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Checking Out Your Gateway Solo 9500

1

If you purchased the Gateway Solo 9550, go to “Checking Out Your Gateway Solo 9550” on page 11.

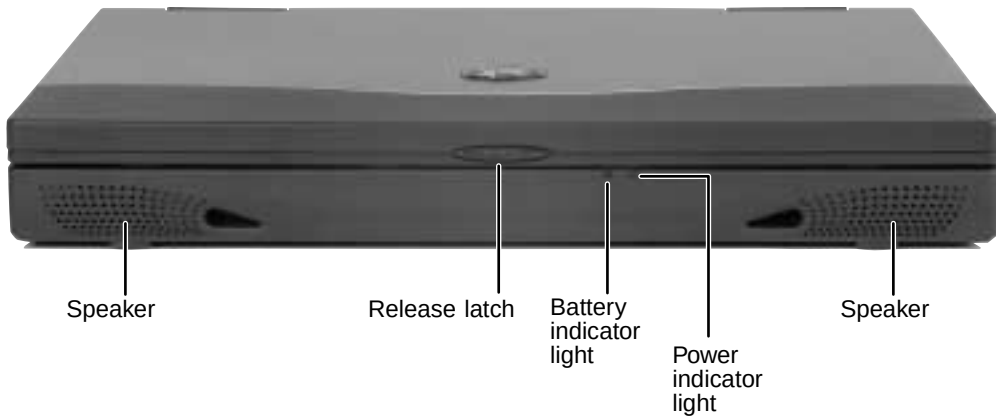
Tips & Tricks



To access the contents of this manual while you are traveling, download an electronic copy from www.gateway.com/support/manlib/.

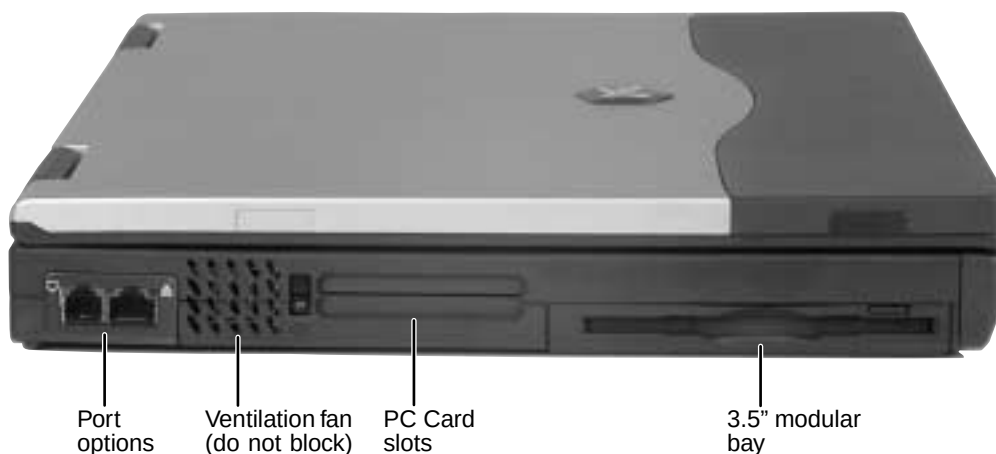


Front



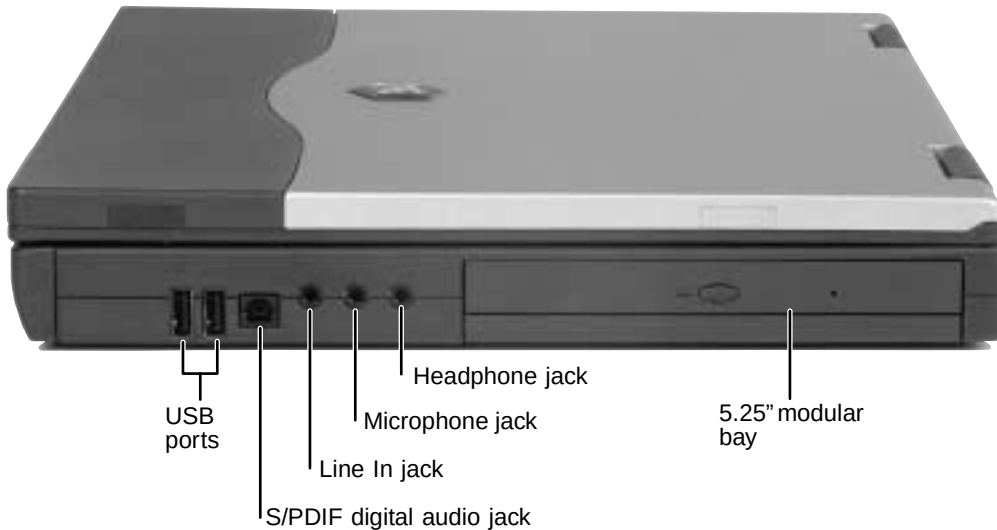
Component	Icon	Description
Speakers		Provide audio output when headphones or speakers are not plugged in.
Release latch		Open the notebook cover by sliding the release latch to the right.
Battery charge indicator		Lights up when the computer is plugged in. <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ LED green – battery is fully charged.▪ LED orange – battery is charging.▪ LED off – notebook is running on battery power.
Power indicator		Lights up when the notebook is turned on and shows notebook power status: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ LED on – power is ON.▪ LED blinking – power is in Standby or Suspend mode.▪ LED off – power is off.

Left side



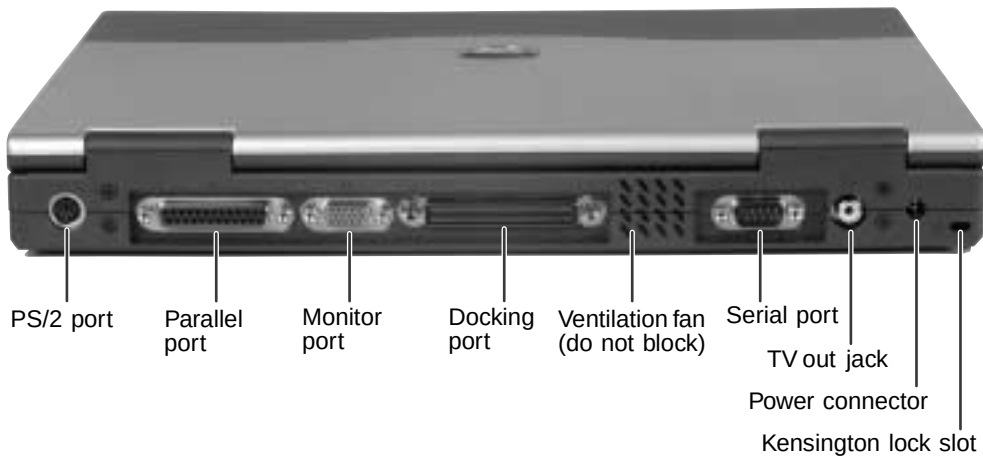
Component	Icon	Description
Port options	<div> <p>Depending on the options you ordered with your notebook, this area can contain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A modem jack ▪ An Ethernet jack ▪ An IEEE 1394 (Firewire) port </div>	
Ventilation fan		Helps cool internal components. Do not block.
PC Card slots		Insert one Type I, II, III or Zoom Video PC Card into this slot. For more information, see "Adding PC Cards" on page 166.
3.5" modular bay		Install a standard 3.5-inch diskette drive or an LS-120 drive. For more information, see "Using drives" on page 98 and "Changing 3.5" bay modules" on page 170.

