

EXPANDING Your Reach

The latest tools for delivering presentations are brighter, faster, and cheaper. But which ones will work best for you?

Whether you are in the market for a multimedia projector, display screen, DVD burner, color printer, or conferencing system, you'll want the highest quality product your money can buy.

PROJECTORS FOR PRESENTERS

Selecting a projector can be difficult if you don't know what features to look for or what performance levels to expect. A good starting point is to compare the product specifications, such as native resolution, brightness, contrast ratio, and the connectivity options of competitively priced projectors. The next step is to get a product demonstration and some expert advice, either at a trade show such as InfoComm05 (June 4-10 in Las Vegas), or at a pro AV dealership.

Several new projectors have been designed with features for specific applications. For instance, Epson's new PowerLite 700 Series is designed for photographers and others involved in digital photography. The PowerLite 760c (\$2,199) features 3-LCD technology for color accuracy, wide color gamut, and superior grey scale. It offers users individual R, G, and B adjustments, as well as manual control of contrast and brightness. This 3.9-lb. projector delivers native XGA (1024 x 768 pixels) resolution, and 2500 ANSI lumens of brightness.



Hitachi's CP-X445 projects large screen images that are easy to see—even in a brightly lit room

Some manufacturers have built versatile projectors for use in a wide range of demanding viewing environments. Hitachi's latest multimedia projector, the CP-X445 (\$3,000), can project large images that are easy to see—even in a brightly lit room. This native XGA projector has a rated output of 3200 ANSI lumens. It features four 3-Watt built-in speakers and HDTV compatibility. The 8.9-lb. unit is a good choice for use in conference and multipurpose rooms.

Toshiba's newest TDP-SC25U projector features an integrated document camera for instant projection of printed materials, and the presentation of products and other 3D objects. Based on DLP (digital light processing) technology from Texas Instruments, this 8.6-lb. unit priced at \$1,199, delivers crisp images with its native SVGA (800 x 600 pixels) resolution, 1800 ANSI lumens of brightness, and a high 2000:1 contrast ratio.

Mobile professionals should look for compact, lightweight projectors that can deliver bright, crisp images of PowerPoint slides, spreadsheets, and other documents. The InFocus LP 120, for example, weighs less than 2 lbs., and offers XGA resolution with a maximum brightness of 1000 ANSI lumens.

VIBRANT DISPLAYS

High-performance LCD monitors, such as the Senseye from BenQ, are ideal for executive desktop or for small workgroup use. The Senseye FP91E offers a high resolution of 1280 x 1024 pixels, a 1000:1 contrast ratio, and a fast response time of 8 milliseconds. This \$549 unit includes audio, D-Sub, and DVI-D connectors.



BenQ's new 19-inch LCD monitor is a good choice for executive desktop use

Widescreen flat-panel plasma displays are a good choice for presentations in conference rooms. Sony, Panasonic, Pioneer, and Samsung offer plasma displays that are 42 inches (diagonal) or larger, and deliver vibrant, high-contrast images with a wide viewing angle. ViewSonic's versatile 42-inch plasma is designed for boardrooms, offices, lobbies, retail stores, and other public areas. The VPW4200 (\$2,999) produces brilliant graphics and rich video images, is equipped with a variety of inputs, and provides an RS-232 port for compatibility with a wide range of control systems.

Hitachi America

Bright Multimedia Projection

With a brightness of 1,500 ANSI lumens and weighing only 4.84 lbs., the new Performa™ model CP-RS55 projector from Hitachi features the high-end performance required for use in corporate and small business environments, and an intuitive user interface that makes it ideal for home use.

Moreover, because of its light weight and connectivity options, the Performa allows for hassle-free portability between the home and the workplace, making it a true-to-form, dual-use projector. Its user-friendly features make it easy to set up, and make the adjustments you want simple with the remote control.

The Performa model CP-RS55 features Progressive Scan Technology, which allows users to enjoy realistically beautiful images with no flicker. Its Equalizing function (Gamma Correction and Color Balance) lets users make adjustments to achieve the desired picture quality. Three Picture Mode settings (Normal, Cinema, and Dynamic) enable users to choose the best mode to match the source.

The Performa also allows for a Whisper Mode option, which reduces fan noise to 32 dB. This provides quiet performance in a variety of applications, from living room to boardroom or classroom.

For more information, call 1-650-589-8300 or visit www.hitachi.us/digitalmedia.

