

AS ASDA & TESCO LAUNCH THE £4 TOASTER, WE LOOK AT THE HOTTEST MODELS AROUND

TOP OF THE



WHETHER you want a hearty breakfast or a quick tea-time snack, the toaster is one of the most-used — and possibly most overlooked — items in the kitchen. But this week, supermarket giants ASDA and Tesco launched toasters retailing at just £4.44. So will they

leave you with a warm glow — or just browned off? We asked ANNA SEAMAN and MISHAAL KHAN to look at the best toasters on the market with the help of CLAIRE LIVINGSTONE, senior consumer researcher for Good Housekeeping magazine.



Dualit Vario Six-Slice Toaster
£218.26

THIS might be the most expensive toaster on the market, but the Dualit Vario is designed for heavy-duty use and can make up to 192 slices of toast an hour. Its polished finish makes it look great and it's functional, too — the extra wide slots are suitable for bagels, sandwiches and teacakes. Each toaster is hand-assembled and the assembler's individual mark is displayed on the bottom of the toaster.



Tesco Value
£4.44

TESCO'S own brand value toaster has given its competitors a run for their money. Other supermarkets have revalued their appliances to match Tesco's price, and the toaster has been flying off the shelves since its launch.

Russell Hobbs Toaster (two-slice) £17.45



CLASSIC toaster with variable browning control, high-rise feature and a removable crumb tray. Centre guides automatically adjust to the size of the bread, and a defrost setting means you can toast bread straight from the freezer.

DeLonghi Toaster Argento (four-slice)
£49.95



RETRO cream U.S. diner-style toaster with two extra-large slots that heat independently and centre the bread, ensuring even browning. Integrated bread grips mean it can also handle bagels. High-riser makes it easier to take toast out.



Morphy Richards Two-slice Graphite Toaster
£19.95

THIS toaster has a countdown feature to tell you when your toast is ready. As a high-lift toaster, it's easier to take out smaller items. It also comes with a pull-out crumb tray and a warming rack.

Krups Expert Toaster (two-slice)
£39.95

NOT only is this black toaster aesthetically different, it's functional too. Turn the lever to lower and raise the bread-holder. Comes with rehearse, defrost and cancel buttons, while the cool-touch black exterior ensures it never gets too hot.



Prestige Deco Duck Egg Blue (two-slice) £34.99

THIS duck egg blue toaster doesn't just fit in with the paintwork, its features include polished stainless steel Soft Touch illuminated buttons, rehearse, defrost and bagel settings and extra cord storage. A matching kettle is available.



Magimix Le Toaster (2-slice)
£114.99

A TOP-of-the-range product which comes with three different toasting options, a bun warmer and a long-life filament element. The coloured ends are available in cream or red. From www.deluxeproduct.com



Siemens Porsche Two-slice Toaster
£129.99

THIS sleek brushed-aluminium two-slice toaster is designed by Ferdinand Porsche of the car-making factory. It automatically adjusts to the thickness of the bread and has 11 different degrees of browning. A blue LED light shows you exactly how much longer it will take before your toast is ready. Comes with a protective dust cover.



Bosch Solitaire (two-slice) £89.95

BOSCH'S contemporary two-slice toaster has variable width slots, an integrated warming rack and browning control. With a dark-blue trim and a brushed stainless steel finish, it has a memory setting that stores the last setting used.



Cuisinart Four-Slice Compact £99.95

RETRO-style toaster that is championed for its simplicity. Its toasting mechanism is swift and reliable and it comes with a three-year guarantee. The crumb trays are based on the design on CD racks so they pop out and are easy to empty.



Pop Art Toaster (CT-830 Chrome, 4 plate)
£29.99

THE Pop Art Toaster comes with image plates which you slide in alongside your bread — so your toast comes out patterned. It means you can stencil in a sun or the words I Love You. Available in four colours and chrome, there is already a two-month waiting list for the product. www.poparttoaster.com or www.simmerhomewares.co.uk

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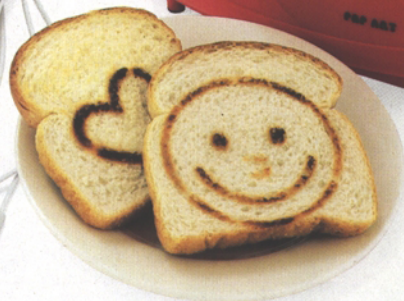
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I'll toast to that

Back-to-school means breakfast on the run. Toast emblazoned with hearts and smiles will remind you to have a nice day. **Pop Art Toaster**, \$35, www.target.com

