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Common Myths About HDTV That Are Dispelled by *DVE: HD Basics*

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1. Highly Saturated Colors Are Better

You've seen the advertisements. Manufacturers claim their 'wide color gamut' enables 'the reproduction of colors previously impossible to display'. Their claims are partially right. Sets with a wide color gamut can reproduce more colors than a set adhering to system guidelines. The catch is that if your set uses anything other than colors matching system standards, the colors you see in the image will be wrong.

DVE: HD Basics tells you to look for sets that precisely match system standards if you want the best looking picture. Any deviation away from system standards, in any direction, is wrong.

2. HD By The Numbers

Several HDTV channels brag about using the best HD display rate, 1080i. Do you suppose 720p or 1080p could produce a better picture than 1080i? If so, what's the difference?

DVE: HD Basics explains progressive versus interlaced video and why progressive is better.

3. It's Got An HDMI Connection Capable of 1080p

Well, maybe.

DVE: HD Basics contains true 1080p video content. It, along with a properly setup optical disc player, will test the display for that capability.

4. Better Blacks Make A Better Picture

The claims center around the latest generation of LCD and Plasma flat screen sets. A big question is how are they getting those 'better blacks'. Sometimes it's at the expense of image detail just above black. They crush picture information just above black to get a larger area of the image at black.

DVE: HD Basics contains test patterns and instructions on how to use them to spot when a set is burring picture detail just above black to get more black on the screen.

5. We're Delivering A Full 1080p Image

The *Full 1080p* sticker is now appearing on sets as if something was missing in the past. In many cases it was and still is missing, even on sets labeled for a full 1080p image.

DVE: HD Basics provides two test signals that will help determine if the set is really a full HD set. One is for geometry and image size and the show you single pixel transition in 1080p. Can your set really show that much resolution?

6. Flat Panel Displays Produce A Much Better Picture Than A CRT Based Set

We have a winner, sort of. There are certainly things about newer technologies that offer significant advantage in potential picture quality. The problems is manufacturers of these alternate technologies have lost sight of what the display is supposed to do. The new technology may be better than CRT's in many ways but if they don't match certain characteristics of he CRT, the picture they deliver will be wrong.

DVE: HD Basics spells out what needs to be done to make these alternate display technologies work well in our HDTV system. It's your shopping guide to a better HDTV set.

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