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Scoring Tips for Televisions

Use these tips to as a guide when filling out the buying scorecards in Sofa. These let you when assess the merits of the products you are contemplating buying and will help you shortlist a range of suitable products, thus making investing in home entertainment equipment a whole lot more enjoyable and rewarding.

Brand

The name of the relevant manufacturer or developer.

Model

The reference to the product within a range.

Television system

How many regional systems can be replayed and under what conditions?

Screen size

What are the 'viewable' dimensions, not the picture tube size.

Flat screen technology

How flat and does it make the picture better?

Picture tube technology

The systems that go into generating the images you see.

Anti-flicker technology

Usually called 100Hz technology – do you want or need it?

Picture enhancements

Technologies used to enhance image quality.

Teletext onboard

An on-screen, text-based information service.

Programming capability

For example, can multiple remote actions be grouped into one command.

Special effects functions

How useful are digital still picture and zoom (to mention two) to your viewing?

Picture-in-picture

Useful if you there are two programmes and you want to eyeball both of them.

Timer facility

Auto on and off and channel selection can be very useful.

Special features

These vary between sets so play with them to assess their value.

Broadcast image quality

Performance using local television broadcasts.

DVD disc image quality

The medium you should use because it's image quality is simply the best.

Tape image quality

Old technology but why not ...you get the complete picture then!

Automatic functions

These too, vary between machine so play and assess again.

Sound system

If you don't have a home theatre system this will be important.

Audio quality

Listen and evaluate but be cynical of pseudo surround performance.

Input/output options

The closer they match your DVD player facilities the better.

Learning remote control?

It can remove coffee table clutter, but how smart is it?

Remote Control Facilities

How easy is it to use both in daylight and in limited light conditions.

Dimensions

Will it fit cupboards, shelving and other storage options.

Weight

Can it be located on top of you centre channel speaker.

Total Points Awarded

A tally which gives you the value a product's worth.

Comments

Where you place notes of your personal experiences when auditioning the relevant products.

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