

NZ Mini Review Mitsubishi HC9000 by Murray from RapalloAV - 5 STARS - 29 April 201



I thought I had to share my experiences and surprises of the latest Mitsubishi HC9000, below is a brief outline and how they came about. I was on the search for a new projector to fill my very large 145" diagonal CinemaScope 2:37 screen; most home theatre projectors really can't fill screens this large, brightly.

I knew this wasn't going to be an easy task and at first I didn't think the HC9000 would be up to the job, hence me leaving it to last. I tested all the latest 2010/2011 projectors with high lumens (round 1300), and they all really struggled to fill my screen. The images were dull, lacked contrast, pop and life. I started to think that my screen size was going to have to be reduced, as when I set any of the new projectors to "best mode" most couldn't even muster up 500/600 lumens. I had one of two things to do, either reduce my screen size which was the last thing I wanted, or wait until someone else bought out a projector that would not only fill my screen with enough lumens, but also deliver an image with pop, blacks and great contrast!

Feeling dismayed, I started to think the only fix was to invest a HUGE lump sum of hard earned cash and buy a LED projector; they are not only very expensive but also scarce. At this stage I was just about to give up my large screen and reduce the size to a "postage stamp", along came the Mitsubishi HC9000 to the rescue. At first I really had my doubts that this "new" projector with a lamp of 1100 lumens could ever fill a screen of 145", but after a test drive and in less than 5 minutes I was blown away! Mitsubishi certainly got things right with their "first" in the new style reflective panels SXRD. Now remember these are not the same as the old ones Sony brought out a few years ago, this is a brand new generation and believe me they are good.

Take note, this is no portable projector, it's a massive heavy 15kgs, one of the largest on the block, make sure you have a strong ceiling, it's a sexy big beast <smile>

More features than you could shake a stick at:

In this price range I've never seen a projector with all the features, functions and settings the HC9000 offers, projectors costing way more can't even match it. Power zoom, focus and lens shift make setting up a breeze, I think all today's projectors should have this feature. Detail enhancement, detail clarity and noise reduction will make your DVD's never look the same, your DVD library will come to life again. The HC9000 frame interpolation system has two settings, True Film and True Video. True Film I prefer, it reduces judder in panning sequences and certain scenes with motion, with no trace of digital artifacts. Anamorphic stretch mode if your one like me who uses an "A" lens and scope screen, the HC9000 even has "pin cushion correction", this is the first ever projector I've seen with such a function, invaluable for those using an "A" lens. Plus a long list of other features too comprehensive to go into here.....

What did I like? "Well just about everything"

New Reflective Panels Fill the LARGEST of Screens = Lumens Lumens Lumens, in best mode
Inky Blacks to Die For
Great shadow detail with very smooth transitions from light to dark.
Every pixel is super sharp, the best I've seen
Impressive Contrast up to 120,000:1
Great power zoom, focus & lens shift

Low operating noise 19db
Stunning smooth 3D the best I've seen
1170 lumens in 3D mode for screens up to 120", beat that!
Quality processing with the latest Silicon Optix Reon VX
Very film like images free of noise, the best I've ever seen in 2D
One of the easiest setup and placements ever
One of the sexiest looking projectors and thank God the lens is placed in the centre

What didn't I like? "Very little"

The backlit remote offers everything one needs without constantly going into the menu and works well, but it's certainly not sexy looking like the projector. In fact I don't think Mitsubishi has ever changed the design, it looks the same to me as all the old models, but this is a minor grip. The auto iris doesn't function well as it's too slow, I don't care you just don't need it to increase the contrast or blacks on dark scenes, the HC9000 easily delivers "blacks to die for" with the iris wide open, that's amazing! Finally something we have always wanted, BLACLS with NO IRIS, I hate them!

The HC9000 default CINEMA settings on D65 tend to favor yellow but most wouldn't notice; we found these settings represent an almost perfect D65.

Go to "Colour Temp" Change 6500K to USER and make the following changes:

- RED GAIN: - 19
- GREEN GAIN: - 62
- BLUE GAIN: - 27
- Red Offset: - 1
- Green Offset: - 9
- Blue Offset: - 16

Add these Changes to Picture 1 setting:

- Picture Mode: USER 1
- Gamma Correction: CINEMA
- Setup Level: 0 IRE
- Color temperature: USER
- Cinema Filter: MOVIE
- Frame Rate Conversion: True Film
- Open Lens

Summing things up

The Mitsubishi HC9000 will offer the most diehard home theatre enthusiast all the features & functions they have ever wished for. Blacks, detail, contrast and lumens, an all in one solution that other projectors twice the price can't even match. We have a winner on our hands, if you strive for perfection the HC9000 will meet all your needs. The Mitsubishi HC9000 is now my new Reference home theatre projector, and my search is over.

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