

MONITORS

17in monitors		Last month's position	First reviewed	Price (ex VAT)	Warranty	Tube type	Viewable area	Dot pitch	Max resolution @ 75Hz	Dimensions (width x depth x height)	Weight
1	Iiyama Vision Master Pro 413 01438 745 482 www.iiyama.co.uk	1	Feb 02	£169	3-year onsite	Aperture grille/ Diamondtron M2	16in	0.25mm	1,600x1,200	408x430x420mm	16.5kg
2	Mitsubishi Diamond Pro 740SB 0845 121 9200 www.nec.mitsubishi.com	2	Apr 02	£165	3-year onsite	Aperture grille/ Diamondtron M2 Superbright	16in	0.25mm	1,600x1,200	399x415x413mm	19kg
3	Samsung SyncMaster 757DFX brochure@samsung.co.uk www.samsungelectronics.co.uk	3	Apr 02	£156	3-year onsite	Shadow mask/ DynaFlat	16in	0.24mm	1,600x1,200	398x412x410mm	17kg
4	CTX PR711F 01923 810 800 www.ctxmonitors.com	4	Apr 02	£209	3-year onsite	Aperture grille/ Trinitron	16in	0.24mm	1,600x1,200	412x425x415mm	17.6kg
5	CTX EX710F 01923 810 800 www.ctxmonitors.com	5	May 01	£139	3-year onsite	Shadow mask/ FST	16in	0.25mm	1,600x1,200	412x415x417mm	16.5kg
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1	CTX PR960F 01923 810 800 www.ctxmonitors.com	1	Apr 02	£283	3-year onsite	Aperture grille/ FD Trinitron	18in	0.24mm	1,600x1,200	460x469x485mm	26kg
2	LG Flatron 915FT Plus 01753 500 470 www.lge.co.uk	2	Apr 02	£245	3-year onsite	Aperture grille/ LG Flatron	18in	0.24mm	1,600x1,200	470x470x480mm	26.5kg
3	Iiyama Vision Master Pro 454 01438 745 482 www.iiyama.co.uk	3	Apr 02	£285	3-year onsite	Aperture grille/ Diamondtron M2	18in	0.25mm	1,920x1,440	450x447x450mm	24kg
4	NEC MultiSync FP955 0845 121 9200 www.nec.co.uk	4	Apr 02	£399	3-year onsite	Aperture grille/ Diamondtron NF	18in	0.24mm	1,600x1,200	442x445x449mm	23kg
5	Sony CPD-E430 0870 542 4424 www.sony-cp.com	5	Apr 02	£299	3-year onsite	Aperture grille/ FD Trinitron	18in	0.24mm	1,600x1,200	451x461x471mm	25.5kg

All monitors are tested using DisplayMate software (www.displaymate.com)

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1 Iiyama Vision Master Pro 413

Another month sees the Vision Master Pro stubbornly hanging on to its Best Buy award – nothing is able to snatch the top spot from Iiyama's excellent monitor. Though not the cheapest screen available, the 413 is reasonably priced and it comes with top-notch specifications.

Compared to flat-panels, prices of CRT (cathode ray tube) monitors are low, but their bulky size makes them less attractive. However, with plenty of enticing features, the Vision Master Pro 413 might persuade buyers to stick with a CRT screen. Most notable is the inclusion of Diamondtron M2 technology, a tube type capable of producing

enhanced levels of brightness at the touch of a switch. Resolution support is good, although the screen doesn't offer the clearest of images at the top resolution of 1,600x1,200. The Iiyama's colours are vibrant, even without the high brightness setting on, and text definition is precise, which clinches it as the winner.

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1 CTX PR960F

The CTX PR960F remains at the top of the 19in Monitors chart, gaining itself another Best Buy award in the process. Equipped with a pixel-perfect 0.24mm dot pitch and an FD Trinitron tube, the CTX continues to show the way in terms of specification and image quality. There's USB support and the fast, if slightly elaborate, menu system is up to scratch.

