

SOUND & VISION®

from test report on the Samsung DVD-H931 DVD player in the November 2003
S&V. Copyright © 2003 by Hachette Filipacchi Media U.S., Inc. All rights reserved.

in the lab

DVD VIDEO PERFORMANCE

Measurements were made from a variety of DVD test discs. Unless otherwise stated, data are for the composite-video output.

Maximum-white level error.....+1 IRE

Setup level.....0 IRE (fixed, see notes)

Horizontal luminance response

(re level at 1 MHz)

4 MHz.....-0.17 dB

5 MHz.....-0.35 dB

6 MHz.....-0.91 dB

6.75 MHz.....-1.4 dB

Onscreen horizontal resolution.....540 lines

In-player letterboxing.....good

Component-output level error (interlaced)
($Y/P_r/P_b$)+0.24/-2.0/-2.7%

Component-output timing error (interlaced)
(P_r/P_b)0/+1 nanoseconds

The Samsung DVD-HD931's video lab measurements were all good. Measured resolution was fine from all of the analog outputs, as was onscreen resolution from all the outputs, including the DVI connection. The only caveat is that if you use the composite- or S-video outputs, you must adjust your TV's black level (the "brightness" control), preferably with a proper setup disc. If you don't have such a disc, or a DVD movie with the THX calibration test patterns, try turning the brightness control *up* slightly to compensate for this player's 0-IRE setup level (instead of the inherently "brighter" U.S. standard of +7.5 IRE). Otherwise the

picture will lose darker details into the black, which can be visually fatal to movies with many dark scenes, like *Chicago*.

Stereo audio performance was merely average, with CD noise levels just a few decibels higher than theoretical perfection. But most people will use the digital outputs and decode all audio externally — it's the only way to get multichannel Dolby Digital or DTS from the player — making the quality of the audio circuitry irrelevant. Recordable DVD-R/RW discs were playable in both the Video and VR modes, as were DVD+R/RWs, but DVD-RAM discs were not. — D.R.