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SIX SPEED: The Micron P133 Millennium's use of a six-speed CD-ROM

drive (inset) brings data to the screen quicker.

PORTABLE PCs

IBM's ThinkPad 755CV Projects a New Image

By Brian Nadel

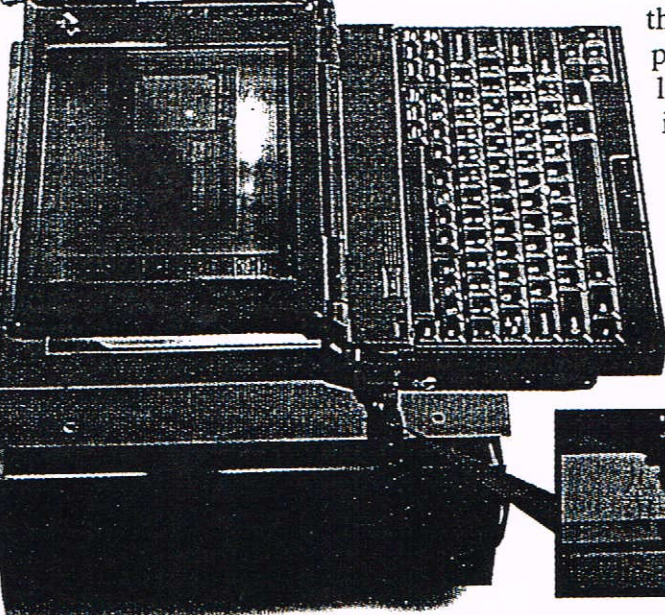
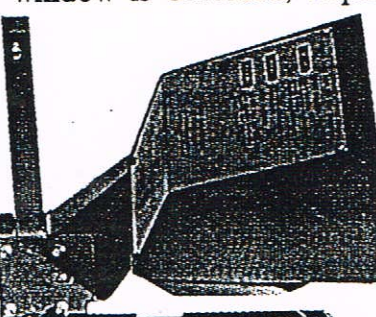
Like a Transformer toy, IBM's ThinkPad 755CV folds open to reveal a new personality—a notebook whose lid can be removed so that it can work with an overhead projector. At \$6,799, the 755CV is expensive, but it lets you give a group presentation at the spur of the moment.

The 755CV's quick change starts when you unsnap its lid and fold the hinge over. In an arrangement that would have made Rube Goldberg proud, the 755CV is then strapped to an overhead projector. It takes about 5 minutes to set up the unit and lock the system's seat belt in place (with its straps secured, the PC remains precariously perched on the overhead projector). The hardest part is positioning the notebook's display panel so that it is exactly parallel to the overhead projector's glass bed—necessary if the entire screen is to be in focus.

The 755CV only works with transmissive projectors, and if you use one whose output is above 6,000 lumens, the panel may temporarily overheat and turn brown. While you can't write directly on the panel, IBM provides the next best thing to annotate your presentation: Mind Path Technologies' Presentation F/X infrared (IR) remote control (First Looks, September 13, 1994), which can beam commands to the ThinkPad's built-in IR window. Included special effects software gives you the ability to circle or under-

line portions of a slide and even write notes. With the 755CV's cover in place, however, the IR window is obscured, requiring

contortions to maintain a line-of-sight connection between the remote control and the notebook.



FOLD-OUT SCREEN: The lid of the ThinkPad 755CV folds over to work with many common overhead projectors, but the notebook requires a safety strap to stay in place.

The 7-pound-6-ounce system has the same keyboard, TrackPoint III pointing stick, 10.4-inch active-matrix color display, dimensions, and weight as a 755C

model. The display is bright and rich, although at times it appeared slightly dulled compared to the 755C. There's a single slide control to adjust panel brightness.

Based on a DX4/100 processor, the 755CV we tested had a Winstone 95 score of 53.4 and a WinDrain battery result of 2 hours 10 minutes. At \$6,799, this unit was about \$1,400 more than a comparably equipped 755CE.

While the 755CV works well, the strap-on approach is still lacking. This PC is only for those who lug around a notebook and an external projection panel and want to lighten their load.

ThinkPad 755CV. List price: With DX4/100 CPU, 8MB RAM, 540MB hard disk, 10.4-inch active-matrix color display, \$6,799. IBM Personal Computer Co., Somers, NY; 800-772-2227; fax back, 800-426-4329 (enter 99).

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