

test-drive coffeemakers

Sometimes good-looking isn't good enough. We tested six stylish machines to find out which ones really perform.



the underdog

happy: Our least expensive model turned out to be one of our favorites. It's intuitive and easy to use, and it brews surprisingly delicious coffee.

sad: Okay, so its looks didn't wow the design-obsessed staff members: The plastic casing makes it appear as inexpensive as it is.

the verdict: ✓✓✓✓

Cuisinart programmable filter brew 12-cup coffeemaker \$49.95 COOKING.COM



the cute nerd

happy: Super-delicious coffee. One of its tricks is that it heats the water hotter than most makers to get more flavor out of the grind for a noticeably smooth brew.

sad: Lots of parts to clean. Some judged it more beast than beauty.

the verdict: ✓✓✓✓

Technivorm Clubline (KB741) 10-cup coffeemaker \$184 BOYDS.COM



the handsome rich kid

happy: Attractive and simple. The clean lines and shiny, polished stainless steel caught our eye. The on/off dial (no other controls!) is ideal for sleepy mornings.

sad: For this price, we wish the coffee had been better. Some parts feel fragile despite their solid appearance.

the verdict: ✓✓✓

Dualit 10-cup coffeemaker \$239.99 GRACIOUS HOME (800) 338-7809



the aesthete

happy: A neat freak/design fascist's dream. Many think of this Jasper Morrison model—with its interior compartments that hold filters—as the design gold standard.

sad: Good, not great, coffee. Some staffers found the machine "dated," "trying too hard" and "too big." Carafe is hard to get in and out and has an awkward locking mechanism.

the verdict: ✓✓✓

Jasper Morrison by Rowenta 12-cup coffee machine \$150 BLISSHOME.COM



the nice house, nobody home

happy: This model is certainly good-looking—solid, brushed stainless steel in a simple shape that's kind of futuristic—and the coffee is worthy.

sad: It gets major points off for design flaws and operating problems. The carafe is very hard to get out and the controls are confusing.

the verdict: ✓✓

Russell Hobbs programmable 8-cup coffeemaker \$59.99 ESALTON.COM



the underachiever

happy: Coffee satisfyingly hot.

sad: Hot coffee, yes; great coffee, no. Also messy. We were surprised such a popular brand had so many problems. The swing-out basket seemed flimsy. It dripped while brewing. And the grounds nearly overflowed when making a full pot.

the verdict: ✓✓

Krups programmable 12-cup coffee machine \$99.99 BEDBATHANDBEYOND.COM

tips for making great coffee

You've probably heard these a million times, but we're reminding you just in case.

- Use fresh, cold water.
- Keep your pot really clean.
- Choose the proper grind for the brewing method.
- Plus, buy coffee certified as "fair trade," to help farmers in developing countries get a decent price for their goods.

WHO SAYS

the experts: Kate Reilly, retail general manager for Porto Rico Importing Co., NYC; *domino's* tech editor, Stephen Treffinger

everyone else: Our over-caFFEinated staff