

Sandwich makers

NEED TO KNOW

Sandwich toasters all have essentially the same design - two non-stick plates that make sealed toasties. They can be stored flat or on their end for tidying away easily.

Panini presses are generally bigger and heavier than sandwich toasters, so they aren't quite as easy to tidy away. They have two large plates that press and heat your sandwiches but don't seal them. The ones we tested don't get food as hot as those in professional coffee shops: most just melt cheese or warm food up and can be used only with pre-cooked fillings.

Don't use low-fat spread as it may burn and ruin non-stick surfaces - for the best results use butter or sunflower or vegetable oil.

Allow about half an hour for sandwich makers to cool down after use before putting them away.

OTHER USES

If you want something more than just a toasted sandwich, the Krups and DeLonghi panini presses and Morphy Richards sandwich toaster can cook meat, fish and vegetables as well. We cooked a chicken breast in each with great results - the chicken was golden brown outside and moist inside.

You can use pastry or filo pastry in your sandwich toaster to make pasties, or for a sweet treat try brioche or fruit loaf with sweet fillings such as fruit and jam (but watch out, as the fillings get very hot).



BEST BUYS

All our Best Buy sandwich makers make good sandwiches and are easy to use and clean.

PANINI PRESSES

The **Russell Hobbs (1)**, £60 from Comet, Currys and John Lewis, makes excellent sandwiches - crisp, golden brown and cooked through. The filling stays in place and it's a breeze to use, and the flat plates and glass top mean you can wipe it clean in no time. However, it's the biggest and heaviest on test, can only be stored flat and doesn't have a cord tidy. On the other hand, its size means it can make three or four sandwiches at a time, so you can make lunch for several people at once.

The **Breville (2)**, £30 from Argos and Comet, **Cordon Bleu (3)**, £25 from Argos, and **Kenwood (6)**, £40 from John Lewis, all make good sandwiches, though the filling of paninis cooked in the Breville and Cordon Bleu presses could be hotter. The toasting plates are easy to

ADJUSTABLE PLATES

All the panini makers allow you to adjust the height of the top toasting plate so that it sits above your sandwich rather than pressing down while toasting. This means you can grill 'melts' or open sandwiches.

The adjustable plates mean that as well as using normal sliced bread and panini rolls, you can experiment with ciabatta, focaccia, crêpes, tortillas, pittas or naan bread.

clean (the Kenwood has ridged plates, the other two flat plates) but, as with all stainless steel models, the exterior requires buffing to remove fingerprints. All are easy to store and have a cord tidy.

The **Krups (4)**, £50 from John Lewis, can cook meat and vegetables as well as paninis and toasted sandwiches. Our chicken breast was cooked throughout but was a bit over-crisp on the outside. There's

1 Russell Hobbs PANINI PRESS



nowhere for fat to drain off, so if you cook really fatty meats, it may be more like frying than grilling, as oil stays on the plates while you're cooking. It's easy to clean and store.

The **Bush (5)**, £20 from Currys, is a cheaper and smaller option that can toast only one panini at a time. It makes crispy sandwiches, although they could be a bit hotter in the middle, and it's a breeze to use.

The only panini press we tested that isn't a Best Buy, the DeLonghi (17), takes the longest time to toast a panini and the lid pushes the top of the sandwich off, making a mess before you've started.

SANDWICH TOASTERS

Like all sandwich toasters on test, the **Breville (8)**, £15 from John Lewis, makes evenly browned toasties with well-sealed edges. It's the



CLEANING

With their non-stick coating, toasting plates are generally easy to clean. Some models, such as the Breville (14), have removable plates (above), but grease and filling can leak under the plates, so you'll still have to clean around the heating elements.

This Breville doesn't have any exposed hinges or screws (below), making it the easiest sandwich toaster to clean. Don't use steel wool, scouring pads or abrasive cleaners. After unplugging it, a wipe with a damp cloth and soapy water should be enough inside and out. For particularly stubborn stains, brush cooking oil on the plates, leave for five minutes and then wipe clean.



**BEST
ON
TEST**



**8 Breville
SANDWICH
TOASTER**



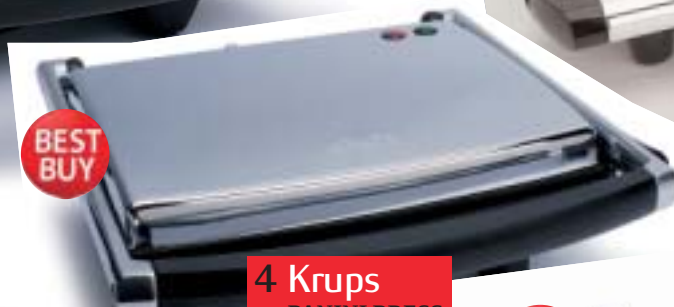
**BEST
BUY**

**2 Breville
PANINI PRESS**



**BEST
BUY**

**3 Cordon Bleu
PANINI PRESS**



**BEST
BUY**

**4 Krups
PANINI PRESS**



**BEST
BUY**

**6 Kenwood
PANINI PRESS**



**BEST
BUY**

**5 Bush
PANINI PRESS**

SANDWICH MAKERS

quickest sandwich toaster on test, and is by far the easiest to clean, with a flat area of non-stick coating covering the hinge and no exposed screws to dig filling out of. It can be stored flat or on its end and is the only sandwich toaster with a cord tidy.

