

SOUND & VISION®

from "Spotlight test report: HDTV Bargains" in the February/March 2004 **S&V**.
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In the Lab

	PANASONIC PT-47WX53	PHILIPS 46PP9302	TOSHIBA 46H83
COLOR TEMPERATURE (before/after calibration)	(Warm setting)	(Warm setting)	(Warm setting)
Low window	NA/6,549 K	11,235/6,437 K	4,870/6,543 K
High window	7,244/6,512 K	8,423/6,437 K	6,759/6,485 K
BRIGHTNESS (before/after calibration)	(Warm setting)	(Warm setting)	(Warm setting)
	41.1/34.3 fTL	118/43.9 fTL	87.0/38.5 fTL

With their Warm color-temperature presets selected, all three HDTVs measured far enough off the 6,500-K NTSC standard that grayscale calibration is recommended. Of the three, the Toshiba's precalibration measurements were closest to the standard, followed by the Panasonic. (Calibration needs to be performed by a qualified technician with specialized equipment, so discuss it with your dealer before purchase, or call the Imaging Science Foundation at 561-997-9073.) After adjustment, the Panasonic's ± 300 -K grayscale tracking was very good, while the Philips and Toshiba sets were slightly below average at around ± 700 K.

All three sets displayed a degree of red push, with the Philips leading

the pack at +20% as measured by the color-decoder error pattern from the *Avia* test DVD. DC restoration, or the ability of the set to hold a constant level of black, was very good on all the TVs. Focus and geometry were also very good, although the Panasonic's 5% picture overscan was a bit more than average. The comb filter in the Philips performed poorly, with a good amount of dot crawl visible on a color-bars test pattern. Both the Philips and the Toshiba sets showed only a moderate amount of hot-spotting at off-center seating positions. Light falloff from the Panasonic's screen started at 15° from the center axis, however, which is below-average performance.

— A.G.