

SOUND & VISION

From "HDTV on the Cheap" spotlight test report in October 2004 S&V. © 2004 by Hachette Filipacchi Media, U.S., Inc. All rights reserved.

in the lab

	TOSHIBA 32HF73	SAMSUNG TX- P2670WH	SONY KV-30HS420
Color temperature (before/after calibration)	Warm setting, Movie picture preset	Warm 2 setting, Movie picture preset	Warm setting, Pro picture preset
Low window (20 IRE)	7,346/6,535 K	6,295/6,492 K	5,434/6,537 K
High window (100 IRE)	8,889/6,550 K	6,781/6,562 K	7,772/6,540 K
Brightness (before/after calibration)	Warm setting, Movie picture preset	Warm 2 setting, Movie picture preset	Warm setting, Pro picture preset
	37.7/29.8 ftL	57.2/36.5 ftL	37.3/36.2 ftL

Of the three sets, only the Samsung came close to the color-temperature standard of 6,500 K before calibration, with each grayscale step varying by no more than 500 K. After calibration — admittedly, an expensive proposition for these TVs — grayscale tracking was extremely good on each set, varying by no more than 100 K on the Sony and Toshiba, and 200 K on the Samsung. (Calibration for specific installations 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.)

All three sets had a tendency to accentuate reds. Using the color-decoder check from the *Avia* test/setup DVD, I measured the Sony and Toshiba at about 10% red push and the Samsung at 20% — close to

the highest I've ever seen. I also measured DVD resolution using *Avia*, and the Toshiba came up short of the 540-line maximum for the format, measuring only 400 lines. The Sony was the sharpest according to the 1080i resolution tests on the *Digital Video Essentials* D-VHS tape, resolving the 14-MHz luminance multiburst pattern, while the Samsung maxed out at 8 MHz and the Toshiba at 6 MHz.

All three sets did well using 2:3 pulldown to remove jagged lines and other motion artifacts during *Star Trek: Insurrection*, and all three accepted a 720p HDTV signal. Only the Toshiba showed edge enhancement with sharpness at zero. The Sony won the DC-restoration contest handily, holding black at a more consistent level than the other two sets.

— D.K.