

Home review

Panasonic Oled TV offers stunning visuals



The TV stand for Panasonic's TH-65EZ1000S is designed to lift the screen in order to fit a massive sound bar that is as wide as the TV set underneath it. The TV set can also be mounted on the wall. PHOTO: PANASONIC

🕒 PUBLISHED AUG 23, 2017, 5:00 AM SGT



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Panasonic's latest flagship TV set favours substance over style. There's no stunning design to bowl you over, but its lush, vibrant colours and powerful sound bar may overwhelm you visually and aurally.

The 65-inch TH-65EZ1000S is an organic light-emitting diode (Oled) TV set, as Panasonic joins the likes of Sony, LG and Philips in releasing high-end Oled TV sets this year. Like its LG and Sony rivals, the EZ1000S reportedly uses an Oled panel from LG Display.

Its picture quality is, unsurprisingly, similar to that of its Oled rivals with superb viewing angles and excellent reproduction of blacks.

In terms of High Dynamic Range (HDR) - the latest must-have feature in TV technology - the Panasonic supports both the HDR10 standard and the Hybrid Log-Gamma broadcast standard, but not the Dolby Vision format.

To stand out from its competitors, Panasonic has roped in Hollywood experts to tune the EZ1000S to display the most accurate colours. Panasonic claims that it is the company's most colour-accurate TV model.

To watch a movie as the director would have intended it, you should switch the EZ1000S' display profile to True Cinema, which I used to test the TV set. It includes a couple of THX-certified profiles - though, to my eyes, they appear similar to the True Cinema option.

If you are viewing at home in a brightly lit room, you may wish to increase the brightness slightly as these profiles are tuned for dimmer environments.

THE STRAITS TIMES

DIGITAL

EDITOR'S CHOICE

I am not a fan of the default Normal profile, which enables a hefty dose of motion interpolation, dubbed Intelligent Frame Creation, that makes action scenes more fluid. This hyper-smooth look, also known as the soap-opera effect, feels unnatural to me, but some may prefer it. Putting this setting to Low minimises the soap-opera effect.

TECH SPECS

PRICE: \$10,999 (65-inch)

PICTURE FEATURES: Maximum resolution of 3,840 x 2,160 pixels, HDR10

AUDIO FEATURES: 80W output

OPERATING SYSTEM: My Home Screen 2.0

CONNECTIVITY: 4 x HDMI, 3 x USB, Digital optical output, Ethernet, Wi-Fi

RATING

FEATURES: 5/5

DESIGN: 4/5

PERFORMANCE: 5/5

VALUE FOR MONEY: 3/5

OVERALL: 5/5

Because it does not need a backlight, the EZ1000S, like other Oled TV sets, is as thin as the latest smartphones with a narrow bezel. It is much thicker near the bottom so as to accommodate the TV's internal electronics and the various ports and connectors.

The TV stand looks complicated to set up. Thankfully, I did not have to do it myself. It is designed to lift the screen in order to fit a massive sound bar that is as wide as the TV set underneath it.

Of course, you can also mount the TV set on the wall.

The sound bar, dubbed Dynamic Blade Speakers, holds 14 speakers tuned by audio brand Technics. It produces clear and detailed audio with a certain amount of depth. At lower volume levels, the dialogue seems to be overwhelmed by the background music.

Oled displays are not as bright as backlit LCD screens. The EZ1000S has received the UHD Premium certification, so it should exceed 540 nits at peak brightness.

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