

Rear Projection Television - An Overview

An increasing number of home entertainment enthusiasts are no longer satisfied with even the biggest tube, plasma or LCD television! The huge impact and lure of larger than life images has seen sales of rear projection televisions skyrocket in recent years. There are several types of technology: CRT – DLP – LCD – LCoS.

Size

As a result of increased demand, the value offered by this technology is now well within reach, only being slightly more expensive than the best tube sets, yet offering picture sizes between fifty and one hundred percent bigger.



Picture Quality

CRT Rear-Projection televisions incorporate both the CRT projector and the screen in a single cabinet. The picture is reflected from the three CRT's on to a mirror and then viewed through



Digital HD Projection TV

a lenticular screen. For optimum viewing with the older style (not inferior) CRT versions you need to be in a seating position that aligns your head with the centre of the screen. Not so critical with DLP and LCoS.

These sets, although newer in design are similar in principal to a CRT set in that they project the image onto a fixed screen, but of course the technology is more recent. They have a bulb like a projector and are both simple and inexpensive to replace. Picture quality is sensational, technically very accurate and of course because these designs have their roots in television rather than computers like Plasma and LCD flat panel sets, the **native resolution** does not need to be 'scaled' to fit the screen with many of the HDTV broadcasts.

Room and Lifestyle

Even large models with a 1500mm diagonal screen require no more depth

than a traditional direct view television. However, the widescreen models are very wide and you will need a fair sized wall to accommodate it and your audio equipment. Rear-Projection televisions also work well in 'daylight' conditions and are perfect for those who do not want to necessarily have a permanent, built-in installation.

Price

Unfortunately, manufacturers of CRT designs can see time for selling this technology as limited, and so prices have come down. This is both good and bad for the consumer and does not mean that you should not consider buying one of these sets. The bad side is that there has been an influx of 'cheap' low end models which have some of the worst pictures imaginable! In fact, after viewing these sets in the typical department store, discerning customers understandably want to keep a wide berth. The good news though is that the 'high-end' models have also come down in price, to around half the original. They are truly fantastic buying and should not be eliminated before consideration and especially if you want the biggest and best for less!

The DLP and LCoS technology is of course new and will cost more, but are still cheaper than an equivalent sized Plasma or LCD flat panel television.



Audio Trends Recommendations

For Rear Projection Televisions, we highly recommend products from the much respected manufacturer Toshiba. This company continues to set the pace with both CRT and DLP designs, winning many awards over the years. To this we now happily add another brand - Studio Experience and their amazing LCoS design. Both have products that will satisfy the most discerning and fastidious eyes. See our **Toshiba** and **Studio Experience** web sections for more information and current pricing.

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