



# HP OmniBook

The OmniBook 300 was made by the calculator division of HP. The OmniBook was indestructable, had a good keyboard and was, for the time, very small, light and portable. It also had two cool innovations. First, system files, operating system and office suite were installed not on the hard drive, but on a theoretically replaceable ROM card. The OmniBook had and needed only 2 MB of RAM because everything installed in ROM, executed in ROM, and didn't use memory. The second innovation was a pop-out mouse. You pressed a button, and out it popped. Control of the mouse pointer came not from registering movement under the mouse, as most mice do, but by the movement of the "popsicle stick" piece of plastic that connected mouse to laptop.

The OmniBook had a nine-inch, black-and-white VGA screen, was 6.4 x 11.1 x 1.4 inches.

At the time of its introduction in 1993, the HP Omnibook 300 was the smallest and lightest PC on the market to feature a full-size keyboard and full VGA (video graphics array) screen. It weighed only 2.9 pounds and was based on the Intel 386 processor. It included Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Word and a pop-up mouse.

PC World in its list the 25 Greatest PCs of All Time included the OmniBook 300 at number 18 with the following quote "The innovative OmniBook 300 wasn't just one of the first subnotebooks--it was one of the most innovative hardware designs ever, albeit one that didn't prove particularly influential. Weighing 2.9 pounds, the system stored Windows 3.1, Excel 4.0, Word 2.0, and MS-DOS 5.0 in ROM memory rather than on a hard drive; this allowed it to boot up instantly. User storage was solid-state too, on a 40MB PCMCIA Type III hard disk or a 10MB PCMCIA Type II flash-disk drive. Productivity was a central theme for the OmniBook, which started at \$1950. The unit came with LapLink Remote Access and HP's organizational tools (contacts, appointments, and a financial calculator, same as in the HP 100LX), and provided one-button access to all applications. It also had a unique integrated mouse that popped out of the laptop's right side on a thin piece of plastic; the design eliminated the need for an annoying mouse cable, but the mouse was small and awkward to move about."

The picture with the pen is purely to show the relative sizes. The close shows clearly the unique pop out mouse

Manufacturer: Hewlett Packard  
Date: 1993

## Magazines RELATED to HP OmniBook 300 in our Library

Item	Manufacturer	Date
<a href="#">Byte September 1993</a>		September 1993
<a href="#">Personal Computer World - January 1995</a>		January 1995
<a href="#">Personal Computer World - February 1995</a>		February 1995
<a href="#">Personal Computer World - April 1995</a>		April 1995
<a href="#">Personal Computer World - December 1996</a>		01-12-1996
<a href="#">Personal Computer World - August 1997</a>		01-08-1997
<a href="#">Personal Computer World - May 1998</a>		May 1998

## Other Systems Related To HP OmniBook 300:

Item	Manufacturer	Date
<a href="#">HP Compaq TC1100</a>	Hewlett Packard	Unknown
<a href="#">HP Visualize 8160L</a>	Hewlett Packard	Unknown
<a href="#">HP Apollo 710 Workstation</a>	Hewlett Packard	Unknown
<a href="#">HP 9845B</a>	Hewlett Packard	1980
<a href="#">HP 9826A</a>	Hewlett Packard	1981
<a href="#">HP 9826</a>	Hewlett Packard	March 1981
<a href="#">HP 9836</a>	Hewlett Packard	1983
<a href="#">HP 110</a>	Hewlett Packard	1984
<a href="#">HP Portable Plus</a>	Hewlett Packard	1984



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<a href="#">HP OmniBook 5700 CT</a>	Hewlett Packard	1997
<a href="#">HP 320LX Palmtop PC</a>	Hewlett Packard	May 1997
<a href="#">HP OmniBook XE2</a>	Hewlett Packard	1999
<a href="#">HP Jornada 548</a>	Hewlett Packard	2000

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