

DVI DVD Player Buying Guide

In the late 1990's a new consumer digital format changed the way we look at entertainment in the home forever. This format combined incredible picture and audio quality, feature rich software, and interactivity at an unheard of price point. This format was DVD and over the years the technology has progressed in a fashion that has made this format even better today than ever before.

Component Video and Progressive Scan

The first DVD players on the market relied on the traditional analog video connections we had grown accustomed to with VCRs and Laserdisc players. But DVD brought a new connection to the market; component video. DVD players were the first consumer video product that offered this output. Component video offered more bandwidth for color resolution and required less processing from the end display resulting in a far more detailed and vibrant image than what the average consumer was used to.

A few years later this output was further enhanced by the introduction of capability called progressive scanning. Progressive scanning combined the interlaced fields we were used to seeing from DVD and offered unprecedented clarity and smoothness. Gone were the horizontal lines that we were so used to in our traditional video systems.

But as good as component video and progressive scan playback are, there are some obvious compromises. DVD is an inherently digital format. The video information is mastered in the digital domain and stored digitally on the disc. Normal DVD players decode the video data and then do a digital to analog conversion and then send that data through several analog filters before it ever reaches your display. Once the display gets that analog data it converts the analog information back to digital for further video processing. Some displays, like traditional CRT based rear projection TVs, even convert the digital information back to analog again further filtering the image. All of these conversions and filtering take their toll on the final image robbing it of some of the detail and luster it is supposed to have.

DVI – The Digital Advantage

With today's market moving more and more into the digital domain the need for a digital interface has become readily apparent. The traditional CRT based displays we all grew up with are becoming harder to find and new technologies like LCD, DLP and plasma are the new deal. In order to take full advantage of these technologies DVD players need a digital video connection that will remedy the shortcomings we've grown so used to.

One of these solutions is DVI (Digital Visual Interface). This connection is already quite popular in the PC world and has now found its place in the consumer video market. This connection supports much larger bandwidths than our traditional analog connections allowing for some great new features.

Because DVI is a pure digital video interface most of the shortcomings inherent in our traditional analog processing are gone. DVI allows the signal to stay the way it was intended to be all the way to the end display and this results in a far more compelling image that is razor sharp and wonderfully vibrant. DVDs can now be seen the way they were truly meant to be.

How do I choose a DVI DVD player?

There are lots of companies offering DVI based DVD players but most of them are not taking full advantage of what DVI brings to the table. Because of the added bandwidth and robust copyright protection, DVI allows DVD players to scale their images to the same resolution as HDTV. This is a must



for larger displays that demand higher resolutions to look their best. This scaling and video processing is absolutely essential to achieve the best picture possible from our DVD library.

Most DVD player manufacturers are using the same video processing in their DVI players as they are in their standard DVD players. While this may be an improvement with smaller displays it doesn't provide the benefits needed for larger displays or new HDTVs. Higher end players are incorporating top of the line video processing that was formerly only found in extremely high end video processors. But this same technology can now be found in affordable DVD players too.

One of the most popular video processors at any price point is Faroudja with DCDi technology. Faroudja processing allows the DVD player to scale standard DVDs to high definition resolutions like 720P and 1080i and provides industry leading video processing for film and video based sources. It is processing like this that separates the great DVD players from the average ones and provides the consumer with an image that is far better than anything ever available before.

When you are looking for a new DVD player, take a look at what type of video processing the manufacturer has included. Finding players that include top of the line video processing like Faroudja tells you what manufacturers are serious about their video performance.

Why is the OPPO OPDV971H a good choice for your money?

OPPO Digital delivers state of the art performance with industry leading video processing at a staggering price point. The OPPO OPDV971H combines sleek looks with superb performance including Faroudja DCDi technology and a pure digital DVI output. This DVI output allows you to scale your DVDs to high definition quality and supports 480P, 720P and 1080i resolutions. Combine this with internal Dolby Digital Pro Logic II decoding, full Dolby Digital and DTS 5.1 sound and an easy and intuitive interface you can see why we feel the OPPO OPDV971H is the best value on the market today. Our no compromise design allows you to have the best performance DVD can offer at a price that anyone can afford, ensuring that your DVD collection will continue to amaze with today and tomorrow's display technologies.

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