

WINDOWS XP

Raon Digital Vega

£579.99

A compact offering with impressive battery life. But is the Vega hit by a lack of functionality?

Essential info

Very compact, but a little light on features

Processor 500MHz
RAM 512MB
HD 30GB

- Supplied by: www.pocketpc-solutions.com
- More information: www.raondigital.com

On looks alone the Vega is far more what you'd expect from an Ultra Mobile PC. Not significantly larger than a PDA, it's a more compact and genuinely mobile solution than some of the other models we tested. The weight is maybe the one thing that prevents it from being truly portable: it's actually some way lighter than the Q1 but the smaller size makes it feel heavier. Most of the weight and thickness is caused by the large battery pack on the back, so at least it's being put to good use as the Vega offers far and away the best battery life.

But unfortunately, elsewhere the features are lacking. Bluetooth and wi-fi aren't built in. A wi-fi dongle is included (a Bluetooth one is an optional extra), and adds a protrusion of a few inches from one of the USB ports on the side. Likewise, there is no integrated VGA port for connection to an external monitor. A dongle for this is also included, but it's hardly ideal that your USB ports will be filled up simply getting the device up to speed. And then there's the final complaint – the display.

As with the UBiQuiO 701, the native 800 x 600 resolution is scaled to fit the screen.

It may be light on more obvious features, but the Vega has one very smart trick



In use Office and email

The Raon Digital Vega has an impressive battery life, making it ideal for office and email use

up its sleeve – USB client mode. With the device powered down it can be connected via USB to a PC, upon which it will show up as a removable drive. If you need to move very large files around from one machine to another, this is an extremely handy feature.

And in other areas the device is pleasant to use. The d-pad is very effective and there are plenty of navigation buttons, which means you rarely have to use the stylus. And while the device is not for 3D applications, it's more than suitable for office and email use, especially given the impressive battery life.



How it stacks up...

7 The Raon is quite appealing, but it's lacking the features to be a real challenger

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Performance

The stretched display similar to the UBiQuiO is a small annoyance, and a slower processor makes it capable of less power-hungry tasks than the rival products. Battery life, however, is particularly good.

Features

Bluetooth and wi-fi are only available as external attachments, seriously hindering the effectiveness of the device in mobile terms. The fact that you can use it as a USB hard drive when turned off is a nice bonus.

Value

The price of the Raon Digital Vega is not unappealing and the wi-fi dongle is included in the package. However, the reliance on external devices means that it should largely be viewed as a standalone device.

PDA or laptop?

Maybe the best form factor for the UMPC, it straddles the handheld and notebook devices with some style. Perhaps too many compromises have been taken with the hardware, though.