

top 10 charts

With ever increasing hard drive sizes it's becoming hard to keep track of, let alone back up, all your data. Gone are the days when the humble 1.44MB floppy would suffice. CD-R has fast become the standards for new PCs, although even its 650MB of storage is looking small by today's standard. Cheap hardware and media are in its favour, however, making it still an attractive upgrade option.

Writable DVD is entering the mainstream, offering a huge 4.7GB per disc plus the ability to write CD-Rs. Media and drives cost more, but if you need the space it may be worth it. Whichever format you're interested in, see our rundown of the market on page 224.

We're also taking a look at the high-end PC market with a refresh of our Power chart. With bigger budgets to work to, manufacturers can pack in impressive components. We're still looking for value for money, but with more cash to spend fewer compromises have to be made. If you're after a top-of-the-range system, turn to page 210 to see what's on offer.



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Prices

Our price categories for PCs, notebooks and digital cameras are as follows:

PCs

Power PCs	over £1,200
Budget PCs	£700-£1,200
Superbudget PCs	sub-£700

Notebooks

Power notebooks	over £1,500
Budget notebooks	sub-£1,500

Digital cameras

Professional	over £700
Intermediate	£300-£700
Beginners	sub-£300

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Top 10 chart awards

Top-ranking products are eligible for either Best Buy or Recommended awards. A Best Buy product offers a superlative combination of features, performance and value for money. Chart rankings are based on a calculation of features and performance compared to price, so the highest-scoring products represent the best value for money. Recommended award winners are pretenders to the Best Buy crown. Almost as good, they offer great value, quality and performance and are worth a look if the Best Buy doesn't fulfil your criteria.

