

Spectacular FIREWORKS

Want a fifth of November to remember?
Cavan Scott "oohs" and "ahhs" his way
through the latest in whizz-bang fireworks



The Rocket Crate - Best for making a racket

When we received the Rocket Crate we didn't know whether to be excited or slightly nervous. Inside the box was a wire mesh cage, bound tightly with metal bands - it took a pair of wire cutters to liberate another box filled with 25 rockets. It soon became obvious why such secure packaging was required: the rockets range from smaller Planet Attack rockets, which explode 30m (100ft) above you in every colour of the rainbow, to Big Mama, a massive rocket that reaches 135m (450ft) before exploding with a deafening thunderclap.

Price: £150 Info: www.fireworks.co.uk

Plasma Core - Best for variety

Plasma Core is made up of three cakes - clusters of tubes filled with projectiles. To prepare them, you sink the cakes into soft ground, ensuring that they don't topple over mid-display and take out your neighbours' homes. Once they're buried, each has an individual fuse to light. The smallest - Electron Wave - delivers 20 glittery star bursts, while Neutron Star packs 49 massive palm effects, and Proton Storm completes the set with 96 star clusters that light the sky to the sound of a bowl of Rice Krispies turned up to 11. Fast, furious and fabulous.

Price: £97.99 Info: www.fireworkdeals.com

Colossus - Best for maximum impact

Want a firework display, but don't want the hassle of running back and forth to light fuses and then retreating to a safe distance? Then Colossus is for you. This monster is simply stunning. One barrage contains 173 spectacular fireworks, all timed to go off from a single fuse, illuminating the sky above with a myriad of scintillating stars, whizzing comets and powerful crackles. Lasting well over a minute, Colossus has it all and for good reason - it's designed by the same pyrotechnician who masterminds the Sydney Harbour Bridge display every year.

Price: £99.99 Info: www.blackcatfireworks.co.uk

Krazy Klock - Best for budgets

The one firework that had everyone talking after our test was a little fellow that cost under a tenner. The Krazy Klock proves that not all bonfire-night pyrotechnics have to threaten to either burst your eardrums or blow a hole in your wallet. A cross between a Catherine wheel and a fountain, Krazy Klock kicks off its act with spinning clock hands before then working its way through a 90-second cycle of crackles, dancing sparks, strobes, whistles and multicoloured flares. It's unusual, fun and a bargain.

Price: £7.95 Info: www.epicfireworks.com

Wire Free Sky Lanterns - Best for the timid

Sky Lanterns make a great alternative for anyone who gets nervous around loud noises and flashing lights. Essentially a miniature hot-air balloon, you inflate the bio-degradable paper lantern by unfolding it and dropping it down sharply, thereby filling it with air. Once you're holding it upright, simply get a friend to light the fuel pad, wait around 30 seconds for the lantern to fill with hot air, and release. The charming, glowing balloon will float peacefully into the night sky. Just make sure there are no trees or power lines above its flight path!

Price: £17.49 (five pack) Info: www.skylanterns.com



BUYING FIREWORKS

What to buy

Garden fireworks are fine for small gardens if spectators are 5m away, but display fireworks require a viewing distance of 25m.

What not to buy

Never buy loose fireworks or packs that have had fireworks removed, and only get ones that have instructions in a language you are fluent in.

Where to buy

Get fireworks from licensed retailers - they should always have 'British Standard 7114' printed somewhere on the box.

Safety

Only adults should set up, light and dispose of fireworks - kids should stay a safe distance away. For the full Firework Code, see www.saferfireworks.com

WARNING

Excluding the Sky Lanterns and Krazy Klock, the minimum spectator distance for all fireworks is 25m.

