



For the Press

May 21, 2015
VAIO Corporation

Monster Tablet PC for Creators Created in Response to Creators' Voices
"VAIO® Z Canvas" is finally coming to market

VAIO Corporation will offer "VAIO® Z Canvas" from the VAIO Z line, the first product developed from scratch in our history as a company.



With the name of "VAIO Prototype Tablet PC," the prototype of "VAIO Z Canvas" was disclosed in October 2014 to incorporate opinions of creators in its development, taking a new approach to commercializing a product. On February 16, 2015 we announced our decision to put the product on the market. "VAIO Z Canvas" is intended to free creators from the desktop, providing them with additional locations to engage in their creative work at the professional level.

[Background of development: VAIO's goal of *Monozukuri*, or "creating things"]

"Aiming to create 'an ultimate tool' for people who desire the best output"

With smartphones and tablets becoming widespread, the PC is still indispensable for work where productivity or creativity is sought. We think the ultimate tool would not disturb the flow of such work even a single moment and this should be the essence of a PC. We developed "VAIO Z Canvas", we announce today, to become the ultimate tool that meets the expressed needs of creators who seek productivity and creativity beyond those of general users.

[Outline of the model]

Product name: VAIO Z Canvas

Pre-order starts from: 9 am on May 21, 2015

The earliest delivery date of customized model / Release date of the standard specification model: May 29, 2015



Product page of "VAIO Z Canvas" :

http://vaio.com/products/z_canvas/

The main specifications:

Customized model (VAIO OWNER MADE)

vaio.com/products/z_canvas/12-3/specification.html

Standard specification model for individual users

vaio.com/products/z_canvas/12-3/specification_pm.html

Accessories sold separately

- Digitizer stylus (pen) VJ8STD2*

Estimated market price (excluding tax): About 5,500 yen

- AC adaptor VJ8AC19V77*

Estimate market price (excluding tax): About 7,000 yen

*The same as that which comes with "VAIO Z Canvas"

[Main features]

1. Careful attention to usability realized through dialogue

"VAIO Z Canvas" was developed and commercialized while listening to opinions of professional creators active in the front lines such as illustrators, animators, and photographers. Meticulous concern about usability that meets actual creative needs is reflected in the product.

1.1 The form of a tablet + Wireless keyboard

The keyboard for a general notebook PC is sometimes inappropriately positioned, hampering creators during drawing or retouching. To address this issue, "VAIO Z Canvas" adopts a wireless keyboard. Users can place it beside or behind the display to have the most comfortable layout for creative work.

With the keyboard fixed in front of the screen, the screen remains beyond comfortable reach and causes stress on the hands when users draw for a long time.



If the keyboard can be moved freely, users can put the display in the most comfortable place for drawing and retouching, while using the shortcut keys side by side.



1.2 Freestyle stand

While doing creative work, users may unconsciously wish to change screen angles. At the same time, the screen is required to endure the pen pressure at these angles. In order to meet both conflicting needs, we developed a unique stand mechanism. Its function is achieved by a combination of springs, dampers, and cams.

Angles for drawing are unlimited. The screen needs to be stable while drawing. How can both needs be satisfied? The development of the mechanism started from this question.



1.3 Convenient functions designed through carefully reviewing the work process: Shortcut key menu function & Touch screen disabling function

Professionals active in the front lines know that a little difference in the usability of a tool can make a big difference in their finished work. To alleviate stress during the creative process as much as possible, we included subtle and considerate ingenuities, with specified patterns of creative work in mind.



The function of the L button and R button can be changed according to the user's dominant hand.

LEFT BUTTON: Shortcut key menu function

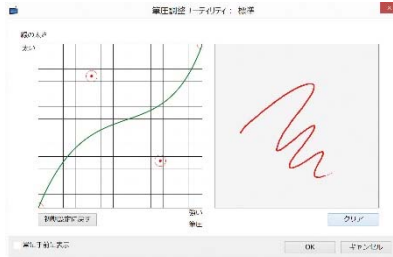
When there is no place to put a keyboard, users can display major shortcut keys on the screen so that they can work on drawing or retouching with only the display. The user can make the display menu fit automatically so as not to overlay application icons. ("Automatic fit on/off" can be set up.)

RIGHT BUTTON: Touch screen disabling function (Patent pending)

General tablets are equipped with an automatic palm sensor to prevent operational error, but they cannot prevent it 100%. For users to be able to feel safe completing work without worrying about unintended operation, we included a function that allows the user to disable the touch screen and work only with the pen. However, even while the touch screen is disabled, the shortcut key menu can be operated with the touch of a fingertip.

1.4 Pursuit of comfort in drawing

With the “pen pressure control utility” users can easily switch the mode of the digital stylus (pen) among hard, standard, or soft pen. Moreover, the pen pressure curve is finely regulated at four points, allowing users to create pen textures best suited to their preferences.



