

MacBook without keyboard available

BY GREGG ELLMAN

MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Axiotron Inc. recently unveiled the ModBook, the first-ever Mac OS X tablet computer at the Macworld Conference & Expo in San Francisco.

The ModBook is an Apple MacBook computer modified to make it keyboard-less. It uses a true pen input with 256 pressure points, with a 13.3-inch-wide-screen LCD contained in a satin chrome-plated magnesium shell.

Artists, students and medical professionals are the target audience for the \$2,279 unit.

After the computer is converted to the tablet, the result is a more durable computer than the original. The strengthened glass is built to absorb high impact. The glass will not wear, even from extended pen use.

Users can write and draw on the screen, and the handwriting recognition built into Mac OS X Tiger turns this into text in all applications. Wacom Penabled hardware is used for writing, requiring no batteries.

The MacBook's iSight camera and the CD/DVD combo drive or optional DVD SuperDrive work fine after the conversion. Also available is an optional global-positioning system.

A big highlight for the ModBook was being awarded the Best of Show Award at the Macworld Conference.

Customers can purchase the ModBook through www.macsales.com/modbook. Each tablet comes with a one-year warranty that can be extended up to three years.

NUPOWER VIDEO+

Also at Macworld, Newer Technology introduced the NuPower ViDEO+.

This is an all-in-one slim battery pack, docking station and stand for the Apple iPod video players. The battery is able to extend the capacity of playing time for 80 hours of music or 16 hours of video.

The unit also gives video iPods three full battery charges before needing a recharge. Existing iPod cables can be used to connect the pack to a USB port.

All fifth-generation iPod video models will work, and there is a spacer pad included that must be used for the 30G model. A belt clip and matching silicone protection case is included to cover the \$54.99 battery pack and the iPod.

ADOBE PREMIER ELEMENTS 3.0

With the skyrocketing sales of digital video cameras, Adobe's \$99 Premier Elements 3.0 is an easy program to use to create high-quality videos and DVDs.

The interface allows video previews, edits and adds text and sound to narrate stories.

Files are added to the program using the Sceneline feature, in a drag and drop manner like in slide shows. From there, editing is done in a timeline.

After the video is organized, effects like fading or dissolving can be added.

Once completed, the videos can be exported to DVDs or hand-held devices.