



The Humax is high def-ready, comes with integrated digital terrestrial, and is inexpensive. So what's the catch?



**TESTED WITH...**

**SKY NEWS**

The news channel's scrolling text looks clean and crisp, and free from the noise that often plagues digital TV, while the white areas of the picture shine out brilliantly. Detail from the satellite feed is actually very reasonable, but play some HD video and the complete lack of image enhancement technology becomes all too obvious.

## 26-inch LCD TV

# Humax LGB-26DTT

Want to dump that bulky CRT in favour of a svelte LCD flatscreen, but think you can't afford it? Think again. Here are two low-cost solutions

**KEY FEATURES**

26-inch 16:9 LCD screen; 1,280 x 768 resolution; HD-ready; auto tuning; digital and analogue tuners; Teletext; picture-in-picture; dual screen; 16ms response time; 800:1 contrast ratio; 450cd/m<sup>2</sup> brightness rating; PAL, SECAM and NTSC compatible; SRS WOW audio; 2x 7W speakers; Nicam stereo CONNECTIONS DVI (HDCP compliant) input; composite video input; S-Video input; component video input; 3x Scart; PC RGB monitor input; 2x analogue audio inputs; analogue PC stereo input; optical digital audio output; headphone jack EXPANSION Common Interface; Smart Card; RS-232C DIMENSIONS W696 x H638 x D225mm

With CRT televisions boarding the express train to obsolescence, we're all looking to flat panel technologies - LCD in particular - for a replacement. And what you may not have realised is that LCD's biggest bugbear, its cost, is much less of an issue.

Take this 26-inch LCD TV from Humax. Admittedly £1,200 is still a great deal more than you'd have to shell out for a 26-inch CRT, but much less than it would have been a year ago. And you get a lot of LCD loving for your cash.

For starters, this TV proudly sports the new industry-standard 'HD-ready' logo. With built-in HDCP (built-in content protection) and a DVI input, it's got all the prerequisite

features to show high definition TV in all its glory once broadcasts begin next year. We've got all the ingredients for a great TV here.

Even without HDTV content, there are plenty of goodies to feast on. You've got built-in tuners for both digital and analogue terrestrial TV, giving access to Freeview channels, and a seven-day programme guide. The Common Interface slot gives you the option of watching even more repeats with Top Up TV. Motion blur almost doesn't exist thanks to the quick response time of the panel. Dark areas of the picture are deliciously fulfilling, colour gradation is fine, and the sound quality is pretty tasty if not quite as satisfying as the virtual surround of the JVC opposite.

All very impressive for the price. Guess what? There's a catch. What really makes a flat TV today is not the quality of the panel, but the technology that processes and enhances the picture before placing it on screen. This TV noticeably *doesn't* have any kind of image enhancement technology, such as the Wega

engine found in Sony displays or Philips' Pixel Plus. The result is that the picture quality doesn't come close to the levels of detail of JVC's similarly priced 26-inch model.

Worse is the box the screen comes in. The design is bland at best, and the quality of the build is pretty poor too. The flesh is like a badly applied fake suntan compared to JVC's glamorous efforts. And as for the uninspiring stand, we've seen more attractive gargoyles.

Ultimately, this is an inexpensive and future-proof flat panel TV solution that benefits from an excellent array of features. But mix in the poor build, bland styling and second-rate picture quality, and you're left with a bitter-sweet taste in your mouth. **SK**

Price £1,200  
See it [www.humaxdigital.com](http://www.humaxdigital.com)  
Buy it [www.johnlewis.com](http://www.johnlewis.com)



We're pleased to see that the connections include a DVI input.

CONNECT TO SAMSUNG DVD-HD945 Digital Hor • Issue 22

**DIGITAL HOME** ★★★★★

For Excellent connectivity; fantastic range of features; HD ready; affordable  
Against Low rent build quality and styling; no image enhancement technology

**Verdict** An inexpensive LCD but the design is naff and the screen risks relegation from the second division.