

**RATINGS**

GOOD: ★★★

FAIR: ★★

POOR: ★

# RATING BLENDERS

**RECOMMENDED**

**L'Equip R.P.M.**

PRICE: \$134  
 INPUT POWER/SPEED: 900 watts,  
 18,653 rpm  
 JAR: Plastic, 56 ounces

**PERFORMANCE**

ICE CRUSHING: ★★★  
 SMOOTHIE: ★★★  
 SOUP PUREE: ★★★  
 HUMMUS: ★★★  
 PEANUT BUTTER: ★

**TESTERS' COMMENTS**

Excelled at every task except peanut butter, and did so in less time than most. Liked the manual power dial. Only complaint—and it's minor—is that it can take a few tries to nestle the jar into the base.


**BEST BUY**
**Braun PowerMax**

PRICE: \$49.99  
 INPUT POWER/SPEED: 525 watts,  
 21,368 rpm  
 JAR: Glass, 58 ounces

ICE CRUSHING: ★★★  
 SMOOTHIE: ★★★  
 SOUP PUREE: ★★★  
 HUMMUS: ★★  
 PEANUT BUTTER: ★

Made short work of all tests except peanut butter. The unique triangular-shaped jar makes it especially easy to rest the jar in the base (a problem with some other models).


**Waring 2-Speed MegaMix Specialty**

PRICE: \$249.95  
 INPUT POWER/SPEED: 746 watts,  
 24,591 rpm  
 JAR: Plastic, 48 ounces

ICE CRUSHING: ★  
 SMOOTHIE: ★★★  
 SOUP PUREE: ★★★  
 HUMMUS: ★★★  
 PEANUT BUTTER: ★★★

Very loud, especially with hard items. Movement for ice crushing seemed "too violent"; the ice cubes were blown off the blades, never to return. The only blender to excel in making peanut butter, but poor ice crushing is a flaw.


**Vita-Mix 5000**

PRICE: \$399  
 INPUT POWER/SPEED: 1380 watts,  
 27,364 rpm  
 JAR: Plastic, 68 ounces

ICE CRUSHING: ★★  
 SMOOTHIE: ★★★  
 SOUP PUREE: ★★★  
 HUMMUS: ★★  
 PEANUT BUTTER: ★★

Best smoothie maker. Stands out because of its large size and huge jar. The stirrer, which can be inserted through the lid, is helpful for making peanut butter.


**KitchenAid Pro Line Chef's Blender**

PRICE: \$239.99  
 INPUT POWER/SPEED: 746 watts,  
 16,130 rpm  
 JAR: Plastic, 48 ounces

ICE CRUSHING: ★★  
 SMOOTHIE: ★★★  
 SOUP PUREE: ★★★  
 HUMMUS: ★★  
 PEANUT BUTTER: ★

A solid all-around performer. Design is simple and controls very intuitive—although we can't imagine ever using the medium speed (pulse, high, and low are enough for most tasks).

**RECOMMENDED WITH RESERVATIONS**

**Cuisinart SmartPower Premiere**

PRICE: \$199.90  
 INPUT POWER/SPEED: 600 watts,  
 21,496 rpm  
 JAR: Glass, 50 ounces

ICE CRUSHING: ★★  
 SMOOTHIE: ★★  
 SOUP PUREE: ★★  
 HUMMUS: ★★  
 PEANUT BUTTER: ★

Keypad controls are easy to clean, but it's annoying to have to push "on" before selecting your speed level. Occasional leakage from the bottom of the jar.

**NOT RECOMMENDED**

**Jenn-Air Attrezzi**

PRICE: \$209.99  
 INPUT POWER/SPEED: 500 watts,  
 10,832 rpm  
 JAR: Glass, 72 ounces

ICE CRUSHING: ★★★  
 SMOOTHIE: ★  
 SOUP PUREE: ★  
 HUMMUS: ★★  
 PEANUT BUTTER: ★

Inverted design (wider at the base) made retrieving processed ingredients difficult; we had to unscrew the base of the jar and remove the blades to empty it. Too many buttons.


**Waring Pro PBB**

PRICE: \$129  
 INPUT POWER/SPEED: 390 watts,  
 19,973 rpm  
 JAR: Glass, 40 ounces

ICE CRUSHING: ★  
 SMOOTHIE: ★★  
 SOUP PUREE: ★★  
 HUMMUS: ★★  
 PEANUT BUTTER: ★

Narrow cloverleaf shape made retrieving food awkward. Blender feels tipsy when resting on its base, but it never rocked off. While the retro look is cool, poor performance is not. Relatively small jar.


**Emerilware**

PRICE: \$99.95  
 INPUT POWER/SPEED: 500 watts,  
 22,326 rpm  
 JAR: Glass, 50 ounces

ICE CRUSHING: ★  
 SMOOTHIE: ★★  
 SOUP PUREE: ★★  
 HUMMUS: ★  
 PEANUT BUTTER: ★

Too many button options—hard to tell which buttons to use for what task. And is there really a need for a milk-shake button? More damning, poor performance at several key tasks sunk this blender to the bottom of rankings.