

Plasma 3D Ratings from Consumer Reports 04/04/11

Plasma TV models			0	100															
			P	F	G	VG	E												
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Panasonic Viera TC-P65VT25	\$4000 PRICE & SHOP	80														59	NA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Panasonic Viera TC-P50VT20	\$1800 PRICE & SHOP	79														39	NA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Panasonic Viera TC-P54VT25	\$2500 PRICE & SHOP	79														38	NA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	LG Infinia 50PX950	\$1700 PRICE & SHOP	78														77	NA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Panasonic Viera TC-P50VT25	\$2140 PRICE & SHOP	78														39	NA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Samsung PN58C7000	\$2200 PRICE & SHOP	78														76	NA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Samsung PN63C8000	\$3100 PRICE & SHOP	76														66	NA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Panasonic Viera TC-P50GT25	\$1300 PRICE & SHOP	76														42	NA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Samsung PN50C8000	\$1800 PRICE & SHOP	75														44	NA
<input type="checkbox"/>		Panasonic Viera TC-P42GT25	\$850 PRICE & SHOP	In testing															
<input type="checkbox"/>		Panasonic Viera TC-P58VT25	\$3000 PRICE & SHOP	In testing															
<input type="checkbox"/>		Samsung PN50C490	\$990 PRICE & SHOP	In testing															
<input type="checkbox"/>		Samsung PN50C680	\$1350 PRICE & SHOP	In testing															

Plasma TV

Perhaps the biggest news in our latest TV Ratings is that we've now completed tests on nine plasma 3D sets, including models from LG, Panasonic, and Samsung. All the 3D plasma TVs we've now tested did very well with regular HD content and 3D programs, though we did note some differences.

Plasma TVs are well worth consideration, especially in 50-inch and larger sizes, where they offer a strong alternative to LCD sets. In fact, when you factor in their unlimited viewing angle and the generally superior black level and shadow detail of the better models, plus their ability to handle fast motion with virtually no visible blurring, plasma displays offer meaningful advantages over LCDs. Often they are less expensive, even 1080p models.

Almost all the plasma TVs we just tested did very well, as you can see from the excellent and very good picture quality scores on the chart. Given the overall high quality, it's hard to go too far wrong with any of the TVs in the Ratings. A number of sets do stand out for excellence, so it's worth checking the detailed test results for the higher-scoring models if you want the best picture quality possible.

Most of the sets have 1080p (or full HD) resolution, which is becoming increasingly common with plasma screens. The others have 720p resolution, which can provide excellent picture quality, as our test results indicate.

You may see the "600Hz sub-field drive" note on plasma TVs, which has become a standard feature. It can improve performance with moving test patterns and fast-action video games. Plasma sets are generally better at handling fast motion without visible blurring than LCDs.

54-inch and larger models:



- [Samsung PN63C550](#)
- **Type:** 54-inch and larger models
- **Price as tested:**
- \$2000

This 63-inch 1080p plasma TV from Samsung -- along with its 3D sibling (also Rated), the largest plasma TV we've tested -- is among the best TVs in our Ratings, with overall excellent picture quality. Though it lacks the 3D capability and access to online content found on the C8000 series models (the 63-inch PN63C8000 model is also in our Ratings), it is a DLNA-compliant model that can access photos, movies, and music stored on a PC via a network connection. It includes AllShare, a proprietary technology that lets you connect to compatible mobile phones, computers, camcorders, digital cameras and other devices and view that content (such as phone text messages) on the TV.

[See our ratings for this Plasma TV](#)

Overall score out of 100 - **81**



- [Samsung PN58C550](#)
- **Type:** 54-inch and larger models
- **Price as tested:**
- \$1300

This 58-inch 1080p plasma TV from Samsung delivers a lot of screen and excellent HD picture quality for the money, making it a CR Best Buy. The TV, offered in a charcoal/black Touch of Color finish, was very good with standard-def fare. Though it lacks the 3D capability and access to online content found on the C8000 series models (the 50-inch PN50C8000 model is also in our Ratings), it is DLNA-compliant model that can access photos, movies and music stored on a PC via a network connection, and it includes AllShare, a proprietary technology that lets you connect to compatible mobile phones, computers, camcorders, digital cameras and other devices and view that content (such as phone text messages) on the TV.

[See our ratings for this Plasma TV](#)

Overall score out of 100 - **80**



- [LG 60PK550](#)
- **Type:** 54-inch and larger models
- **Price as tested:**
- \$1625

This slim 60-inch 1080p plasma TV from LG offers excellent high-definition picture quality and a lot of screen for the money, though it lacks some features, such as access to online content, found in step-up models. It does have a lot of color adjustments, including a CMS (Color Management System). Also, its energy use is among the highest of any set we've tested.

