The computer monitor you should buy for your home office

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[00:00:09] **Lucia Ariano:** Is your TV on the blink? Has your fridge freezer suddenly packed in? Just move house and need to buy something quickly? That's where our just buy this recommendations come in. Welcome to this podcast from Witch. Hello, it's Lucia Ariano here in the Witch Studio for this episode of Just Buy This, a podcast featuring our experts and their buying advice.

[00:00:31] **Lucia Ariano:** I'm sure you'll have seen our Best Buy great value and e coy endorsements before, but with. Over 650 of them on our website. We know that it can sometimes feel overwhelming to search for the product that best suits your needs, and that's where just by this comes in exclusively available to which members.

[00:00:50] **Lucia Ariano:** These are handpicked recommendations that our product testing experts think. Tick the most important boxes and will work well for most people most of the time. And on today's episode, we are in our home office with one of our tech experts, Callum Pairs. Hello Callum.

[00:01:05] **Callum Pears:** Hello. Thank you for having me on.

[00:01:06] **Lucia Ariano:** Well, thank you.

[00:01:07] **Lucia Ariano:** It's the first time on a podcast, I believe, isn't it? It's

[00:01:09] **Callum Pears:** no pressure. Well,

[00:01:10] **Lucia Ariano:** thank you so much for joining us. And Callum, you are here to reveal the computer monitor you've given, adjust by this recommendation. Two. So let's, without further ado, let's get into it. What is that monitor?

[00:01:21] **Callum Pears:** So this is the Aer A Open two four cl one y go.

[00:01:25] **Callum Pears:** Not a catchy name, but a very catchy Best Buy, great value monitor. Uh, it's mid-size 24 inch full hd. Um, and it comes with a couple of ports as well, which from much of this size is pretty good. HDMI and the older VGA port for, uh, say year older TV or projector.

[00:01:41] **Lucia Ariano:** And you mentioned that it's a. Best buy, I think, and great value.

[00:01:45] **Lucia Ariano:** Absolutely. So for both of those endorsements, how did it manage to bag both of these and kind of how does it compare to other models around similar price range? Yeah,

[00:01:53] **Callum Pears:** it was quite a surprise. This is the first time, certainly while I've been covering computer monitors that we've had a best Buy. That's also great value.

[00:01:59] **Callum Pears:** Uh, often Best Buy computer monitors. Are in the mid to high hundreds. So it have, uh, one that's 69 pounds is pretty incredible. Um, this monitor did especially well through its, uh, reproduction of colors on screen, so had great picture quality. These colors were crisp, they were clear, they were accurate, which is something a lot of monitors sometimes struggle with, and especially, um, brilliant at making them consistent across the whole screen.

[00:02:24] **Callum Pears:** So if you are looking at, say, a, a, a dark red image. It's dark red in the corners and it doesn't piece out as you go into, um, the center.

[00:02:32] **Lucia Ariano:** Um, and I mean, wow. 69 pounds, that is, that's so cheap and I've got here that they could cost nearly 10 times the price. Yeah. So how have they done it so cheaply?

[00:02:41] **Callum Pears:** It's a really good question.

[00:02:42] **Callum Pears:** Um, we would love to know what a SC is. We really would. I think the, the beauty with this monitor is it does a lot, well, um, it, it doesn't specialize in anything. It's just a great all rounder monitor. Uh, it's, it's proven that in our tests, again, with the picture quality, but it's also simple to set up.

[00:02:59] **Callum Pears:** There's minimal fuss. You just attach the stand, uh, to the monitor itself and the settings as well. There's a nice level of handholding for those that aren't familiar with a lot of the tech jargon. Uh, there's handy explanations next to each of the settings and there's a toggle button in the middle, which is what you use to cycle through them.

[00:03:14] **Callum Pears:** So it's great quality, relatively, uh, fuss free and just a nice easy monitor to have, say for. Uh, is it your, your kid, uh, for their homework or for you in your home office

[00:03:25] **Lucia Ariano:** and some of the things that you've mentioned already, uh, you know, that we liked about it? Let's just get into, you know, the testing and, and how we work that out.

[00:03:33] **Lucia Ariano:** You know, how do we test monitors and what the main things we are looking at.

[00:03:36] **Callum Pears:** So, unsurprisingly, picture performance is our top, uh, test, and this dictates most of the score. We look at how many colors it can produce. How accurate those colors are, and again, how consistent they're across the screen. We use a little device called, um, a Color Ter.

[00:03:52] **Callum Pears:** This looks, so we send, um, through some software in our tests, different shades of colors. That device then assesses how well they're reproduced on screen, um, and how well. Uh, different shades of those colors are produced as well. Um, we also look at the performance in brightly lit environments as well as darker environments.

[00:04:14] **Callum Pears:** Mm-hmm. Sometimes monitors can be oversaturated by surrounding light, which can reduce, uh, the crispness, um, and punchiness of the color as well. Um, likewise in darker environments sometimes that brightness just isn't strong enough to really punch out. Um, so you can end up squinting at the screen, which obviously isn't ideal.

