

Reviews

Panasonic PanaFlat PF70



\$1,199 (list)

Mitsubishi Diamond Pro 87TXM



\$749 (list)

NEC MultiSync P750



\$949 (list)

High-quality 17-inch monitors each employ a different technology to provide great color accuracy and crisp images for publishing pros and business users alike.

LABS **WE'VE SEEN A LOT OF MONITORS** here at *MacUser*, and honestly, we thought we'd seen it all: pivots, hoods, wacky-colored bezels — you name it. But just when we thought we'd reached jaded, been-there-done-that status, we received the Panasonic PanaFlat PF70.

The first thing we noticed about the PF70 is that its screen is flat. Completely flat: flatter than a tabletop, flatter than roadkill on Route 66. So flat, in fact, that

jury of image-quality experts to evaluate each monitor. The Diamond Pro and MultiSync earned high praise for their image quality; the performance of the Panasonic PanaFlat PF70, on the other hand, threw us a curve.

Panasonic PanaFlat PF70

It sounds like a winning combination: a glare-reducing flat screen coupled with a high-quality slot-mask CRT — but when

Although its on-screen controls are easy to use, the menu is placed on the center of the screen, an inconvenient location for graphics pros making adjustments while using a color calibrator.

Mitsubishi Diamond Pro 87TXM

Of the three monitors we looked at, the Diamond Pro produced the best image quality. Our jury's finding that it produced accurate color agreed with our objective color-tracking results. And the Diamond Pro's high scores in our sharpness tests were confirmed by our jury results.

The Diamond Pro has an abundant array of controls. The digital on-screen control menu is placed in the lower center of the screen, so there isn't any interference with a color calibrator. Also, Mitsubishi bundles a helpful software package of adjustment controls and test screens. The Diamond Pro is the only monitor of the three that comes with ColorSync profiles.

NEC MultiSync P750

Our jury agreed that the MultiSync's color quality and brightness were quite good — the monitor also scored well in our objective testing. Its sharp reproduction of text and line art was better than that of the PanaFlat monitor and almost as good as that of the Diamond Pro monitor.

The MultiSync, like the other two monitors in this review, has a large set of digital, on-screen controls. As with the PanaFlat, however, you can't move the MultiSync's menu from its center position on the screen.



at first glance, it looks *concave* next to the two other monitors we tested, the Mitsubishi Diamond Pro 87TXM and the NEC MultiSync P750. The Diamond Pro's screen has the subtle cylindrical curve characteristic of Mitsubishi's Diamond-Tron technology, and the MultiSync's screen is slightly curved horizontally and vertically, as are all other shadow-mask monitor screens. The less screen curve, the fewer potential problems with glare.

To find out which of the three monitors has the best overall image quality, *MacUser Labs* tested each with a Minoita Color Analyzer CA-100 and a Microvision SuperScript 200 meter. We also gathered a

we fired up the PF70, every member of our image-quality jury agreed that the concave illusion produced by the flat screen was more a distraction than a benefit. After we used the PanaFlat for a couple of weeks, however, the illusion began to dissipate.

Although the PanaFlat does have good color quality — accurate, but muted — its quality wasn't as good as that of the Diamond Pro and MultiSync monitors. And although the PanaFlat was acceptably bright, our jury and our objective testing indicated that its sharpness was adequate, although its MTF (*modulation transfer function*, a measure of sharpness) scores were the lowest of the three monitors.

The Bottom Line Graphics pros need great image quality, and the Mitsubishi Diamond Pro 87TXM fills the bill. It also has an excellent set of controls for fine-tuning — and at \$749, it's the least expensive of the three. The image quality of the NEC MultiSync P750 is essentially as good as that of the Diamond Pro, but the MultiSync costs \$200 more. The Panasonic PanaFlat PF70 is a quality monitor, and its perfectly flat screen is a glare-reducing plus. But its comparatively high price and less-than-ideal image quality move it to third place among three fine monitors.

• Roman Loyola