

# RATING "NEW WAVE" COFFEE MAKERS

## RATINGS

GOOD: ★★★

FAIR: ★★

POOR: ★

Our tests included seven electric coffee makers (of which three were prototypes because production models were not avail-

able at press time), each with designs or features aimed at improving the flavor of the coffee, ease of use, or both. Whenever possible, we chose models with a thermal carafe, which we prefer over a traditional glass carafe on a hot burner plate for keeping coffee hot and fresh tasting over time. For all of the machines except the single-cup brewers, we brewed three full pots and evaluated the coffee when fresh, after 30 minutes, and after 60 minutes. With the single-cup machines, we evaluated the coffee only when fresh.

We evaluated the machines according to the criteria listed below. The flavor of the coffee when fresh and the machines' convenience factor—how easy they were to set up, use, and clean up—were our most (and equally) important tests. The machines are listed by type and in order of preference within each type.

**PRICE:** Manufacturers' suggested price for pre-production prototype models. For models purchased retail, prices paid in Boston-area stores, from national mail-order catalogs, or from Web sites.

**FLAVOR:** Tasters sampled black coffee from three fresh batches. Rated according to tasters' perceptions of acidity, body, aroma, taste, and serving temperature.

**CONVENIENCE:** The easier a machine was to set up, use, and clean, the better.

**FULL-POT BREW TIME:** Averaged from three pots; includes grinding or heating water where applicable.

**FULL-POT TEMPERATURE, FRESH:** Averaged from three pots of coffee, rounded to the nearest degree. The hotter, the better.

**FULL-POT TEMPERATURE, 30 MINUTES/60 MINUTES:** Averaged from three pots of coffee, rounded to the nearest degree. The hotter, the better.

**TESTERS' COMMENTS:** These comments augment the information on the chart with observations about the coffee makers' performance.