[00:04:31] **Callum Pears:** Mm-hmm. Uh, and, uh, we also look at darker images. This is quite a key test for the picture quality because this usually shows where there are some, uh, flaws and issues in the screen. So there's something called bleed through. This is where, uh, light from the, the backlight of the screen come through the image.

[00:04:49] **Callum Pears:** Uh, so if you think of it like a tracing paper and you hold it up to a lamp

[00:04:52] **Lucia Ariano:** Mm. And you can

[00:04:53] **Callum Pears:** just see the lamp just faintly coming through. Mm. Um, that's the kind of thing that certainly a monitor in this price range typically suffers from. There was some of that with this, uh, mine, but not to an excessive degree, which was really good to see.

[00:05:05] **Lucia Ariano:** Well, let's talk about some of the stuff that maybe it does suffer from them. 'cause it's. Completely perfect though. We do love it. Um, and I've got here that it's let down by its speakers. Tell us about that.

[00:05:15] **Callum Pears:** Yes, it's, it's a fairly common issue with computer monitors. Uh, usually if they have built in speakers, which isn't a guarantee for all monitors, uh, I would say roughly for do now.

[00:05:24] **Callum Pears:** Um, increasingly they're being phased out. For other tech, but when they do include them, they're typically quite poor. I have to say, actually this, uh, the speakers for this monitor, which is mediocre, which doesn't sound great, but actually comparatively speaking to, um, a lot of monitors is pretty good.

[00:05:39] **Callum Pears:** Mm-hmm. Many of them are quite muffled sounding, quite titty, harsh. Um, so this one again, not brilliant, you'll get a better performance from head. Phones or third party speakers that you can plug in. Um, but they're decent. They'll, they'll do for say, uh, a voice chat or a video call.

[00:05:56] **Lucia Ariano:** Mm.

[00:05:57] **Callum Pears:** Um, but not great for watching TV programs or films.

[00:06:00] **Lucia Ariano:** And I suppose, I mean, there is a question in do you really need the speakers to be good? I mean, I know that at. In my home setup. I don't actually use the speakers on my, on my desk, on my monitor. I just use my laptop ones, which actually are very good. Yeah. So, and, and what about anything else then, you know, anything else that might have let it down just a little bit.

[00:06:17] **Callum Pears:** So, as I said before, there was a little bit of bleed through that we detected. Mm-hmm. Uh, on the screen, this is only noticeable with really dark images. Um, and it's, it's a sort of white, misty, uh, press that you can see at the bottom of the screen. It's not especially distracting, but it, it could be if you're looking for, if you are a busy professional, say photo editing, which I wouldn't really advise this monitor for anyway.

[00:06:39] **Callum Pears:** Mm-hmm. Um, it would be quite distracting for that role where you are concentrating on the screen, uh, and looking at it, you know, through the whole process. But if you're just looking at it for your, say your emails, searching online, online banking, or just basic office tasks, whether that's working on the Word doc on spreadsheet, it's not especially, uh, distracting or noticeable, but it is there sadly.

[00:06:58] **Lucia Ariano:** So then, you know, working from home gamers, could it also suit gamers, would you say? Yeah,

[00:07:01] **Callum Pears:** it, it could do. It's got a 100 hertz refresh rate, which isn't, um, top-notch for a gaming monitor. Ideally you'd want 160 plus. Uh, but for, again, for a monitor of this price, uh, this size as well as a midsize monitor, um, it's pretty good.

[00:07:17] **Callum Pears:** It, it will do the job again. Uh, it won't be spectacular, but again, you can't really complain for six, nine pounds.

[00:07:23] **Lucia Ariano:** And I suppose for anybody listening who doesn't have a monitor. Um, you know, what's the value of, of using one? Or, or maybe even what's the value of upgrading one generally? What's your thoughts here?

[00:07:33] **Callum Pears:** Yeah, so we had of course the big spike from the pandemic when everyone was buying. Mm-hmm. Computer monitors. It's had a bit of a slump since then. However, five years is a long time in the tech world, uh, at a computer monitor. Inevitably even that technology's moved on. We've seen, um, some exciting new designs.

[00:07:49] **Callum Pears:** Again, the price now to upgrade is much cheaper. Now that we've found such a great Best Buy, great value model, I, I would really just stress to people, uh, even if you don't need to upgrade your monitor, it might be worth incorporating a second or third monitor into your setup. We find that it does make, uh, working on tasks like again, like document, spreadsheet, and even gaming and things.

[00:08:10] **Callum Pears:** Um. More efficient. It's, it's easier on your eyes as well 'cause you're not closing tabs or trying to find things. So again, it reduces the fuss as well. So even if you don't wanna upgrade, it's worth perhaps incorporating, um, a second or third monitor to your setup. And again, six, nine quid, you can't go wrong there.

