

top 10 charts



The PC WorldBench 4 benchmarking software tests how well a system runs 11 different applications and provides the best indication of its real-world performance

The graphics card market moves at an incredible pace – what was the must-have card six months ago has since been consigned to the technology scrapheap in favour of a newer and faster model. But better cards means improved games, so developers are pushing back the boundaries to create more realistic gaming experiences.

Unlike the days of old, when there were four or more companies fighting it out, it's now come down to pretty much a two-horse race between nVidia and ATI. With yet more demanding games on the horizon and new chips waiting to take advantage, turn to page 222 to see who is currently in the lead.

We've also refreshed our Superbudget PC chart this month. Whether you're taking your first steps into the PC world or are after a second or replacement machine, if you're on the lookout for a bargain turn to page 218 for our recommendations.

Prices

Our price categories for PCs, notebooks and digital cameras are as follows:

PCs

Power PCs	over £1,200
Budget PCs	£700-£1,200
Superbudget PCs	sub-£700

Notebooks

Power notebooks	over £1,500
Budget notebooks	sub-£1,500

Digital cameras

Professional	over £700
Intermediate	£300-£700
Beginners	sub-£300

All prices printed in *PC Advisor* are quoted by the manufacturer or distributor and exclude VAT. Prices are only intended as a guide and you may see products on sale for less or more than our quoted price.

If you're interested in purchasing any of the products reviewed in *PC Advisor* then please contact the manufacturer or supplier direct, mentioning both the magazine and the issue in which you saw the product.

If it won't supply the product as reviewed, contact us at reviews@idg.com. Please note manufacturers are under no obligation to feature reviewed products on their websites.

PC Advisor's recommendations are for guidance only and are not a guarantee of suitability. The publisher takes no responsibility for purchasers' decisions.

TOP 10 CHARTS

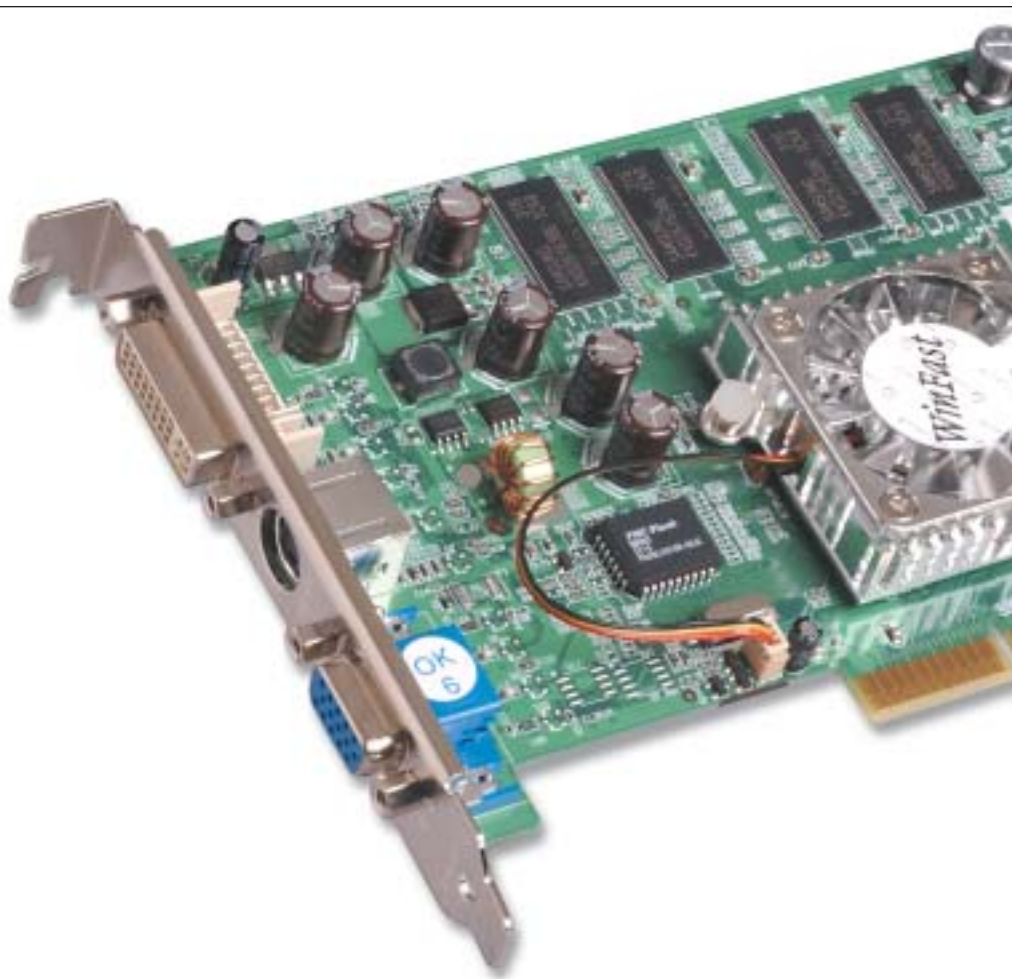
Power PCs	212
Budget PCs	214
Superbudget PCs	218
Graphics cards	222
Notebooks	228
Beginner & Intermediate digital cameras	230
Personal printers	232
Professional digital cameras	234
Digital video cameras	234
CD drives	236
DVD writers	236
Monitors	237
Flatbed scanners	238
Digital projectors	238



The Top 10 chart awards

Top-ranking products are eligible for either Best Buy or Recommended awards. A Best Buy product takes the number one spot in its chart thanks to a superlative combination of features, performance, value for money and customer service (where we have the data).

Chart rankings are based on a calculation of features and performance compared to price, so the highest-scoring products also represent the best value for money. Those that earn a Recommended award are pretenders to the Best Buy crown. Almost as good, these Recommended products offer great value, quality and performance.



What is PC WorldBench 4?

WorldBench 4 is the latest version of our benchmarking software, which has been updated to allow us to test PCs running Windows XP, and also contains an upgraded base system against which results are compared.

The PC WorldBench 4 benchmarking software tests how well a system runs 11 different applications and provides the best indication of its real-world performance.

The 11 packages are: Photoshop 5.0, PhotoPaint 8.0, Quicken Deluxe 99, Lotus 1-2-3 9.0, Lotus Word Pro 9.0, Access 2000, Excel 2000, PowerPoint 2000, Word 2000, Netscape Communicator 4.73 and Visio 5.0 SE. Test results are then collated and compared against a reference system – namely a Gateway Select 1200 PC, with a 1.2GHz AMD Athlon processor, 128MB of RAM, 20GB Quantum Fireball hard drive and VisionTek GeForce3 graphics card. To make it easy to compare, the control PC's score is set at 100, so a system that scores 150 is 50 percent faster than the control PC and so on.

