



LCDs VS. CRTs

How to pick the best monitor type for your needs



DSL BUYER'S GUIDE

20 tips to ensure a flawless installation

PLEKTOR BURNS AT 40X!

Extreme new features push CD-RW drive over the edge



MAXIMUM PC

MAY 2002

MINIMUM BS

Operation: Upgrade

How to identify & exterminate your PC's worst hardware bottlenecks

Complete upgrade paths for your 10 slowest parts

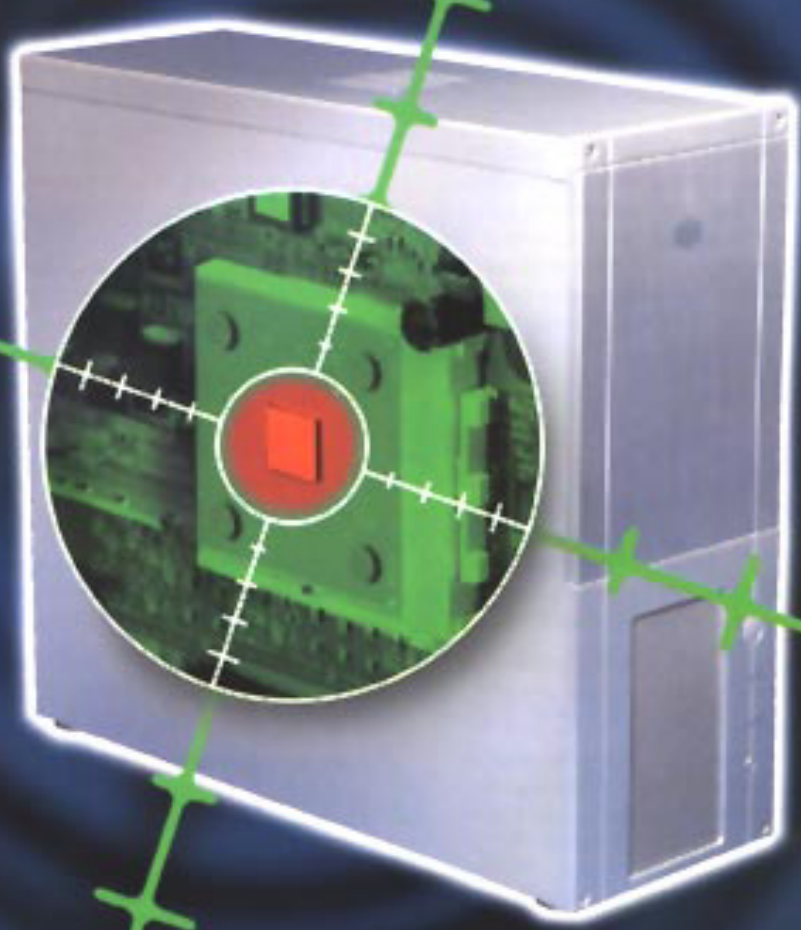


PHOTO PRINTER

SHOWDOWN

5 digital darkrooms reviewed & rated



GEFORCE 4 TI 4600

How Visiontek's retail board bests nVidia's reference design



imagine

You Won't See This in a Pop-Under Ad

Creative applications for the world's most notorious 'video cam'

If you haven't encountered a pop-under ad for an X10 Wireless Video Camera, then you just haven't surfed the web. Seriously, these ads are everywhere, making the XCam2 the most overexposed product since Bud Light. Well, guess what? We finally succumbed. We called the X10 company and requested a video camera of our very own.

The web ad told us to "expect the unexpected," and that's exactly what we got when we positioned the cam in different locations around the Imagine Media complex. The XCam2 works as advertised, wirelessly transmitting clear images over some 200 feet of airspace to a PC or TV. We never saw anything quite as "unexpected" as a pretty woman dressed in evening wear, but we did capture some interesting sights...



Stalking the Wily Vede

Ah, a perfect specimen of *loafus vidermanus* in its natural habitat. You may better know this furry little feller as "The Vede," the hardware editor for *PC Gamer*, one of our sister magazines. The Vede usually frequents the Maximum PC Lab, doing his best to spirit away morsels of PC knowledge, but this time we caught him nesting in his hovel. We later checked his appointment book and found that he had penciled in 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. as "extended video card testing—must not be disturbed."



Where's the Beef?

Every afternoon around 12:45 p.m., the Maximum PC editors start listening for the sweet strains of "La Cucaracha" that mark the arrival of Yummies on Wheels, the jiney food merchant that tempts us with exotic delicacies, such as corn dogs and tuna melts. After installing the XCam2, we can now spy Yummies' arrival before any other Imagine department hears its horn. Take that, Accounts Payable!



Sweet Hamster Lovin'

Even Old Man Phillips has a boss—his name is Old Man Firms, and he's the editorial director of our publishing company. We didn't want him to bust us death-matching when we should have been benchmarking, so we broke into Matt's office, and secreted the XCam2 on one of his shelves. Damn our eyes! We saw things that were much more shocking than even "Tina's Sorority Schoolgirl Cam"—for example, Matt's "special time" with his hamster dollies.



The XCam Cam

In an effort to create a 2001-esque effect that would let us see into the future, we pointed two cams at each other to see if we could discombobulate the space-time continuum. Unfortunately, all we got was a blurry picture of an XCam2. Hmm, maybe we'll have to wait for the advanced time-warping technology in the inevitable XCam3.



M-Baby Monitor

X10 says you can use the XCam2 to monitor your baby, but none of the Maximum PC staffers have children. So Jen decided to point the XCam2 at the next-closest thing—240 horsepower of gurgling Bavarian power. Jon now edits the magazine in full confidence that no parking-lot hoodluggers are molesting his treasured 5-year-old.



Snack Cam

The final destination for the XCam2 was the Imagine Media kitchen. Sometimes the benevolent God of Food will bestow the teeming Imagine Media masses with pizza, cake, deli sandwiches, and other delectables. But by the grace of an XCam2 hidden in the kitchen, Maximum PC editors get a vital 45-second lead over all other Imagine staffers. Here you see two employee-come-lanalis from Circulation picking through our remains.

Thanks for the memories, XCam! We couldn't have eaten lunch without you!