



## TOP 10 Flatbed scanners

Details	Last month's position	Last review	Price (ex VAT)	Warranty	Dimensions (width x depth x height)	Weight	Interface connection	Optical resolution	Software interpolated resolution
<b>1</b> Visioneer OneTouch 5600 USB 01483 445 480 www.visioneer.com	NEW	Jun 01	£60	2-year	450x290x86mm	2.7kg	USB	600x1,200dpi	2,400x2,400dpi
<b>2</b> Microtek ScanMaker 4600 01908 317 797 www.microtekeurope.com	1	May 01	£102	2-year	290x510x117mm	3.6kg	USB	1,200x2,400dpi	9,600x9,600dpi
<b>3</b> Umax AstraNET iA 101 0870 906 4400 www.umax.co.uk	2	Jan 01	£74	1-year	295x460x80mm	2.6kg	USB	600x1,200dpi	9,600x9,600dpi
<b>4</b> Agfa SnapScan e20 020 8231 4903 www.agfa.co.uk	3	Feb 01	£79	1-year	275x70x423mm	2.5kg	USB	600x1,200dpi	4,600x4,600dpi
<b>5</b> Microtek ScanMaker X12USL 01908 317 797 www.microtekeurope.com	4	July 00	£199	2-year	300x520x85mm	5.5kg	SCSI or USB	1,200x2,400dpi	9,600x9,600dpi
<b>6</b> Acer Scan Prisa 1240UT 0870 129 3000 www.acercm.co.uk	5	Sept 00	£169	1-year	304x460x106mm	4.3kg	USB	1,200x2,400dpi	19,200x19,200dpi
<b>7</b> Canon CanoScan FB1210U 0121 680 8062 www.canon.co.uk	6	Sept 00	£172	1-year	286x461x93mm	3.8kg	USB	1,200x2,400dpi	9,600x9,600dpi
<b>8</b> HP ScanJet 5300C 0870 547 4747 www.scanjet.hp.com	7	Sept 00	£107	1-year	302x505x105mm	3.7kg	parallel or USB	1,200x2,400dpi	9,600x9,600dpi
<b>9</b> Epson 1640SU Office 0800 220 546 www.epson.co.uk	8	Feb 01	£306	1-year	289x442x96mm	4.5kg	SCSI or USB	1,600x3,200dpi	12,800x12,800dpi
<b>10</b> Agfa SnapScan e40 020 8231 4903 www.agfa.co.uk	9	Sept 00	£149	1-year	305x477x95mm	3.9kg	USB	1,200x2,400dpi	9,600x9,600dpi

### 1 Visioneer OneTouch 5600 USB

Visioneer is beginning to attack the standalone scanner market, after previously specialising in bundling deals. The company's scanners have not frequented our Top 10 charts before, for that reason, but now its One Touch 5600 USB has entered with a bang.

The 5600's standard scan quality of 600x1,200dpi (dots per inch) can be improved by interpolating the resolution to 2,400dpi which, while a surprisingly low figure in these days of over-inflated specifications, is more than enough for most people's purposes. Besides, a £60 scanner isn't designed to appeal to demanding professionals.

The 5600 comes with the PaperPort application and provides one-touch operation: forget about adjusting the right settings and let the scanner decide for you. Used in this way,

the 5600 takes just under 50 seconds to zip through an A4 scan at 300dpi; and a 5x7in photograph is captured in less than half a minute.

Like most Visioneer scanners the OneTouch 5600 is a competent operator with little to criticise – and at this price it's the obvious choice for Best Buy.



NEW

### 2 Microtek ScanMaker 4600

With two entries, Microtek is beginning to dominate our Top 10 Flatbed scanners chart. However, the 4600 just couldn't match the new Visioneer scanner on value for money. This ScanMaker doesn't have the turn of speed of its SCSI-enabled stable mate, but it does offer the simplicity of USB, making installation straightforward.

On the front of the unit there are three hotkeys, bypassing the need to select the appropriate function from the multitude of software. It's great to have a comprehensive bundle that covers nearly all scanning requirements, but it does make use a little bit more difficult for the uninitiated.

At this price level, great quality means sacrificing speed. It's fine on scans at 300dpi, but an increase to 600dpi sees the ScanMaker 4600 slow quite considerably. We felt the pay off for quality was worth it because the results were impressive – producing vibrant and detailed scans. It took 30 minutes to scan in a colour photo on the highest setting. That may seem a lot, but it is unlikely that you'll use the highest setting that often and we have seen slower models.

