

SOUND & VISION

From Spotlight test report, "DVD Recorders on the Cheap," in June 2005 S&V.
 © 2005 by Hachette Filipacchi Media, U.S., Inc. All rights reserved.

in the lab

**PANASONIC
DMR-ES10**

**PHILIPS
DVDR 615**

**PIONEER
DVR-233**

DVD-VIDEO PLAYBACK PERFORMANCE

(progressive-scan component output, re level at 2 MHz, 4:3 image)

Horizontal luminance response

4, 6, 8 MHz	-0.9, -0.9, -0.6 dB	±0, +0.7, +0.8 dB	-0.9, -0.4, -1.0 dB
10, 12, 13.5 MHz	-1.1, -2.7, -3.7 dB	+0.3, -1.4, -2.2 dB	-1.9, -1.9, -3.1 dB

Onscreen resolution (horizontal x vertical)

540 x 480 lines	540 x 480 lines	540 x 480 lines
-----------------	-----------------	-----------------

DVD RECORDING PERFORMANCE (progressive-scan component output, 4:3 image)

Onscreen resolution (horizontal x vertical)

540 x 480 lines in 1-, 2-, and 4-hour modes; 260 x 240 lines in 6- and 8-hour modes	540 x 480 lines in 1- and 2-hour modes; 260 x 480 lines in 3-, 4-, and 6-hour modes; 260 x 240 lines in 8-hour mode	540 x 480 lines in 1- and 2-hour modes; 260 x 480 lines in 4-hour mode; 260 x 240 lines in 6-, 8-, and 10-hour modes
---	---	--

Lab tests confirmed the video and audio performance I experienced when using the recorders. All proved to be capable DVD players, with fine resolution performance and progressive-scan behavior free of major faults when playing material that originated on film. As usual, progressive-scan images became a bit rougher, with jagged diagonal edges, when all

three decks played DVDs mastered from video sources (such as live concerts or stage productions). In recording, the results were also usually similar, if not visually identical. Things got real interesting — though not necessarily decisively so — in the extended-capacity modes (4 hours or more per DVD). This is discussed in each review segment. — D.R.