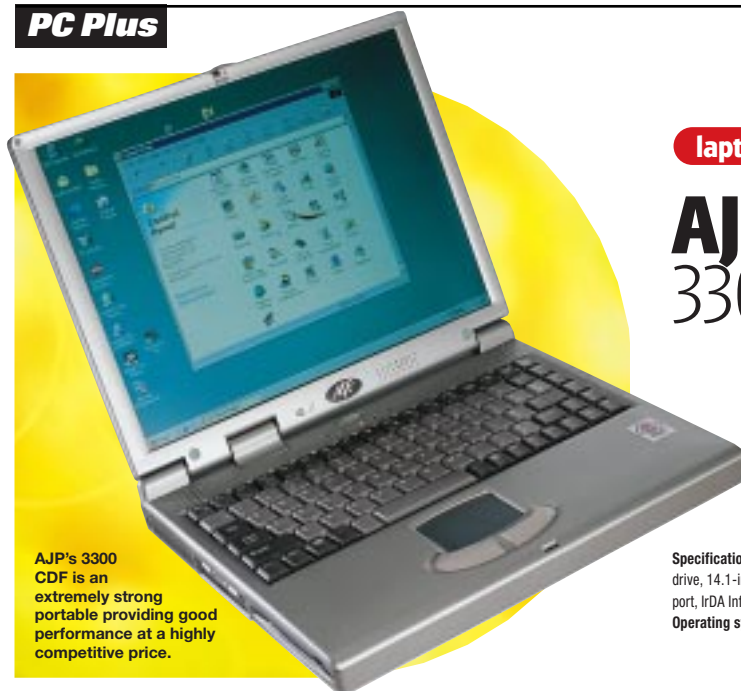


PC Plus



AJP's 3300 CDF is an extremely strong portable providing good performance at a highly competitive price.

laptop

AJP
3300 CDF

If speed is what you need from a portable, then AJP's 3300 CDF may be your dream machine

Specifications Intel Pentium III 750MHz (Flip-Chip), 128MB RAM (256MB max), 12GB hard drive, 14.1-inch TFT display 1024x768 pixels, PC Card slots 2 x Type II or 1 x Type III, 2 x USB port, IrDA Infra-red, integral 1.44Mb floppy and 6x DVD drive, PC Card fax/modem

Operating system Win98

■ PRICE £1,982 ■ EX VAT £1,687 ■ SUPPLIER AJP Computers ■ PHONE 020 8208 9777 ■ WWW www.ajp.co.uk

This new portable from AJP is the first we've seen to incorporate one of Intel's new Flip-Chip processors. Unlike the SpeedStep processors from Intel which push laptop performance to the 650MHz band when on mains power but reduce it when running on battery, Flip-Chip processors remain at a constant speed whatever the power source. Flip-Chip processors are primarily designed for desktop systems. In this case, AJP is using a 750MHz chip, claiming

efficiency. AJP assures us that its cooling methods are adequate to dissipate the heat and that the lifespan of the portable should not be compromised. Certainly we found no untoward heat during our test.

As we have noted in the past, there is more to a strong portable than a powerful processor. The 3300 CDF is generally well appointed. It comes with a 12GB hard drive, which is larger than average for portables and should accommodate all

your data storage needs. The 128MB of RAM on-board is not overly generous but considering the overall price of the computer, it is reasonable. There is a DVD drive supplied as standard, which will be a boon to anyone interested in using multimedia software or

playing DVD films. The S-Video jack on the back of the computer can take output directly to a TV.

The floppy drive bay is removable and can be replaced with either an LS-120 high-capacity floppy drive or a second hard drive. While there is no internal modem, the 3300 CDF is supplied with a fax modem card. This is an odd configuration because PC Cards create a drain on the battery.

There are two PC Card slots, so one will remain free even when the Fax Modem card is installed. There are also two USB ports on the back of the case and a full array of mic, line-in and audio-out jacks sit on the right side above the DVD tray.

The 3300 CDF comes out well in terms of general usability. The keyboard is a real joy to use – light and responsive, touch-typing is no problem at all. The slightly small enter key took a little getting used to, as did the two-thirds width keys on the bottom row of the keyboard. But the cursor keys are arranged in the highly preferable inverted T configuration, the function keys are full sized rather than truncated and the touch pad is very responsive.

The 14.1-inch display is clear and crisp. It is not huge by modern standards, but is perfectly adequate for a portable computer and is one of the factors which helps keep the overall footprint on the small side. At 3Kg, this is no featherweight but it does compare well with other portables. You also get a carrying case with it.

AJP tends to come up with portables that have functional, rather than eye-catching design and the 3300 CDF is no different. Its silver case is not distinctive, but it is solid and the inside makes minimal use of lights providing just enough to indicate the state of your device without dragging the eye away from the screen. Overall we were extremely impressed with this machine. If speed is your premier requirement, then it's hard to beat.

Sandra Vogel

“And speed it's certainly got. The 3300 CDF simply **flew through our benchmarks**, coming out of our BapCo test to produce a *PC Plus* rating of 9.5

that the extra oomph it provides will be useful to people who need speed at all times from their portable computers.

And speed it's certainly got. The 3300 CDF simply flew through our benchmarks, coming out of our BapCo test to produce a *PC Plus* rating of 9.5 – by far the highest we've seen from a portable. It also performed well on the Multimedia Mark, breaking 2,000 for image processing and exceeding 2,500 overall. We have absolutely no qualms about system speed, but there is a drawback on battery life. One of the benefits of the SpeedStep's reduction in MHz when on battery power is energy conservation. Not so with the Flip-Chip. AJP quotes a life of two hours for the 3300 CDF. Under our test it produced a shade under one hour 40 minutes. However, bearing in mind we disable power saving for testing purposes, you should be able to achieve the claimed two hours in the real world.

A key feature of the Flip-Chip is that it runs ten per cent hotter than the SpeedStep, something which could affect a portable's long term

PC Plus

VERDICT

AJP 3300 CDF

For Excellent value for money, a powerful performer

Against Battery life is too short

Video System	8
Keyboard and pointing device	9
Performance	10
Connectivity	9
Power management	8
Value for money	9

9/10

PC Plus

TEST RESULTS

BapCo SYSmark	276	MM MPEG-1 Video Playback	1,638
SYSmark 98 Office Productivity	276	MM MPEG-1 Image Processing	2,631
SYSmark 98 Content Creation	276	CD-Tech	16.1
Multimedia Mark	2,146	Battery life	1 hour 37 minutes

9.5