

[testing, testing]



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Our listening panel spots flaws in a hotly tipped new gadget



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80 models, all put through our detailed test programme



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They're notoriously complicated but we've found the easiest one



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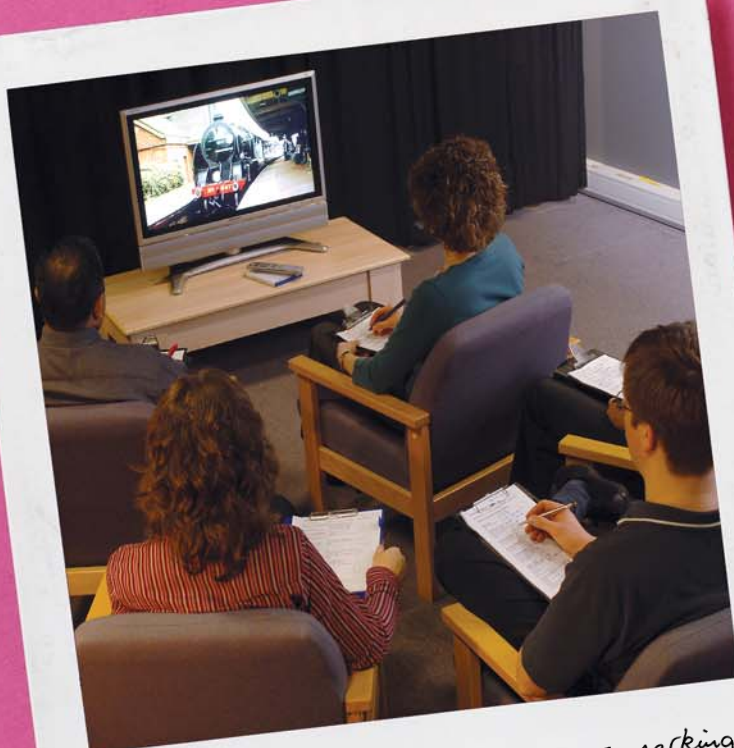
Our feature-packed Best Buys make digital TV easier



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PVRs

The best way to record TV – we take you through the options



Our expert listeners and viewers marking sound quality during the DVD-players test

DVD PLAYERS

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You're put in a soundproofed room with four other experts. There's no conferring allowed. No one tells you what you're listening to or watching. And if you try to fake your answers, you're thrown out and never asked back.

Actually, our listening and viewing tests are more fun than that sounds – but we are strict about getting it right. They take place in a room that's purpose-built to reflect a specific amount of sound. The panellists are experts on sound reproduction. We mask brand names so that no one knows what they're rating. And we sneak in the same products twice; anyone who doesn't give the same answers is out on their wooden ear.

For our DVD players article, the testers sat through busy scenes from *Chicago*, weighed up the naturalness of speech in *The Talented Mr Ripley*, judged the impact of sound effects in *Toy Story 2* and did a lot more besides. All told, they've notched up 150 hours of viewing and listening for this issue – enough to send the sanest person to a soundproofed room, accompanied by experts.