



Best of the year

Top
products
and
great
buys for
every
budget

550+

Busy this time of year? No kidding. So to save you time (and in some cases, money), we're showing you just the items at the top of our lists.

Here we have selected the best TVs, cameras, tablets, laptops, ranges, dishwashers, fitness equipment, and other products from a year's worth of testing.

We buy products, test them in our labs, and evaluate their performance so that you can get the most bang for

your buck. The result: Ratings for more than 3,550 products in total. The bill: about \$1.7 million for products and an additional \$2.5 million for autos.

We have more than 550 recommended items for you in almost two dozen categories. And because we know that cost is always important, we've arranged some products by price range in the middle of each page so that you can get find something for every budget. Happy shopping!

Refrigerators

WHAT'S NEW Mega fridges, including French-door models with 33 cubic feet of claimed storage. Refrigerator facades have also evolved, with enhanced dispensers that serve up hot water and seltzer, Wi-Fi-enabled screens, and hidden compartments that let you grab drinks, condiments, and more without accessing the main fridge.

SHOPPING TIP Width is important if the refrigerator will fill an existing opening, but you also need to factor in door swings relative to other appliances, walls, and other fixed objects.



KitchenAid KSF26C6X

Type	Brand & model	Price	Overall score
Side-by-sides	Samsung RS265TD[WP]	\$1,300	76
	KitchenAid KSF26C6X[YY]	1,950	75
	Bosch Linea 800 B22CS80SN[S]	2,700	74
	Maytag MSD2559XE[W]	1,250	73
	DCS RX215PJX1	2,500	73
French-door bottom-freezers	Samsung RF261BIAESR	2,100	84
	Kenmore Elite 72093	3,400	83
	Kenmore 7160[3]	1,700	83
	LG LFX33975ST	3,000	83
	Whirlpool Gold GX5FHTXV[Q]	1,700	82
	Samsung RFG298HD[RS] (Lowe's)	2,800	81
	LG LFC25776[SW]	1,750	81
	Samsung RF323TEDB[SR]	3,300	80
	LG LFX28979[ST]	2,850	79
	Samsung RF31FMESBSR	2,900	79
	Kenmore Elite 7103[2]	2,500	79
	LG LFX31925[ST]	3,200	79
	GE Café CFE29TSDSS	3,000	78
	Samsung RF261BEAE[SR]	2,100	78
	Kenmore 7201[2]	1,550	78
	LG LFC25765[ST]	1,900	78
	Kenmore Elite 7205[3]	3,200	78
LG LFX28978[SW]	2,700	78	
LG LFX25991[ST]	3,400	77	
Kenmore Elite 7230[3]	1,920	76	

Great buys \$50 and under



◀ The **Calphalon Simply Nonstick 10-inch Omelette Pan**, a \$40 CR Best Buy, beat out models from All-Clad, Le Creuset, and Rachael Ray. It is superb at evenly heating food, say, for an omelet or frittata, it's easy to clean, and it shrugged off our tough durability test in which steel wool is rubbed over a pan up to 2,000 times.

▶ **Google Chromecast**, \$35, is a pint-sized media player that packs a powerful Web wallop. Slip it into a TV's HDMI slot, power it up, connect it to your Wi-Fi network, and start streaming TV shows and movies from Netflix, YouTube videos, and more. You can also "cast" Internet content from a PC or Mac loaded with a Chrome browser to a TV. There's no remote—you use a laptop, smart phone, or tablet.



LG 60LA8600

LCD TVs

WHAT'S NEW All but the lowest-priced LCD sets now use LED backlights (so-called LED TVs), enabling slimmer designs and better energy efficiency. More models let you use a phone or tablet as a remote control and work with "second-screen apps" that enable you to send content from a smart phone or tablet to your TV screen.

SHOPPING TIP Viewing angle is still a challenge for LCD sets, so check out the screen from the side to see whether changes in picture quality—such as a shift in colors or a washed-out look—bother you.

Size	Brand & model	Price	Overall score
60-inch and larger	LG 60LA8600	\$2,300	75
	Samsung UN60F7500	2,200	72
	Sharp Aquos LC-60LE857U	2,000	72
	Samsung UN65F8000	3,000	70
	Panasonic Viera TC-L60DT60	2,400	69
	Sony Bravia KDL-60R550A	1,500	68
	Vizio M601d-A3R	1,400	67
	Sharp Aquos LC-70C7500U	2,200	65
55- to 59-inch	LG 55GA7900	1,500	74
	Samsung UN55ES8000	2,100	74
	Sony Bravia XBR-55X900A	4,000	74
	LG 55LA7400	1,500	74
	Samsung UN55ES6500	1,400	72
	Samsung UN55F7100	1,500	69
	Sony Bravia KDL-55W900A	2,300	69
	Samsung UN55F6400	1,300	67
46- to 52-inch	Toshiba 58L7350U	1,300	67
	JVC JLE55SP4000	1,100	66
	LG 47LA6900	1,050	71
	Samsung UN46ES6600	1,200	70

Type	Brand & model	Price	Overall score
Bottom-freezers	Whirlpool Gold GB2FHDWX[Q]	\$1,200	73
	Amana ABB2224WE[]	1,350	73
	Maytag MBF2258XE[W]	1,100	73
	Maytag MBF1958XE[W]	1,150	72
Top-freezers	GE Profile PTS22LHS[WW]	1,400	69
	Whirlpool WRT771REY[W]	1,100	67
	Haier HT21TS45SSW	900	65
	LG LTC22350[SW]	1,000	65
	Frigidaire Gallery FGHT2144K[F]	800	64
	Haier HT21TS77SP	700	63
	Haier HT18TS77SP	600	63
	Frigidaire LFHT2117L[W] (Lowe's)	700	62
	Kenmore 78892	700	62
	Maytag MITXEGMY[W]	770	62
	Kenmore 79433	1,400	62
Built-ins	Thermador Freedom Collection T36BB820SS	7,400	80
	Jenn-Air JS42PPDUB[SS]	7,200	80
	Bosch Integra 800 Series B36BT830NS	7,500	78
	Thermador Freedom Collection T36BT810NS	8,000	78
	Thermador KBUDT4265E[S]	8,750	77
	Sub-Zero BI42S[S]	8,000	76
	Miele KF1901Vi	7,200	76



SPOTLIGHT

The **Samsung RF31FMESBSR, \$2,900**, is the first four-door refrigerator to make our picks list, boasting superb temperature control and efficiency. Its temperature-controlled middle drawer can go from 29° F for meat to 42° F for party platters. This is also the first-ever fridge with a built-in sparkling water dispenser from SodaStream.



◀ You can get some very good wines for under \$10 a bottle. Our taste testers found chardonnays: **Charles Shaw, \$3**, from Trader Joe's, is very good, as are Whole Foods' **Trackers Crossing 365, \$7**, and Costco's **Kirkland Signature Sonoma, \$7**.

