

Press Release

Toshiba announces new range of attractively priced professional notebook PCs including one colour model

Neuss,
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1992

Today Toshiba announced a new range of notebook PCs with prices designed to attract new user groups. The latest A4-sized models include new, innovative technologies as well as many user-friendly features normally found on Toshiba's more advanced notebooks. All three models, the T1800, T1850 and T1850C, are engineered and manufactured by Toshiba in its own factories. They replace the T2000SXE in the company's notebook range. All models are supported by the Toshiba International Warranty, a one-year service and parts policy that gives mobile professionals access to Toshiba's comprehensive service infrastructure throughout the industrialised world.

The basic model, the T1800, is based on Intel's 20 MHz 386 SX processor. It has 2 MB standard RAM (expandable to 10 MB), a 43 MB or 64 MB hard disk and a 64 grey-scale, black and white VGA display. The higher-performance T1850 and T1850C models run at 25 MHz with 4 MB standard RAM (expandable to 12 MB) and an 85 MB hard disk. The T1850 has the same screen as the T1800, whereas the T1850C features an affordable, passive-matrix colour VGA display. All models have rugged casings with a modern stylish design.

The announcement of this new series of products marks a break with traditional Toshiba marketing practices. "With seven years experience in the mobile PC market, we are now able to prove that high quality does not have to mean a high price," said a company spokesman. "The T1800 series represents Toshiba quality at a price within the reach of many users. These products are designed and manufactured by Toshiba, with Toshiba reliability built in. Despite the low cost, we have cut no corners with cheap third party components, simply applied the most efficient combination of existing and new technology with several special features and lots of reliable computing power. This has allowed us to provide patent Toshiba quality at prices users can afford."

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New Toshiba affordable notebooks

In the new series, Toshiba has also included several design features customers have requested such as the sliding cover for the various interfaces on the back of the PCs and a contrast control repositioned for better access. While maintaining the basic A4 size all three models provide a keyboard with a more spacious, comfortable feel that makes typing easier. The screens measure 9.5" across the diagonal with high contrast and brightness. Among the user-friendly features which are common also to Toshiba's high-end models are a user-installable memory expansion cards, AutoResume mode, and built-in soft- and hardware security. All three models also include a standard Toshiba communications slot and the user friendly "pop-up" menu for adjusting the computer setup.

To this Toshiba has added the longest battery life so far on one of its mobile PCs. The maximum battery life on the monochrome T1800 and T1850 models can be as much as five hours, depending on usage. Toshiba has achieved this by implementing its proprietary MaxTime Power Management combined with the new industry standard APM (Advanced Power Management). (See accompanying press release.)

A second innovation in the T1800 series is the use of flash memory instead of standard ROM for storing the BIOS. Toshiba maintains that flash memory gives users more flexibility to update their PC because it allows a new or amended BIOS to be loaded at a later date with a simple transfer from a diskette. Thus as software develops (e.g.: changes in the APM system) customers are assured of never being left behind by progress.

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T1850 Specifications

Processor

- | Intel 386 SX
- | 25 MHz
- | Optional coprocessor

Memory

- | 4 MB standard RAM
- | 12 MB max RAM

Hard Disk Drive

- | 85 MB
- | 19 ms access time

Floppy Disk Drive

- | 720 KB/1.44 MB 3.5" drive
- | Automatic media-type selection

Display

- | Sidelit STN LCD
- | 9.5" diagonal
- | 640x480 resolution

Graphics Controller

- | VGA
- | 64 grey shades
- | Up to 256 colours (ext. screen)

Keyboard

- | 84 keys
- | 12 function keys
- | 8 cursor keys

Interfaces and Expansion

- | 1 serial port
- | 1 parallel/FDD port
- | External colour monitor port
- | Numeric keypad
- | PS/2 mouse port
- | Toshiba Communications slot
- | Memory-card slot

Battery

- | Removable NiCd
- | 3.75/5.0 hrs battery life
- | 2 hrs recharge time (switched off)

Weight

- | 3.1 kg (with battery) (6.8 lb)

Dimensions

- | 30 x 5.7 x 21.4 cm (11.8" x 2.2" x 8.4")

Security Features

- | Hard- and software security
- | Power-on password
- | Kensington cable lock provision

Special Features

- | Toshiba HardRAM
- | Toshiba AutoResume mode
- | MaxTime Power Management
- | Advanced Power Management
- | Flash-BIOS
- | Pop-up menu

T1850C Specification

All specifications same as T1850 except for following:

Display

- | Sidelit STN colour LCD
- | 9.5" diagonal
- | More than 12:1 contrast ratio
- | 640x480 resolution

Graphics Controller

- | VGA compatible
- | Up to 256 colours
- | Palette of 262,144 colours (internal and external)

Battery

- | Removable NiCd
- | 2 - 3.5 hrs battery life
- | 1.5 hrs recharge time (switched off)

Weight

- | 3.3 kg (7.3 lb)

Dimensions

- | 30 x 5.9 x 21.4 cm (11.8" x 2.3" x 8.4")

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T1800 Specifications

Processor

- | Intel 386 SX
- | 20 MHz
- | Optional coprocessor

Memory

- | 2 MB standard RAM
- | 10 MB max RAM

Hard Disk Drive

- | 43/64 MB
- | 23/19 ms access time

Floppy Disk Drive

- | 720 KB/1.44 MB
3.5" drive
- | Automatic media-type selection

Display

- | Sidelit STN LCD
- | 9.5" diagonal
640 x 480 resolution

Graphics Controller

- | VGA compatible
- | 64 grey shades
- | Up to 256 colours
(ext. screen)

Keyboard

- | 84 keys
- | 12 function keys
- | 8 cursor keys

Interfaces and Expansion

- | 1 serial port
- | 1 parallel/FDD port
- | External colour monitor port
- | Numeric keypad
- | PS/2 mouse port
- | Toshiba Communications slot
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- | Advanced Power Management
- | Flash-BIOS
- | Pop-up menu

Options for all models

- | Operating system: DOS 5.0
- | Memory cards: 2/4/8 MB
- | Key caps: D, F, E, I, Ch, Po, Sc, blank
- | External numeric keypad
- | External 5.25" Toshiba FDD (360 KB)
- | 101 keyboard adaptor
- | Extra AC adaptor
- | Car adaptor
- | Extra battery pack
- | Battery charger
- | Carrying case
- | User manual