

DIGITAL PROJECTORS AND FLATBED SCANNERS											
Digital projectors											
Details	Last month's position	First reviewed	Price (ex VAT)	Warranty	Brightness (Ansi lumens)	Lamp life (hours)	Lamp power (Watts)	Replacement bulb	Weight	Maximum resolution	Dimensions (width x depth x height) mm
<b>1</b> Toshiba TLP-551 01932 828 828 www.toshiba.co.uk	1	Jun 02	£2,895	3-year	1,100	2,000	270W	£250	3.9kg	1,024x768	260x295x96mm
<b>2</b> Eizo IX421M 01483 719 505 www.eizo.co.uk	2	Jun 02	£2,440	3-year	1,000	1,000	130W	£260	1.5kg	1,024x768	230x177x48mm
<b>3</b> NEC LT150Z 0645 404 020 www.nec.co.uk	3	Jun 02	£2,867	3-year	1,000	1,000	135W	£313	1.5kg	1,024x768	243x96x53mm
<b>4</b> Panasonic PT-LC75 0870 100 464 www.panasonic.co.uk	4	Jun 02	£2,495	2-year	1,200	1,200	160W	£210	2.8kg	1,024x768	310x243x86mm
<b>5</b> NEC VT45 0645 404 020 www.nec.co.uk	5	May 02	£1,965	3-year	1,000	1,000/ 2,000	135/ 110W	£291	2.5kg	800x600	299x207x90mm
Flatbed scanners											
Details	Last month's position	First reviewed	Price (ex VAT)	Warranty	Maximum scanning area	True colour depth	Interface connection	Optical resolution (dots per inch)	Software interpolated resolution (dots per inch)	Graphics software	
<b>1</b> Visioneer OneTouch 8700 USB 01483 445 480 www.visioneer-europe.com	1	Jan 02	£83	1-year	A4 (216x297mm)	48bit	USB	1,200x4,800dpi	1,200x4,800dpi	MGI PhotoSuite	
<b>2</b> Microtek ScanMaker 3800 01327 844 880 www.microtekeurope.com	2	Jan 02	£66	2-year	A4 (216x297mm)	48bit	USB	1,200x600dpi	9,600x9,600dpi	Adobe PhotoDeluxe	
<b>3</b> Mustek BearPaw 2400TA 0870 870 4457 www.mustek-europe.com	3	Mar 02	£65	1-year	A4 (216x297mm)	48bit	USB	1,200x2,400dpi	19,200x19,200dpi	Ulead PhotoExpress	
<b>4</b> Benq S2W 5300U 01633 628 600 www.benq.co.uk	4	Nov 01	£82	1-year	A4 (216x297mm)	48bit	USB	1,200x2,400dpi	19,200x19,200dpi	Ulead PhotoExpress	
<b>5</b> Canon CanoScan N670U 0800 616 417 www.canon.co.uk/canoscan	5	Dec 01	£59	1-year	A4 (216x297mm)	48bit	USB	600x1,200dpi	9,600x9,600dpi	ArcSoft PhotoStudio 2000	

## DIGITAL PROJECTORS

**1** Toshiba TLP-551

Toshiba sits pretty at the top of our charts for another month, with its superb TLP-551. In truth, its success is due mostly to the incredible screen size: whether you want to take in a DVD movie or impress potential customers with an outstanding presentation, this is the only projector that can fill an entire wall without needing a mile of floor space in front of it. For sharply focused images and storming colour depth, the Eizo and NEC projectors have the advantage, but the Toshiba's 1,100 Ansi lumens more than atones for this.

The TLP-551's chunky 3.9kg frame isn't exactly ultra-portable, but the extra size does allow Toshiba to add some new features, including a visualiser arm to display documents and photographs.

Due partly to the 3.4mm manual focusing, the camera image is also surprisingly sharp.

The Best Buy Toshiba TLP-551 isn't the cheapest of projectors, but for quiet operation, amazing results and the extra functionality of the visualiser arm, we can't recommend it enough.



## FLATBED SCANNERS

**1** Visioneer OneTouch 8700 USB

Visioneer's latest assault on the sub-

£100 scanner market is the OneTouch 8700 USB. The optical resolution on the 8700

is a remarkable 1,200x4,800dpi (dots per inch) which, coupled with 48bit colour depth, gives fantastic results. Our tests found it not only gave crisp quality across all scan jobs, but speedy delivery as well.

