

WHAT LAPTOP

E-CODE	U6VC-2P002C
DELIVERY CHARGE	FREE
SUPPLIER	UK.ASUS.COM
TELEPHONE	01442 202 720
PROCESSOR	INTEL 2GHZ CORE 2 DUO T5800
MEMORY	3072MB DDR2 SDRAM
HARD DRIVE	250GB (5400RPM)
OPTICAL DRIVE	TRI-FORMAT DVD DL
SCREEN SIZE AND TYPE	12.1-INCH SUPER-TFT
DISPLAY RESOLUTION	1280 X 800 (WXGA)
GRAPHICS CARD	NVIDIA GEFORCE 9300M GS
DIMENSIONS	302 X 220 X 39MM
WEIGHT	1.7KG
WIRELESS LAN	802.11A/G/N
ETHERNET	GIGABIT
USB PORTS	4
FIREWIRE	NO
OPERATING SYSTEM	VISTA HOME PREMIUM
STANDARD WARRANTY	2 YRS C&R P&L

► BENCHMARKS

BATTERY LIFE MINUTES

Asus	124
Benchmark Machine	201

MOBILEMARK 2007

Asus	232
Benchmark Machine	210

3DMARK 2003

Asus	5327
Benchmark Machine	1765

See page 42 for benchmark specification

VALUE FOR MONEY	8
PERFORMANCE	8
FEATURES	8
BUILD QUALITY	7

OVERALL 8

ASUS U6V

► PRICE £949 (inc. VAT) ► PRICE CHECK: www.techradar.com/491577

IN BRIEF: A powerful and professional ultraportable, but battery life is flawed

Asus is best known lately for its Eee PC Netbook which almost single-handedly kick-started the thriving sub-notebook market. It also provides some of the best high-end **ultraportables** and continues this trend with the unique and high-quality U6V (£949 inc. VAT)

The lightweight 1.7kg chassis is easy to carry in hand luggage. The bamboo-veneered finish adds a unique style and is surprisingly resilient. Build quality is excellent throughout. Even the thin screen panel is firm yet flexible enough to avoid cracking. Unfortunately, the standard 3-cell battery only runs for 124 minutes. Thankfully, a larger 9-cell battery is also provided. This improves mobility to a far more pleasing 426 minutes, but it protrudes 40mm from the rear of the chassis and takes the weight up to 2kg.

Usability is mixed. The near full-size keyboard is a joy to use. The keys are large and responsive, and typing is comfortable. The bamboo-veneered touchpad is equally usable. The mouse buttons are awkward, however, and must be clicked firmly several times before registering.

The 12.1-inch screen is stunning.

Outstanding brightness, colour and contrast make it ideal for working in bright conditions and viewing photos and videos. The glossy coating increases reflections, which some users may dislike, but we found it easy to view even when outdoors.

Powerhouse performance

Performance is by far the best in this group test. The Intel Core 2 Duo processor and 3072MB of memory allow Windows Vista to run smoothly. It is also easy to multi-task and edit photos and videos, making it a great choice for mobile professionals.

3D power is equally impressive and more than doubles the performance of its rivals here. The nVidia GPU is the only dedicated graphics card in this group test, and allows basic gaming use, and makes it easy to run high-performance applications.

Mobile connectivity is also excellent and ideal for business use. The integrated HSDPA module provides wireless internet access at broadband speed, wherever you travel. 802.11n Wi-Fi also lets you connect to wireless hotspots at the fastest speeds currently available.

Comprehensive storage rounds out the impressive package. The 250GB hard drive is the most capacious in this group test and ideal for carrying large quantities of data. The integrated optical drive also lets you play DVDs and CDs, as well as back up data to both formats.

The Asus U6V is a fantastic high-end ultraportable, with the power to match far larger laptops. Its screen and connectivity are also great. Only the 3-cell battery life lets it down, so consider whether this is a flaw worth accepting.

WHAT LAPTOP



ULTRAPORTABLE

This is a laptop weighing 2kg or less, designed to provide optimum mobility for frequent mobile use. While older ultraportables used low-voltage processors to improve mobility at the expense of power, modern machines can now easily match the performance of much larger laptops.