

MONITORS											
17in monitors		Last month's position	First reviewed	Price (ex VAT)	Warranty	Tube type	Viewable area	Dot pitch	Max resolution @ 75Hz	Dimensions (width x depth x height)	Weight
	1 Iiyama Vision Master Pro 413 01438 745 482 www.iiyama.co.uk	1	Feb 02	£159	3-year onsite	Aperture grille/Diamondtron M2	16in	0.25mm	1,600x1,200	408x430x420mm	16.5kg
	2 Mitsubishi Diamond Pro 740SB 0870 120 1160 www.nec-mitsubishi.com	2	Apr 02	£159	3-year onsite	Aperture grille/Diamondtron M2 Superbright	16in	0.25mm	1,600x1,200	399x415x413mm	19kg
	3 Samsung SyncMaster 757DFX brochure@samsung.co.kr www.samsungelectronics.co.uk	3	Apr 02	£156	3-year onsite	Shadow mask/DynaFlat	16in	0.24mm	1,600x1,200	398x412x410mm	17kg
	4 CTX PR711F 01923 810 800 www.ctxeurope.com	4	Apr 02	£207	3-year onsite	Aperture grille/Trinitron	16in	0.24mm	1,600x1,200	412x425x415mm	17.6kg
	5 CTX EX710F 01923 810 800 www.ctxeurope.com	5	May 01	£136	3-year onsite	Shadow mask/FST	16in	0.25mm	1,600x1,200	412x415x417mm	16.5kg
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	1 CTX PR960F 01923 810 800 www.ctxeurope.com	1	Apr 02	£283	3-year onsite	Aperture grille/FD Trinitron	18in	0.24mm	1,600x1,200	460x469x485mm	26kg
	2 LG Flatron 915FT Plus 01753 500 470 www.lge.co.uk	2	Apr 02	£245	3-year onsite	Aperture grille/LG Flatron	18in	0.24mm	1,600x1,200	470x470x480mm	26.5kg
	3 Iiyama Vision Master Pro 454 01438 745 482 www.iiyama.co.uk	3	Apr 02	£269	3-year onsite	Aperture grille/Diamondtron M2	18in	0.25mm	1,920x1,440	450x447x450mm	24kg
	4 NEC MultiSync FP955 0870 120 1160 www.nec-mitsubishi.com	4	Apr 02	£349	3-year onsite	Aperture grille/Diamondtron NF	18in	0.24mm	1,600x1,200	442x445x449mm	23kg
	5 Sony CPD-E430 0870 511 1999 www.sony-cp.com	5	Apr 02	£259	3-year onsite	Aperture grille/FD Trinitron	18in	0.24mm	1,600x1,200	451x461x471mm	25.5kg

All monitors are tested using DisplayMate software (www.displaymate.com)

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1 Iiyama Vision Master Pro 413

It seems that Iiyama has become quite attached to its Best Buy award as, yet again, the Master Pro 413 remains at the top of the chart – nothing is able to snatch the top spot from this excellent 17in monitor. Though not the cheapest screen available, the 413 is reasonably priced and it comes with top-notch specifications.

Although many users are ditching their bulky CRT (cathode ray tube) displays and switching to slimline flat-panels, the Vision Master Pro 413 offers plenty of enticing features that just may persuade buyers to stick with CRT. Most notable is the inclusion of Diamondtron M2 technology, a tube type capable of producing enhanced levels of brightness at the touch of a switch. Resolution support is good, although the screen doesn't offer the clearest of images at the top resolution of 1,600x1,200. The Iiyama's colours are vibrant, even without the high brightness setting on, and text definition is precise, which clinches it as the winner.



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1 CTX PR960F

Another stubborn Best Buy contender is CTX – its PR960F 19in CRT (cathode ray tube) display continues to hold on at the number one. Equipped with a pixel-perfect 0.24mm dot pitch and an FD Trinitron tube, the CTX continues to show the way in terms of specification and image quality. There's USB support and the fast, if slightly elaborate, menu system is up to scratch. If you were being picky, you might complain that the CTX's resolution support – which can't stretch to 1,920x1,440 – lags behind the likes of the Iiyama at number three. In truth, though, you would need a 22in or 24in monitor to do justice to such a high resolution, and CTX's 85Hz refresh rate at 1,600x1,200 leaves it well positioned to deliver crisp, clear output.

