

TEXT // MARTIN JAMES DAVID

# Gigabyte U2442N

POWER AND ELEGANCE COMBINED

The motherboard and graphics card giant, Gigabyte, has decided to re-enter the notebook scene. The Philippines saw the launching of its flagship gaming notebook and Ultrabook entries late August of this year. Creating that perfect balance of mobility and performance is Gigabyte's main goal with its new notebooks.

We managed to get our hands on the Gigabyte U2442N, one of the many variants of the U2442 Ultrabook. At first glance, the champagne gold brushed aluminum exterior exudes that premium feel. Overall build quality is fantastic with its aluminum body and rounded edges. It isn't the thinnest or lightest Ultrabook around but it can still be carried with one hand with measurements of 1.69Kg and 21mm (depth).

With the 21mm thickness, this Ultrabook sports full sized ports which include two USB 3.0 ports, two USB 2.0 ports, VGA, HDMI, Ethernet, headphone and mic jacks, and an SD card reader.

Wireless support comes through Wi-Fi b/g/n and Bluetooth 4.0. These provide more than enough flexibility for everyday use.

Opening the lid, we see the usual chiclet keys and a touchpad as the main sources for input. We noticed that these usual implementations have twists – the keyboard has differing levels of backlighting and the touchpad is textured with dots and allows for multi-gesture motion. Typing on the keyboard and gliding on the touchpad has an amazing feel to it – just enough resistance from the keys and a responsive touchpad.

One thing to note about this Ultrabook is that this model uses a notebook CPU and a discrete GPU. This is uncommon for previously released Ultrabooks. With an Intel Core i5-3210M and an NVIDIA GeForce GT 640M, the U2442N was astounding for all our performance benchmarks. The U2442N is one of the best performers we've reviewed scoring P1834 on 3DMark 11, 13997 on PCMark Vantage, and

3844 on PCMark 7. As for battery stamina, it didn't do too well as it only lasted 126 minutes on Powermark. The astounding performance is counteracted by lower battery life due to the discrete GPU and non-Ultrabook variant CPU.

Still, Gigabyte makes quite an impression with the U2442 as its first entry into the Ultrabook market. It isn't your ordinary Ultrabook as it packs amazing performance and build quality with a justifiable price of PhP 55,590. For those looking to buy an Ultrabook, this is a certified top choice thanks to its wonderful price-performance ratio.

## AT A GLANCE

### PROCESSOR

Intel Core i5-3210M (2.5GHz)

### DISPLAY

14.0" HD LED-backlit (1600 x 900)

### MEMORY

8GB DDR3

### STORAGE

128GB mSATA SSD + 750GB HDD

### PRICE

From PhP 55,590

**SPECIFICATIONS** GRAPHICS NVIDIA GeForce GT 640M 2GB // **OPERATING SYSTEM** Windows 7 Home Premium // **CONNECTIVITY** Wi-Fi b/g/n, Bluetooth 4.0, 2x USB 2.0, 2x USB 3.0, HDMI, VGA, Ethernet, 3.5mm Stereo Headphone And Mic-in Jacks, SD Card Reader // **DIMENSIONS / WEIGHT** 339 x 233 x 18.5 - 21mm / 1.69Kg // **WEBSITE** www.gigabyte.ph



**Verdict:**

**9.0** **GOLD HAM PHILIPPINES**

**PHYSIQUE: 9.0**  
**FEATURES: 9.5**  
**USER-FRIENDLINESS: 9.0**  
**PERFORMANCE: 9.0**  
**VALUE: 9.0**



The U2442N boasts a backlight keyboard with automatic light sensing. Adjustment is made depending on the light condition.



At the back of the U2442N, we see dual air vents (one for the CPU and one for the GPU) that efficiently eliminates heat.



VERDICT SCORES ARE OUT OF 10.

LAB TEST

COMPUTERS