

smartlife

THE LIFESTYLE-TECHNOLOGY BIBLE **international**



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PARTICLE physics

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Pat Says Now Diamond Flower Mouse

No, it's not the title of a drug-inspired children's TV programme, it's actually the name given to one of the most expensive computer peripherals ever produced. Believe it or not, it's now possible to manoeuvre on-screen cursors while wielding a pointing device that will set you back the equivalent of a quality second-hand car with the Diamond Flower, courtesy of inventively-named German mouse manufacturers Pat Says Now. An ideal accompaniment to the Diamond Ego notebook featured elsewhere, this optical mouse is cast from 18-carat white gold and set with 59 diamonds, enabling you to surf the web like a sultan.

Price: £12,800 approx

Contact: www.pat-says-now.com



Diamond Ego

You only have to witness the dowdy carry cases accompanying travellers through departure lounges the world over to see that the shape and design of your average laptop has never really endeared itself to the style-conscious. In short, lugging your trusty computer around with you is a one-way ticket to fashion Alaska.

But it needn't be like this, thanks to Dutch purveyors of high-class hardware, Ego Lifestyle. Ideally suited for ladies with considerable financial assets to their name and a highly developed taste for the voguish, the Diamond Ego resembles a couture handbag when closed, and opens up into an sleek, curvy object of digital desire. Designed and created by master goldsmith Laurent de Beer, it's fashioned from titanium and chrome and sports a slick, black finish that incorporates several 18-carat white gold decorative ornaments, set with 6.9-carat, VVS-quality diamonds.

Now, far be it from me to risk incurring the wrath of the Sisterhood by making baseless assumptions, but the sort of woman this is aimed at will most likely not care too much about the actual, y'know, computer stuff. For the record though, the Diamond Ego comes packing a 12.1-inch screen, AMD 64-bit Turion processor, 2GB RAM, 160GB hard drive, built-in wireless LAN and Bluetooth and a DVD-writer, with Windows Vista Ultimate and MS Office pre-installed. At the end of the day, this classy number is all good, specs-wise, and provides one heck of a lavish way in which to maintain those spreadsheets.

Price: £34,700 Contact: www.tulip-ego.com



Moller M400 Skycar

Ever seen *Back to the Future Part II*? Its envisioning of what the year 2015 will look like seems increasingly wide of the mark as time goes by – sure we've got iPods and mobiles, but where are our Hoverboards and flying cars? Thankfully though, there is one company doing a seemingly better job than most of keeping the latter dream alive.

Moller's development of the M400 Skycar stretches back to the 60s, since which time it's undergone a series of redesigns, overhauls and extensive testing to the point where it's now capable of vertical take-off and landing under its own steam and a theoretical in-flight top speed of 375mph. Yes, sadly you won't be able to rush out and buy one just yet, since it's still at the concept stage and awaiting air certification by the US Federal Aviation Authority, which it's hoped will have been completed within the next couple of years. Moller are currently taking pre-orders though, with all deposits fully refundable in the event that things don't quite work out.

We're keeping our fingers crossed though. If, as promised, the M400 Skycar will be able to accommodate four passengers, run on petrol, diesel or ethanol fuel with around 20-miles to the gallon and feature computer-assisted flight operation to make controlling it easier than driving a conventional car, never mind flying a helicopter, that would be awesome!

Price: £250,000 - £500,000 approx (depending on test results and subsequent scale of production) Contact: www.moller.com

Goldvish Piece Unique

It's astonishing that one of the most expensive items in this feature is - wait for it - a mobile phone. Yes indeed, one handset that is definitely not available on a pay-as-you-go tariff, the Piece Unique from Geneva-based company Goldvish Luxury Communications comes wrapped inside a case that's crafted from 18-carat solid gold and bedecked with 1,800 diamonds that altogether total a staggering 120-carats, making this an accessory that's so bling it's probably visible from space.

Assuming you'll ever be able to stop fondling the thing and actually get round to using it, you can take advantage of this quad-band, Bluetooth-enabled beauty's 176x220 TFT screen encased within sapphire glass, 2-megapixel camera with CMOS lens, 2GB of memory, comprehensive SMS/email functionality, personal organiser, FM radio and MP3-player with stereo sound. Oh, and apparently you can also use it to talk to people far away...

Price: around £646,400 Contact: www.goldvish.com

