

Nintendo DSi is game

Nintendo's £149.99 DSi, the third version of its DS games console, is a more mature, thinner and feature-laden design than its predecessors.

It's clad in a black matte hard plastic, and has slightly larger screens and two motion-sensing digital cameras – one on the outside of the casing, the other facing the user when the DSi's clamshell case is opened. It can play AAC-encoded music files, and you can also record sound and add effects. There's an SDHC memory card for extra storage.

We found the DSi comfy to hold, the screens both looked bright and the lower touchscreen was accurate in registering the stylus, though some buttons required a robust press to register.



The cameras feature a range of amusing photo effects, but aren't used in any currently available DSi games from the high street. We tested it with a new Wario game that we downloaded from Nintendo's online games store, DSiWare, but ran into problems by trying to play it in a dimly lit room. The game refused to capture our face and register our movements, as it was too dark.

DSiWare is the most significant addition. This digital online store lets you buy games and download them directly to the DSi. The store is easy to navigate, but the initial selection of games is incredibly limited – there are no more than a handful of titles. We found the web browser accurate if a little slow.

Nintendo's DSi is on sale now at John Lewis, but if you already own a DS Lite or DS, then the fact that

it simply plays the same games in a newer case should make you think twice before parting with your cash. If the potential of an online store for instant game downloads appeals, then the DSi is worth checking out.

VERDICT Less toy-like, motion-sensing cameras, fun audio and picture effects, online store, but some of the additions feel a little gimmicky.

Power-saving LCD

Sony claims that this stylish LCD TV, the Bravia WE5, will cut your power use by up to 50% compared with even a relatively efficient previous Best Buy Sony such as the W4500.

Available in 40-inch and 46-inch screen sizes (£1,319 and £1,609 respectively), this is the first range of TVs to have an HCFL (hot cathode fluorescent lamp) backlight, which cuts power consumption.

Other power saving features include an energy-saving switch, which Sony claims is a suitable alternative to unplugging the set each time it's not being used, and an 'intelligent presence sensor', which switches the



picture to standby when there's nobody in the room. You can pre-order this full HD 1080p model from www.sonymstyle.com. See the Sony WE5 in action in our hands-on video (www.which.co.uk/WE5).

VERDICT: Impressive energy-saving claims, but presence of sensor may prove to be more of a gimmick than an effective tool.

Starbucks tries instant

Starbucks VIA Ready Brew is Starbucks' foray into instant coffee. At £1.20 for three sachets or £3.40 for a 12 pack, it's less than an Americano from your local coffee shop, but a lot more than a cup of average instant coffee.

The coffee comes in individual sachets to which you just add water. There are two flavours:

Colombian and Italian. We asked Whittards coffee expert Giles

Hilton to give his verdict. Giles says: 'Both flavours were better than your average cup of

instant as they avoid that earthy, dull flavour so often found in instant coffee.'

He preferred the Colombian to the Italian, saying it offered a smooth and strong coffee, but thought it was a little 'hard on the tongue' without milk.

Starbucks VIA is currently available in certain

London branches of Starbucks – a full list can be found at www.starbucks.co.uk.

VERDICT Getting close to real coffee taste. Good, full strength – at that price, it should have.



TWO INTERESTING NEW VACUUMS

Suction power

This Power model from Siemens' new Z6.0 range, the VSZ62545GB, comes with a standard nozzle, turbo universal nozzle and an additional mini turbo tool.

We haven't fully tested it yet, but first impressions are that the power really comes into play



with the turbo nozzles – full power is too strong with the standard nozzle; you'll struggle to push it along the floor on the highest setting. It's easy to manoeuvre on hard floors and carpet, and costs £299.

VERDICT Strong suction, easy to pull along, but nozzles can be stiff to change.

Greener cleaner

According to Electrolux, the sleek Ultra Silencer Green ZUSG3000 (£159.99) uses a third less energy than a standard 2000W vac and it's claimed to be made with 55% recycled plastic.

The standard nozzle works well to pick up visible debris, but we haven't tested dust pick-up



yet. It's light and easy to move around, and a handy design twist lets you extend and retract the cable as you vacuum.

VERDICT Light, good cable retract feature, quiet, but there's no turbo brush.

