

Do George Foreman's latest products pack a punch?

George Foreman All Round Compact Oven Roaster & Baker

This oven is a first for the king of health grills. With its sleek design, it's a smart looking piece of kitchen equipment. Compact is the key word here, though – you'd be a little disappointed if you hoped to get a family-sized roast in it.

Though it works similarly to a slow cooker, the oven, which costs £70 from Argos, has the added function of cooking from the top as well as from the bottom, and fat and grease is drained away through a small hole in the base.

We got one in so we could give it a first look, and cooked a range of foods in it, with mixed results.

VERDICT We found it easy to use and versatile, but it was rather small, and cooked unevenly.



George Foreman Easy Clean Pizza Grill

Available from Argos for £98, the Easy Clean Pizza Grill comes with two round ribbed plates and one round flat pizza plate, which can cook up to a 10-inch pizza – it's this feature that makes this model stand out from the rest of George Foreman's range.

Though our tester was pleased with the grilling results, in our January report we found that grills with removable plates didn't cook as well as ones with fixed plates.

Pizzas on the flat plate were disappointing, however. The base of the pizzas cooked more quickly than the tops – we recently tried another pizza grill, the Giles and Posner Stonebake Grill, and it was far better at the task.

VERDICT It's good for grilling, but was disappointing at cooking pizzas and is quite expensive.

Crema of the coffee makers

Lavazza's A Modo Mio is one of the latest in a growing breed of capsule espresso machines. Available in trendy red or black, it's certainly cute, but is its espresso as exciting as its exterior?

Capsule machines offer convenient, mess-free brewing – you simply slot in a sealed pod and let the machine do the rest.

Our tests show that

the widely available A Modo Mio packs a real punch, and it's a worthy Best Buy. Our expert taste-tester admired its 'nice golden brown crema' and we think that its espresso is the best we've tasted from this type of machine.

For our full review of the A Modo Mio and other models we've tested, go to www.which.co.uk/coffeemachines.

VERDICT This Best Buy looks good and makes great coffee, plus it's great value for money at £119.



Motormonkey swings in

The £20 Motormonkey is the latest in a range of travel charging devices from Powertraveller. It can be plugged into a cigarette lighter and used to charge a range of portable devices such as iPods and mobile phones.

We found it easy to use.

Simply plug it into your car's cigarette lighter and choose the appropriate adaptor for charging your handset. The charger is supplied with seven adaptors (more can be purchased separately) but, realistically, even the most ardent gadget-lover is only going to need two or three.



The device has been designed so that it neither over-charges your handset nor drains the car's battery when left plugged in. Motormonkey is available at www.powertraveller.com.

VERDICT While not essential, this will charge a good range of devices while on the move.

Creative joins the pocket camcorder competition

The market for simple, pocket camcorders is growing, and now Creative has weighed in with its Vado HD camcorder. At £180, the Vado HD is more expensive than other pocket camcorders we've

reviewed. It comes with 8GB of internal memory – enough for two hours of highest-quality 720p footage. It also comes with an

HDMI cable, so you can view footage on an HDTV.

It's slim enough to fit into a pocket, weighs only 100g and has a rubber shock-absorbing case, but the Vado's footage was disappointing – it doesn't compare with footage from larger HD camcorders.

Uploading your movies to video-sharing websites such as YouTube is easy, helped by some straightforward plug-and-play software loaded onto the camcorder.

VERDICT As long as you're not fussed by the underwhelming video quality, the Vado HD is ideal for online video sharing.



A quick cuppa just got bigger

Tefal's Quick Cup Deluxe gives you hot water for drinks in just three seconds. Using technology similar to that found in an electric shower, it produces hot water at the touch of a button. And, as it only heats one cup at a time, this could be a handy money and energy saver.

We looked at the original Quick Cup in August 2007 (*Which?*, p11) – the deluxe is a bigger, boxier version of it. Each heating cycle produces 220ml, but you can set it to produce more so that you get enough for your favourite mug.

It comes in red and black (£70) or stainless steel (£80) and is widely available.



VERDICT It's noisy, but the tea and coffee we produced was fine and perfectly drinkable. If you like your drinks boiling, though it may not be quite hot enough for you.

JUST OUT

A peek at what's new on the shelves

Mountain Buggy Swift £380

Independent retailers

The Mountain Buggy Swift has just hit the shops and is being tested in our lab. It's the smallest in the Mountain Buggy range and is modelled on the Urban, which did well in *Which?* tests despite being bulky and hard to store. The Swift uses the same easy-care fabric and comes in lime green, chilli red or flint black. According to the manufacturer, the seat can go from upright to fully reclined. Unlike some products in this range, it can't be adapted for use with a carrycot or car seat.



