TOP 10 DIGITAL PROJECTORS & FLATBED SCANNERS

Digital projectors		LCD/DLP techn-ology	Max brightness		Lamp life (hours)	Dimensions (wxdxh)	Max resolu-tion	Wireless facilities	Econ-omy mode	Noise
			Contrast ratio		Replace-ment bulb	Weight		Memory card		
1 InFocus X1	• £999 ex VAT	DDR DLP	1,000 Ansi lumens		3,000	249x318x106mm	800x600	no	no	37dB
0800 028 6470	• 2-year parts &		2,000:1		varies	3.1kg	(SVGA)	no		
www.infocus.com	labour warranty									
LAST MONTH 1	• First review Apr 03									
		Not only is the InFocus cheap to buy and run, it's also equipped with cutting-edge DDR DLP technology to handle dark colours. The X1's clear display and sharp definition make it adept at both video and Windows apps. The device isn't particularly quiet in operation so it's more suited to the office than home environment.								
2 NEC LT220	• £1,999 ex VAT	SDR DLP	1,800 Ansi lumens		1,500/2,000	260x275x92mm	800x600	yes	yes	32dB/ 29dB
0845 404 020	• 3-year European		500:1		£298	3.2kg	(SVGA)	yes		
www.nec.co.uk	onsite warranty									
LAST MONTH 2	• First review Apr 03									
		The LT220 may be pricey but it's a superior projector that boasts one of the best images in the chart. Business users will appreciate the clean text display while cinephiles will relish the bright tints and warm hues. Another bonus is the large screen and lack of system noise – it can be restricted to a near-inaudible 29dB.								
3 CTX PS-5140	• £1,025 ex VAT	LCD	1,400 Ansi lumens		2,000	283x243x91mm	800x600	no	no	37dB
01923 810 800	• 2-year parts &		400:1		£249	2.7kg	(SVGA)	no		
www.ctxeurope.com	labour warranty									
LAST MONTH 3	• First review Mar 03									
		Thanks to its brightness rating, the value-for-money CTX offers a display that remains visible in the lightest of conditions, although its basic LCD technology means the image isn't as sharp or well defined as the Best Buy (which uses DDR DLP). On office apps, in particular, you'll notice a reduction in colour scheme purity.								
4 Epson EMP-53	• £1,299 ex VAT	LCD	1,700 Ansi lumens		1,500/2,000	315x240x97mm	800X600	no	yes	36dB/ 33dB
0800 220 546	• 3-year European		500:1		£299	2.9kg	(SVGA)	no		
www.epson.co.uk	(2-year worldwide) warranty									
LAST MONTH 4	• First review Apr 03									
		At just £1,399, the EMP-53 offers a massive screen size for less money. The contrast ratio is above average for an LCD model, but the SVGA resolution means that pictures lack depth of colour. A high brightness rating means it will work in the lightest conditions, while the powerful remote control is another bonus.								
5 NEC LT260	• £3,499 ex VAT	DDR DLP	2,100 Ansi lumens		1,500/2,000	260x275x92mm	1,024x768	yes	yes	32dB/ 29dB
0845 404 020	• 3-year European		1,300:1		£298	2.9kg	(XGA)	yes		
www.nec.co.uk	warranty									
LAST MONTH 5	• First review Jan 03									
		With its peerless features set and glorious image quality, the LT260 is the current gold standard. Wireless network facilities do away with the need to be connected to the projector. Users can copy their presentation to a PC Card, enabling executives to leave their notebooks in the office. The LT260's only fault is its huge price tag.								

