



### ↑ NISIS S7

Slimline sound system

The S7 package offers everything you'll need to upgrade your PC's audio to a state-of-the-art 5.1-channel surround sound system with five speakers and a subwoofer. The desktop intelligent control box allows you to equalise and mute the NISIS S7 via the remote control. Metal wallspeakers and 25-ft cables are also included, so everything you could possibly need is supplied within the package. Aesthetically, all five slimline speakers are covered in a blue fabric with silver stands.

Netway Components: [www.nisis.com](http://www.nisis.com)

Price: £299.99



### ← Toshiba 50WP16

Plasma screen

This slim silver screen is a massive 50in wide, but just 98mm in depth, and is the ultimate in home entertainment. Oh, and, because it's a plasma screen, it costs just slightly less than open-heart surgery. Encased in a silver display, the Toshiba 50WP16 can be free standing or wall mounted, just like a picture. It may be extremely pricey for the average TV viewer, but then it isn't the average television set, offering 16.7 million colours and a 160-degree viewing angle. A single input cable allows the Toshiba to connect to video recorders, DVD players and digital cameras.

Toshiba: [www.plasma.toshiba.co.uk](http://www.plasma.toshiba.co.uk)

Price: £9,000

### → NXT SI-5 Gen 2

Portable flat-panel speakers

If you're a hardened traveller that likes to listen to your music loud and proud, then these portable, compact and lightweight flat-panel speakers are the answer. The SI-5 Gen 2's amplifier is integrated into one of the two speakers, so that when the devices are conveniently attached they can travel as a single unit. Incorporating MaxxBass technology, the SI-5 produces a perceived base that is one and a half octaves lower than that actually produced, offering some real floor-shaking sound. Available in black and silver, these speakers are about the size of a CD tray when clipped together, making them an ideal source for MP3 players.

NXT: [www.nxtsound.com](http://www.nxtsound.com)

Price: around £60



### ↓ BT Diverse 4010 executive phone

Home SMS phone

This is allegedly the first digital cordless phone to send and receive text messages, so you don't need a mobile to break into the texting community. The BT Diverse uses an online text message translator: simply type in what you want to say, and it will be abbreviated to text speak before being passed on to the recipient. The 4010 features caller display, call waiting for up to 10 ringtones, music on hold and a paging facility.

BT: [www.bt.com](http://www.bt.com)

Price: £99.99



### ← Apple iMac

Personal computer

As a PC magazine, some people say we shouldn't be writing about Macs, but this long-awaited addition to the Apple range deserves a mention. From a style point of view this is one of the best designed computers available. The 15in LCD (liquid crystal display) screen is suspended on a movable chrome arm attached to a hemispherical base. The all-in-one iMac has been designed to take up minimal space and, because the base unit allows the CD-ROM drive to sit horizontally rather than vertically, it runs at full speed. The screen's 180-degree viewing angle is a great touch, plus it holds five USB and two FireWire ports, built-in ethernet, modem and speakers, and a microphone. For a full review see page 58.

Apple: [www.apple.com/uk](http://www.apple.com/uk)

Price: £1,299

### → Plantronics Audioline 70

PC headset and microphone

This professional headset offers a noise-cancelling microphone encased in specially designed acoustic housing. What that means in plain English is that it will filter out background noise, making your voice clearer for the listener. Plantronics promises that the Audioline has been extensively tested with speech-recognition technology to ensure good accuracy in high-noise conditions. The lightweight headset comes in a range of colours and is well priced. Our advice? Get rid of your old headphones as soon as possible.

Plantronics: [www.plantronics.com](http://www.plantronics.com)

Price: £24.99



### ← Volvo XC90

Sports utility vehicle

The first SUV (sports utility vehicle) from Volvo offers four-wheel drive as well as what it calls roll stability control, which uses a 'gyro-sensor' to register and moderate the car's roll speed and roll angle. Inside, the cabin has been designed to allow for maximum space and the large angled window gives better visibility. The XC90 is 4.8m long, just 8cm longer than Volvo's estate car, and seats seven passengers. The 2.9 litre six-cylinder petrol engine is equipped with twin turbochargers, producing 272bhp. It is also available with a diesel engine.

Volvo: [www.volvocars.co.uk](http://www.volvocars.co.uk)

Price: TBC

### → Minolta Dimage S404

Digital camera

Minolta's latest compact camera offers 4Mp (megapixels) supported by a 4x/3x digital/optical zoom. Its CxProcess technology means that the S404 adjusts to take into account its surroundings, ensuring crisp clear pictures whatever the weather. The Macro mode allows objects to be recorded as close as 10cm from the lens. Combined with its text digital subject program, this takes clear images of small letters and business cards. In addition, the S404 can incorporate 60 seconds of moving images and voice memos.

Minolta: [www.minoltaeurope.com](http://www.minoltaeurope.com)

Price: TBC