▶ The 12-cup **Mr. Coffee BVMC-SJX33GT, \$40**, delivers great value and an even better cup of joe. The automatic drip machine gets the water hot enough to bring out the coffee's full flavor, and we found it easy to set up, operate, and clean. Plus the spill-free carafe is helpful if you're a bit clumsy before that first morning cup.



▶ **Sennheiser's CX-215 earphones, \$40**, come in five fun, funky colors and have easily gripped, contoured shells. The overall sound quality is very good, and the in-ear design helps muffle outside noise.



Size	Brand & model	Price	Overall score
46- to 52-inch continued	Panasonic Viera TC-L47WT60	\$2,500	69
	Samsung UN46EH5300	650	68
	LG 47LA6200	800	68
	Sony Bravia KDL-47W802A	1,100	66
	Panasonic Viera TC-L50ET60	1,300	66
	Vizio E500d-A0	650	66
	Samsung UN46EH5000	600	65
	Toshiba 50L7300U	850	65
40- to 43-inch	LG 42GA6400	850	67
	Panasonic Viera TC-L42E60	600	66
	Samsung UN40F5500	530	65
	Sony Bravia KDL-40EX640	900	65
32-inch	Samsung UN32EH5000	300	66
	Samsung UN32F6300	600	65
29-inch and smaller	Samsung UN26EH4000	300	64
	Samsung UN29F4000	280	60
	Vizio E291i-A1	250	58
	LG 29LN4510	250	58
	Toshiba 29L1350U	200	58
	Philips 26PFL4907	300	56



SPOTLIGHT

UltraHD TVs such as this LED-lit LCD model have higher-resolution screens (3840x2160, so-called 4K) with four times as many pixels as 1080p sets. That enables them to show extremely detailed, lifelike images. The **Sony Bravia XBR-55X900A, \$4,000**, wowed us with its realistic picture. But UltraHD sets are pricey and there isn't much 4K content, so don't rush out to buy one yet.

Dishwashers

WHAT'S NEW Dedicated zones for power washing, visible cycle-status indicators (helpful as machines get extremely quiet), and innovative ways to adjust the upper rack for specially sized items. But overall washing still matters most among our top picks.

SHOPPING TIP Look for savings of up to \$200 at major retailers over the holidays. With brand-new models, prices usually drop six to eight weeks after they debut.

Brand & model	Price	Overall score
Kenmore Elite 12793	\$1,350	85
Kenmore Elite 12783	1,200	82
Bosch Ascenta SHX3AR7[5]UC	700	81
KitchenAid KDFE454CSS	1,500	81
Thermador Topaz Series DWHD640JFM	1,500	80
Bosch 800 Plus Series SHX7PT55UC	1,300	80
Bosch 500 Series SHP65T55UC	900	80
Miele Futura Dimension G5675SCSF	1,900	80
Bosch 300 Series DLX SHX53TL5UC	850	80
KitchenAid KUDE48FX[SS]	1,100	79
KitchenAid KUDE50FBSS	1,500	79
Bosch 800 Plus Series SHX9ER5[5]UC	1,800	79
Bosch 800 Series SHE68T55UC	950	79



SPOTLIGHT

Paying more for the **Kenmore Elite 12793, \$1,350**, gets top-notch washing, energy-efficient operation, and especially quiet cycles. You'll get loads of helpful features, including a soil sensor, an adjustable upper rack, and an industry-first motorized spray arm that reverses direction if a utensil falls through the racks and blocks the arm's rotation.

Great
buys
\$100 and
under

▼ Many hand vacs have a hard time keeping in the dirt and dust that they pick up, but not the **Shark Perfect Pet II SV780, \$80**. The 4-pound cordless unit offers impressive surface cleaning on carpets and even better performance on bare floors.



► The **Jacques' Choice** box of chocolates, **\$66**, from Jacques Torres, provides an excellent selection of small ultrasmooth pieces of milk, dark, and white chocolates. It contains 50 pieces, some of which have fillings that include tropical fruit, caramel, nut butter, and more.



Plasma TVs

WHAT'S NEW Plasma TVs continue to improve, even in areas in which they already excel, such as deep black levels. In larger sizes, most of our top-rated sets are plasmas. As with LCD sets, you can control many plasmas with a phone or tablet and view content from those screens.

SHOPPING TIP Looking for a low-priced 42- or 50-inch TV? Consider a 720p plasma set. At those sizes, it's hard to see the added detail of 1080p.

Size	Brand & model	Price	Overall score
60-inch and larger	Samsung PN64F5500	\$1,800	74
	Panasonic Viera TC-P65VT60	3,100	73
	Panasonic Viera TC-P60ZT60	3,300	73
	Samsung PN64F8500	2,900	73
	Panasonic Viera TC-P60ST60	1,500	72
	LG 60PH6700	1,050	72
	Samsung PN64E550	2,100	71
46- to 55-inch	Samsung PN60F5500	1,200	71
	Samsung PN51F8500	1,600	75
	Samsung PN51E490	720	72
	Panasonic Viera TC-P55ST60	1,350	72
	Panasonic Viera TC-P50S60	700	67
	LG 50PN6500	600	66
40- to 43-inch	Samsung PN51F5300	650	66
	Samsung PN43E450	420	68



Samsung PN51F8500

Microwave ovens

WHAT'S NEW Larger usable capacities and a wire rack for cooking two foods at the same time help get the job done faster. Over-the-range models can be vented to the outside but still won't match the smoke and fume-clearing ability of a capable range hood.

SHOPPING TIP Consider whether features, such as grilling, browning, and convection, are worth the extra money. Our tests have found that they generally can't compete with a range's broiler or an outdoor grill.



Sharp R-323TKC

Type	Brand & model	Price	Overall score
Mid-sized counter-top	Sharp R-323TKC	\$140	79
	Panasonic Genius Prestige NN-SD681S	180	72
	Kenmore 72123	150	72
Large counter-top	Jenn-Air JMC1150WS	700	77
	Whirlpool MT4155SP[B]	185	76
	Whirlpool Gold GT4175SP[B]	280	76
	Kenmore Elite 7915[9]	150	76
	GE Profile PEB2060DM[BB]	230	75
	Panasonic Inverter NN-H965BF	180	75
	Kenmore Elite 74223	200	75
Over-the-range	Panasonic Genius Prestige NN-SD297[SR]	430	73
	Samsung SMH1816S	320	72
	Samsung SMH2117[S]	500	71
	GE JVM1540DP[WW]	220	71
	Samsung SMH1713[S]	270	71



▲ Fight back itchy eyes and sore throats with the **Vicks V4500** tabletop humidifier, **\$70**. The quiet, filter-free device can humidify up to 420 square feet with ease, and it's effective at inhibiting bacterial growth, though as with all humidifiers, regular cleaning is required.



