



removes
creases
easily

SimplyHer
ed's rave

MAIER STEAM GENIE DIGITAL

\$208, FROM HOME-FIX (FOR A FULL LISTING OF RETAILERS, GO TO WWW.MAIER.COM.SG)

FEATURES This sturdy unit has an industrial-strength cast aluminium base. We like how the power switch on the base is on the same side as the hose, so you can turn it off without having to swirl the machine around. It rolls along smoothly on its castors, which swivel 360 degrees. Its no-frills finial consists of a nozzle rest and hanger hole. It has a generous 3.5l tank that allows for two straight hours of steaming. It has three levels of steam control to cater to different fabrics and how wrinkled your clothes are. Additional features include an alarm that alerts you when your water tank is empty, a detachable fabric brush and detachable safety hose wrap.

PERFORMANCE Takes just 90 seconds to steam up, with a generous burst of steam indicating it's all set to go. It needs just three swipes of the nozzle head to remove the creases on a cotton sundress and T-shirt, as well as a deeply creased pair of cotton pants that's been folded in half on a hanger for the longest time; removes folds on shirts with just one swipe.

VERDICT Sturdy and effective

8.5



STYLUX LH-GS681B

\$129, FROM LTS GROUP, #05-01/03, 115A COMMONWEALTH DRIVE, TEL: 6475-9568

FEATURES Compact and lightweight, it has a fairly solid nozzle head and hose. The height of the stand is easily adjustable. You can even attach a brush to the nozzle head to remove lint as you're steaming. The water tank is compact enough to hold in one hand while filling up. Has the longest cord at 175cm. It moves easily on smooth surfaces but because it's light, you can't pull it along too fast without it toppling over.

PERFORMANCE It steams up in less than a minute. With 13 holes in the steamer nozzle (more than twice that of the others), it gives an even flow of steam that allows for three minutes of continuous steaming before pausing for 30 seconds. But watch out for water droplets that spurt out with each new burst of steam. The 1.9l water tank provides over 70 minutes of steaming, and an auto shut-off function kicks in when the unit gets too hot or if the tank is low.

VERDICT Compact and light, with easy-to-assemble parts

7.5



NOVITA SS18

\$299, FROM MAJOR ELECTRICAL STORES

FEATURES The heaviest of the lot at 7.1kg, the slim unit also has the longest hose (145cm). It comes with a 3.2l water tank and has a power button on the nozzle head. The height of the stand is adjustable but the thin rod at the top tends to bend when the nozzle head and hangers are hung up. Also has an auto shut-off function and low-water alert.

PERFORMANCE It steams up in one minute and allows for almost 120 minutes of

continuous steaming with a full tank. It's a cinch removing wrinkles from cotton-based clothes, although a cotton shirt with darts in front puckered a bit at the seams. On mixed-fabric clothes, faint imprints of the deep creases remain even after three swipes. It is tricky attaching the fluff brush onto the nozzle head. The larger rear wheels make it more stable at rest, but it takes effort to navigate the unit as the wheels don't swivel at all.

VERDICT Easy to store

7.5



EUROPACE EGS 701

\$199, FROM BEST DENKI, CARREFOUR AND COURTS

FEATURES This has the most stable stand, but it's not height-adjustable. The top finial swivels quite a bit despite being screwed down well. The design of the finial doesn't allow you to hang many items of clothing at one time. It's the only model with a built-in brush on the nozzle head. Full-swivel castors make it easy to move the unit around. Comes with a 2.5l water tank and auto shut-off feature.

PERFORMANCE Steams up quickly – in less than a minute.

Works great on shirts with pleats and darts – there's no puckering. Has a continuous steaming time of 90 minutes, and the best part: there are no wet spots with each burst of steam. Like the other models, it has a nozzle head and handle that sits comfortably in the hand and a hose that doesn't kink and is easy to wield. It works especially well on cotton clothes, thanks to its powerful steam flow. It took just two swipes to remove creases in a pair of linen trousers.

VERDICT Works fast and efficiently

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