See www.which.co.uk/vacuumcleaners for 117 models on test

At your fingertips

The LG Arena KM900 (price dependant on tariff) is a touchscreen mobile with plenty of extra features for sending messages, playing music, shooting video and connecting to the internet.

The 480 x 800 pixel display is great for watching videos or browsing the web, while the virtual qwerty keyboard makes it easy to write emails and text messages. In our short test, the MP3 player sounded clear and sharp.

The Arena features an optional '3D user interface'. Pressing a special button brings up a cube in the middle of the display that provides links to a shortcuts screen for your most used applications, a multimedia screen for your photos and music, a contacts screen, and a customisable 'widgets' screen. The concept works well, but isn't groundbreaking. See the LG Arena KM900 in action in our video review (www.which.co.uk/KM900).

VERDICT Well equipped, massive memory, expensive and '3D user interface' is underwhelming.



JUST OUT

A peek at what's new and coming soon in the shops

Oxygen air cleaner Z9124 £199

www.electrolux.co.uk

Electrolux has launched a new indoor air cleaner to help filter the air in your home. The Oxygen uses Hepa filters that, it is claimed, help to remove pollen, dust mites and tobacco smoke from the air. It works away at just above the volume of a quiet whisper, so shouldn't disturb you at night.



Griffin AirCurve £16.99

[Carphone Warehouse](http://www.carphonewarehouse.com)

This iPhone accessory is rather like a plastic ear trumpet, or an old gramophone. It's designed to amplify the tiny mono speaker at the base of your iPhone to allow you to play music at a louder volume. The device is purely mechanical, and works without any electricity. It's a far cry from the capabilities of a decent iPod speaker dock, but it's also a lot cheaper, uses less power and is less likely to break.



Acer F900 £430

www.expansys.com

This sleek smartphone is solidly built, but lacks the intense style of the iPhone it's set to challenge. Touch-sensitive buttons let you navigate through its menus, and the touch-sensitive screen allows you to make selections directly. It uses Windows Mobile 6.1, which is great for synchronising your contacts and appointments with your PC, and the large screen makes it ideal for web browsing.



Which.co.uk Grand Designs



See the latest green gadgets for your home – including a £25 shower head designed to cut water usage by more than half – in our report from the Grand Designs Live show, based on the C4 series with Kevin McCloud. See www.which.co.uk/granddesignslive.

PHOTOGRAPHY REX FEATURES

New pocket camcorder

The Toshiba Camileo P30 is a small camcorder with full HD (1080p) recording. Like the Flip MinoHD and Kodak Zx1, it's pocket-sized, cheap (£130) and designed to appeal to people who want an easy-to-carry device for creating videos and sharing them via the likes of YouTube.

Unlike other camcorders in this class, it has a 5x optical zoom. Its main selling point, though, is full-HD recording.

When we tried it we found video quality was good considering the camcorder's price, but it does tend to underexpose a little, so video is slightly too dark. It focuses quickly and accurately most of the time.

We were pleasantly surprised to find the sound from the P30 was clear, and significantly superior to the sound produced by the Kodak. Another bonus is the ability to take 5Mp still images, while we also liked the 2.5-inch, twistable LCD screen. However, the positioning of the central wheel means it's easy to press the menu-access button accidentally as you're trying to zoom.

It's available from Amazon. You can see the Toshiba P30 in action in our hands-on video



review at www.which.co.uk/P30.

VERDICT Portable, optical zoom, software for easy YouTube uploading, decent video and sound, but internal memory is small (though expandable), and it lacks a lens cover.

It's Magic

The HTC Magic is the second handset launched in the UK to feature the Android operating system.

It differs in many ways from the first Android handset, the G1, most obviously with its touchscreen qwerty keypad, making it a much slimmer handset. It includes a camcorder and a button that allows you to search easily through contacts and playlists.

Available only from Vodafone, a £35-per-month two-year contract is one option available.

See our video review at www.which.co.uk/htcmagic.



Intelligent multi cooking



The £149 Morphy Richards Intellichief 9-in-1 multi-cooker is the Swiss army knife of slow cookers and is ideal for small kitchens. It lets you slow cook, steam, bake, boil, shallow fry, cook rice, warm and re-heat food. Our first-look test found that it cooked excellently. Using it as a rice cooker resulted in plenty of cooked rice that had a fantastic, fluffy texture. Shallow frying was a success and baking produced a superb light sponge.