Panasonic NR-B30FX1-XB (£840) and NR-B30FG1-WB (£699) fridge-freezers

Comet and John Lewis

Panasonic is moving into the domestic appliances market with two fridge-freezers.

Panasonic claims its 'Vitamin Safe' drawer keeps vitamins and nutrients in fruit and veg for longer, and its insulation technology offers more internal space than some other fridge-freezers. We'll be testing the FX1-XB later this year.



Whirlpool AWOE8558 (£330) and AWOE8758 (£345) washing machines

Independents and online

Whirlpool has launched two distinctive looking washing machines. Fitting into a standard space, both models can wash up to 8kg of laundry at a time. The main difference between the two is that the AWOE8758 has a higher spin-speed of 1,400rpm. We're testing the AWOE8558, so keep an eye on www.which.co.uk/washing_machines for our full test results.



Nintendo DSi £150

Nintendo, www.nintendo.co.uk

Nintendo is launching a new version of its popular handheld gaming console on 3 April, adding two motion-detecting cameras that can detect facial features and movement, and a new way to interact with games, to the updated console. The DSi also includes photo-effects software, and the ability to play music files. An online shop that downloads games directly to the console and store them in its internal memory will launch alongside the DSi.



Canon targets sports lovers

The Canon Powershot D10 is the first digital camera from Canon to be designed with sport in mind. According to Canon, the D10 can withstand temperatures as cold as -10°C, can be dropped on hard surfaces from 1.2 metres, and copes with underwater plunges to a depth of 10 metres.

We gave the bulky camera a hands-on test, and it seemed like a rugged piece of kit.

The 12.1Mp camera has a 3x optical zoom. The lens cover is a fixed piece of clear plastic – Canon assures us that it is scratchproof and creates a watertight and dust-proof seal.

Like the Best Buy Canon Ixus 980 and Canon Powershot G10 cameras, the D10 is powered by Canon's Digid 4 processor. This controls the camera's intelligent functions, such as scene recognition. It also has a face self-timer setting that allows you to compose a shot and get into the frame without

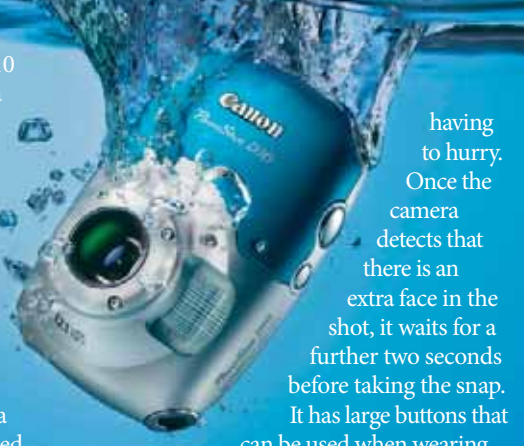
having to hurry. Once the camera detects that there is an extra face in the shot, it waits for a further two seconds before taking the snap. It has large buttons that

can be used when wearing gloves, and each corner has a hole for clipping on a rope-like strap, available as an optional extra.

The camera is sold in a blue casing, but this can be swapped for a camouflage, black or gold livery one.

It will be launched in the UK at the end of April, priced at £379.

Watch us demonstrate the D10 at which.co.uk/digitalcameravideos. **VERDICT** Tough, ideal for outdoor sports, and wide range of 'intelligent' features, but the bulky body is a little too large for most trouser pockets.




EXR sensor perfection?

The Finepix F200 EXR is the first Fujifilm camera to feature the company's EXR sensor. We tried one out at February's Focus on Imaging show in Birmingham – you can see it being demonstrated at www.which.co.uk/digitalcameravideos.

According to Fujifilm, the EXR sensor can be used to take photos in three ways – it can capture 12Mp resolution photos; it's capable of wide dynamic range photos, for shots that

have contrasting light and dark areas; and it can take photos using a high sensitivity/low noise mode.

We were impressed with the printed photos shown alongside the camera, but we'll reserve judgement until we fully test the camera in the Which? labs.

VERDICT Initial impressions show a camera that could significantly boost the quality of digital photos under difficult lighting conditions. 



Balancing your books

If you're giving your bookshelf a spring clean, why not try a free book exchange website? We tried ReadItSwapIt and BookMooch to see if we could get something in return for our old books.

