

ELECTRONIC HOUSE

FAST TRACK TO THE CONNECTED LIFESTYLE

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SUPER TVs

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DIGITAL DEVICES

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CUTTING-EDGE APPLIANCES
TECHNOLOGY COMES
TO THE KITCHEN

Mitsubishi LT-3020



While size shouldn't matter in all things, when it comes to widescreen TV, most of us would agree that bigger is better. But the latest trend seems to be downsizing from large to moderate—a real boon for apartment dwellers with limited space. So while Mitsubishi's 30-inch LCD doesn't seem that huge at first, it's more than just adequate, especially when you consider its slim 16:9 widescreen design and HDTV-compatible resolution.

WHY YOU WANT THIS

Before you go out and buy one of the big boys, take a peek at what an LCD can display. This unit's brighter image and higher resolution makes it the perfect choice for any room in the house.



Installation Issues

Ease of use is a predominant theme, whether it's accessing the menu settings or activating features using the comfortably shaped remote. At around 54 pounds with the base, the LT-3020 is almost compact enough to fit on a desktop for computer use. And the adjustable stand makes for easy angling, with all the cabling routed to the back behind a rear cover and then into removable side panels concealing the many inputs/outputs.

Besides an antenna and a Mini D-sub 15-pin for computer use, there are two sets each of composite, S-Video, and component inputs, as well as a copy-protection HDCP-compliant DVI input. An RS-232C connection works in parallel with the DVI as Mitsubishi's proprietary "MonitorLink" connection, allowing day-to-day operation of the LT-3020 with Mitsubishi's HD-5000 HDTV tuner/controller.

Performance/Features

After you turn it on, the TV automatically selects the input and settings that were last in effect, with the whole process taking about three to four seconds. The display is so bright it isn't bothered by ambient light, but as with all LCD TVs there is some drop-

off when looking at it from a greater-than-45-degree angle. Aspect ratios can be locked into memory, and switching between them can be done quickly by using the remote. There's also the ability to view two images at once through picture-in-picture (PIP) and picture-outside-picture (POP).

One of the characteristics we look for is color fidelity, and the LT-3020 certainly has what it takes. With the ability to manually fine-tune colors or have it done automatically, we were hard-pressed to find an image that didn't look great. Even standard television rang true.

During scenes from *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*, the LT-3020 performed like a champ. There was good focus, no smearing or color discrepancies. Our final test was high-def, where a D-VHS of *Ice Age* let us compare both color balance and detail, of which there is plenty.

The Last Word

Mitsubishi has a real winner here—a killer display that's impressive enough for a boardroom, but with the soul of a home theater display. For those who don't think that size is more important than performance, the LT-3020 is a great choice. **EH**

Info: Mitsubishi Digital Electronics America, Inc., \$5,199 800-332-2119, www.mitsubishi-tv.com

Marshal M. Rosenthal is a technology/entertainment journalist. He can be reached at marshal@pipeline.com.

THE SCORE

■■■■ Install	■■■■ Ease of Use
■■■■ Expandability	■■■■ Overall Value
4 → broke the mold	3 → playing with the big boys
2 → not such a bad buy	1 → just plain sad