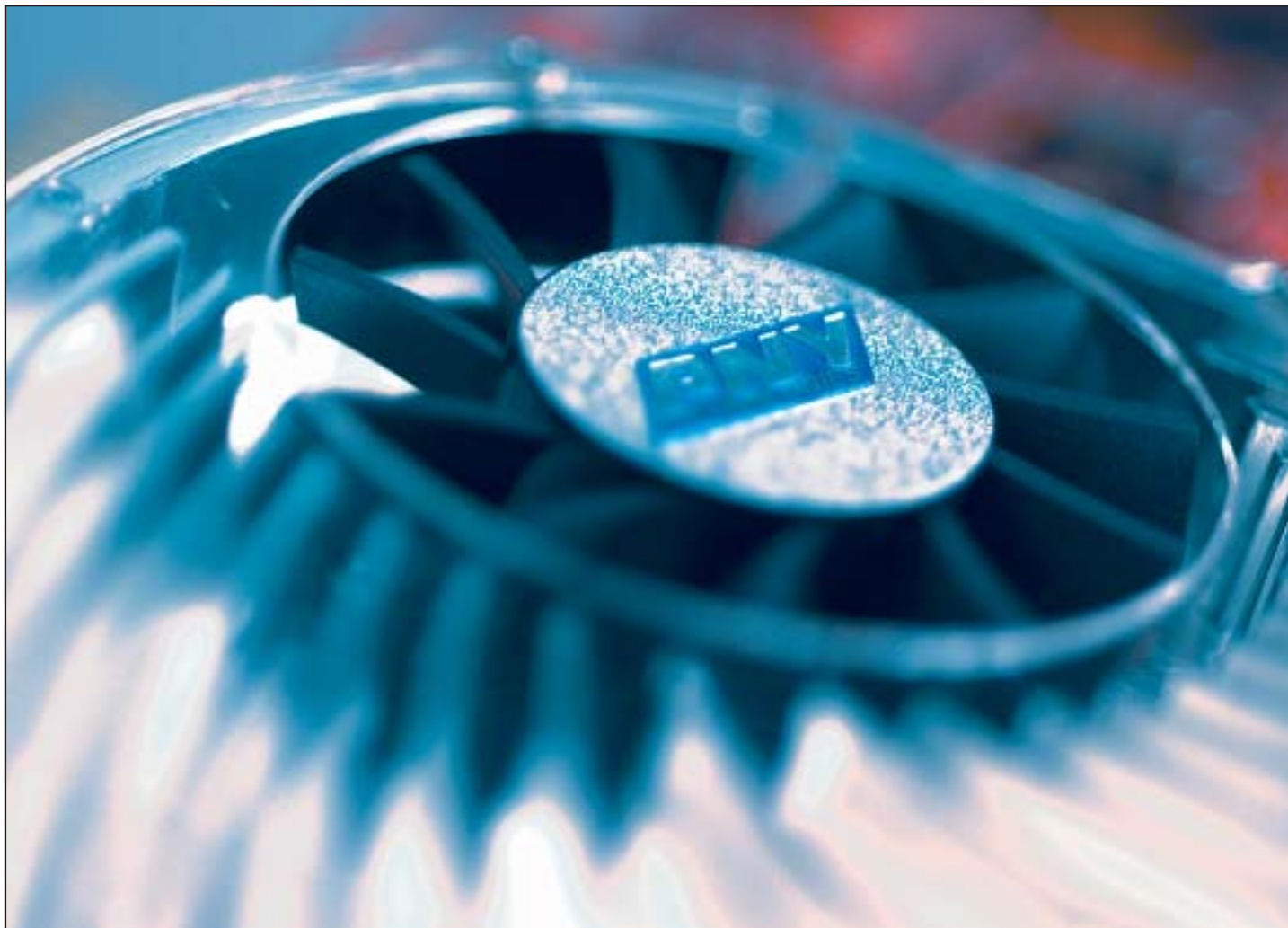# top 10 charts

Digital cameras are a great way to build up a collection of images, but if you're replacing a film camera then you're going to need to digitise your existing photos. Many developers offer a service to put your prints on to a CD but you can do it yourself with a scanner and some spare time.

This sort of device can also cut down on the amount of paperwork cluttering up your desk. OCR (optical character recognition) lets a computer 'read' printed documents, turning them into editable text. Whichever task you want to perform, we've got a rundown of the latest scanners on page 222.

We've also refreshed our mid-range PC chart – ideal for those that want a powerful system but don't want to spend an exorbitant amount of money. Our Budget PC chart contains some true value-for-money systems so turn to page 214 to see how this month's new entries fare.

Prices
Our price categories for PCs and notebooks 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.

All 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

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).

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.