

3D projectors

3D CONTENT DEMANDS a large screen to be truly enjoyable: the 3D effect can be ruined by the visible edges of the screen. Projectors provide an unobtrusive way to create wall-sized 3D displays. With a smart paint job, you won't even need a projector screen. We checked out two of the first consumer-grade 3D projectors in the New Zealand market, from industry giants Epson and Panasonic.

Epson Dreamio EH-TW6000W

3D projector

With a promised contrast ratio of 40,000:1 and up to 1.6x zoom, Epson's EH-TW6000W gives you sharp and detailed 2D images up to 300 inches diagonally.

For 3D, the TH6000W supports the latest cross-talk reducing 480Hz technology and does well with *Avatar* and *Pirates of the Caribbean*.

However, as the 2D quality is so good, you feel like you're stepping down a notch or two when switching to 3D and donning the nerdy active shutter glasses that lose some light and contrast. This is a drawback of the technology that the TH6000W shares with competing devices.

Rated at 2,200 lumens output, it's bright enough to be used in rooms lit by daylight.

An included WirelessHD transmitter promises to cut down on cable clutter – it's a round, mains powered unit with HDMI input that saves you from running a long cable to a ceiling-mounted projector.

WirelessHD has some limitations, such as a ten-metre range and line of sight being required; it works though, streaming HD and Blu-ray content from a player to the projector. Possibly due to the unit being the first generation, I wasn't able to stream bandwidth-hungry 3D to it.

The TH6000W 2D quality is excellent; getting 3D thrown in is a bonus. It would be good if the fan was quieter, though.

Read the full review online at bit.ly/xAnur5.



AT A GLANCE

- Very good image quality
- WirelessHD means no long HDMI cable
- Slightly noisy fan

EPSON DREAMIO EH-TW6000W

RRP incl GST: \$3,800 Contact: epson.co.nz

A good bang-for-buck 2D and 3D projector with WirelessHD and great image quality.



Panasonic PT-AE7000

3D projector

If 3D is your bag, the PT-AE7000 is worth checking out. Thanks to 480Hz processing for the 3D, crosstalk or ghosting is barely noticeable. There's less light loss too: you don't lose detail and contrast. *Avatar* and *Pirates of the Caribbean* looked great. Viewing angles are excellent, much superior to flat panel TVs.

However, the 3D capabilities are marred by the two pairs of active shutter glasses supplied with the projector (additional glasses \$100 each). The lenses are small and some distance from your eyes. This leads to light leakage and reflections.

In 2D, the PT-AE7000 creates stunningly good, sharp images with very deep blacks. Blu-ray looks particularly good. DVDs and standard definition content look great too. The projector is more forgiving of low-resolution material than LCD TVs in general.

At this price, it's good to see Panasonic offering the full gamut of high-end features and connectivity options.

Panasonic got most things right with the PT-AE7000, and it manages to wow in

both 2D and 3D mode. It doesn't hurt that it is one of the best devices around currently.

Read the full review online at bit.ly/wbHdm1.

AT A GLANCE

- Quiet projector with excellent 2D/3D image quality
- Huge range of features aimed at videophile customers
- Active shutter glasses can be tiring to wear for longer periods of time

PANASONIC PT-AE7000

RRP incl GST: \$5,700 Contact: panasonic.co.nz

Stunning image quality for the dedicated videophile with a big budget.

