

5 September 2008

By: Alex Vochin, Technology Editor



Epson PowerLite
Home Cinema 6100
Epson

CEDIA 2008: Epson PowerLite 6100 Claims to Be World's First 1080p Projector Under \$2,000

Company also launches the PowerLite Pro Cinema 7100 and 7500 UB projectors

Since Epson is among the world's best-known manufacturers of projection solutions, it's actually no wonder that it prepared several interesting products for one of the world's biggest trade shows dedicated especially to the A/V segment. And by far the most important and interesting announcement from the company is the one related to the PowerLite Home Cinema 6100 model, which Epson claims to be the world's most affordable Full HD projector, at a price tag of just 1,999 US dollars.

As the manufacturer informs us, the PowerLite Home Cinema 6100 is built around D7 high definition resolution LCD technology, which provides substantially improved contrast, reaching an 18,000:1 dynamic contrast ratio. Besides the 3LCD technology, another factor making an important contribution to the Home Cinema 6100's increased contrast is the Dynamic Iris system, which allows light to be controlled precisely on a frame-by-frame basis, at up to 120 times per second.

Moreover, the device also features Epson's exclusive Cinema Filter, which delivers a larger color space for improved color accuracy, as well as the OptiCinema multi-lens system, developed in collaboration with Fujinon. The projector also packs a newly-designed E-TORL lamp, rated at 200 watts and capable of delivering a brightness level of around 1,800 lumens, which allows it to be used with larger screen sizes (greater than ten feet diagonal).

Aside from the PowerLite 6100, Epson has introduced two other models, namely the PowerLite Pro Cinema 7100 and 7500 UB. Both projectors feature true 1080p (1,920 x 1,080 pixels) resolution using the latest generation 3LCD chips with D7 technology, which helps them attain some pretty impressive dynamic contrast ratios, namely 18,000:1 for the Pro Cinema 7100 and a whopping 75,000:1 for the Pro Cinema 7500 UB.

The flagship UB model also incorporates C2Fine technology for increased high definition picture detail, Epson's UltraBlack technology, a new Vertical Alignment technology, as well as FineFrame technology to deliver smoother and sharper motion pictures while eliminating judder. Additionally, Epson's new 12-bit 3LCD driver technology provides an increased color gamut over 10-bit drivers, which translates into 68.72 billion available colors.

However, what really makes the 7500 UB stand out is the anamorphic lens compatibility and "vertical stretch" picture mode. By fitting it with an optional external anamorphic lens, viewers can use the Pro Cinema 7500 UB with a cinematic-sized front projection widescreen for true 2.35:1 and 2.40:1 ultra widescreen viewing, which translates into the full elimination of the black bars above and below the picture.

The Epson Pro Cinema 7100 will arrive in stores in November and will sell for under 3,000 US dollars, while the Pro Cinema 7500 UB is slated to be available in December for under \$4,500 (just the thing to get as a Christmas present for true video aficionados).

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