



## Family gift

## A computer everyone can use

During hist year's holiday season, many buffled shoppers blazed a trail from store to store in search of the perfect computer. A computer the entire family could use—something that would balance the books for Dad's home-based expenses, help the kids with their homework and not cost thousands of dollars.

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Many of these people ended up confused and frustrated, finding few compromises between low-cost home computers good enough for the children and more elaborate, expensive personal computers powerful enough for adults

BUT ANOTHER option is becoming pepular portable computers with the capabilities of larger desktop systems, but at costs less than \$1,000. A new generation of portable computers has emerged, priced in the same range as the first portables on the market a few years ago, but with more power and larger screens.

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Since many of these machines come with word-processing, spread-sheet and telecommunications programs, adults can use the computers to transfer information to their offices when they are on business trips. At other times, students can do library research at home by using the computer and a telephone to hook into an information utility.

"AS COMPUTER technology gets more and more advanced, we're going to see smaller computers that can do a lot more." said Cliff Bream, director of marketing for Epson America Inc., manufacturer of the Geneva portable computer. "This is a real advantage for people who need a small, powerful, versatile machine."

Part of the versatility to look for when buying a computer is its ability to increase memory capacity and expand its capabilities as your computer needs expand.

Such computers limit the financial risk for people who are unsure of their future computer needs. Bream said. These people wil not be forced to guess at the functions they'll want to use several years from now. They won't possibly have to spend a lot of money to replace a too-small computer when they find they guessed incorrectly.

INSTEAD. THESE people can have a machine to which they can add a variety of attachments as they determine their needs And they can wait to add the attachments until they can afford them, rather than buying them all at once in one big, expensive pacakeg

A plus for portable computers. Bream

