



Panasonic cf 30 laptop

Note: In January 2009, Panasonic upgraded the Toughbook CF-30 to the latest CF-30K version. This included switching from Intel Core 2 Duo L7500 to very low voltage with Core 2 Duo SL9300 vPro(TM) technology that potentially improves security. Standard memory doubled to 2GB and the standard hard drive capacity also doubled to 160GB (SSDs are now also optionally available). All CF-30 models now have a 1,000 nit LCD display with circular polarization technology, as well as dazzling and reflective display treatments to improve screen visibility and improve mobile workers' availability in the field. Battery life is now said to be up to ten hours, although the faster replacement processor has the same 17 watt thermal design power as the older chip. Few computers have the history and pedigree of rugged Panasonic Toughbooks, and of them the CF-27/CF-28/CF-29 and now the CF-30 is a special place, since perhaps the most popular rugged laptop ever made. With this design, Panasonic was basically a pioneer in the concept of a rugged mobile computer that is tough enough to be used in the field, but still affordable. Panasonic's excellent industrial design certainly helped, as did their characteristic use of highly visible magnesium, which lowered weight and provided additional strength and protection. Panasotic also kept its flagship Toughbook model up to date with constant improvements over the years. As a result, it won several Pen Computing Magazine Editor's Choice awards when I led this publications. The Toughbook Story How did it all start? With a relatively small team at Japan's giant Matsushita company. In true coucling on excellence in research, they found a way to succeed in a PC market where others couldn't. They figh team, the vision, perseverance and probably some luck. Everything is in place, Toughbook became one of the real success stories of mobile computing. A few years ago, I received an invitation from Matsushita to take a closer look at how Panasonic was very cooperative and allowed me to see all aspects

