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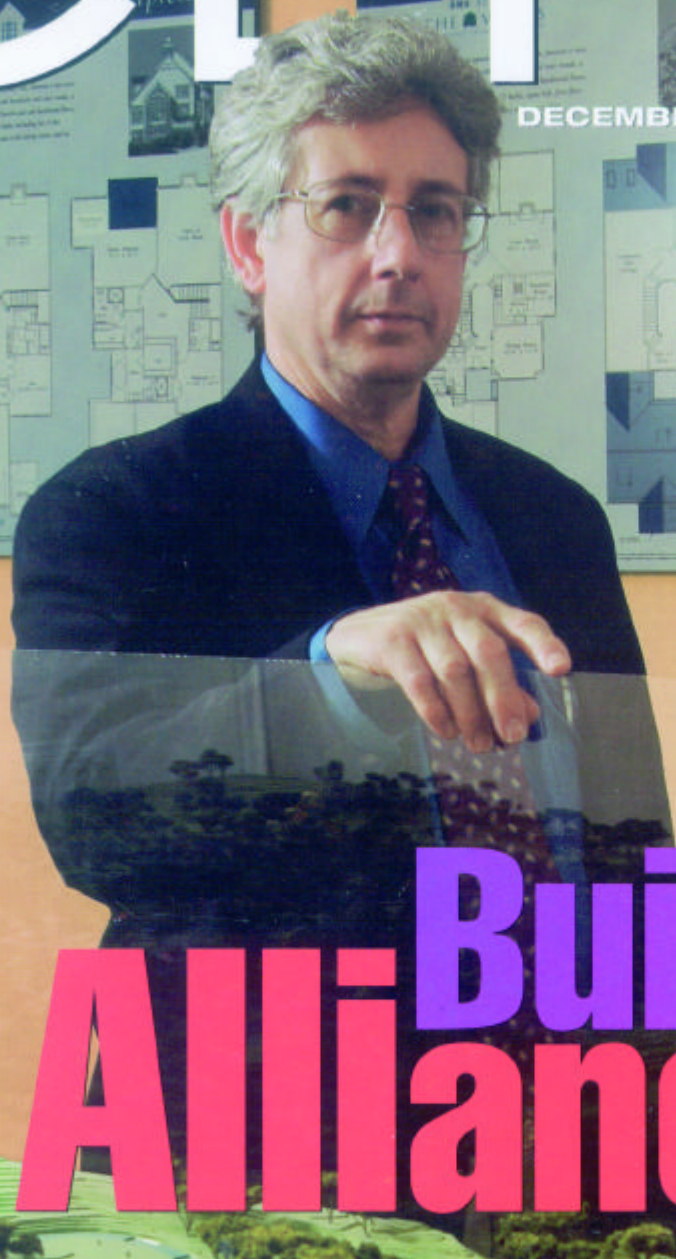


Image Tech Home Theater shares showrooms with a builder and a lighting company. But Why? Page 56

Alli-Building Alliances



Special CES Preview Issue! Page 80

NEW PRODUCTS

ROBERT ARCHER'S SCREENING ROOM

SIM2 Delivers a Unique Package

Year after year, millions of American dollars are spent on Italian wine, Italian clothing, Italian food and Italian cars. Now, thanks to SIM2, add Italian electronics to the list. More specifically, there's SIM2's video products.

One of the company's recent product releases is the single-chip Digital Light Projection (DLP) HT300Link projector. Arguably, of the HT300Link's many features, which include Faroudja's DCDI processing, TI's HD2+ DLP chip and DVI HDCP compatibility, the

most compelling element of the 300Link is SIM2's proprietary external DigiOptic processor. The processor or DOIP is geared to provide installers with 12 inputs and a fiber optic connection to the projector that reduces installation time and cabling costs dramatically.

The HT300Link ships in one box, and within the box comes everything an installer needs to set the unit up. Setup for me took approximately 3 1/2 hours. This included screen assembly, connecting the video sources to the DOIP processor, running the fiber cable to the projector, keystone adjustments and setting the projector's various controls. Once in my system I fed the projector interlaced 480i signals from a trio of DVD players, and HD and analog signals from my Sony DirectTV set-top box.

I began my evaluation with the "Monsters Inc." and "Ice Age" DVDs. My first thoughts on the DVDs were that the HT300Link rendered the movies flawlessly. I saw no visible video noise and colors that were nicely saturated.



The HT300Link performed like a star with HD content. Programs such as Discovery HD's "Trading Spaces" with its vivid colors and detailed scenery looked rich and realistic. One thing that I did notice intermittently was the old DLP nemesis, "the rainbow effect," on some solid colors such as painted walls, but this only appeared with HD programming and it wasn't consistent. Upon reviewing it, I believe the "rainbow effect" may have been due to dirty power.

Summing up my time with the HT300Link, it confirmed what I already experienced with SIM2's products: It's one of the best single-chip DLP projectors available for less than \$15,000.

Please note that, since my review, SIM2 has ceased production of the HT300Link and replaced it with the HT300 E-Link, which features TI's new DarkChip3 and updated software.—ROBERT ARCHER
WWW.SIM2USA.COM
MSRP is \$14,999

Amp Combines Good Looks and Power

Heading up **Classé's** new Delta range of power amplifiers is the new CA-5200 five-channel amplifier. The 5200 is rated to deliver 200 watts to each of its five channels and its back panel includes connection for both RCA and XLR termination. The amplifier offers installers controllable switching/standby options through a DC-trigger, IR signaling or RS-232 control, which allows the amp to integrate into a variety of control system scenarios. Internally the 5200 features the company's new monitoring circuitry, and externally the amp's industrial design was done by noted engineer Morten Warren.

MSRP is \$8,000. CLASSE AUDIO, 514-636-6384, WWW.CLASSEAUDIO.COM



New Design Saves Money

Becker Designed, Inc. (BDI) has introduced an improved version of its VISTA flat-panel television stand. The newly redesigned stand features a new universal mounting system that eliminates the need for a third-party bracket, which saves money for end users. The new VISTA product now includes an oval base and curved adjustable shelving. The new VISTA stand offers variable height shelves, and it can accommodate flat-panel video displays as large as 60 inches.

MSRPs START AT \$725. BECKER DESIGNED, INC., 800-428-2881, WWW.BDIUSA.COM

