

Simple little navigator works hard

IT'S ONLY FITTING to roadtest a product when a manufacturer announces a new version of what it claims is the biggest seller in its segment globally. Yes, it's another GPS device, but the TomTom One is a bit different from the others I've tested. Most notably, it's smaller, with a 3.5 inch touchscreen LCD, but the smaller screen shouldn't be an issue because you're not meant to be looking at the device while you're driving anyway. This TomTom more than compensates for the reduced screen with its big sound – the audio quality is among the best in its class. It also boasts one of the easiest mounting systems around, which is useful because when you switch off, it tells you to remove the GPS to avoid theft. I also liked the GPS sensitivity which picked up signals from virtually any position in the car and some safety touches like a warning when you approach a school zone. The navigation doesn't have



the “next street name” feature found on some of its rivals which will say “turn left into Smith Street”, rather than “at the next street, turn left”. But on the plus side, there's TomTom's “latest map guarantee” which ensures a free download of any update released within the first 30 days of

use. There's also the useful TomTom HOME software which allows for updated downloads as well as customisation of the Points of Interest listings. The TomTom ONE sells for \$299.

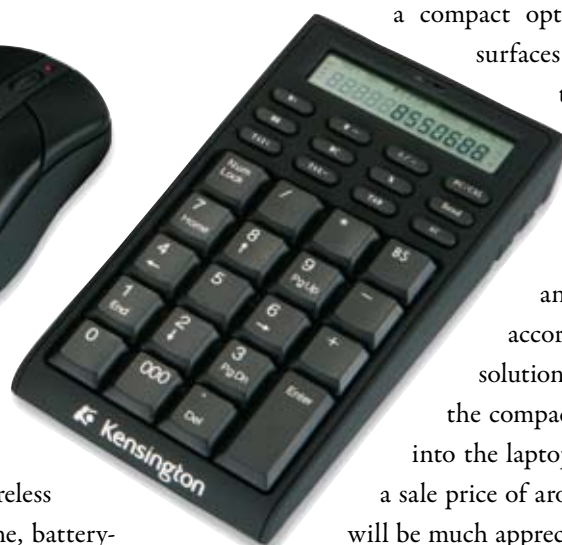
More information can be found at www.tomtom.com

Each month, BTM looks at a couple of products that make life easier for travellers

For review suggestions, contact editor@bttbonline.com

It's easier to go figure with calculator tool

IN THEIR QUEST for portability, most notebook computer makers have dispensed with numeric keypads, forcing users to resort to the number array which accompanies the symbols on the top row of keys. That's not much good for business people who need to input strings of numbers and creates demand for aftermarket numeric keypads. Accessories maker Kensington has come up with an innovative solution in its wireless keypad/calculator. It operates as a stand-alone, battery-powered calculator, but doubles as a wireless input device. Even better, it is also available in a combo pack with a wireless mouse, allowing the two devices to talk to the laptop through one wireless USB receiver. The mouse, powered by two AAA batteries, is



a compact optical mouse that tracks on all surfaces and even has a warning light to alert you when it's running low on power. The devices connect effortlessly to most notebooks without the need for additional driver installation and they're compatible with Vista, according to the distributor. It's a neat solution, made even more convenient by the compact carry bag which will easily fit into the laptop bag or carry-on luggage. With a sale price of around \$90, the keypad/mouse set will be much appreciated by anyone with more than a few figures to input – even those just doing their travel expenses on the flight home. Like most Kensington products, the combo is covered by a two-year warranty.

For more information, visit www.au.kensington.com.