



CREW COMMUNICATIONS

iMate Jas-Jar 3G PDA and Phone

The best new crew gadget we've come across this summer must be the **iMate Jas-Jar**. It's a combined PDA, phone, camera and MP3 player, all of which means that, using one device, you can communicate by voice, text, email and Skype, surf the net, play games, run all MS Office programs, take photos and video and listen to your favourite music!

Most crew are of a generation raised with new technology. Some possibly went to school with a laptop. Being somewhat older, my memories are of going to a very noisy science classroom, dialling a number on a phone the size of Thunderbird 2 to make a connection to the only college in the area that could afford a computer. Then, what seemed like a day later, what seemed like half the Malaysian rain forest would spew out onto the floor and you would spend hours looking for the two pages you needed.

Thank goodness that we have moved on... With the iMate Jas-Jar all this computing power, available only to stockbrokers a mere ten years ago, will fit nicely in the palm of your hand. The Palm Pilot has been available for a while now, as well as the newer 3G phones purporting to do everything a chunky PDA can do. Also, the latest Blackberry has arrived and is supposed to be email heaven. But how many of you really have pinkies small enough to hit the right key every time? If not, then the iMate Jas-Jar (an HTC product) is a godsend.

Apart from ease of use it's got everything you need. It runs Mobile Windows 5.0, Bluetooth, WIFI, and 1.5M Pixel camera. You can have a video conference, get internet access at 3G speeds, synchronise your email, and even make a regular phone call! It has the power of a laptop and can be used as a tablet PC. What's more, it will leave you with room on the table for your lunch and, of course, you won't have to worry all the time about where your laptop case is, because this one clips to your belt.

This is just a quick sketch of one of the practical solutions which can make your working life more pleasant onboard this summer, by making it easier to keep in touch with friends and family and by keeping yourself entertained. At E3, we devote a lot of time to evaluating communications and entertainment products in a wireless world. We have a unique knowledge of what works, what doesn't, what the costs are, and what is coming that may be of interest to you.

If you have any questions, gripes or experiences, good and bad, to pass on, then please get in touch with us.

By Tony Holland. (Tony runs the E3 Connect division of E3 Group which specialises in providing communications and TV services to advanced yachts and their crew.)

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