Digital stylus (pen)

As a pen grip and two pen tips of different hardness come with the product, users can select the thickness of the pen and the hardness of the pen tip according to their preferences.



1.5 Enriched interface

Considering creation work at site and workflow, we selected the interfaces such as wired LAN and full-size SD card slot. Since images can be output to two 4K monitors simultaneously, users can build an environment like that of desktop.



2. Overwhelming responsiveness that does not impede creative work

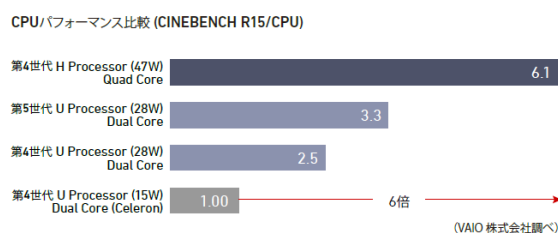
2.1 On-board Z Engine

“VAIO Z Canvas” is loaded with “Z Engine” produced by our core technology, the fruit of high-density packaging and heat dissipation design technologies. With this Engine” VAIO Z Canvas” achieves such incredibly fast response time that it processes large amounts of data without difficulty, although it is small and light.



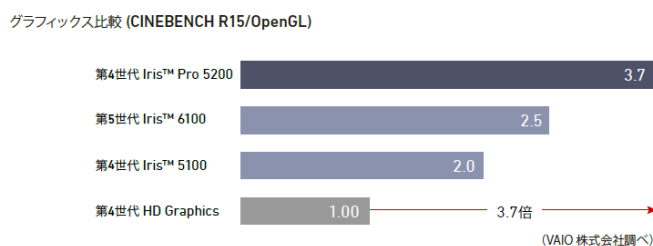
Loaded with Intel® Fourth-Generation Core™ i7 Processor H Processor Line

The benchmark software score assesses it as six times higher than the same-generation U processor of Intel® (15W). From inspiration to completion, “VAIO Z Canvas” does not interfere with professional creative work but offers quick response. It is equipped with a CPU similar to that loaded into a high-performance 15-inch notebook PC that many creators use in the front lines.



Loaded with Intel® Iris™ Pro Graphics

Its benchmark software scores are 3.7 times higher compared with the same-generation HD graphics of Intel®. It eliminates useless time gazing at the screen waiting for the computer to finish processing. Although it is small and has a low-power-consumption design, its performance is on a par with that of external graphics devices.

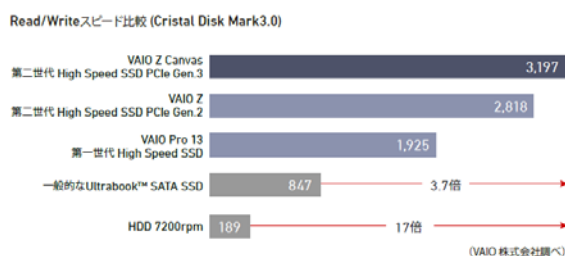


2.2 Large memory capacity optional

The memory capacity significantly influences response time in handling large amounts of data such as video and in creative work areas such as editing. “VAIO Z Canvas” allows users to select up to 16GB.

2.3 Much faster second-generation High Speed SSD*

“VAIO Z Canvas” is equipped with the second-generation High Speed SSD, and is compatible with PCIe Gen.3, thus realizing 3.7 times faster speed compared with SATA SSD loaded into the general Ultrabook™. Users will be free from the stress of work interrupted due to application boot up or back up. *Memory: 1TB or 512GB; 256GB for SATA

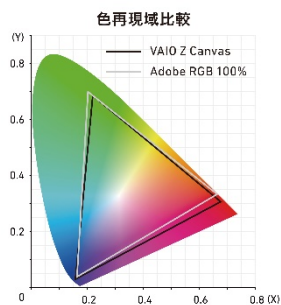


3. Professionals' desk environment is condensed to A4 size

3.1 High color area display covers 95% of the Adobe RGB

“VAIO Z Canvas” adopts a wide color area display capable of reproducing 95% of the Adobe RGB, which is comparable to the color monitor that creators use to check colors. The color check process usually done on the creator’s desktop will be possible at the client’s office or at any other worksites outside. Since the color on this display is correct and reliable, both accuracy of finished work and work efficiency will be improved.

