

The New World Of Digital TV

Questions to ask yourself:

- Do you have cable and/or antenna?
- Do you not have cable and only use an antenna?
- Is your antenna rooftop or rabbit ears?
- How important is it to prerecord programs?
- How important is audio quality to you?
- Do you have a TiVo or DVR via Comcast

Some Interesting Facts:

- All TV is now Digital TV but not all Digital TV is High Definition (HD or High Def)
- HD is 1080 lines from the originating camera (lesser HD is 720 lines, FOX and others)
- Sports, some movies and prime time are beautiful in HD
- 1080 lines from camera HD is not available at all times. Mostly for: movies, premium channels, major soap operas
- The greatest DTV detail level currently available is 1080i, which is a **1920 × 1080 interlaced widescreen format**
- Old reruns of prime time shows are probably not HD
- DVD players are not HD but can play on an HDTV or DTV (fewer lines)
- Blu-Ray DVD/CD technology is the latest thing for HD picture and sound, only it has 1080 lines
- An HD TV may have 1080 lines but if image sent only has old 540 that's all you get, they just duplicate each line to fill your 1080 formatted TV
- DTV signal is inherently lower power if sent from the old transmitter (narrower bandwidth) and some stations were transmitting at lower power at start of the DTV year.
- The best HD signal can come from your antenna, cable is not quite as good (this may not be a fact, all sigs are compressed using MPEG2 or 4.
- HDTV has twice the linear resolution of standard definition television

What to Do:

- Buy a TV with an ATSC tuner, an HD Digital TV
- Top choices at this time seem to be Samsung, Sharp & Sony
- Plasma is outdated technologically speaking, but still looks good and may be cheaper
- LCD TV's are “in”
- 120 Hz refresh rate is plenty unless you play computer games at high speed
- Be aware of size & weight issues (affects ease of installation among other things)
- Based on space available a 42 or 52 inch screen is recommended if you are looking for good picture size
- For wall mounting get an articulating arm, \$150 (or more depending on weight of TV). It needs to be attached to your wall studs. It helps if you like to watch from different angles, i.e. like guests in family or living room seated at different places.
- Don't mount it too high, same height as old TV or higher if your new HD is not as high as your old TV
- Beware of correct aspect ratios – you should not stretch the picture to fill the screen, thereby distorting it.
- HDMI connection is the smallest and highest quality connection (both audio and video), followed by S-video and component cable video connections. Standard 75 ohm coax cable connectors give you minimum required audio and video connections.
- DVI (what Macs put out) has Dolby sound in a single cable with video and audio
- Many/most of the new TV's have 3 HDMI inputs and 3 composite component inputs (better image quality from your old DVD player)
- Your Mac can be connected to your HD TV, using DVI cable. See your manual or check with someone if your are uncertain

(Insert web site for determining antenna directions and signal strength for different stations) <http://www.fcc.gov/mb/engineering/maps/>

Considerations:

- Antenna signals are going to be subject to directionality, dead zones, echoes, weather and so on.
- With an antenna, you can drive more than one TV.
- Can you use a DVR?

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