The four-litre bowl is large enough to cook four adult portions and is dishwasher-safe. You control the cooking options and timer settings with the buttons on the front. However, our testers found the large number of buttons confusing at first. It's available from Argos.

VERDICT Versatile, great results, suitable for small kitchens, easy to clean, but quite heavy and initially confusing.

Freshly ground coffee for less cash

The new Best Buy DeLonghi Magnifica Esam 3200 lives up to its name, creating outstanding espresso from fresh beans. It's also far more competitively priced than others of this type. While most bean-to-cup options can cost more than £500, the Magnifica was £349 at John Lewis and £279 online as we went to press.

The espresso made using fresh beans wowed our expert taster, Giles Hilton of Whittards. He told us it had

'wonderful' extraction (getting the best from the beans) and was impressed with the smell and taste. It provides just the right balance of intensity, texture and sweetness, without the bitterness that can arise with inferior machines. It can also brew

ground coffee. See [www.which.co.uk/coffee machines](http://www.which.co.uk/coffee_machines).

VERDICT You can spend £345 a year buying a daily espresso, so this is good value for money – a terrific buy if you're serious about coffee.



FUTURE TECH

Books printed on demand



Launched in April, Blackwell's in-store book printing service, the Espresso Book Machine (EBM), can print you a book in less than 10 minutes.

The service could take a lot of the legwork out of hunting down out-of-print books, and also provides a solution to those times when the title you're after is not in stock.

The book we printed was of similar quality to the books available on the shelves.

Books printed on the EBM cost the same as those sold from the shelf, though out-of-print books will be priced depending on the number of pages printed. Foreign language books and books with large text can also be printed.

The ability for customers to print their own books is also available, which may appeal to budding novelists.

The service is initially only available at the company's flagship branch in London, but if the trial is a success, we can expect to see similar services in other Blackwell branches.

Go to www.which.co.uk/booksondemand for our video review.

VERDICT Cuts out legwork and hours of internet searching when looking for out-of-print books.



Spark plugs into compact MP3 market



The Philips GoGear Spark is a compact, easy-to-use MP3 player. It comes in 2GB, 4GB and 8GB sizes and you can buy versions with or without a radio.

It plays the most common music files – MP3, WAV and WMA. We found it easy to transfer files from a computer, though the USB cable is frustratingly short. It also stores

images; album art looks great on the 1.5 inch OLED screen.

The supplied earphones are reasonable, and act as the antenna on the radio-capable versions.

It's easy to use, with just three conventional buttons (accessing menus, changing volume and locking). You can skip tracks and scroll through menus by squeezing the Spark.

The supplied clip can attach the Spark to your clothing or bag, but the clip isn't particularly tight and could easily work itself loose.

It's available from Amazon.co.uk, and prices start at about £40 for the 2GB version.

VERDICT It's compact, easy to use, and album art looks great on the OLED screen, but the loose clip could trouble joggers.

New Skype videophone

The Skype Asus Videophone AiGuru SV1 is the first standalone portable videophone that's compatible with the Skype service.

The Asus SV1 feels solidly built, and buttons on the front panel beneath the clear, bright 7-inch screen are well-spaced and of a good size. As the Skype software is built in, there's no need to download any software as you would on a PC or Mac.

Making calls is simple, and sound quality is perfectly acceptable through the speaker and microphone. However, as is often the case with video calling, there was



a noticeable delay. Picture quality was slightly disappointing, as the 640x480 resolution of the built-in 0.3Mp webcam was a little low compared with our Best Buy webcams.

It's available from Amazon.co.uk for £199.

VERDICT Offers a simple way to make a Skype video or voice call over Wi-Fi or ethernet networks.

Halo pushchair tough on hands

The Halo pushchair (£275), from Silver Cross, may look great, but its appearance raises expectations too high.

The Halo plugs the gap in Silver Cross's range between its lightweight buggies and best-selling 3D pram system.



On first impression, pushing the Halo was an uncomfortable experience. The hard plastic wheels seemed to transmit every crack in the pavement into the hard plastic handle.

The hood, though, is excellent – it's sturdy, provides great coverage and has a substantial sun visor. The cargo net storage area looks great, but things fall out too easily. It's widely available.

See our 35 Best Buy pushchairs at www.which.co.uk/pushchairs.

VERDICT A stylish pushchair with a great hood – but we didn't enjoy pushing it.