

# LAPTOP

MOBILE SOLUTIONS FOR BUSINESS & LIFE

**HAGGLING 101:**  
GET THE BEST DEAL p. 104

**AUTO BACKUPS**  
HARD DRIVES THAT DO IT FOR YOU p. 80

SHOULD YOUR BUSINESS  
BE ON FACEBOOK? p. 97

Year's Most Innovative

# gear



FIRST  
**\$399**  
DETACHABLE  
TOUCHSCREEN  
NETBOOK



**HEADSET**  
THAT READS  
YOUR  
MIND



**E-READER**  
THAT BLOWS THE  
KINDLE  
AWAY

PLUS  
EIGHT MORE  
GAME CHANGING  
START-UPS

TESTED  
ACCESSORIES

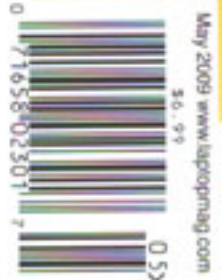


## Sweet Sleeves

From netbooks to full-size notebooks, these slim cases provide the protection you need.

by T.J. Fink

- |   |  |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| <p>① <b>Mobile Edge Sumo Graffiti Netbook Sleeve</b> \$19.99<br/>★★★☆☆<br/><a href="http://www.mobileedge.com">www.mobileedge.com</a><br/><b>What We Like:</b> Hip design for protecting netbooks up to 10 inches. Three color options: black, green, and pink. Water-resistant neoprene exterior. Lifetime warranty. Lightweight at only 6 ounces.<br/><b>What We Don't:</b> No extra pockets, handles, or straps. Design may be too playful for business users.<br/><b>Verdict:</b> Though lacking extra features, the Mobile Edge Sumo Graffiti Netbook Sleeve offers good protection against scrapes and scratches. College kids and hipsters won't mind toting this affordable case to the library or coffee shop.</p> | <p>② <b>Kensington SP12 Neoprene Sleeve</b> \$22.99<br/>★★★★☆<br/><a href="http://us.kensington.com">us.kensington.com</a><br/><b>What We Like:</b> Fits ultraportable notebooks and netbooks. Organizational pockets for carrying cords, accessories, and files. Long, removable shoulder strap. Polyethylene foam padding and water-resistant neoprene exterior. Interior clip for keys. Lifetime warranty.<br/><b>What We Don't:</b> Not checkpoint-friendly. Heavier, at 12 ounces, than some competitors. Only comes in black.<br/><b>Verdict:</b> We highly recommend the Kensington SP12 for its combination of convenient pockets, comfortable strap, and lifetime warranty.</p> | <p>③ <b>Skooba Skin 1415</b> \$34.95<br/>★★★★☆<br/><a href="http://www.skoobadesign.com">www.skoobadesign.com</a><br/><b>What We Like:</b> Checkpoint-friendly design for 14-to-15.4-inch mainstream notebooks. Available in a variety of colored exteriors: blue, lime, plum, and tangerine. Converts into tote with reconfigurable straps. Luxurious microsuede material. Snug fit.<br/><b>What We Don't:</b> No extra pockets for cords or accessories. Pricey for a sleeve.<br/><b>Verdict:</b> Used on its own or in conjunction with other travel luggage, the Skooba Skin 1415 is a good way to protect your laptop while you're on the go. Just don't expect it to carry much more than your notebook.</p> | <p>④ <b>Case Logic XNS Reversible Laptop Sleeve</b> \$26.99<br/>★★★★☆<br/><a href="http://www.casellogic.com">www.casellogic.com</a><br/><b>What We Like:</b> Checkpoint-friendly design. Nine styles to choose from (including solid colors and various prints) for up to 15.4-inch sized notebooks. Weather-resistant neoprene exterior.<br/><b>What We Don't:</b> No pockets for cords and accessories. Fit was loose for our 13.3-inch HP Pavilion dv5. Patterned sleeves look odd when reversed.<br/><b>Verdict:</b> The Case Logic XNS Reversible Laptop Sleeve offers decent protection with nice design options. At just \$26.99, it's a good value.</p> | <p>⑤ <b>SwissGear Sherpa Computer SlimCase</b> \$29.99<br/>★★★★☆<br/><a href="http://www.avenuesusa.com/wenger">www.avenuesusa.com/wenger</a><br/><b>What We Like:</b> Attractive yet professional design. Trolley strap for attaching to other luggage. A 15.4-inch mainstream notebook fit snugly inside. Sports a zippered exterior pocket. Lifetime warranty.<br/><b>What We Don't:</b> Uncomfortable shoulder strap. Not water-resistant. A bit heavy, at 14.4 ounces.<br/><b>Verdict:</b> The SwissGear Sherpa Computer SlimCase is a solid choice for frequent travelers. And the trolley strap is a handy feature, especially since it isn't the most comfortable sleeve to wear on a shoulder.</p> |
|---|--|--|--|---|



**Get Windows 7's Coolest Features Now** p. 102