

A noisy start to your day

The shiny silver automatic Grind & Brew coffee machine from Cuisinart can be pre-set to grind beans with the blade, then brew your morning cup while you sleep.

An insulated carafe will keep your fresh coffee piping hot until you are ready to drink it.

Be warned, though – we gave the £130 machine a try, and found it to be rather noisy. It sounds like a loud vacuum cleaner, so you're more likely to be woken by the sound of

the grinder than by the aroma of fresh coffee.

It isn't very quick, so you'll have to wait up to 10 minutes for it to grind and brew enough coffee for 10 cups. You can use pre-ground coffee instead, but this isn't much faster to brew and it won't taste quite as good.

It comes with two charcoal filters that the company claims will purify the water, preventing the build up of limescale. They need to be replaced at least every 90 days and cost £6.99. All removable

parts are dishwasher safe.

Hand cleaning is a bit tiresome for a single cup of coffee, as the grinder also needs cleaning after each use.

The Grind & Brew is available at House of Fraser.

For reviews of other coffee machines, read our test results at www.which.co.uk/coffeemachines.

VERDICT The Grind & Brew may prove too much hassle to use every day for a single cup of coffee, but is a better bet for a grown-up family.



HD in your pocket

The Ultra HD is the latest update to Flip's successful line of pocket camcorders. This easy-to-use device can't rival a full-sized HD camcorder for video quality, but it's ideal for uploading clips to YouTube.

We haven't fully tested this camcorder yet, but the Flip Ultra HD looks virtually identical to the original Flip Ultra.

One major improvement is the Ultra HD's larger viewing screen, which is two inches diagonally, a step up from the previous postage-stamp-sized screens.



Controls and features are few and far between. There are buttons to let you record, play, zoom, delete and scroll through your videos, but not much else.

It has editing and uploading software built in, which is installed onto your computer the first time you connect the camcorder to it. The software itself is exceptionally easy to use, reflecting the fact that this camcorder is designed for the YouTube generation.

It costs £159 and is available from Amazon.co.uk and Play.com.

VERDICT Simple to use, cheap and easy to upload software – but thicker than other pocket HD camcorders, and limited features.

Sharp set of LED TVs

Sharp has jumped on the LED bandwagon with its full-HD LE600 and LE700 ranges, featuring seven TVs with LED-backlit screens.

Sharp promises a lot for these ranges – amazing contrast, improved depth and clarity plus extremely high brightness. Sharp also claims these TVs, which are priced from £750, use just 0.01 watts

in standby and use 40% less power than normal LCD TVs.

We're currently testing the 40-inch set from the LE700 range, so keep an eye on www.which.co.uk/tvs to find out if it lives up to Sharp's claims.

VERDICT The LE600s are cheap for LED TVs, and Sharp has a good energy-efficiency record, but it hasn't had a Best Buy in ages.



Our first impressions are that the Elonex eBook is incredibly light and thin – just 180g and only 9mm thick – while the width and height are about the size of a paperback. It is extremely easy and comfortable to hold, but the downside of its svelte body is that it also feels slightly flimsy.

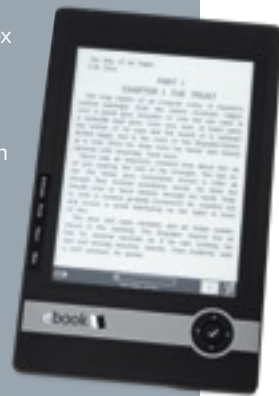
It features a six-inch anti-glare e-ink panel, with an 800x600 pixel resolution. Inside, there's a rechargeable Li-ion battery that Elonex claims will give you 8,000 page turns per charge.

The Elonex has few advanced features – while it can bookmark pages and search for text, there's no instant resume function, for example.

In terms of the reading experience, it suffers from the same issues as its rival e-ink screens – the screen turns black for a split second when you turn a page, which can be distracting. Page turning was also a little slow – a couple of seconds between pages – compared to a paper book.

The Elonex eBook reader costs £189 from Borders, and comes with 100 free classic ebooks preloaded. The Borders download store has more than 45,000 ebooks, but on average they're only marginally cheaper than paper books, so it's unlikely to save you money.

VERDICT Extremely portable ebook reader with expandable storage and great battery life, but it just isn't good enough to provide a viable alternative to printed books, mainly thanks to its sluggish interface.



Ecover and Aquo's greener cleaners

We recently got our hands on several new green cleaning products from Ecover and Aquo to see how well they worked.

The widely available Ecover range has been updated, reformulating some cleaners and adding some new ones. To give them a quick try out, we sent some Which? staff home with bottles of the four new Ecover products: All Purpose Cleaner (£2.99), Multi Surface Spray (£2.50), Power Cleaner (£3.79) and Window & Glass Cleaner (£2.69).

All our volunteers found the Ecover products worked just as well as their market-leading alternative. The Multi Surface spray and Window & Glass cleaner needed a bit of extra buffing and there was a mixed opinion on the fragrances.

Also new on shelves is Aquo's range of refillable

'eco-clever cleaning' products, currently available in Tesco Extra stores. Each bottle and spray can be reused 20 times – you buy an empty spray bottle and two refill capsules (£2.99) and make up the cleaner yourself by dissolving a capsule in warm water in the bottle. Two refills cost £1.99.

We tried the kitchen, bathroom and glass cleaners. The products were certainly lighter to take home, and were ready to use in a few minutes.

Overall, the Aquo products performed well against our tester's usual

cleaners, and all the products left a light, pleasant smell.

VERDICT Our testers thought the new Ecover products gave market leaders a run for their money. We also thought Aquo did well against mainstream cleaners.



Good looking slow cooking

Slow cooking is an easy way to make a cheap and tasty meal from scratch. We've tried Breville's new VTP062 6.5-litre and VTP072 3.5-litre slow cookers to give you our first impressions on the new additions to the company's range.

The smart looking 6.5 litre oval-shaped slow cooker costs £32.99 from Amazon and is big enough to cook for up to eight people. It's big and heavy, but our tester liked the large size. It was really simple to use, but the stainless steel finish was hard to clean.

We tried preparing several meals in this cooker – most turned out well, but a leak and

potato soup cooked using the auto setting was less impressive.

The smaller cooker will cost £19.99 at Comet from October, and is ample for a couple. It comes in an elegant cream enamel and grey design.

Our first look test found that it produced impressive food, and was very easy to use. It's also very easy to clean.

VERDICT The large slow cooker is simple to use and great for a large family – but the main pot is heavy. Compact and attractive enough to leave on the worktop, the 3.5-litre cooker will suit smaller households who want to slow cook regularly.