The PR960F is equally adept at both graphics and text, and the vibrant sRGB-compliant colour palette is striking. With its top specifications, balanced image quality and excellent all-round value for money, the Best Buy CTX remains very much a monitor to admire.



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2 Mitsubishi Diamond Pro 740SB

Mitsubishi pioneered the Diamondtron technology and puts it to good use in the Diamond Pro 740SB. Its top resolution of 1,600x1,200 runs at a flicker-free 75Hz and the 0.25mm dot pitch ensures fantastic image quality. The 740SB's Diamondtron M2 tube also offers the same enhanced brightness option as the Best Buy Iiyama, which improves image quality even further. On the default settings the Diamond Pro's colours are vibrant and the display is sharp enough to cope with text at the highest resolution.



3 Samsung SyncMaster 757DFX

The SyncMaster 757DFX might not offer the best picture quality, but the combination of a reasonable price and good features sees it beat the CTX PR711F. While the 0.24mm dot pitch and the 1,600x1,200 resolution at 75Hz provides high-end credentials, we would have preferred to see aperture grille (rather than shadow mask) tube technology. Detailed text poses no problems for the SyncMaster, but colours unfortunately lack intensity.



4 CTX PR711F

The PR711F is undoubtedly an excellent monitor with great picture quality. Unfortunately, though, it can't match the other contenders on price, so it only achieves fourth place in the chart. The 0.24mm dot pitch and 1,600x1,200 resolution at 75Hz are combined with a Trinitron tube to produce near-faultless picture quality. Overall, the CTX would have scored a lot higher if the price had been lower, but it does have some benefits in its favour, such as the USB hub and excellent picture quality.



5 CTX EX710F

In effect, the CTX EX710F is the budget version of the PR711F in fourth place. The Trinitron tube is replaced by less impressive FST (flatter squarer tube) shadow mask technology, and there's no USB hub for plugging in extra devices. The top resolution of 1,600x1,200 at 75Hz is a good specification for the price, but it lacks the vibrant image quality of the PR711F.



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2 LG Flatron 915FT Plus

For the eighth month running, LG nabs itself another Recommended award. With a 0.24mm dot pitch and 1,600x1,200 resolution support at a refresh rate of 85Hz, the Flatron's specification list bears a close resemblance to that of the Best Buy CTX. Built around LG's own Flatron tube, the 915FT's colour palette is light and pleasant to watch and the clear text output makes it a perfect addition to the office. With the lowest price tag in the chart, the Flatron remains an assured monitor that will reward its owner with a strong roster of features.



3 Iiyama Vision Master Pro 454

The Vision Master Pro boasts the Diamondtron M2 tube and an ability to crank up the brightness, which results in an extremely versatile colour palette. The image quality doesn't quite match that of the CTX and LG monitors, but the 85Hz refresh rate at 1,920x1,440 makes this screen almost unique. The additional features are first-class, with the four USB ports being joined by onboard speakers – a true spacesaver that will prove invaluable if top audio quality isn't required.



4 NEC MultiSync FP955

With a hefty asking price of £349 – £104 more than the LG Flatron – the FP955 doesn't do enough to justify such expense. Not that there's much to fault about the monitor itself, with the 0.24mm dot pitch and fine graphics detail producing eye-catching results. Excellent as the NEC is, it isn't superior in image quality to the CTX and the lack of extra features – there's no USB or built-in speakers – only serves to highlight its steep price tag.



5 Sony CPD-E430

Even with some fine-tuning of the colour settings, the Sony's colour palette is too dark to keep this monitor from the bottom slot. The Sony CPD-E430 has the same tube as the CTX at the top of the chart, but can't match it. It supports a resolution of 1,600x1,200, although the below-par 75Hz refresh rate leaves it dropping behind.

