



**What Video
& High-Definition TV
Best Buy**
★★★★★

Verdict ★★★★★ Approx price **£2,900**

Planar PD470

Not satisfied with projectors, here's Planar's stonking debut LCD

➕ Stunning picture quality, hardcore build quality, plenty of features

➖ Expensive, no tuner or speakers included in the price



The rivals

/LG 47LY95

A whole £1,200 cheaper, but not in the same league in performance terms. Reviewed: Issue 327



/Pioneer Kuro PDP-508XD

This 50in premium plasma set delivers a similarly scintillating performance for around the same money. Reviewed (42in): Issue 324

TO ANYONE FAMILIAR with Planar's projectors, the US brand's PD470 debut LCD monitor may come as a shock. For while the projectors were attractive for their exceptionally aggressive pricing, the 47in PD470 has been built from the ground up to be that rarest of things these days: a real premium product with a price tag to match. But can it really deliver?

Features ★★★★★

Planar has designed the PD470 first and foremost for the custom installation market. And so it comes packing an uncompromising build

quality featuring diamond-polished brushed aluminium and a finish that incorporates five coats of premium-grade black lacquer.

But having a custom install target market means it comes lacking a couple of things, namely speakers and a built-in tuner. The idea is that anyone having a custom install will be assumed to already have their own audio system and separate picture sources.

Which is why the PD470 has plenty of connection options, including two HDMI jacks, two component video inputs, a D-Sub PC port, an S-video jack, two

composite video RCAs, an RS232C port for system integration, and an optical digital output that ships out audio from any of the TV's inputs to a connected AV receiver. This latter feature effectively turns the TV into an ultra-convenient AV switching unit.

The only slight bum note is the fact that the HDMI's are only v1.2 affairs, not the higher-spec 1.3 versions now appearing on a few other LCD and plasma screens. This means the set won't be compatible with the Deep Color picture format, should any sources ever use it.

As you'd hope of a £2,900 47in LCD TV, it's got full HD resolution. What's more, it's thrown some heavy-duty image processing at

/// HD images look utterly pristine, with no grain, no noise and no processing glitches ///

making sure it gets the absolute best from that resolution.

As far as we're aware, the PD470 is the UK's first screen to use the Genesis Cortez-Plus LCD TV control chip, which claims to deliver on one chip the sort of video quality previously only found on Faroudja's full Home Theater Systems.

As this implies, the Cortez chipset is built on Faroudja processing know-how, and incorporates that brand's DCDi Cinema Video format converter in a 10-bit configuration to eliminate jaggedness along diagonal lines; Faroudja's Intellicomb 3D adaptive comb filtering to reduce artefacting when converting standard-definition signals to the panel's full HD resolution; and Faroudja's TrueLife system for boosting the appearance of small details and colours and depth perception.

The TV's processing power is such that it can support hi-def picture-in-picture viewing, too.

Ease of use ★★★★★

Considering how much is going on under the PD470's bonnet, it's actually very straightforward to use. The remote control is effective, if a touch cluttered, and the onscreen menus are well organised.

Our only serious concern is that they are very small, making reading them quite hard at times.

Picture ★★★★★

The PD470 quickly puts paid to any doubts we may have had about there still being room for a premium TV in today's LCD marketplace.

The beauty of the PD470's pictures is in the details. For just as the Genesis Cortez chipset promised, the set somehow reproduces detail and colour subtleties that simply escape practically every other LCD TV we've ever seen.

Even better, it doesn't just do this during bright scenes; the amount of subtle background picture information presented during dark scenes means that they emphatically avoid the sort of hollowness or shallowness

witnessed on so many LCD rivals.

The outstanding work of the Cortez system is also evident in the sensational purity of its pictures. HD images look utterly pristine, with no grain, no noise and no

processing glitches. Even more remarkable is how great standard-definition sources look, as the processing engine 'rebuilds' their low-res images to fit the screen's full HD panel better than, quite possibly, any other processing engine we've seen to date.

Where there's purity in a high-definition picture there's usually also stunning fine detail and sharpness and so it proves with the PD470. Especially since the screen's motion handling is also spectacularly good, because the smearing and loss of resolution that would normally characterise LCD technology has here been suppressed to within an inch of its life.

If you're looking for still more justification for finding nearly three grand for the PD470, then you can add to its talents some spectacularly vivid colours, arguably the most believable skin tones on LCD, a strikingly good black level response, and a sense of solidity that really puts the cinema in home cinema.

Value ★★★★★

While we concede that £2,900 is likely to be beyond the reach of the average punter, to the well-heeled cinephile this price tag may seem very reasonable indeed for possibly the single most subtle and satisfying LCD TV picture performance that money can buy ☺

Fact file

- / 47in LCD TV
- / 1,920 x 1,080 pixels
- / Genesis Cortez processing
- / 1080p/24 support
- / Designed for installation



Lab report

- / Time in Lab: 4 days
- / Serial No: HJA6XLG 750011

1,129.4mm

125.9mm



674.4mm

Playback

Test	Rating
Colour temperature	6,480K
Contrast ratio	646:1
Luminance	70.5fL
Colour	●●●●●
Frequency response	●●●●●

Lab notes: The post-calibration CIE chart is as close to perfect as you could hope and RGB levels read an ideal 100/100/100%

Spec check

Screen size and shape:

47in, 16:9

Tuner: None

Sound system: Nicam stereo

Resolution (pixels):

1,920 x 1,080

HD Ready: Yes

Quoted contrast ratio: 5,000:1

using dynamic contrast

Quoted brightness: 500cd/m²

Processing: Genesis Cortez

Screen dimensions: 1129.4(w) x

674.4(h) x 125.9(d)mm

Weight: 26.5kg

/ Other features:

Faroudja DCDi and TrueVivid technologies; 6.5ms response time; HD picture-in-picture; Advanced Colour Management; IR and RS232 control for system integration; gamma adjustments

/ Sockets:

Inputs: 2 HDMI; 2 component video; 2 composite video; S-video; D-Sub PC; 4 RCA stereo audio; 1 3.5mm stereo audio. Outputs: stereo audio; optical digital audio

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What Video & High-Definition TV // We say

It may blow a large hole in your bank account, but then it does happen to be brilliant

