

FRIDAY, AUG 20 2004

Motorola Develops Dual-Core G4

filed under [laptops](#)

Ars Technica mentions that Motorola is working on a dual-core version of the G4 chip that currently powers Apple's iBooks and Powerbooks. Although it's possible that Apple might release a final tweaked version of the Powerbook that utilizes the chips before the expected G5 upgrade, Ars' Hannibal postulates that because a major overhaul would be needed to take full advantage of the dual-core processors, it's not likely that Apple will invest the time and effort when the energy could be expending developing the new G5 models.



The other option, though, would be for Apple to release a model that doesn't utilize the dual-core G4s fully. If they did that, despite any hype from Apple, the performance results wouldn't be that impressive.

[Read - Dual-core G4 on the way](#) [ArsTechnica]

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MYMO Phone for Kids

filed under [cellphones](#)

The MYMO phone is a pretty fun idea for parents who want to provide their young children with the safety and convenience of a mobile, but don't want them making calls to just anyone. The MYMOs are locked down to just five numbers, all controlled by just three buttons. MYMO knows their market, and knows such limitations won't fly for most kids past the age of ten, but if you're in the UK and you want to get your kid wireless without giving them free run of the phone bill, the £60 phones look pretty sporty. There's even an integrated headset that doubles as a necklace, so your kid won't have to bother with carrying in a bag (and losing it).



Of course, I'd be harping on the restricted freedoms of the UK's young citizens if the MYMOs didn't have adorable little ears. Well played!

[Read - Product Page](#) [MYMO]

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Panasonic VDR M70 with DVD-RAM Burner

filed under [digitalcameras](#)

Panasonic's new VDR M70 is another DVD-burner on-board digital camcorder, although in addition to DVD-R it also supports the DVD-RAM format (in 3-inch disc varieties, of course). In addition, the VDR M70 has an anemic 1.2-megapixel still camera, 10x optical zoom, and a 2.5-inch LCD monitor. Altogether sort of pedestrian, really, although it does have image stabilization, which should be standard on almost everything these days, but surprisingly often isn't.



[Read - Panasonic makes handheld DVD recording easy](#) [GadgetryBlog]

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Insight StrikeFinder Digital Weather Avoidance

filed under [gadgets](#)

By detecting and processing electrical activity from lightning strikes, the Insight StrikeFinder helps pilots to avoid dangerous weather that can turn a small aircraft into an aluminum coffin. Compiling and interpolating data from thousands of strikes "gleaned from the background noise," the StrikeFinder lets pilots determine if that impending storm cloud is really as dangerous as it might seem, preventing unnecessary detours that might take them unnecessarily off course.



The StrikeFinder is available in two models - the new model with an ultra-bright LED display can be had for just \$4,700, while the original models are a relative bargain at \$3,900. (*Thanks, Rob!*)

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