Right side



Component	Icon	Description
USB ports		Plug USB (Universal Serial Bus) devices (such as a USB printer, scanner, or camera) into these ports.
S/PDIF digital audio jack		Plug an optical Toslink digital audio cable into this jack.
Line In jack		Connect an external audio input source (such as a stereo) to this jack so that you can record sound on your computer or play sound through the notebook speakers.
Microphone jack		Plug a microphone into this jack. The built-in microphone is turned off when a microphone is plugged into this jack. For the location of your built-in microphone, see "Using the keyboard" on page 36.
Headphone jack		Plug amplified speakers or headphones into this jack.
5.25" modular bay		Install a CD or DVD drive, a second hard drive, or a second battery into this bay. For more information, see "Installing a second battery" on page 134 or "Changing 5.25" bay modules" on page 168.

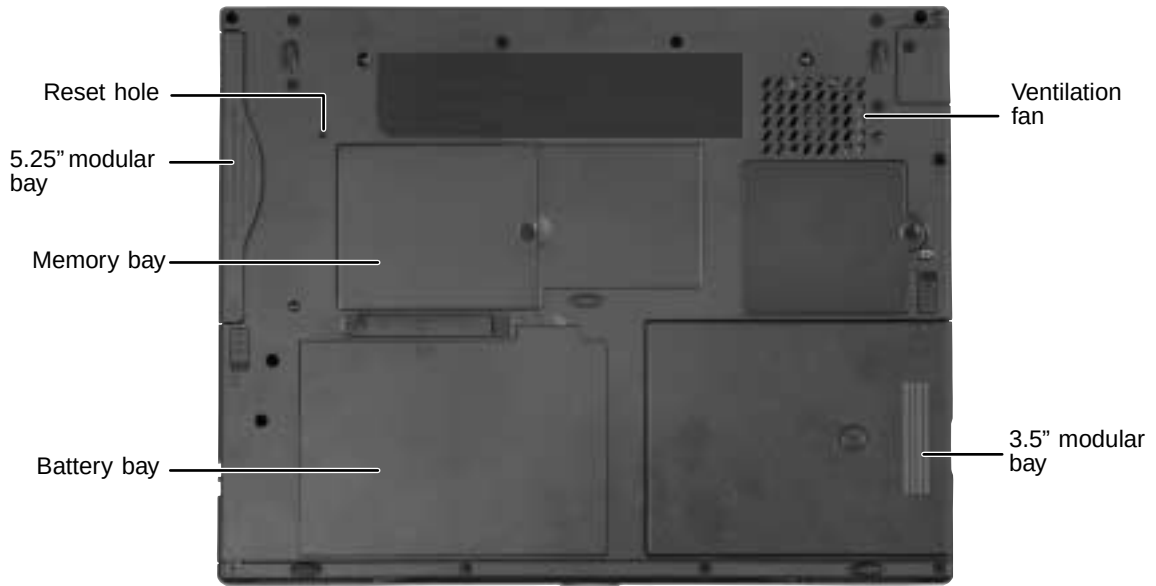
Back



Component	Icon	Description
PS/2 port		Plug a PS/2 device (such as a keyboard or mouse) into this port.
Parallel port		Plug a parallel device (such as a printer) into this port.
Monitor port		Plug an analog VGA monitor into this port.
Docking port		Connect the optional docking station or port replicator to this port. Warning! Power is passed through this port. This docking connection is UL certified for use only with Solo 9500 docking stations or port replicators.
Ventilation fan		Helps cool internal components. Do not block.
Serial port		Plug a serial device (such as a digital camera) into this port.
TV out jack		Plug a TV into this jack so that you can view your notebook display on a TV using NTSC/PAL composite video. For more information, see “Viewing the display on a television” on page 117.

Component	Icon	Description
Power connector		Plug the AC adapter cable into this connector.
Kensington lock slot		Secure your computer to an object by connecting a Kensington cable lock to this slot.

Bottom



Component	Icon	Description
Reset hole		Insert a straightened paper clip into this hole to manually restart the system.
5.25" modular bay		Install a CD or DVD drive, a second hard drive, or a second battery into this bay. For more information, see "Installing a second battery" on page 134 or "Changing 5.25" bay modules" on page 168.
Memory bay		Install memory modules into this bay. For more information, see "Installing memory" on page 172.
Battery bay		Insert the battery into this bay. For more information, see "Changing the main battery" on page 132.
Ventilation fan		Helps cool internal components. Do not block.
3.5" modular bay		Install a standard 3.5-inch diskette drive or an LS-120 drive. For more information, see "Using drives" on page 98 and "Changing 3.5" bay modules" on page 170.

Identifying your model

The label on the bottom of your computer contains information that identifies your notebook model. Gateway Technical Support will need this information if you call for assistance.

Important



The label shown below is for informational purposes only. Label information varies by model.

Revision code and display type/ processor size

00.0X/000XXX

X 0.0/XX

Gateway model number

Serial No.



XX00000000

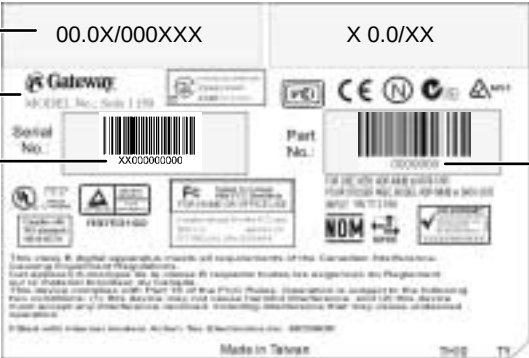
Part No.



00000000

Gateway part number

Gateway serial number



Accessories

Gateway offers accessories that can help you make the most of using your notebook.

Batteries and automobile/airplane power adapters

If you run your notebook on battery power for extended periods, you may want to buy an additional battery so that you can swap batteries when necessary.

With an automobile/airplane power adapter, you can save battery power by plugging your notebook into an automobile cigarette lighter or an airplane in-flight power receptacle.

