

BUYER'S **guide**

Multimedia Projectors

In this month's guide, we survey a selection of portable video projectors. Given the many dozens of makes and models to choose from, we put some parameters on our search. Each of the listed machines offers 1024 × 768 native resolution—ideal for laptops—although all can go higher. The units in our survey have a minimum of 2,000 ANSI lumens of light output. All of these projectors have a manufacturer's suggested retail price of less than \$2,000, making them accessible to the education market for classroom use.

A primary consideration in projector purchasing is whether to get a model using liquid crystal display (LCD) or digital light processing (DLP) technology. Although advances in both formats have narrowed the differences between these two types of projectors, LCD machines tend to provide slightly sharper images, which is advantageous for spreadsheet and other data-heavy displays, while the DLP's softer image is superior for projecting moving video. Also, DLP is a smaller technology, so projectors using it tend to be lighter and less bulky, a consideration for those planning to move a unit frequently from room to room.

Another feature to consider is the contrast ratio, the measure of the "sharpness" of the projected image. The higher the ratio, the clearer the image will appear in a darkened room. For "lights-on" presentations of either video or data, contrast is largely irrelevant, and light power is all-important. Each of the featured projectors in this guide generate at least 2,000 lumens, more than sufficient for the average classroom.

In addition to the standard and component video inputs, as well as high-definition, enhanced-definition, and standard-definition television compatibility, many of these models have digital video inputs as well. All are PC compatible.

Manufacturer & Model	Price (USD)	Size & Weight (H x W x D in., lbs.)	Display Type	Maximum Resolution
Sharp XR-10X	\$940	4.7 × 12.4 × 11.6, 8.6	DLP	1400 × 1050
Optoma EP719	\$976	3.7 × 9.0 × 8.3, 4.6	DLP	1400 × 1050
Epson PowerLite 76c	\$999	3.9 × 12.9 × 9.7, 5.7	LCD	1280 × 1024
Mitsubishi XD205U	\$1,099	3.4 × 10.3 × 8.6, 5.3	DLP	1280 × 1024
BenQ MP720	\$1,299	3.7 × 11.5 × 9.4, 6.6	DLP	1280 × 1024
Dell 2300MP	\$1,299	3.1 × 9.8 × 8.0, 4.7	DLP	1600 × 1200
ViewSonic PJ458D	\$1,299	3.8 × 10.0 × 7.9, 4.9	DLP	1280 × 1024
HP vp6320	\$1,350	4.4 × 11.6 × 10.7, 7.7	DLP	1400 × 1050
Toshiba TDP-T9U	\$1,465	3.7 × 9.1 × 8.3, 4.4	DLP	1280 × 1024
Microtek CX4	\$1,499	4.9 × 12.6 × 10.2, 8.5	LCD	1280 × 1024
InFocus LP600	\$1,599	2.9 × 8.6 × 10.4, 5.2	DLP	1280 × 1024
Boxlight CP730e	\$1,699	11.1 × 11.4 × 3.7, 7.0	LCD	1280 × 1024
ASK Proxima C170	\$1,785	2.9 × 8.6 × 10.4, 5.2	DLP	1280 × 1024

** Information not available at press time.

	Inputs	Speakers	Brightness (ANSI lumens)	Contrast	Keystone	Throw (feet)	Zoom	Lamp Life (hours)	Warranty
	Standard & component video, HDTV/EDTV/SDTV, PC	2.0W mono	2000	2000:1	Vertical	5.3–34.3	1.15:1	2000	3 years
	Standard & component video, HDTV/EDTV/SDTV, DVI-D, PC	2.0W mono	2000	2500:1	**	3.6–31.7	1.10:1	2000	2 years
	Standard & component video, HDTV/EDTV/SDTV, PC	1.0W mono	2000	400:1	Vertical	7.0–29.5	1.20:1	2000	2 years
	Standard & component video, HDTV/EDTV/SDTV, PC	2.0W mono	2000	2000:1	**	5.0–26.3	1.20:1	2000	3 years
	Standard & component video, HDTV/EDTV/SDTV, DVI-I, PC	2.0W mono	2500	2000:1	Vertical	3.3–32.8	1.15:1	3000	1 year
	Standard & component video, HDTV/EDTV/SDTV, PC	2.0W mono	2300	2100:1	Vertical	3.9–39.4	1.20:1	2000	1 year
	Standard & component video, HDTV/EDTV/SDTV, PC	2.0W mono	2000	2000:1	Vertical	3.9–32.8	1.20:1	2000	3 years
	Standard & component video, HDTV/EDTV/SDTV, DVI-D, PC	6.0W mono	2000	2500:1	Vertical	8.4–29.0	1.16:1	4000	1 year
	Standard & component video, HDTV/EDTV/SDTV, PC	2.0W mono	2000	2000:1	Vertical	5.7–32.8	1.10:1	**	2 years
	Standard & component video, HDTV/EDTV/SDTV, DVI, PC	2.0W stereo	2000	400:1	Vertical	10.0–49.2	1.30:1	2000	3 years
	Standard & component video, HDTV/EDTV/SDTV, PC	3.0W mono	2000	1000:1	Vertical	5.0–32.8	1.24:1	2000	2 years
	Standard & component video, HDTV/EDTV/SDTV, DVI-I, PC	2.0W mono	2200	500:1	Horizontal + Vertical	4.0–29.0	1.20:1	2000	2 years
	Standard & component video, HDTV/EDTV/SDTV, PC	3.0W stereo	2000	1000:1	Vertical	5.0–32.8	1.24:1	2000	2 years