

EDIMAX BR-6258N

PRICE

\$47

SUPPLIER

www.i-tech.com.au



Edimax's "nano" router is a brilliant piece of kit. It's small enough to fit in the palm of your hand, yet still manages to squeeze in a range of features of which many full-sized wireless routers would be envious. It sports two Ethernet ports – one LAN, one WAN for cable-based internet connections – 802.11n 150Mbps/sec wireless, and a WPS button on the side for a quick, secure connection. It's powered via a USB socket, and it can be used both as a standard access point or a wireless bridge – handy for adding wireless to a non-wireless-equipped internet TV or similar. Performance is surprisingly good, achieving an average transfer rate with large files of 5.6MB/sec at close range, and the price is very reasonable indeed. A useful addition to your laptop bag.

Jonathan Bray

OVERALL



WACOM BAMBOO STYLUS

PRICE

\$28

SUPPLIER

www.ht.com.au

Better known for its range of graphics tablets, Wacom's latest accessory brings stylus control to Apple's iPad. There's no technology at work: this is a simple capacitive stylus, and while the box proclaims that it's "for iPad", it will work with any tablet with a capacitive screen. It feels beautifully made: the matte-finish metal sits nicely in the hand, and there's just enough heft to make for comfortable writing and drawing. The soft replaceable nib felt a little too squidgy at first, but we were soon happily scribbling notes in Wacom's Bamboo notepad app for iPad, as well as exploring our creative side in ArtRage. The glaring issue is the price: at \$28, you're paying a premium for the logo and sleek finish, when a cheaper capacitive stylus may well suffice.

Sasha Muller



OVERALL



COOLERMASTER SILENCIO 550

PRICE

\$100

SUPPLIER

www.mwave.com.au



Even if you aren't building a hardcore gaming system, you'll likely have some noise emanating from the assorted fans and hard drives in a newly built PC.

CoolerMaster's Silencio 550 is designed to keep the noise down in such builds, with acoustic foam on the side and front panels. This doesn't detract from features though, with ample drive bays and a set of front ports that includes a USB 3, SD card reader and audio outputs. It even has a modicum of space behind the motherboard tray for cable tidying. We are in two minds about the glossy plastic front door, but generally the conservative looks work well for the Silencio. It is reasonably priced for a silenced case, but keep in mind it ships without a power supply, which will up the overall price.

John Gillooly

OVERALL



MICROSOFT LIFE CAM STUDIO

PRICE

\$89

SUPPLIER

www.msy.com.au

Microsoft claims its new LifeCam Studio is one of the highest resolution webcams around and, with 8-megapixel photo capture included alongside 720p video recording, we're hard-pressed to disagree. The camera's autofocus is quick and accurate and, once that's done, the LifeCam's sharp detail comes to the fore. Despite lacking a macro mode, autofocus locked onto objects little more than 6cm from the lens. Its 1080p and 8-megapixel settings are reserved for photos, but while grain and compression artefacts are obvious close-up, quality is great for the money. The TrueColor image enhancement is best left disabled, though, as it washes out images in bright surroundings. At \$89, it's expensive, but its quality more than justifies the price.

Mike Jennings



OVERALL

