WHAT▸LAPTOP

ECODE	375826
URL	WWW.LAPTOPSDIRECT.CO.UK
TELEPHONE	0870 160 8369
PROCESSOR	INTEL 1.86GHZ CORE DUO T2350
MEMORY	1024MB DDR2 SDRAM
HARD DRIVE	120GB (5400RPM)
SCREEN SIZE	15.4-INCH SUPER-TFT
DISPLAY RESOLUTION	1280 X 800 (WXGA)
GRAPHICS CARD	INTEL GMA 950
DIMENSIONS	358 X 243 X 42MM
WEIGHT	2.9KG
WIRELESS	802.11A/G
ETHERNET	10/100
MODEM	YES
USB PORTS	3
FIREWIRE	1 (MINI)
OPERATING SYSTEM	VISTA HOME PREMIUM
STANDARD WARRANTY	1 YR C&R P&L

▶ BENCHMARKS

BATTERY LIFE MINUTES

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WHAT·LAPTOP GOLD

MAXDATA ECO 4510 IW

IN BRIEF:
the best machine on test here

Some laptops, such as the HP 530, are designed with a specific price point in mind. Others, such as the Maxdata ECO 4510 IW (£400 inc. VAT), start life as far more expensive machines that over time come down in price. To this end, you'll find this is the most fully featured machine on test, coming with a dual-core processor and extensive feature list.

The first thing to impress is the build quality. Made from plastic and magnesium-alloy this is a very robust machine that feels tactile to the touch. The keyboard sits squarely in the centre of the main board and is comfortable to use. The keys are firmly mounted and well spaced. The touchpad has a widescreen perspective to mirror that of the screen, and was reliable and responsive.

The lid of the ECO is made from thick plastic and protects the screen with a fair degree of ease. The twin hinges, set into the case for a firmer hold, keep the screen steady even on the daily commute. The 15.4-inch Super-TFT panel was easily the brightest on test, with a clear and even tone across its entire width.

When it comes to performance, this machine uses an Intel Core Duo T2350, which is a budget dual-core chip, but we found it handled Windows Vista Home Premium with great success, loading quickly and with no obvious signs of lag when running everyday tasks. The use of 1024MB of memory certainly helps. The main specification is rounded out by a 120GB hard drive. Overall, we were impressed with the performance of this machine and it certainly represents great value for money.

Feeling the strain

On the downside, it uses the same 945GM chipset as the HP 530, which comes with a Celeron M CPU, so you won't really be able to use this laptop for high-performance video editing or running anything too system-heavy.

Weighing in at 2.9kg, this isn't a system you'll want to carry around too often. That said, with a battery life, under High Performance test, of 183 minutes, you'll be mobile for a reasonable length of time.

As the base of the screen covers the back of the machine when open, Maxdata has been forced to place all the standard array of ports on the sides of the chassis. This makes adding peripherals easier, but it can quickly start to look cluttered.

The Maxdata ECO 4510 IW may have started life as a higher-priced laptop, but that doesn't mean it has less to offer now it has been reduced in price. True, its specification is no longer cutting-edge, but at this price point it's hard to ignore the sheer quality and ease of use of the machine. This is a highly recommended laptop. **WHAT·LAPTOP**

What type of user are you? see page 104

CORE DUO T2350

This is a dual-core chip, but comes under Intel's first attempts at creating a budget dual-core processor for the entry-level market. As such, you'll find that it copes with only 2MB of Level 2 cache split between the two cores and a Front Side Bus of 533MHz, the same as the Celeron chips in this group test.