



Best xmas tech

APC's independent reviewers point to the best technologies in the top-selling product categories each month. We only change products when a better one comes along. What you see here is the best technology available on the market right now.

LOOK OUT FOR THESE

Products marked with this stamp are the latest additions to Best Tech.



Products marked with this stamp are our recommendations for the best Xmas gifts.



Movers & shakers












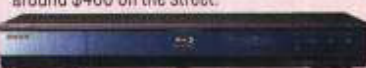





Ricoh GXR

Ricoh has recently released some stunning digital compact cameras. The GXR is the world's smallest camera with interchangeable lenses. The lens, image sensor and image processing

engine are integrated, so the body itself does not contain an image sensor. The main benefit of this design is that each lens is finely tuned to its respective sensor and image processing engine.

	NOTEWORTHY	BEST VALUE	BEST PERFORMER
GENERAL PC	<p>CPL Core i5 PC</p> <p>This machine carries a lot of hardware considering the price. Built around the new Core i5, has 4GB of RAM and a 1TB HDD.</p> <p>\$1,710 > CPL > cpl.net.au</p>	<p>Altech NRG Typhoon i5</p> <p>A Core i5 PC with the high-performance touch from Altech, plus ATI's brand new 5000-series graphics card that supports DirectX 11.</p> <p>\$2,439 > Altech > altech.com.au/nrg</p>	<p>Altech NRG Storm i7</p> <p>Not cheap, but with a Core i7 975 overclocked to 4.25GHz, this space shuttle booster will disorient you with the way it rips wait times to pieces.</p> <p>\$7,899 > Altech > altech.com.au/nrg</p>
PANEL PC	<p>Apple iMac 21.5-inch</p> <p>When it comes to all-in-one panel PCs, Apple's iMacs rule. This is the new "small" version with 21.5in LED 1920 x 1080 display.</p> <p>\$1,599 > Apple > apple.com.au</p>	<p>HP TouchSmart 300 & 600</p> <p>HP's Touchsmart all-in-one, touchscreen PCs run Win 7 and are the closest thing to the iMac in the PC World. The 300 is the affordable one.</p> <p>\$1,699 > HP > hp.com.au</p>	<p>Apple iMac 27-inch</p> <p>A stunning computer gets even better as Apple release the 27in iMac, complete with LED 2560 x 1440 display, as well as Core i5 CPU.</p> <p>\$2,599 > Apple > apple.com.au</p>
NAS HOME	<p>Linksys Media Hub NMH405</p> <p>Automatically scours your network to find the multimedia files on attached systems, then copies or references them and plays them.</p> <p>\$700 > Cisco > www.linksysbycisco.com</p>	<p>Iomega Home Media Network</p> <p>When nanna asks you what NAS she should buy, point her to this 1TB NAS designed to store and share images and multimedia across DLNA devices.</p> <p>\$429 > Iomega > www.iomega.com.au</p>	<p>My Book World Edition II</p> <p>The ultimate backup and media storage for PC/Mac. Up to 4TB with mirrored RAID 1 drives and media streamer and iTunes server.</p> <p>\$999.99 > WD > www.westerndigital.com</p>



