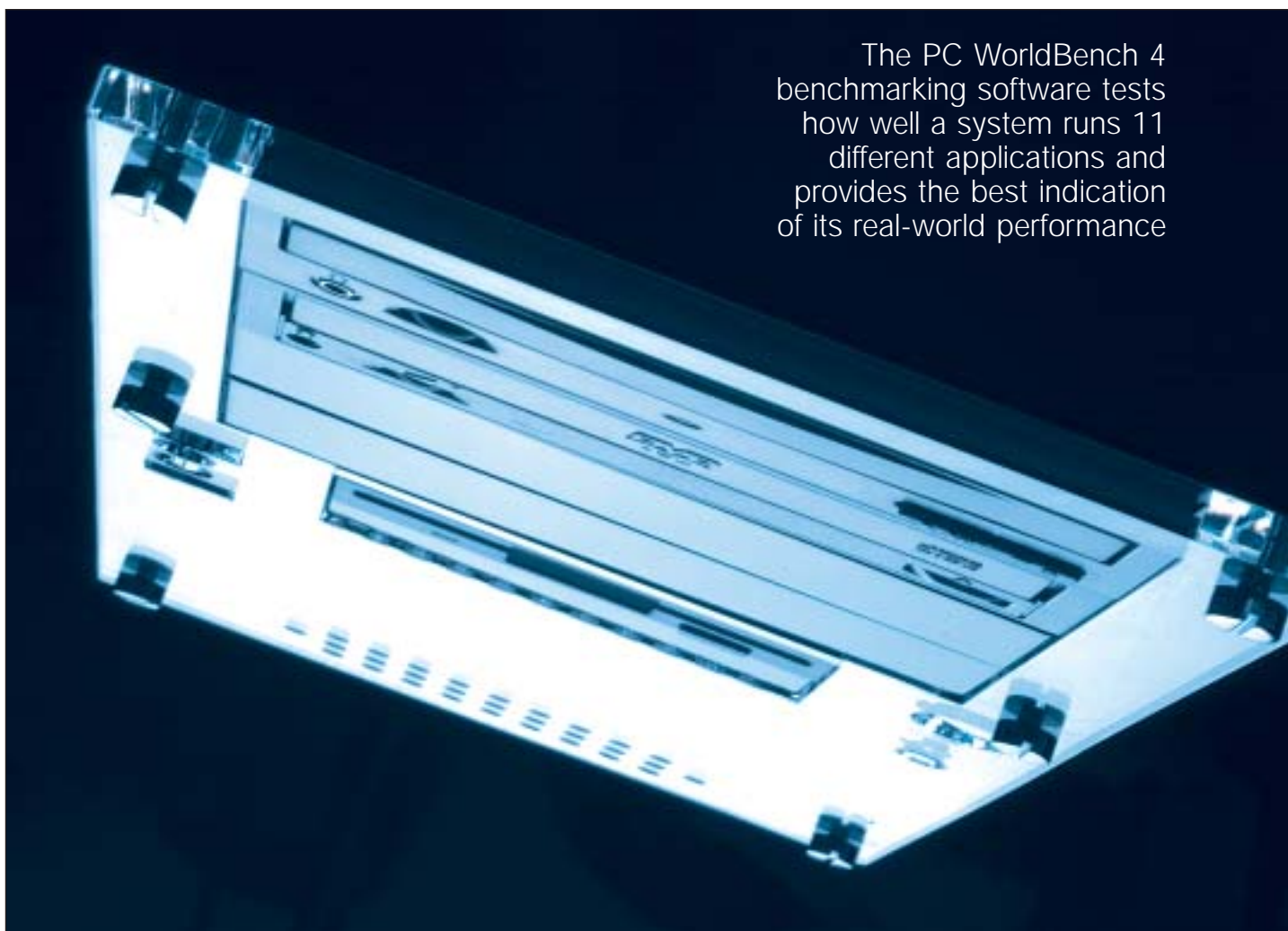# top 10 charts

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 ideal of the paperless office has failed to materialise because, in the real world, we still need to make hard copies of documents. Fortunately, today's high-speed, low-cost printers mean you can at least make a choice based on productivity and economy.

If you're looking for an office printer and only need mono output then a laser printer makes a reliable workhorse, while an inkjet model is more suitable for printing colour presentations or photos. And inkjets make up for their higher running costs and lower print speeds with their versatility. But whichever type of printer you're after, turn to page 210 for a rundown of what's available.

We've also refreshed our Superbudget PCs chart. Our Top 10 bargain systems all cost a mere £699 ex VAT, so whether you feel like taking your first steps into the PC world or are looking for a second machine, page 204 is a great place to start shopping.

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	under £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.

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.