

BLU-RAY RISING New HD Movie Players Tested

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DISPLAY UNTIL MAR 31 2007

Smart Lens to the Rescue

Among the best looking product demonstrations at this year's Consumer Electronics Show was Optoma's super-widescreen Blu-ray clip from *Phantom of the Opera*, projected onto a 170-inch screen from an HD81 DLP projector with the company's new BX-AL133 anamorphic lens kit. When the projector's Auto235 circuitry detects an ultra-wide 2:35:1 image, the lens automatically slides into place, enabling perfectly proportional images without excessive digital video processing and/or black masking bars.

The BX-AL133 kit consists of the lens, a lens bracket, ceiling mount adapter plate,

upgradeable firmware, and a remote-control-able motorized sled for the lens. The lens itself is all optical-grade glass, with minimal chromatic aberrations and astigmatism, according to the manufacturer. The lens kit is said to improve image brightness by up to 30 percent.

The two-piece HD81 is built around the Texas Instruments 1080p DarkChip3 DMD chip-set and has a rated light output of 1400 lumens and contrast ratio of 10,000:1.

The projector also features ISFccc ("Imaging Science Foundation's Certified Calibration Configuration") controls for the best possible picture quality.



Optoma • \$10,000 • www.optoma.com

HDMI-Rich DVDs

NAD has expanded its home theater lineup with the T 585 universal DVD player and the more affordable T 515 DVD/CD player, both of which feature an HDMI output along with standard audio and video connections, including coaxial and optical audio outputs. In addition to dual 12-bit video D/A converters, the T 585 boasts a Faroudja DCDi chip for upconverting standard 480i/p DVD to 720p or 1080i, via the HDMI or component-video outputs.

On the audio side, 24-bit, 192-kHz D/A converters are employed in both players for the benefit of all music formats, even compressed MP3 and WMA. The T 585, which

handles both SACD and DVD-Audio discs, provides onboard Dolby Digital and DTS multi-channel decoding and offers a set of 5.1-channel analog audio connections in addition to the HDMI output. SRS True Surround circuitry simulates five-channel surround sound with only two speakers. Other features include on-board digital bass management and audio controls for speaker size, distance, level, and crossover point.



NAD • \$400-\$1200 • www.nad.com