

Techni Mobili RTA-2018-GPH06 Compact Computer Cart Desk Review

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Author: Jim Resiter

While we've historically focused on topics related to technology and security at Reztek Systems, the items we discuss are meant to be interfaced with or utilized directly for a given purpose. Some of the customized creations that individuals have developed and shared via social media, the [r/Battlestations](#) subreddit or on Youtube demonstrate creativity, an exceptional level of attention to detail and a purpose-built workspace that doesn't make any compromises. For those without the time, the means, or the patience to undertake such endeavors, the ready-to-assemble furniture market offers prefabricated kits of varying quality that span an extensive range of price points.

Techni Mobili, a brand from RTA Products LLC, has offered traditional, ready-to-assemble office furniture through the usual suspects in the U.S. office supply space (Staples, OfficeMax, Office Depot) and big-box retail space (Target, Walmart). Many of their standard-sized offerings have a modern, contemporary appearance with adequate storage for traditional workspaces. Standard desks, L-shaped desks, filing cabinets, chairs and mobile carts offered within Techni Mobili's current portfolio provide ample diversity from an appearance and design perspective that it might be hard to find one of their products that doesn't appeal to you as a consumer.

The deep dive into the RTA-2018-GPH06 Compact Computer Cart Desk began with a purpose. In an effort to organize the multiple computers and platforms that are used on a semi-regular basis, I ordered (2) of these carts to address two specific use cases:

- 1.) The [Compact Battlestation](#) highlighted in our May 19th post. Miscellaneous components, peripherals and spare monitor that were scattered about the house were paired with an AsRock DeskMini A300W. The resulting system support light-to-medium duty gaming functions and general-purpose productivity functions. The silence of the room where this setup has been parked will permit recording audio or video without the dulcet tones of fans from five different sources.
- 2.) A combination workspace for (2) Raspberry Pi units (Model 3B+ and a 4GB RAM Model 4) which will share a single 1080p monitor using a KVM. The excess space on the main surface provides sufficient room to place a laptop or perform non-technology related tasks.

If we take a look at Target's website, the cart appears with limited availability for shipping at a \$99.99 USD price point. Most other retailers have sold out of this cart. Third-party sellers on the Amazon Marketplace are charging between \$103.90 and \$164.50.



Compact Computer Cart with Storage - Techni Mobili

Techni Mobili

★★★★★ 3



\$99.99

Limited stock
Only a few left for shipping

Choose options



New
\$103⁹⁰

FREE Shipping
Get it as soon as June 16 - 19 when... [More](#)

Add to Cart

Ships from
Sold by

S and B Supply Company
[S and B Supply Company](#)
★★★★☆ (170 ratings)
62% positive over the last 12 months

New
\$103⁹⁹

FREE Shipping
Get it as soon as June 19 - 29 if you... [More](#)

Add to Cart

Ships from
Sold by

Click N Pay
[Click N Pay](#)
★★★★☆ (2 ratings)
50% positive over the last 12 months

New
\$122⁰⁰

FREE Shipping
Get it as soon as June 12 - 16 when... [More](#)

Add to Cart

Ships from
Sold by

EMC's Shop
[EMC's Shop](#)
★★★★☆ (826 ratings)
58% positive over the last 12 months

New
\$124⁶⁹

FREE Shipping
Get it as soon as June 16 - 19 when... [More](#)

Add to Cart

Ships from
Sold by

zard
[zard](#)
★★★★★ (8 ratings)
100% positive

New
\$124⁹⁹

FREE Shipping
Get it as soon as June 17 - 25 if you... [More](#)

Add to Cart

Ships from
Sold by

Visions of Clarity
[Visions of Clarity](#)
★★★★☆ (47 ratings)
83% positive over the last 12 months

New
\$164⁵⁰

FREE Shipping
Get it as soon as June 19 - 29 if you... [More](#)

Add to Cart

Ships from
Sold by

TQW
[TQW](#)
★★★★☆ (123 ratings)
86% positive over the last 12 months

Source: [Target.com](https://www.target.com)

Source: [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

While these prices are higher than what Walmart was selling this cart for in April 2020, \$99.99 USD appears to be the new standard for retailers that still have inventory available. Does this cart offer enough value at this price point to justify the purchase?

Unpacking and Content Analysis

The thirty-one-pound box that contains all of the components to build the cart was reasonably sized and didn't present any challenges to bring into the house and carry upstairs. Using a box cutter, the tape securing the structure of the seal was carefully cut to enable removal of the box lid. Inside, the perimeter of the box was lined with thick Styrofoam that provided sufficient padding. Within the central area of the box were the following items:

- (2) Metal legs that form the frame of the cart
- A secured plastic package that separated all components required for assembly.
 - Required bolts and screws.
 - A wrench for tightening the wheels onto the metal legs.
 - A combination Phillips-Head screwdriver and hex wrench tool.
- (4) Wheels for the bottom of the cart
 - (2) Non-locking wheels that are installed on the rear of each leg.
 - (2) Locking wheels that are installed on the front of each leg.
- Laminated, medium-density fiberboard (MDF) for the following elements of the cart:
 - (1) Optional "floating" MDF shelf that may be attached to the left, right, or rear of the main workspace.
 - (1) Large MDF surface that serves as the top of the cart.
 - (1) Narrow MDF surface that provides support between the metal legs. Pre-inserted catches for the appropriate bolts exist in this piece.
 - (1) Medium MDF surface that attaches near the bottom of the metal legs.
 - (1) Small MDF surface for the sliding keyboard tray.
- (1) Optional media holder for CDs/DVDs
 - May be affixed to the left or right leg using (2) of the included bolts.