Comparison of color reproduction areas



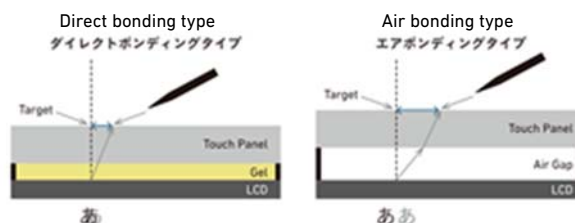
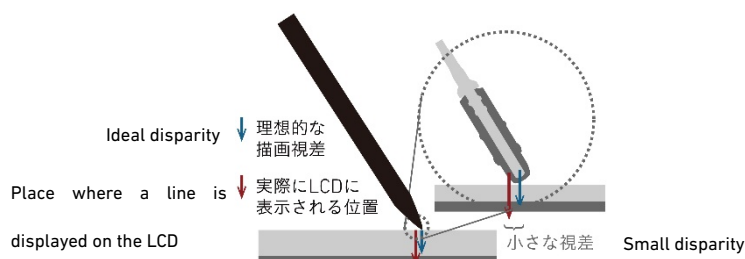
Aspect ratio 3:2

3.2 Color management

By using ColorMunki Photo from X-Rite Inc., calibration is completely controlled by this machine alone, enabling users to match colors with a color monitor they have at their office.

3.3 Minimize disparity

What creators want most is “to be able to draw as they wish.” In order to minimize the position error (disparity) between where the tip of the pen touches and where a line is actually drawn, a stylus which detects sensitivity at the pen tip is provided, and special optical elasticity resin is inserted between the liquid crystal and glass. These measures were taken to make the user experience as close to drawing on paper as possible.



4. Applications taking advantage of features of “VAIO Z Canvas”

For users to readily experience the quick response and drawing capability of “VAIO Z Canvas” trial versions of various applications are installed as follows:

Adobe Creative Cloud (Adobe CC)

The latest tool from Adobe used by many creative professionals such as designers, creators, and photographers. It is a set of applications with the latest features always available for broad-ranging creative production. From the initial phase of development, the “VAIO Z Canvas” has incorporated ideas of the Adobe development team and artists. They are reflected in the shape of the body and the shortcut operations.

The icon of “Adobe product information” is on the desktop of the “VAIO Z Canvas”. From there, you can purchase Adobe CC products at special prices for VAIO users. The latest information about Adobe products, how to use them, examples of how to use VAIO computers, and other information useful after purchase will be introduced.



Celsys CLIP STUDIO PAINT

It is a drawing tool perfect for creating cartoons and illustrations and also a standard paint tool preferred by a wide range of digital artists from beginners to professionals. It is exceptionally good for drawing with variations in pen pressure. This application has been highly optimized through interviews with cartoonists and actual device verification.

The “trial-version of CLIP STUDIO PAINT EX/PRO” is preinstalled in the “VAIO Z Canvas”. It is a convenient application that enables the user to experience the high level of drawing capability achieved by the pressure-sensitive stylus pen of the “VAIO Z Canvas”.

The customized model (VAIO OWNER MADE) of the commercial version of “CLIP STUDIO PAINT PRO” is available at a special price for VAIO purchasers if purchased together with the hardware.



Corel Painter 2015

It is a paint application capable of a variety of brush expressions that are not found in other applications, and excellent especially in natural expression. It also features flexibility to create entirely new painting tools through customization.

The “trial version of Corel Painter 2015” is preinstalled in the “VAIO Z Canvas”. It is a convenient application to try a wide range of modes such as traditional oil and water painting, processed photo art, and innovative digital brush drawing on the “VAIO Z Canvas”. Because the application’s high-function brush needs the CPU power for the full range of its processes, the full capability

of the VAIO Z Canvas can best be appreciated when the application is run on this device.

The customized model (VAIO OWNER MADE) of “Corel Painter 2015” is available at a special price for VAIO purchasers if purchased together with the hardware.



Autodesk SketchBook

This is a drawing application excellent for natural expression. Demonstrating the high reproducibility of tools often used for drawing such as pencils or markers, and providing the interface with necessary functions in simple layout, it allows for intuitive operation. Both beginners who try drawing on PC for the first time and professionals can enjoy it with the feel of drawing on paper.

“Autodesk SketchBook Starter” is preinstalled in the “VAIO Z Canvas”. Since the interface is simple and allows for intuitive operation, even those who are digital drawing for the first time can try it easily. Since the application has a good record as a tool for rough sketches or drafts, professional creators can use it to see what drawings will look like.



5. Azumino Finish

Azumino Finish is the final process for us to take responsibility for the quality of our product. In Azumino each VAIO product goes through rigorous quality checks by dedicated engineers to satisfy as many as 50 check items.


[Information]

We plan to launch “VAIO Z Canvas” in the North American market this autumn. We will disclose details on a later date. When “VAIO Z Canvas” is announced, we will open a teaser page. If you are interested in it, you are requested to register online.

Teaser page URL:<http://us.vaio.com/>

[For more information contact]

VAIO Corporation press@vaio.com

*VAIO and  are registered trademarks of Sony Corporation.

*This English press release is a translation of VAIO’s product launch in Japan. The specified product is for Japanese Market only.