[See our ratings for this Plasma TV](#)

Overall score out of 100 - **78**



- [Panasonic Viera TC-P58S2](#)
- **Type:** 54-inch and larger models
- **Price as tested:**
- \$1300

This 58-inch no-frills 1080p plasma TV from Panasonic offers a lot of bang for the buck, making it a CR Best Buy. The TV delivers excellent overall picture quality, but lacks many of the features found on pricier Panasonic plasma models, such as access to online content and 3D capability. It also has fewer picture controls than many of its brandmates.

[See our ratings for this Plasma TV](#)

Overall score out of 100 - 77



- [Panasonic Viera TC-P54G25](#)
- **Type:** 54-inch and larger models
- **Price as tested:**
- \$1500

Overall score out of 100 - 76

This 54-inch 1080p plasma TV, from Panasonic's step-up G25 series, delivers excellent high-def picture quality, though we did notice some banding on scenes. The set has a lot of features, such as Skype videophone capability (when used with an optional camera), THX certification, and access to online content, including streaming movies from Amazon and Netflix. The TV is Wi-Fi-ready -- it accepts an optional wireless dongle. Its performance with standard-def fare was very good, though a notch below the best sets. Thanks to a recent price drop, it's now a CR Best Buy.

[See our ratings for this Plasma TV](#)

50-inch models:



- [LG Infinia 50PK750](#)
- **Type:** 50-inch models
- **Price as tested:**
- \$1100

This 50-inch 1080p plasma TV, from LG's flagship Infinia series, delivers excellent picture quality with both HD and standard-def programs. The ultra-slim (2.2 inches deep) set has a lot of features, including access to its NetCast online service, with streaming movies from CinemaNow, Netflix and Vudu. The TV is Wi-Fi-ready (an optional dongle is required), and it can stream HD video wirelessly (using the WirelessHD format) when paired with an optional wireless media kit (which includes a transmitter and receiver). The THX-certified TV comes with Nero MediaHome 4 Essentials software, and it's DLNA-compliant, so you can view digital photos, music and videos stored on a PC via a home network.

[See our ratings for this Plasma TV](#)

Overall score out of 100 – 82



- [Samsung PN50C6500](#)
- **Type:** 50-inch models
- **Price as tested:**
- \$1200

This slim (1.5 inches) 50-inch 1080p plasma TV from Samsung delivers the goods, with excellent overall picture quality and access to a broad complement of Internet-based content, including streaming movies from Amazon, Blockbuster, Netflix, and Vudu. It's a DLNA-compliant model that can access photos, movies and music stored on a PC via a network connection, and it includes AllShare, a proprietary technology that lets you connect to compatible mobile phones, computers, camcorders, digital cameras and other devices and view that content (such as phone text messages) on the TV.

[See our ratings for this Plasma TV](#)

Overall score out of 100 - 81



- [LG 50PK540](#)
- **Type:** 50-inch models
- **Price as tested:**
- \$850

This 50-inch 1080p plasma from LG combines excellent HD picture quality and very good sound with a relatively low price for a major brand, making it a CR Best Buy. It's a very slim (2.25-inch deep) model that comes with an updates setup wizard for easy calibration.

[See our ratings for this Plasma TV](#)

Overall score out of 100 – 76



- [Panasonic Viera TC-P50U2](#)
- **Type:** 50-inch models

- **Price as tested:**
- \$800

Overall score out of 100 - 76

This 50-inch plasma TV from Panasonic, in the company's entry-level 1080p plasma line, delivers excellent overall picture quality at an attractive price for a Full HD set, making it a CR Best Buy. It's a fairly basic model without access to

the company's Viera Cast online service or any USB port.

[See our ratings for this Plasma TV](#)



- [Samsung PN50C450](#)
- **Type:** 50-inch models
- **Price as tested:**

- \$650

Overall score out of 100 - 67

This 50-inch 720p plasma TV from Samsung offers very good overall picture quality for the money. Sound was also very good, a notch above most other sets this size.

[See our ratings for this Plasma TV](#)



- [LG 50PJ350](#)
- **Type:** 50-inch models
- **Price as tested:**
- \$800

Like its smaller 42-inch sibling, also reviewed, this 50-inch plasma from LG is a 720p set with very good overall picture quality and a low price. The set has a picture wizard calibration tool for easy fine-tuning of the picture settings, and a lot of color adjustments, including a CMS (Color Management System).