Carrying cases

Gateway has large-capacity carrying cases if you need additional space for accessories or supplies.

Docking stations or port replicators

Although you can attach external devices directly to your notebook, a docking station or port replicator lets you make all of those connections at once. When you travel with your notebook, you merely disconnect from the docking station or port replicator instead of unplugging all the external devices.

A docking station or port replicator also provides additional ports and other expansion features not included with your notebook.

External devices

You can attach external devices such as a keyboard, mouse, printer, or monitor to your notebook or docking station.

Memory

Large programs, such as multimedia games or graphics programs, use a lot of memory. If your programs are running more slowly than you think they should, try adding more memory.

Printers

You can attach many types of printers to your computer. The most common types are inkjet and laser printers, which print in color or black and white.

Inkjet printers and cartridges are relatively inexpensive, but usually they are slower than laser printers. Using an inkjet color printer, you can print pictures, banners, and greeting cards, as well as documents.

Laser printers and cartridges are more expensive, but usually they print much faster than inkjet printers. Laser printers are better than inkjet printers when you are printing large documents.

Checking Out Your Gateway Solo 9550

2

If you purchased the Gateway Solo 9500, go to “Checking Out Your Gateway Solo 9500” on page 1.

Tips & Tricks



To access the contents of this manual while you are traveling, download an electronic copy from www.gateway.com/support/manlib/.



Top



Component	Icon	Description
Bluetooth indicator (optional)		Lights up when Bluetooth is turned on.

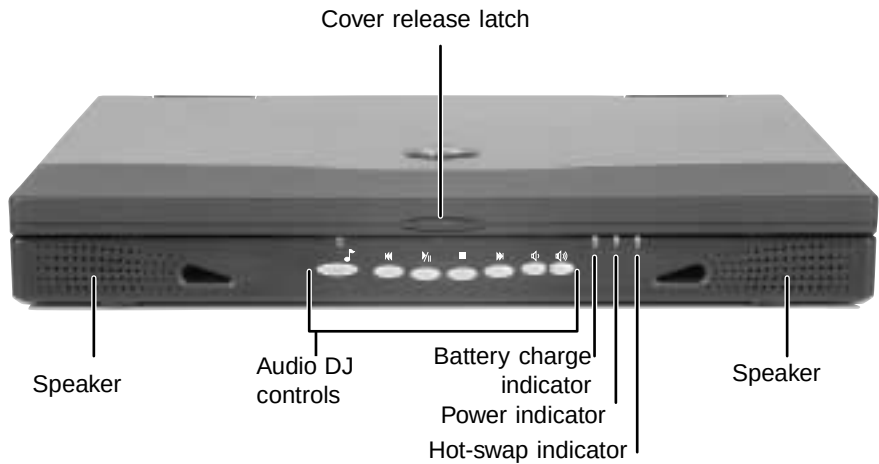


Radio frequency wireless communication can interfere with equipment on commercial aircraft. Current aviation regulations require wireless devices to be turned off while traveling in an airplane. Bluetooth and IEEE 802.11b (also known as wireless Ethernet or WiFi) communication devices are examples of devices that provide wireless communication. For instructions to turn Bluetooth on and off, see “Multi-function buttons” on page 40.

Important

If your system came equipped with an internal radio frequency wireless device, see “Safety, Regulatory, and Legal Information” on page 281 for general wireless regulatory and safety guidelines. To find out if your system has an internal wireless device, check the label (see “Identifying your model” on page 23).

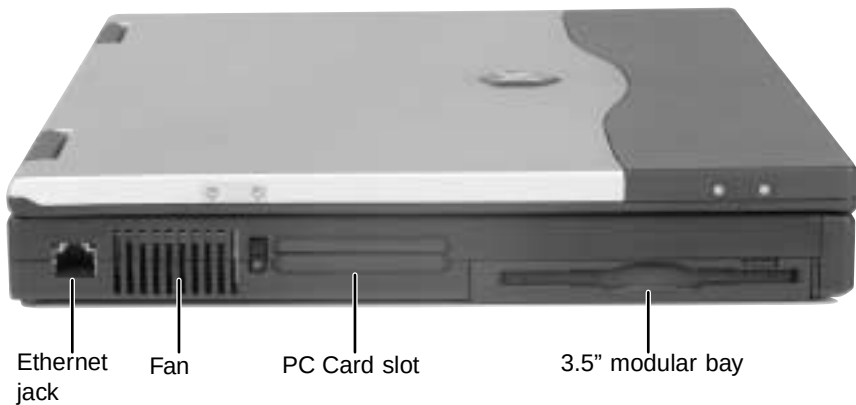
Front



Component	Icon	Description
Cover release latch		Open notebook cover by sliding the release latch to the right.
Speakers		Provide audio output when headphones or speakers are not plugged in.
Audio DJ controls		Control the built-in CD player. For more information, see "Using Audio DJ on the Solo 9550" on page 100.
Battery charge indicator		Lights up when the computer is plugged in. <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ LED green - battery is fully charged.▪ LED orange - battery is charging.▪ LED off - notebook is running on battery power.
Power indicator		Lights up when the notebook is turned on and shows notebook power status: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ LED on - power is ON.▪ LED blinking - power is in Standby or Suspend mode▪ LED off - power is off.

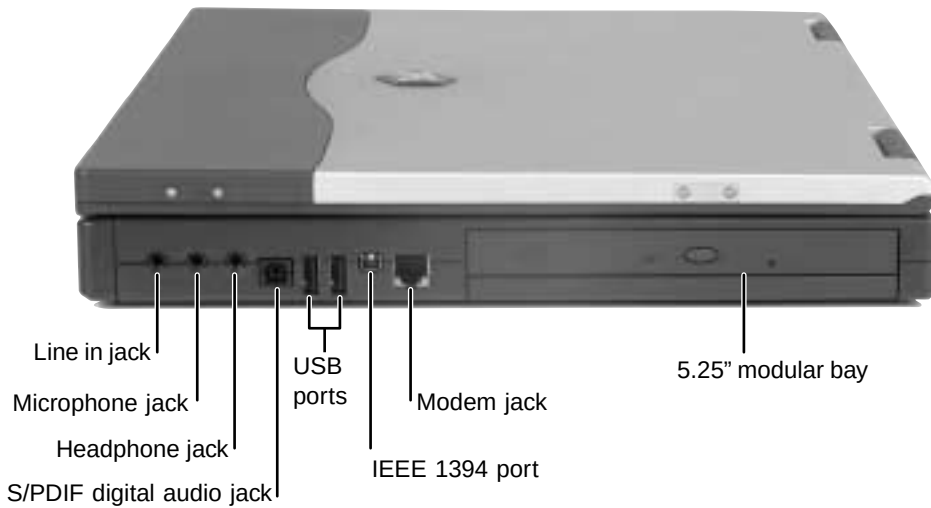
Component	Icon	Description
Hot-swap indicator		<p>Indicates when it is safe to remove the 5.25" bay module.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ LED green - it is safe to remove the 5.25" bay module.▪ LED orange - it is not safe to remove the 5.25" bay module. <p>For more information, see "Changing 5.25" bay modules" on page 168.</p>

