

# SIM2's Yearbook

A collection of reviews from some of the most respected professionals in the consumer electronics industry



Review from  
"Widescreen Review"  
November 2007

WSR Publishing Inc.  
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Issue 125, November 2007  
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## NEW EQUIPMENT

three new inorganic liquid crystal panels, which last longer than organic panels, which can be easily damaged by ultraviolet light (think about what ultraviolet light does to our organic skin). The PLV-7700D has incredible lens-shifting capabilities, allowing it to be placed in a wide range of positions, and with its short throw capability and 2x zoom, it is capable of projecting a 100 inch diagonal image from 10 to 70 feet away. A new color-management system, called Topaz Real HD, promises to improve calibration by addressing changes in color phase and level, and is capable of delivering about 216 billion possible color combinations, or 1110 times more than last year's PLV 75 (reviewed in Issue 116, January 2007). Fourteen-bit electronic gamma correction is included and an automatic dust cover slides in place over the lens when the projector is not in use, a cool little bonus feature.

**Mitsubishi Digital Electronics** showed their new 1080p 3LCD (three inorganic panels) **HC8000** projector, which uses a dynamic iris to deliver a 13,000:1 contrast ratio while delivering 1,000 ANSI lumens. Like the previously released HC5000, the HC8000 will accept 1080p24/60 and will perform 2-2 frame repetition on 1080p24 signals displaying 1080p40. The projector uses **Silicon Optix** Hecon-VX HDV video-processing chip for motion-adaptive deinterlacing, scaling, and noise reduction. The lamp is rated at 5,000 hours of use, and a specially designed lamp housing makes it easy to replace the lamp without removing the projector from its mounting structure. The HC8000 will be available in November for about \$5,000.

**Epson** announced their second-generation 3LCD projector, the **PowerLite Pro Cinema 1080 UB**, featuring Epson's new seventh generation D7 CxFine LCD panels with an inorganic alignment layer and vertically aligned liquid crystals. With their CxFine and UltraBlack™ technology, and now polarizing light filter, Epson is claiming a 50,000:1 dynamic contrast ratio with the 1080 UB. The projector uses 12-bit video processing with six-axis color adjustment and a new brightness control, as well as a new OptiCinema™ lens system with 14 elements. The 1080 UB will accept 1080p24/60 over HDMI and will perform 2-2 frame repetition on 1080p24 signals. The 1080 UB also includes processing to make it compatible with anamorphic lenses, and a modified **Panamorph** III 1080 is available from Epson. The ISF™-certified projector comes with a spare lamp and ceiling mount, and while pricing was not available at the show, expect the projector to be available in December for a price under \$5,000.

**Panasonic** also showed a 1080p 3LCD projector using the D7 CxFine panels. **Panasonic** used a new optical system and new polarizers with the **PT-AE2000U**, delivering up 1,500 ANSI lumens with an advertised 16,000:1 contrast ratio. A new Pure Color Filter has been included, designed specifically for the mercury lamps used, which was further tweaked by Hollywood colorists for a more accurate gray scale. Sixteen-bit video processing is employed, and the projector's Split Adjust mode allows calibrators to split the screen into two halves, one showing a baseline reference and the other showing the original settings. A waveform monitor is also included, showing the level of brightness output from the signal being fed to it. The PT-AE2000U includes three HDMI v1.3a inputs, will accept 1080p24 and display it at 96 Hz, and with its 2x zoom lens it can project a 120 inch

diagonal image from 11 to 24 feet away from the screen. Pricing was not available at the show, but the projector should be available in October.

**Texas Instruments** showed their newest DLP DMD chips, the **DarkChip™ 4**. The same size as the DarkChip 3—allowing for easy drop-in for OEM customers—the DarkChip 4 is said to improve black levels by 30 percent, which is "achieved by advances in mirror design lithography and other proprietary process changes." Combined with LED backlighting—a Samsung prototype was on display in its booth—it is said this chip can produce up to 100,000:1 contrast ratios dynamically.

The DarkChip 4 will make its way into rear-projection TVs and single-chip projectors in 2008, but it has already begun being implemented in three-chip projectors, namely **SIM2's C3X 1080**. Said to be capable of delivering more than 2,000 ANSI lumens from its 250 watt UHF™ lamp (which can also operate at 200 watts for added life) with a 10,000:1 native contrast ratio, the C3X 1080 is available with three Fujinon lens options ranging from 1.6x to 3.6x zoom. The C3X 1080 will accept 1080p24 and frame double it to 48 Hz and uses a **Pixelworks** video-processing chipset with proprietary SIM2 software algorithms. The projector uses improved all-glass optics in their proprietary ALPHAHAIH™ light engine, and their new color-management software allows for adjustment over color, white-point coordinates, gamma correction, and more. The \$30,000 projector will be available in November, and an **Ico Precision Optics** anamorphic lens option with motorized sled will also be available for an additional \$12,000. The C3X 1080 will be available in high-gloss gun metal, black, red, and gold finishes.



**Runco International** introduced a new 1080p Reflection™ Series DLP projector to its line, the **RS-900**. The single-chip projector incorporates Runco's SuperOnyx™ light engine and is now Runco's least-expensive 1080p DLP projector, selling for \$9,000. The RS-900 includes SLIC™ (Selectable Lamp Intensity Control™), which, well, allows you to

select between two lamp intensities for maximizing the projector's flexibility and the lamp's life. The RS-900 is a single-box solution, with Runco's Vivix™ processing built into the projector, and is compatible with CineWide with AutoScope™.

**Vidikron** also added a new 1080p projector to its lineup, the **Vision™ Model 65**. Also featuring the SuperOnyx light engine, the Model 65 is capable of delivering 1,200 ANSI lumens and a 3,000:1 on/off contrast ratio. Imagix™ video processing is built into the projector, and a new lamp-cooling system increases efficiency and reduces fan noise. Vidikron also uses a selectable lamp intensity mode called DualV Stage Illumination™ (DVSI)—and is compatible with CineWide with AutoScope anamorphic lenses. The Vision Model 65 is available now for \$9,000.

**Planar** also introduced new projectors—three, to be exact. The 1080p **PD8150** (\$9,000, December) and **PD8130** (\$7,000, December) use a customized **Gammux VXP** video processor, a "dark room optimized" remote control, and can deliver up to 1,000 ANSI lumens. The PD8150 is said to have a 15,000:1 contrast ratio, while the PD8130 provides 10,000:1. The 1080p **PD8120** (\$6,000; now available) uses a **Silicon Optix** HDV chipset and delivers 1,200 ANSI