

Semi-Ruggedgeds

Portables that can take a pounding in the field.

by John R. Delaney

1 Panasonic Toughbook 52

Aptly named, the 7.4-pound Panasonic Toughbook 52 boasts a magnesium-alloy chassis, port covers to protect against dust and water intrusion, a built-in, briefcase-style carrying handle, and a shock-mounted removable hard drive. Beneath the sturdy lid are a beautiful, high-resolution (1920 x 1200), 15.4-inch widescreen display and a spacious spill-resistant keyboard. The biometric fingerprint reader and touchpad controls are spill-resistant as well.

The Toughbook 52 is equipped with an Intel Core 2 Duo T7100 or T7300 processor running at 1.8 and 2.0 GHz, respectively, and 1GB of RAM (upgradable to 4GB). Storage comes by way of an 80GB or 120GB hard drive, and video is driven by an ATI X2300 M71-M or Intel GMA X3100 graphics chip. The system has a built-in DVD burner, four USB ports, a FireWire port, and ExpressCard and PC Card slots. A SmartCard slot provides an added layer of security. The system comes with an 802.11a/b/g Wi-Fi adapter and can be outfitted with Bluetooth 2.0 and Verizon Wireless mobile broadband (EV-DO) options to provide all the wireless connectivity you'll need.

Starting at \$1,766; www.panasonic.com



2 Dell Latitude ATG D630

Dell's Latitude ATG D630 is a semi-rugged notebook with some cool features, including a bright, daylight-readable, 14.1-inch display with a built-in light sensor and a pair of red task lights for working in dim light. The magnesium-alloy case can handle drops from up to 29 inches and is finished with scuff-resistant textured paint. The LCD and hard drive are shock mounted, and the full-size keyboard is spill-resistant. You can choose from a variety of

processors and solid state or traditional hard drive. You can also have the D630 loaded with the latest wireless components, including 802.11a/g/n Wi-Fi networking, EV-DO mobile broadband, and Bluetooth.

Starting at \$2,049; www.dell.com



3 GammaTech Durabook D15T

Looking for a semi-rugged notebook that won't break the bank? The GammaTech Durabook D15T offers Intel Centrino Core 2 Duo processing power (up to 2.4 GHz) in a sturdy magnesium-alloy case for less than \$1,400. In addition to a shock-mounted hard drive up to 160GB and a spill-resistant keyboard, the Durabook comes with rubber corner guards around the 15.4-inch display and complies with the military

specifications for temperature, dust, and vibration. The system includes three USB ports, a FireWire port, and an ExpressCard slot, and you can add a SmartCard reader and an encrypted hard drive for even more security.

Starting at \$1,338; www.gammatechusa.com

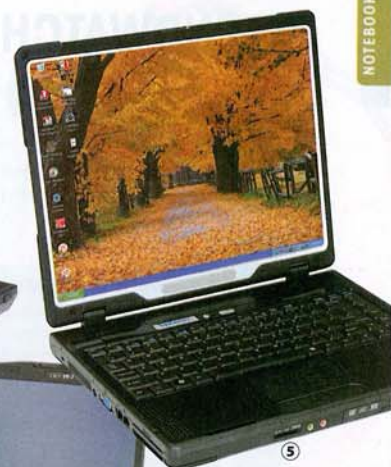


4 General Dynamics Itronix GoBook VR-2

The GoBook VR-2 from General Dynamics Itronix is one of the most durable semi-rugged notebooks around. Designed to withstand the rigors of heavy-duty vehicle use, this 6.2-pound system's magnesium-alloy housing and shock-mounted components meet the MIL-STD-810F specification for temperature range, dust ingress, humidity, and vibration. It can also handle drops from up to 30 inches and sports a spill-resistant keyboard deck. The GoBook uses an Intel Core 2 Duo T7300 processor

and features a 13.3-inch DynaVue display with touchscreen technology. Wireless communication options include 802.11a/g/n Wi-Fi, EV-DO broadband, Bluetooth, and a built-in GPS antenna for navigation.

Starting at \$3,500; www.gd-ironix.com



5 Systemax Assault

For a reasonable \$1,049, the Systemax Assault gives you a semi-rugged notebook that can take its fair share of abuse. Built on an Intel Core 2 Duo T2450 processor, the Assault comes with 512MB of memory (upgradable to 2GB) and your choice of four Windows operating systems. The magnesium-alloy chassis weighs a light 5.7 pounds and features a 14-inch display, shock-mounted components, and a spill-resistant keyboard and touchpad. If the standard 120GB hard drive

doesn't meet your storage needs, you can opt for the 250GB drive for just \$70 more. A DVD burner, 4-in-1 card reader, SmartCard and PC Card slots, and front-mounted headphone and microphone jacks are all standard issue.

Starting at \$1,049; www.systemaxpc.com