Left



Component	Icon	Description
Ethernet jack		Plug a 10/100 Ethernet network cable into this jack. For more information, see “Connecting to an Ethernet network” on page 46 and “Networking Your Computer” on page 199.
Fan		Helps cool internal components. Do not block or insert objects into these slots.
PC Card slot		Insert one Type I, II, or III PC Card into this slot. For more information, see “Adding PC Cards” on page 166.
3.5” modular bay		Install a standard 3.5-inch diskette drive, an additional hard drive, or a second battery into this bay. For more information, see “Installing a second battery” on page 134 and “Changing 3.5” bay modules” on page 170.

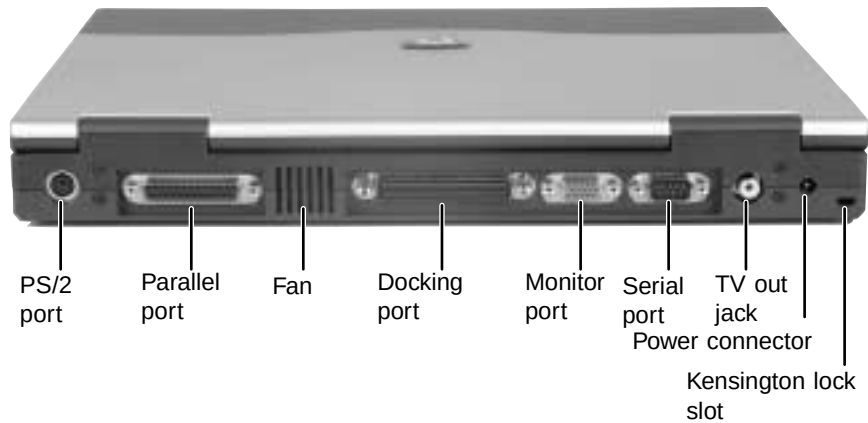
Right



Component	Icon	Description
Line in jack		Connect an external audio input source (such as a stereo) to this jack so that you can record sound on your computer or play sound through the notebook speakers.
Microphone jack		Plug a microphone into this jack. The built-in microphone is turned off when a microphone is plugged into this jack. For the location of your built-in microphone, see "Using the keyboard" on page 36.
Headphone jack		Plug amplified speakers or headphones into this jack.
S/PDIF digital audio jack		Plug an optical Toslink digital audio cable into this jack.
USB ports		Plug USB (Universal Serial Bus) devices (such as a USB Iomega™ Zip™ drive, printer, scanner, or camera) into these ports.
IEEE 1394 port		Plug an IEEE 1394 (Firewire) cable into this jack.

Component	Icon	Description
Modem jack		Plug a telephone cord into this jack.
5.25" modular bay		Install a CD, DVD, or an additional hard drive into this bay. For more information, see "Changing 5.25" bay modules" on page 168.

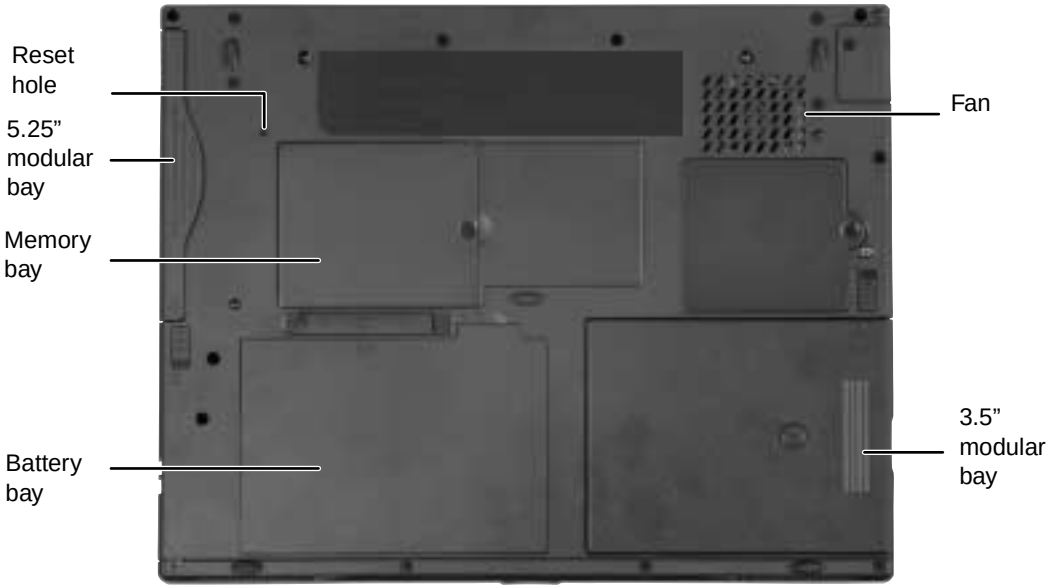
Back



Component	Icon	Description
PS/2 port		Plug a PS/2 device (such as a keyboard or mouse) into this port.
Parallel port		Plug a parallel device (such as a printer) into this port.
Fan		Helps cool internal components. Do not block or insert objects into these slots.
Docking port		Connect the docking station or port replicator to this port. Warning! Power is passed through this port. This docking connection is UL certified for use only with Solo 9550 docking stations or port replicators.
Monitor port		Plug an analog VGA monitor into this port.
Serial port		Plug a serial device (such as a digital camera) into this port.
TV out jack		Plug a TV into this jack so that you can view your computer screen on a TV using NTSC/PAL composite video. For more information, see "Viewing the display on a television" on page 117.

Component	Icon	Description
Power connector		Plug the AC adapter cable into this connector.
Kensington™ lock slot		Secure your computer to an object by connecting a Kensington cable lock to this slot.

Bottom



Component	Icon	Description
Reset hole		Insert a straightened paper clip into this hole to manually restart the system.
5.25" modular bay		Install a CD, DVD, or an additional hard drive into this bay. For more information, see "Changing 5.25" bay modules" on page 168.
Memory bay		Install a memory module in this bay. For more information, see "Installing memory" on page 172.
Battery bay		Insert the main battery into this bay. For more information, see "Changing the main battery" on page 132.

Component	Icon	Description
Fan		Helps cool internal components. Do not block or insert objects into these slots.
3.5" modular bay		Install a standard 3.5-inch diskette drive, an additional hard drive, or a second battery into this bay. For more information, see "Installing a second battery" on page 134 and "Changing 3.5" bay modules" on page 170.