The quality of the MDF and applied laminate is a step above what would be found in IKEA's Linnmon line. Specifically, each piece is solid MDF and does not possess a hollow core. Due to the packaging and thin layers of protective wrap placed around the MDF, there were no major chips or blemishes to be found on the laminated pieces within both packages we opened.

Assembly Experience

The [directions](#) provided with the cart were very easy to follow and consisted of seven steps. The only places where we deviated from the instructions involved Step 5 and Step 6. Both of these processes relate to the installation of the keyboard tray and sliding rails. Use of a cordless drill and appropriately sized Phillips-Head bit will reduce potential assembly frustration. Alignment of

components and installation of hex-keyed bolts in all other steps presented no challenges. The design tolerances are well planned and did not require any type of realignment later in the build process.

Step 2 was the only part where the potential to damage anything exists. The bolt catches may potentially be angled slightly off center. If this behavior occurs and the bolts are “brute forced” in place, the inserted bolts may angle toward the top of the MDF. Slow and steady tightening will allow for the necessary insert modifications to be made prior to incurring cosmetic damage. The first cart took about 25 minutes to assemble. The second cart went together in 18 minutes thanks to familiarity with the process.

Customization and Cable Management

The two components that we previously noted as optional in the parts list, which were the floating shelf and the media holder, allow for customization for the intended use case and installation area. The media holder does protrude almost one inch past the edge of the main workspace surface independent of the metal leg where it is attached. If you still have traditional media that requires nearby storage, leaving this component out of the build would be recommended.

The floating shelf that may be used for a monitor or another lightweight component may be utilized yet it has its own associated trade-offs. The approximately three-and-a-half-inch protrusion, which extends outside of the edges of the main workspace, does not permit the cart to be placed as close to a wall as possible when the shelf is affixed to the rear of the cart. There is some minor wobble noted when performing data entry while a twenty-nine-inch widescreen monitor with a plastic stand is placed on the shelf. Smaller monitors with lightweight plastic bases may be less susceptible to this behavior. The thirty-pound weight limit noted at the end of the directions may be a bit generous based on my experience using the cart.

The lower shelf weight limit of thirty pounds is far more realistic as the underside of the shelf is supported by the metal legs. Sufficient space exists to safely place a reasonably sized computer tower in this location. The weight limit alone would prevent a full-sized ATX tower from being used, but smaller systems that may be purchased through standard retail channels would not present an issue. In the setup I’ve established, a UPS was placed alongside a compact subwoofer without any problems.

The ample surface area of the main workspace provides sufficient room to perform some level of cable management with appropriate ties, adhesives and clips on the underside. The narrow MDF piece between the metal legs contains sufficient room to mount smaller power bricks using 3M adhesive pads. The viability of routing thinner cables along the legs of the cart will depend on the quality of the adhesive material applied to applicable clips.

Use and Durability

With approximately two weeks of use, the carts have held up well. Releasing and reinforcing the wheel locks to adjust the positioning of the cart did not incur any surprises. The surfaces can be quickly wiped down following the guidelines provided at the end of the installation document with minimal risk to the finish of the laminate. Techni Mobili backs this cart with a five-year warranty. Based on the sturdiness of the assembled product, I'm not expecting to have to file a service claim during the lifecycle of this furniture.

Final Thoughts and Scoring

The setup for the Deskmini A300W within the confines of the Techni Mobili RTA-2018-GPH06 cart required far more effort to complete than the labor involved in assembling the workspace. All MDF components are sufficiently thick and support ample weight based on the overall footprint of this offering. For more simplistic use cases, such as a work-from-home location to stash a laptop and docking station, a clean setup can be facilitated in short order.



For space-constrained applications, this cart offers superior stability when compared to an IKEA Linnmon surface that may be paired with appropriate desk legs. The tiered design of this cart also affords some flexibility related to how it's used. The one-inch-thick main workspace surface is solid throughout and would support stands or accessories which clamp to the surface. Although the floating shelf may be used in an effort to maximize the value derived from its inclusion, the leeway and motion that occurs with an approximately ten-and-a-half-pound monitor resting upon the shelf encourages pairing an external monitor with a dedicated stand such as the VIVO STAND-V001. The lower shelf on the cart is versatile and provides enough room for a smaller computer or inkjet printer.

Ultimately, this cart offers a solid value for space-constrained applications. Apartments, dorm rooms and makeshift areas where a neatly organized solution will be installed can be easily addressed using the Techni Mobili RTA-2018-GPH06 cart. At the current \$99.99 USD price point, you'll have a mobile, sturdy and easy-to-manage platform for conducting work. The five-year warranty that covers the product increases the confidence in its long-term viability.

	Score
<i>Packing and Unboxing</i>	8.5/10
All materials contained sufficient protection to minimize the risk of damage during shipping and transit. Necessary components to perform assembly were neatly organized and separated. Instructions were very clear and easy to follow.	
<i>Assembly</i>	8/10
Cart does not require more than one person to assemble. Visual aids contained within the instructions simplify setup. Wrench included for tightening wheels is a bit thin and may induce hand cramping prior to fully securing the wheels to the frame. Adjustments to catches that are preinstalled in the MDF board that joins both legs together may require a tool that is not included in the box. Availability of a drill with a Phillips-Head screwdriver bit required to more efficiently secure sliding rails and keyboard tray.	
<i>Customization</i>	7/10
Multiple mounting options for floating shelf and media holder. One-inch-thick main workspace offers sufficient room to manage cables.	
<i>Use and Durability</i>	9/10
Surfaces and quality of laminate are of decent quality. Assembled cart is very sturdy and does not lack rigidity. Keyboard tray contains sufficient space to accommodate larger mechanical decks.	
<i>Price</i>	7.5/10
Standard MSRP of \$99.99 USD is a fair price for the construction and space offered.	
FINAL SCORE:	40/50
I have no hesitation in recommending this product for applicable use cases.	