

Press Release

The Toshiba T1900 – an affordable entry level 486 notebook with PCMCIA expansion

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With the launch of the T1900 and T1900C low cost notebook computers, Toshiba can now offer 486-based entry level products which nevertheless include advanced features such as a Type III PCMCIA 2.0 slot. With a gently rounded form emphasising a solid, stylish look and 9.5 inch screens, both models bear resemblance to the 386-based T1800 series of entry level notebooks. Other features such as the BallPoint® mouse with QuickPort™ connection and hard disks of 120 and 200 MB, however, are borrowed from high-end models.

Like all of Toshiba's second generation 486 notebooks, the T1900 models use 3.3 volt technology to help save power. The Intel 486 SXA processor forms the core. Other components utilising 3.3-volt designs include the video chip set and the memory (standard 4 MB, expandable to 20 MB). In addition Toshiba included its own proven MaxTime Power Management system and Microsoft/Intel's APM standard. As a result the T1900 achieves a battery life of up to 5 hours and the colour T1900C 3.5 hours.

The use of a PCMCIA 2.0 slot in the new models is a clear sign of how far entry level notebook PCs have now come. By choosing to include a Type III slot, Toshiba has opened up a choice of expansion possibilities that will make the T1900 models attractive for a wide range of needs.

Whether for the office network with LAN or terminal emulation cards, or for long distance data transfer with modems and fax cards, the PCMCIA slot ensures that despite an entry level price the new models have high connectivity. The various SRAM, flash and hard disk options now

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available in PCMCIA format also offer users a wide choice of data saving options for this slot.

Free of charge, Toshiba backs its PCMCIA expansion with software services from Award Software Inc. The drivers included ensure 100% compatibility between machines, operating systems, the PCMCIA slot, and virtually all the major PCMCIA card vendors in Europe. The software also supports "hot-insertion" – removing one PC card and inserting another with the PC running, with the system automatically recognising the new use.

The T1900C uses a new type of advanced STN screen which provides rich, full colours and a wider viewing angle for users. At full VGA resolution, 16 colours from a palette of 4096 are available and at a resolution of 320 x 200 there are 256 colours from 226,981, useful for presentations with a lot of graphics or pictures. Both the monochrome and colour screens have a diagonal of 9.5 inches. The black and white version can show up to 64 grey shades. To speed up screen regeneration, both models include a graphics accelerator. This hardware is dedicated to bit block transfers and line drawing, two features which Windows can fully exploit. A special Windows driver is included with both PCs.

The T1900 weighs in at 2.9 kg while the colour version reaches 3.2 kg. Both are A4 in size and respectively 51 and 53 mm high. To help improve typing comfort the T1900s include innovative "pop-out" feet at the back which tilt the PCs at a gentle angle (4°). For those who do a lot of typing such small design features come as a welcome benefit.

Toshiba's version of MS-DOS 5.0, Windows 3.1 and the Toshiba labelled BallPoint® mouse with QuickPort™ cable-less connection are delivered with both models. Several utilities are included in the package such as Toshiba's MaxTime for Windows and PCMCIA card and socket software

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support. Drivers are included for APM, and Resume mode under Windows or other protected mode memory manager. A special mouse driver allows frequent dis- and re-connection of the BallPoint® mouse without requiring booting or restarting Windows.

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T1900 Standard Specifications

Processor

- | Intel 486 SXA, 3.3-volt
- | 20 MHz clock speed
- | 8 KB cache on chip

Memory

- | Standard 4 MB RAM
- | Expandable to 20 MB

Hard Disk

- | 120 or 200 MB
- | Less than 17/12 ms ave. access time

Diskette Drive

- | 3.5" 1.44 MB/720 KB diskette drive
- | Media-type checking

Monochrome Display

- | 640 x 480 dot resolution
- | B&W STN LCD
- | 9.5" diagonal

Graphics Adaptor

- | VGA compatible
- | Up to 64 grey scales

Keyboard

- | 84 sculptured keys
- | Standard layout
- | 12 function keys
- | 8 cursor keys
- | Inlaid numeric keypad

Interfaces

- | Centronics compatible parallel/FDD port
- | RS-232 serial port
- | PS/2 mouse port
- | PS/2 keyboard port
- | Analogue VGA port

Expansion

- | PCMCIA 2.0 Type III slot
- | Credit card format memory expansion

Special Features

- | AutoResume™ Mode
- | MaxTime™ Power Management
- | Advanced Power Management
- | Flash BIOS

Software and Hardware

- | MS-DOS 5.0
- | Windows 3.1
- | BallPoint® mouse with QuickPort™ connection
- | CardControl™ PCMCIA software support

Power Supply

- | Autosensing 100-240 V AC adaptor for world-wide usage

Battery

- | Rechargeable and removable NiH₂
- | 3.5-5 hours battery life
- | Recharges in 2.2 hrs

Size

- | 297 x 210 x 51 mm (11.7" x 8.3 x 2.0")

Weight

- | 2.9 kg (6.4 lb.)

Options

- | Carrying case
- | Extra battery packs
- | 4, 8 and 16 MB memory cards
- | Toshiba ExpressWriter 201 portable printer
- | PCMCIA high-speed data/fax modem (where approved)
- | External 5.25" diskette drive

T1900C Variations

Colour Display

- | Advanced STN LCD
- | 9.5" diagonal

Size

- | 297 x 210 x 53 mm (11.8 x 8.3 x 2.1")

Graphics Adaptor

- | 16 colours in VGA
- | Up to 256 colours in 320 x 200 modus
- | Colour palette: 226,981

Weight

- | 3.2 kg (7 lb.)

Battery Life

- | 2-3.5 hours
- | Recharges in 1.3 hrs