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Tech > Computing

Asus Eee PC 1005HA review: Asus Eee PC 1005HA

Asus Eee PC 1005HA



Dan A
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Editors' note: We've reviewed a more recent retail-exclusive version of the Asus Eee PC 1005HA, called the [Asus 1005HAGB-BBY-BK01X](#).



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Asus Eee PC 1005HA

THE GOOD

Sleek, attractive design; lower price; amazing battery.

THE BAD

Thicker and heavier than the previous model; still near the upper end of the Netbook price range.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Asus hits nearly all the marks in the 1005HA, the latest version of its iconic Eee PC, highlighted by a 6-hour-plus battery life.

We were very fond of the previous version of Asus' Eee PC, the 1008HA, which represented a radical design change from the boxy Eee PCs of the past. But its high-end (for a Netbook) price, at \$429, slipped just over the line for many, and its nonremovable battery wasn't as long-lasting as we've seen in other Eee PCs.

The latest revision, called the 1005HA, keeps the slim, tapered design but ditches the somewhat cumbersome cover flaps on the ports and adds a more traditional six-cell battery. This means a slightly thicker and heavier system, but also one that's our current Netbook battery life leader. Add in a slightly shaved price tag, down to a more reasonable \$389 (although some perfectly usable Netbooks are down to \$299), and you have what may be our new go-to Netbook choice.

Price as reviewed	\$389
Processor	1.66GHz Intel Atom N280
Memory	1GB, 533MHz DDR2
Hard drive	160GB 5,400rpm
Chipset	Mobile Intel 945GM Express
Graphics	Mobile Intel GMA 950 (integrated)
Operating System	Windows XP
Dimensions (WD)	10.3 x 7.1 inches
Height	1.1 - 1.4 inches
Screen size (diagonal)	10.1 inches
System weight /	2.9/3.4 pounds
Weight with AC adapter	
Category	Netbook

The design of the 1005HA is based on the (slightly slimmer) 1008HA model. There's a tapered front lip, but the new model lacks some of the space-saving features of the 1008HA, such as the angled Ethernet jack and hidden mini-VGA port. Rather than a potentially smaller SSD drive, there's a standard 160GB HDD inside, augmented by a free 10GB online data storage subscription for backing up files to a remote server.

While slightly thicker and heavier than other recent Netbooks, it's still a vast improvement over the first few generations of mini laptops, which had a universally boxy, toylike feel. Our review unit was glossy black, which was prone to picking up fingerprints; blue is also available.

The flat, wide keyboard, similar to what we saw on the Eee PC 1008HA, is among the better Netbook keyboards we've used, and the full-size right Shift key is one of those things you don't realize is very important

until it goes missing. The touch pad is demarcated by a rectangle of raised dots on the wrist rest, and works well, although we found ourselves going into the touch pad settings and jacking up the default pointer speed.

A single quick-access button above the keyboard is for disabling the touch pad (handy if you're using an external USB mouse), and Asus' different preset power profiles are accessible by hitting the FN key plus the space bar. New to this model is a software suite that acts as a software dock popping out of the top of the screen (by default, but switchable). From there, you can access functions such as screen brightness presets and media players. Most Netbook users we talk to are no-nonsense types who just want to surf the Web or send e-mail, so learning the ins and outs of a proprietary menu bar system may not be high in the list of priorities.

The 10.1-inch LED display offers a 1,024×600 native resolution, which is standard for a Netbook, although higher-end systems are starting to add 1,366×768 display options. The backlit LED allows the lid to be very thin, and also use less power than a more traditional LCD display.

	Asus Eee PC 1005HA	Average for category [Netbook]
Video	VGA	VGA
Audio	Stereo speakers, headphone/microphone jacks	headphone/microphone jacks
Data	3 USB 2.0, SD card reader	2 USB 2.0, SD card reader
Expansion	None	None
Networking	Ethernet, 802.11 b/g/n Wi-Fi, Bluetooth	Ethernet, 802.11 b/g/n Wi-Fi, Bluetooth
Optical drive	None	None

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The 1005HA offers a fairly standard set of ports and connections, lacking only the ExpressCard slot we've seen on some high-end Netbooks. We prefer to have our connections out in the open, rather than hidden behind hinged plastic doors (as in the 1008HA model), although we have to admit, the 1008's tiny, angled Ethernet jack was an impressive engineering feat.