▶ With its rugged, weather-resistant case, the **Casio G'zOne Commando 4G LTE**, **\$100** (Verizon, with two-year contract), should survive anything nature (or your toddler) throws at it. It has a larger display and a better rear-facing camera than its predecessor. It also adds a front-facing camera, near-field communication (NFC) technology, global roaming, and 4G LTE.



SPOTLIGHT

OLED TVs combine the deep blacks, high contrast, and unlimited viewing angles of plasma TVs with the bright images, super-slim designs, and energy efficiency of LCD sets with LED backlights. The 55-inch **Samsung KN55S9C**, which has a curved screen, is the best TV we've ever seen. The downside: It costs **\$9,000**.



Hisense Pulse

Netgear TV Prime

Streaming media players

WHAT'S NEW Some models can connect you to content stored on your home network so that you can access your own videos, music, and photos, as well as TV shows and movies from streaming services such as Amazon and Netflix. Some new "stick"-style players, including the Google Chromecast (see page 16), resemble USB flash drives.

SHOPPING TIP WPS (Wi-Fi Protected Setup) lets you connect some players to your home network without manually entering a password.

Type	Brand & model	Price	Overall score
Advanced	Hisense Pulse	\$ 75	67
	Netgear TV Prime	100	67
Basic	Western Digital WD TV Play	60	68
	Roku 3	100	62
	Panasonic DMP-MST60	80	61

SPOTLIGHT

Apple TV, \$100, is a great media player for iTunes fans and for those with videos, music, and more stored on a Mac computer or in iCloud. This tiny device streams HBO Go, Hulu Plus, and Netflix, and lets you view whatever is on your iOS device on your TV. Not an Apple diehard? Try the models in our Ratings (at left).



Ranges

WHAT'S NEW Double-oven ranges, which let you cook multiple dishes at different temperatures, have become so common that they have their own category in our Ratings. Some versions feature a smaller top oven for daily dinners and a larger oven below for entertaining and holiday meals. Others have two same-sized ovens for households that do a lot of cooking on a regular basis. **SHOPPING TIP** If you're considering a double oven, borrow a roasting pan from the housewares aisle and place it in the lower compartment. Pretend it's holding a 26-pound turkey, then pull out the rack and lift the roaster from the oven. How's your back?

Type	Brand & model	Price	Overall score
30-inch electric smoothtop double ovens	GE Profile PS978STSS	\$2,800	86
	Maytag MET8885XS	1,700	83
	Frigidaire FGFE302TNF	1,400	82
	Frigidaire FGFE308TNF	1,800	81
	LG LDE3015ST	1,300	81
30-inch electric smoothtop single ovens	Kenmore 92163	1,550	87
	GE JB705STSS	1,000	86
	LG LRE3023S	1,000	86
	GE Café CS980SNSS	2,800	86
	LG LRE3025S	1,250	86
	GE PB920STSS	1,800	85
	Kenmore 92803	850	84
	Electrolux EW30EF65GW	2,200	83
	GE JB650DTWW	800	81
	LG LRE3012ST	850	81
30-inch electric coil	Kenmore 90212	430	81
	GE Profile PHB925STSS	2,700	90
30-inch induction single ovens	Kenmore Elite 97203	2,500	89
	Samsung FTQ307NWGX	2,000	89
30-inch gas double ovens	LG LDG3037ST	1,900	75
	LG LDG3016ST	1,800	70



Kenmore Elite 97203

Great buys \$100 and under



◀ The **Ninja Professional NJ600, \$100**, outperformed many premium blenders that cost four or five times as much. With its 9-cup container, the blender makes a superb fruit smoothie, purées soups and sauces to perfection, and whips up a fabulous frozen drink. It also aced our durability test, so it should stand the test of time.



▶ **Canon's Pixma MG3220, \$70**, is an all-in-one inkjet that has a low price and offers very good overall performance, including the ability to print very good quality photos quickly. Plus it's wireless, so you can print photos and text from your phone or tablet.

SPOTLIGHT

If you have a he-man-sized TV that sounds like a 97-pound weakling, a sound bar could be just the ticket. The **Sonos Playbar, \$700**, can improve your TV's sound and then some. It connects directly to several Internet music services and has very good sound that's suitable for listening to music, as well as movie sound tracks. Add an optional subwoofer and speakers for a full 5.1-channel surround-sound system. The **Sony HT-CT260 2.1-channel system, \$300**, with a wireless subwoofer, also has very good sound.

Sonos Playbar



Basic cameras

WHAT'S NEW The zoom range on point-and-shoots just keeps on getting better. For instance, the 16-megapixel Panasonic Lumix DMC-FZ70 has a 60x optical zoom lens, the longest we've ever seen on a fixed-lens camera.

SHOPPING TIP Don't focus only on the long end of the zoom. A zoom with a wide, 24mm lens is great for panoramas and group shots.

Type	Brand & model	Price	Overall score
Superzoom	Canon Powershot SX280 HS	\$300	64
	Panasonic Lumix DMC-ZS30	400	64
	Olympus Stylus SH-50 iHS	270	63
	Sony Cyber-shot DSC-HX50V	450	63
	Sony Cyber-shot DSC-HX300	470	63
	Olympus Stylus SP-820UZ	300	62
	Fujifilm FinePix F900EXR	400	60
	Nikon Coolpix S9500	280	59
	Nikon Coolpix S9400	250	59
	Olympus Stylus SZ-16 iHS	230	59
	Nikon Coolpix P520	400	59
	Nikon Coolpix L820	230	59
	Leica V-Lux 40	700	59
	Panasonic Lumix DMC-ZS8	280	59
	Sony Cyber-shot DSC-WX300	300	58



Canon Powershot SX280 HS



Nikon Coolpix P330



Olympus Stylus TG-830 iHS



Kenmore 92163



KitchenAid KDRS505XSS

Type	Brand & model	Price	Overall score
30-inch dual-fuel double oven	KitchenAid KDRS505XSS	\$2,000	71
30-inch gas single ovens	LG LRG3097ST	1,900	74
	LG LRG3095ST	1,500	72
	Frigidaire Gallery FGGF3032MW	775	71
	LG LRG3091SW	1,000	71
30-inch professional dual-fuel	KitchenAid KDRS407VSS	4,000	72
36-inch professional dual-fuel	KitchenAid KDRU763VSS	6,000	74
	GE Monogram ZDP364NDPSS	7,500	72

Wall ovens

WHAT'S NEW Electronic touchpad controls with digital displays make it easier to set and monitor temperatures. The recommended GE models let you control oven functions using a smart phone.

