

TV MEGA TEST

30 PLASMA & LCD TVs REVIEWED
32 TO 60 INCHES

- AMAZING SPECS
- CRAZY PRICES
- BEST SCREENS REVEALED

REVEALED
PRODUCT OF THE YEAR

100 BEST DEALS

We select the best-value PC & entertainment gear

2010 SNEAK PEEK

CPU's with graphics, 3D TVs and more hot new tech

30 PAGES OF TIPS

Install Windows via USB, run old DOS games & more

FEBRUARY 2010 EXCLUSIVE SOFTWARE / VIDEO GUIDES / RESOURCE KIT / GAMES

World Exclusive Windows USB INSTALLER

Install Windows 7 or Vista the quick and convenient way! PC User Windows USB Installer will rip all the files from your Windows setup DVD, load them onto your USB flash drive, and make the USB drive bootable.

PC USER DVD

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REDACTED BY \$15

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MegaView
Zenon Software's MegaView 7.07 offers easy batch conversion, a slideshow creator & many other image handling tools.
REDACTED BY \$44

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PC Tools Desktop Maestro 3.6
PC Tools Desktop Maestro 3.6 is a Windows suite that includes registry cleaning, system monitoring & privacy cleaning.
REDACTED BY \$59

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Web site resource kit
15 essential tools, including web design & HTML editors, content management systems, image converters & more.

11 exclusive video guides
How to use PC User Windows USB Installer, the full versions & more.

NOTE: * PC User Windows USB Installer requires a 4GB or greater USB flash drive. You will need your own purchased copy of Windows 7 or Vista (including serial number), and your PC's BIOS will need to be bootable from the USB drive. See the magazine feature for more details. * 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.

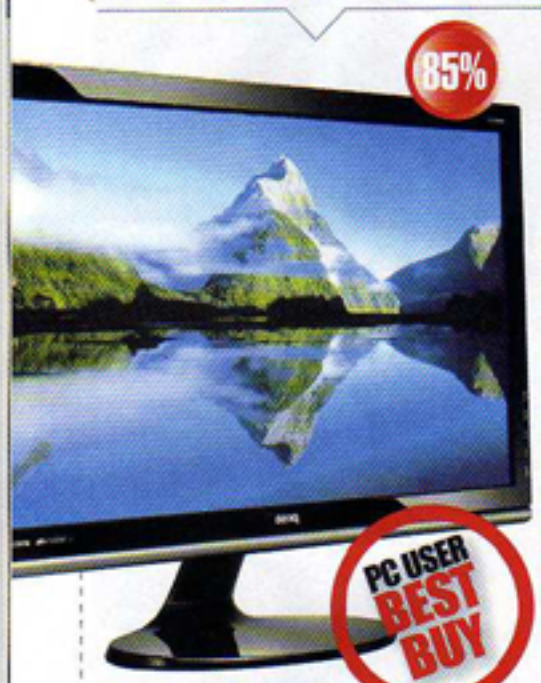
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pcp magazines



85%

PC USER BEST BUY

BENQ E2420HD
PRICE \$320 / CONTACT BENQ
PHONE (02) 8895 8800
WEB www.benq.com.au

The E2420HD isn't the cheapest 24in LCD monitor around, but its huge range of features, good image colouration and high degree of tweakability make it easily worth the \$320 asking price. Like most current widescreen LCDs, this one's a 16:9 aspect ratio model. While we do prefer the extra screen real estate of 16:10 monitors for PC tasks, the one benefit of the native 16:9, 1,920 x 1,080-pixel resolution is that it's perfectly suited for plugging in a games console or watching HD 1080p movies. Under the bonnet, this is a TN-type panel with a 1,000:1 contrast ratio (50,000:1 dynamic), 300cd/m² brightness and 2-millisecond (ms) grey-to-grey response time. But the specs don't tell the full story. While it doesn't quite offer the clarity of the AOC monitor for gaming and can look a touch hazy by comparison, in use the E2420HD has a much wider colour gamut, which allows it to display finer gradations of colour and give richer, more appealing and more natural-looking pictures on the whole. There's a mass of inputs, with the usual DVI and VGA accompanied by two HDMI ports plus component video, so you can hook up most modern video equipment you can think of. It also packs two 1.5W speakers (these are passable for casual use at low volumes, but not a replacement for real desktop speakers or headphones) and a four-port USB hub. In short, if you're after an all-purpose LCD monitor, there's not a lot wrong here.

— Dan Gardiner
PC User says: A great do-all 24in LCD, with great colour range and natural tones.



85%

PC USER BEST BUY

AOC 2434PW
PRICE \$245 / CONTACT ALTECH COMPUTERS
PHONE (02) 8831 9999
WEB www.aocmonitor-anz.com

At first glance, this is a fairly unassuming 23.6in, 1,920 x 1,080-pixel LCD monitor. Its specs are middle-of-the-road: it's a TN-type panel with 300cd/m² brightness, 2ms response time and a 60,000:1 dynamic contrast ratio — as usual, take this last spec with a grain of salt, as the real contrast ratio is more likely to be the typical 1,000:1. It doesn't have the largest feature set, with only two inputs (VGA and HDMI), and while it does have a functional height-adjustable/swivel stand, the screen is a little wobbly due to an underweighted base. The panel doesn't have the widest colour gamut, with colours looking a tad washed out, and it can't match the contrast range or natural colouration of BenQ's E2420HD. However, what the 2434PW does offer is bang for buck and very good clarity: its clear, sharp images showed a good amount of detail in blacks and darker areas in games, making it a decent choice if you're after a budget monitor for PC/console gaming; likewise, it gave generally pleasing sharpness and clarity when watching Blu-ray movies from a PS3. It's also highly tweakable, with a full range of colour, contrast, brightness and gamma settings; in fact, the large number of controls allows you to minimise some of the visual shortcomings. AOC has also been quite generous with extras, providing an HDMI cable and an HDMI-to-DVI adapter, for example, so it can be plugged into pretty much any digital video device, be it a PC or entertainment unit.

— Dan Gardiner
PC User says: A wallet-friendly 24in LCD that offers decent quality at an appealing price.



80%

KWORLD USB DVB-T PICO TV UB450-T
PRICE \$89.95
WEB http://au.kworld-global.com

Compact USB TV tuners have recently become all the rage, sparing us the need to have a huge USB dongle attached to our notebook like some cancerous growth. KWorld's new UB450-T joins that category. It's a single-tuner device that comes with two antennas and a remote. The first of the antennas is tiny, attached to the side of the tuner and very unlikely to pick up anything in your area. The KWorld's real selling point is the alternate antenna that's supplied in the box. A portable +22dB antenna, this managed the rare feat of picking up channels in our test area. While the extra antenna is good, the same can't be said for the remote. It's one of those credit card models that's portable, but a bit painful to use. It also comes with new software from KWorld, which is much improved over the older software, but still not great for a lounge room environment. Although it's serviceable, we're not sure why anybody would choose this over Microsoft's Windows Media Center app, especially the Windows 7 iteration, or the open-source MediaPortal (see www.team-mediaportal.com for details). Still, using the software that came with the card, we managed to schedule and record HD video in perfect order, channels changed quickly and the image quality was good. What more do you really need? — Nathan Taylor
PC User says: A compact single TV tuner that comes with a quality antenna.