

I understand that with a big charging block that balancing weight can be an issue, but there must have been some way to make this block smaller or less intrusive, or to move the pins to clear more space. Despite those negatives, one positive aspect of this charging block comes from its ability to accommodate lower-powered USB charging situations, which includes charging a phone or tablet. The positives, however, don't outweigh the negatives.

**Loud fan.** Not really loud, but loud enough it gets noticed in a not completely quiet space, which makes it too loud.

**Lack of USB-C to HDMI adapter.** This item may be a bit controversial, as it isn't a design flaw as much as a packaging issue. Most computers don't ship with video adapters, but they were common in the past. Most computers, however, include a port where adapters are easily purchased or already purchased, and they don't have manufacturing issues related to them. USB-C is an emerging standard, and some third-party devices aren't working well, so including a basic USB-C to HDMI interface would have been a nice gesture on a relatively high-end machine.

## Acer C910



If you accept its premise, the main issues with the Acer C910 is really just the fact you can't fully insert an SD card. Compared to the general market, a couple of items could be improved, including the weight and the keyboard.

**Short SD card slot.** For a device of this size, I would expect the SD card to slip all the way in so that it becomes part of the device, complementing the internal memory for videos or music storage. The Yoga doesn't support full SD card insertion either, but it is slightly more forgivable on a smaller device.

**Weight.** I'm not too concerned about the weight. This was clearly not a computer designed to be picked up and carried from place to place like a tablet. It lives in the era of tablets, so there are devices for that purpose. This is an enterprise and education play for the Chromebook. Ruggedish, high performance and substantial. All-in-ones are a choice for education, but they still have parts. With a computer like the C910, an entire computer lab could be relocated in a few minutes.

**Roomier keyboard.** There is a lot of real estate on the surface of the C910. The well designed, but slightly cramped keyboard, would benefit from a larger footprint. That does not mean cram in a 10-key pad, but make more room for bigger hands, perhaps pull it closer to the front so those with little hands, like kids in a classroom, don't have to reach so far to type. That implies redesigning the trackpad and the speakers, but both of those features would not likely suffer if they were each a bit smaller.



Ethernet.

Special thank you for Accell for providing a very handy [USB-C to HDMI 1.4 adaptor](#) for the Yoga 900. The adaptor performed flawlessly, connecting to multiple HDMI inputs used for screen mirroring and Microsoft PowerPoint presentations. The company sells a [variety of USB-C connectors](#) that can drive outputs including VGA and DVI, along with

## Lessons Learned and recommendations

Design is important, and the design of computers needs to balance between technical capabilities and end user expectations. While these devices both offer a solid design aesthetic, they don't nail all of the details. Collectively, the two devices suggest some general mobile computing design issues that manufacturers and designers should consider.

**SD Card slot.** Nobody wants things sticking out of their devices unless that is part of the intended design (USB sticks, for instance, are meant by design to stick out from the USB port, but SD cards should always be flush with the case edge unless the device is simply too small to accommodate that. For the C910, that should not be an issue.)

**Keyboard.** regardless of any other constraints, keyboards should always be made for touch typists. That means at minimum full-sized shift keys and delete keys, with plenty of room between special functions along an edge so wandering fingers don't accidentally invoke "delete" or "home." This should not be a mystery and no high-end

computer should pass its first design review without a commitment to a viable primary user interface. In other

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