SHOPPING TIP For double ovens, check whether features are in both ovens. Some have the timesaving convection option in the top only.

Type	Brand & model	Price	Overall score
30-inch electric double ovens	Whirlpool WOD93ECOAS	\$2,500	80
	Maytag MEW9630A	2,700	80
	KitchenAid KEBS209BSP	3,500	79
	GE PT9550FSSS	3,600	73
	Whirlpool WOD51ECO A	2,000	72
	Maytag MEW7630A	1,700	72
	Bosch HBL5650UC	2,805	72
30-inch electric single ovens	Bosch HBL8650UC	3,115	72
	Whirlpool WOS92ECOAH	1,500	80
	Maytag MEW9530AW	1,400	80
	KitchenAid KEBS109BWW	2,000	79
	GE PT9050FSSS	2,600	73
	Whirlpool WOS51ECOAS	1,300	72
	Maytag MEW7530AW	1,000	72
Bosch HBL5450UC	1,900	72	



◀ Here are headphones for guitarists, as well as those who love listening to music. The **Vox AmPhones Twin headphones, \$100**, can double as a personal guitar amplifier, letting you get your inner Satriani on without disturbing others. You can even plug in an audio player and jam along. When used as conventional headphones, the AmPhones Twin delivers very good sound quality.



◀ Yes, you can find a helpful navigator for a modest budget. The **Magellan 2230T-LM, \$100**, is an intuitive device with helpful exit guides, reality view, lane assistance, multi-destination routing, and pedestrian mode. It might not be quite as easy to use or have as long a battery life as pricier models, but it's still a bargain.

Type	Brand & model	Price	Overall score
Superzoom continued	Panasonic Lumix DMC-FZ60	\$350	58
	Fujifilm FinePix S8400W	280	57
	Leica V-Lux 30	680	56
	Panasonic Lumix DMC-ZS15	280	56
	Sony Cyber-shot DSC-HX10V	300	55
	Sony Cyber-shot DSC-HX200V	480	55
Subcompact	Nikon Coolpix P330	320	63
	Nikon Coolpix S800c	250	60
	Nikon Coolpix S6500	220	57
Rugged & waterproof	Canon PowerShot ELPH 110 HS	200	57
	Panasonic Lumix DMC-TS5	400	58
	Olympus Stylus TG-830 iHS	250	57
	Nikon Coolpix AW110	280	56
	Panasonic Lumix DMC-TS4	300	56
	Sony Cyber-shot DSC-TX30	270	56
	Fujifilm FinePix XP200W	250	56
	Olympus Stylus TG-2 iHS	330	53
	Canon PowerShot D20	300	53
	Olympus Stylus TG-630 iHS	180	52



SPOTLIGHT

This **Sony Cyber-shot DSC-HX50V, \$450**, a wireless superzoom, is packed with features and has a long 30x zoom lens in a small, compact camera body. It shoots very good quality photos and video. It also can fire off photos at 10 frames per second, includes many manual controls, and can be manually focused.

Cooktops

WHAT'S NEW More 30-inch gas cooktops have a fifth burner for added versatility, though using all the burners at the same time can be a challenge. Among induction models, the entire surface of the 36-inch Thermador is a cooking area, providing added flexibility. Like all induction cooktops, it delivered fast heating and superb simmering in our tests.

SHOPPING TIP Look for models with hot-surface warning lights, especially on smoothtops, which can remain hot long after the element has been turned off.

Type	Brand & model	Price	Overall score
30-inch gas	Bosch NGM8054UC	\$1,100	79
	Kenmore 32353	1,200	76
	LG LCG3091ST	1,150	73
36-inch gas	Thermador SGSX365FS	1,900	81
	GE Monogram ZGU385NSMSS	1,400	80
	GE Profile JGP975WEKWW	1,200	80
	GE Café CGP650SETSS	1,400	77
	Electrolux EW36GC55GS	1,300	74
	LG LCG3691ST	1,300	74
	Bosch NGM8654UC	1,200	70
	Kenmore 32313	1,200	69



Thermador SGSX365FS

Type	Brand & model	Price	Overall score
30-inch electric smooth-top	KitchenAid KECC604BBL	\$ 900	94
	Maytag MEC7430WS	700	94
	Kenmore 44273	1,150	93
	Kenmore 42733	640	91
	Frigidaire Professional FPEC3085KS	950	90
	GE Café CP350STSS	1,200	90
	Electrolux Icon E30EC65EES	1,200	88
	LG LCE3081ST	1,000	87
	Whirlpool G7CE3034XP	700	86
	GE Profile PP945BMBB	950	86
Bosch NET5054UC	900	85	

Great buys
\$250 and under



◀ The **Samsung Galaxy Tab 3 7.0 (Wi-Fi, 8GB), \$200**, is all about portability, weighing in at just 0.7 pound, with an impressive 9.7-hour battery life. It also packs a lot of features for the money, including a memory-card reader, GPS, and the ability to double as a remote control for your home theater.



▲ The **Olympus Stylus TG-630 iHS** rugged point-and-shoot is relatively inexpensive, at **\$180**. It takes very good flash photos and is easy to use. It's designed to be waterproof to a depth of 16 feet and to withstand a 5-foot drop. It has a 5x non-telescoping zoom lens and is faster than most models.



Advanced cameras

WHAT'S NEW Larger sensors and smaller bodies make SLR-like models even more attractive. And SLRs are adding features that make them easier to use. Canon's EOS T5i, for instance, has a high-dynamic range (HDR) mode for shooting photos in challenging light.

SHOPPING TIP Older lenses for a 35mm film SLR may fit your digital SLR.

Type	Brand & model	Price	Overall score
SLR-like	Panasonic Lumix DMC-GH3	\$1,100	72
	Panasonic Lumix DMC-G6K	750	70
	Panasonic Lumix DMC-G5K	600	69
	Olympus OM-D E-M5	1,000	68
	Panasonic Lumix DMC-GF6K	600	68
	Samsung NX300	700	68
	Sony SLT-A57K	800	68
	Sony NEX-3NL	450	67
	Samsung NX20	850	66
	Olympus Pen E-P5	1,000	65
	Sony SLT-A65VK	800	65
	Sony NEX-7K	1,250	65
	Sony SLT-A77V	900	65
	Olympus E-PM2	500	64
	Sony NEX-6L	800	64
	Samsung NX1100	600	64
	Sony SLT-A58K	600	63
	Samsung NX210	850	63

