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The Z Factor Sony Vaio Z from £1435 | sony.co.uk

When was the last time you saw a sumo wrestler doing ballet? Never, because daintiness and power don't often go hand in hand. Sony's 13in Vaio Z, however, is like The Rock in plimsolls. Spec it to the max and you'll get an Intel Core i7 processor, 512GB SSD drive and 8GB of RAM in an ultra-thin, ultra-light carbon fibre body. An accompanying media dock (pictured) connects via Light Peak (the non-Apple speak for Intel's Thunderbolt), adding heavyweight Radeon graphics and Blu-ray. Yikes.



Born to strum Fret-King Super-matic £1260 | fret-king.com

Sitting on the floor outside Budgens bashing out your off-key, bossa nova cover version of *Knockin' On Heaven's Door* won't get you anywhere: you're too tone deaf to tune your guitar, let alone sing. But a strum and a button-press is all it takes for Fret-King's Super-matic to tune itself to standard open E, or any number of preset alternative tunings (in a not-dissimilar fashion to Gibson's Robot range). While the name might make it sound like a washing machine, the American alder body and Indian rosewood fingerboard will ensure that it doesn't play like one. Fret-King awesome.



Rumour mill



Sony's next **NEX camera** will come armed with 24MP, 1080p video and an electronic viewfinder ■ The upcoming **LG Optimus Pro** will combine Android 2.3 and a BlackBerry-style full QWERTY keyboard ■ **Windows 8** will be compatible with **Xbox 360** games ■ **Leica** is working on a mirrorless compact system to compete with Micro Four Thirds

