

Oz Theatre Screens

Majestic Fixed Frame Projection Screen

Direct purchasing from a manufacturer can yield quite an advantage over the usual retail route. That advantage is, of course, purchase cost. Starting in 2002, a new company named Oz Theatre Screens, based in Queensland, developed high end screens with the stated purpose of providing high quality for low cost. In the last couple of years it has been licensing its screen technology to other vendors, but now it is allowing consumer direct access to its screens at remarkable savings.

Equipment

For example, the screen provided for review was the Majestic Fixed Frame screen with the company's top of the line Evolution3D screen surface. If we take one of the stock sizes, the recommended retail price of a 100-inch screen (254cm) is \$2449. We imagine that you could do a deal with your retailer and gain a significant discount on this price.

But there is no way it would come anywhere near the factory direct price offered by Oz Theatre Screens: \$1069.

We stress that this is the same screen, with the Evolution3D screen surface and a black velour-finished aluminium frame as you will find in a shop. Or you can save \$50 by going for the black powder coat finish instead.

Actually, we would recommend that you pay the extra and stick with the black velour finish. One important part of final picture quality with a projection system is how the edges of the picture are trimmed. With black velour, even in a totally dark room, it is almost impossible to see any 'splash' (light outside the edge of the frame) from the projector on black velour, to an extent unable to be achieved by any matt black alternative treatment.

Oz Theatre Screens offers proportionately dramatic savings on its other materials and frame styles.

The Evolution3D screen material is 0.38mm thick and totally opaque, and has a matt white finish with a gain of 1.2. With a material width of 2.1 metres, huge screens of up to 150-inches (381cm) are achievable.

Performance

The screen was delivered for review in the form that most customers will receive, as a flat pack. Or, more accurately, a long flat pack. You will need to assemble it yourself, but if you proceed with great care yourself, as we did,



this is unlikely to take more than an hour. The only tool you will need for assembly is a soft headed hammer.

The four sections of the aluminium frame were machine cut with extreme precision, so that the eight concealed corner pieces held it all together perfectly. No drilling or such was required for this.

The screen material is held in a channel in the frame with a shaped, semi-flexible beading. This is where the soft headed hammer comes in, because the beading needs to be tapped into the channel, pushing the material down under and around it.

The scary part with assembling any screen is to make sure that you don't end up with any wrinkles in the material. Four short beads are provided to start at the corners. Once these were in place, the remainder of the beading could be inserted without any worries about wrinkles. It's hard to think of an easier, yet more secure, system for affixing the material to the screen. The last step is simply cutting the excess material off, using the supplied trimming knife.

The attention to detail is excellent. You are supplied with a pair of soft gloves and a drop sheet to work on the protect your screen while you are assembling it, and even two small adhesive pads to stick at the back of the bottom of the screen. These act as spacers so that when you use the supplied wall mounting brackets (these clip into one of the channels at the top of the screen, it will be perfectly vertical.

The performance of the screen material itself was superb. We happened to have available to us at the time we used the screen a Blu-ray player, two different 1,920 by 1,080 pixel projectors (using two different technologies: LCD and LCoS) and a range of Blu-ray

discs. Focus was razor sharp on the screen, with every pixel easily distinguishable ... if we went up close to the screen. There was not a hint of unevenness in image brightness across the full width of the screen, and no light emerged from its rear, indicating that all the projected light was reflected back to the viewers, as it should be. Nor was there any fall-off in light levels with a wide viewing angle.

In short, the visual performance of the screen was flawless.

Conclusion

With this level of performance, and prices these low, we believe that Oz Theatre Screens has achieved its goal of high performance projection screens at a low price. We highly recommend this screen. **BE**

| Oz Theatre Screens Majestic Fixed Frame Projection Screen | |
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| Price | See review |
| Warranty | 10 years on Velour frame/4 years on all screen fabrics |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent value for money • High performance screen • All parts needed for assembling included |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some may find prospect of assembling screen daunting |
| Contact | Oz Theatre Screens 1300 799 616 www.ozts.com.au |