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FLAT-SCREEN TV

Better visual quality than ever before is defining the flat-screen TV race

WHAT'S HAPPENING? Flat-screen TVs are everywhere, from your local pub to the centrepiece of your own home theatre. While sales of older-style "boxy" CRT televisions continue at greatly reduced price points from those of a few years ago, no-one truly wants a CRT in their homes. But with increasing numbers of cheaper flat-screen TVs available, the battle is raging between price and quality - with quality the main consideration for true home cinema aficionados. What's the point of a fantastic looking flat-screen TV if the images on screen are not up to par? With ever cheaper flat-screen TVs, this can be an issue - if you want great picture quality, make sure you not only put aside some money to get this, but that you do your homework so you don't suffer from buyer's regret afterwards!

HOT PRODUCT The Metz Milos 37S LCD TV. Designed and engineered at Metz's world-class manufacturing facility in Zirndorf, Germany, the new Metz TV is a clear example of European engineering at work, merging elegant design and state-of-the-art technology. With one of the most important parts of a flat-screen TV being the video processor that ensures the images you see on screen are sharp and detailed, abundantly

colourful and have lifelike motion, Metz's engineers have been hard at work developing a video processing technology called "mecavision+". The results are stunning, producing some of the best images we have seen on any LCD TV - and that's saying something. Metz use "dual broadcast-standard video processors" operating at 10-bit resolution - not just one processor as with other TVs - to make their claims a reality. Built-in digital and analogue tuners provide crisp, clean images for watching television, while now-standard HDMI and DVI inputs allow for connection to the latest High Definition and DVD sources, which provide brilliant picture resolution - something you'll come to appreciate, especially after seeing cheaper screens produce less than stellar TV pictures. As expected, they use an LCD panel with an 8ms refresh rate for rapid response times, with the panel capable of 1366x768 resolution so it's able

to display the HD images you'll get from an HDTV set-top box, your existing DVD player that can upscale regular DVDs to HD picture quality, the Xbox 360 which can output games in HD (which it really needs for the best effect) and upcoming Blu-Ray and HD-DVD players and recorders.

WHAT DOES IT COST? \$5999, in metallic silver or black. www.metz.com.au

EMPIRE SAYS We've seen plenty of TVs in our time, from CRTs, to plasma, LCD, rear projection and the front screen projector, so we have pretty high expectations of any TV claiming to offer the highest levels of picture quality. We're happy to report that the Metz Milos 37S lives up to its claims as a high-end LCD TV, and while it certainly costs more than many of its cheaper competitors, it's worth every cent. If you're into high quality television and home theatre viewing, place the Metz high on your list of choices for your next flat-screen TV!

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