

## DIGITAL PHOTO FRAME | £136

### SAPPHIRE DPF-T10

A frame with interesting features

A photo frame used to mean a static display of a single picture, but with digital photo frames it's possible to show much more than that.

The Sapphire DPF-T10 is a frame that looks sleek and stylish, so weren't embarrassed to display it in the living room. It has a 10in screen and can display **JPEG** and **BMP** format images as well as **AVI** video.

The screen can also be set up to display the pictures in portrait or landscape mode (that is, propped on its bottom or on its side). Most of the time the frame was able to detect that it had been rotated and adjusted the pictures to match.

That clever touch aside, picture quality was not so good: photos were grainy and in some cases badly stretched.

The frame also supports **MP3** music files, which means that you

can listen to music along with viewing pictures. Unfortunately the sound from the internal speakers was tinny and when we played back videos they suffered from the same problem.

However, the frame did come with some interesting features, notably the way it can be switched on by the user clapping twice. A great idea, but you have to stand right next to it to do so, making us wonder if it wouldn't just be easier to push the power button.

The frame itself is controlled using the touch-sensitive display, which has nine on-screen buttons (they disappear when not being used) to access menus and create slideshows of your pictures.



SD and XD formats but not the Compactflash used by some larger cameras.

Andrea-Marie Pe

#### DETAILS

**Contact:** Sapphire, no UK number

**Info:** www.sapphiretech.com

**Retail Price:** £136

**Buy:** www.computeractive.co.uk/bestpic

#### ALSO CONSIDER...

**Polaroid XSU-00770B:** £100

This frame may only have a 7in screen but includes a weather station to keep you informed of the latest outlook. ★★★★★

**www.computeractive.co.uk/2214412**

### WE SAY

*A nice looking photo frame let down by its picture and sound quality*

**GOOD POINTS:** Large screen; useable buttons; plenty of memory

**BAD POINTS:** Low quality images; tinny sound

**OVERALL:** ★★★★★

## SERVICE | £12

### PHOTOBOX PERSONALISED PHOTOBOOK

We looked last year at a photo book product from Cewe, and now Photobox is offering something similar.

The company offers books in various sizes from £23 for an A4 hardback to the £45 A3 book we reviewed.

Cewe used a downloaded program on the computer to arrange and upload the pictures, while Photobox uses a web-based tool. The book creation tool was easy to use, with simple previews of each page and the ability to automatically fill a book from your existing album.

While it was easy to move images around and it quickly showed whether a shot had already been used, the designs are fixed and there's little flexibility in positioning.

That said, picture quality was excellent (our book arrived after a week but delivery times will vary).



The full-size image on the glossy cover looked superb, as did the matt inside pages. Printing quality was impressive overall.

Anthony Dhanendran

#### DETAILS

**Contact:** Photobox 0845 505 0305

**Info:** www.photobox.co.uk

**Retail Price:** From £12

**Buy:** www.photobox.co.uk

### WE SAY

*Great quality book but the design process could have been easier and more flexible*

**OVERALL:** ★★★★★

## NETWORKING | £79

### SOLWISE PIGGY6

Homeplug networking allows users to create home networks without stringing cables all over the house. It uses the existing mains power wiring to connect computers together – plug a computer, games console or other network device into a Homeplug adapter, and the **router** into another, and you have a network.

The trouble is these adapters take up an extra mains socket. Solwise last year released its Piggy product, which includes a mains socket on the back so that another device can be plugged into it. Now it's taken the concept further with the Piggy6, a six-socket mains extension lead that also has three Homeplug sockets.

We plugged a computer, games console and router into both the network and power sockets, with another three non-networked devices in the remaining power sockets and it worked well. It comes with a software CD that can enable **encryption** so no-one else can access your Homeplug network.



The sockets aren't protected against power surges but besides that the Piggy6 is excellent value. If you want a Homeplug network but are running out of mains sockets

Anthony Dhanendran

#### DETAILS

**Contact:** Solwise 01482 672866

**Info:** www.solwise.co.uk

**Retail Price:** £79

**Buy:** www.solwise.co.uk

### WE SAY

*This product represents an excellent good-value way to get going with Homeplug*

**OVERALL:** ★★★★★