Computer monitor buying guide

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What do you want to use the monitor for

1. **Basic computing** –tasks like web surfing, checking e-mail or general school tasks.
2. **Heavy on the multimedia** –A larger screen size, Full HD resolution (or higher), built-in speakers and accurate colour reproduction are factors that you should consider.
3. **Professional use** – Professional use calls for a large display panel, high resolution and features like wide viewing angles, anti-glare treatment, and adjustability. Many people also prefer to use multiple monitors for work so they can see several applications at the same time.
4. **Gaming** – Gamers have very high demands when it comes to computer monitors.
5. **Smart monitors** – these function like a combination monitor and smart TV for people who will use it like a television as much as for work or school

What size monitor is right for your needs

Computer monitors are available in a wide range of sizes and each of the types of monitors covered in the previous section is available in a range of sizes.

1. **Small monitors of 22-inches or less** – intended for basic computing
2. **23-inch to 24-inch monitor range** – great for multi-monitor setups
3. **25-inch to 29-inch monitors** – many professionals opt for larger screen for better clarity and improved colour representation.
4. **widescreen monitors** can reach sizes over 40″. One ultra-widescreen monitor can have the same screen space as two smaller monitors, without the bezel breaking up the continuity of the image.

An additional consideration is screen shape. Unlike traditional flat screen monitors, **curved monitors** are shaped to enable our peripheral vision to capture more of the screen without moving your head or altering your focus. A good rule of thumb is that a smaller curvature radius (they range from about 4000 to 1000) indicates a more pronounced curve.

Should you look for particular screen panel

Most monitor panels, are IPS or "In-plane Switching" panels and if you find a monitor that has the features you want, at a price you like, the panel will most likely be an IPS panel. Here are the most common panel types in order of how common they are at Best Buy.

1. **IPS or in-plane switching panels** are a preferred choice where colour accuracy and viewing angles are prized, however their weakness is relatively slow response times.
2. **VA or Vertical Alignment panels** have the advantages of high brightness, excellent colour reproduction and good black levels, but can't match TN panels for refresh rate.
3. **TN or Twisted Nematic panels** have limited viewing angles, brightness and colour accuracy, but they offer ultrafast response times (often 2ms or less) making them popular with gamers.
4. **PLS is essentially Samsung's take on IPS**. You may also see Samsung monitors using Quantum Dot technology—using nanocrystals that offer wider colour range and deeper blacks.
5. **OLED or organic LED panels** enable each individual pixel to be turned on or off..

Features to consider in a new monitor

Features that affect the clarity of the image on the screen

1. **Resolution** Most computer monitors today offer at least Full HD (FHD) resolution, or 1920 x 1080 pixels. You might see this listed as 1080p or simply as HD. With monitors in the 25-inch to 29-inch size range, Quad HD (QHD) resolution becomes common, offering 2560 x 1440 pixels onscreen. Choose a widescreen monitor and

its extra wide panel may offer WQXGA (2560 x 1500) or WQHD (3440 x 1440) resolution. An increasingly popular choice on large computer monitors is 4K Ultra HD resolution.

2. **Contrast** a ratio, such as 1000:1, and the higher the ratio the better.
3. **Brightness** is just what it sounds like: the maximum brightness the monitor can produce.
4. **Colour gamut** is essentially the palette of colours the monitor is capable of displaying. sRGB, Adobe RGB, and NTSC.
5. **Viewing angle**

Features that are most important for gamers

1. **High Refresh rate**
2. **Low response time**
3. **Gaming-optimization** – G-sync / Freesync, etc.

Features that affect the comfort of the viewer

1. **Anti-glare**
2. **Eye saver technology** – reduces eye strain
3. **Adjustability** – fixed stand or adjustable

Features that affect usability of the monitor

1. **Connectivity -** How will it connect to my computer and peripherals
2. **Speakers** - Some have internal speakers and some don't
3. **Webcams**
4. **Touchscreen capability**

Accessories people often purchase with their monitor

Common addons people look for are: **webcam**, **computer speaker system**, a **monitor stand**, additional adaptors or cables.