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PHOTO FRAMES	<p>D-Link DSM-210</p> <p>25cm Wi-Fi photo frame that streams net content and can accept content via a "widget" located on the PC desktop.</p>  <p>\$499 > D-Link > www.dlink.com.au</p>	<p>Kodak P720 Touch Digital</p> <p>Kodak's entry-level photo frame, with a good quality 7in screen and the excellent Quick Touch Border which makes it really easy to navigate menus.</p>  <p>\$140 > Kodak > www.kodak.com</p>	<p>Samsung SPF-105V</p> <p>Almost like a mini-TV with an impressive monitor and able to play MP3s and video files, plus lots of slideshow effects.</p>  <p>\$399 > Samsung > www.samsung.com/au</p>
HDTV	<p>LG PS70</p> <p>Features in-built "Time Machine" DVR recording. For this model, the PS70, just add a hard disk.</p>  <p>\$3,299 for 50in > LG > au.lge.com</p>	<p>Panasonic TH-P42S10A 42</p> <p>Panasonic's plasmas are now great value. This one has a superb picture, uses half the power of traditional plasmas and is Full HD.</p>  <p>\$1,800 > Panasonic > www.panasonic.com</p>	<p>Samsung Series 9 46in</p> <p>The first HDTV range to offer live internet content through RSS feeds, plus sophisticated LED backlighting produces blacks to rival plasmas.</p>  <p>\$5,999 > Samsung > www.samsung.com.au</p>
TV TUNER	<p>Hauppauge MiniStick-HD</p> <p>The size of a small USB key, it's the smallest Freeview-tuned digital TV stick in Australia — great quality, cheap, and perfect for notebooks.</p>  <p>\$69 > Hauppauge > www.newmagic.com.au</p>	<p>Kworld DVB-T 395UR</p> <p>A basic HD tuner card that allows you to watch HD digital TV on your PC or notebook. It's not flash, but it works well, is portable and convenient.</p>  <p>\$79 > Kworld > www.kworld.com.tw</p>	<p>Hauppauge Nova TD</p> <p>The Nova TD USB stick has two HD tuners, is designed specifically for Freeview and comes with excellent drivers and software.</p>  <p>\$179 > Hauppauge > www.newmagic.com.au</p>
DISC PLAYERS	<p>Sony PlayStation 3 80GB</p> <p>Yes, it's a games console, but it also doubles as a Blu-ray player that's as good as any standalone devices on the market. It's the same price as some of the better ones, so do your sums.</p>  <p>\$699 > Sony > www.sony.com.au</p>	<p>Kogan Blu-ray Player</p> <p>Basic, affordable. Plays back good quality HD and upscales DVDs. Now supports BD-Live (Profile 2.0) which it can receive internet content and firmware upgrades. Good buy at \$249.</p>  <p>\$249 > Kogan > www.kogan.com.au</p>	<p>Sony BDPS350</p> <p>Superb HD playback quality and does great upscaling of DVDs to high definition. Unlike the \$1,799 Pioneer, available for around \$400 on the street.</p>  <p>\$400 > Sony > www.sony.com.au</p>
DVR	<p>FOXTEL iQ2</p> <p>If you watch pay TV, the FOXTEL iQ2 is a must. Records both standard and high-definition free-to-air TV to a spacious 320GB hard drive.</p>  <p>\$10 month > FOXTEL > www.foxtel.com.au</p>	<p>TiVoHD</p> <p>The TiVo's smart recording features (such as WishList) are the main reason you'd choose this DVR over the others, despite the fact that it won't record pay TV.</p>  <p>\$699 > TiVo > www.tivo.com.au</p>	<p>Panasonic DMR-BW500</p> <p>The ultimate high-definition DVR — can record two HD programs simultaneously to its 500GB hard disk or directly to Blu-ray media. A bucketload of connectors too.</p>  <p>\$2,199 > Panasonic > Panasonic.com.au</p>
ROUTER	<p>D-Link Xtreme N Duo DIR-855</p> <p>One of the fastest dual-band gigabit routers we've tested over short range, useful OLED display, and comes with great user documentation.</p>  <p>\$479.95 > D-Link > www.dlink.com.au</p>	<p>TP-Link TL WR941ND Wireless N</p> <p>A Draft 2.0 N router with MIMO, using three adjustable antennas for speeds of up to 200Mbit/s. Performance is decent and the documentation is good.</p>  <p>\$129 > TP-Link > www.anyware.com.au</p>	<p>Linksys Dual-N WRT610N</p> <p>It does dual-band Wireless N (5GHz and 2.4GHz), is one of the best performers in testing and looks great. Comes with Linksys' superb LELA network setup wizard.</p>  <p>\$290 > Linksys > linksys.com.au</p>