

european
design
**HOME
CINEMA**
Choice
Best Buy
★ GUARANTEE

user-friendly projector in the world, but it certainly promises movie-friendly picture quality. And for the most part, that is precisely what we get.

For starters the CV 70 strikes a perfect balance between its brightness and contrast. The image is thus vibrant enough to have real punch and intensity without compromising on the delivery of a totally believable black rendition and perfectly controlled peak whites.

These talents play their part in the CV 70 delivering superb colour definition, too, in terms of both saturation levels and, especially, hue. Colours look fantastically natural and authentic – and

this even applies to skin tones during dark scenes, a combination that seems to catch 95 per cent of all DLP and LCD projectors out in one way or another.

IT'S ALL IN THE DETAIL

Fine detail levels are astutely judged, too. There are enough of the smaller things in life on show to give the picture an instantly believable snap and three-dimensional depth. Yet the quest for fine detail hasn't been taken so far that common attendant nasties such as grain

and over-stressed edges are even slightly apparent.

Another sign of the CV 70's class is the smoothness with which it portrays motion. There's a cinematic fluidity to it which, together with those exceptionally natural colours, is probably the main reason why the CV 70's £7,490 asking price really does look like money well spent.

While the CV 70 really sings when fed progressive scan, a direct digital feed via the DVI jack or high definition proves surprisingly tolerant of less dreamy sources too, with even a straight S-Video feed looking unexpectedly clean.

In fact, notwithstanding its lack of user-friendliness, the only flaws with the CV 70 are those of DLP technology in general rather than anything specific to Barco. And so I sporadically (though

thankfully not often) spotted

flashes of rainbow colours caused by the colour wheel; rather more regularly noticed buzzing image lag, especially on fleshtones, during fast camera pans; and was sometimes distracted by the amount of fan/wheel noise the unit produced – a characteristic of all DLP projectors.

Because of these inherent DLP issues, picture purists may still prefer Barco's similarly priced Cine 7 LT CRT projector to the CV 70. But for many people, affordable CRT projectors simply aren't practical enough to install and use, and don't deliver the same level of PC prowess and brightness that this DLP model can. So if it's both performance and practicality you're after, the CineVersum 70 is as good as anything else we've seen this side of 10k ■

'There are plenty of tweaks on hand to optimise the image to your tastes'



Inputs include DVI which can be adapted to take HDMI!



The metal casing acts as a heat sink



The remote is conveniently backlit



Both long and short throw lenses are included