

GADGETS, PHOTOGRAPHY & HOME ENTERTAINMENT

Best digital video camera for the kids



Swann DVR-460 SportsCam
 PRICE: \$145
 WEB: www.swannsecurity.com.au
 This super-rugged 640 x 480 cam captures surprisingly clear, naturally coloured video and good sound no matter where you are: even up to 20m underwater.

Best-value 1080p home theatre projector



BenQ W1100
 PRICE: \$1,450
 WEB: www.benq.com.au
 This crisp 1080p DLP projector throws bright, vibrant and natural pictures, has minimal rainbow effect and is highly configurable and reasonably quiet. Lamps can be costly, though.

Best-value networked media player (no hard drive)



Western Digital WD TV Live
 PRICE: \$148 WEB: www.wdc.com
 With a better remote, compact size, wide format support and a very slick interface, the newly revised WD TV Live is a great player.

Best-value network media player/PVR



Astone Media Gear MP-3100T
 PRICE: \$130
 WEB: www.astone.com.au
 Packing in twin-tuner HD TV recording and 'play anything' network media streaming, the MP-3100T isn't as polished as some, but it's unbeatable value at \$130.

Best network media player with PVR



DVICO TViX PVR Slim S1 Duo
 PRICE: \$350
 WEB: www.alotech.com.au
 You'll pay a little more for this PVR, but if you're keen on setting up recordings ahead of time, that outlay pays off with a host of advanced features including a seven-day EPG.

Best-value digital set-top box

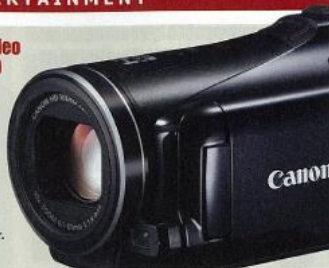


Kogan HD Digital Set-top Box with PVR
 PRICE: \$39 WEB: www.kogan.com.au
 Its interface can be a bit of a nightmare to navigate, but for the crazy-low price, this Kogan USB-recording PVR does the job.

Best-value digital video camera under \$1,000

Canon LEGRIA HF40
 PRICE: \$970
 WEB: www.canon.com.au

The 16GB of built-in storage is nice, meaning this camcorder is good to go out of the box if you can't find your SDXC card — but it's the best-in-class optics that make it a winner.



Best-value TV under \$2,000

Samsung UA55D6000
 PRICE: \$1,980
 WEB: www.samsung.com.au
 This 55in LED TV has impressive image quality (colours and contrast were excellent) and a decent range of features. It's also 3D-ready and has wide PC media file support.

Best-value hard drive-based PVR

TIVO Media Device
 PRICE: From \$499
 WEB: www.mytivo.com.au
 The TiVo is still the most user-friendly PVR out there, with an interface and recording features that are hard to beat. The new TiVo model will be a great boon for TV addicts.

Best music streamer

SONOS PLAY:3
 PRICE: \$419
 WEB: www.sonos.com
 It may seem pricey, but the SONOS PLAY:3 delivers great sound quality, easy setup and a relatively affordable entry into home-wide wireless audio.

Best-value Blu-ray player

Sony BDPS580
 PRICE: \$250 WEB: www.sony.com
 This surprisingly flexible player offers a wealth of region- and hassle-free disc and network media playback options, as well as support for numerous online streaming services and good image quality.

Best-value digital video camera under \$2,000

JVC Everio GS-TD1
 PRICE: \$1,799
 WEB: www.jvc.com.au
 With two lenses and full-frame 1080p sensors, this camcorder is the real deal for those looking to make their own 3D movies.



NETWORKING & COMMUNICATIONS

Best-value IP camera

Compro IP55
 PRICE: \$120 WEB: www.comprousa.com
 It's not perfect, but for the price, the IP55 offers a solid mix of clean video footage and excellent finely-detailed control software. The optional Wi-Fi dongle and SD card capture make it flexible as well.



Best-value dual drive NAS enclosure

Synology DiskStation DS212
 PRICE: \$369
 WEB: www.synology.com
 While the DS212 isn't the fastest dual-drive NAS now available, it's still very quick and has some great features like an SD card reader, two USB 3.0 ports and a polished interface.

Best-value prebuilt NAS

Seagate FreeAgent GoFlex Home TB
 PRICE: \$160
 WEB: www.seagate.com
 This compact single-drive NAS is easy to set up and covers all the basics.

Best-value modemless broadband router

Netgear WNDR3800
 PRICE: \$170
 WEB: www.netgear.com
 Netgear has packed this modem-less router with useful features like dual-band 802.11n Wi-Fi, Gigabit Ethernet and parental controls, but it's very easy to set up, too.

Best-value high-end ADSL2+ router

Netgear DGND3700
 PRICE: \$180
 WEB: www.netgear.com
 The only thing this router is missing is VoIP. Otherwise, it's a very capable unit, with USB storage sharing, 300Mbps Wi-Fi, Gigabit Ethernet and support for cable/fibre modems.

Best Wi-Fi range extender

Netgear WN3000RP
 PRICE: \$80
 WEB: www.netgear.com.au
 It won't give you faster speeds, but it gave us a better Wi-Fi signal in previously dead spots and even extended outdoors. It also works with other brand Wi-Fi gear too.



Best-value single-drive NAS enclosure

QNAP Turbo NAS TS-119P+
 PRICE: \$290
 WEB: www.qnap.com
 This single-bay NAS won't give you redundancy, but it's a great way to add network-accessible storage to your home or office. It's packed with high-end features and has performance to spare.

Best-value budget ADSL2+ router

Billion BIPAC 7700N
 PRICE: \$60 WEB: http://au.billion.com
 Despite the bargain-basement price, this basic ADSL2+ router still offers 802.11n Wi-Fi (single-band 2.4GHz) and respectable software features, although setting it up isn't as easy as some others.

Best mobile broadband for PC/notebook use

BigPond Ultimate USB
 PRICE: \$299, then from \$19.95/month WEB: www.bigpond.com
 Capable of dual-channel HSPA+ wireless, this modem easily outpaces all other providers.

Best-value mobile broadband sharing device

Telstra Elite Pre-Paid Mobile Wi-Fi
 PRICE: \$99 WEB: www.bigpond.com
 It comes at a premium, but it has unbeatable coverage and superior download speeds.

Best-value three+ drive NAS enclosure

Synology DiskStation 1511+
 PRICE: \$930
 WEB: www.synology.com
 This five-bay NAS has blazing transfer speeds, extensive features, plus ample scalable storage.



Best-value powerline networking kit

Netcomm NP203
 PRICE: \$100
 WEB: www.netcomm.com.au
 This unusual powerline networking kit delivers decent speeds and lots of ports, thanks to one end being a four-port switch. That price is pretty admirable, too.