



The DreamVision CinexOne is a positively petite 220mm wide, 52mm tall and 175mm deep

# DreamVision comes true

## DreamVision CinexOne

DLP projector £3100



**For** Fine performance; compact dimensions; flexibility; build quality

**Against** Nothing notable

**Verdict** An outstanding affordable DLP design, and a great budget home cinema projector

The affordable projector is an attractive concept to the home cinema buff, but with a few exceptions (like the £1995 Sanyo PLV-30) the majority of 'budget' projectors are a let-down: they give you a big picture, sure, but not a very good one. And size isn't much use without quality.

Which is why the CinexOne caught our attention at this year's Bristol Show. At 220mm wide, 52mm tall and 175mm deep, it's tiny, and could easily be secreted away in a cunningly

constructed coffee table or hung from the ceiling with minimal intrusion. But more significant is how it performs: its Digital Light Processing (DLP) system is regarded by many as the future of front projection, a performance-orientated solution for projectors that enables the CinexOne to comfortably outstrip the best efforts of most rival projectors in this class, the majority of which use the technically inferior Liquid Crystal Display (LCD) system.

It's not new – we've reviewed several DLP designs, including outstanding units from SIM2 and Yamaha – but the price is the key issue here. While it's not as sophisticated as those two illustrious rivals, the DreamVision CinexOne manages to offer a flavour of their ability, but for half the cost.



The DreamVision handles a wide variety of input sources

## DIGITAL LIGHT PROCESSING EXPLAINED

Digital Light Processing is an astonishingly sophisticated system for generating projected images. The core of the system is the DMD, or Digital MicroMirror Device. This tiny microprocessor-controlled chip is composed of over 1.3 million individual mirrors, each hinged and able to tilt +10 or -10 degrees. A powerful lamp shines on to the surface of the mirror through a rotating colour wheel composed of the three primary colours (Red, Green, Blue). By individually tilting each micromirror, the DLP unit can either reflect appropriately coloured light out through the projection lens to create a dot of screen detail – a pixel – or send it into a light-absorbing 'pad', creating dark pixels. It's dashed clever stuff...

You still need to pay for the best, but for a shade over three grand, the CinexOne makes for impressive viewing. It delivers that all-important depth of field, created by proper black depth, that so often eludes LCD projectors, and there's no sign of the irksome lattice-screen so characteristic of LCDs.

You can hook in a variety of input sources (and all the wires are included), including S-Video and composite video, but the most significant connection uses a RS232 computer cable terminated at the other end by component video sockets. This is the option of choice if you have a component-video-equipped DVD player, and if your player can take progressive scan, the CinexOne will cope.

Downsides? Pricier projectors deliver still better blacks, and some have true 16:9 display panels, which removes the 'border' effect you'll inevitably get when trying to show anamorphic DVD imagery on your screen. You'll also get better contrast and colour accuracy. But the price of such performance is considerable: the CinexOne's gift is that it gives you something very respectable for far less.

## LEADING RIVALS

**Sanyo PLV-30**  
£1995 ★★★★★

(Awards '01) Highly competent LCD with an acceptably involving picture

**Toshiba TLP-MT7** £4000 ★★★★★☆  
(Dec '01) Highly bright and capable, although the LCD panel has limitations next to the DLP DreamVision