Jean therapy

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CheckOut

A smart buyer's guide to styles, shops, sales and services

Critics' pick

Baker's mark Long gone are the good old days of crustless star-shaped sandwiches and raisin ants on a log. But thanks to the **David & Goliath Stupid Toaster**, we now have a new way to make plain food more exciting. The kitschy two-slice appliance revives the art of playful meal presentation with interchangeable hot plates that sear images and sassy sayings onto bread. Available in aqua (\$35) and white (\$25), the toaster comes with different messages: DRAMA QUEEN, I'M TOAST, BITE ME and I'M HOT, to name a few. Brunch at your place will be burned into guests' minds forever. Available at *Broadway Panhandler*, 477 Broome St between Greene and Wooster Sts (212-966-3434) or broadwaypanhandler.com. —Kate Lowenstein



CHECK OUT

**LC Premiums, Ltd.
Disney Mickey 5-in-1 Tasty Baker by Pop Art toaster**

What are the most positive characteristics of this product?

- The 5-in-1 Tasty Baker was eagerly examined by everybody as the prospect of having Mickey Pancakes was very exciting. The children thought that eating the Disney characters was hilarious and enjoyed every bite. The baker itself was very easy to work and cleaned up very easily. Its size allows for easy storage.
- The kids enjoyed making muffins, waffles and cake batter into Disney characters. The older kids liked "punching out" the characters from the finished waffle or other food item.
- The positive characteristics of this product include the idea of a fun way for children to eat. This was a big help when dealing with picky eaters and Mickey Mouse and his friends made the food go down much easier. The recipe card were a great feature to add. Very helpful!

Disney Princess 5-in-1 Tasty Baker by Pop Art toaster

What are the most positive characteristics of this product?

- This was something that my child and I could do together. Reading the directions, oiling up the product. Deciding whether to make brownies, pancakes, or cakes... We had great fun with this, the treats were delicious and entertaining to eat.
- The most positive characteristic of this product is that it would make any child want to eat anything cooked in it. The princess shapes are beautiful and makes the child feel like royalty. Eggs were happily eaten by the pickiest eater because they were in the shape of a crown. This product is a joy for parents of picky eaters. They can cook anything in them and the children are happy to eat whatever is cooked in the princess shapes. The small scoop for batter as well as the two-headed brush was a great addition to this product.
- The material this waffle iron was made of was fabulous, waffles do not stick! Owing many waffle irons in the past this has always been a huge problem. This product was also very easy to clean and store. On the patterns with details, the details showed very clearly on waffles.

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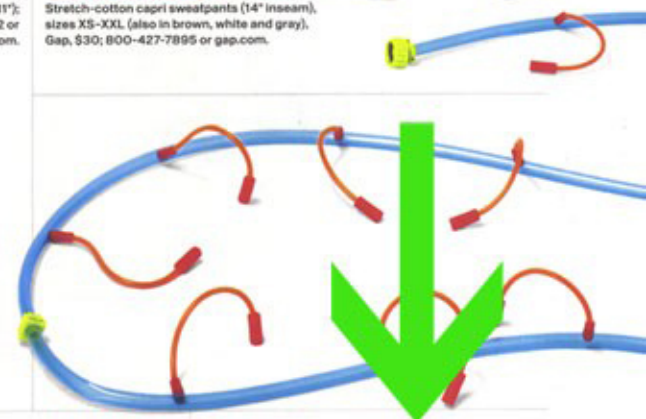
ANCHORS AWAY
Cotton canvas tote (in 18 colors and three sizes), 22" large tote, Twelve, \$81; 212-244-5221 or twelvenyc.com.



CREAM OF THE CROPPED
Stretch-cotton capri sweatpants (14" inseam), sizes XS-XXL (also in brown, white and gray), Gap, \$30; 800-427-7895 or gap.com.



LIGHTEN UP
Bamboo lanterns with removable metal votive candle holder, CB2 (\$20 each, H: 9", D: 11"); 800-806-6252 or cb2.com.



FEELING FLOATY?
Unsinkable vinyl float in Sun Ray (and two other patterns), Frontgate, \$169; 800-533-7502 or frontgate.com.

BREAD WINNER
Toaster (also in black, red or white) with removable plates to imprint six patterns, Pop Art, \$35; 212-779-7814 or poparttoaster.com.



