



**T**HE Twinhead Efiol! e121A is a good alternative to the Centrino. The unit

sent to us had Mobile AMD Athlon XP-M 1500+ and 128MB of DDR RAM.

Interestingly, the processor which actually runs at 1,300MHz performed on par with 'faster' Centrinos.

It even boots up and shuts down faster than some Pentium 4 notebooks I have tried before. This gives some truth to AMD's assertion that the MHz clockspeed is no longer an accurate method to gauge performance.

The model has a 12.1-inch XGA TFT screen, an internal 8X DVD and CD-RW Combo Drive, a 40GB HDD, three USB 2.0 slots, a VGA port, Local Area Network (LAN), a 56Kbps V.90 modem, a type II 32-bit Card Bus (PCMCIA) socket, line-out, microphone jack and pre-installed Windows XP Home (add RM299 for XP Pro).

The review unit came with a S3 ProSavage DDR graphics adapter which uses 8MB of the main memory (adjustable to 32MB). I liked the convenient locations of the hardware volume control knob and the hardware Wi-Fi on/off switch.

The low-voltage (25W) and slim 1.6kg (without battery) e121A came with

## 1. Twinhead Efiol! e121A

**Enquiries:** Abec Technology Sdn Bhd (03-79542323)

**Price:** RM3,999

**Panel judge:** Hazimin Sulaiman

built-in Wi-Fi, (11Mbps WM168 USB Module using a Wlan Prism SMC chip).

Software included were Cyberlink's PowerDVD player, Roxio Easy CD Creator 5 Basic, Efiol! Product Recovery CD-ROM, a utility CD and Microsoft Windows XP Home Edition.

I liked the e121A's form factor and features although some of the keys were a bit too small, like the teeny backspace key, number keys, alt, ctrl, del and the spacebar. I kept accidentally deleting entire rows of text.

**Computes Shopper Malaysia Value Buy**



**CATEGORY: MOBILE PCS**

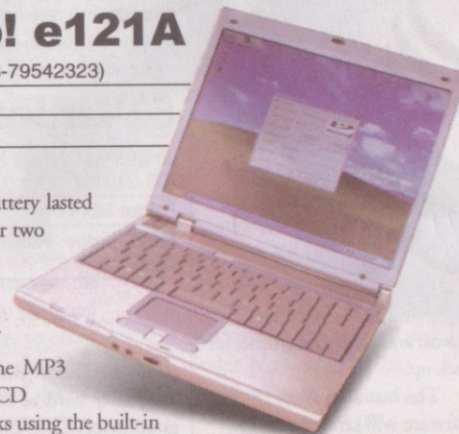
The battery lasted slightly over two hours even after heavy use inclusive of burning nine MP3 songs into CD

Audio tracks using the built-in combo drive and using Wi-Fi to transfer files using an *ad-hoc* (peer-to-peer) Wi-Fi connection (60MB of files).

The battery juts out slightly and there is a gap between the battery and body. Maybe the battery was meant originally for other Efiol! series notebooks.

Using Fresh Diagnose 4.0 (visit [www.freshdevices.com](http://www.freshdevices.com)), the e121A seemed a bit slower than a Pentium 4 1.6GHz processor in the Processor Benchmark test running at 1,310MHz.

As usual, notebooks tend to suffer in multimedia and graphics benchmarks: the Multimedia benchmark's CPU Index result showed a score of



499 (Pentium 4 1.6GHz scored 1,256). In SiSoft Sandra 2002 Standard benchmark test, the test unit performed significantly better than a Pentium 4 1.6GHz processor in the multimedia section due to AMD's 3DNOW! and supporting multimedia technology.

This is definitely a good value for money alternative to consider if you need a notebook with built-in Wi-Fi. The built-in S3 graphics card is good enough for work and to run productivity applications. However, it is not meant for demanding graphics-intensive gaming applications or 3D modelling. ☹

## Verdict



Physical design	★★★★
Documentation	★★★★
User-friendliness	★★★★
Performance	★★★★
Features	★★★★
Value for money	★★★★