

## Show

## Gadgets &amp; Games

# Let down by poor navigation

REVIEW: **GREGORY LOO**  
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**Asus Eee Slate**  
PRICE: \$1,699

IT'S a bit hard to review the Eee Slate.

On the one hand, you have to hand it to the folks at Asus for taking a Windows laptop and shrinking it down to something handier.

Despite this, the Eee Slate proves that this isn't always a good thing, especially when we compare it to recently-launched devices that have scored well in this area.

The Eee Slate masquerades pretty well as a tablet, donning a look that might have a few mistaking it for the iPad's big brother, especially with its home button and 12.1-inch screen.

But most of the similarities end there.

The Eee Slate is considerably fatter than a typical tablet at 1.7cm. It houses USB ports and a card reader, interfaces you'd find on a full-sized PC.

While it can be used with touch-screen input, the Eee Slate comes with a digitiser pen that serves as a much better way to navigate the Windows 7 operating system.

In fact, the pen is one of the things I love about the Eee Slate as it makes sketching a lot easier. Plus you get to exercise your writing arm as an

alternative form of text input.

That said, Windows 7 is clearly not an OS optimised for touch-screen devices. Even with the pen, navigation is sometimes frustrating and clunky.

You could get the compatible Bluetooth keyboard as well as a USB mouse, but that would pretty much defeat the purpose of owning a tablet, wouldn't it?

And judging from the review unit, the cooling fans inside could make this one noisy device.

Battery life is on the low side – the Eee Slate lasts about four hours when fully charged.

Weighing in at 1.16kg, the Eee Slate comes at a rather hefty price of \$1,699.

I tried really, really hard to love the Eee Slate. In fact, the sketcher in me absolutely adores this little offering from Asus.

But while it can count on Windows OS as a mitigating factor, the Eee Slate cannot escape comparisons with other tablets on the market and ultimately, it falls short as a result.

**RATING:**  
✓✓✓

Gadget GUY

Gadget GAT

# Heavy specs, hefty price

REVIEW: **TAN MAE LYNN**  
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A NOTEBOOK shaped like a tablet.

That's what the Asus Eee Slate looks like, and Asus has also pitched it as a "powerful tablet PC".

I'm a fan of Asus notebooks and was excited to review the Slate.

With a 12-inch display, it's better than most tablets for viewing videos and is almost like

a small TV screen.

And despite its size – about 30cm by 20cm and 1.7cm thick – it has managed to keep its weight at just 1.16kg, which I think is impressive.

That said, it's light for a laptop but heavy for a tablet.

Aesthetically, the Slate can't compare with other tablets in the market. It lacks the style and finesse of many of Asus' laptops like the latest Zenbook.

The Slate runs on Windows, and its 64GB SSD and 4GB RAM really make it more of a notebook than a tablet, which is great – theoretically.

But despite running on an Intel Core i5 processor, the Slate was laggy when performing even simple tasks and functions like rotating the screen. My guess is Windows is just not meant for tablets.

All these, however, are not deal-breakers. It really depends on what kind of user you are and whether you're looking for a tablet or a laptop.

My biggest grouse is the Slate's processor fan. It is noisier than a desktop PC and it doesn't stop as long as the device is on.

And it comes with a heavy price tag of \$1,699.

**RATING:** ✓✓✓



## Less shake, more zoom

**PENTAX OPTIO RZ18**  
PRICE: \$399

SHUTTERBUGS looking for a compact camera with a big zoom may want to check out the RZ18.

This 16-megapixel camera comes with an 18x optical zoom, one of the highest in its class.

And to help you take sharp pictures at full zoom, the Optio features a

multiple sensor-shift Shake Reduction (SR) mechanism as well as Pixel Track SR, which work together to reduce blur and camera shake.



## Like cushions around your ears

**PHILIPS SHL9700/10**  
PRICE: \$119

If you like the superior sound quality of ear-can style headphones but want to listen to your music in comfort, the SHL9700/10 is worth a look.

The pads around the earpiece, dubbed floating cushions, are made from deluxe memory foam, letting you keep them on for longer periods without discomfort.

It also sports 40mm studio-grade drivers for thumping bass and pristine highs, and its foldable design makes it easy to carry around.



## Lightweight and tangle-free

**VEHO Z-1**  
PRICE: \$29

Flat, ribbon-like anti-tangle cords used to be a feature found only in high-end earbuds.

Now they are also available to audiophiles on a budget in the form of the Veho Z-1, which costs under \$30.

It sports the flex anti-tangle cords, alongside features like noise isolation, which blocks out ambient sound.

Weighing just 2g, it's comfortable to leave in your ear for extended periods.

