

# RuggedPCReview.com

If it's rugged, we review it and write about it

Summer 2008

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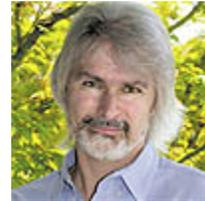
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## Greetings!

Rugged is hot. There's been a flurry of action with new products being announced every week as the high cost of transportation makes field automation ever more attractive. More big companies are getting into the rugged business. Last year Motorola bought Symbol, the year before General Dynamics bought Itronix. More recently, Honeywell bought Hand Held Products and now Metrologic. Italian Finmeccanica bought DRS which itself had bought WalkAbout some time ago. Roper Industries bought DAP, Black Diamond and JLT Mobile Computers to form RMT. At RuggedPCReview we've been super-busy reporting on these developments and adding new products and detailed product reviews to our site. The depth and quality of our reviews has not gone unnoticed. Type "Rugged PC" into Google, and we're #1 AND #2.



In this issue we're welcoming a number of new premier sponsors: [Advantech](#), [DT Research](#), [Juniper Systems](#), [RMT](#), and [RAM-Mounts](#). These are some of the movers and shakers in the rugged industry.

In this newsletter I'll tell you what's been going on in the rugged space, what major reviews we've added, and what companies are on the up-and-up.

## GETAC B300: Super bright screen and super-long battery life



[GETAC's B300](#) was introduced in early 2008 to fill the need for a compact, fully rugged notebook computer with long battery life and a display that is bright enough to be read in full sunlight. The B300 was also created to take on its main rivals, the GD-Itronix XR-1 and the Panasonic CF-30.

[GETAC B300](#)  
[GETAC P470](#)  
[GD Sectera Edge](#)  
[DRS ARMOR X10](#)  
[DRS ARMOR C12](#)  
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Despite its fairly powerful 1.6GHz Intel Core 2 Duo L7500 processor, the B300 does not need a fan and runs in complete silence. Thanks to an elaborate heat piping system it doesn't even warm up very much. And Getac claims that the B300 can run up to 12 hours on a charge of its large 87 watt-hour Li-Ion battery. How does the B300 compare, and, as a newer design, does it offer more advanced features and technologies the older machines do not have? And is the 12 hour battery claim true? [[Read our full review of the GETAC B300](#)]

### Rugged industrial tablet with big screen: the Advantech MARS-3100R

We reviewed the [Advantech MARS-3100R](#), a rugged industrial tablet computer from an experienced Taiwanese embedded and industrial systems company with a worldwide presence. It's small and handy, and weighs just five pounds. A 1.2GHz Intel Core Duo U2500 processor provides a good balance between performance and battery life. The aluminum-alloy body is very solid, sealed to IP54 specs, and can take a beating. Combined with full 1024 x 768 pixel XGA resolution on a 10.4-inch display with dual panel input, the MARS-3100R excels in applications that require as much screen real estate as possible in a very compact, rugged computer. [[Read description and specs of the Advantech MARS-3100R](#)]



### GETAC E100 -- A light and handy tablet



Getac introduced the E100 in early 2008 as a light, versatile rugged Ultra Portable Tablet PC for field and customer service applications. It's smaller than a standard sheet of paper and weighs just a bit over three pounds. It has a magnesium housing and an integrated numeric keypad makes rapid data entry easy. The E100 is totally silent as there is no fan. The Intel A110-powered tablet also has a SmartCard reader, an ExpressCard slot, and that it can be equipped with integrated GPS and your choice of 3G wireless network connectivity. The 8.4-inch display is sunlight-readable and the battery is strong enough to last almost four hours. [[Read full review of the Getac E100 rugged Tablet PC.](#)]

## Juniper Systems Archer ultra-rugged Field PC



The [Juniper Systems Archer Field PC](#) may look friendly with its pumpkin-orange cladding (gray is available) and big round buttons, but it is an entirely serious machine that's as tough and rugged as they come. A very intelligent design combines a rock-solid magnesium core with easily-replaceable exterior elastomer protection, making for both superior durability and above-average connectivity and onboard expansion. The Archer is ergonomically designed, too, and its strong battery easily lasts a full shift or even two. Electronics and software are tried and field-proven,

Overall, the Archer Field PC is a superbly designed, ultra-rugged handheld computer. It's tough enough to handle virtually any abuse, yet small enough to be carried anywhere. This and its powerful battery make the Archer a convincing choice for any number of demanding field applications. [\[Check our review of the Juniper Systems Archer\]](#) (and yes, we did a video of how we abused the machine. Did it hold up?)

## Crazy videos highlight real-world ruggedness



Rugged computers are usually tested in accordance with stringent military procedures. But what do these environmental specifications mean in the real world? What happens when you spill more than a soda onto a computer? For example, could you take an IP54-rated rugged Tablet PC underwater ([see underwater video](#))? [MobileDemand](#) has been very active in creating short videos that show in dramatic fashion how rugged their xTablet Rugged Tablet PC is and how much abuse it can take. If you want to see a Tablet PC

being dropped, splashed, rained on, and even used as a hammer to pound nails into a board, [view their latest video](#) or [see screen snaps and description of the torture tests](#).

## Mounting and docking



We're thrilled to have a relationship with [RAM Mounts](#). If you need to mount, fasten, or dock your mobile terminal, handheld, or notebook in a car, truck, boat, forklift, airplan or just about anywhere else, nothing beats RAM's patented ball and socket mounting system that allows you to mount practically anything anywhere. With RAM's long list of custom solutions for virtually any application, you are sure to find the perfect solution for your mounting needs. Made in the USA and backed with a Lifetime Warranty, RAM is your best choice for versatile mobile mounting solutions. See [RAM's homepage at RuggedPCReview](#).

I hope you enjoyed this Summer 2008 update. Stop by at [RuggedPCReview.com](#) and get the latest news on rugged and mobile technology (we now have reviews and data on over 300 rugged systems). If you're a vendor, consider becoming a sponsor of [RuggedPCReview.com](#). We have excellent Google visibility. As stated upfront (we're very proud of it!), type "Rugged PC" and we come up #1 and #2 in Google. View the [RuggedPCReview Media Kit](#), see [what our sponsors get](#), or email me with sponsorship/advertising questions.

Sincerely,

Conrad

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