



Panasonic Viera TC-P50VT25 Plasma 3D HDTV

Should your next HDTV be LCD or plasma? Partisans in both camps will argue *their* choice is superior, but few dispute that when it comes to 3D, Panasonic's 50-inch Viera TC-P50VT25 plasma display takes the prize. Whether you're playing a 3D action game or watching *Avatar* on Blu-ray 3D, Panasonic's flagship TV delivers a mind-blowing experience. The Viera also delivers a fabulous 2D experience, so you won't regret buying it even if 3D becomes a forgotten historical footnote. You'll get excellent color saturation, sublime definition in highlights and shadows, and superior black-level performance in both 2D and 3D. (See page 88 for a full review.)

The TV can also decode 1080p content that's been encoded at 24 frames per second, eliminating 3:2 pulldown judder (visual artifacts that can make Hollywood movies and other 24fps content look jerky after being converted to the 60fps standard that most TV use). We auditioned a number of HDTVs for this article, and the Viera won hands-down. **\$1,900**, www.panasonic.com

Davis Instruments Vantage Vue Wireless Weather Station

We don't care if buying a weather center is a sign of old age. The Vantage Vue brings *serious* meteorological equipment into the home. We've tested various weather stations in the sub-\$500 price range, and can tell you that this is the one to beat. Once you're familiar with the intense interface, the Vantage Vue quickly provides a vast number of data points for rain, wind, barometric pressure, and more. We especially like the rapid frequency of its sensor updates, and how the console displays a running feed of interesting data, from daily highs and lows to alerts for meteor showers. The system's outdoor weather sensors (not shown here) have a confidence-inspiring build quality, and are relatively compact. The console itself communicates with your sensors wirelessly, and runs on either batteries or AC. **\$395**, www.vantagevue.com



GlideTV Navigator

Are you using a home theater PC instead of Blu-ray player? Then you'll need a living room-appropriate alternative to that bulky wireless mouse and keyboard combo. The GlideTV Navigator fits in the palm of your hand and features an integrated touchpad for cursor control. There are dedicated buttons for your media player software, and a graphical user interface that provides one-click access to the most popular entertainment-streaming websites (e.g., Netflix and Pandora). GlideTV's What's On program guide lets you browse all the video content available on the Internet, and there's an excellent on-screen keyboard too. **\$49**, www.glide.tv



Bowers & Wilkins CM-Series Speakers

We've listened to a lot of great speakers over the years, but nothing has ever left us as slack-jawed as the surround-sound system we built around B&W's new CM-series speakers and spherical PV1 Pressure Vessel subwoofer. We put a pair of CM8 floor-standing speakers and a CM Centre up front, and assigned surround-sound duties to the company's CM1 bookshelf speakers.

All five satellite speakers use aluminum dome tweeters and produce sensational highs that reveal subtle sound elements (in both music and movies) that we haven't noticed in other speakers. The three-way floor-standing CM8s are relatively compact, so they won't look out of place on either side of your flat-screen TV, but they produce a much bigger sound stage than you might expect. The CM1s produce a remarkable amount of bass for their size, rendering them far from the second-class status to which most surround channels are relegated. And the whole system looks as beautiful as it sounds. **\$5,450** (for our featured config), www.bowers-wilkins.com