Panasonic Lumix DMC-G5K



Nikon D7100



Type	Brand & model	Price	Overall score
SLR	Canon EOS Rebel T5i	\$ 900	73
	Nikon D7100	1,500	72
	Canon EOS 60D	1,000	71
	Canon EOS Rebel SL1	750	71
	Nikon D7000	1,100	70
	Canon EOS Rebel T3i	600	70
	Canon EOS 7D Digital	1,800	69
	Canon EOS Rebel T3	600	67
	Nikon D5200	800	66
	Nikon D3200	550	66
	Nikon D3100	450	65
	Pentax K-30	750	65
	Pentax K-5	1,250	65
	Nikon D5100	600	65
Advanced point-and-shoot	Nikon Coolpix A	1,100	71
	Fujifilm X100S	1,300	69
	Panasonic Lumix DMC-FZ200	600	69
	Ricoh GR	800	69



Kenmore 43820

Type	Brand & model	Price	Overall score
36-inch electric smooth-top	Maytag MEC7536W	\$ 830	94
	Maytag MEC7636W	1,100	94
	Frigidaire Professional FPEC3685KS	1,000	90
	Kenmore 43820	1,700	99
30-inch induction	GE Profile PHP900DMBB	1,400	99
	Kenmore 43800	1,400	97
	Bosch NIT5065UC	1,800	97
	KitchenAid KICU500XB	1,400	95
	Whirlpool GC13061XB	1,200	95
	LG LCE30845	1,800	93
36-inch induction	Thermador CIT36XKB	5,000	92

Gas grills

WHAT'S NEW More grills have handy features such as electronic igniters, fuel gauges, illuminated control knobs for nighttime grilling, and fold-down shelves for food prep. A few come with a grill-temperature thermometer that doubles as a meat thermometer.

SHOPPING TIP Medium-sized grills hold about 16 to 30 burgers, and a large grill fits 30 or more. We measure only the main cooking area; manufacturers might include warming racks and searing burners.

Type	Brand & model	Price	Overall score
Medium	Weber Spirit SP-320 46700401	\$ 600	83
	Vermont Castings Signature Series VCS323SSP	1,000	80
	Weber Genesis S-330	950	79
	Weber Spirit E-320 46710001	820	77
	Brinkmann 810-2545-C (Walmart)	260	76
	Weber Genesis E-330	800	75
	Kenmore 16142	350	74
Large	KitchenAid 720-0709C (Sam's Club)	800	77
	Grand Hall Grand Tech	500	76
Small	Weber Spirit E-220 46310001	450	79
	Napoleon Terrace SE325PK	600	72



◀ With its unique double-infrared technology, the **Panasonic FlashXpress NB-G110P, \$150**, eliminates the 5-minute preheat time of other toaster ovens. Pizza and corn muffins both came out nicely in our tests, and the Panasonic is also a capable toaster, delivering evenly browned results with almost every batch.



▲ The **Philips Hue LED Web-enabled system, \$199**, lets you use any smart device to switch the color of your LED bulbs, say, from warm yellow when you first wake up to vibrant white or many other colors while you're getting dressed. Setup is simple, and our testers found the app easy to use.

▼ Ruggedly handsome (and designed to be weather-resistant), the **TDK Life on Record** portable Bluetooth speaker, **\$150**, is just the ticket when you want to pump up the volume with friends. The speaker has a rechargeable battery, and its built-in microphone lets you use it as a speakerphone.



Fujifilm X100S



Type	Brand & model	Price	Overall score
Advanced point-and-shoot continued	Panasonic Lumix DMC-LF1	\$ 500	68
	Panasonic Lumix DMC-LX7	450	66
	Canon PowerShot G15	450	65
	Fujifilm X20	600	65
	Pentax MX-1	450	65
	Leica X Vario	2,850	64
	Olympus Stylus XZ-2	600	64
	Sony Cyber-shot DSC-RX100	600	62



SPOTLIGHT

Just flip the screen and the **Dell XPS 12 Convertible Touch Ultrabook (3rd Gen i5), \$1,100**, changes from a laptop to a tablet and back. This speedy laptop has a great touch screen and weighs 3.3 pounds—light for a 12-inch laptop but heavy for a tablet.

Washing machines

WHAT'S NEW Front-loaders use a lot less water to clean clothes, but that has led to longer wash times. Some of the latest high-efficiency washers are much faster without sacrificing performance. Wi-Fi-enabled models let you check the status of your laundry using a smart phone.

SHOPPING TIP Some states and utility companies offers rebates on Energy Star qualified washers; check the Dsire.org website.

Type	Brand & model	Price	Overall score
Front-loaders	Maytag Maxima XL MHW8000AW	\$1,300	93
	Maytag Maxima XL MHW7000AW	1,150	90
	Whirlpool Duet WFL98HEBU	1,500	90
	Whirlpool Duet WFW86HEBC	1,100	90
	Kenmore Elite 41073	1,500	90
	Whirlpool Duet WFW88HEAW	1,000	90
	Whirlpool Duet WFW70HEBW	800	89
	Samsung WF457ARGS[GR]	1,550	89
	LG WM8000H[V]A	1,350	89
	LG WM3470H[W]A	1,100	88
	Whirlpool Duet WFW96HEA[W]	1,300	87
	Samsung WF433BTGJ[]	1,000	87
	Whirlpool Duet WFW94HEAW	1,100	87



Maytag Maxima XL MHW7000AW

Great buys
\$500 and under

► In addition to delivering superb evenness in mulching and bagging modes, the self-propelled **Honda HRR2169VLA** mower, **\$500**, has an electric-start feature with a battery that recharges while you mow. Easy handling is another plus for this 21-inch, rear-drive model, as are infinitely variable drive speeds, a premium engine, and no-prime starting.



▲ The **Amazon Kindle Fire HD 8.9 (Wi-Fi, 16GB)**, **\$280**, is a great tablet for bookworms, with an 8.9-inch display that's a perfect size for reading magazines. The top-quality display is also great for viewing videos. And subscribers to Amazon Prime (\$80 per year) can get lots of videos free.

Tablets

WHAT'S NEW Do you want a tablet that's lightweight or has a long-lasting battery? You don't have to choose between portability and battery life anymore. Batteries on smaller, 7- to 9-inch tablets now last much longer—up to 10 or 11 hours—thanks to more efficient processors.

SHOPPING TIP A display with very high resolution is the best choice for watching videos and reading.