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Important

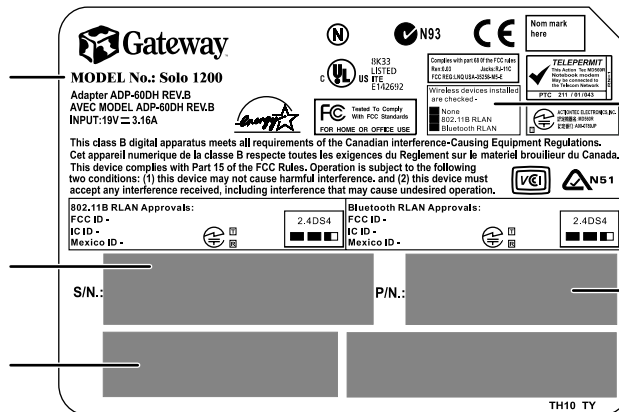


The label shown below is for informational purposes only. Label information varies by model.

Gateway
model
number

Gateway
serial
number

Revision
code and
display
type/
processor
size



Internal
wireless
devices

Gateway part
number

Accessories

Gateway offers accessories that can help you make the most of using your notebook.

Batteries and automobile/airplane power adapters

If you run your notebook on battery power for extended periods, you may want to buy an additional battery so that you can swap batteries when necessary.

With an automobile/airplane power adapter, you can save battery power by plugging your notebook into an automobile cigarette lighter or an airplane in-flight power receptacle.

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Large programs, such as multimedia games or graphics programs, use a lot of memory. If your programs are running more slowly than you think they should, try adding more memory.

Printers

You can attach many types of printers to your computer. The most common types are inkjet and laser printers, which print in color or black and white.

Inkjet printers and cartridges are relatively inexpensive, but usually they are slower than laser printers. Using an inkjet color printer, you can print pictures, banners, and greeting cards, as well as documents.

Laser printers and cartridges are more expensive, but usually they print much faster than inkjet printers. Laser printers are better than inkjet printers when you are printing large documents.

Getting Started

This chapter provides basic information about your Gateway notebook. Read this chapter to find out:

- How to connect the AC adapter
- How to start and turn off your notebook
- How to use the keyboard
- How to use the EZ Pad™ touchpad
- How to connect the modem
- How to connect to an Ethernet network
- How to install peripheral devices

Connecting the AC adapter

You can run your notebook using an AC adapter or the notebook battery. The battery was shipped to you partially charged. You should use the AC adapter right away to fully charge the battery. Allow 24 hours for the battery to fully charge.

Important

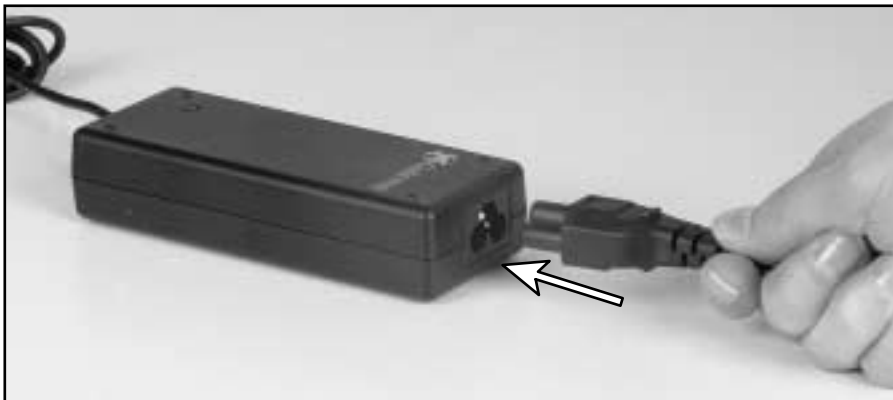


If the battery is not fully charged before you use your notebook on battery power for the first time, the battery life may be much shorter than you expect. If the battery life seems short even after being charged for 24 hours, the battery may need to be recalibrated. For information on recalibrating the battery, see "Recalibrating the battery" on page 229.



To connect the AC adapter:

- 1 Connect the power cord to the AC adapter.

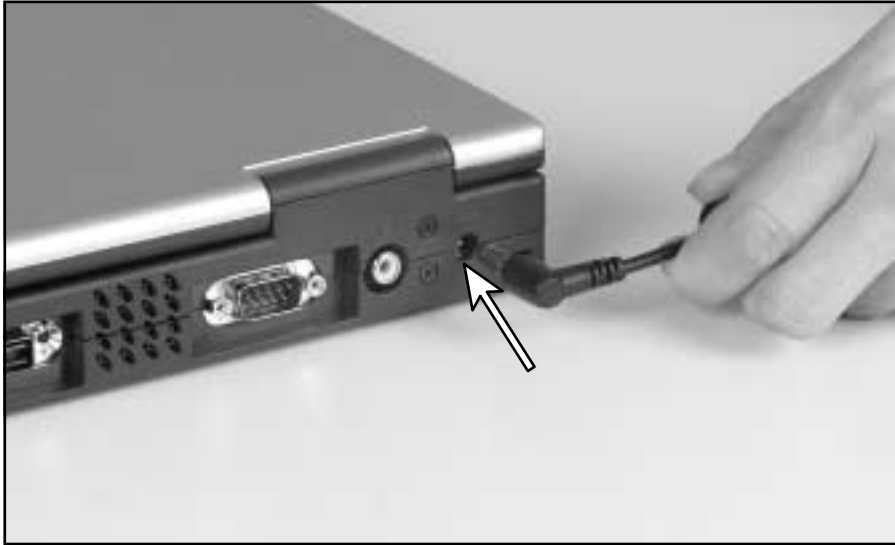


Warning



Replace the power cord if it becomes damaged. The replacement cord must be of the same type and voltage rating as the original cord or the notebook may be damaged.

- 2 Connect the AC adapter to your notebook's power connector.



- 3 Plug the power cord in to a wall power outlet.

The battery charging indicator light turns on. If the battery charging indicator light does not turn on, disconnect the adapter from your notebook and repeat Step 2.

- 4 When you finish using your notebook, turn the notebook off and leave the notebook connected to AC power for at least 24 hours.

Warning



Do not attempt to disassemble the AC adapter. The AC adapter has no user-replaceable or user-serviceable parts inside. The AC adapter has dangerous voltages that can cause serious injury or death. Contact Gateway about returning defective AC adapters.



Protecting from power source problems

During a power surge, the voltage level of electricity coming into your computer can increase to far above normal levels and cause data loss or system damage. Protect your computer and peripherals by connecting them to a *surge protector*, which will absorb voltage surges and prevent them from reaching your computer.

