## [testing, testing]



## PRODUCT NEWS

Save the planet (and a bit of money) with a flushcontrolling gadget



HOME CINEMA

Following our TV projector article in July, here's how to create cinema sound at home



Get the day off to an ideal start with an espresso from one of our new Best Buys



Does your salad develop ice crystals in the fridge? If so, switch to a Best Buy



We've tested more than 70 standard and video phones to find the canniest choices



The price of the flashiest digital cameras is tumbling so it's a good time to buy one



## **COFFEE MAKERS**

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We're no strangers to the delights of the odd cup of Java. But, to test coffee makers, you can't get by on caffeine-wired enthusiasm alone. When we need some tasting done, we call in the experts – people with trained, reliable palates. In this instance, that meant Giles Hilton, the chief buyer for coffee-merchant Whittard.

The corridors of Which? HQ were filled with delightful coffee smells as Giles downed more than 30 espressos, each made with exactly the same blend of Santos Brazil and Java Indonesian grounds. He was looking for coffee that smelt rich and full, with hints of chocolate and nuttiness. The best coffee makers produce espressos that combine sweet and acidic flavours with a fresh and clean feel; and they have a lasting, thick and golden froth.

But if you're thinking we've come over a bit Jilly Goulden, think again. All our experts taste 'blind' – Giles didn't see the coffee being made so he couldn't be influenced by the brand of coffee maker. And each of the categories you'll see in our ratings – looks, taste and smell – are marked in several parts. For example, 'taste' includes how it feels in the mouth, acidity, sweetness and how well the machine draws out the flavour in the coffee's essential oils.

It's all a lot of work, but that magic kick from the Best Buys' espressos just about saw us through.

## FOR STOCKISTS OF ALL THE PRODUCTS TESTED, SEE CONTACTS, p56 >>>