

Top 10 17In & 19In monitors

		17in monitors			Tube type/technology	Viewable area	sRGB compliant	Dot pitch	Max resolution @75Hz	Dimensions (wxdxh)	Weight	
PC ADVISOR BEST BUY	1		Mitsubishi Diamond Pro 750SB 08701 201 160 www.nec-mitsubishi.com Last month 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £163 inc VAT • 3-year onsite warranty • First review Feb 03 	Diamondtron Superbright/aperture grille	16in	yes	0.25mm	1,600x1,200	397x415x392mm	172kg	
	The £163 Diamond Pro 750SB is a true gem. The Superbright tube's 0.25mm dot pitch isn't the finest 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 Mitsubishi's text reproduction is also very strong.											
	PC ADVISOR RECOMMENDED	2		ViewSonic P75F+ 01293 643 900 www.viewsonic.co.uk Last month 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £159 inc VAT • 3-year parts and labour warranty • First review Feb 03 	PerfectFlat AG/aperture grille	16in	no	0.25mm	1,600x1,200	410x422x401mm	18kg
		The P75F+ may be the third most expensive monitor in the chart 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £187 inc VAT • 3-year onsite warranty • First review Feb 02 	Diamondtron M2/aperture grille	16in	yes	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 are still impressive. Neither will the clear text output disappoint although, again, the Mitsubishi is superior.												
	4		Benq G781 01442 301 000 www.benq.co.uk Last month 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £140 inc VAT • 3-year onsite warranty • First review Feb 03 	FST/shadow mask	16in	no	0.25mm	1,600x1,200	406x413x423mm	16.4kg	
Benq's G781 is priced to shift. Very much a barebones model, this £140 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £138 inc VAT • 3-year onsite warranty • First review Feb 03 	LG Flatron/aperture grille	16in	no	0.24mm	1,600x1,200	415x433x413mm	18kg	
The stylish, silver LG Flatron F700P may be attractive but for top-notch 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, however, please business users.												
		19in monitors			Tube type/technology	Viewable area	sRGB compliant	Dot pitch	Max resolution @75Hz	Dimensions (wxdxh)	Weight	
PC ADVISOR BEST BUY	1		Mitsubishi Diamond Plus 93SB 08701 201 160 www.nec-mitsubishi.com Last month 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £179 inc VAT • 3-year onsite warranty • First review Feb 03 	Diamondtron Superbright/aperture grille	18in	yes	0.25mm	1,600x1,200	442x448x443mm	23kg	
	Mitsubishi's emphasis is on image quality which means the 93SB only offers the most essential features, although it does support sRGB. The screen is vibrant, text output is of a high quality and the Superbright option is perfect for detailed work. The most impressive aspect, though, is its bargain-basement price tag.											
	PC ADVISOR RECOMMENDED	2		CTX PR960F 01923 810 800 www.ctxeurope.com Last month 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £289 inc VAT • 3-year onsite warranty • First review Apr 02 	FD Trinitron/aperture grille	18in	yes	0.24mm	1,600x1,200	406x469x485mm	26kg
		The CTX boasts a 0.24mm dot pitch and resolution support that outclasses many entries, including the Best Buy. It's no slouch on features, with sRGB compliance and a four-port USB hub. Text definition is good and you could comfortably use this screen for detailed work. Its only weakness is its high price tag.										
		3		Iiyama Vision Master Pro 454 01438 745 482 www.iiyama.co.uk Last month 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £293 inc VAT • 3-year onsite warranty • First review Mar 03 	Diamondtron U2/aperture grille	18in	yes	0.24mm	2,048x1,536	450x447x450mm	23.5kg
Featuring even better resolution support than its predecessor, the Vision Master Pro 454 is rich in facilities including onboard speakers, a four-port USB hub and a 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £147 inc VAT • 3-year onsite warranty • First review Feb 03 	FST/shadow mask	18in	no	0.26mm	1,600x1,200	446x469x466mm	21kg	
ADI's 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £226 inc VAT • 3-year onsite warranty • First review Feb 03 	LG Flatron/aperture grille	18in	no	0.24mm	1,600x1,200	467x473x474mm	24.2kg	
Some of the care lavished on the LG Flatron's external looks would have been better spent redesigning the control panel and buttons. The 19in screen 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 a plus point.												

Buying advice

Monitors

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

The type of tube used will also be a factor in the monitor's 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. Remember to check that the dot pitch is measured vertically. Some manufacturers quote the horizontal dot pitch, which shaves about 0.05mm from the figure.

You won't need a resolution support above 1,600x1,200 and a refresh rate of 85Hz or higher will produce an image without flicker.

If you want your monitor's colour scheme to match the one used on your digital camera or printer look for sRGB compliance. This sets precise guidelines for the tone, saturation and brightness of each colour. However, results always rely to a certain degree on the quality of the screen itself.