Samsung Galaxy Note 8.0 (16GB)



Type	Brand & model	Price	Overall score
7 to 8 inches, Wi-Fi only	Samsung Galaxy Note 8.0 (16GB)	\$380	85
	Samsung Galaxy Tab 3 8.0 (16GB)	300	84
	Apple iPad Mini (16GB)	330	80
	Samsung Galaxy Tab 3 7.0 (8GB)	200	80
	Wikipad 7 (16GB)	250	71
	Samsung Galaxy Tab 2 (7.0) (8GB)	200	71
	Kobo Arc (32GB)	250	68

Type	Brand & model	Price	Overall score
9 to 12 inches, Wi-Fi only	Google Nexus 10 (16GB)	\$400	83
	Apple iPad (16GB) (4th gen.)	500	83
	Samsung Galaxy Tab 3 10.1 (16GB)	400	82
	Samsung Galaxy Note 10.1 (16GB)	500	81
	Samsung ATIV Smart PC (64GB)	700	80
	Samsung Galaxy Tab 2 (10.1) (16GB)	350	80
	Microsoft Surface with Windows RT (32GB)	350	79
	Dell Latitude 10 (64GB)	650	79
	Dell Latitude 10 Essentials (32GB)	500	79
	Asus Transformer Pad Infinity TF700T (32GB)	500	78
	Apple iPad 2 (16GB)	400	77
	Dell XPS 10 (32GB)	450	77
	Acer Iconia W510 (64GB)	550	77
	Lenovo IdeaTab Lynx K3011 (64GB)	500	76
Acer Iconia Tab A700 (32GB)	450	76	
7- to 9-inch-screen specialty tablets	Amazon Kindle Fire HD 8.9 (Wi-Fi, 16GB)	285	75
	Amazon Kindle Fire HD (Wi-Fi, 16GB)	215	74
	Barnes & Noble Nook HD+ (Wi-Fi, 16GB)	150	66
	Barnes & Noble Nook HD (Wi-Fi, 16GB)	150	66



Whirlpool
Duet
WF198HEBU

Type	Brand & model	Price	Overall score
Front-loaders continued	Kenmore 4137[2]	\$1,050	87
	LG WM3070H[W]A	900	87
	Samsung WF511AB[W]	1,300	86
	Kenmore Elite 4157[2]	1,200	86
	Samsung WF405ATPA[WR]	1,100	86
Top-loaders (high-efficiency)	LG WT1101CW	700	82
	Samsung WA422PRHD[WR]	800	82
	LG WT5070C[W]	1,000	81
	GE GTWN7450DWW	800	80
	LG Smart ThinQ WT6001HV	1,600	79
	Samsung WA50F9A6DSW	1,000	79
	Samsung WA50F9A8DSP	1,200	79
	Maytag Bravos XL MVWB750Y[W]	850	79
	Samsung WA400PJHD[WR]	700	78
	LG WT5170H[W]	1,100	78
	Samsung WA456DRHD[WR]	850	78
	GE Adora GHWN8350DWS (Home Depot)	1,000	77
	LG WT4870C[W]	800	77
	Maytag Bravos XL MVWB950Y[W]	1,000	76



SPOTLIGHT

Kirkland Signature Ultra Clean Pacs, a Costco exclusive, vanquished grass, blood, and ring around the collar in our tests and became our highest-rated laundry detergent pod, suitable for all types of washers. At **14 cents** per load, it's also a great value.



◀ The **Nokia Lumia 1020, \$300** (AT&T, with two-year contract), is essentially a high-resolution camera fused to a capable smart phone. Its 38.2-megapixel camera takes the sharpest photos of any smart-phone camera we've tested, even in low light, and pro-style controls, editing tools, and a bevy of features help you take pictures like a pro. This Windows phone also features a dazzling 4.5-inch display so that you can enjoy your handiwork.



▲ Want a compact TV for a dorm room or the nightstand? **Samsung's UN29F4000, \$280**, is a basic 29-inch 720p LCD TV that has excellent high-definition picture quality. And its energy-efficient LED backlight will keep electric bills low.

▶ Who says you have to trade performance for fashion? The **Beats by Dr. Dre Executive** over-ear headphones, **\$300**, provide something most noise-canceling models can't: excellent sound quality in addition to very good noise reduction and a stylish design.



SPOTLIGHT

E-book readers with built-in lighting make for easy reading in the dark and boast much longer life than any tablet. The excellent **Barnes & Noble Nook Simple Touch with GlowLight, \$120**, has very fast response when turning pages or opening books. We haven't yet tested the new **Amazon Kindle Paperwhite, \$119**, introduced at press time, but the earlier version we tested was excellent, and this one promises more.

All-in-one inkjet printers

WHAT'S NEW Some new inkjets can crank out black text at more than 10 pages per minute, approaching the speed of laser printers. But they have the added ability to print color photos, graphics, and more.

SHOPPING TIP All-in-ones with separate color cartridges can save you money on ink because you replace only the color that has run out.

Type	Brand & model	Price	Overall score
All-in-one	HP Photosmart 7520	\$200	78
	Epson Expression Premium XP-800	180	76
	Epson Expression Premium XP-600	100	73
	HP Photosmart 6520	150	72
	Canon Pixma MG3220	60	72
	Canon Pixma MG6320	150	72
	Canon Pixma MG5420	100	71
	Canon Pixma MX922	200	71
	Brother DCP-J140W	90	71
	HP Officejet Pro 8600 Plus	230	71
	Brother MFC-J6910DW	300	70
	Brother MFC-J5910DW	200	70
	Canon Pixma MX892	200	70
	Canon Pixma MG2220	70	70
	Canon Pixma MX512	150	70



HP Photosmart 7520



Epson Expression
Premium XP-800

Dryers

WHAT'S NEW Some higher-priced dryers let you monitor your laundry's progress and control functions using your computer, tablet, or smart phone. The apps are easy to download, and Whirlpool's even sends you an e-mail or text when laundry is done.

SHOPPING TIP Dryers still aren't covered by the Energy Star program, but models with a moisture sensor will save energy—and help protect delicate clothing—by turning off when garments are dry.

Type	Brand & model	Price	Overall score
Electric	Samsung DV50F9A8EVP	\$1,100	83
	GE GFDR485EFMC	1,400	81
	Maytag Maxima XL MED8000AG	1,450	79
	Kenmore Elite 81073	1,350	79
	LG DLEX3470[W]	1,000	79
	Samsung DV456EWHW[WR]	900	78
	Whirlpool Duet WED96HEAW	1,300	78
	Maytag Bravos X MEDX700AG	900	78
	Kenmore Elite 6152[2]	1,000	78
	LG DLEX8000[V]	1,350	78
	GE GFDS260EFWW	1,100	78
	LG Smart ThinQ DLEX6001V	1,500	78
	LG DLEX5170[W]	900	78



Maytag Maxima XL MED8000AG



GE GFDR485EFMC

Type	Brand & model	Price	Overall score
Electric continued	Kenmore 8137[2]	\$ 950	78
	Whirlpool Cabrio WED5700AC	900	78
	Samsung DV457EVGS[GR]	1,550	78
	Whirlpool Duet WEL98HEBU	1,500	77
	Kenmore 8117[2]	720	77
	LG DLEX3360[W]	900	77
	LG DLEX4070W	1,200	77
	Kenmore 6800[2]	800	77
	Whirlpool Duet WED94HEAW	1,100	77
	LG DLE4870W	800	77

Great
buys
over
\$500



◀ Impressively quick and clean snow removal, along with plenty of muscle for the dense piles left by municipal plows, are top attractions of the gas-powered **Craftsman 88173, \$680**. The 24-inch, compact two-stage model also offers electric start, and the unit stores more easily than the largest model we tested.



