

TOP 10 17IN & 19IN MONITORS

		17in monitors		Tube type/technology	Viewable area	Dot pitch	Max resolution @75Hz	Dimensions (wxdxh)	Weight
1	 Mitsubishi Diamond Pro 750SB 08701 201 160 www.nec-mitsubishi.com LAST MONTH 1	• £139 ex VAT • 3-year onsite warranty • First review Feb 03	Diamondtron Superbright/ aperture grille	16in	0.25mm	1,600x1,200	397x415x392mm	17.2kg	The £139 Diamond Pro is a true gem. The 0.25mm dot pitch offered by the Superbright tube isn't the smallest, but that makes little difference to image quality. Resolution support reaches 1,600x1,200 and it combines a rich colour palette with sharp image definition. The 750SB's text reproduction is also strong.
2	 ViewSonic P75F+ 01293 643 900 www.viewsonic.com/uk LAST MONTH 2	• £169 ex VAT • 3-year parts and labour warranty • First review Feb 03	PerfectFlat AG/ aperture grille	16in	0.25mm	1,600x1,200	409x422x401mm	18kg	The P75F+ is expensive – the 19in Mitsubishi costs just £10 more – but you're paying for quality. Aided by the PerfectFlat tube, the colour scheme generates smooth images. The ViewSonic's graphical capabilities have the edge over the competition but, with text handling taken into account, it falls behind the Best Buy.
3	 Iiyama Vision Master Pro 413 01438 745 482 www.iiyama.co.uk LAST MONTH 3	• £159 ex VAT • 3-year onsite warranty • First review Feb 02	Diamondtron M2/ aperture grille	16in	0.25mm	1,600x1,200	408x430x420mm	16.5kg	Image quality is always a strength with Diamondtron tubes and the Iiyama's graphics output is only just down on the ViewSonic and Mitsubishi. The image might not be so focused, but the results impress. Neither will the clear text output disappoint, although again the Mitsubishi is superior.
4	 Benq G781 01633 628 600 www.benq.co.uk LAST MONTH 4	• £124 ex VAT • 3-year onsite warranty • First review Feb 03	FST/ shadow mask	16in	0.25mm	1,600x1,200	406x413x423mm	16.4kg	The G781 is priced to shift. Very much a barebones model, this £124 screen offers value for money if you're not looking for a comprehensive feature set. However, the Benq's image quality can't fail to make an impression and if you're determined to save the pennies the G781 is worth hunting down.
5	 LG Flatron F700P 0870 607 5544 www.lge.co.uk LAST MONTH 5	• £127 ex VAT • 3-year onsite warranty • First review Feb 03	LG Flatron/ aperture grille	16in	0.24mm	1,600x1,200	415x433x413mm	18kg	The silver Flatron F700P may be attractive, but for image quality you should look elsewhere. Its specifications compare favourably to the competitors', although in operation the LG produces rather insipid graphics. Its good text output may please business users, but it doesn't justify the price.
		19in monitors		Tube type/technology	Viewable area	Dot pitch	Max resolution @75Hz	Dimensions (wxdxh)	Weight
1	 Mitsubishi Diamond Plus 93SB 08701 201 160 www.nec-mitsubishi.com LAST MONTH 1	• £179 ex VAT • 3-year onsite warranty • First review Feb 03	Diamondtron Superbright/ aperture grille	18in	0.25mm	1,600x1,200	442x448x443mm	23kg	Mitsubishi's emphasis is on image quality so the 93SB only offers the most essential features, although it does support sRGB. The screen is vibrant, text output is of the highest quality and its Superbright option is perfect for detailed work. The most impressive aspect, though, is its bargain-basement price tag.
2	 CTX PR960F 01923 810 800 www.ctxeurope.com LAST MONTH 2	• £275 ex VAT • 3-year onsite warranty • First review Apr 02	FD Trinitron/ aperture grille	18in	0.24mm	1,600x1,200	406x469x485mm	26kg	The CTX boasts a 0.24mm dot pitch and resolution support which outclasses that of many entries, including the Best Buy. It's no slouch on features, offering sRGB compliance and a four-port USB hub. Text definition is good and you could use this screen for detailed work. The only weakness is the price.
3	 Iiyama Vision Master Pro 454 01438 745 482 www.iiyama.co.uk LAST MONTH 3	• £259 ex VAT • 3-year onsite warranty • First review Mar 03	Diamondtron U2/ aperture grille	18in	0.24mm	2,048x1,536	450x447x450mm	23.5kg	This new improved model now features even better resolution support. It's rich in facilities including onboard speakers, four-port USB hub and brightness boost for video applications. The graphics are vibrant and text is well-defined, although it won't make a first-class job of both simultaneously.
4	 ADI MicroScan P900 01923 474 460 www.adiuk.com LAST MONTH 4	• £139 ex VAT • 3-year onsite warranty • First review Feb 03	FST/ shadow mask	18in	0.26mm	1,600x1,200	446x469x466mm	21kg	ADI's £139 P900 isn't a bad choice for the undemanding user on a tight budget. Its colour scheme may be washed out and onscreen images aren't the sharpest, but the results aren't as bad as you'd expect from a 0.26mm dot pitch. A decent choice for the business user who doesn't need strong graphics facilities.
5	 LG Flatron F900P 0870 607 5544 www.lge.co.uk LAST MONTH 5	• £195 ex VAT • 3-year onsite warranty • First review Feb 03	LG Flatron/ aperture grille	18in	0.24mm	1,600x1,200	467x473x474mm	24.2kg	Some of the care lavished on the LG's external looks would have been better spent redesigning the control panel or even its buttons. The unit offers strong resolution support, but the picture lacks colour depth. It is, however, well suited to closeup work and the 0.24mm dot pitch is impressive.

Buying advice: monitors

Due to the limitations of CRT (cathode ray tube) design, not all of the image generated by the tube will be visible. In practice, this means that a 19in monitor will only be able to display an 18in image, while a 17in screen will produce an image of 16in or less. The type of tube used will be a factor in the image quality. Aperture

grille technology tends to be darker, while shadow mask tubes generate lighter images. Ideally a 19in monitor should offer a 0.24mm dot pitch, although 0.25mm is fine. Check that the dot pitch is measured vertically. Some manufacturers quote the horizontal figure, which shaves about 0.05mm from the figure.

You won't need a resolution support above 1,600x1,200 and a high refresh

rate (85Hz or higher) will produce an image without flicker.

If you need the colour scheme on your monitor to match the one used on your digital camera or printer then look for sRGB compliance. This sets down precise guidelines on the tone, saturation and brightness of each colour. However, results always rely to a certain degree on how good the device itself is.