



JIMS VIRTUAL WORLD



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LENOVO IDEAPAD S10-3T

Touch does the trick

IF YOU LOVE THE FEEL OF A TOUCH screen on your phone, you're going to love this netbook. The Lenovo Ideapad S10-3t is a netbook and a standalone tablet device all wrapped into one. In its usual form it is like any old 10-inch netbook, but swivel around its capacitive multi-touch display and it turns into a slate device you've been dreaming of. Look wise, the Ideapad has great build quality and is comfortable to hold in the tablet mode, which you enter by swiveling the 10.1-inch display in either direction and folding the screen back on top of the keyboard. The hinge feels fairly sturdy. Lenovo crams a lot of buttons around the display. On the left, you'll find a launch button for Lenovo's Natural Touch software, a button for rotating the picture on the display, and a mute button on the left side. The right side houses the webcam, power button, and a lock switch that locks all the buttons.



Apart from the regular keypad, the Ideapad offers a touch keyboard.

Underneath the physical keyboard is a tiny touchpad with integrated buttons. This touchpad is pretty narrow and a bit difficult to select text or scroll. The touch screen is a fun but picky feature. Clicking desktop icons and navigating forward or backward via the Web browser were a snap. Multi-gesture functions, such as pinchzoom, are smooth. Precision commands are slightly difficult to execute. For example, minimizing a window is something it does not handle too well. The proprietary 'Natural Touch' interface launches a spacious, touch-friendly environment with larger icons that one can flick through. This comes with a photo organiser, a video organiser, a note-taker, a music organiser, an e-book library organiser, and a dock. The dock has icons for a calculator, a chess game, the Control Panel, Internet Explorer, Paint, My Computer, Documents, and Sound Recorder. There is an interactive 3D desktop application called Bump-Top, which helps you organize and share multimedia files. This is more a novelty than it is useful. Other apps included are DirectShare, which syncs files between PCs; VeriFace, which logs you on using facial recognition and OneKey Rescue, which provides for data recovery.

Overall, the 10.1-inch display on the S10-3t delivered a vibrant and colorful picture. Sound quality is average and fails to amaze even when set at the highest. The S10-3t comes with Intel's Atom N470 processor, which provides a modest clock speed of 1.66 GHz. A 250GB hard drive, and Windows 7 is what comes in the standard configuration. The machine felt slow at times, especially when interacting with touch applications. The Ideapad comes with an 8-cell battery, which lasts for a good 6-7 hours. The Ideapad will surely drive greater adoption of the netbook as a lifestyle device. For a convertible, the S10-3t is a good buy at Rs 30,740. The touchpad could have been bigger, but with a touch screen that is quite responsive, you're not going to be using it much. The touch experience boils down to what we have seen with products from other manufacturers — great with the proprietary software package, but lacklustre with Windows 7, which was touted as 'touch computing-ready'. In this case, the machine works great with the 'Natural Touch' package, but outside the walls of the proprietary program and in the larger Windows environment, touch computing isn't a great experience.

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Surely, products will gradually improve in this regard as touch computing evolves and Microsoft works with manufacturers and their feedback to improve future iterations of their flagship software.

Specifications

Processor: 1.66 GHz Intel Atom N470

Memory: 2GB, 667 MHz DDR2

Hard drive: 250GB

Graphics: Intel GMA 3150

Operating System: Windows 7

Dimensions: 11 x 6.9 inches

Display: 10.1-inch LED Glare and Multi-touch Display
