

Pocket PJ to tickle your fancy

This dinky HD Ready machine aims to fill a niche, says **Chris Jenkins**

If you fancy a video projector for the odd movie, sporting event or games session, but you're not in the market for some ceiling-mounted monster and a roll-up screen, perhaps this compact Acer will be to your liking. You can see why online retailer Amazon thinks it has mass appeal; it's small, it's cheap, it's quiet, it's easy to set up, and because it's fairly bright you can probably get away with projecting onto a white wall.

The H5350 is a DLP model with a maximum image size of 762cm. A decent set of connections includes HDMI, S-video, VGA, component video, composite video, audio and USB, and there's a pocket-sized remote control.

The projector runs hot, particularly in Eco mode, but I was generally impressed by the quality of the picture, given its dimensions. For £400, it's more than adequate for the occasional movie-fan and

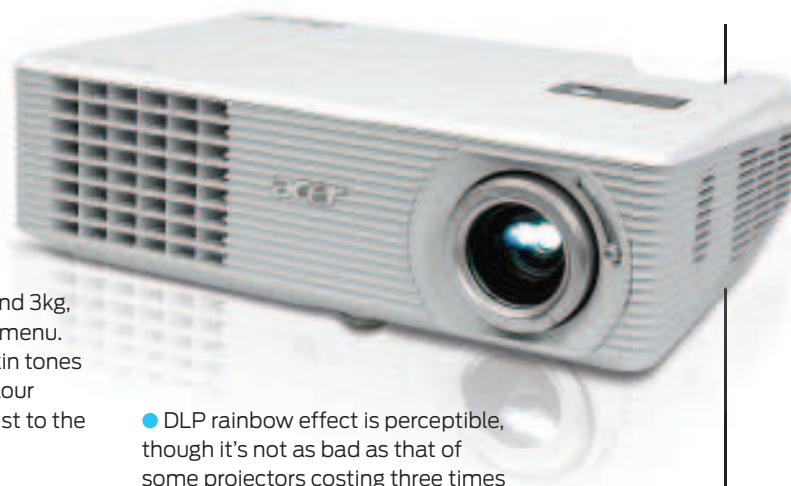
ideal for games-players hankering for a bigger killing field; it might even tempt the more serious but cash-strapped home theatre buff.

Highs

- It's very small (just 187 x 267 x 80mm), light at around 3kg, and sports an easy-to-use menu.
- Brightness, colour and skin tones are well up to the mark; colour temperature is easy to adjust to the 6500K standard.

Lows

- This is a 720p model designed mainly for PC/presentation use, so it won't satisfy the HD hardcore.
- Lens zoom capabilities are limited, so it's probably only suitable for smaller rooms; I had to position it a good three feet closer to my fixed screen than usual.



- DLP rainbow effect is perceptible, though it's not as bad as that of some projectors costing three times as much; and some chip structure is visible.

HCC VERDICT

Acer H5350
£412 Approx
Price check: www.techradar.com/443748

Overall: **1 2 3 4 5**

In praise of 32

Rik Henderson can see the appeal of this small, stylish HDTV

Samsung aspires to be the king of LCD, with an extensive range of stylised TVs in pretty much all sizes. Its Series 6 models are the high-end honeys – Full HD screens with red-tinged bezels and high-end features.

The 32 LE32A656 is the smallest of the lineup, but still manages to sport Full HD resolution glass, claimed 15,000:1 Dynamic contrast, and future-proofed pluggery including four HDMI inputs, D-Sub PC jack and USB 2.0 port. And with prices as low as £575, it's no wonder it's one of the UK's best-selling TVs. Really rather nice...

Highs

- Pictures are generally excellent, with deep blacks, dynamic colours, well-handled motion and real sharpness with HD sources.

- The four HDMI v1.3 inputs mean connecting your components should be a doddle.
- The red-infused bezel adds to the feel of high-class design.

Lows

- The Dynamic picture preset if best left avoided – it makes images look gaudy and noisy unless you tone down contrast, colour and brightness.
- The TV's 2 x 10W audio performance is mediocre at best.
- Lacks the 100Hz feature found on larger Series 6 models, which may disappoint badge-hunters – although at this size I'd argue that it doesn't make a huge difference ●



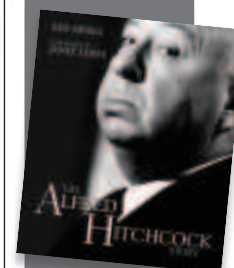
HCC VERDICT

Samsung LE32A656
£575 Approx
Price check: www.techradar.com/412398

Overall: **1 2 3 4 5**

In Brief

The Alfred Hitchcock Story (Titan Books)
£25 Approx
With *Vertigo* celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, Titan Books has decided to release a revised edition of this 1999 tome chronicling the life and career of the 'Master of Suspense'. A treasure-trove of info, trivia, themes and photography.



1 2 3 4 5