

# Top 10 Flat-panel displays & Monitors

			Flat-panel displays	Screen size	Native resolution	Pixel pitch	Dimensions (wxdxh)	Weight	Digital connector	USB port		
PC ADVISOR RECOMMENDED	BEST BUY		<b>Iiyama ProLite E431S</b> 01438 745 482 www.iiyama.co.uk Last month 1	• £323 inc VAT • 3-year onsite warranty • First review Jan 04	17in	1,280x1,024	0.264mm	369x189x379mm	4.1kg	yes	no	
		Few models can match the Iiyama's sharp image quality and beautifully crisp text output. It's smaller and lighter than most other screens and office workers will appreciate the space-saving possibilities. With Iiyama's balance of asking price and capable features set, this flat-panel is a deserved Best Buy.										
			<b>CTX S720A</b> 0870 727 2100 (Simply) www.ctxeurope.com Last month 2	• £319 inc VAT • 3-year onsite warranty • First review Jan 04	17in	1,280x1,024	0.264mm	418x189x398mm	6.1kg	no	no	
		CTX knows that high image quality is the key to a good flat-panel and has kept this system down to the bare essentials. There's no height-adjustable stand, pivot and DVI facilities or USB ports. However, image quality is delivered in spades making this an excellent buy for the cost-conscious customer.										
			<b>Benq FP991</b> 01442 301 000 www.benq.co.uk New	• £559 inc VAT • 3-year onsite warranty • First review Feb 04	19in	1,280x1,024	0.294mm	402x183x392mm	8.5kg	yes	no	
Since 19in and 17in flat-panels share the same native resolution, you won't get any more detail by using a 19in screen. If you still feel the extra two inches is worth buying, the FP991 is the best value 19in model in the chart. Its great picture quality mixes sharp text output with a sumptuous colour palette.												
	<b>ViewSonic VP191s</b> 01293 643 900 www.viewsonic.co.uk Last month 3	• £587 inc VAT • 3-year parts-and-labour warranty • First review Jan 04	19in	1,280x1,024	0.294mm	416x238x460mm	7.5kg	yes	no			
The ViewSonic VP191s packs a gorgeous colour palette, a slew of features, top-drawer specs and most important of all, a sub-£600 price tag. For both text and graphics the VP191s produces sharp and intense output and its height-adjustable neck means it's easy to find the perfect viewing angle.												
	<b>NEC MultiSync LCD1960NX</b> 0870 120 1160 www.nec-mitsubishi.com Last month 5	• £609 inc VAT • 3-year onsite warranty • First review Jan 04	19in	1,280x1,024	0.294mm	416x190x389mm	7.8kg	yes	no			
The MultiSync's large frame is increased further thanks to the height-adjustable neck. A built-in digital connector sits alongside the standard RGB but there's no support for USB and no pivot facilities. Image quality is good while the crisp text definition and rich colour palette catch the eye.												

			Monitors	Tube type/technology	Actual/viewable area	sRGB compliant	Dot pitch	Max resolution @75Hz	Dimensions (wxdxh)	Weight		
PC ADVISOR RECOMMENDED	BEST BUY		<b>Mitsubishi Diamond Plus 93SB</b> 0870 120 1160 www.nec-mitsubishi.com	• £205 inc VAT • 3-year onsite warranty • First review Feb 03	Diamondtron Superbright/aperture grille	19in/18in	yes	0.25mm	1,600x1,200	442x448x443mm	23kg	
		The Mitsubishi Diamond Plus 93SB is a true gem. At only £45 more than the 17in ViewSonic P75F+, despite offering an extra 2in of screen size, it represents astonishing value for money. The dot pitch may only be 0.25mm, but the image quality is cracking and the SuperBright option is perfect for detailed work.										
			<b>ViewSonic P75F+</b> 01293 643 900 www.viewsonic.co.uk	• £159 inc VAT • 3-year parts and labour warranty • First review Feb 03	PerfectFlat AG/aperture grille	17in/16in	no	0.25mm	1,600x1,200	410x422x401mm	18kg	
		You can buy cheaper models, but if you're after a 17in monitor then you're unlikely to find a higher level of quality. Aided by the PerfectFlat tube, the colour scheme generates smooth images and the graphics are particularly excellent. The extra 2in you sacrifice by not buying the Mitsubishi is the one sticking point.										
			<b>Iiyama Vision Master Pro 413</b> 01438 745 482 www.iiyama.co.uk	• £187 inc VAT • 3-year onsite warranty • First review Feb 02	Diamondtron M2/aperture grille	17in/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 slightly inferior to the screens in the top two. The image might not be as focused, but the results are still impressive. The clear text output won't disappoint although again the Diamond Plus 93SB is better.												
	<b>CTX PR960F</b> 01923 810 800 www.ctxeurope.com	• £289 inc VAT • 3-year onsite warranty • First review Apr 02	FD Trinitron/aperture grille	19in/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 top-ranked Mitsubishi. It's no slouch on features, with sRGB compliance and a four-port USB hub. Text definition is good and you can rely on this screen for detailed work. Its only weakness is a high price tag.												
	<b>Iiyama Vision Master Pro 454</b> 01438 745 482 www.iiyama.co.uk	• £293 inc VAT • 3-year onsite warranty • First review Mar 03	Diamondtron U2/aperture grille	19in/18in	yes	0.24mm	2,048x1,536	450x447x450mm	27.5kg			
Strong graphics output is almost a given with an Iiyama, but the Pro 454 is also rich in facilities. Onboard speakers are included, as is a four-port USB hub and an extra dose of brightness for video applications. Graphics are vibrant and text is well-defined, although it won't make a first-class job of both simultaneously.												

## Buying advice

### Monitors

- **Viewable area** Due to the limitations of CRT (cathode ray tube) technology, not all of the image generated by the tube will be visible. For example, a 19in CRT monitor will only be able to display an 18in image.
- **Tube type** The type of tube used will also be a factor in 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.

- **Resolution support** 19in monitors can offer resolution support as high as 2,048x1,536, although 1,600x1,200 is more likely. But even on a 19in screen, most users will prefer to drop down to 1,280x1,024 for everyday use. This is also a good resolution for 17in

monitors, although some users may prefer 1,024x768. Look for a refresh rate of at least 75Hz at your chosen resolution, with 85Hz better still.

- **sRGB compliance** If you want your monitor's colour scheme to match the one on your digital camera or printer look for sRGB compliance. This sets guidelines for the tone, saturation and brightness of each colour. However, results depend on the quality of the screen itself.