

InFocus IN82



£2750

WHEN THE DUST had settled on 2007's Awards judging, this InFocus IN82 emerged as one of our less contentious decisions. A combination of ease of use, value for money and, crucially, terrific picture-making eased it into top spot with very little argument.

So, having seen off the best competition 2007 had to offer, the IN82 is back, ready to fight its corner against newer rivals in 2008.

“The IN82 is back, ready to fight its corner against newer rivals in 2008”

The DLP-based InFocus is £250 cheaper now than it was, and that's always welcome – but, frankly, it would have challenged for top honours in this *Group Test* even at an unchanged price. Its combination of talents is such that competitors are still attempting to bridge the gap.

In terms of looks, well, you can make your own mind up – at least it doesn't dominate your viewing room like the BenQ, even if it's a sight bigger than the Epson or Mitsubishi

↑ FOR

Cracking picture quality; simple to set up and use

↓ AGAINST

Doesn't throw as big an image as others manage

→ VERDICT

Everything you want in a projector is right here in a high-gloss, high-quality box

models. Specification remains right on the money, with plenty of connection options (including HDMI 1.3), and it's easy to install and adjust. It's quiet in operation, and the remote control's button-count is mercifully low.

Good looks, great pic – great deal

In pure picture terms, the IN82 still looks an absolute treat. Playing *Ratatouille*, it produces deep, lustrous black tones and populates them with ample levels of detail. It's capable of heroic contrasts (even when inky blacks and bright, clean whites are side by side) and has a full palette of vivid, life-like colours to call on. Edges are drawn confidently, depth of field is the best

here and there's an absolute minimum of picture noise even in the most complex scenes. Whether it's displaying high definition content via Blu-ray, standard DVD pictures or, trickiest of all, some fast-moving gaming action via a PlayStation 3, the InFocus remains composed, stable and utterly believable.

A product like this stands or falls on its picture quality, and the InFocus does an awfully good job for less money than some inferior rivals. Given that it avoided an assault with the ugly stick, is ergonomically impeccable and reassuringly well made, it seems the competition is as far away as ever from knocking it off its perch.



The mighty IN82 continues to tick all our big-screen boxes

TEST RESULT

It may not be new, but the superb **InFocus IN82**

wipes the floor with the latest competition – again

IT SPEAKS VOLUMES about the InFocus IN82 that three spanking-new products, from some of the biggest names in projection technology, all come up short in the face of its superb all-round ability. There are no lemons in this test, and it's obvious that the competition is trying hard to usurp the IN82. Still, if it was our money heading for the retailer's till, we'd want the InFocus in exchange.

It's quiet, it's simple to use and, most importantly, it serves up the best images of these four projectors.

That's not to write the others off. Despite its unlovely bulk, we rate the BenQ W20000 very highly – in fact, it's what we'd choose if the InFocus was unavailable (and if we could find the space). It delivers beautifully judged colours, and we don't think it's any coincidence that the two DLP designs on test (InFocus and BenQ) produce the more convincing blacks.

Looks really aren't everything

There is a place for the Mitsubishi, though, and it's a conveniently small place. Quiet, too. If that's important to you, it's well worth investigating.

The Epson's picture is the only one that really disappoints – the fact that it's the nicest-looking projector here isn't a good enough reason to buy one.

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“Three new products come up short in the face of its ability”

NOW ADD THESE



BLU-RAY DISC PLAYER
SONY PLAYSTATION 3



£ 300

December 2007

Blu-ray players are getting cheaper, but no less irritating to use, so the PS3 scores big-time thanks to its ability to deliver a lovely picture and read a disc in less than five minutes



MULTICHANNEL RECEIVER
ONKYO TX-SR605



£ 400

November 2007

Product of the Year in 2007, the Onkyo sounds bigger and bolder than the price tag suggests. Switches HDMI pictures with aplomb, too



SPEAKER PACKAGE
KEF KHT3005SE



£ 1000

January 2008

Great looks, sturdy build and thrilling movie sound are some of the reasons the KEFs made off with an Award last year

TOTAL SYSTEM £4450

FACTS AND FIGURES

PRICE RANGE	BENQ W20000	EPSON EMP-TW2000	INFOCUS IN82	MITSUBISHI HC6000
SPECIFICATION				
PRICE	£ 3500	£ 3000	£ 2750	£ 2700
TYPE	DLP	LCD	DLP	LCD
ASPECT RATIO	16:9	16:9	16:9	16:9
MAX SCREEN	300in	300in	200in	300in
THROW RATIO	1.84-2.21:1	1.34-2.87:1	1.85 – 2.22:1	1.4 – 2.26:1
PROG SCAN	PAL, NTSC	PAL, NTSC	PAL, NTSC	PAL, NTSC
INPUTS	HDMI, S-Video, component, composite	HDMI, component x 3, composite, S-Video	HDMI, DVI, S-Video, component, composite	HDMI x 2, S-Video, component, composite
WEIGHT	9.6kg	5.6kg	6.4kg	5.6kg
HOW THEY RATED				
PICTURE	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★
BUILD	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
FEATURES	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
VERDICT	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★

ASPECT RATIO 4:3 is the old-fashioned shape, whereas 16:9 is widescreen. All these projectors deliver a widescreen image.

THROW RATIO Check out our *Know How* panel in Sound Advice on p77. There you'll find out how to convert the throw ratio into the maximum and minimum distances that your projector can be from your screen.

MAX SCREEN SIZE Tells you how large a projector can make an image. On which note...

SCREEN You might be tempted to project your beautiful DVD or high def image directly on to your wall. Do not do this. Seriously. You've invested plenty of hard-earned cash in your projector, and the relatively small extra outlay on a decent screen will see benefits reaped.

PROGRESSIVE SCAN If you're using a source such as a DVD player that sends pictures in progressive scan mode, you'll get a better picture than standard interlaced video signals.

CONNECTIONS DVI-D and HDMI are the latest, and best, connections to use if you have a compatible source, such as a high definition set-top box or DVD/HD player.