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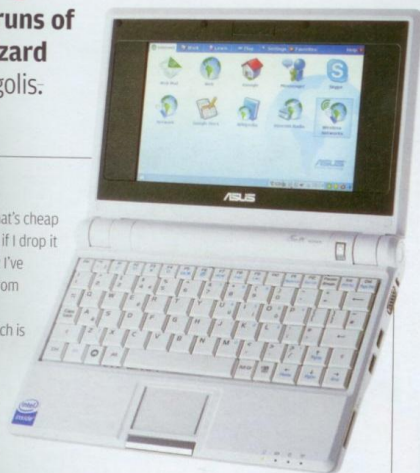
vel with that's cheap
gers and, if I drop it
. And now I've
a laptop from

get it, which is
hand. It
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cause, as
r does

accommodating, the tiny 7in screen OK
s also small enough to use in economy. It uses a solid state drive and
st of its storage, it relies on an SD card. This is great because if you
want to leave it in your hotel room or take it to the beach and out for
rd just carry that in a pocket or wallet.

ft name and manky looks aside). The battery life in particular is
ble to buy spare batteries online for about £50. All in all, it's a
bought for myself and am enjoying a lot.

; www.asuslaptop.co.uk or Google for more stockists.



OWERMONKEY

re's another first-class - and, amazingly, British - travel
panion. The sub-pocket-sized Powermonkey is a smooth-
contoured rechargeable lump that comes with adaptors (some
of the more obscure ones available separately) to charge almost
all your portable electronics, from mobile phones to iPods, digital
cameras, PDAs, Bluetooth headsets and so on. It has huge power
erves: 40 hours for an iPod and 96 hours for a mobile on standby.
ake a look at the website of Powermonkey's maker, Power
raveler, and you'll be thrilled to hear it has a Powergorilla
cheduled for sale later this year that will be able to recharge your
laptop two and half times before it needs more mains itself.

£36.85, from www.magellans.co.uk or call 020-7819 3980.

See www.powertraveller.co.uk.



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me, however.
ion and the device will

FUELPod 2

You know that old philosophical conundrum we
all debate as students - can an act be called
altruistic if you benefit from it in any way? Well
I found myself re-pondering it the other day
when I went to Gloucestershire to see this
strange, Dalek-like machine in operation at
the factory where it is handmade by a
company called Green Fuels.

The FuelPod 2, which has
the engagingly British
garden-shed look of the
kind of thing people
bring to *Dragons' Den*,
boasts three impressive
benefits. It helps save
the planet, it saves
you several thousand
pounds a year and
it deprives the
Exchequer of
loads of cash it
might otherwise
spend on nonsense.

The FuelPod 2 is a
home-processing machine to turn
vegetable oil into diesel that won't
just run your car perfectly well for
next to nothing, but will turn it into a far cleaner machine, too. You can use
the FuelPod 2 to convert cooking oil you buy at a Cash & Carry, but of course the most
environmentally efficient thing to do is to strike a deal with a local restaurant or fish 'n' chip shop to
take waste oil off their hands (as long as they use proper vegetable oil and not that cloying palm
stuff). It's something they often have to pay to dump, so you'll be doing them a favour.

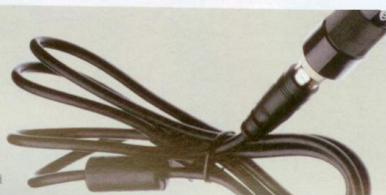
Once you get your hands on the smelly stuff, you can let the FuelPod 2 do its damndest. You
add a few chemicals and then let it whirr noisily about its business. In a matter of hours you will
have 40 to 50 litres of the best, cleanest diesel ready to power up that Range Rover and turn it
from an eco-monster into an eco-mouse. Golden in colour, your homemade diesel will have cost
you 15p a litre, as opposed to a pump price of typically £1.07. What's more, the Customs people will
let you brew 2,500 litres a year without you having to pay a penny in duty, and it is expected that
that may go up to as much as 5,000 litres - easily enough to run a couple of thirsty SUVs.

If you can't be bothered to parley with blokes in chip shops, you can always try *Yellow Pages*
for your local waste-oil collector. And even if you do buy drums of cooking oil from a Cash & Carry,
you'll still be able to make your diesel for 70p a litre or so. Of course, it's this that upsets
environmentalists because of the way farmers in the developing world are diverting their efforts into
growing plants for fuel instead of food. So go the chip-shop route and enjoy telling everyone you
are running not just on biofuel but biofuel that would otherwise have been destroyed.

£2,937.50, from www.greenfuels.co.uk or call 01453-828 003.

SILLY STREET

You'd need to be, I can't help
feeling, either an egomaniac of the
first water or just massively thrilled
by yourself to want to spend
£550 on this, a shockproof and
waterproof head-worn video camera
system with wireless remote control



HUGH THRELFALL

