

THE ULTIMATE LUXURY CONVERTIBLE



Toshiba America Information Systems Inc.		www.csd.toshiba.com
Rating:	★★★★☆	LAPTOP EDITOR'S CHOICE
Price:	\$2,299	
CPU:	1.5-GHz Pentium M	
OS:	Windows XP Tablet PC Edition	
RAM/Expandable to:	512MB/2GB	
Optical Drive:	N/A	
Display (Resolution):	12.1-inch SXGA+	
Graphics (Video Memory):	NVIDIA GeForce FX Go5200 (32MB)	
Wireless Networking:	802.11b	
Ports:	Two USB 2.0, external monitor, RJ-11, RJ-45	
PC Card Slots:	Secure Digital	
Weight:	4.6 pounds	

If the convertible Tablet PC field had as few players now as it did a year ago, Toshiba's 4.4-pound Portégé M200 would win our Editor's Choice award again in a cakewalk. But with fresh models available from Tablet PC mainstays Acer and HP, as well as from convertible rookies Fujitsu, Gateway, Sharp, and ViewSonic, the competition is heating up. In terms of design, performance, and sheer ease of use, the M200 still reigns supreme, if it's in your budget.

Starting at \$2,299, Toshiba's latest 12-inch convertible commands a premium over other models, some of which can be had for less than \$1,800. But none of them offer as much processing punch as the Portégé M200's 1.5-GHz Pentium M. Just as important, this is the only convertible that offers NVIDIA's GeForce FX Go5200 graphics with 32MB of dedicated video memory. With this GPU and CPU under the hood, everything ran smoothly, from the bundled Microsoft OneNote to the trial version of Franklin Covey's TabletPlanner.

In terms of design, no other convertible comes close to the M200's elegance. The reliable but bulging hinge of old has shrunk considerably, and the system switches from notebook to slate mode with ease, thanks to a sturdy latch that never fails to click into place. Other thoughtful touches include four pen-enabled buttons that can be customized to open applications or execute commands within applications. On the home screen, for example, clicking the second button down automatically changes the resolution from SXGA+ to SVGA, perfect for when you need larger text.

We really appreciated the control joystick underneath the display, which quickly brings up several menus that make the Tablet experience easy. With just a few taps you can do everything from changing your wireless or power settings to experimenting with the exclusive dual-axis accelerometer feature.

What's that, you ask? Using built-in gyroscopes, the M200 lets you use a Tablet in ways never dreamed possible. We were amazed when Internet Explorer opened just by our shaking the unit ever so slightly vertically. We then customized the settings so that shaking the M200 from left to right opened up the Start menu. Toshiba also promises that you'll be able to scroll Web pages by simply tilting this Tablet, although

that feature was not enabled on the pre-production unit we tested.

Not as futuristic but just as practical is the M200's Wi-Fi switch on the left side of the system, which turns the radio on and off without having to dig through onscreen menus.

We were impressed with how long we were able to stay connected to our wireless network before the battery ran out. We checked e-mail, browsed the Web, and streamed audio using iTunes for Windows, and the M200 kept going strong for about 3.5 hours.

Super Dock

When you want to get some work done back at your desk, Toshiba offers one of the best docks on the block. With a flexible but tough cord that conjures images of bicycle security locks, you can place the M200 on your desk while it's still connected and swivel the system from portrait to landscape mode without scratching the surface. We also liked how the back feet of the dock elevated our notebook for more comfortable typing. The dock also includes a removable hard drive and a swappable optical drive bay.

Unfortunately, neither the dock nor the M200 itself includes a FireWire port, which is quite an omission when you consider the asking price. If you want to transfer footage from a digital camcorder, you're out of luck unless you spring for a PC Card adapter. We also found the display's viewing angles to be less than stellar. We were told that the screen's protective coating is the culprit, but we'd like to see something similar to Toshiba's own Super Advanced Super View technology made available.

While there's a healthy selection of convertible notebooks to choose from, the Portégé M200 proves that Toshiba has used the past year to refine the Tablet experience to take it to the next level. If you have the means, this is the machine to get. —Mark Spoonauer ■

PROS	Fast performance
	Top-notch design
	Dual-axis accelerometer Ingenious dock
CONS	Viewing angles could be better No FireWire port