 percent of full size, and onboard battery life of about two hours. The high-end model has a six-cell battery that provides more than seven hours of battery life. The CD/DVD drive and burner, with additional ports, is available in an optional docking station that costs \$300 when bought with the notebook.

PORTABLE STORAGE While notebook computers routinely have 30- to 40-gigabyte hard drives, conducting business away from the office sometimes requires even more. My Book Premium Edition by Western Digital provides 500 gigabytes of storage in a handsome black box that resembles a rather thick paperback book. And My Book, which costs \$320, is not simply more space for documents, audio files, photos or video. The unit, which connects to computers by way of U.S.B. or FireWire ports, includes software for easily backing up sensitive and important data. But at 2.9 pounds, My Book can feel like a haul. For much lighter jobs, Western Digital offers a Passport Pocket Drive, which is a six-gigabyte external hard drive that is smaller than a tin of mints. It plugs into computers with a concealed U.S.B. connector. Like its bigger brother, it is PC and Mac compatible. It costs \$100.

MOBILE PHONE In the age of seamless communications, a no-nonsense, multipurpose cellphone is as much a part of the business universe as a business suit. But the old bear claw of a phone is giving way to smaller, lighter and speedier ones.

One of the most impressive is the Moto Q Smartphone by Motorola. Motorola has made the Q as sleek as it is smart. Its silvery plastic body is .45 inches thick, and its overall rectangular shape fits easily in the palm. Much of its face is equally devoted to its chocolate-dronlike keypad and 2.4-inch



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COMPUTER Far and above the workhorse of any traveling executive or small-business operator is a reliable, up-to-date notebook computer. And while there are a number of portable technologies that digitally pack whole desktops of information into thumb-size devices that can hang from key chains and charm bracelets, they are hardly a substitute for a lightweight notebook computer.

The Fujitsu LifeBook Q2010 fits the bill as well as the briefcase. The most striking aspect about the company's latest ultraportable computer is not its matte magnesium skin (with titanium hinges) that whispers business, but its startlingly thin profile and feathery weight. When closed, this notebook is only .78-inch thick and weighs 2.2 pounds.

Beneath its stylish shell is more than enough power to get the most enterprising tasks done quickly. While the LifeBook Q2010 comes in two models — entry (\$2,000) and high end (\$3,100) — both use a 1.2 giga-

hard drive, while the entry model has half the RAM and a 30 gigabyte hard drive.

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The Q uses the Microsoft Windows Mobile 5.0 operating system, giving it a PC-like look and feel, as PC users browse through familiar icons on its screen. The \$200 (with two-year contract) phone is exclusive to Verizon Wireless and uses its broadband EV-DO network. The Q has Bluetooth 1.2 wireless technology integrated into the handset that makes it compatible with headsets and hands-free systems. Its network limits it to North America and it does not work with Macintosh computers.

