

# Credit crunch DLP PJ

The IN80 is a top choice for film fans on a budget, says **John Archer**



The IN80's small remote provides simple control

**D**LP tech has traditionally struggled to deliver Full HD projectors at affordable prices, but that changes today with the InFocus IN80 sporting a 1920 x 1080 HD resolution for just £1,300, undercutting the majority of Full HD LCD models.

It sports the same sculpted bodywork as higher-level InFocus projectors like the IN82 and IN83, and the usual InFocus flexible 'foot' mount, that lets you tip or rotate the unit to your heart's content.

Its vital statistics look tasty at this price: twin digital video inputs; a claimed contrast of 7,500:1 via a manually adjustable iris; a maximum brightness of 1300 ANSI Lumens; PixelWorks' DNX video processing engine and Texas Instruments' Brilliant Colour wizardry; and ISF calibration capability.

The only potential fly in the ointment is the use of an ageing DarkChip 1 DMD (we're now up to DarkChip 4), but this doesn't seem to have much impact on the IN80's pictures. Black levels are way satisfactorily, producing dark scenes with an authenticity and wealth of natural shadow detail that leaves

similarly-priced LCD projectors for dead. Colours excel too, combining remarkably natural tones with eye-catchingly rich saturations that ram home how well the PJ balances brightness and contrast.

**Blu-ray discs are delivered sharp and detailed, without suffering unduly with video noise,** and the PixelWorks processing

confidently upscales standard-def sources to the projector's full HD resolution.

The IN80 isn't perfect, though, suffering to some extent with the rainbow effect (where a combination of the projector's high brightness and its colour wheel means you see stripes of red, green and blue over really bright parts of the image). It also runs noisily (30dB, up to 33dB in normal mode), and you need to be careful with calibration, since one or two features – especially BrilliantColour – can reduce the picture quality rather than enhance it.

But while these points are enough to deny the IN80 a five-star rating, they don't stop it from being a Full HD bargain that no cash-strapped AV nut can afford to ignore ●

## AV/CV

**Product:** A Full HD DLP projector at an affordable price

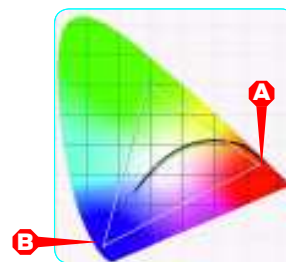
**Position:** The entry-point in what is a wide range that spans DarkChip 1-4

**Peers:** Its peers are more expensive Full HD LCD models: ViewSonic's Pro8100; Panasonic's PT-AE2000

## → Specifications

**HD Ready:** yes including 1080p/24  
**Progressive scan:** yes both NTSC and PAL  
**Scart:** no none provided  
**Component video:** yes 1 input  
**HDMI:** yes one HDMI, plus one M1-DA with supplied HDMI adaptor  
**PC input:** yes via M1-DA  
**Resolution:** 1920 x 1080  
**Brightness:** 1,300 ANSI lumens  
**Contrast ratio:** 7,500:1 (claimed)  
**Dimensions (off stand):** 476(w) x 148(h) x 432(d)mm  
**Weight:** 6.5kg  
**Also featuring:** PixelWorks DNX processing; BrilliantColour processing; 30db fan noise; manual iris adjustment, ISF calibration-ready; 2,500 hour lamp life

## → Tech Labs



The IN80's setup parameters and manual adjustments are comprehensive, and it delivered a pleasing 6534K colour temperature straight out of the box, though this featured both slightly raised R and B readings of 106% (Point A, B), soon adjusted to near perfection using the manual settings

### Before calibration

**Colour temperature:** 6,534K  
**Contrast ratio:** 1101:1 **Luminance:** 17138fL  
**RGB:** 106/98/106

### After calibration

**Colour temperature:** 6,494K (user)  
**Contrast ratio:** 942:1 **Luminance:** 19301fL  
**RGB:** 100/100/100



## HCC VERDICT

InFocus IN80  
 £1,300 Approx  
 Price check: [www.techradar.com/460300](http://www.techradar.com/460300)

**Highs:** Fine performance for remarkably little cash  
**Lows:** Runs noisily; suffers from the rainbow effect

**Performance:** 1 2 3 4 5

**Design:** 1 2 3 4 5

**Features:** 1 2 3 4 5

**Overall:** 1 2 3 4 5