



## Optoma DLP Projector

# Dirt Cheap DLP

Optoma has established a strong reputation as the king of value-oriented DLP projectors that offer serious bang for the buck. At a list price of \$3000, the HD80 undersells all other 1080p DLP projectors by a wide margin. In fact, it's tied with the Epson PowerLite Home Cinema 1080 LCD model (also reviewed here) as the least expensive 1080p projector on the market today. And aside from a few drawbacks, it produces a fine picture.

**FEATURES** The HD80 has all the controls necessary to produce a great picture, but getting that picture properly aligned with the screen can be a chore. With most projectors, you can move the projected image by shifting the lens up or down and, in some cases, right or left. This capability offers a lot of flexibility in where you can put the projector.

Alas, like many Optoma projectors, the HD80 has no lens shift, which means its placement is very limited. If you want to put it on a tabletop, it must be below the bottom of the screen, and anyone passing in front of it will obstruct the image. Mounting it on the ceiling is a much better option (it seems designed for this), but its orientation to the

screen is still inflexible. A lens-shift function would make this much easier to deal with.

The remote is excellent—small, uncluttered, and fully illuminated with dedicated buttons for selecting inputs and other commonly used controls. Unfortunately, it didn't have quite enough power to reliably bounce its IR (infrared) beam off the screen and back to the projector. It worked, but only if the handset was carefully aimed.

The menu is also very well organized and easy to navigate. However, it only stays on the

**There's a lot to like about the HD80, including really deep blacks and oodles of detail, but there's no lens shift, which makes placement difficult.**



For adjustment notes and technical data:  
AVguide.com/charts

