











TOP 10 DIGITAL PROJECTORS & FLATBED SCANNERS

			Digital projectors	LCD/DLP technology	Max brightness Contrast ratio	Lamp life (hours) Replacement bulb	Dimensions (wxdxh) Weight	Max resolution	Wireless facilities Memory card	Economy mode	Noise
1		InFocus X1 0800 028 6470 www.infocus.com LAST MONTH 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £999 ex VAT 2-year parts & labour warranty First review Apr 03 	DDR DLP	1,000 Ansi lumens 2,000:1	3,000 varies	249x318x106mm 3.1kg	800x600 (SVGA)	no no	no	37dB
				Not only is the InFocus cheap to buy and run, it's also equipped with cutting-edge DDR DLP technology to handle dark colours. The X1's clear display and sharp definition make it adept at both video and Windows apps. The device isn't particularly quiet in operation so it's more suited to the office than home environment.							
2		Plus U4-131SF www.plus.uk.com NEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £1,395 ex VAT 3-year parts & labour warranty First review Sept 03 	DLP	1,500 Ansi lumens 1500:1	2,000 £200	190x239x53mm 1.5kg	1,280x1,024 (SXGA)	no no	yes	37dB
				The U4-131SF has some impressive specifications that make it an ideal office projector. Its brightness rating ensures a clear image and the contrast ratio is also good, giving an extremely high level of colour depth. With its chic yet business-like casing, the lightweight Plus is a prized addition to any boardroom.							
3		CTX PS-5140 01923 810 800 www.ctxeurope.com LAST MONTH 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £850 ex VAT 2-year parts & labour warranty First review Mar 03 	LCD	1,400 Ansi lumens 400:1	2,000 £249	283x243x91mm 2.7kg	800x600 (SVGA)	no no	no	37dB
				Thanks to its brightness rating, the value-for-money CTX offers a display that remains visible in the lightest of conditions, although its basic LCD technology means the image isn't as sharp or well defined as the Best Buy (which uses DDR DLP). On office apps, in particular, you'll notice a reduction in colour scheme purity.							
4		NEC LT220 08459 404 020 www.nec.co.uk LAST MONTH 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £2,184 ex VAT 3-year European onsite warranty First review Apr 03 	SDR DLP	1,800 Ansi lumens 600:1	1,500/2,000 £298	260x275x92mm 3.2kg	1,600x1,200 (UXGA)	yes yes	yes	32dB/ 29dB
				The LT220 may be pricey but it's a superior projector that boasts one of the best images in the chart. Business users will appreciate the clean text display while cinephiles will relish the bright tints and warm hues. Another bonus is the large screen and lack of system noise – it can be restricted to a near-inaudible 29dB.							
5		Epson EMP-53 0800 220 546 www.epson.co.uk LAST MONTH 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £1,299 ex VAT 3-year European (2-year worldwide) warranty First review Apr 03 	LCD	1,700 Ansi lumens 500:1	1,500/2,000 £299	315x240x97mm 2.9kg	800x600 (SVGA)	no no	yes	36dB/ 33dB
				At just £1,299, the EMP-53 offers a massive screen size for less money. The contrast ratio is above average for an LCD model, but the SVGA resolution means that pictures lack depth of colour. A high brightness rating means it will work in the lightest conditions, while the powerful remote control is another bonus.							

