



Dell 3400MP



PRICE £899 (£1,056 inc VAT)

SUPPLIER www.dell.co.uk

VERDICT A great price for an ultraportable projector. It offers solid image quality, but isn't the brightest around. However, it's quiet, offers low running costs and has a next-business-day warranty.

The 3400MP is the newest model in Dell's projector range and it fulfils our test criteria almost perfectly. If you're a mobile professional needing a portable projector for presentations, the 3400MP is just about the smallest, lightest unit you'll find for under £1,000.

Thanks to the latest DLP technology, it weighs a mere 1.1kg and measures 204 x 154 x 74mm (WDH). A stylish carry case with a hard foam interior protects the unit from knocks or drops. There's also room for the well-featured remote as well as all the bundled cables.

The lamp provides 1,500 lumens in standard mode – not the brightest, but more than usable in most conditions. Dell claims a life of 3,000 hours in this mode, yet replacements cost £209

– a price of just 7p per hour. Despite the small size, the 3400MP is reasonably quiet too: we measured 41.9dBA. In economy mode, brightness is reduced, but you can expect about 4,000 hours and a noise level of 39dBA.

Connectivity includes an M1-DA interface that covers digital, analog and USB control in one go. There's also S-Video and composite video along with audio in and out mini-jacks. Cables for all interfaces are supplied.

We like Dell's remote control. It boasts a laser pointer, mouse control and useful direct access buttons for keystone and volume. The projector will automatically correct vertical keystone too.

Image quality is decent enough, especially for presentations. First impressions are good, with charts offering plenty of impact thanks to sharp



edges to bars. Likewise, greyscale and colour fades were solid – there was no stepping and they didn't fade to black or white too early.

The 3400MP offers good contrast and good colour uniformity. Even small fonts are crisp and black on a white background, and there's no ghosting. Over an analog interface, there was no moiré in our resolution tests – a sign that it can easily lock onto the signal.

It wasn't perfect, though. Focus caused slight concern as the bottom-right corner was blurred even when the rest was sharp. Also, photos in presentation mode had slightly unrealistic colours.

Switch to sRGB mode and colours become much more accurate and videos play with realistic skin tones. However, lower brightness meant details were lost in dark scenes and we saw judder despite the motion compensation.

The two-year warranty may be shorter than others, but the next-business-day response easily makes up for this. Then there's the price – at £899 it's a bargain considering all the features, the low running costs and the amazing portability.

PC PRO RATINGS	
QUALITY	★★★★★
QUIETNESS	★★★★★
FEATURES & DESIGN	★★★★★
VALUE FOR MONEY	★★★★★
OVERALL	★★★★★

Epson EMP-732

PRICE £1,080 (£1,274 inc VAT)

SUPPLIER www.misco.co.uk (code: 102091)

VERDICT An average offering. The Epson provides solid image quality for the mobile presenter, but it isn't particularly cheap to run and is noisy too.

Another LCD-based projector, the EMP-732 weighs far less than Canon's LV-X4 at 1.7kg. It isn't particularly attractive, though, and doesn't feel as well constructed as others – the plastic casing flexes when touched.

In return for the higher-than-average price, you get higher-than-average brightness; the EMP-732 is rated at 2,000 ANSI lumens, and it was noticeably brighter than the Dell. The extra brightness helped overcome the relatively poor contrast, allowing details to be seen in dark photos or video clips that would otherwise have turned black.

Fonts were crisply displayed with no ghosting, and our grey text showed up as grey for once; it became black on most other projectors. In our resolution tests, the Epson showed it could lock onto the analog signal

with no problems – distinct white and black lines were visible both vertically and horizontally. Focus was excellent across the entire image.

Other bonuses are that the projector has automatic keystone correction and can shut down in just 20 seconds, letting you pack up and leave a meeting room quickly. There are also sRGB, presentation, dynamic, theatre, living room and blackboard modes, and menus offer decent control over the image, as well as how many hours have been used in standard and economy more. If you

want to use audio, the Epson has one of the best quality – and loudest – speakers on test.

Sadly, that's where the good news ends, as we

had several gripes with the EMP-732. Uniformity was one



problem – displaying a completely white image showed noticeable impurities on the left-hand side, while other blocks of colour appeared uneven too.

And, despite the menu options, the menus themselves are far too cumbersome to navigate. This isn't helped by the poorly designed remote, which has an unintuitive button layout that's hard to use in darkened rooms.

Contrast, like the Canon, leaves visible grey bars when watching a widescreen movie even in the appropriate 'theatre' mode. The quality of video playback isn't great either; we saw tearing during pans and vertical banding in areas of similar colour, such as sky.

In terms of connectivity, the Epson is more basic than the price would suggest. There's VGA, S-Video, composite video, audio in and USB control. VGA, USB and audio cables are provided along with a soft carry case.

It's good to see a three-year warranty, but many will be annoyed by the noise – at 52.3dBA, this is the noisiest on test. And, costing £1,080 to buy and 14p per hour to run, the Epson can't match the Optoma or Dell for value.

PC PRO RATINGS	
QUALITY	★★★★★
QUIETNESS	★★★★★
FEATURES & DESIGN	★★★★★
VALUE FOR MONEY	★★★★★
OVERALL	★★★★★