



INFOCUS IN76

£1,700 (approx) ♦ 01423 359054
 ♦ www.csesolutions.co.uk
 ♦ Overall Rating ★★★★★



While LCD HD Ready projectors costing under £2K have been around for a while now, DLP HD Ready projectors are only just finding their sub-£2k feet. Which can't help but make me wonder how much early budget HD Ready DLP projectors, like the Infocus IN76 here, have had to sacrifice to get down and dirty with their LCD rivals...

Design and connections

The IN76's glossy black-and-silver look is wonderfully slick. In fact, aside from perhaps being a touch large, it's as pretty a projector as you'll see in this price bracket.

It is well connected, too. Alongside an HDMI jack, you get an ultraflexible M1-DA socket you can use via an adaptor for attaching – yes! – a second digital source. Or a PC (with a USB onboard), a component video source, a Scart... pretty much anything, really. A dedicated set of component jacks, a 12V trigger and an S-video input round off an impressive array.

Distinguishing features

The IN76 uses a 1280 x 720 DLP chipset, promising a healthy 3000:1 contrast ratio and video-optimised brightness of 1000 ANSI Lumens.

Remarkably the IN76 can handle 1080p HD sources as well as 720p and 1080i, thanks to its use of a Pixelworks DNX 10-bit scaler. Other key specifications



Classy and backlit, this remote combines looks with practicality

include from-the-box colour calibration to the cinematically accurate 6,500K standard, and an auto-calibrating six-segment colour wheel.

Image tweaks available to the user include skintone correction, white peaking adjustment, noise reduction, and offset/gain adjustments for the red, green and blue elements of the picture.

It's worth adding that setting the IN76 up is helped both by a rotating, tilting joint between the projector's main body and its desktop 'foot', and by a really logical – and backlit! – remote.

Performance

It took all of, ooh, a minute for the IN76's performance to demolish my worries over whether a sub-£2,000 DLP model can really deliver the picture goods.

There are so many good things going on it's hard for me to know where to start. Black level is outstanding for this price point, reaching deeper and holding on to more shadow detail than I could possibly have hoped for. In doing so it makes the extravagant contrast claims of the LCD models in this group seem very suspect indeed.

The IN76's pictures are also remarkably free of noise. And, for once, I'm not just talking about HD in this respect, as the IN76 also does a terrifically clean job of scaling standard-definition too.

HD footage really makes the IN76 sing. It resolves outstanding amounts of HD's fine detail and texture. Budget DLP commonly struggles versus LCD in this regard, but the IN76 looks every bit as sharp as our LCD contenders.

The IN76's colours, meanwhile, are radiantly vibrant and, more importantly, superbly natural in terms of both their tone and the subtlety of their blends.

The only tick in the negative column is that it inevitably suffers occasionally with DLP's rainbow effect. But even this is actually suppressed better than usual for the sub-£2K market, and seems like a puny price

to pay for the general excellence of its video images.

Conclusion

If you're looking for an inexpensive HD DLP projector that comfortably outperforms its price tag, then this Infocus offering is certainly the projector for you ■

LAB REPORT	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor
Colour	✓			
Black Level	✓			
Contrast		✓		
Resolution	✓			

SPECIFICATIONS

ITEM	SUPPORT	DETAILS
HD Ready	○	Yes, plus 1080p compatible
Progressive Scan	○	Compatible with 480p, 576 and 720p
Composite	○	1 phono input
S-video	○	1 input
Component Video	○	1 dedicated input, 2nd input also available via M1-DA
HDMI/DVI PC input	○	1 HDMI, 1 M1-DA for 2nd HDMI/DVI

Resolution: 1280 x 720
Brightness: 1000ANSI Lumens (claimed); **Contrast:** 3000:1 (claimed)
Dimensions: 360(w) x 360(d) x 120(h)mm; **Weight:** 4.5kg

Also featuring
 Pixelworks 10-bit scaling; multi-angle table mount; keystone correction; gamma presets; three user setting memory slots; white peaking adjustment; overscan; flesh tone correction; film mode; colour space/temperature/control adjustments; noise reduction system