







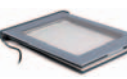



Top 10 Multifunction devices & Flatbed scanners

			Multifunction devices	Max optical printer resolution	Quoted print speed	Actual A4 scan speed (seconds)	Supported interface types	Ink costs	Print life pages	Dimensions (wxdxh)
				scanner resolution	Actual print speed				Costs per page (pence)	Weight
PC ADVISOR BEST BUY	1		Epson Stylus CX6400 0800 220 546 www.epson.co.uk Last month 1	• £179 inc VAT • 1-year repair or replace warranty • First review Mar 04	2,880x720dpi 1,200x2,400dpi	B=22 C=11 B=10.5 C=2.1	100dpi=16.4 300dpi=37.3	USB 2.0	B=£17 C=£7x3	B=380 C=250 B=4.5 C=8.4 450x429x218mm 8.7kg
	The Stylus works beautifully even when no PC is connected to it and most functions are easily accessed. The software bundle is good and the use of separate ink tanks means low running costs. The CX6400 lacks fax facilities but it offers great print quality and the scanner produces some brilliant results.									
PC ADVISOR RECOMMENDED	2		Canon SmartBase MP370 0870 514 3723 www.canon.co.uk Last month 2	• £149 inc VAT • 1-year onsite warranty • First review Mar 04	4,800x1,200dpi 1,200x2,400dpi	B=18 C=12 B=9.1 C=2.6	100dpi=19.2 300dpi=33.9	USB 2.0	B=£6 C=£13	B=130 C=160 B=4.6 C=8.1 454x547x286mm 8.4kg
	The Canon excels at text definition. It produces dark but beautifully crafted lettering at some fast print speeds. Even at the second highest quality mode it achieves 5.9ppm (pages per minute). The MP370 can't match the Epson's excellent colour palette on graphics, but the results are still very good.									
	3		Dell All-In-One A940 0870 907 5818 www.dell.co.uk Last month 3	• £105 inc VAT • 1-year repair or replace warranty • First review Feb 04	4,800x1,200dpi 600x2,400dpi	B=17 C=12 B=8.5 C=2.5	100dpi=16.2 300dpi=31.2	USB 1.1	B=£26 C=£30	not specified not specified 270x546x335mm 6.6kg
	Although the A940 can't quite match the rich, high-quality print and scan results of other contenders, it does offer arguably the best value for money. None of the other sub-£250 devices offers fax facilities, for instance, although to use them the A940 must be permanently connected to a PC with a fax modem.									
	4		Lexmark X6170 0870 444 0044 www.lexmark.co.uk Last month 4	• £280 inc VAT • 1-year onsite exchange warranty • First review Mar 04	2,400x1,200dpi 1,200x4,800dpi	B=19 C=15 B=9.2 C=3	100dpi=8.8 300dpi=24.4	USB 1.1	B=£25 C=£29	B=600 C=450 B=4.2 C=6.4 500x439x296mm 9.4kg
	As a scanner the X6170 works well, producing realistic results in double-quick time. But as a printer the Lexmark is something of an anticlimax. Once you move beyond the most basic detail settings, this MFD fares no better on speed than the Canon or Epson models. Its standalone fax facility is a bonus, however.									
	5		HP PSC 2510 Photosmart 0845 270 4222 www.hp.com/uk Last month 5	• £349 inc VAT • 1-year limited warranty • First review Mar 04	1,200x1,200dpi 1,200x2,400dpi	B=21 C=15 B=8.8 C=3.8	100dpi=17.5 300dpi=21.7	USB 1.1 ethernet, Wi-Fi	B=£18.99 C=£29.99	B=450 C=400 B=4.2 C=7.5 483x390x237mm 8.7kg
	Both memory card features and standalone fax facilities are built in and the ability to hold 150 sheets of paper, as well as support for ethernet and Wi-Fi networks, give the Photosmart plenty of clout. However, text speeds are average and even at the higher detail levels characters lacked strong definition.									