Both the **Russell Hobbs (9)**, £16 from Comet, and **Bush (10)**, £13 from Argos Extra stores, make good, golden-brown, evenly cooked toasted sandwiches. However, both could be easier to clean: leaked filling is difficult to remove from the hinges of the Russell Hobbs, and grease gets under the removable plates of the Bush. They are smaller and lighter than the Breville and easy to use and store away.

OTHER OPTIONS

Although not Best Buys, the Cookworks (11), £6 from Argos, and Hinari (12), £8 (contact Hinari for stockists), are both bargains, making decent sandwiches for less than a tenner, although toasting in the Cookworks takes a couple of minutes longer. You'll need a bit of elbow grease to clean them.



The Cookworks is easy to wipe clean outside but the hinges and cable are difficult to clean if filling leaks. The Hinari's hinges can also be tricky to clean and the stainless steel finish requires buffing to remove fingerprints and streaks. Both are easy to use and store away.

If you want more than just toasted sandwiches, the Morphy Richards (13), £20 from Comet and Currys, can also grill meat, fish and vegetables. It comes with

two sets of removable plates – one conventional set for sandwich making and one ridged set for grilling. Unlike the Krups panini press, it has a drip tray, which you use with the grill plates to catch fat as it drains off. The Morphy Richards cooked a chicken breast to perfection in under ten minutes. It makes decent sandwiches too, although it takes nearly twice as long as our Best Buy Breville (8). If you're after versatility, this one is worth considering.

KEY



SCORE

Ignores price and is based on:
Cleaning 50%
Sandwich results 20%
Using 20%
Time 10%

TABLE NOTES

We tested best-selling models from leading brands.

Specification

Price Lowest widely available.

Capacity The number of sandwiches or paninis you can toast at once.

Performance

Sandwich How well the sandwich is cooked through, whether the filling stays put and how evenly the bread crisps and browns. For sandwich toasters, this rating also takes into account how well the edges are sealed. **Time** The average time taken, based on three toasting with cheese filling and three with beans.

Ease of use

Using How easy it is to load and unload sandwiches and understand the indicator lights and locking mechanisms.

Storage Based on size, whether it can be stored on its side and whether it has a cord tidy.

Sandwich makers

PANINI PRESSES

	Price (£)	Size hxxwxd (cm)	Weight (g)	Capacity	Removable plates	Cord tidy	Sandwich	Time (min:sec)	Using	Cleaning	Storage	Score (%)
1 Russell Hobbs 10810	60	12x36x36	6.0	3			★	3:15	★	★	●	81
2 Breville TR40 Café	30	11x35x30	3.2	2		✓	☆	4:05	★	★	☆	79
3 Cordon Bleu 12294	25	10x36x36	3.3	3		✓	★	4:50	★	★	○	79
4 Krups FDE331	50	11x33x35	4.3	3		✓	★	3:10	★	☆	○	79
5 Bush TSG160SIL	20	9x29x24	2.1	1		✓	☆	4:20	★	★	☆	78
6 Kenwood SM606	40	11x34x38	4.3	3		✓	★	4:30	★	☆	○	77
7 DeLonghi WR25	40	12x26x24	2.3	1	✓		☆	5:20	☆	☆	○	69

SANDWICH TOASTERS

	Price (£)	Size hxxwxd (cm)	Weight (g)	Capacity	Removable plates	Cord tidy	Sandwich	Time (min:sec)	Using	Cleaning	Storage	Score (%)
8 Breville TR30	15	12x26x26	2.4	2		✓	○	4:22	☆	☆	☆	74
9 Russell Hobbs 9255	16	11x24x23	1.9	2			☆	4:30	☆	○	☆	64
10 Bush TS281	13	10x25x25	1.8	2	✓		○	4:56	☆	○	☆	62
11 Cookworks HD 603	6	11x24x23	1.7	2			○	6:29	☆	○	☆	59
12 Hinari SW190CH	8	12x23x25	1.9	2			☆	4:36	☆	○	☆	58
13 Morphy Richards 44701	20	11x25x26	2.3	2	✓		☆	8:37	☆	○	○	53
14 Breville TR46 Easy Clean	20	12x26x23	2.0	2	✓		☆	7:35	☆	●	☆	48
15 Inspirations 11796	8	10x24x23	1.4	2			○	7:07	☆	●	☆	40