
Anyone use a LCD projector at home/theater etc.?

Posted by craigocarson - 2008/03/19 14:33

Anyone on this forum use a projector at home for any reason?

I just purchased a used (had 130 lamp hours so it's almost new) Infocus 5000 for \$350 on Ebay -to hook up to a laptop for watching medical powerpoint presentations, etc for board review. I'm also curious how well it will work for playing HDTV sports, movies, etc. and of course what the compatibilities are. I'm an idiot when it comes to electronic technology; any advice or horror stories/great experiences would help.

http://www.projectorcentral.com/InFocus_Home-ScreenPlay_5000.htm

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Re:Anyone use a LCD projector at home/theater etc.?

Posted by domanater - 2008/03/19 15:00

For one, that's a really good price; and if it only has 100 or so lamp hours and works fine when you get it, it was a steal. One thing you have to know about buying old projectors, is that the replacement lamps can cost you. In this case, a replacement lamp would probably cost you the same price you got your projector for: like I said if your lamp and projector is as new (or relatively unused) you got a great deal.

That particular projector is not old, in fact it was originally manufactured in late 2004, which means at absolute worst case you have a 3 1/2 yr old projector; best case it's 2 years old since companies tend to upgrade projectors fast and it look like the last time your product was shipped could have been mid 2006. Chances are with about 100 lamp hours yours is closer to 2 yrs old.

<http://www.dealtime.co.uk/xPF-InFocus-ScreenPlay-5000>

Ok, so now the fun stuff. First, it probably msrp'd at \$2500 in 2004. (you got a good deal again, assuming the lamp is as good as advertised) Second, unless you're trying to play this thing outdoors in the daylight (I'm joking here a bit but the lumens and contrast are a big part of higher priced ones), this will be a great little projector for home based stuff.

You can do a heck of a lot more than just hook your pc up to it; but let's consider that 1st.

PC = anything you can do on a pc you can now do on a wall but with 16:9 widescreen image it looks like you can confidently throw a 3-4ft x 6-7ft screen on a wall screen.

That means you can play movies from your pc, play computer games, simply run your pc like you would off your normal screen, etc. you name it. If you can do it on your pc, you can watch it on your wall now.

Now if you have a cable or satellite box (which almost all of us do now) you can run it to your projector also; and you can also run gaming systems (wii, xbox, ps etc) through it easily. (You've never played Tiger Woods golf until you've played it on a 4x7 foot screen).

One trick with most projectors, is that if you sit too close to the screen, you'll get a sort of "screen door" feel. The further back you sit from the screen (within reason), the better the experience (i.e. you can't see well if you're in a bean bag 2 feet from the wall).

I have a pearl sxd that I got through work and while it's higher quality than what you got, I think for a 1st projector, you got an excellent deal for very little money.

The convenience of a projector right now blows away what you get from a plasma screen, unless you have money to burn and don't need something that is much more flexible.

Have fun playing around with it, I cant' imagine you'd be unhappy in the least considering the price you got it for (unless the lamp isn't as new as they say). There are some really great deals on ebay if you're smart and patient; sounds to me like you got one.

<http://www.ultimateavmag.com/videoprojectors/1106sonypearl/>

btw- how are you a "sophomore" on cougarblue with nearly a thousand posts?

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Re:Anyone use a LCD projector at home/theater etc.

Posted by mjo - 2008/03/19 15:13

I bought one like a year ago for my apartment, and it's been awesome so far. I sold my TV and hooked up my Comcast

cable box to the projector, so now I have something like a 60" screen on my living room. Amazing.

As far as recommendations:

Any DVD player will work with it, and since it supports 1080i & 720p (HDTV) get a good dvd player that upscales the image. They cost around 50-80 and the image looks a lot better than normal DVDs (yYou can go Blu-ray too, if your money does grow on trees).

For movies or TV you'll have to get a nice sound system, since the projector has no speakers (even if it did, they'd be way too crappy to use for a movie).

The only drawback with my projector is that I had to cover the living room's window with a huge black blanket b/c during the day the image doesn't look very good (obviously). But overall I'm very pleased with the projector. Hope this helps!

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