Brand	Testing Criteria	Testers' Comments
<b>GRIND AND BREW</b>		
<b>Cuisinart</b> Grind & Brew Thermal 10-Cup Coffee Maker, Model DGB-600	 <p><b>PRICE:</b> \$149.99 <b>FLAVOR:</b> ★★★ <b>CONVENIENCE:</b> ★★ <b>FULL-POT BREW TIME:</b> 10 min, 21 sec <b>FULL-POT TEMP, FRESH:</b> 178° <b>FULL-POT TEMP, 30 MIN:</b> 175° <b>FULL-POT TEMP, 60 MIN:</b> 172°</p> <p><b>FEATURES:</b> Built-in blade grinder, small batch setting, clock, programmable automatic start, pause-and-pour, audible "brew finished" tone, automatic shutoff, water filter <b>Recommended with reservations</b></p>	<b>TESTERS' COMMENTS:</b> Though coffee was good, unit was nuisance to clean. Lacks grind adjustment feature and maximum fill mark in carafe, both of which would be nice. Grinder chamber is small.
<b>Melitta</b> Automatic Mill & Brew with Thermal Carafe, Model MEMBIOT	 <p><b>PRICE:</b> \$95.00 <b>FLAVOR:</b> ★★★ <b>CONVENIENCE:</b> ★★★ <b>FULL-POT BREW TIME:</b> 12 min, 28 sec <b>FULL-POT TEMP, FRESH:</b> 172° <b>FULL-POT TEMP, 30 MIN:</b> 167° <b>FULL-POT TEMP, 60 MIN:</b> 165°</p> <p><b>FEATURES:</b> Built-in blade grinder, adjustable grind, clock, programmable automatic start, pause-and-pour, automatic shutoff <b>Recommended with reservations</b></p>	<b>TESTERS' COMMENTS:</b> Tasters found coffee to be bitter unless grind was set to coarse, which improved it some. Very easy to use, and grinder/filter assembly was larger and easier to clean than the Cuisinart model.
<b>Capresso</b> CoffeeTEAM Luxe, Model 453th	 <p><b>PRICE:</b> \$199.99 <b>FLAVOR:</b> ★★★ <b>CONVENIENCE:</b> ★★ <b>FULL-POT BREW TIME:</b> 10 min, 49 sec <b>FULL-POT TEMP, FRESH:</b> 180° <b>FULL-POT TEMP, 30 MIN:</b> 174° <b>FULL-POT TEMP, 60 MIN:</b> 171°</p> <p><b>FEATURES:</b> Built-in burr grinder, adjustable grind, adjustable brew strength, adjustable batch size, clock, programmable automatic start, automatic shutoff, water filter <b>Recommended with reservations</b></p>	<b>TESTERS' COMMENTS:</b> Brews good coffee, but filter basket twice failed to position itself correctly after being filled with ground coffee, which arrests brewing. Can be quirky—you must change two settings to brew partial pot, and you have to position carafe just so to prevent condensation from building in coffee feeder channel.
<b>VACUUM</b>		
<b>Black and Decker</b> InFuze 10-Cup Vacuum-Brew Coffeemaker (PROTOTYPE)	 <p><b>PRICE:</b> \$69.99–\$79.99 <b>FLAVOR:</b> ★★★ <b>CONVENIENCE:</b> ★★★ <b>FULL-POT BREW TIME:</b> 13 min, 42 sec <b>FULL-POT TEMP, FRESH:</b> 203° <b>FULL-POT TEMP, 30 MIN:</b> 192° <b>FULL-POT TEMP, 60 MIN:</b> 186°</p> <p><b>FEATURES:</b> Clock, programmable automatic start, automatic shutoff <b>Recommended</b></p>	<b>TESTERS' COMMENTS:</b> As easy to set up and use, and easier to clean (owing to carafe with wider mouth), as more expensive Bodum. Brewed hottest coffee of all machines, but, like Bodum, does not hold coffee very well. Can also be used as electric kettle.
<b>Bodum</b> Santos Electric Vacuum Coffee Maker	 <p><b>PRICE:</b> \$99.99 <b>FLAVOR:</b> ★★★ <b>CONVENIENCE:</b> ★★ <b>FULL-POT BREW TIME:</b> 8 min, 20 sec <b>FULL-POT TEMP, FRESH:</b> 191° <b>FULL-POT TEMP, 30 MIN:</b> 182° <b>FULL-POT TEMP, 60 MIN:</b> 169°</p> <p><b>FEATURES:</b> Clock, programmable automatic start, automatic shutoff <b>Recommended with reservations</b></p>	<b>TESTERS' COMMENTS:</b> Part coffee brewer, part side show. Easy to set up and use, but small mouth of carafe necessitates use of bottle brush for cleaning. Does not hold coffee as well as thermal carafe. Can be used as electric kettle.
<b>SINGLE CUP</b>		
<b>Melitta</b> One:One Java-Pod Coffee Maker, Model MES1W (PROTOTYPE)	 <p><b>PRICE:</b> \$59.99 <b>FLAVOR:</b> ★★★ <b>CONVENIENCE:</b> ★★★ <b>FULL-POT BREW TIME:</b> 36 sec/cup <b>FULL-POT TEMP, FRESH:</b> 170° <b>FULL-POT TEMP, 30 MIN:</b> NA <b>FULL-POT TEMP, 60 MIN:</b> NA</p> <p><b>FEATURES:</b> Adjustable brew strength, automatic shutoff <b>Recommended</b></p>	<b>TESTERS' COMMENTS:</b> Coffee splashes as it's dispensed into cup and can dribble from spout after mug has been removed. That said, the coffee was good, strength adjustable, and machine inexpensive. Good value, as long as you don't mind depending on Melitta's choice of coffee.
<b>Keurig</b> B-100 Single-Cup Brewing System (PROTOTYPE)	 <p><b>PRICE:</b> \$249.95 <b>FLAVOR:</b> ★★★ <b>CONVENIENCE:</b> ★★★ <b>FULL-POT BREW TIME:</b> 45 sec/cup <b>FULL-POT TEMP, FRESH:</b> 180° <b>FULL-POT TEMP, 30 MIN:</b> NA <b>FULL-POT TEMP, 60 MIN:</b> NA</p> <p><b>FEATURES:</b> 80-ounce water tank <b>Recommended</b></p>	<b>TESTERS' COMMENTS:</b> Like an exotic sports car—everyone who walked by stopped to ooh and ahh. Brewing is quick, easy, and clean, but machine lacks adjustable brew strength (beyond choosing stronger coffee).