

Choosing a... Display

01 A basic 24in LCD monitor costs around £100. It will be fine for typical Windows work but is likely to have poor viewing angles, so you'll need to sit straight on for the best picture quality. Its colour accuracy may not be very good, either.

02 A VGA input lets you use the monitor with any PC, but the quality may not be as good as it is over DVI or HDMI. Both are digital connections and require a compatible graphics card but they avoid the need for digital-to-analogue or analogue-to-digital conversions, which can reduce image quality. A digital connection achieves the best picture automatically, so you won't have to adjust clock or phase settings as you do with analogue connections.

Many DVI and all HDMI connections support HDCP, which lets you watch protected video content, such as Blu-ray movies. DisplayPort is becoming more popular, but you'll need a graphics card with a DisplayPort output (mini or full-size) to use this input on your monitor.

03 A larger monitor will be easier on the eye and may have a higher resolution. Most monitors have a resolution of at least 1,920x1,080 (1080p), which provides lots of room for working with multiple windows at the same time. For even higher resolutions, you'll need a larger display. Some 27in and 30in screens have 2,560x1,600 or even 4K resolutions. You'll need a graphics card with a dual-link DVI output and a dual-link DVI

cable or either HDMI or DisplayPort to use a monitor at these resolutions.

04 If you want better picture quality, look for a monitor with a high contrast ratio. The higher the ratio, the whiter the whites and the blacker the blacks. You'll also be able to see more fine detail in images with high contrast levels. Viewing angles are important, as wider angles mean you don't have to sit directly in front of the monitor to get the best picture. Wider viewing angles also allow more people to view the screen at the same time.

Fast response times reduce ghosting, but don't be dazzled by the numbers. A response time of 25ms or quicker is fine for all applications.

DISPLAYS

AOC G2460VQ6

★★★★★

£108 • cpc.farnell.com

COMPUTER SHOPPER
RECOMMENDED

Once you switch it to sRGB mode, this is one very good low-cost gaming monitor. Its 75Hz refresh rate means you'll benefit from higher frame rates more effectively than on a standard 60Hz screen.



SCREEN SIZE 24in • RESOLUTION 1,920x1,080 • SCREEN TECHNOLOGY TN • VIDEO INPUTS VGA, HDMI, DisplayPort • WARRANTY Three years collect and return • DETAILS eu.aoc.com • PART CODE G2460VQ6 • FULL REVIEW Jul 2018

IYAMA G-Master Black Hawk G2530HSU-B1

★★★★★

£124 • www.box.co.uk

COMPUTER SHOPPER
RECOMMENDED

A fine alternative monitor to the AOC G2460VQ6, also with a 75Hz refresh rate as well as FreeSync support for tear-free gaming on AMD graphics cards. The slim-bezel design is good for the money, too.



SCREEN SIZE 24in • RESOLUTION 1,920x1,080 • SCREEN TECHNOLOGY TN • VIDEO INPUTS HDMI, DisplayPort, VGA • WARRANTY Two years onsite • DETAILS www.iyama.com • PART CODE G2530HSU-B1 • FULL REVIEW Mar 2019

ASUS ROG Swift PG27UQ

★★★★★

£2,093 • www.amzn.to/2Po71NO

COMPUTER SHOPPER
RECOMMENDED

We're finally starting to see 4K monitors with 144Hz refresh rates, perfect for the most luxurious PC systems. The ROG Swift PG27UQ's real killer feature, however, is true HDR with TV-quality FALD backlighting.



SCREEN SIZE 27in • RESOLUTION 3,840x2,160 • SCREEN TECHNOLOGY IPS • VIDEO INPUTS VGA, HDMI, DisplayPort • WARRANTY Three years RTB • DETAILS www.asus.com • PART CODE PG27UQ • FULL REVIEW Jan 2019

AOC Q3279VWF

★★★★★

£210 • www.amzn.to/2BjxUGC

COMPUTER SHOPPER
BEST BUY

We never thought you could get so much monitor for this little cash: a vast 31.5in MVA panel, with Quad HD resolution, good colour accuracy and high contrast. That's not to mention its 75Hz refresh rate and AMD FreeSync support.



SCREEN SIZE 31.5in • RESOLUTION 2,560x1,440 • SCREEN TECHNOLOGY MVA • REFRESH RATE 75Hz • VIDEO INPUTS HDMI, DisplayPort, VGA • WARRANTY Three years collect and return • DETAILS aoc-europe.com • FULL REVIEW Mar 2018

PHILIPS Brilliance 241B7QPJKEB

★★★★★

£182 • www.uk.insight.com

COMPUTER SHOPPER
BEST BUY

IPS monitors generally look great, but it's hard to find one at a low price. Enter the Brilliance 241B7QPJKEB: a colour-accurate IPS display for well under £200. It's well designed, too, with a collapsible webcam and a greatly adjustable stand.



SCREEN SIZE 24in • RESOLUTION 1,920x1,080 • SCREEN TECHNOLOGY IPS • REFRESH RATE 60Hz • VIDEO INPUTS HDMI, DisplayPort, VGA • WARRANTY Three years RTB • DETAILS www.philips.co.uk • FULL REVIEW Jun 2018

SAMSUNG C34F791

★★★★★

£668 • www.amzn.to/2n1Nb9V

COMPUTER SHOPPER
BEST BUY

With its Quantum Dot display, the C34F791 can achieve pristine colour coverage and superb accuracy. Its Ultra HD resolution and 34in curved screen make it ideal for multitasking, but a 100Hz refresh rate and AMD FreeSync support ensure it's even better for 4K gaming.



SCREEN SIZE 34in • RESOLUTION 3,840x1,440 • SCREEN TECHNOLOGY VA • REFRESH RATE 100Hz • VIDEO INPUTS DisplayPort, HDMI • WARRANTY Two years RTB • DETAILS www.samsung.com/uk • FULL REVIEW Oct 2017