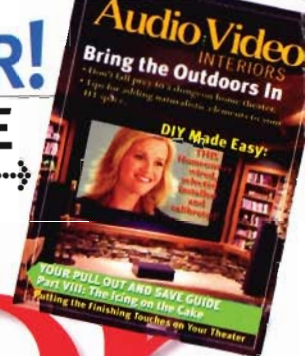


EDITORS' 18 BEST PRODUCTS OF THE YEAR!

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2007 RAVE AWARDS

It's that time of year again—time for *Home Theater*'s 2007 RAVE (Recognizing Audio/Video Excellence) Awards. We feel that it's important to recognize excellence in the manufacturing of superior audio and video componentry. The winners are products that the *Home Theater* staff and our respected contributors have reviewed in the magazine or on our Website over a 12-month period. Most of the winning products were selected by the person who wrote the original review, so it's the reviewer who had hands-on experience with the product(s) over a considerable length of time who has made the choice. We applaud all of the manufacturers that enhance the home theater experience, not only for us die-hard fans, but for those just beginning to delve into the home theater lifestyle.—Maureen Jensen

* Pricing information was correct at press time of original reviews.

Illustration by Joe Gruchel



Product of the Year



Sony PlayStation 3 (Reviewed Online)

Not only do the hopes and dreams of an entire format rest on its shoulders, but the PlayStation 3 is also the ultimate convergence product, acting as a central hub for your content and your entire home theater. Blu-ray playback is quick and beautiful, and apparently it also plays video games. Easily the product of the year.

\$499 to \$599, www.us.playstation.com



Display Devices



Best Entry-Level Projector

Optoma HD72 DLP Projector
(May 2006)

There were some projectors that were cheaper, and there were some that may have performed better. But the Optoma HD72 had the best combination of price and performance. Sure, it's 720p in a new 1080p world, but, for this kind of money, that's OK.

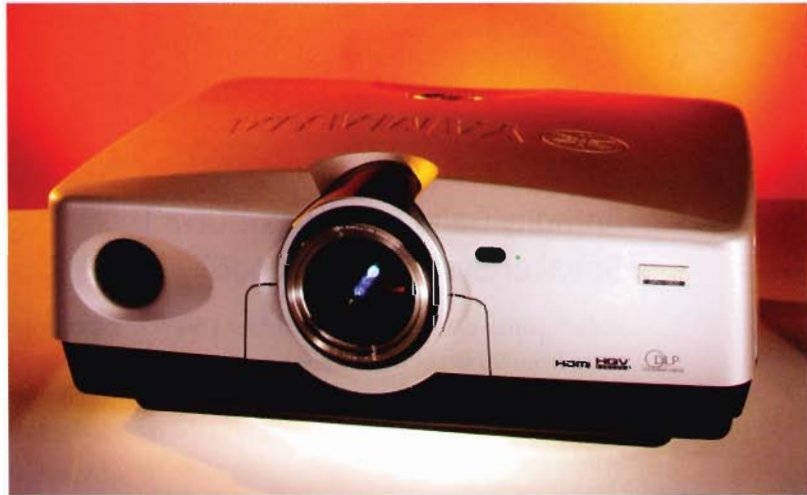
\$1,999, www.optomausa.com

Best Overall Projector

Yamaha DPX-1300 DLP Projector
(July 2006)

Yep, you read that right. A 720p projector beat out its 1080p rivals for Best Overall Projector. Blasphemy? Hardly. The Yamaha DPX-1300 was one of the most accurate and noise-free displays we've ever reviewed. It was simply stunning. Here's hoping Yamaha comes out with a 1080p version soon.

\$12,496, www.yamaha.com/yec



Best Flat-Panel Display

Panasonic TH-42PX60U Plasma
HDTV (November 2006)

For the third year in a row, a Panasonic plasma takes the crown. But, this year, the TH-42PX60U's win was a narrow one, almost losing to a low-priced LCD rival. In the end, this display's incredible 2,314:1 contrast ratio and black level of 0.012 foot-lamberts were quite simply award winning.

\$2,500, www.panasonic.com