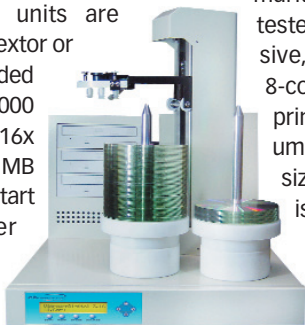


For the ultimate in impact, check out Samsung's new 80-inch plasma screen. The Samsung HPR8072 (\$60,000) features full native HDTV resolution of 1920 x 1080 pixels, and a 5000:1 contrast ratio.

A DISC IN THE HAND

You can make a lasting impression by handing out or mailing your presentation on disc. Writable optical media, such as CD-R and DVD-R, are a great way to distribute large multimedia and data files. The latest disc duplication systems from Vinpower Digital, Mediatechnics, and Primera are easy-to-use and cost-effective.

Vinpower Digital's Titan Pro DVD/CD multi-drive autoloaders, for example, feature a quick-function for one button duplication. These standalone units are equipped with 4, 6, or 8 Plextor or Pioneer drives for unattended duplication of 500 to 1,000 discs. Titan Pro features 16x writing speed and 128 MB memory buffer (prices start at \$2,500). The smaller 3-drive, 100-disc capacity system, Titan Lite (around \$1,800) will be available this summer.



Titan Lite is a 100-disc capacity autoloading DVD/CD duplicator

DOUBLE-DUTY PRINTING

Color laser printers provide a cost-effective way to produce both high-impact presentation handouts and standard black-and-white (B&W) documents.

Konica Minolta's new line of magicolor color laser printers offers high-speed and high-quality output at a lower cost-per-page than inkjet printers. The 5440 DL can produce 2400 x 600 dpi color and B&W prints as fast as 27 pages per minute (ppm). It supports a variety of paper sizes and weights, including index paper in sizes from 3.6 x 5.8 inches to 8.5 x 14 inches. This \$1,299 workgroup printer is network-ready and compatible with Windows, Macintosh, and Linux operating systems.

A large format printer such as Epson's Stylus Photo R1800 (\$550) color inkjet is a great tool for producing posters, panoramic prints, and other awesome marketing displays. We recently tested the R1800 and got impressive, gallery-quality results. This 8-color ink cartridge system can print multiple banners on premium glossy photo paper rolls (roll sizes up to 13 inches x 32 feet). It is also great for printing labels with photos directly onto inkjet compatible CDs and DVDs.

QUICK CONNECTIONS

The Internet is the fastest and cheapest way to distribute presentations around the world. But if you want to connect and collaborate quickly with people at multiple locations, to deliver a presentation, get feedback on a document, or discuss a spreadsheet, you may want to try a Web conferencing

service such as GoToMeeting, Raindance, or WebEx.

Another alternative is Bridgit conferencing software from SMART Technologies. Similar to some services, Bridgit is available on a flat-fee subscription basis for \$40 per user/month, or a server package with concurrent 5-user license for \$2,499 (an additional 5-user license costs \$500). Using an in-house server saves the time that would be spent on booking a conference and uploading files via a service provider.



Polycom's QSX system enables real-time content sharing with many locations

Polycom, the well-known manufacturer of conference phones and videoconferencing systems, has taken a different approach with its new QSX Voice+Content solution. Polycom QSX enables content sharing with other locations that have QSX systems, as well as sharing with remote participants that have Web browser access but do not have their own QSX system. For either mode, you need a QSX system and a Polycom conference phone to host a meeting. The phone call can be a point-to-point call or through a conferencing bridge or service. The QSX 300 for use with the SoundStation VTX 1000 is \$1,299. The QSX 400 for use with all other wired, analog SoundStation phones is \$1,599.

As with any technology purchase, you'll want to make sure that your new presentation devices are compatible with the other tools you will be using. Beyond compatibility, high-quality output should drive your selection.

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Konica Minolta

Speedy Color Laser Printing

KONICA MINOLTA's magicolor® 5450 network color laser printer, with its astounding print speed and astonishing color quality, is everything you need in an affordable business printer. Its 667 MHz processor delivers your first page in 14 seconds, and races through subsequent prints at 27 ppm in color and B&W.

Featuring PostScript® 3 and PCL® printer emulations and a high-performance controller, the magicolor 5450 is multi-platform compatible to support Windows®, Macintosh® and Linux® users. And, its Gigabit Ethernet® interface enables this printer to rapidly process jobs from the fastest network connection available. The magicolor 5450 also features revolutionary color technology to give your important business documents that compelling "wow" factor. All with the ease-of-use and cost-effectiveness built into every KONICA MINOLTA printing solution.

For more information, call **1-800-523-2696** or visit **www.buymagicolor.com**.

