

GROUP TESTS

138 PCs from £700 to £1500

Find a Christmas cracker of a PC in our test. There's something for everyone, with games systems for £1500, mid-range home/office machines for £1000 and budget bargains for £700. Ajith Ram unwraps a dozen marvellous machines.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 141 Armari NBX-350 95 | 148 Mertec XM300-K2 |
| 141 Carrera Power Pro 2-450 | 148 Tiny Family Bonus |
| 143 Gateway G6-350 | 152 Dabs Direct Atlantis Home Value |
| 143 Mesh Elite Terminator 350 | 152 Elonex MLX-6333/1 |
| 146 Atlantic Pro 98 | 155 Linear Vantage XL |
| 146 Dan Xplora II Plus | 155 Roldec Puma |

184 Image editing

Top tips for better pics: fancy adding a moustache to Great Aunt Mildred's photo, or taking the red-eye off your seemingly demonic loved ones? Ken McMahon looks at ten of the best budget image editing packages, and in the complementary *Hands On Workshop* [p245], shows you how to use them.

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|--|---|
| 191 Adobe PhotoDeluxe 2 | 199 MGI PhotoSuite II |
| 192 Kai's SuperGoo | 199 Microsoft PictureIt! 2 |
| 192 Kai's Photo Soap | 201 Paint Shop Pro 5 |
| 194 LivePix 2.0 | 202 Prof. Franklin's Instant Photo Effects |
| 196 Metacreations Art Dabbler 2.0 | 202 Ulead Photo Express 2 |

208 Digital video

If you're a budding Tarantino, we have the best in digital camcorders and video capture cards. If you're a movie buff, we have the lowdown on DVD and home cinema. And if you want to keep in touch, we have the latest in videoconferencing.

DVD

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 213 Sony DDU220E | 213 Panasonic SR8582 |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|

Digital camcorders

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 216 Canon DM-MV1 | 218 Hitachi MP-EG1A |
| 216 Panasonic NV-DS77 | 218 Sony DCR-PC1 |
| 218 Sharp VL-PD1 | |

Video capture

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 225 ATi All-In-Wonder Pro | 228 Pinnacle miroVideo PCTV |
| 226 Hauppauge WinTV | 228 Pinnacle Studio 400 |
| 228 Matrox Marvel G200 | |

Videoconferencing

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 230 Intel ProShare Conferencing | 232 ViaTV Phone |
| 231 Kodak DVC3 23 | 232 Vtel SmartStation |
| 231 Pace Colour Video Camera PCI | |



Present and correct

Treat yourself to one of the top systems in our three-tier PC group test.

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Robert Llewellyn, the actor who plays Kryten in TV's *Red Dwarf*, tells Robert Juman Blincoe about his love of gadgets, his web site and his new book about a PCW reader.



Behind the mask: Robert Llewellyn talks techno

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128 Christmas team spirit

Everyone at PCW has a Christmas list as long as your arm, chock-a-block with state-of-the-art kit. Here are our stocking-filler suggestions for Santa.

166 European horizon

Sooner or later, trading in the euro is going to be an unavoidable reality. James Taylor looks at those accounting packages that are euro-ready and shows you how to prepare for monetary union.

175 Christmas quiz

Stuck for something to do after Christmas dinner? Then wrap your brain around these festive 50 techie teasers and you could win a Canon digital camera or a copy of Microsoft Encarta.



Do you recognise this grinning gecko?

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All-in-one PC and LCD.
- 80 Elonex MCX-6350**
Capable budget PC.
- 81 Gateway Solo 3100 FireAnt**
Another of those sexy subnotebooks.
- 84 Umax Actionbook 330T**
An entry-level notebook.
- 86 Sony Multiscan F500**
Gorgeous high-end monitor.
- 91 Nikon CoolScans**
A couple of top-notch film scanners.
- 92 Hewlett-Packard 1100A**
A printer and scanner in one.
- 96 Duplidisk RAID controller**
An EIDE RAID 1 controller.
- 99 Wacom Intuos**
A suite of new graphics tablets.
- 99 VideoLogic DVD Player**
Top-notch DVD hardware.
- 100 STB Velocity 4400**
Super-quick graphics card.
- 100 Hercules Terminator Beast**
Fast graphics on a budget.
- 103 Caligari trueSpace4**
3D design and rendering.
- 106 FileMaker Pro 4.1**
Powerful, easy-to-use database.
- 108 Nemesis Giga Sampler**
Amazing digital sampler package.
- 110 QuarterDeck CleanSweep Deluxe v4**
Keep that hard drive tidy.
- 112 MapInfo Professional**
For the cartographers amongst you.
- 114 PowerTranslator Pro**
Translate to and from English.
- 114 Leisure pack for Psion**
Relax with some silly games.

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Twelve months on, this PC continues to make the grade.
- 117 Mesh Elite Pegasus**
Still flying high.
- 119 Taxan CrystalVision 660**
Looks sharp six months on.
- 119 Viewsonic VP150 Viewpanel**
Flatpanel with bags of style.
- 121 VoiceType Simply Speaking**
Making it easy to speak your mind.

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