Smart phones

WHAT'S NEW Smart-phone cameras now take better pictures, thanks to higher-resolution image sensors (8 megapixels and more), pro-style controls, and a bevy of editing tools and special effects. Near-field communication (NFC) technology makes it easy to wirelessly beam photos, music, and more to compatible devices by bumping them together. And more phones are water-resistant, great for poolside fun.

SHOPPING TIP To keep costs low, upload large files and stream media over a secure Wi-Fi connection rather than on a pricey 3G/4G data plan.

Provider	Brand & model	Price	Overall score
AT&T	Samsung Galaxy S 4 (16GB)	\$200	81
	Samsung Galaxy S 4 Active	200	80
	LG Optimus G	50	79
	HTC One (32GB)	200	79
	Samsung Galaxy S III (16GB)	100	78
	Apple iPhone 5 (16GB)	200	77
	Nokia Lumia 1020	300	77
	Pantech Discover	50	77
	HTC One X+	200	77
	HTC One VX	50	77
	Samsung Galaxy Note II (16GB)	300	77
	LG Optimus G Pro	100	77
	HTC Windows Phone 8X (16GB)	100	76
	Nokia Lumia 920	100	76



LG Optimus G

Provider	Brand & model	Price	Overall score
AT&T continued	BlackBerry Z10	\$200	75
	Apple iPhone 4S (16GB)	100	74
	Pantech Flex	0	72
	Samsung Galaxy Rugby Pro	100	72
	BlackBerry Q10	200	71
Sprint	HTC First	0	70
	Samsung Galaxy S 4 (16GB)	150	79
	LG Optimus G	0	77
	HTC One (32GB)	100	77
	Samsung Galaxy S III (16GB)	100	76
	Apple iPhone 5 (16GB)	100	75
	Samsung Galaxy Note II (16GB)	250	75
	LG Optimus F3	0	73
	Motorola Photon Q 4G LTE	100	73
	HTC 8XT	100	73
	Sprint Vital	0	73
	Samsung Galaxy Victory 4G LTE	50	71
	LG Viper	0	69
	Kyocera Torque	0	68
	Apple iPhone 4S (16GB)	100	67
T-Mobile	Samsung Galaxy S 4 (16GB)	0	81
	HTC One (32GB)	0	79
	Samsung Galaxy S III (16GB)	0	78
	Apple iPhone 5 (16GB)	150	77

Price is based on a two-year contract commitment, as of August 2013, including rebates.

Type	Brand & model	Price	Overall score
Gas	Samsung DV50F9A8GVP	\$1,200	83
	GE GFDR485GFMC	1,500	81
	Maytag Maxima XL MGD8000AG	1,550	79
	Kenmore Elite 91073	1,450	79
	LG DLGX3471[W]	1,200	79
	Samsung DV456GWHDR	1,000	78
	Whirlpool Duet WGD96HEAW	1,400	78
	Maytag Bravos X MGD700AG	1,000	78
	Kenmore Elite 71522	1,100	78
	LG DLGX8001[V]	1,440	78
	GE GFDS260GFWW	1,200	78
	LG Smart ThinQ DLEX6002V	1,600	78
	LG DLGX5171[W]	1,050	78
	Kenmore 9137[2]	1,100	78
	Whirlpool Cabrio WGD5700AC	1,000	78
	Samsung DV457GVGS[GR]	1,700	78
	Kenmore 9117[2]	900	77
	LG DLGX3361[W]	980	77
	LG DLGX4071W	1,300	77
	Kenmore 7800[2]	900	77
Whirlpool Duet WGD94HEAW	1,200	77	
LG DLG4871W	900	77	

SPOTLIGHT

Laundry rooms are migrating from the basement to more visible parts of the home, and sales of matching washer and dryer sets are up. The recommended **LG WT1101CW** washer and the **DLE1101W** electric dryer are **\$700** each. (The DLG1102W gas dryer is \$800.) Both do their primary tasks superbly, with large capacities and relatively quiet operation.



◀ The **Panasonic Viera TC-P60ST60** 60-inch plasma TV is a sweet deal at **\$1,500**. It has excellent high-def picture quality and a ton of features, including 3D and a full Web browser, an apps market, and access to streaming movies and TV shows from several services. Using the remote control app, you can send content back and forth between your TV and smart phone or tablet.

▶ The **ProForm Pro 2000, \$1,300**, is a CR Best Buy. It's excellent for ergonomics and exercise range, with a longer, 61-inch running surface, and it has among the highest maximum inclines for folding treadmills.



◀ The **Samsung Ativ Book 8 NP880Z5E-X01UB, \$1,200**, is one of the new breed of touch-screen laptops designed to optimize Windows 8. Another new feature on this speedy, top-scoring model: You can share the screen, keyboard, and mouse with Samsung phones and tablets. Battery life is an impressive 10-plus hours.

Provider	Brand & model	Price	Overall score
T-Mobile continued	Samsung Galaxy Note II (16GB)	\$ 0	77
	Sony Xperia Z	0	77
	Nokia Lumia 925	0	77
	Google Nexus 4 (16GB)	0	76
	LG Optimus L9	0	76
	BlackBerry Z10	0	75
	Samsung Galaxy S II	0	75
	Apple iPhone 4S (16GB)	70	74
	Samsung Galaxy Exhibit	0	71
	BlackBerry Q10	0	71
Nokia Lumia 521	0	71	

Provider	Brand & model	Price	Overall score
Verizon	Samsung Galaxy S 4 (16GB)	200	79
	Motorola Droid Razr Maxx HD	150	79
	Motorola Droid Razr HD	50	77
	Samsung Galaxy S III (16GB)	100	76
	Motorola Droid Razr M	0	75
	Apple iPhone 5 (16GB)	200	75
	Samsung Galaxy Note II (16GB)	250	75
	Nokia Lumia 928	100	75
	BlackBerry Z10	100	74
	LG Spectrum 2	0	74
	Pantech Perception	0	73
	HTC Droid DNA	50	73
	LG Lucid 2	20	73

Motorola Droid Razr Maxx HD

Provider	Brand & model	Price	Overall score
Verizon continued	Nokia Lumia 822	\$ 20	73
	HTC Windows Phone 8X (16GB)	50	73
	Motorola Droid 4	100	73
	Samsung Ativ Odyssey	0	71
	Casio G'zOne Commando 4G LTE	100	71
	Samsung Galaxy Stellar	0	71
	Samsung Galaxy Stratosphere II	50	70
	BlackBerry Q10	200	69
	LG Intuition	0	68
	Apple iPhone 4S (16GB)	100	67

SPOTLIGHT

The **Uniden D3588-2** phone/answerer combo, **\$100**, has two cordless handsets plus a corded phone on the base that will work if you lose power. Conversations on the corded phone may sound better than on its cordless siblings, and you can pair it with your mobile phone to make and take calls using your cell's service plan.



