

# TOP 10 DIGITAL PROJECTORS & FLATBED SCANNERS

		Digital projectors	LCD/DLP technology	Max brightness	Lamp life (hours)	Dimensions (wxdxh)	Max resolution	Wireless facilities	Economy mode	Noise
				Contrast ratio	Replacement bulb	Weight		Memory card		
1		<b>InFocus X1</b> 0800 028 6470 <a href="http://www.infocus.com">www.infocus.com</a> LAST MONTH 1	DDR DLP	1,000 Ansi lumens	3,000	249x318x106mm	800x600 (SVGA)	no	no	37dB
				2,000:1	varies	3.1kg		no		
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		<b>CTX PS-5140</b> 01923 810 800 <a href="http://www.ctxeurope.com">www.ctxeurope.com</a> LAST MONTH 3	LCD	1,400 Ansi lumens	2,000	283x243x91mm	800x600 (SVGA)	no	no	37dB
				400:1	£249	2.7kg		no		
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.										
3		<b>NEC LT220</b> 08459 404 020 <a href="http://www.nec.co.uk">www.nec.co.uk</a> LAST MONTH 2	SDR DLP	1,800 Ansi lumens	1,500/2,000	260x275x92mm	1,600x1,200 (UXGA)	yes	yes	32dB
				600:1	£298	3.2kg		yes		
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.										
4		<b>Epson EMP-53</b> 0800 220 546 <a href="http://www.epson.co.uk">www.epson.co.uk</a> LAST MONTH 4	LCD	1,700 Ansi lumens	1,500/2,000	315x240x97mm	800X600 (SVGA)	no	yes	36dB/33dB
				500:1	£299	2.9kg		no		
At just £1,299, 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		<b>NEC LT260</b> 08459 404 020 <a href="http://www.nec.co.uk">www.nec.co.uk</a> LAST MONTH 5	DDR DLP	2,100 Ansi lumens	1,500/2,000	260x275x92mm	1,600x1,200 (UXGA)	yes	yes	32dB/29dB
				1,600:1	£298	2.9kg		yes		
With its peerless features set and glorious image quality, the LT260 is the current gold standard. Wireless network facilities go 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	Interface connection	Supported operating systems	True colour depth	Optical resolution	Transparency adapter	Dimensions (wxdxh)	Graphics software	
						Software interpolated		Weight		Optical character recognition software
1		<b>Visioneer OneTouch 9020</b> 01483 445 480 <a href="http://www.visioneer-europe.com">www.visioneer-europe.com</a> LAST MONTH 1	USB 2.0	98/Me/2000/XP	48bit	1,200x4,800dpi	built-in	432x302x66mm	Photoshop Elements TextBridge Classic	
						4,800dpi				3.9kg
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 if you wish to archive old slides.										
2		<b>HP Scanjet 5500c</b> 0870 547 4747 <a href="http://www.hp.com/uk">www.hp.com/uk</a> LAST MONTH 2	USB 2.0	98/Me/2000/XP	48bit	1,200x2,400dpi	built-in	545x317x167mm	HP Suite Iris OCR	
						9,600dpi				7.2kg
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		<b>Canon CanoScan 5000F</b> 08705 143 723 <a href="http://www.canon.co.uk">www.canon.co.uk</a> LAST MONTH 3	USB 2.0	98/Me/2000/XP	48bit	2,400x4,800dpi	built-in	278x508x107mm	PhotoStudio, PhotoBase ScanSoft OmniPage SE	
						9,600dpi				3.4kg
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		<b>Umax Astra 6700</b> 0870 906 3300 <a href="http://www.umax.co.uk">www.umax.co.uk</a> LAST MONTH 4	USB 2.0	98/98SE/Me/2000/XP/Mac	48bit	2,400x4,800dpi	optional	578x272x87mm	MGI PhotoSuite III Abbyy FineReader Sprint	
						19,600dpi				2.8kg
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		<b>Visioneer OneTouch 7100</b> 01483 445 480 <a href="http://www.visioneer-europe.com">www.visioneer-europe.com</a> LAST MONTH 5	USB 1.1	98/Me/2000/XP	48bit	1,200x4,800dpi	no	430x300x66mm	ArcSoft Photolmpression TextBridge Classic	
						4,800dpi				2.3kg
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: scanners

Professional scanners can cost thousands, but home and small business users needn't spend more than £200. Optical resolution is a measure of hardware capabilities – 600x1,200dpi (dots per inch) is widely available but some top-end scanners boast resolutions in excess of 1,200x2,400dpi. Higher

resolutions use more pixels for greater detail, resulting in larger file sizes. Colour depth is the number of distinct colours that can be recognised, and it's best to opt for at least 48bit colour.

Scanners generally come with all the necessary software, although you're likely to get 'lite' versions. OCR (optical character recognition) software scans printed text and translates it into

documents you can edit. For photo-editing, Adobe's Photoshop Elements is one of the best bundled packages on offer.

USB 2.0 is becoming the standard interface between scanner and PC and it is also the quickest option. FireWire units are available too, but remember that unless your PC already has the relevant port you'll need to buy and install a specialist card.