

Popular new food processor gets mixed results in our tests

Whisk business for Dualit



FOOD PROCESSOR

Food-processor manufacturers have upped the style in recent years, with retro offerings from Kitchen Aid and sleek models from the likes of Morphy Richards (see Which?, April 2007, page 45). So it comes as little surprise that premium brand Dualit launched its own stylish debut model late last year, aiming for a slice of the market.

At a shade under £200, the Dualit 88610 is one of the more costly processors available. It's obviously popular – we found that many retailers are waiting for new stock. Available in cream or white for £185, or polished chrome for £199, it comes with a box for storing blades and attachments when not in use. It also comes with a long 12-year guarantee on the motor, and a two-year guarantee on parts.

We put this model through our battery of food-processor tests – chopping hazelnuts and onions, slicing cucumbers and carrots, grating cheese, whisking egg whites and kneading dough.

Overall, the Dualit did well in our tests, and achieved our top score for mixing, kneading and slicing. However, it wasn't quite good enough across all tests overall to make it a Best Buy.

There were no markings to help line up the bowl with the base, though overall it was relatively easy to set up. It remained stable in use, thanks to the suction pads on its base, but our testers found the device a little noisy and noted that it was quite heavy.

VERDICT Premium prices don't always result in premium performance. Check out www.which.co.uk for the results of our five Best Buy food processors.

Finish is the clear winner

DISHWASHER TABLETS

You wait ages for new dishwasher tablets and then three come along at once. Unfortunately, like buses, one of them is delayed – Fairy Pure Clean Active Bursts is being reformulated since our tests to try to give better results on glassware.

That leaves brand leaders Finish, which has released **Max-in-1** and **All-in-1** Powerball tablets. The Max-in-1 is the best combination tablet we've ever tested, scoring 84 per cent, and giving outstanding



cleaning results. Glassware was left sparkling and spot-free. It's also even more convenient, as there's no need to unwrap the tablets – the special coating dissolves in the machine.

All-in-1 replaces 3-in-1 in the Finish range and also scored well (78 per cent), but we found it wasn't quite as good in some areas, such as tea stains. There are other great products out there – see our main test in March 2008 (p70) for



cheaper alternatives, and be sure to check out our tests at www.which.co.uk/dishwasherdetergents for detailed results.

Finish Max-in-1 costs £6.99 for 28 tablets. Finish All-in-1 costs £5.99 for 28 tablets. Both available in regular and lemon fragrances.

VERDICT Two new sparkling Best Buys for Finish. We'll keep you updated on the elusive Fairy.

Future is scrubbing up bright for home laundry

Whirlpool: full steam ahead on cleaning

WASHING MACHINE

The laundry world isn't awash with steam functions yet, but Whirlpool's AWO/D AS128 AquaSteam washing machine is a great ambassador and a worthy Best Buy before we even start on the steam settings. It cleans well on its main 40°C cotton wash and is outstanding on the easy-care program. But, like many other Best Buys, it's not great at rinsing and the 40°C cotton program time exceeds two hours.

The 8kg drum means you can wash lots of clothes in one go, with energy and water usage low with a full load, making it a good family machine. It has three additional steam functions, including a steam stain-removal option that impressed our testers. It uses marginally more energy and less water for a full load than the normal 40°C cotton wash, but we saw improved cleaning with no increase in washing time.

VERDICT This £480 Whirlpool is proving that steam power is a success. It's great at cleaning and better with the steam stain-removal setting. See www.which.co.uk/washingmachines for more details.



26%

of UK homes have
a food processor

MINTEL

11%

of British adults have bought a
digital camera in the past 12 months

TGI

New snappers aim to make perfect photos easier for everyone

Digital camera focus



Sony's Cyber-shot DSC-T2 and the Canon PowerShot SX100 IS

DIGITAL COMPACT CAMERAS

New digital compact cameras are adding features designed to help novices take great snaps. We looked at new offerings to discover if they're picture-perfect additions.

Sony's 'Smile Shutter' function can spot when someone is smiling and fire off a shot automatically. Available on some of Sony's T-series cameras, it mostly worked fine, but we discovered that it missed the odd grin if it wasn't obvious. Other makers, such as Olympus, Nikon and GE, have similar offerings.

We tried the Smile Shutter on the £230 Sony Cyber-shot DSC-T2, a pocket-sized camera. It houses 4GB of internal memory that almost does away with the need to use separate memory cards – though it also works with Memory Stick Duo cards. However, pictures must be stored on the internal memory before being transferred to a memory card. You can transfer photos to a PC with the USB cable. The T2's LCD doubles-up as a touchscreen, which is used to change some of the camera's settings. Overall, the T2 scores 64 per cent.

Our top-scoring camera of the month is the Canon PowerShot SX100 IS (£230), earning a 75 per cent rating. It boasts eight megapixels and a 36–360mm zoom in its large body. We were impressed with the quality of images it can produce, making it one of the best in its class. Photos are sharp, colour reproduction is good, it performs better than average in low light, and it captures video well. It's also quick to start and takes continuous pictures quickly. The menu operation is fiddly, though.

DIGITAL CAMERA CORRECTION

In the March 2008 digital cameras report, p58, some cameras' picture-quality ratings and total scores were incorrect. All Best Buys in the March report are still Best Buys. The correct scores appear in the table, below.

MODEL	PICTURE QUALITY	SCORE %
1 CANON PowerShot S5IS	★★★★★	77
2 CANON PowerShot G9	★★★★★	74
3 PANASONIC Lumix DMC-FZ18	★★★★★	74
4 CANON PowerShot A650 IS	★★★★★	72
5 FUJIFILM FinePix S8000fd	★★★★★	68
6 CANON Digital Ixus 960 IS	★★★★	67
7 CANON PowerShot A720 IS	★★★★★	67
8 SAMSUNG Digimax S1050	★★★★★	66
9 NIKON Coolpix P5100	★★★★	65
10 SONY Cyber-Shot DSC-S800	★★★★	61
11 FUJIFILM FinePix A900	★★★★	58
12 HP Photosmart R937	★★★★	58
13 KODAK EasyShare Z1275	★★★★★	57
14 SONY Cyber-Shot DSC-H3	★★★★	57
15 KODAK EasyShare C613	★★★★	54
16 KODAK EasyShare Z885	★★★★★	52
17 HP Photosmart Mz67	★★★★★	46
18 KODAK EasyShare Z712IS	★★★★★	46

Just out

Daisy Cool smoothie maker VBL012 £29.99

This funky, cow-print Daisy Cool smoothie maker from Breville aims to put the fun into helping kids get their five a day. It comes with an individual cup that's freezable, so their favourite smoothie can be made and taken with them while they're on the moo-ve. Available from Argos.



Gillette Venus Breeze £7.99

The new Gillette 2-in-1 Venus Breeze razor has built-in flexible shave-gel bars either side of the blades that remove the need for shaving cream or soap. It will sell alongside the Gillette Venus Divine, a Best Buy from January 2007. Four-pack blade cartridges cost £8.99. Available at major retailers.



Intempo Daisy £150

The Intempo Daisy lays claim to being the world's first portable low-power internet radio. Intempo says its rechargeable battery lasts for 20 hours, during which you'll be able to listen to more than 6,000 internet radio stations. There's an FM option if you lack an internet connection. Available from www.intempodigital.com



Canon HF10 high-definition camcorder £999

The 380g Canon HF10 is the latest high-definition camcorder from Canon. The compact camcorder has a 12x optical-zoom lens and 16GB internal flash memory, or you can record to SD or SDHC card. It is widely available.