of the process and talk to everyone involved. I saw for myself that the essence of Toughbook is that everyone is designed and built to withstand the abuse that any ordinary notebook could survive. It involves a lot of research and also a lot of testing and certification. Certification. Certification to the abuse that any ordinary notebook could survive. It involves a lot of testing and certification. premises in accordance with both Japanese and US test procedures, and the products are also subjected to independent tests. In the United States, these tests are conducted by the Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio, a nonprofit testing facility whose clients include NASA and U.S. automakers. SWRI performs MIL-STD 810 rugged testing. The most visible features of Toughbooks are their magnesium case. Few computers are as recognizable by a specific material as Toughbooks for magnesium. Panasonic got the most out of this association. In toughbooks, magnesium is both a design element and a structural feature, and its choice is easily justified. Magnesium, although light and readily available, is also rigid, conducts well, protects electromagnetic waves and it is clear why magnesium has become the desired material. It's beautiful to look at and very hard. However, working with magnesium is not easy. It requires great expertise and large investments in product development and equipment. Panasonic uses advanced tixomolding, a spraying process invented by Dow Chemical in the United States that uses melted magnesium chips and argon gas and provides increased safety and cleanliness, as well as higher-quality parts. At the time, I was one of the few outsiders who has ever got a tour through Panasonic's magnesium diaper with his tixomolding machines. That's an impressive sight. 4th generation Toughbook The Toughbook Shown here is 4. generation model, called the CF-30. Its external design is virtually unchanged compared to its predecessors, as there was little room for improvement in terms of design. However, time doesn't stop, and under the hood, the flagship Toughbook has been going through massive technology updates. Our cf-30 review, which arrived in late 2007, is based on the 1.66GHz Intel Core Duo L2400 processor. There are 80GB of hard drives, the largest RAM is 4GB of PC4200 DDR2, and the unit has an Express Card/54 slot and an SD card slot is optionally available. Of course, there's ethernet, Intel PRO/Wireless 3945ABG module for WiFi, Bluetooth 2.0+ EDR and 91 watt-hour main battery, which is good for five to eight hours depending on usage patterns and screen brightness. Depending on the options, the CF-30 is a mobile broadband ready for Alltel, AT&T, Sprint and Verizon Wireless networks. A look at Panasonic's global website shows slightly updated specs. The CF-30 specifications listed therein show a 1.6GHz Intel Core 2 Duo L7500 processor with an 800 MHz front bus, memory from 1GB, Intel GM965 chipset. This is likely to be which was available to customers when we publish this review (21 January 2008). Appearance problems Because the shape factor of the CF-30 is from previous models, Panasonic has not switched (yet) to a wide-format display. Here you get a 13.3-inch LCD display with standard XGA 1024 x 768 resolution. Panasonic offers both a standard display and a touchscreen model. Touchscreens add a lot of functionality to your mobile computer, but usually reduce outdoor readability because the resistive touchscreen comes with four reflective surfaces instead of just two, as on a standard screen. The untreated touchscreen reflects up to 20% of the incoming light, which would make the screen unread outside. It appears that Panasonic applied an AR coating to all four surfaces of the touchscreen and also to the top surface of the LCD display, and it probably cut the reflectivity to about 4%. Still, this wouldn't be enough for the look area, so Panasonic doubled the brightness of the touchscreen CF-30 backlight from 500 nits to 1,000 nits. This leads to an effective contrast ratio of 3.5:1, which is enough to make the screen guite readable outside. (Click here for an overview model didn't have a touchscreen, but instead came with a standard LCD with a 500 nit backlight. Consumer notebooks rarely have more than 200 nits because it is not needed indoors and because bright backlights consume a lot of battery power. When you take the CF-30 out into the sunlight, I expected to be a little disappointed and see the screen wash out in direct sunlight. This was not the case. Even facing the sun, I could clearly look at what was on the screen. Like all such displays, the sun's direct reflection of it caused significant glare, but also to cut its amount. So, finding the best angle for optimal viewing ability. One slightly annoying feature of the screen is its greenish cast when viewed in direct sunlight. Whites turn yellowish green. However, the screen is razor-sharp, there are no strange color changes that so often mar processed screens, and the experience was much better than I expected. The pristine image below shows the CF-30 outside on a fairly bright and cloudless day. Touch and feel Even after all these years and after checking out a good number of Toughbooks, I never cease to be amazed at how perfect they are. When I visited Moriguch's Matsushian IT products department on that trip, I learned how even paint applied to toughbook's exterior and interior surfaces matters. The hardness of the paint is measured by the same standard as the graphite hardness of the pencil. At the time, the hardness of the paint cannot be scratched with a 6H pencil. Acidity of plastics in sweat dye or break down paint or plastic itself. PH levels are important and must be taken into account when determining materials. Since heat evaporation is always a problem on laptops, heat-secreting paints can make the water a pearl away and thus the painted device is more resistant to dirt. But every change can affect other features. Everything that crossed my mind as I studied our review of the CF-30 with its sleek magnesium body. Each row is just right, a medium fine finish of powder coats couldn't be better. and there is just the right amount of resistance. The spring-loaded screen latch is just brilliant, locks easily and keeps the display case in place and opens just as easily. But that's not all. Two bolt-like bumps in the upper-left corner of the screen cover and the upper-right corner fit neatly into the sleeved indents of the computer's lower gate, keeping the screen even more firmly in place. If the CF-30 falls and hits the ground at a bad angle, the display will not twist and break. It's just a little design detail that can make a difference. The CF-30 has a signature magnesium handle that is part of the distinctive look of the design. Yes, it adds a little size and weight, but I like the solution. And it can even hold a pen in touchscreen versions of the CF-30. The CF-30 has a full-fledged 87-key keyboard and a pressure-sensitive touchpad with a vertical scrolling area. The keyboard is clearly marked and offers very good touch feedback. The touchpad, on the other hand, feels slow and requires strong pressure to act reliably. There is room for improvement in this area. The four pages of the CF-30 Below you can see all four sides and the CF-30 Below you can see all fo hard-head plugs. They can be easily replaced if they break. Others are grouped together and sealed with a single lid. On the left side of the device, a large door covers the ExpressCard, PC slot and multimedia bag. On the right side, the IEEE1394 connector, the SD card slot, and the modem and LAN ports are under the common door. The doors have O-ring seals and spring-loaded latles. The hard disk is also available externally. To prevent the door from opening unintentionally, a small safety latch must be moved before a larger latch can be moved upwards and the door opened. A similar locking mechanism is used on the battery compartment door. At the back, a large door covers and protects two more USB ports, an external antenna connector, a display port, an expansion connector, and a sound inlet and right sides of the latch can be removed and presumably replaced with individual covers. Available options Computers such as Toughbook CF-30 are used in many different requirements. That's why Panasonic offers a variety of options that customers may need or need. These include: Integrated EVDO and HSDPA wide-ranging wireless Integrated GPS backlight keyboard, either closed rubber or plastic emmissive SmartCard reader Fingerprint scanner Combo drive or DVD Multi Drive Vehicle mount and table gate replicators Multimedia Pocket Ruggedness secondary battery The term rugged is relative and is fairly in the manufacturer's end, whether they label the product as durable, semi-durable, business sustainable or given some other designation. Panasonic calls the CF-30 completely durable, but the data is inconsistent. For example, the CF30 handbook states a very conservative operating temperature range between 41 and 95 Degrees Fahrenheit, a far cry from the claim on Panasonic's website that the machine is manufactured to operate at temperatures above 140 and below -20 Fahrenheit. The latter area appears to have come from high and low operating temperature tests according to the MIL-STF-810F, which the machine passed. A Japanese website reports a three-foot drop in spec as the CF-30 passed the MIL-STD-810F Transit Drop Test 26 consecutive drops in no-use mode for each face, edge and angle from a height of 36 inches. The drop surface was defined as a two-inch thick plymester over a steel plate on top of the concrete, and Windows was launched after each drop. Panasonic's literature does not define the Ingress Protection classification. Water resistance was tested in accordance with MIL-STD-810F, 506.4, Procedure 1, which blows dust. This refers to the IP51 rating. The CF-30 actually looks well enough to provide IP54 protection (water stick from all directions), and a video on Panasonic's website actually shows a water stick from all directions). The machine has lots of stylish details and a visually pleasing finish, with others simply putting on plastic and rubber bumpers, so the CF30 can cause scratches with rough handling. But it passes all mil-STD tests, I've personally seen it torture tested. It is much tougher than an ordinary laptop, there is no doubt about it. The Bottomline Panasonic Toughbook CF-30 is as close to timeless design as it is with laptops. Panasonic created this market almost alone, and its success is the result of reliable attractive industrial design, reliability and guality, as well as the long-term commitment of Japan's giant Matsushita company. Commitment. The CF-30, Panasonic kept its flagship rugged laptop technically up to date with processor and chipset upgrades without giving in to fashion trends like wide-ranging, shiny displays. This is a highly qualified exterior-described stark notebook based on a mobile computing platform that has been tested in the field with multiple industries and applications for more than a decade. Conrad H. Blickenstorfer Blickenstorfer

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