

PC USER

MAY 2010

AUSTRALIAN

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NOTE: * PC Tools Registry Mechanic 8 will expire on May 4, 2011. * Full versions may require online registration, which may be active for a limited time only. * Use of this DVD is subject to terms of use contained on this disc. * This DVD-ROM requires a computer DVD drive and includes third-party software whose system requirements vary significantly.

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KWORLD DVD MAKER 2
PRICE \$70 / WEB www.kworld-global.com

Backing up old VHS or analogue camcorder tapes is starting to become a more urgent matter as analogue-compatible playback devices disappear from the market. The KWorld DVD Maker 2 is a USB device designed to let you digitise any of your analogue video. The video cables plug into the small USB hardware module, which then plugs into your PC or notebook's USB port. What's also impressive about the KWorld unit is the software — CyberLink's PowerDirector 7 is a cut above most options we've seen, allowing you to set the capture bit rate either by profile or manually to whatever you want. It accepts both PAL

(720 x 576 pixels at 25fps) and NTSC (720 x 480 pixels at 30fps) video from either composite or S-Video input (no HD). Once you've done your editing, you can use the included CyberLink PowerProducer 5 to turn your movies into DVDs or small clips you can upload to YouTube. The hardware in our review unit generally worked well, but it produced a series of narrow-pitch vertical shadow lines in captured video from one of our test sources — lines we didn't see when using another analogue-to-PC capture device with the same source. That said, those lines weren't visible when we captured from other sources. Still, the result makes us a little

80%

cautious, which is a pity because otherwise, the contrast, brightness and saturation of the captured video were very good. For the price, the software is well worth it.
— Darren Yates
PC User says: Overall, this capture stick is pretty good value for money.

DELL 1230C

PRICE \$199 / CONTACT DELL / PHONE 1800 812 392 / WEB www.dell.com.au

The 1230c is a small, attractive-looking and surprisingly cheap colour laser printer that Dell is pitching at the SOHO market. Installation is simple enough, although like many printer installs you'd be well served with a cup of coffee while the driver sets itself up. For a printer aimed at the SOHO space, it sadly lacks networking, as this is a direct-connect USB 2.0 only model. Print quality in our tests was good, with both basic text and colour pages, and predictably woeful for photo printing — but then, this isn't a photo printer. Print speeds were faster than most inkjets, although Dell only rates it at 'up to' 16ppm mono and 4ppm colour. We averaged

around 10ppm in our mono tests. \$199 for a colour laser is remarkably cheap, but as always the devil's in the detail — or in this case, the 1,000-page toner cartridges, which each start at \$98.60, although they're a little more expensive if not purchased with the printer itself. A full set of four cartridges will cost more than double the printer price, so those who do lots of printing will find it expensive.
— Alex Kidman
PC User says: A decent colour laser option as long as your print needs aren't heavy.



65%

COMPRO VIDEOMATE IP70

PRICE \$230 / CONTACT ANYWARE / PHONE 1300 269 927 / WEB www.comprousa.com

Taiwanese hardware maker Compro is better known for its TV tuner cards, but its recent foray into IP cameras has produced some pretty respectable kit. The IP70 is the latest addition — it's also a standalone networked security camera that lets you stream video to any PC on your local network, or even over the internet. Under the bonnet, the IP70 is a reasonably-competent upgrade over the IP50W we reviewed last year (see PC User December 2009, page 18), bumping the sensor resolution from VGA (640 x 480 pixels) to 1MP (or 1,280 x 1,024 pixels) and adding a wider-angle lens, better automatic picture adjustment and noticeably superior clarity and detail in darkness, thanks to a special night-vision mode, driven by six infra-red LED lights. You can set up the camera to

email you snapshots or upload them to an FTP site when it detects motion. You can view the camera feed from either a web browser (the IP70 prefers IE, but will support Firefox, Chrome and others if you've got VLC media player installed) or using the bundled ComproView client software. The latter is a very full-featured multi-cam monitoring app, which includes a host of advanced detection and alert features. In terms of image quality, the picture was good, but not great — at 1MP video actually looks a bit soft; it does the job for security, though. On the whole, while it's more expensive than the IP50W, it packs enough features to make it worth the cost.
— Dan Gardiner
PC User says: A highly configurable security camera that packs in a lot of features.

80%