			Flatbed scanners	Interface connection	Supported operating systems	True colour depth	Optical resolution	Transparency adapter	Dimensions (wxdxh)	Software includes	
							Software interpolated		Weight		
PC ADVISOR BEST BUY	1		Microtek ScanMaker 6100 01327 844 880 www.microtekeurope.com New	• £149 inc VAT • 2-year repair or replace warranty • First review Spr 04	USB 2.0	98/Me/ 2000/XP/	48bit	3,200x6,400dpi 65,535dpi	yes	295x485x77mm 3.1kg	Photo Deluxe 4.0, Abbyy FineReader 5.0
	Quick! Usually retailing at a hefty £199, the Microtek is on special offer at £149 until 30 March. This model is capable of phenomenal detail and colour accuracy, and photos can easily be enlarged to A4 and printed. There's also a generous two-year warranty and comprehensive software bundle.										
PC ADVISOR RECOMMENDED	2		Vioneer OneTouch 9220 USB 01483 445 480 www.vioneer-europe.com Last month 1	• £129 inc VAT • 1-year return-to-base warranty • First review Mar 04	USB 2.0	98/Me/ 2000/XP/	48bit	2,400x4,800dpi 4,800dpi	yes	430x300x66mm 2.64kg	ArcSoft Photolmpression ScanSoft PaperPort
	The OneTouch has a great range of specifications, super looks, a good software bundle and it just happens to be the fastest scanner we've tested yet. The results are also packed with detail. There are cheaper scanners available, but the 9220 offers far better value for money. A truly outstanding buy.										
	3		Epson Perfection 3170 Photo 0800 220 546 www.epson.co.uk Last month 2	• £199 inc VAT • 1-year repair or replace warranty • First review Mar 04	USB 2.0	98/Me/ 2000/XP/	48bit	3,200x6,400dpi 12,800dpi	yes	276x458x117mm 3.8kg	Adobe Photoshop Elements 2.0 Abbyy FineReader 5.0 Sprint Plus
	A USB 2.0 interface powers the 3170 to achieve the second fastest times overall. This may be the priciest scanner in our chart but it has the best features and specs. You'll need plenty of desk space to squeeze the Perfection on to but you'll be rewarded with an extremely versatile and powerful unit.										
	4		HP ScanJet 4600 0870 547 4747 www.scanjet.hp.com Last month 3	• £149 inc VAT • 1-year limited warranty • First review Mar 04	USB 1.1	98/Me/ 2000/XP/	48bit	2,400x2,400dpi n/a	no	316x423x31mm 1.4kg	HP Suite, Iris Readiris Pro
	The ScanJet is designed to be placed on top of whatever you are scanning, making it much easier to align documents correctly. We have nothing but praise for the 4600's colour accuracy, the only letdown is HP's software bundle. Designed with the novice in mind, it's very limited compared with the competition.										
	5		Microtek ScanMaker 4900 01327 844 880 www.microtekeurope.com Last month 4	• £100 inc VAT • 2-year return-to-base warranty • First review Mar 04	USB 1.1	98/Me/ 2000/XP/	48bit	2,400x4,800dpi 65,535dpi	no	300x490x61mm 2.6kg	Adobe PhotoDeluxe, Abbyy FineReader 5.0 Sprint Plus
	While the 4900 is reasonably priced, comes with decent specs and is backed by a two-year warranty, in most of our scan tests it proved to be the slowest model, particularly with colour scans. Image detail is fine, it's just the pictures look as though they've been scanned on a dull rainy day.										

Buying advice

Flatbed scanners

• **Resolution** Optical resolution is a measure of the hardware's capabilities of – 1,200x2,400dpi (dots per inch) is widely available but some top-end scanners boast resolutions in excess of 2,400x4,800dpi. Higher resolutions use more pixels for greater detail, resulting in larger file sizes.

• **Colour depth** Colour depth tells you the number of distinct colours that can be recognised. Most scanners now come with 48bit colour as standard, although do check this.

• **Software** Scanners generally come with all the necessary software, although you're likely to get cut-down or old versions – contact the software manufacturers, and you may be able to get the latest versions at a reduced price. 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.

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