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TRIED & TESTED

KBQ jumps on the nutri-blender bandwagon to test out the big names in blenders that can provide you with the best smoothies, soups and sorbets

Words Shauna O'Carroll

THE VERSATILE

If you have never had a blender before, the Oster Versa Performance Blender is a good one to start with. It is a simple machine that is user-friendly and features three pre-programmed settings. The blender comes with a base featuring a manual speed dial and two jugs – a large and small for different mixes. The recipe booklet is limited, but features healthy recipes for different diets, particularly vegan and gluten-free. The ingredients featured in the recipes can be difficult to find and may need to be sourced from health stores. The blender itself is not as powerful as its counterparts and does take longer to get the desired blend, however the three program settings (Smoothies, Soups and Dips) mean you can leave the mix to blend automatically. This nutri-blender is the easiest to clean, makes minimal mess, and automatically starts once the attachments are placed together.

Oster Versa Performance Blender, \$999,
harveynorman.com.au **Rating: 3/5**



THE LIFESTYLE

There is a reason why Vitamix products are loved all over the world. Efficient, fast and user-friendly, the Vitamix Professional Series 750 blender is an extremely powerful and robust machine. What sets this blender apart from its competitors is the amazing recipe book and instructional DVD that comes with it, which features hundreds of healthy, delicious recipes. Installed with five pre-programmed settings (Smoothies, Hot Soups, Frozen Desserts, Purées and Cleaning), creating snacks, meals and drinks is simple, as is cleaning up afterwards. The most expensive on the market, the Vitamix Professional Series 750 is a significant investment and the large size of the base and jug makes it difficult to store. The Vitamix Professional Series 750 is for those dedicated to blending.

Vitamix Professional Series 750, \$1495,
vitamix.com.au **Rating: 4/5**



THE TECH WIZARD

If you have seen the famous "Will it blend?" videos, you will know that Blendtec blenders can pulverise almost anything. The Blendtec HP3A Ultimate Combo is no different. While I didn't try to blend golf balls, I found this blender was the quickest and most efficient in blending everything, from easy cake mixes to the most difficult of nut butters. This blender is also the most tech-savvy of the bunch, featuring an easy-to-use LCD interface where you can select different programs and auto-set your favourite four programs for future use. Containing two separate jugs for different blending techniques, and a detailed recipe book featuring tasty dishes for a variety of diets, the Blendtec HP3A Ultimate Combo is the ultimate in nutri-blenders.

Blendtec HP3A Ultimate Combo, \$1035,
blendtecaustralia.com.au **Rating: 5/5**



THE HEALTH NUT

The Optimum 9400 is a deceptively simple machine. It is the only blender to be completely manual with no program settings, but what it lacks in special features it makes up for with powerful and smooth blending. The six stainless-steel blades blend at a speed of up to 44,000 revolutions per minute, with a manual speed dial from one to 10, making it the fastest nutri-blender. Even at its lowest speed, the Optimum 9400 blends ingredients into a smooth, velvety texture. With the speeds being as high as they are, this blender makes surprisingly little noise, a real plus in the world of typically loud blenders. This nutri-blender also comes with a nut-milk bag and a recipe book featuring homemade recipes from nutritionists and food bloggers.

The Optimum 9400, \$579, froothie.com.au **Rating: 4/5**



THE BOSS

Quietly powerful, the Boss blender by Breville is the most user-friendly appliance we tested, featuring an LCD timer, manual speed dial and five pre-programmed settings. The machine comes with a base and a standard-sized jug that is easy to pack away, as well as two different kinds of tampers. The instruction booklet is clear and concise and features easy-to-follow diagrams, explanations of the different settings and a fantastic Hints & Tips section. The recipe book, *Blending with the Boss*, does not feature many recipes but it discusses the science behind blending and how to get the best from the machine. It is also the only blender that features a Green Smoothie setting, making it the boss in nutri-blenders.

Breville the Boss Blender, \$999, breville.com.au **Rating: 4/5**

