

# TEST > DLP projector

Feature count includes vertical and horizontal keystone adjustment

Capable of displaying 720p hi-def images



**89%** WHAT HOME CINEMA

## RATINGS

STYLE	★★★★☆
EASE OF USE	★★★★☆
FEATURES	★★★★☆
PICTURE	★★★★☆
VALUE	★★★★☆
OVERALL	★★★★☆

## TEST SCENE

> *Chronicles of Narnia*



The smooth, progressive picture, with good detail and few artefacts, and cleanly presented CGI made this movie a pleasure to watch.

## AT A GLANCE

### FEATURES

TI DC3 based native 720p DLP projector  
 HD Ready  
 Throw ratio 1.8 - 2.1 (distance/width)  
 Projection lens 1:16:1 manual zoom  
 Six segment, 4x speed colour wheel  
 Internal video test patterns for setup  
 1,000 ANSI Lumens brightness  
 3,500:1 contrast ratio  
 30dBA noise level  
 Lamp: 180W/200W HPM (selectable) with 4,000hrs average lifetime  
 Dimensions: 315mm (l) x 347mm (w) x 147mm (h)  
 Weight: 3.6kg

### CONNECTIONS

HDMI input  
 DVI-D (2nd HDMI via adapter)  
 Component video input  
 RGB (HD15)  
 S-video  
 Composite video input  
 3.5mm jack 12V screen  
 3.5mm jack IR  
 RS232  
 USB port



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Practically no video noise

# Planar PD7060 £1,900

## Well-designed and nicely-priced, this DLP projector is at its happiest when getting to grips with 720p material

The Planar PD7060 DLP projector is a textbook application of its core technology, the DC3 Digital Mirror Device from Texas Instruments. This device – the main DLP processor – is natively capable of dealing with 720p high definition pictures. It can also process Full HD material (1080i and 1080p) by scaling down to 720p.

The basic spec is pleasing enough, boasting brightness of 1,000 ANSI Lumens output and a respectable contrast ratio of 3,500:1.

### Taking note

Features of note include vertical and horizontal keystone adjustment, and a straightforward and comprehensive control system, which includes three user presets for each input. There's also the possibility of firmware upgrades via the USB port.

Other connectivity is strong. There's an HDMI input, backed up by component video, RS232, DVI-D and S-video inputs.

The PD7060 is nicely inexpensive. This has been made partly possible by its simple physical design. Admittedly there is some diffuse light leakage from the sides, and a reflective moulding in the lens path, but the cooling system is quiet, with

a noise level of only 30dB. Pleasingly, the average lamp lifetime of 4,000hrs is also longer than most.

Costs are also shaved by using Texas Instruments' own internal scaler/motion adaptive deinterlacer, which is less costly to implement than most of the fancier solutions that are available from third party suppliers.

On paper, the PD7060 goes some way to impressing, but only a road test can satisfy our curiosity. And you'll be pleased to hear that the projector is pretty much on message – although it's inevitably more at home with high definition action.

Not that's to say that standard definition material is poor. We fed a standard definition DVD of *The Mighty Boosh* (which is often a riot of colour) to the PD7060 to see how it would cope. There was some fine granularity in large areas of uniform

colour, staircasing with moving backgrounds and some motion artefacting. These problems are inevitable with standard definition, but it's still watchable.

### High flyer

It's a different story altogether with hi-def material, as our recording of the *Chronicles of Narnia* (from Sky HD) ably demonstrates. The 720p material is a joy to watch. Virtually every trace of picture disturbance that is apparent with standard definition images disappears – say goodnight to video noise, motion artefacting and smearing. Contrast handling is also impressive in the main, although there is a faint glow from unlit areas of the screen, as well as loss of subtlety in shadow detail.

But, criticisms of the hi-def picture performance are splitting hairs, especially as upsampled video from a quality DVD player is also great. At the price, the Planar PD7060 is a pleasure to experience, and earns our recommendation as an affordable mainstream projector. ■

## HI-DEF MATERIAL IS A JOY TO WATCH, AS PICTURE GLITCHES ARE SENT PACKING



Main controls (like the remote) are user-friendly



A wide range of connections make this Planar projector an attractive custom install choice