






# 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 www.infocus.com LAST MONTH 1	• £999 ex VAT • 2-year parts & labour warranty • First review Apr 03	DDR DLP 1,000 Ansi lumens 2,000:1	3,000 varies	249x318x106mm 3.1kg	800x600 (SVGA)	no no	no	37dB
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 www.ctxeurope.com LAST MONTH 3	• £850 ex VAT • 2-year parts & labour warranty • First review Mar 03	LCD 1,400 Ansi lumens 400:1	2,000 £249	283x243x91mm 2.7kg	800x600 (SVGA)	no no	no	37dB
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 www.nec.co.uk LAST MONTH 2	• £2,184 ex VAT • 3-year European onsite warranty • First review Apr 03	SDR DLP 1,800 Ansi lumens 600:1	1,500/2,000 £298	260x275x92mm 3.2kg	1,600x1,200 (UXGA)	yes yes	yes	32dB 29dB
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 www.epson.co.uk LAST MONTH 4	• £1,299 ex VAT • 3-year European (2-year worldwide) warranty • First review Apr 03	LCD 1,700 Ansi lumens 500:1	1,500/2,000 £299	315x240x97mm 2.9kg	800X600 (SVGA)	no no	yes	36dB/ 33dB
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 www.nec.co.uk LAST MONTH 5	• £3,375 ex VAT • 3-year European warranty • First review Jan 03	DDR DLP 2,100 Ansi lumens 1,600:1	1,500/2,000 £298	260x275x92mm 2.9kg	1,600x1,200 (UXGA)	yes yes	yes	32dB/ 29dB
With its peerless features set and glorious image quality, the LT260 is the current gold standard. Wireless network facilities do 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• £83 ex VAT</li><li>• 1-year warranty</li><li>• First review May 03</li></ul>	USB 2.0	98/Me/2000/XP	48bit	1,200x4,800dpi 4,800dpi	built-in	432x302x66mm 3.9kg	Photoshop Elements TextBridge Classic
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.							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• £212 ex VAT</li><li>• 1-year warranty</li><li>• First review Mar 03</li></ul>	USB 2.0	98/Me/2000/XP	48bit	1,200x2,400dpi 9,600dpi	built-in	545x317x167mm 7.2kg	HP Suite Iris OCR
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.							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• £179 ex VAT</li><li>• 1-year warranty</li><li>• First review Mar 03</li></ul>	USB 2.0	98/Me/2000/XP	48bit	2,400x4,800dpi 9,600dpi	built-in	278x508x107mm 3.4kg	PhotoStudio, PhotoBase ScanSoft OmniPage SE
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.							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• £128 ex VAT</li><li>• 1-year warranty</li><li>• First review May 03</li></ul>	USB 2.0	98/98SE/Me/2000/XP/Mac	48bit	2,400x4,800dpi 19,600dpi	optional	578x272x87mm 2.8kg	MGI PhotoSuite III Abbyy FineReader Sprint
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.							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• £58 ex VAT</li><li>• 1-year warranty</li><li>• First review May 03</li></ul>	USB 1.1	98/Me/2000/XP	48bit	1,200x4,800dpi 4,800dpi	no	430x300x66mm 2.3kg	ArcSoft Photolmpression TextBridge Classic
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.