

# TOP 10 DIGITAL PROJECTORS & FLATBED SCANNERS

Digital projectors		Brightness (Ansi lumens)	Lamp life (hours)	Lamp power (Watts)	Replacement bulb	Weight	Maximum resolution	Dimensions (wxdxh)
	<b>CTX PS-5140</b> 01923 810 800 www.ctxeurope.com NEW	1,400	2,000	150W	£249	2.7kg	1,024x1,280	288x243x91mm
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £1,025 ex VAT</li> <li>• 2-year warranty</li> <li>• First review Feb 03</li> </ul>		Costing just £1,025, the CTX is a sensational projector. The 1,400 Ansi lumens means that the screen will be visible in all but broad daylight. Run it at 800x600 and image quality is superb. It may not be quiet but for general office use the CTX, which is based on older LCD technology, punches well above its weight.						
	<b>NEC LT260</b> 0845 404 020 www.nec.co.uk LAST MONTH 1	2,100	1,500	220W	£298	2.9kg	1,024x768	260x275x92mm
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £2,999 ex VAT</li> <li>• 3-year warranty</li> <li>• First review Dec 02</li> </ul>		The LT260 offers an impressive image quality. Thanks to DLP (digital light processing) technology, a high brightness rating of 2,100 Ansi lumens and the fantastic 1,300:1 contrast ratio the picture is sharp and focused. NEC has also built in 802.11b wireless networking support to this 2.9kg unit.						
	<b>Toshiba TLP-561</b> 08704 423 433 www.projectors.toshiba.co.uk LAST MONTH 2	1,300	2,000	150W	£300	3.9kg	1,024x768	260x352x96mm
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £2,550 ex VAT</li> <li>• 3-year warranty</li> <li>• First review Dec 02</li> </ul>		Toshiba's TLP-561, which is based on old-fashioned LCD technology, is user friendly and the onboard help system guides you through the entire process of optimising the image. The contrast ratio may be a meagre 400:1, but the 1,300 Ansi lumens brightness rating is enough for most environments.						
	<b>Sharp PG-M25X</b> 0800 138 5051 www.sharp.co.uk LAST MONTH 3	1,900	2,000	210W	£275	2.6kg	1,024x768	223x318x83mm
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £3,675 ex VAT</li> <li>• 3-year warranty</li> <li>• First review Nov 02</li> </ul>		The Sharp PG-M25X offers cutting-edge features, but at a price. Its brightness rating of 1,900 Ansi lumens ensures that images can be seen in virtually all light conditions. The DLP technology boasts the most up-to-date refinements and the 1,000:1 contrast ratio promises fantastic depth of colour.						
	<b>Optoma EP753</b> 01923 691 800 www.optoma.co.uk LAST MONTH 4	1,600	2,000	200W	£289	2.9kg	1,024x768	277x225x85mm
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £2,295 ex VAT</li> <li>• 3-year warranty</li> <li>• First review Sep 02</li> </ul>		The EP753 will perform well thanks to its 1,600 Ansi lumens rating, while the 600:1 contrast ratio and smooth DLP (digital light processing) technology results in fantastic image quality. It might not have the big screen capabilities of the Toshiba, but if you want fine performance this device is an excellent choice.						

Flatbed scanners		Maximum scanning area	Interface connection	Supported operating systems	True colour depth	Graphics and optical character recognition software
	<b>Canon CanoScan D1250U2</b> 08705 143 723 www.canon.co.uk LAST MONTH 1	A4 (216x297mm)	USB 1.1 and USB 2.0	98/Me/2000/XP	48bit	ArcSoft PhotoStudio, ScanSoft OmniPage Pro
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £59 ex VAT</li> <li>• 1-year warranty</li> <li>• First review Aug 02</li> </ul>		The D1250U2 continues to sit at the top of the chart due to its excellent image quality and speedy USB 2.0 interface. Benefitting from the faster data transfer rates offered by USB 2.0 it cut scanning times by over a third. The software package is generous and setup is simple. A worthy Best Buy.				
	<b>Umax Astra 4500</b> 0870 906 3304 www.umax.co.uk LAST MONTH 2	A4 (216x297mm)	USB 1.1	98/Me/2000/XP	48bit	MGI PhotoSuite SE, TextBridge 2.0 SE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £59 ex VAT</li> <li>• 2-year warranty</li> <li>• First review Aug 02</li> </ul>		The Astra makes the most of its older USB 1.1 technology and while it can't match the Canon's speed it proved competent elsewhere. Its good software bundle, relatively fast scanning and low price mean it holds on to its Recommended award for another month.				
	<b>Visioneer OneTouch 8700</b> 01483 445 480 www.visioneer-europe.com LAST MONTH 3	A4 (216x297mm)	USB 1.1	98/Me/2000/XP	48bit	MGI PhotoSuite, Paperport Deluxe, TextBridge Pro
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £83 ex VAT</li> <li>• 1-year warranty</li> <li>• First review Jan 02</li> </ul>		Visioneer's OneTouch 8700 remains our number-three flatbed scanner. Couple the optical resolution of 1,200x4,800dpi (dots per inch) with 48bit colour depth and you get crystal-clear quality and speedy delivery. It isn't the daintiest of scanners, but its landscape shape makes it easy to house.				
	<b>HP Scanjet 4400</b> 08705 474 747 www.scanjet.hp.com LAST MONTH 4	A4 (216x297mm)	USB 1.1 or parallel	95/98/Me/NT/2000/XP	48bit	ArcSoft Photolmpression, HP PrecisionScan Pro
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £78 ex VAT</li> <li>• 1-year warranty</li> <li>• First review Aug 02</li> </ul>		The Scanjet may not be the fastest scanner around, but if you're prepared to wait the results won't disappoint. Scanning a colour photo at 300dpi (dots per inch) took 27 seconds, but upping the resolution to 600dpi added an extra minute. Setup was simple thanks to the quick-start sheet.				
	<b>Visioneer OneTouch 8920</b> 01483 445 480 www.visioneer-europe.com LAST MONTH 5	A4 (216x297mm)	USB 1.1	98/Me/2000/XP	48bit	Adobe Photoshop Elements, TextBridge Pro
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £127 ex VAT</li> <li>• 1-year warranty</li> <li>• First review Aug 02</li> </ul>		If you're interested in scanning transparencies and negatives then the Visioneer's built-in transparency adapter makes it the ideal model for you. The 8920 held its ground admirably in terms of scanning speed and comes with good software support.				

## Buying advice: digital projectors

DLP (digital light processing) is taking over from LCD (liquid crystal display) as the leading projector technology. Its system of revolving mirrors tends to keep out excess light more effectively than LCD, and the higher contrast ratios (often twice or three times those of ratios on LCD projectors) produce stronger and darker images.

The brightness rating (measured in Ansi lumens) is a good way to rate projectors. For modestly sized rooms with poor lighting 1,000 Ansi lumens is enough, though 1,800 Ansi lumens will beat higher-level ambient light.

Energy conservation mode allows you to sacrifice some brightness for longer lamp life and will also be quieter. An acceptable noise level is 29-32dB.

Travellers will appreciate PC Card facilities, which allow you to store your presentations on credit card-sized media and leave your PC in the office. A PC Card slot can sometimes double up as a WLAN (wireless local area network) adapter.

Look for true XGA (1,024x768) resolution support, especially if you're using the projector to display PC rather than video images.