If you were being picky, you might complain that the CTX's resolution support – which can't stretch to 1,920x1,440 – lags behind the likes of the Iiyama at number three. In truth, though, you would need a 22in or 24in monitor to do justice to such a high resolution, and CTX's 85Hz refresh rate at 1,600x1,200 leaves it well positioned to deliver crisp, clear output. The PR960F is equally adept at both graphics and text, and the vibrant sRGB-compliant colour palette is striking. With its top specifications, balanced image quality and excellent all-round value for money, the Best Buy CTX remains very much a monitor to admire.

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2 Mitsubishi Diamond Pro 740SB

Mitsubishi pioneered the Diamondtron technology and puts it to good use in the Diamond Pro 740SB. It might not be the cheapest CRT model in the chart, but it's one of the best 17in monitors we've seen. The Diamond Pro's top resolution of 1,600x1,200 runs at a flicker-free 75Hz and the 0.25mm dot pitch ensures fantastic image quality. On the default settings the 740SB's colours are vibrant and the display is sharp enough to cope with text at the highest resolution.



3 Samsung SyncMaster 757DFX

The SyncMaster 757DFX might not offer the best picture quality, but the combination of a low price and good features sees it narrowly beat the CTX PR711F. While the 0.24mm dot pitch and the 1,600x1,200 resolution at 75Hz provides high-end credentials, the SyncMaster 757DFX is let down by the shadow mask tube technology. There is no problem with detailed text, but colours lack intensity.



4 CTX PR711F

The PR711F from CTX is undoubtedly an excellent monitor with great picture quality. Unfortunately, it can't match the low prices of the other contenders, so only achieves fourth place in the chart. The 0.24mm dot pitch and 1,600x1,200 resolution at 75Hz are combined with a Trinitron tube to produce near-faultless picture quality. Overall, the CTX PR711F would have scored a lot higher if the price had been lower, but it does have some benefits in its favour, such as the USB hub and excellent picture quality.



5 CTX EX710F

In effect, the CTX EX710F is the budget version of the PR711F in fourth place. The Trinitron tube is replaced by less impressive FST (flatter squarer tube) shadow mask technology, and there's no USB hub for plugging in extra devices. The top resolution of 1,600x1,200 at 75Hz is a good specification for the price, but it lacks the vibrant image quality of the PR711F.



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2 LG Flatron 915FT Plus

LG continues to hold on to the second spot this month, with a specification list that bears a close resemblance to that of the CTX. The 0.24mm dot pitch and 1,600x1,200 resolution support at a refresh rate of 85Hz are among the similarities. Built around LG's own Flatron tube, the 915FT's colour palette is light and pleasant to watch and the clear text output makes the monitor a perfect addition to the office. The LG remains an assured monitor that will reward its owner with a strong roster of features and a recently reduced £245 price tag that, for some, may prove too tempting to resist.



3 Iiyama Vision Master Pro 454

The Vision Master Pro 454 boasts the new Diamondtron M2 tube, which results in an extremely versatile colour palette. The image quality doesn't quite match that of the CTX and LG monitors, but the 85Hz refresh rate at 1,920x1,440 makes this screen almost unique. The Iiyama has plenty to offer but, for the everyday user, the CTX and LG models just inch ahead.



4 NEC MultiSync FP955

With a hefty asking price of £399, the FP955 doesn't do enough to justify such expense. Not that there's much to fault about the monitor, with the MultiSync's 0.24mm dot pitch and fine graphics detail producing eye-catching results. However, excellent as the NEC is, it isn't noticeably superior in image quality to the CTX, which simply serves to highlight its comparatively steep asking price.



5 Sony CPD-E430

Even with some fine-tuning of the colour settings, the CPD-E430's colour palette is too dark and gloomy to keep this monitor from the bottom slot. The Sony has the same tube as the CTX at the top of the chart, but can't match it. It supports a resolution of 1,600x1,200, although the below-par 75Hz refresh rate leaves it dropping behind. When other models offer better quality at a reduced price tag, why compromise?

