







Top 10 Flat-panel displays & Monitors

			Flat-panel displays	Screen size	Native resolution	Pixel pitch	Dimensions (wxdxh)	Weight	Digital connector	USB port	
PCADVISOR BEST BUY	1		CTX S962A 0870 727 2100 (Simply) www.ctxeurope.com Last month 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• £469 inc VAT• 3-year onsite warranty• First review Mar 04	19in	1,280x1,024	0.294mm	415x205x408mm	5.9kg	no	no
	This is an astonishingly affordable 19in flat-panel display. Built around MVA (multidomain vertical alignment) technology, the S962A comes with some very impressive specs – for instance, a 700:1 contrast ratio. With CTX's balance of price and capable features set, this model is a deserved Best Buy.										
PCADVISOR RECOMMENDED	2		Iiyama ProLite E431S 01438 745 482 www.iiyama.co.uk Last month 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• £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 its space-saving possibilities. The ProLite E431S is a great buy that has only just been pipped to the post by the CTX.										
	3		HP L1730 0845 274 222 www.hp.co.uk New	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• £470 inc VAT• 3-year onsite warranty• First review Spr 04	17in	1,280x1,024	0.264mm	381x72x353mm	7kg	yes	no
	Everything about the HP L1730 screams quality, from the build and features to the rich specification list and image output. If money were no object we wouldn't hesitate recommending it as a worthy buy. But we have to take value for money into account and, unfortunately, this is where the HP fails.										
	4		Acer AL1751W 01753 699 200 www.acer.co.uk New	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• £430 inc VAT• 3-year onsite warranty• First review Spr 04	17in	1,280x768	0.289mm	518x198x333mm	5kg	yes	no
	This screen doesn't just boast an impressive spec list, it's also extremely attractive – the silver-and-black finish is ideal for any home environment. The Acer produces crisp and clear image quality. Stick to a DVD with bright outdoor scenes and you won't have a problem. Darker images aren't so impressive though.										
	5		CTX S720A 0870 727 2100 (Simply) www.ctxeurope.com Last month 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• £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.										

PCADVISOR
BEST BUY

1



Mitsubishi Diamond Plus 93SB
0870 120 1160
www.nec-mitsubishi.com
Last month 1

- £205 inc VAT
- 3-year onsite warranty
- First review Feb 03

Tube type/
technology

Diamondtron SuperBright/
aperture grille

Actual/
viewable
area

19in/18in

sRGB
com-
pliant

yes

Dot
pitch

0.25mm

Max
resolution
@75Hz

1,600x1,200

Dimensions
(wxdxh)

442x448x443mm


Weight

23kg

The Mitsubishi Diamond Plus 93SB is a true gem. At only £46 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.

PCADVISOR
RECOMMENDED

2



ViewSonic P75F+
01293 643 900
www.viewsonic.co.uk
Last month 2

- £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.

3



Iiyama Vision Master Pro 413
01438 745 482
www.iiyama.co.uk
Last month 3

- £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.

4



Iiyama Vision Master Pro 454
01438 745 482
www.iiyama.co.uk
Last month 5

- £293 inc VAT
- 3-year onsite warranty
- First review Mar 03

Diamondtron U2/
aperture grille

19in/18in

yes

0.24mm


2,048x1,536

450x447x450mm

23.5kg

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.

5



Benq G781
01422 301 000
www.benq.co.uk
Re-entry

- £140 inc VAT
- 3-year onsite warranty
- First review Feb 03

FST/
Shadow Mask

17in/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 then the G781 is worth hunting down.

Buying advice

Flat-panel displays

• **Price** There's little price difference between 15in and 17in flat-panels. A good 17in model will cost £300-350 (inc of VAT) and you can now find 19in screens for under £500. Actual screen size is about 1in more than on CRT monitors because the image extends right to the screen edge.

• **Features** A model with a DVI (digital visual interface) connector will ensure future compatibility with graphics cards and a steadier image. A flat-panel with a built-in USB hub will make it easier to connect such peripherals as printers and digital cameras. Pivot support allows 90-degree screen rotation giving superior screen size for viewing text and web pages. Onboard speakers are low on quality, but useful for saving space.

• **Dead pixels** Many screens (particularly older or budget models) that conform to ISO13406-2 class 2 or 3 standard have a few defective pixels. On a black background these will show up as white or coloured spots. Up to five dead pixels are permissible under ISO 13406-2 in a class 2 flat-panel. Some models are guaranteed free of dead pixels for a certain period, and this is worth looking out for.