With Intel's N280 Atom CPU, the system was, not surprisingly, on par with other current Netbooks, even those with the slightly slower N270 version of the ubiquitous Atom. We have yet to meet an Atom-powered Netbook that vastly outperformed or underperformed the pack. The

basic rule of thumb is that for basic tasks such as word processing, Web surfing, and e-mail, an Atom Netbook is more than adequate, as long as you keep your expectations modest.

The real star here is the system's battery life. Asus has always had some of the longest-lived Netbooks, and the new 1005HA got an impressive 6 hours and 51 minutes in our video playback battery drain test--about 30 minutes more than our previous leader, the Eee PC 1000HE, and more than 2 hours better than the nonremovable battery in the 1008HA model.

Asus also includes its Super Hybrid Engine feature in the system, which is essentially a series of power-saving presets to further extend battery life. These are mostly power consumption tweaks one could perform individually, but it's handy to have them all in one place.

Asus covers its laptops with a standard, one-year parts-and-labor warranty, and it offers online Web-based help and a toll-free phone number. The company's support Web site has improved over the past few years, and includes easy to find driver downloads FAQs.

Multimedia Multitasking test (in seconds)
(Shorter bars indicate better performance)

Asus Eee PC 1008HA	3,282
HP Mini 110	3,485
Asus Eee PC 1005HA	3,599
Acer Aspire One AOD250	3,660
Asus Eee PC 1000HE	3,960
Toshiba Mini NB205	4,200

Jalbum photo conversion test (in seconds)
(Shorter bars indicate better performance)

Asus Eee PC 1000HE	219
Asus Eee PC 1005HA	240

Asus Eee PC 1008HA	248
Toshiba Mini NB205	249
Acer Aspire One AOD250	256
HP Mini 110	259

Apple iTunes encoding test (in seconds)
(Shorter bars indicate better performance)

Asus Eee PC 1000HE	718
Asus Eee PC 1008HA	727
Asus Eee PC 1005HA	737
Toshiba Mini NB205	756
HP Mini 110	792
Acer Aspire One AOD250	793

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Video playback battery drain test (in minutes)
(Longer bars indicate better performance)

Acer Aspire One AOD250	110
HP Mini 110	142
Asus Eee PC 1008HA	201
Toshiba Mini NB205	374
Asus Eee PC 1000HE	381
Asus Eee PC 1005HA	411

Find out more about how we test [laptops](#).

System configurations:

Asus Eee PC 1005HA

Windows XP Home Edition SP3; 1.66GHz Intel Atom N280; 1024MB
DDR2 SDRAM 533MHz; 224MB (Shared) Mobile Intel GMA 950; 160GB
Hitachi 5,400rpm

Asus Eee PC 1000HE

Windows XP Home Edition SP3; 1.66GHz Intel Atom N280; 1024MB
DDR2 SDRAM 533MHz; 128MB Mobile Intel GMA 950; 160GB Seagate
5,400rpm

Asus Eee PC 1008HA

Windows XP Home Edition SP3; 1.66GHz Intel Atom N280; 1024MB
DDR2 SDRAM 533MHz; 128MB Mobile Intel GMA 950; 160GB Seagate
5,400rpm

HP Mini 110

Windows XP Home Edition SP3; 1.6GHz Intel Atom N270; 1024MB
DDR2 SDRAM 533MHz; 128MB (Shared) Mobile Intel GMA 950; 160GB
Seagate 5,400rpm

Toshiba Mini NB205

Windows XP Home Edition SP3; 1.6GHz Intel Atom N270; 1024MB
DDR2 SDRAM 800MHz; 128MB (Shared) Mobile Intel GMA 950; 160GB
Toshiba 5,400rpm

Acer Aspire One AOD250

Windows XP Home Edition SP3; 1.6GHz Intel Atom N270; 1024MB
DDR2 SDRAM 533MHz; 224MB (Shared) Mobile Intel GMA 950; 160GB
Seagate 5,400rpm



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Asus Eee PC 1005HA

SCORE BREAKDOWN	
Design	8
Features	8
Performance	7
Battery	10
Support	7
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