[See our ratings for this Plasma TV](#)

Overall score out of 100 - 67



- [Insignia NS-50P650A11](#)
- **Type:** 50-inch models
- **Price as tested:**
- \$630

This 50-inch 720p (1365x768) plasma TV from Insignia, Best Buy's house brand, offers very good overall picture quality at a very low price for this screen size. It also comes with a two-year warranty, unusual for a set this price.

[See our ratings for this Plasma TV](#)

Overall score out of 100 - 63

Plasma TV models:



- Panasonic [Viera TC-P65VT25](#)
- **Type:** Plasma TV models
- **Price as tested:**
- \$4000

Overall score out of 100 - 80

This 65-inch 1080p Panasonic TV, from the company's VT25 3D plasma series, delivers excellent HD picture quality and a lot of features. Along with other Panasonic plasma sets, it delivers the best 3D performance we've seen. It's a THX-certified set with the company's Viera Cast online service, with access to streaming movies from Amazon and Netflix, Pandora Internet radio, and Skype videophone service (when used with an optional camera). It's also Wi-Fi-ready, and accepts an optional wireless dongle. The TV comes with one pair of 3D shutter glasses.

[See our ratings for this 3D TV](#)



- Panasonic [Viera TC-P50VT20](#)
- **Type:** Plasma TV models
- **Price as tested:**
- \$1800

Overall score out of 100 - 79

This 50-inch 1080p plasma from Panasonic, one of the first 3D TVs we've tested, delivers excellent HD picture quality and a top-notch 3D experience. It has a lot of features, including 3D capability, access to streaming movies from Amazon Video and Netflix, Internet radio from Pandora, and Skype's videophone service, which requires an optional video camera. The TV comes with one pair of 3D glasses.

[See our ratings for this 3D TV](#)



- Panasonic [Viera TC-P54VT25](#)
- **Type:** Plasma TV models
- **Price as tested:**
- \$2500

Overall score out of 100 - 79

This 54-inch 1080p Panasonic TV, from the company's second 3D plasma series, delivers excellent HD picture quality and a lot of features. Along with other Panasonic plasma sets, it delivers the best 3D performance we've seen. It's a THX-certified set with the company's Viera Cast online service, with access to streaming movies from Amazon and Netflix, Pandora Internet radio, and Skype videophone service (when used with an optional camera). It's also Wi-Fi-ready, and accepts an optional wireless dongle. The TV comes with one pair of 3D shutter glasses, and you can get two 3D Blu-ray movies via a mail-in offer.

[See our ratings for this 3D TV](#)



- LG [Infinia 50PX950](#)
- **Type:** Plasma TV models
- **Price as tested:**
- \$1700

Overall score out of 100 - 78



- Panasonic [Viera TC-P50VT25](#)
- **Type:** Plasma TV models
- **Price as tested:**
- \$2140

Overall score out of 100 - 78



- Samsung [PN58C7000](#)
- **Type:** Plasma TV models
- **Price as tested:**
- \$2200

Overall score out of 100 - 78

This large 58-inch 1080p plasma TV from Samsung -- the first Samsung 3D plasma we've tested -- delivers excellent overall picture quality and fine 3D performance, with less ghosting than we've seen with Samsung LCD 3D sets. It also has a lot of features at a competitive price for its size. If you are not a fan of "image

This 50-inch 1080p plasma TV from LG, a 3D model, delivers excellent overall picture quality and a lot of features, including built-in Wi-Fi and access to Internet content, including streaming movies from CinemaNow, Netflix, and Vudu. The THX-certified TV comes with Nero MediaHome 4 Essentials software, and it's DLNA-compliant, so you can view digital photos, music and videos stored on a PC via a home network. We found its 3D performance to be very good, just shy of the benchmark Panasonic sets. The TV, which has a 2D-to-3D conversion feature, doesn't come with any 3D glasses.

[See our ratings for this 3D TV](#)

This 50-inch 1080p Panasonic plasma 3D TV, the sibling to the 50-inch VT25-series model in our Ratings, delivers excellent HD picture quality and a lot of features. Along with other Panasonic plasma sets, it delivers the best 3D performance we've seen. It's a THX-certified set with the company's Viera Cast online service, with access to streaming movies from Amazon and Netflix, Pandora Internet radio, and Skype videophone service (when used with an optional camera). It's also Wi-Fi-ready, and accepts an optional wireless dongle. The TV comes with one pair of 3D shutter glasses; additional 3D glasses cost about \$150 per pair.

