

Title:

Getting the Best Value on a Monitor

Word Count:

618

Summary:

This is a brief article on the different types of computer monitors and different monitor specifications to look at when buying a monitor.

Keywords:

Computer, Monitor, LCD, CRT, Value

Article Body:

Getting the Best Value on a Monitor.

A computer monitor, or simply a monitor, is the screen on which you view things from your computer.

There are several types of monitor - cathode ray tube (or CRT) and Liquid Crystal Display (or LCD).

CRT monitors work by an electron gun shooting electrons down the CRT to the screen, where they are converted into light. CRT monitors are large and bulky but cheap. They generally need slightly more room than their LCD counterparts. They are not as common these days, with the more advanced LCD monitors becoming the choice for most people.

LCD works by blocking light - specifically, they are made of two pieces of polarised glass, with a layer of liquid crystal in between. Thin Film Transistor LCD (or TFT-LCD) is a type of LCD that works by arranging tiny transistors to control the light passing through the liquid crystal. Generally speaking, no matter how big a screen on a LCD monitor, they are usually only an inch or two thick.

Other things to consider are:

- The refresh rate, as it can help reduce eye strain - at least 60 Hz is recommended, 75Hz is better.
- Resolution is the amount of pixels on a screen, and together with refresh rate they decide picture quality.
- Dot pitch is the distance between adjacent pixels - around 0.26 for a 17" monitor is good.
- Controlling the picture quality is essential - check to see how easy they are to use, so you can get the most out of them.
- Warranty - how long is it and do they offer an extended warranty?
- "Dead Pixel Policy" - what do they allow for? Look carefully before you decide to buy a monitor.

Knowing what you want is only half the battle of getting a good bargain on a monitor - knowing

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