



InFocus IN82

Price: \$7499

The price on the InFocus IN82 has fallen sharply since it was first introduced, yet it remains a very good performer. It is built around Texas Instruments' DLP technology, using a DarkChip3 digital micromirror device, so you can be confident that the colour is good. There is no dynamic iris nor other black level manipulation, but you can close down the manual iris to improve black levels beyond their already competent levels.

Installation has to be made fairly precisely because — uniquely amongst these projectors tested — this one lacked a lens shift adjustment. Yes, it does have a keystone adjustment, but this wastes valuable pixels.

The projector fully supports 1080p/24 signals. Not only will it accept the signal, but it displays it properly without internally converting it to 1080p/60. This true film-speed representation was perhaps a little slower coming to DLP than other technologies, because in addition

to internal processing changes, the 24Hz signal demands an alteration in the speed of rotation of the colour wheel, which spins in front of the lamp to colour its light so that the colours can be shown in rapid succession on the screen.

The colour performance of this projector was certainly great, and the black levels were excellent. The focus was sharp and clean across the whole extent of the projection screen.

The only significant issue was this projector's slight fussiness about some of the equipment with which it worked. For example, it loved (and ate up and produced glorious pictures with 1080p/24 signals) a couple of different Blu-ray players. But the projector did not seem to like the 1080p/24 signal delivered by a DVDO iScan VP50Pro video processor (which was converting a 1080i HD DVD signal). It certainly displayed the picture, and the same smoothness in movement was yielded, but every few seconds there would be a random flash of noise in the top left quadrant (at least, as viewed with the projector installed upside down on a ceiling mount). This problem did not occur with the iScan VP50 Pro connected to several other 1080p projectors.

When I used instead, the top of the line Toshiba HD-XE1 HD DVD player with the latest firmware to allow 1080p/24 output, the projector decided that the signal's horizontal resolution was 1921 pixels rather than the proper 1920, and abandoned 1:1 pixel mapping. Once again, there were no such problems with the HD-XE1 and the other 1080p projectors.

So this is a fine projector, but check its compatibility with your other equipment, before making your final purchase.

VERDICT

- Excellent picture quality
- Very good black levels
- Excellent value for money
- No lens shift
- No force-film mode
- Remote has to be pointed at projector

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 TEL: 03 9429 0822
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 WARRANTY: 2 years (one year unlimited warranty on lamp)