Our only word of warning regards file size. An A4 file scanned at the highest resolution takes up a huge 1.5GB, so you need plenty of storage space. The OneTouch's advanced settings require some patience, but the Visioneer's great software bundle – which includes MGI PhotoSuite – comes with an excellent scan manager, making the 8700 simple to use. It's a shame Visioneer has dropped its warranty from two years to one, but the Best Buy OneTouch is good value for money and produces some great results. Just make sure your PC is powerful enough to cope with the high resolutions.



## DIGITAL PROJECTORS

**2** Eizo IX421M

The IX421M is blessed with exquisite visual appeal and the Eizo's 1.5kg frame marks it out as one of the most portable models in the charts. The image is incredibly sharp, with text and graphics all beautifully defined. Aided by the excellent 650:1 contrast ratio, the colour scheme is similarly vibrant, although particularly well suited to darker shades. The brightness of 1,000 Ansi lumens may seem fairly miserly compared to some of the other projectors, but the Eizo is proof that there's far more to a strong image than a high brightness rating. At its low price of £2,440, the IX421M is an exceptional deal and a worthy Recommended model.

**3** NEC LT150Z

NEC is accustomed to seeing its projectors at the top, but on this occasion the LT150Z was narrowly beaten into third place, despite delivering probably the best image quality in the chart. It has native XGA (1,024x768) resolution support, but this can be increased to 1,280x1,024 with minor deterioration in image quality. Even when the lamp is switched to a lower power mode, though, fan noise is high. Neither is the NEC LT150Z cheap, and the Eizo almost matches it for image quality. Nonetheless, for unmatched images and the ultra-portable PC Card option, the NEC is definitely worth a look.

**4** Panasonic PT-LC75

The PT-LC75 isn't as readily portable as some of its rivals, but it performs with credit in most other areas. The menu system is lengthy, if rather old fashioned in style, although the slimline remote control is very much a creation for the 21st century. Screen size isn't as generous as the Toshiba's and there's a slight dilution of colour compared to the NEC and Eizo models. But it has a good set of hardware specifications, and the 400:1 contrast ratio and brightness rating of 1,200 Ansi lumens are competitive. The Panasonic's price tag is extremely balanced, particularly taking into account the low running costs.

**5** NEC VT45

Placing high-quality NEC technology in your home for a sub-£2,000 price, the compact VT45 should find favour with home cinema enthusiasts. The manual lens shift is useful, allowing you to fine-tune picture position without having to move the projector. The VT45 offers a clear picture in PC mode, but it's hamstrung by its limited resolution support. At a time when 1,024x768 XGA is becoming the standard, the VT45's inability to go beyond 800x600 SVGA mars the effect.



## FLATBED SCANNERS

**2** Microtek ScanMaker 3800

The ScanMaker 3800 offers a great combination of a reasonable price and plenty of features. Low hardware specifications kept the Microtek from the Best Buy spot, but it is a speedy scanner backed up by a good software bundle. An optical resolution of 1,200x600dpi (dots per inch) is par for the course these days, though Microtek has improved matters with 48bit colour depth. The ScanMaker 3800 proved to be a speed demon when scanning at the heights of 300x300dpi and 600x600dpi. For example, an A4 full-colour magazine spread at 600x600dpi only took two minutes and 18 seconds to scan and save – a superb time that beats almost all of the other scanners in the chart.

**3** Mustek BearPaw 2400TA

The BearPaw 2400TA is a huge improvement on Mustek's previous models, yet its cost remains remarkably low. The 1,200x2,400dpi (dots per inch) optical resolution doesn't improve on what was previously on offer from Mustek, but it is more than enough for everyday scan jobs. We berated the last model, the 2400, because the 48bit colour depth was interpolated and the resultant scans had too much artificial colour. But this time round Mustek has opted for a true 48bit colour depth and the difference is marked. The detail shines through and the colour palette is much more realistic.

**4** Benq S2W 5300U

The Benq (previously Acer) S2W 5300U sports a low price tag for its specifications and offers good results. The hotkeys and simple software interface give the impression this scanner is for novices, but there's quality and versatility within. The optical resolution of 1,200x2,400dpi (dots per inch) and 48bit colour depth mean it can cope with most scan jobs. The Benq S2W 5300U is a good choice for anyone looking to upgrade from a low-end model to something that offers higher performance.

**5** Canon CanoScan N670U

The N670U might sit at the bottom of the chart, but it's still worthy of consideration. The optical resolution of 600x1,200dpi (dots per inch) is combined with a 48bit colour depth. These ratings translate into good results: colour photo scans are detailed and vivid. If you want a simple scanner that's easy to use, looks good and provides excellent photo scanning, all for a good price, we'd recommend the N670U.

