



Visioneer OneTouch 8700 USB

Flatbed scanner



The sub-£100 scanner market is highly competitive and many new manufacturers are entering the fray to get a piece of this lucrative business. The response from Visioneer has been to pursue an aggressive pricing policy to stay on top. Visioneer's latest volley is the OneTouch 8700 USB.

The optical resolution is a remarkable 1,200x4,800dpi (dots per inch). Couple this with 48bit colour depth and you get crystal-clear quality across all scan jobs and speedy delivery as well. Our only word of warning regards file size. An A4 file scanned at the highest resolution takes up 1.5GB, so you need lots of storage space.

If you're opting for style, the 8700 can't beat the ultra-slim range from Canon. The landscape shape of this model makes it easier to house than the more common

portrait scanners, and its black case is attractive. However, the OneTouch is still a bulky device. The case does feature hot-key scanning, which means images are easily transferred to the bundled software, and should you need a transparency adapter there's also an optional upgrade.

Visioneer has made the OneTouch both consumer friendly and manually configurable, pleasing both novice and advanced users. You can stick with simple one-touch scanning or opt for detailed gamma and colour correction. The advanced settings require some patience, but novices can always turn to the manual for advice. Fortunately, the huge software bundle comes with an excellent scan manager to make it easy to use.

Verdict It's a shame Visioneer has dropped the OneTouch's two-year warranty to one-year, but that isn't enough to



prevent the 8700 grabbing the top spot in our Top 10 Flatbed scanners chart (see page 148). The 8700 USB is brilliant value for money and produces great results – just make sure you've got a PC powerful enough and with enough memory to cope with the high resolutions it can produce. ■

Spencer Dalziel

Visioneer OneTouch 8700 USB TOP 10

Specifications: optical res 1,200x4,800dpi; 4,800dpi enhanced res; USB; Windows 98/2000/Me/XP; A4 scanning area; 48bit true colour depth; 427x297x94mm; 2.8kg.

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Website: www.visioneer-europe.com

Price: £82.50

Build quality	7
Features	8
Value for money	9