

Interactive whiteboards are extremely popular in many international settings, particularly England, where they were adopted relatively early by educators.

Elsewhere, educators are quickly catching on to the immersive and affordable whiteboard experience. Designed to be used with a multimedia projector and computer, as well as a standard whiteboard when needed, an interactive whiteboard can expand a single computer into a class-wide teaching display.

Interactive whiteboards come in essentially two types, front projection and rear projection. This survey only covers front projection models. Rear projection units can be very expensive (\$10,000 or more), but do offer an all-in-one solution, higher image quality, and extreme portability. They also have the advantage of enabling a teacher to stand at the board without casting a shadow over content.

Among front projection whiteboards, there are two main variants, those with integrated data projectors and those without. Integrated models do offer increased portability and they minimize shadows. Basic models can use virtually any data projector and cost somewhat less.

The sensing technology in these devices (what makes them interactive) can be important, both to cost and use. Generally speaking, electromagnetic devices offer the most precision, but do require a special stylus. Touch-sensitive surfaces are extremely user friendly, but more expensive and somewhat less accurate. Ultrasound and infrared systems are inexpensive and user friendly but can be less accurate still.

Company/URL	Model	Price	Type/Interface/Resolution
<b>GTCO Calcomp</b> <a href="http://www.calcomp.com">http://www.calcomp.com</a>	SchoolBoard Series (1060, 1077, 1071, 1085)	\$1,595, \$1,995, \$1,995, \$2,135	Electromagnetic/RS232 & USB/4,096 lines/inch and 250 inches/second
<b>Egan</b> <a href="http://www.teamboard.com">http://www.teamboard.com</a>	TeamBoard (6048, 8060)	\$1,495, \$2,830	Ultrasound & infrared/ RS232 or USB/not provided
<b>Hitachi</b> <a href="http://www.hitachi-soft.com">http://www.hitachi-soft.com</a>	StarBoard FX-Series (63, 77, 82W)	\$1,395, \$1,695, \$1,795	Ultrasound & infrared/ RS232/200 lines/inch & 66 points/second
<b>Numonics</b> <a href="http://www.numonics.com">http://www.numonics.com</a>	IntelliBoard Series (I-Board 47, 62, 77)	\$1,495, \$1,995, \$2,195	Electromagnetic/RS232 & USB/1,000 line/inch
<b>PolyVision</b> <a href="http://www.polyvision.com">http://www.polyvision.com</a>	WT Series (1410, 1610, 1810)	\$2,249, \$2,489, \$3,239	Touch sensitive/USB 2.0/8,000 x 8,000
<b>PolyVision</b> <a href="http://www.polyvision.com">http://www.polyvision.com</a>	TS Series (410, 610, 810)	\$1,589, \$1,844, \$2,439	Touch sensitive/USB 2.0/8,000 x 8,000
<b>Promethean</b> <a href="http://prometheanworld.com">http://prometheanworld.com</a>	ActivBoard	\$1,795	Passive electromagnetic/ USB 1.5 or RS232/2730 lines/inch, 200 inch/second
<b>Promethean</b> <a href="http://prometheanworld.com">http://prometheanworld.com</a>	ActivBoard +2	\$3,995 (retail)	Integrated projector, passive electromagnetic/USB 1.5 or RS232/2730 lines/inch, 200 inch/second
<b>Smart Technologies</b> <a href="http://www.smarttech.com">http://www.smarttech.com</a>	Series 600 (640, 660, 680, 690)	\$999, \$1,599 \$1,999, \$2,999	Analog resistive/USB 2.0/ 4,000 x 4,000
<b>Smart Technologies</b> <a href="http://www.smarttech.com">http://www.smarttech.com</a>	Series 600i (660i, 680i)	\$5,249, \$5,599	Integrated projector, analog resistive, USB 2.0/ 4,000 x 4,000
<b>Virtual Ink</b> <a href="http://www.mimio.com">http://www.mimio.com</a>	Mimio Board	\$1,199	Ultrasound & infrared/ USB 2.0/100 dpi

Image Size (diagonal inches)	Projector Required	Requirements	Software	Feature Notes
60", 77.5", 71", 85" (71 and 85 are wide format)	Yes	Win98 or higher, Mac OS X, Linux	InterWrite Suite	Bluetooth available, vast curricular support
72", 100"	Yes	Win95 or higher, Mac OS X 10.2 or higher (no PowerX for Mac)	TeamBoard, PowerX for MS PowerPoint	Removeable, upgradeable controller
63", 77", 82" (wide format)	Yes	Win98SE or higher	StarBoard	Wireless models use USB 2.0
47", 62", 77"	Yes	Windows (Mac optional)	Virtual Whiteboard	Includes Encyclopedia Britannica software
57", 78", 104"	Yes	Win98 or Mac OS X 10.2 or higher	Webster	Teflon-coated surface, auto calibration option
56.9", 77.8", 104.3" (all wide format)	Yes	Win98 or Mac OS X 10.2 or higher	Webster	Teflon-coated surface, auto calibration option
78"	Yes	Win or Mac	ActivStudio	Extreme durability, vast curricular and accessory options
78"	No	Win or Mac	ActivStudio	New to U.S., vast curricular and accessory options
48", 64", 77" 94" (16:9 format)	Yes	Win98 or High (no NT) or Mac OS X 10.3.9 or 10.4 or Linux	Smart Board 9.5	Polyester surface, wall mounts; vast curricular support
64", 77"	No	Win98 or High (no NT) or Mac OS X 10.3.9 or 10.4 or Linux	Smart Board 9.5	1,500 Lumen, XGA projector, multimedia inputs
79"	Yes	Win 98SE or higher or Mac OS X 10.3 or higher	Mimio Studio 5 (Win & Mac)	Ceramicsteel surface, wall mount, 5m USB cable, optional handwriting recognition (Win only)