Flatbed scanners		Inter-face conn-ection	Sup-ported operating systems	True colour depth	Optical resolution	Trans-parency adapter	Dimensions (wxdxh)	Graphics software
					Software interpolated		Weight	Optical character recognition software
1 Visioneer OneTouch 9020	• £83 ex VAT	USB 2.0	98/Me/ 2000/XP	48bit	1,200x4,800dpi	built-in	432x302x66mm	Photoshop Elements
01483 445 480	• 1-year warranty				4,800dpi		3.9kg	TextBridge Classic
www.visioneer-europe.com	• First review May 03							
LAST MONTH 2								
		The 3.9kg Visioneer OneTouch is a robust model that, thanks to its quick-scan buttons, is easy to use and ideal for novices. It's reasonably priced and produces sharp, clear images that would satisfy even the most demanding user. Thanks to its transparency adapter, the 9020 is also ideal is you wish to archive old slides.							
2 HP Scanjet 5500c	• £212 ex VAT	USB 2.0	98/Me/ 2000/XP	48bit	1,200x2,400dpi	built-in	545x317x167mm	HP Suite
0870 547 4747	• 1-year warranty				9,600dpi		7.2kg	Iris OCR
www.hp.com/uk	• First review Mar 03							
LAST MONTH 3								
		At a resolution of 300dpi the Scanjet 5500c took seven seconds to scan a colour A4 page, making it the fastest low-resolution model in the chart. Scan quality is also fantastic – the 48bit colour depth is rich, accurate and more than a match for any of the other competitors' scans. All of this comes at a price, though: a steep £212.							
3 Canon CanoScan 5000F	• £179 ex VAT	USB 2.0	98/Me/ 2000/XP	48bit	2,400x4,800dpi	built-in	278x508x107mm	PhotoStudio, PhotoBase
08705 143 723	• 1-year warranty				9,600dpi		3.4kg	ScanSoft OmniPage SE
www.canon.co.uk	• First review Mar 03							
LAST MONTH 4								
		The CanoScan 5000F isn't cheap but it offers plenty of features to keep professional users happy while being straightforward enough for a novice. The USB 2.0 interface is used to good effect and is best demonstrated at high resolutions – it outstrips even the speedy Recommended HP at 1,200dpi and beyond.							
4 Umax Astra 6700	• £127 ex VAT	USB 2.0	98/98SE/Me/ 2000/XP/Mac	48bit	1,200x4,800dpi	optional	578x272x89mm	MGI PhotoSuite III
0870 906 3300	• 1-year warranty				9,600dpi		2.8kg	Abbyy FineReader Sprint
www.umax.co.uk	• First review May 03							
LAST MONTH 5								
		Umax has gone for a balance between speed and price. The Astra can scan an A4 colour page in less than 70 seconds and, although this is no match for the Best Buy Visioneer's time of 24 seconds, it's still fast enough for most users' needs. We weren't too keen on the 6700's design – it's longer than is necessary and has a flimsy lid.							
5 Visioneer OneTouch 7100	• £58 ex VAT	USB 1.1	98/Me/ 2000/XP	48bit	1,200x4,800dpi	no	430x300x66mm	ArcSoft PhotoImpression
01483 445 480	• 1-year warranty				4,800dpi		2.3kg	TextBridge Classic
www.visioneer-europe.com	• First review May 03							
RE-ENTRY								
		Visioneer has kept down the price of the 7100 by sticking with USB 1.1 technology. This inevitably means that the scanner is slow compared to a USB 2.0- or FireWire-based model. However, if you don't mind waiting that little bit longer for your scans then the £58 OneTouch makes good economical sense.							

Buying advice: projectors

Projector brightness is measured in Ansi lumens. On a business model look for at least 1,000 Ansi lumens; for home use more than this will be overpowering. If the projector's confined to a small room then a short throw lens will produce a larger picture, although colour and focus options may be reduced. Economy mode sacrifices brightness in favour of longer lamp life and a useful side effect is less noise.

If you need to carry the projector long distances look for a model that's 1.5kg or lighter. A memory card slot means you can leave the notebook behind, while wireless facilities let you control the projector from several PCs without the added hassle of connecting and disconnecting leads.

The higher the resolution support the more detail used to generate the image. XGA (1,024x768) support is preferable for displaying apps, although for low-detail programs or home video SVGA (800x600) will suffice. Unless you're using the projector constantly you're unlikely to need to change the lamp too often. However, it's worth comparing the price of a replacement with the number of hours it will burn.