

Recommended laptop

Dell Inspiron 1501

most appropriate for: anything, except rendering tasks and gaming benchmarks;

pros: best cost-performance, low-cost dual-core 2Gb RAM laptop, incorporates all functionality, balance of components, good design and manufacturing;

cons: none;

price (configured) : 750 euros (inc. VAT and delivery);



- **Operating System:** Windows XP Professional SP2;
Avoidance of Microsoft Vista gives better functionality, speed and reliability without sacrificing any access to applications;
- **Processor:** AMD Turion X2 (Dual Core, 1,6 Ghz);
Cheapest dual core on the market; the choice of the lowest clock speed keeps down the costs without compromising usability, if it is not used for rendering tasks. The dual core provides a speed gain which makes the PC less prone to obsolescence, as faster processors would not impact on usability.
- **RAM:** 2 Gb;
The choice of a larger amount of RAM slightly increases overall cost but gives a dramatic speed gain also in the long run; what is saved on CPU is better invested here;
- **Video Card:** ATI Xpress 1150 256Mb (integrated);
Adequate graphics for Web and general use; consider that most of the public does not play games, and even games do run on this integrated graphics;
- **Screen:** standard 15.4" 1280x800 WXGA (without TrueLife)
- **Other specifications:** DVD-RW, 80 Gb HD, 1-year warranty
- For general computing as we know it today, it is hard to see why this configuration would become obsolete even after several years;