Warning



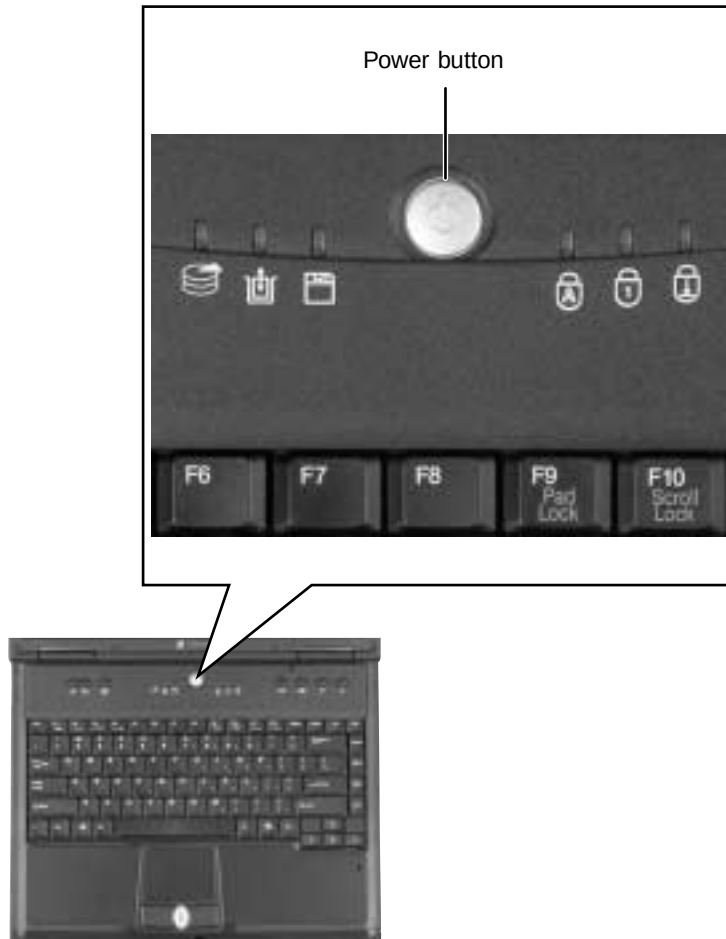
High voltages can enter your computer through both the power cord and the modem connection. Protect your computer by using a surge protector. If you have a telephone modem, use a surge protector that has a modem jack. If you have a cable modem, use a surge protector that has an antenna/cable TV jack. During an electrical storm, unplug both the surge protector and the modem.

Starting your notebook



To start the notebook:

- 1 Open your notebook by sliding the latch on the front of your notebook to the right and lifting the LCD panel.
- 2 Press the power button located above the keyboard.



The power button is preset to On/Off mode. However, you can also set it to function in Standby/Resume mode. For instructions on changing the power button mode, see “Changing automatic power settings in Windows Me, Windows 98, or Windows 2000” on page 138.

- 3** If you are starting your computer for the first time, follow the on-screen instructions to set up your computer.



Waking up your notebook

When you have not used your notebook for several minutes, it will go into a power-saving mode called *Standby*. While in Standby, the power indicator light blinks.

If your notebook has gone into Standby mode, “wake” it up by pressing the power button. For more information on changing power-saving settings, see “Changing automatic power settings in Windows Me, Windows 98, or Windows 2000” on page 138.

Turning off your notebook



To turn off your notebook:

- 1 Click **Start**, then select **Shut Down**. The Shut Down Windows dialog box opens.
- 2 Select **Shut down**.
- 3 Click **OK**. Windows shuts down and turns off your notebook.

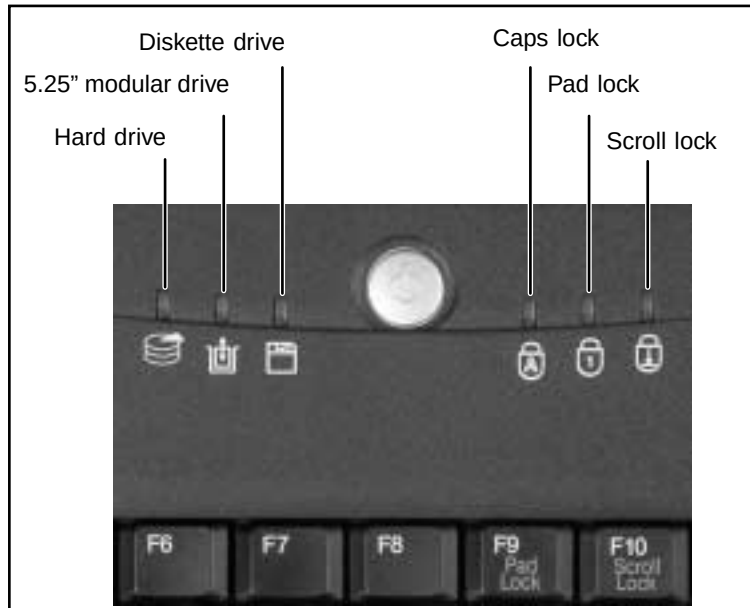
Important



If for some reason you cannot use the Shut down option in Windows to turn off your notebook, press and hold the power button for about five seconds.



Status indicators



This light turns on... **When...**



The notebook is accessing a hard drive.



The notebook is accessing the 5.25" modular drive.

This light turns on...	When...
	The notebook is accessing the diskette drive.
	Caps Lock is turned on.
	Pad Lock is turned on.
	Scroll Lock is turned on.

Using the keyboard

Your notebook features a full-size keyboard that has the full functionality of a desktop computer keyboard. Many of the keys have been assigned alternate functions, including shortcut keys for Windows, function keys for specific system operations, and the Pad Lock keys for the numeric keypad.

You can attach an external keyboard to the notebook using a USB or PS/2 port. You do not need to shut down the notebook to connect a keyboard.



Keys

Component	Icon	Description
Volume control buttons		Press the volume buttons to change the volume, or press the mute button to turn off all sound.
Function keys		Press these keys labeled F1 to F12 to perform actions in programs. For example, pressing F1 may open help. Each program uses different function keys for different purposes. Refer to the program documentation to find out more about the function key actions.
System keys		Press these green or blue-colored keys in combination with the FN key to perform specific actions.
Navigation keys		Press these keys to move the cursor to the beginning of a line, to the end of a line, up the page, down the page, to the beginning of a document, or to the end of a document.
FN key		Press the FN key in combination with a green or blue-colored system key (such as STANDBY, PAUSE, or BLUETOOTH) to perform a specific action.
Windows key		Press to open the Windows Start menu. This key can also be used in combination with other keys to open utilities like F (Search utility), R (Run utility), and E (Explorer utility).
Numeric keypad		Use these keys to type numbers when the numeric keypad is turned on. Press FN+PAD LOCK to turn on the numeric keypad.
Application key		Press for quick access to shortcut menus and help assistants in Windows.
Arrow keys		Press these keys to move the cursor up, down, right, or left.

