

GIGABYTE

P25

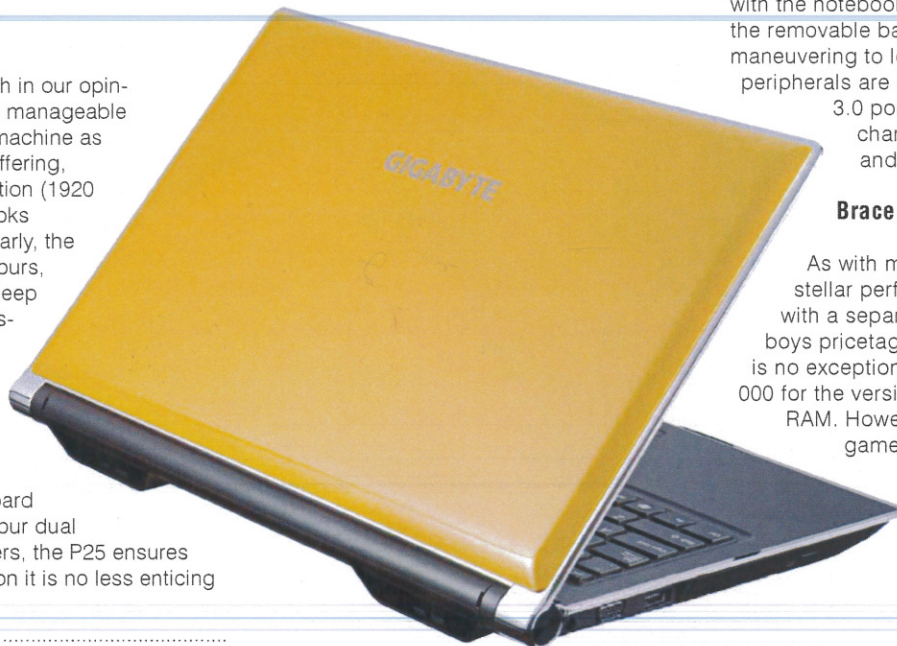
There are notebooks, and then there are gaming notebooks, which are more akin to luxury sports cars. Does Gigabyte's P25 rev our engines?



As befitting a high-performance notebook, the Gigabyte P25 is unabashedly conspicuous, boasting a bright yellow lid and head-turning chassis. The P25's aesthetic appeal continues when you open the lid, as chamfered edges, and an all black keyboard setting, lend it a smart-looking appeal as well.

First, the good news

The 15.6" screen, which in our opinion amounts to a more manageable and portable gaming machine as compared with a 17" offering, sports a full HD resolution (1920 x 1080) display and looks glorious. More particularly, the screen boasts rich colours, excellent brightness, deep blacks and very impressive viewing angles. This, despite the fact that Gigabyte has opted for a matte screen rather than a glossy one. Happily, thanks to superb onboard sound via the built-in four dual channel stereo speakers, the P25 ensures that watching movies on it is no less enticing than playing games.



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Even more importantly, the notebook appeared to be up for pretty much any challenge. Gigabyte has packed the P25 with a Haswell Core i7 (4700 MQ), a generous 8 GB of DDR3 memory, while a 3 GB Geforce GTX 770M powers the graphics, along with switchable Intel HD graphics 4600.

Continuing the good showing, the P25's full size and backlit chiclet keyboard proved quite nice as well, with just enough depth to satisfy, while the all-important gaming WASD

keys received a bit more of an accent. Even though the slightly recessed trackpad was decent and responsive enough, we would have liked it to be slightly larger. That, however is a small gripe, since more than likely, gamers would accompany the P25 with their gaming mouse of choice.

On the storage front, the P25 also boasts what we consider ideal – a 125 GB SSD for ensuring fast, near instant boot times, along with a 750 GB SATA harddrive (7200 rpm, rather than the slower 5400 rpm) for accommodating media that you will likely want to store on the machine. If we had to nitpick, the only difficulty we experienced with the notebook was initially installing the removable battery, which takes a bit of maneuvering to lock in place. Furthermore, peripherals are catered to with two USB 3.0 ports and another eSATA USB charging port, an HDMI port and an SD card reader.

Brace yourself

As with many things, quality and stellar performance invariably come with a separate-the-men-from-the-boys pricetag, and the Gigabyte P25 is no exception, coming in at a cool R24 000 for the version equipped with 8 GB of RAM. However, for a dedicated PC gamer on the move who wants stellar performance, this may just be their dream machine. [RN] **ts**

Hot, but still cool

Also working in its favour is that the P25 never really got overly hot in our time with it. While we did notice a little warmth across the notebook when under load, this was far from uncomfortable, and quite evenly spread. Apparently, this fine distribution of air is owing to the fact that the notebook employs a dual heat sink and rear dual air vent system, which keeps the warm air away from either sides of the notebook and instead cools the CPU and the GPU separately.



QUICK SPECS

Processor
Intel Core i7-4700MQ

GPU
Nvidia 3 GB Geforce GTX 770M

RAM
8 GB DDR3

Storage
750 GB SATA + 125 GB SSD