

PRODUCT PROFILE

Reference Standard Video Projector

As Reviewed By:

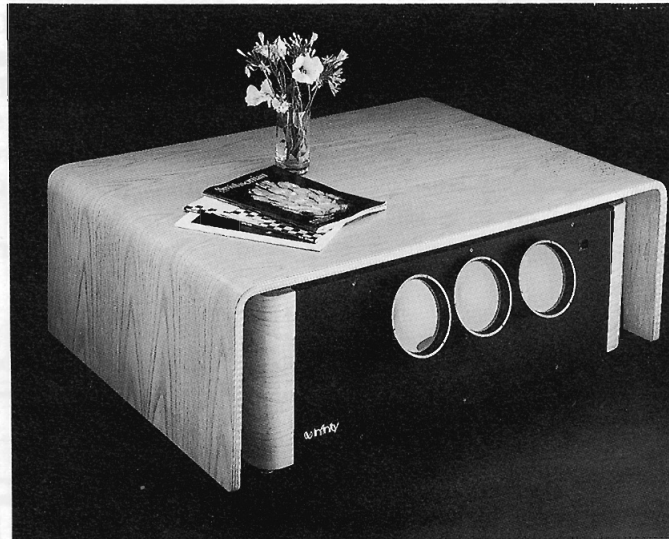
VIDEO magazine

Infinity offers a versatile television projector for videophiles who seek the ultimate in large screen TVs. It has no model number but Reference Standard Projection Television lives up to the claim its name implies. It can be used for screen sizes from five feet (measured diagonally) to over 15 feet on curved or flat surfaces. Infinity supplies only the projector, so you'll need a screen and speakers, and many also have to choose amplifiers and additional speakers to use its surround sound and front center audio channel.

The projector is housed in an elegant piece of furniture made of oak and veneer. It accommodates an antenna and two additional RF sources that may tune up to 69 broadcast and up to 175 cable channels. It accepts two video and stereo audio inputs that can be terminated at the set or looped through to other terminated or unterminated devices, as well as an analog or TTL (digital) RGB input with additional inputs and outputs for superimposing additional signals. An output from the tuner has fixed-level audio outputs suitable for videotaping. Between its audio and video facilities, the set is as capable as the best professional gear.

Infinity supplied us with a sample through the Audio Associates Corporation, which sent Sales Coordinator

"The Infinity Reference Standard Projection Television System is an outstanding performer in its class of front projection systems."



Orion Hopper to install it. Installation is not a do-it-yourself proposition. Although it is preset for a six-foot screen, reconvergence for other screen sizes can take a top technician about an hour, and has been known to take inexperienced technicians up to four hours.

The projector is also available in a 96-pound, ceiling-mount version that should be installed by a contractor familiar with local building regulations. Audio Associates also supplied a six-foot screen made by Beiner of Long Island City. Its assembly and set-up took two more hours. As we used the Infinity, the subtle refinements of its picture quality made us appreciate the super sharp, evenly illuminated picture more and more.

Description. The Video Reference Standard looks like an attractive coffee table floating above a recessed base. The model we tested is 17½ inches high by 42 inches wide by 28 inches deep and weighs 128 pounds. The hood mixes oak panels and composition board under an oak veneer. The base, containing the electronics and lenses, has curved black metal corners.

Three lenses project from a black bulkhead in front. The wood panels at both sides of the bulkhead slide out to reveal cavities for hiding wires that connect to the top of the base.

With the top removed, you'll see two groups of

jacks in grooves near the two sides. At the left are the video and stereo jacks for A/V 1 input, loop-through outputs for A/V 1 and a termination switch.

Behind those are six jacks for A/V2's video and stereo audio inputs and loop-through outputs with a similar bridge/terminate switch. There are four tuner outputs and stereo and mono audio outputs.

Further back is a nine-pin RGB connector with a TTL/analog switch and jacks for accompanying audio if available, and a composite synchronization output for equipment that has Gen-Lock capabilities and blanking.

At the right are binding posts/jacks for the left and right speakers (not included) powered by the internal



amplifier, and five RCA-type pin jacks for left and right rear front channels, plus a center channel. A switch determines whether the 10-watt per channel amplifier feeds the front or the rear channels, and a rotary control adjusts the surround level.

At the back of the projector is a swing-out panel with many controls that are duplicated on the remote. Rotary controls for detail, horizontal and vertical red convergence, horizontal and vertical blue convergence are not on the remote. Membrane pads let you set the time, and add and delete from the scan sequence. A sync stabilizer is also not on the remote.

Operation. Day-to-day use is simple except that, since it can receive 175 cable channels, you must press the 100 button channels above 99. The recall button brings up data screens that display channel mode, time signal input,

audio modes, bass and treble range, balance, tint, color, brightness and contrast.

The expanded sound button simulates stereo sound from a monoaural and spreads the sound stage with stereo material. After setup ease of operation is excellent.

Performance. A single number for screen brightness would be misleading. The Reference Standard uses the same projector for all screens between five and 15 feet, so that the same quality of light may cover an area up to nine times the smallest size recommended. Using the curved Beiner screen, we measured the TV's brightness at 130 footlamberts.

Brightness aside, the Infinity is among the best projectors we've measured. Horizontal resolution from RF sources is 340 lines and 420 lines from video sources. It is rated to de-

liver 600 lines from RGB sources, but we were able to confirm only slightly over 500 lines, the limit of our test equipment. The video signal-to-noise ratio is 59 decibels. The chroma AM S/N is 65 dB, and chroma PM S/N is 64 dB. Picture quality is excellent.

Audio performance is equally impressive. Audio frequency response at the left and right front audio out terminals is 20 Hertz to 20 kilohertz, +1.6/ -0.1 dB. At the speaker terminals it is +1.5/ -0.4 dB over the same range. Audio S/N is 65 dB and the total harmonic distortion at the speaker terminals is 0.4 percent.

Conclusion. The Infinity Reference Standard Projection Television System is an outstanding performer in its class of front projection systems. Its suggested price of \$4,999 appears steep, but it is fair for what the projector delivers. ■

By: Berger Braithwaite Labs

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As Reviewed By:

Audio magazine

In these days of audio/video compatibility (if not yet wedded bliss!), I would be most remiss if I didn't report on the best and most remarkable large-screen projection TV I have ever seen. Of all companies, Infinity has introduced this RSPT (Reference Standard Projection Television) as their entry into the video market. The RSPT can project a picture measuring 6 to 12 feet diagonally. It employs coated lenses and liquid-cooled tube and lens assemblies. Very wisely, Infinity has included a 178-channel stereo TV

tuner, a proprietary surround-sound decoder for Dolby-encoded movies, and a 35-function wireless remote control with on-screen display capability. Two r.f. inputs are provided, plus two sets of direct video and audio inputs, as well as analog RGB and TTL (digital RGB) inputs for computers, etc.

The main thing to note about this Infinity projection system is the picture quality. It is simply stunning, with a resolution of better than 400 lines affording a really sharp picture. The screen brightness, using a high-gain

curved screen, is the best I've ever seen. Most important, unlike most projection TV pictures which are rather flat and dull, the picture has good contrast, excellent clean blacks and whites, and colors that are well saturated, vivid, and brilliantly alive. The total impact of several Dolby-encoded movies played on this super projector, plus Infinity's IRS sound system, was breathtaking. At \$5,500, the RSPT is certain to win new converts. ■

By: Bert White

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