System key combinations

When you press an FN key and a system key at the same time, the notebook performs the action identified by the green or blue text on the key.

Press and hold FN while pressing this system key...	To...
	Display the power status box in the upper left corner of your screen. The box shows the battery charge level, the BIOS version, and whether the AC adapter is being used. Press the key combination again to close this box. (Available on the Solo 9500 only.)
	Toggle the notebook screen between the LCD, an external monitor, or both displays at the same time. A monitor must be plugged into the monitor port on the notebook or docking station.
	Enter Standby mode. Press the power button to leave Standby mode.
	Turn on Pad Lock so you can use the numeric keypad. Press this key combination again to turn off Pad Lock. The Pad Lock status indicator appears while this function is turned on.
	Pause the text scrolling in a DOS screen. The Scroll Lock status indicator appears when this function is turned on. Press the key combination again to continue scrolling. (This function is only available in some programs.)
	Pause execution of a DOS program. (This function is only available in some programs.)
	Stop the currently running DOS program. (This function is only available in some programs.)
	Increase the brightness of the display.

**Press and hold FN while
pressing this system key...**

To...

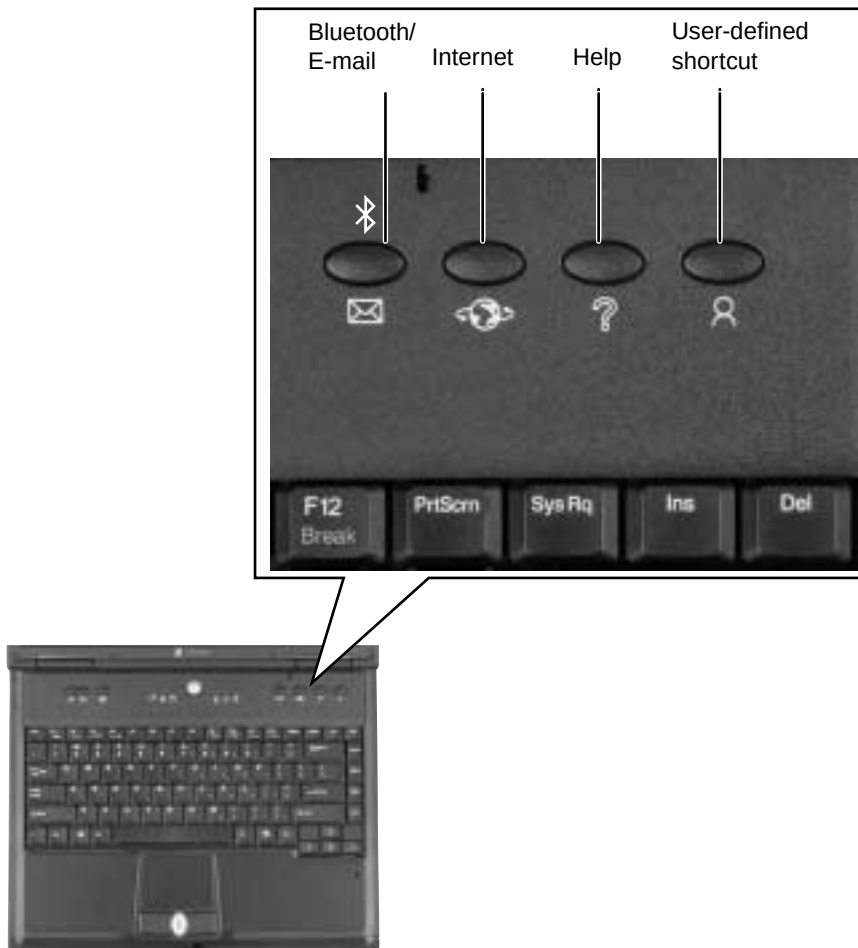


Decrease the brightness of the display.



Turn Bluetooth on and off. (This function is only available on notebooks equipped with Bluetooth.)

Multi-function buttons

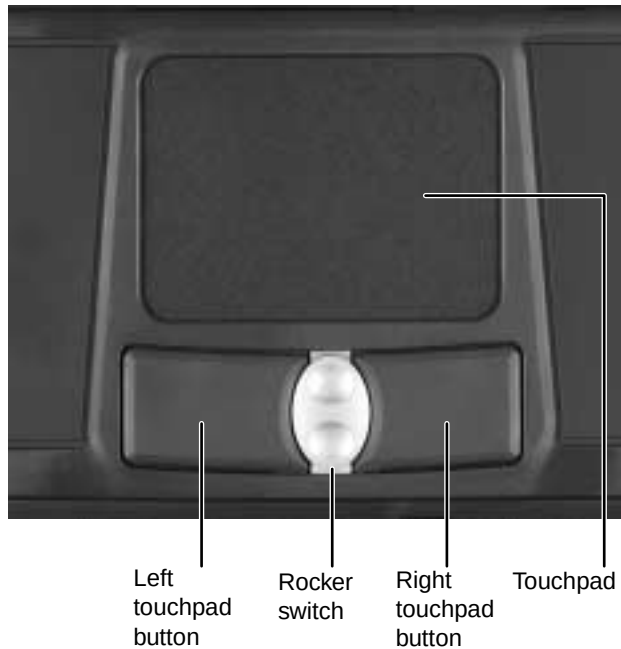


Button	Icon	Press to...
Bluetooth		Turn Bluetooth on and off. This button must be pressed at the same time the FN button is pressed. (This function is only available on notebooks equipped with Bluetooth.)
E-mail		Open your e-mail program.

Button	Icon	Press to...
Internet		Open your Web browser.
Help		Open online help.
User-defined shortcut		Open the program you assign to this key.

Using the EZ Pad touchpad

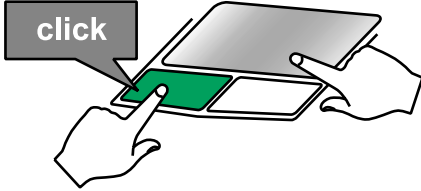
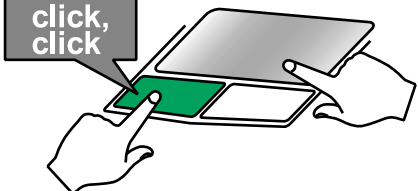
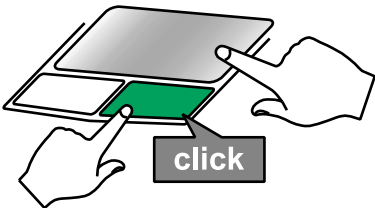
The EZ Pad™ consists of a touchpad, two buttons, and a rocker switch. (The rocker switch is available on the Solo 9550 only.)