			Flatbed scanners	Interface connection	Supported operating systems	True colour depth	Optical resolution Software interpolated	Transparency adapter	Dimensions (wxdxh) Weight	Graphics software Optical character recognition software
1	 PC ADVISOR BEST BUY BEST VALUE	Visioneer OneTouch 9020 01483 445 480 www.visioneer-europe.com LAST MONTH 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">£83 ex VAT1-year warrantyFirst review May 03	USB 2.0	98/Me/2000/XP	48bit	1,200x4,800dpi 4,800dpi	built-in	432x302x66mm 3.9kg	Photoshop Elements TextBridge Classic
				The 3.9kg Visioneer OneTouch is a robust model that, thanks to its quick-scan buttons, is easy to use and ideal for novices. It's reasonably priced and produces sharp, clear images that would satisfy even the most demanding user. Thanks to its transparency adapter, the 9020 is also ideal if you wish to archive old slides.						
2	 PC ADVISOR RECOMMENDED RECOMMENDED	HP Scanjet 5500c 0870 547 4747 www.hp.com LAST MONTH 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">£212 ex VAT1-year warrantyFirst review Mar 03	USB 2.0	98/Me/2000/XP	48bit	1,200x2,400dpi 9,600dpi	built-in	545x317x167mm 7.2kg	HP Suite Iris OCR
				At a resolution of 300dpi the Scanjet 5500c took seven seconds to scan a colour A4 page, making it the fastest low-resolution model in the chart. Scan quality is also fantastic – the 48bit colour depth is rich, accurate and more than a match for any of the other competitors' scans. All of this comes at a price, though: a steep £212.						
3		Canon CanoScan 5000F 08705 143 723 www.canon.co.uk LAST MONTH 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">£179 ex VAT1-year warrantyFirst review Mar 03	USB 2.0	98/Me/2000/XP	48bit	2,400x4,800dpi 9,600dpi	built-in	278x508x107mm 3.4kg	PhotoStudio, PhotoBase ScanSoft OmniPage SE
				The CanoScan 5000F isn't cheap but it offers plenty of features to keep professional users happy while being straightforward enough for a novice. The USB 2.0 interface is used to good effect and is best demonstrated at high resolutions – it outstrips even the speedy Recommended HP at 1,200dpi and beyond.						
4		Umax Astra 6700 0870 906 3300 www.umax.co.uk LAST MONTH 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">£128 ex VAT1-year warrantyFirst review May 03	USB 2.0	98/98SE/Me/2000/XP/Mac	48bit	2,400x4,800dpi 19,600dpi	optional	578x272x87mm 2.8kg	MGI PhotoSuite III Abbyy FineReader Sprint
				Umax has gone for a balance between speed and price. The Astra can scan an A4 colour page in less than 70 seconds and, although this is no match for the Best Buy Visioneer's time of 24 seconds, it's still fast enough for most users' needs. We weren't too keen on the 6700's design – it's longer than is necessary and has a flimsy lid.						
5		Visioneer OneTouch 7100 01483 445 480 www.visioneer-europe.com LAST MONTH 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">£58 ex VAT1-year warrantyFirst review May 03	USB 1.1	98/Me/2000/XP	48bit	1,200x4,800dpi 4,800dpi	no	430x300x66mm 2.3kg	ArcSoft Photolmpression TextBridge Classic
				Visioneer has kept down the price of the 7100 by sticking with USB 1.1 technology. This inevitably means that the scanner is slow compared to a USB 2.0- or FireWire-based model. However, if you don't mind waiting that little bit longer for your scans then the £58 OneTouch makes good economical sense.						

Buying advice: digital projectors

Projector brightness is measured in Ansi lumens. On a business model look for at least 1,000 Ansi lumens; for home use more than this will be overpowering. If the projector's confined to a small room then a short throw lens will produce a larger picture, although colour and focus options may be reduced. Economy mode sacrifices

brightness in favour of longer lamp life and a useful side effect is less noise.

If you need to carry the projector long distances look for a model that's 1.5kg or lighter. A memory card slot means you can leave the notebook behind in the office, while wireless facilities let you control the projector from several PCs without the added hassle of connecting and disconnecting leads.

The higher the resolution support the more detail used to generate the image. XGA (1,024x768) support is preferable for displaying apps, although for low-detail programs or home video SVGA (800x600) will suffice. Unless you're using the projector constantly you're unlikely to need to change the lamp too often. However, it's worth comparing the price of a replacement with the number of hours it will burn.