

# RuggedPCReview.com

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

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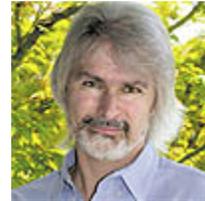
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## Kudos to the rugged computing industry!

I am impressed by how well the rugged computing industry is weathering the economic downtime. I believe this is because those companies and people who create machines that make us more productive are part of the solution, and not part of the problem. Rugged computers make our work force more efficient, lower total cost of ownership, and add true value to our industry.



Visionary companies like [Advantech](#), [Motion Computing](#), [DT Research](#), [Datalogic](#), [General Dynamics Itronix](#), [Getac](#), [Juniper Systems](#), [MobileDemand](#), [RAM Mounts](#), [Samwell](#), [Winmate Communications](#) and [RMT](#) have a lot to be proud of with their relentless pursuit of innovation and excellence that makes them the masters of their own destiny while helping the economy back on its feet.

## Handheld US Algiz 10 -- compact, rugged Tablet PC with a great balance of features and performance



The Algiz 10, offered by Handheld U.S., is a compact, Windows XP-based rugged Tablet PC that offers a good balance of performance, features, ruggedness, portability, and battery life (up to seven hours). The other thing that sets it apart is its 10.4-inch display that is larger and offers higher resolution than that of most machines in its class. [\[Read full review and specs of the Handheld US Algiz 10 rugged Tablet PC\]](#)

## Extra-long battery life and a terrific display in a very rugged notebook computer

General Dynamics Itronix has upped the ante in the hotly contested rugged notebook field with the new GD8000 that replaces the XR-1. Emphasis is on better performance, much longer battery life, and even greater ruggedness. And then there's the vaunted



[RMT](#)  
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DynaVue sunlight-viewable display technology. Can the GD8000 deliver and put the heat on the competition?. [\[Read what the General Dynamics Itronix GD8000 can do\]](#)

### **RAM creates mounting solution for the Panasonic CF-H1 Mobile Clinical Assistant**



RAM-Mounts of Seattle, Washington -- undisputedly the leading innovator and manufacturer of rugged, durable mounting systems and docking stations for mobile electronics with their patented ball and socket mounting system that allows you to

mount practically anything anywhere -- has introduced a whole line of mounting products for the Panasonic ToughBook CF-H1 Mobile Clinical Assistant. [\[Read about RAM Mount solutions for the Panasonic CF-H1\]](#)

### **Another new Mobile Clinical Assistant: Advantech MICA-101**



With electronic medical records and automation in the healthcare field a high priority, a number of new "Mobile Clinical Assistant" tablet PCs are entering the market.

We're taking a detailed look at Advantech's MICA-101, a 3.5-pound Atom-powered tablet with RFID, barcode reader, dual cameras and dual panel input. [\[Read full review of the Advantech MICA-101\]](#)

### **Winmate goes Atom with its rugged tablet computer platform for tough jobs**



Taiwanese computer manufacturer Winmate prides itself in offering innovative and highly customizable solutions based on your choice of processor and OS platform. We're taking a detailed look at the latest version of Winmate's rugged Tablet PC, the Intel Atom Z530-powered I980 that's available in 8.4, 10.4 and 12.1-inch display versions. What's particularly interesting here is the use of Atom processor technology and LED backlighting to optimize both

performance and battery life. [\[Read review of Winmate I980 rugged Tablet PC\]](#)

### **Memorable marketing techniques: Mobile Demand rugged Tablet PC on a paint shaker!**

MobileDemand released another video in their "Torture Chamber Series" where they subject their xTablet T8700 rugged Tablet PC to all sorts of abuse. In this latest one they strap their super-tough tablet computer to an industrial paintshaker machine, attach an accelerometer to it, and then record the g-forces on the machine while it is being shaken. Quite impressive. [\[See MobileDemand T8700 rugged Tablet PC on a paint shaker!\]](#)



### **The AMREL rugged computer lineup**

Based in El Monte, California, AMREL (AMerican RELiance) has a long history of offering value-added applications in vertical markets. We've added/updated our database of Amrel's rugged computers as follows: Amrel Rocky [DR8 \(8.4-inch\)](#) and [DK8 \(12.1-inch\)](#) rugged slates, and Amrel Rocky [RT8 \(13.3-inch\)](#), [RK8 \(15.1-inch\)](#), and [RF8 \(17-inch\)](#) rugged notebooks. Note that Amrel's slates and notebooks generally come in an "M" (military) and an "I" (industrial) version.

### Data Ltd introduces rugged UMPC

LaPorte, Indiana, based Data Ltd, Inc., introduced the DLI 8400 ultra-mobile Rugged Tablet, ideally suited to a wide variety of harsh environment applications such as field service, first responders, fleet services and transportation. The Atom Z530-powered DLI 8400 measures 9 x 7.3 x 1.6 inches, weighs just 3.1 pounds, has a 30-key keyboard, IP54 sealing, a 4-foot drop spec, numerous expansion, wireless and data capture options, and is said to run up to nine hours on its dual Li-Ion batteries. [\[Read description and specs of the DLI 8400\]](#)



### Will a 1.1GHZ Atom/LED backlight combo make the Algiz 8 the Prius of tablets?



Handheld US released an interesting update to their Algiz 8 rugged Tablet PC platform. It is now powered by a 1.1GHz Intel Atom Z510 processor, offers more RAM and storage, longer battery life, and a super-bright 8.4-inch display option with a power-efficient LED backlight. We're testing speed, battery life and outdoor display performance. [\[Read what we found out about the Handheld US Algiz 8\]](#)

### What else is going on in the Rugged World?

The Intel Atom hype is still going full blast, and building. There are now additional versions and also different "package" sizes. [Which one to pick, and what's the difference between the N2xx and Z5xx chips?](#) What handheld computer manufacturer has about a million units in the field but you've likely never heard of them? That'd be Two Technologies, which has some very interesting new products, including a rugged, waterproof handheld with a 5-megapixel camera and Xenon flash (See [Two Technologies Hydrus Luna](#)). A lot of the work in the real world is done by unassuming industrial PCs. RuggedPCReview took a detailed look at one such machine, the [PPC-L61T Panel PC](#) by Advantech. And for those who'd prefer a Mobile Clinical Assistant with a fashionable wide-format display, check the [Arbor M1256!](#)

Here are some observations and tips based on what we're seeing in the RuggedPCReview lab:

- Pay close attention to outdoor viewability. It is becoming ever more important, and there are different ways to go about it.
- LED backlights are coming on strong.
- There's an increasing number of mass storage choices: various format hard disks (1.8-inch, 2.5-inch), less expensive SSDs, Flash-In-Disk modules,



ATA disks, CF Card Flash. Select what works best for you!

- GOBI acceptance continues growing.
- Pick your Atom wisely! It's tough to find the sweet spot for both great battery life AND acceptable performance.
- Windows 7 may be coming, but Windows XP Embedded remains a great choice for speedy rugged machines.

The picture above shows the dramatic difference between a modern sunlight-viewable display and an older one with only anti-glare treatment.

Sincerely,

Conrad H. Blickenstorfer  
Editor-in-Chief, RuggedPCReview

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