When you move your finger on the touchpad, the *pointer* (arrow) on the screen moves in the same direction.

You can use the EZ-Pad *left* and *right buttons* below the touchpad to select objects. You can assign a function to the rocker switch between the touchpad buttons on the Solo 9550. This function can be to scroll up or down, maximize or minimize the active window, or open and close the Start menu. For more information about programming the rocker switch, see “Changing the touchpad settings” on page 161.

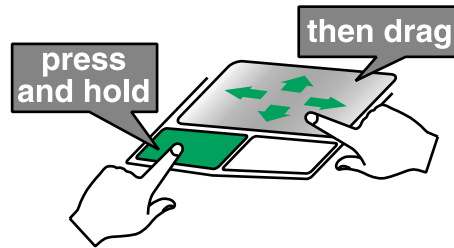
Using the touchpad

To...	Do this...
Move the pointer on the screen.	 <p>Move your finger around on the touchpad. If you run out of space on your touchpad and need to move the pointer farther, lift your finger, move it to the middle of the touchpad, then continue moving your finger.</p>
Select an object on the screen.	 <p>Position the pointer over the object. Press the left button below the touchpad once. This action is called <i>clicking</i>.</p>
Start a program or open a file or folder.	 <p>Position the pointer over the object. Press the left button below the touchpad twice in rapid succession. This action is called <i>double-clicking</i>.</p>
Access a shortcut menu or find more information about an object on the screen.	 <p>Position the pointer over the object. Quickly press and release the right button once. This action is called <i>right-clicking</i>.</p>

To...

Move an object
on the screen.

Do this...



Position the pointer over the object. Press the left button and hold it down, then use the touchpad to move (drag) the object to the appropriate part of the screen. Release the button to drop the object where you want it.

Connecting the modem

If your notebook has a modem jack, the notebook has a built-in 56K modem.

Caution

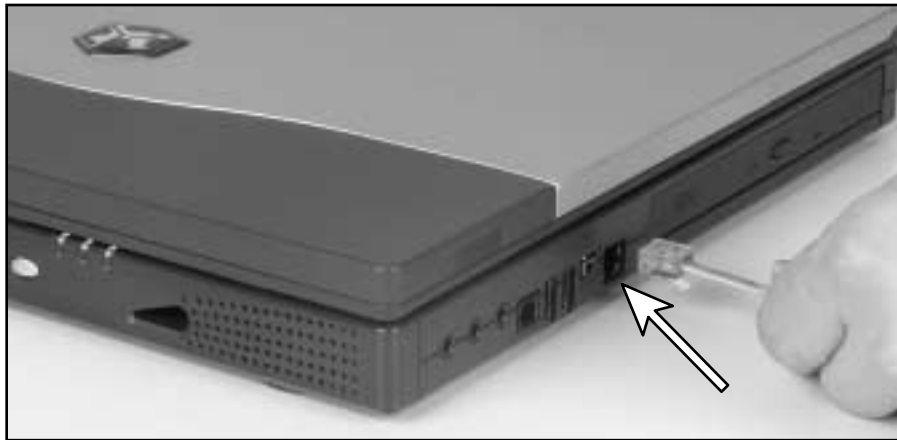


To reduce the risk of fire, use only No. 26 AWG or larger telecommunications line cord.



To connect the modem:

- 1 Insert one end of the telephone cable into the modem jack  on the side of the notebook.



- 2 Insert the other end of the telephone cable into a telephone wall jack. The modem will not work with digital or PBX telephone lines.
- 3 Start your notebook, then start your communications software.



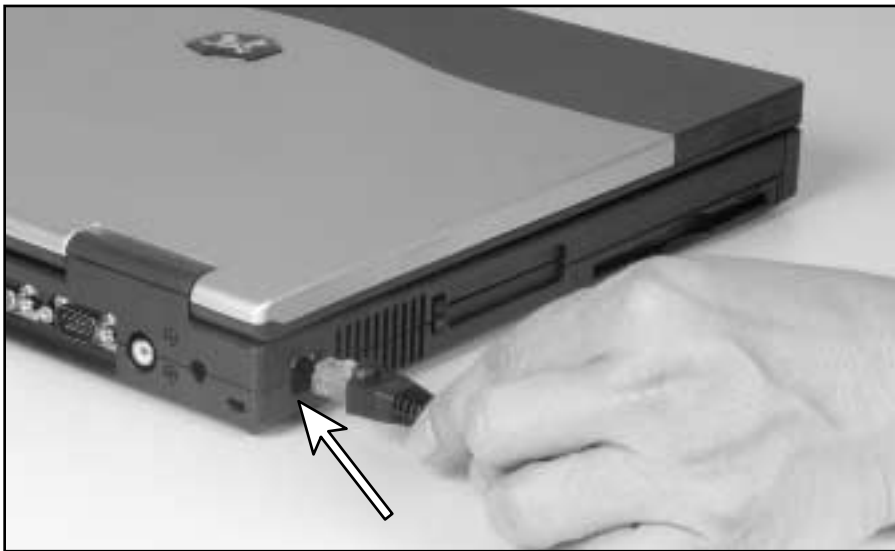
Connecting to an Ethernet network

If your notebook has a network jack, you can connect it to a 10/100 Ethernet network.



To connect to a network:

- 1 Insert one end of the network cable into the network jack  on the left side of the notebook.



- 2 Insert the other end of the network cable into a network wall jack. Ask your network administrator to help you select the correct network jack.



Your notebook is now physically connected to the network. Your network administrator can help you log onto your network.

Broadband Internet connections

You can use your computer's Ethernet jack for more than just networking. Many broadband Internet connections, such as cable modems and DSL modems, connect to your computer's Ethernet jack. For more information, see "Using the Internet" on page 87 and "Networking Your Computer" on page 199.

Installing a printer, scanner, or other peripheral device

Your computer has one or more of the following ports: IEEE 1394 (Firewire), Universal Serial Bus (USB), serial, and parallel. These ports are used for connecting peripheral devices such as printers, scanners, and digital cameras to your computer. For more information about port locations, see “Checking Out Your Gateway Solo 9500” on page 1 and “Checking Out Your Gateway Solo 9550” on page 11.

IEEE 1394 and USB ports support *plug-and-play* and *hot swapping*, which means that your computer will usually recognize such a device whenever you plug it into the appropriate port. When you use an IEEE 1394 or USB device for the first time, your computer will prompt you to install any software the device needs. After doing this, you can disconnect and reconnect the device at any time.

Parallel and serial port devices are not plug-and-play. Refer to the device documentation for detailed information and installation instructions.