[See our ratings for this 3D TV](#)

smoothing" (also known as anti-judder technology) -- a feature that can make film content appear more "video-like" -- note that this feature is always on with this model, with no menu option to turn it off. Extras include access to online content, with streaming movies from Amazon, Blockbuster, Netflix, and Vudu. Like other Samsung 3D models, the TV also has a 2D-to-3D conversion feature, which can create a 3D-type effect from standard 2D programs, but we found it was not as effective as when viewing native 3D source material. Unless purchased simultaneously with Samsung's 3D Blu-ray player, the TV does not come with any 3D glasses, which currently cost about \$150 per set. When purchased with the Blu-ray player, you can get two pairs of 3D glasses, plus an Aliens vs. Monsters 3D Blu-ray title, for free. It's a DLNA-compliant model that can access photos, Movies and music stored on a PC via a network connection, and it includes AllShare, a proprietary technology that lets you connect to compatible mobile phones, computers, camcorders, digital cameras and other devices and view that content (such as phone text messages) on the TV.

[See our ratings for this 3D TV](#)



- Samsung [PN63C8000](#)
- **Type:** Plasma TV models
- **Price as tested:**
- \$3100

Overall score out of 100 - 76

This pricier 63-inch 1080p plasma, from Samsung's the top-of-line, ultra-thin 3D series, provides excellent overall picture quality, and fine 3D performance with less ghosting than we've seen with Samsung LCD-based 3D models. It boasts a lot of features, including

Samsung Apps with access to online streaming movie services from Amazon, Blockbuster, Netflix, and Vudu. Also, unlike the C7000-series sets we've tested, this set allows you to turn off an anti-judder feature ("image smoothing") that can make film look like video. Like other Samsung 3D models, the TV also has a 2D-to-3D conversion feature, which can create a 3D-type effect from standard 2D programs, but we found it was not as effective as when viewing native 3D source material. Unless purchased simultaneously with Samsung's 3D Blu-ray player, the TV does not come with any 3D glasses, which currently cost about \$150 per pair. It's a DLNA-compliant model that can access photos, movies, and music stored on a PC via a network connection. It includes AllShare, a proprietary technology that lets you connect to compatible mobile phones, computers, camcorders, digital cameras and other devices and view that content (such as phone text messages) on the TV.

[See our ratings for this 3D TV](#)



- Panasonic [Viera TC-P50GT25](#)
- **Type:** Plasma TV models
- **Price as tested:**
- \$1300

Overall score out of 100 - 76

This 50-inch 1080p plasma, from Panasonic's lower-priced GT25 3D series, delivers excellent high-def picture quality and some extra features, such as access to online content, including streaming movies from Amazon and Netflix, Pandora Internet radio, and Skype videophone service (when used with an optional camera). It's also Wi-Fi-ready, and accepts an optional wireless dongle. Along with other Panasonic plasma sets, it delivers the best 3D performance we've seen. Unlike other Panasonic 3D series, it has a 2D-to-3D conversion feature, and it doesn't come with any 3D glasses.

[See our ratings for this 3D TV](#)



- Samsung [PN50C8000](#)
- **Type:** Plasma TV models
- **Price as tested:**
- \$1800

Overall score out of 100 - 75

This 50-inch 1080p plasma, from Samsung's the top-of-line, ultra-thin 3D series, provides excellent overall picture quality, and fine 3D performance with less ghosting than we've seen with Samsung LCD-based 3D models. It boasts a lot of features, including Samsung Apps with access to online streaming movie services from Amazon,

Blockbuster, Netflix, and Vudu. Also, unlike the C7000-series sets we've tested, this set allows you to turn off an anti-judder feature ("image smoothing") that can make film look like video. Like other Samsung 3D models, the TV also has a 2D-to-3D conversion feature, which can create a 3D-type effect from standard 2D programs, but we found it was not as effective as when viewing native 3D source material. Unless purchased simultaneously with Samsung's 3D Blu-ray player, the TV does not come with any 3D glasses, which currently cost about \$150 per set. When purchased with the Blu-ray player, you can get two pairs of 3D glasses, plus an "Aliens vs. Monsters 3D" Blu-ray title, for free. It's a DLNA-compliant model that can access photos, movies and music stored on a PC via a network connection, and it includes AllShare, a proprietary technology that lets you connect to compatible mobile phones, computers, camcorders, digital cameras and other devices and view that content (such as phone text messages) on the TV.

[See our ratings for this 3D TV](#)