Thermostats

WHAT'S NEW Interactive touch-screen displays are especially easy to use and see. Some models can be programmed using prompts or by answering questions about daily habits. Others can be changed using a smart phone or computer.

SHOPPING TIP Most let you program different settings for each day. But if you have a regular routine, look for models that offer one schedule for weekdays and another for weekends.



Venstar ColorTouch Series T5800

SPOTLIGHT

The **Nest Learning Thermostat, \$250**, will program itself according to settings you make during the first week, and then it continues making adjustments based on your changing schedule. And the Wi-Fi-enabled device receives IQ-enhancing software upgrades. An example is Sunblock, which tracks the sun's patterns because direct sunlight can cause conventional thermostats to think it's warmer than it is, making your home uncomfortably cool as the A/C kicks into high gear.



Type	Brand & model	Price	Overall score
Seven-day models	Venstar ColorTouch Series T5800	\$170	96
	Honeywell Prestige HD YTHX9321R	250	95
	ecobee EB-STAT-02	300	94
	Aprilaire Communicating Touchscreen 8800	300	46
	Lux TX9600TS	70	45
	nest Learning Thermostat	250	74
	Honeywell FocusPRO 6000 TH6110D*	80	74
Robert Shaw 9801i2	125	73	

*One schedule for weekdays, another for weekends.

Great buys over \$500



◀ Weber's entire revamped Spirit line impressed us, especially the **Weber Spirit SP-320 46700401, \$600**. Our top-rated mid-sized grill, it preheats quickly and provides superb grilling at low, high, and indirect heat. An electronic igniter fires up the grill's three burners reliably, and its stainless-steel grates offer maximum durability.



▲ Fine wines deserve first-class storage. The **Electrolux IQ-Touch E124WC65GS**, undercounter wine chiller, **\$1,530**, is tops in our tests, maintaining steady conditions throughout its interior, which can hold almost 60 bottles. The unit's shelves have full-extension ball-bearing glides for easy access, and it's one of the most energy-efficient models we tested.

Laptops

WHAT'S NEW You'll find more thin-and-light laptops and more models with touch screens. A few use the new, faster 802.11ac standard.

SHOPPING TIP Solid-state drives are smaller than traditional hard drives, use less power, and are faster and more durable.

Sony Vaio Pro SVP13213CX5 Ultrabook



Apple MacBook Pro 15-inch ME664LL/A



Size	Brand & model	Price	Overall score
13-inch	Sony Vaio Pro SVP13213CX5 Ultrabook	\$1,250	79
	Apple MacBook Air 13-inch MD231LL/A	1,000	74
	Apple MacBook Air 13-inch MD760LL/A	1,100	73
	Toshiba Kirabook 13	1,600	73
	Apple MacBook Pro 13-inch with Retina Display MD212LL/A	1,500	72
	Asus Zenbook Prime UX32VD-DH71 Ultrabook	1,300	67
	Apple MacBook Pro 13-inch MD101LL/A	1,200	66
14-inch	Lenovo ThinkPad X1 Carbon Touch Ultrabook	1,300	70
	Vizio CT14T-B1	1,300	69
	Lenovo ThinkPad X1 Carbon Ultrabook	1,200	69
	Samsung Ativ Book 5 NP540U4E-K01US	900	69
	Lenovo IdeaPad Y410p 59369921	825	65
15- to 16-inch	Apple MacBook Pro 15-inch with Retina display ME664LL/A	2,200	78
	Samsung Ativ Book 8 NP880Z5E-X01UB	1,200	77
	Apple MacBook Pro 15-inch with Retina display MC975LL/A	1,900	76

Size	Brand & model	Price	Overall score
15- to 16-inch continued	Acer Aspire R7-571-6858	\$1,000	74
	Vizio CT15T-B1 Ultrabook	1,300	73
	Asus Q550LF-BB17T07	1,000	71
	Apple MacBook Pro 15-inch MD103LL/A	1,800	70
	Vizio CN15-A5	1,000	69
	MSI GT60 2OC-022US	1,325	69
	Dell Inspiron 15R	850	68
	Toshiba Satellite P50-AST2NX1	900	67
	HP Envy Touchsmart Sleekbook m6-k015dx	750	67
	Vizio CT15-A4 Ultrabook	800	67
	Samsung Ativ Book 4 NP470R5E-K02UB	700	67
	HP Envy Touchsmart 15t-j000	900	66
	Toshiba Satellite L55-A5284NR	675	66
	Toshiba Satellite S55t-A5258NR	950	65
Lenovo IdeaPad U510 59347424	650	65	



► The **Garmin Nuvi 2597LMT** GPS, **\$250**, is loaded with features to make commuting and traveling easier. This big-screen model includes exit guides, reality view, lane assistance, multi-destination routing, Bluetooth connectivity, voice commands, and historic traffic data that can inform route planning, predicting routine flow changes such as rush-hour congestion.



SPOTLIGHT

You'll get just about everything you need in a family entertainment system with the **Dell XPS 27 Touch**, \$1,600. This all-in-one desktop computer has a beautiful 27-inch display that's perfect for watching movies, plus better sound than many computers we've tested. It even has a touch screen, a large hard drive for storing plenty of content, good sound, and enough power for demanding gaming. The only thing it's missing is a drive for your Blu-ray discs.

Mattresses

WHAT'S NEW More warehouse clubs are offering bed-in-a-box memory-foam mattresses that spring out to full shape once they're unpacked. Manufacturers are also touting more innerspring and foam mattresses infused with gel, for a claimed cooling effect.

SHOPPING TIP Wait for major holidays, when retailers lower prices by 50 percent or more and add perks, such as free shipping. And always haggle. Plus watch these pages: We're testing more than a dozen new models.

Type	Brand & model	Price	Overall score
Innerspring	Stearns & Foster Lois Luxury Firm (Sears)	\$1,100	64
Memory foam	Tempur-Pedic Tempur Simplicity	1,200	62
	Novaform Memory Foam Collection Serafina (Costco)	900	62
	Sealy Embody Insightful	1,260	61



SPOTLIGHT

A fresh coat of paint can instantly transform a space. **Ace Hardware's Clark+Kensington Satin Enamel** earned the highest score in our interior paint tests, and its self-priming formula helps save time and money. It is superb at hiding, leaves a smooth finish, and resists stains and scrubbing. The semigloss version tops its category, and the flat made our picks list. They sell for about \$31 per gallon.