[00:08:26] **Lucia Ariano:** Well, it does feel like, you know, you can't complain. It's very affordable at 69 pounds. And I do want to ask you about some other tech products, but before we get there, you know, is there anything we've missed? Is there anything that, that you feel like we, we should mention about this that, that we haven't mentioned?

[00:08:40] **Callum Pears:** So the brightness is a little bit underpowered compared to some of our other Best Buy monitors. Again, they're much prier models. Mm-hmm. So you would expect, uh, punchier backlight from them. But it's, it's still very good. It, it will, uh, handle brightly lip rooms or dark rooms fairly well. It's also relatively reflection free, so you won't see many annoying reflections say from your window.

[00:09:01] **Callum Pears:** Uh, you rather monitor your laptop, um, appearing on screen. Mm-hmm. So that, that'll reduce. That is a

[00:09:07] **Lucia Ariano:** problem I have with mine actually. I would say. Yeah. A lot of people. Yeah, absolutely.

[00:09:11] **Callum Pears:** Absolutely. But that, that it is relatively three of that so that, you know, that's quite a positive with this monitor.

[00:09:15] **Lucia Ariano:** And is it one that you have at home, I should ask you That really shouldn't I,

[00:09:18] **Callum Pears:** we, we have only just recently tested it.

[00:09:20] **Callum Pears:** Mm-hmm. So that's my executor, but it's definitely one I'm gonna be investing in again as a 24 inch model as well. If you don't have much space, it's a nice, uh, sort of compromise. Between, uh, efficient. Uh, on, on your desk or your workstation, while also having a decent sized screen to look at and not squint at.

[00:09:37] **Callum Pears:** Mm-hmm. Uh, so it, it fits in nicely and added with its performance.

[00:09:42] **Lucia Ariano:** Actually, we should probably comment on that, you know, size 24 inches. Is that kind of, uh, the average size of a monitor or, you know, how does that sit? Uh,

[00:09:50] **Callum Pears:** I would say it's just slightly below average. 26 28 is. Inch monitors are the most common that we see.

[00:09:56] **Callum Pears:** You obviously get the excessively big ones as well. 30, 32, 36. Mm-hmm. And you get smaller 22 inch models. Mm. Uh, plus one of the newer designs is portable monitors that you can, uh, carry around with. They usually range between. 12 and 18 inches. But for a traditional computer monitor, this is just slightly below average.

[00:10:14] **Lucia Ariano:** Mm-hmm. But I suppose that, you know, makes it quite versatile in terms of Absolutely. Where you put it in your home

[00:10:19] **Callum Pears:** and it's like weight as well. So quite portable. Mm-hmm. So if you do wanna move it from room to room for whatever reason. Um, or if you just want to, uh, reorganize your desk, have it set up in a different position, um, that makes it, uh, quite an attractive option.

[00:10:33] **Lucia Ariano:** Well, that is one tech product taken care of. But just before we go, if you're after something else, can you give us a little taste of some of the. Other things that have our, just buy this recommendation in this world,

[00:10:45] **Callum Pears:** certainly can. So if you're looking for a laptop, we have a speedy Best Buy model that still offers good value for money.

[00:10:50] **Lucia Ariano:** Mm-hmm.

[00:10:51] **Callum Pears:** Um, going again for the, uh, home office, uh, improvement and upgrades. We also have a printer that will cost just five pounds, 75 P and Inc over three years compared to others that can cost upward to 280 pounds a year. Wow. It's a pretty incredible printer there. Uh, so if you have poor internet speed in one room, a common issue I'm sure many of us have faced, including me.

[00:11:10] **Callum Pears:** Mm-hmm. Uh, we have a great value wifi extender that can handle multiple devices connecting simultaneously while maintaining fast connection speeds a very handy device in that scenario. Mm-hmm. And finally, for those battery powered products, we have a good and widely available option that provides decent battery life for hydrant devices.

[00:11:27] **Callum Pears:** I think digital cameras are high powered torches.

[00:11:29] **Lucia Ariano:** I should just say that these recommendations are exclusively available to which members. So to find out what they are and to read more about the more than 50 other products that have our, just by this recommendation, just head to witch co uk slash just by.

[00:11:43] **Lucia Ariano:** This, and thank you again. Can, it's been great to have you on the show.

[00:11:46] **Callum Pears:** My pleasure. I hope I can come back.

[00:11:57] **Lucia Ariano:** Thanks for listening to this podcast from which the UK's consumer champion, you can find plenty more advice about what we discuss today in the show notes. There. You'll also find a link to become a witch member for 50% off the usual price, an offer exclusively available to you, our podcast listeners joining, which will not only give you access to our product reviews, our app, one-to-one, personalized buying advice, and every issue of which magazine across the year, but you'll also be helping us to make live simpler, fairer, and safe.

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[00:12:45] **Lucia Ariano:** See you next time.