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Critics' pick

MAKE A TOAST Breakfast in bed. It's the perfect way to begin Valentine's Day. Sure, you can display your love for your sweetheart with scrambled eggs and mimosas (it's a holiday! Make a drink!), but if you really want to spell it out, don't forget the toast. Put a couple slices of bread in the **Pop Art toaster** (\$30) and within minutes, you'll have toast imprinted with *love*. The two-slice appliance uses metal plates to gear bread as it toasts. And if you're about to break it off with your valentine, you could always give up on us instead. Available at www.broadwayjapan.com —Kevin Ash

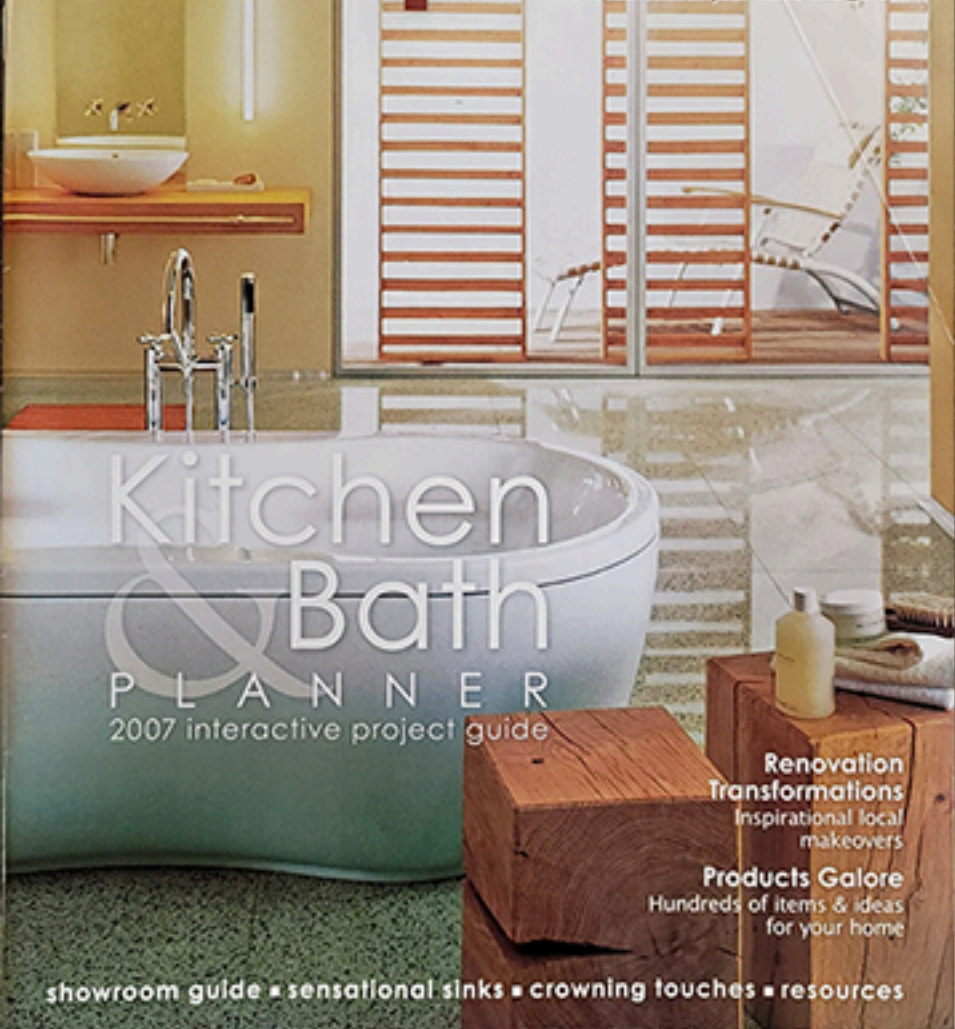
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Grow a Winter Garden Indoors

Miss your garden during the frigid months? Try the Aero Garden, a botanical delight. Voted one of the best new products of 2006 by Good Morning America, this fun "appliance" grows delicious herbs, tomatoes, lettuce and more. Using NASA-proven, aeroponic technology, the plants are suspended in air and water for clean, healthy foliage. Plants grow up to five times faster than in soil, with no dirt, weeds or mess. It's great for kids to learn about gardening, even if they live in an apartment. Available from Sur La Table (store and online), Frontgate (catalog and online), www.aerogrow.com, under \$150.



Berr! It's time to gather around the stove for a nice hot drink in your newly remodeled kitchen. To help make winter gatherings even more special for your family, I've detailed a few new kitchen must-haves.



Toasty Art

Why just eat plain toast when you can eat art? The Pop Art Toaster is not only nifty-looking in its own right, but it makes toast with pictures "branded" into the surface. How does it work? Special metal plates simply slide into this unique gadget. They cause pictures or sentiments to sear right onto the bread. It gets better. You can buy edible markers that come in flavors, so you can color your breakfast. What a fun way to get kiddos (and adults too) to clean their plate. Metro Retro, (214) 370-0633, www.poparttoaster.com, \$34.99.

