

It was so hard to choose an outright winner from these five that we have gone for two, depending on your preferred size. At the smaller end, the Philips Cineos 32PF9631D was excellent on virtually all performance criteria, and has that excellent multimedia player built in. For the larger size, the Baumann Meyer DT 4060D provided good overall performance, and provides support for 1080p input signals.



VERDICT

BAUMANN MEYER DT 4060D **\$3299**

Lcdtv
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For detailed specifications, see p85



- Good sized screen
- Very good picture quality
- Supports 1080p signals via HDMI



- Interlaced analogue video inputs poorly handled
- Modest contrast ratio

The Baumann Meyer DT 4060D LCD TV delivers 101cm of picture, with a resolution of 1366 by 768 pixels. The speakers come attached but are able to be removed if you plan to use the TV as a video display only.

Setting up the TV was fairly easy once I realised that the digital tuner module is quite separate from the rest of the TV, with a special key on the remote control to invoke its set-up menu. The autoscanner feature worked well, and there are a few options to manage the order of the TV stations, hiding stations you don't want shown (which is useful for duplicates) and creating favourites. And unlike some other brands, input selection is easy with this TV, since it has a pop-up menu from which you can rapidly choose any of the inputs (or either the digital or analogue tuner), using the arrows or choosing a number on the remote.

The TV reception was excellent and the scaling of the various digital TV signals to the panel's resolution was fine. With standard definition TV stations a good quality picture was produced, albeit with a tendency (common for LCD panels) for MPEG artefacts to be somewhat more pronounced than they are with other display technologies.

With HD all this disappeared, the downscaling from 1080i to the panel's resolution allowing excellent sharpness to come through, yet ridding the display of the MPEG artefacts.

The colour performance of this TV seemed tuned more towards European than Asian sensibilities, being extremely natural and lifelike.

The TV also had perhaps the widest viewing angles I have seen on an LCD TV, with the colours and contrast remaining impressively unaltered at even the most extreme angles. In a dark room, however, the TV seemed to wash out the blacks and near blacks, making some low-light detail hard to discern. So it's best to use this TV in a well-lit area.

As seems to be common, the TV did a poor job with interlaced analogue video signals coming via S-Video, insisting on applying a rather brutal bobbing process to the signal, halving the vertical resolution, even if it was film-sourced.

A final bonus of the Baumann Meyer is that this TV supports 1080p at both 50Hz and 60Hz via HDMI, in addition to the more common resolutions, so it should work well with Blu-ray and HD DVD players.