

top 10 charts



When it comes to clinching that deal, it's all about presentation. Fluff your lines, get the slides in the wrong order and it could be over. So if you're all PowerPointed-up and have rehearsed until you can say your lines in your sleep, then there's no point letting yourself down on the hardware side.

Projectors are still expensive, but they're a necessity if you want to make the right impression. So if you're in the market for your first projector or looking to replace an ageing model turn to page 238 for the lowdown on what's available.

We're also refreshing our Power PCs chart this month. With higher budgets to work to, computer manufacturers can pack in more impressive components. We're still looking for value for money, but with more cash to spend, fewer compromises have to be made. If you're after a top-of-the-range system, turn to page 228 to see what's on offer.

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

TOP 10 CHARTS

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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.



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.