ReadItSwapIt (www.readitswapit.co.uk) is a UK-based service that claims to have more than 234,000 books available for swapping. It's free to join and to use.

Within three days of registering we'd swapped the 2007 edition of

The Good Food Guide for a Lonely Planet travel guide to Peru.

We were able to leave feedback on the swap – the site says this helps prevent abuse of the system. The service was easy to use, though it relies on others having similar tastes in books to your own.

Although it's also free to use and has a feedback system to stop abuse, BookMooch (www.bookmooch.com) works a bit differently. It's an international

service, so although it has many more books (around 535,000) not all of them are in English. And books are not swapped, but traded using a simple points system.



Just 75 minutes after registering we received a request for one of our books from a user in Ireland. We sent the book to him and used two of the three points we received to 'mooch' a book from an American user, which arrived ten days later.

VERDICT Not as cheap as using your local library, but both these services are simple to use and offer a great – and strangely addictive – way to recycle books.

LeapFrog's modest monitor

The LeapFrog Advanced Baby Monitor doesn't have any ground-breaking features, but it does everything you'd expect. We haven't fully tested it yet, but we got it in for a first look.

Like most baby monitors, it's digital, which should eliminate interference. You can operate the monitor's features remotely from the parent unit. The monitor also has a talk function, which allows you to talk to your baby without having to go to them, though this doesn't always help, especially if they want to be fed.

The parent unit has a large display that glows bright

blue when an alert occurs. It can be seen clearly, no matter how dark your room is. The sound alerts will rouse parents from the deepest sleep should there be a problem.

And when your baby really wakes up, the lights around the top of the monitor light up from green to red to indicate how loud he or she is crying.

The feed alarm on this model is not a common feature on

monitors, and parents who feed their babies at regular intervals may find it useful. The simple alarm system is set to your baby's feed cycle, alerting you when your baby needs feeding, so you won't have to keep an eye on the clock. The parent unit also doubles up as a torch – handy for finding that lost dummy in the middle of the night.

The LeapFrog Advanced Baby Monitor costs £70, and is available online.

VERDICT It's a decent monitor with all the features you'd expect. For current Which? Best Buy baby monitors, go to www.which.co.uk/babymonitors.



The current craze for netbooks – diminutive portable laptops designed for surfing the internet when you're on the move – shows no signs of diminishing.

The stylish £310 NC10 is Samsung's first netbook. We took a first look at it ahead of our full netbooks test in May's issue of *Which? Computing*.

The NC10 has an Intel Atom processor, 1GB of Ram and a whopping 160GB storage – not bad specifications at all. It's only 30mm thick and weighs just 1.3kg. It feels slightly flimsy, though.

The NC10 has a 10.2-inch screen, which is larger than many of the netbooks we've tested. Samsung claims its screen is brighter and uses less power, and it certainly looks bright, vivid and clear. However, it does have a fairly small angle of view.

For a netbook, the NC10's keyboard is comfortable, but the touchpad is very small.

Look out for our full test of the Samsung NC10 – including battery and performance tests – in *Which? Computing* and at www.which.co.uk/laptops.

VERDICT It has good screen and keyboard, but the touchpad is rather fiddly.

Buggy gloves

CozyPocket is a glove – or gloves if you have a two-handed buggy – that stays permanently attached to your pushchair.

It's designed to keep your hands warm while leaving you free to remove them fast to undo pushchair buckles, wipe your child's nose, find your keys, answer your phone... and so on.

They come in black and grey (£28) or apple print (£30), and are available on www.diddi.co.uk.

We took a 'Duo' for a spin on a two-handed buggy on a chilly day. Each 'pocket' fastened well around the handle and we found that inside the pockets it was pretty warm, if a bit drafty.

VERDICT We liked the convenience and found them warm, but if juggling gloves and a child's demands isn't a chore for you, CozyPocket solves a problem that doesn't exist.



Stylish storage

Simplehuman has launched a stylish new range of stainless-steel canisters for storing dry food, such as coffee, on your worktop. As with other Simplehuman products, the stainless-steel finish is billed as fingerprint-proof. We passed one around to see if this worked, and we found that fingerprints were only visible up close.

We weren't impressed with the 'ergonomic'

handle, however, as it's very small.

The canisters come in five different sizes, priced from £20 to £40, from www.simplehuman.com, specialist retailers and John Lewis.

VERDICT Fingerprints and smudges aren't as noticeable as on other stainless steel products, but we found it's almost impossible to pick a canister up by the handle if it's full.

