



SCANNER

## Visioneer OneTouch 8700 USB

**PRICE** £100 **EX VAT** £85 **SUPPLIER** Visioneer  
**PHONE** 01483 445 480 **WWW** www.visioneer-europe.com

The OneTouch 8700 USB promises high image quality, speed and simplicity

**S**tylish and attractive aren't terms that you normally associate with a scanner, but the Visioneer OneTouch 8700 is a surprising exception. The black casing helps it look eye-catching, without being tacky, and the large buttons add just the right amount of colour.

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**System requirements**  
 Pentium processor or equivalent, 64MB RAM, Win98 or later, 160MB disk space, USB port  
**Tested on**  
 AMD Athlon 1.2GHz, 256MB RAM, 40GB hard drive, WinMe

Beneath the good looks lies a more-than-adequate specification, with the scanner capable of a maximum 1,200 x 4,800dpi resolution, at a colour depth of up to 48-bits. The TWAIN driver can return images using the full colour depth, too, if you're using a graphics package that can handle it.

### Installation

Installation proved trouble-free, as you'd expect from a USB device (the 8700 has no parallel port option). Starting to use the scanner, however, revealed that the Visioneer TWAIN drivers have undergone a major facelift. Is this a good thing? Experienced users will appreciate the variety of image tweaks: sharpen and blur filters; descreening; brightness and contrast adjustment; gamma, saturation and colour hue tweaks; auto-trim and rotating of scans.

Beginners, however, may be baffled by the presentation. There's no simple or advanced mode with the 8700 – everyone gets to see all the options; the drivers make no serious attempt to analyse the document for you and automatically set things up; and the unintuitive way your settings are presented is another big minus.

### Performance tests

The 8700 zipped through a 100dpi A4 scan in a speedy 12 seconds, while a 300dpi 6 x 4-inch photo took 16 seconds

to appear, making this one of the fastest scanners around. Images are sharp with minimal loss of detail and have bright, accurate colours.

The Control Panel is another bonus. Once you've set it up, you can send a scan directly to your printer, fax software, email program or OCR application (TextBridge is included) just by pressing a single button on the scanner. And, unusually, each button includes some text to describe its function.

Overall, the complex drivers have a poorly designed interface, and are not easy to use. If you're willing to spend time learning how to use the 8700, though (or know plenty about scanning), you'll find it offers more features, power and performance than any of its competitors.

**Mike Williams**

### PCPlus Verdict

#### VISIONEER ONETOUCH 8700 USB

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>FOR</b> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>AGAINST</b> |
| → Fast, sharp images                           | → Poor driver design                               |
| → Lots of features                             |  |
| → Simple control panel                         |  |
| → Attractive looks                             |  |

<b>Specification</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Quality</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>Performance</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>Value for money</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>OVERALL</b> .....	<b>8/10</b>