

■ EDITOR'S PICK

'4K' Screen Shines with Video & Audio By Grant Clauser

THE SEYMOUR SCREEN Excellence Enlightor 4K screen approaches the chief issues of acoustical transparency — moire effect and sound quality — uniquely. Rather than a perforated screen, the Enlightor is a woven material, but not just any ordinary woven material. When you look at it close up you notice two things. First, the weave appears to be random; there's no discernible grid. The other thing is that there are no holes. The weave appears to be so tight as to be a completely solid screen, even when you put your face up close to it.

Unpacking and assembling the screen and its fixed frame takes two people. Altogether it took a bit more than an hour, maybe longer, because we had some issues particular to my setup.

Upon unpacking, I was surprised with how light and delicate the screen fabric appeared to be. Because the material is lightweight and thin, light can pass through it, so it ships with black backing material. Seymour recommends you use this if the wall (or whatever) behind the screen is not a solid dark color. If the speakers



you plan to install are at all reflective, then you should use the backing.

The Enlightor doesn't snap to the frame. The material fits into a groove around the edges of the frame. A plastic spatula-like tool is supplied, and once we got the hang of it, we were able to get the material installed without a ripple or seam. The frame itself is covered with a black velvet border.

Once the screen was safely up (with room for the speakers behind it), I tried out a series of projectors and sat back to enjoy a few movies. While the most innovative feature about the Enlightor 4K is its acoustic properties, it still needs to deliver a good picture first. The material is ISF certified, which should be a comfort to video enthusiasts.

All the movies and test patterns I threw at the screen looked great. Colors were vibrant. Blacks and shadow detail were as good as I expected from the projectors I had available. I have a small Stewart Filmscreen Grayhawk, which I moved in front of the Seymour so I could compare the two — colors, especially yellow, on the Seymour were more vibrant when viewed in a dark room. While the screen itself does have some slight texture, the image you see doesn't show this. The velvet coating on the frame also did a great job of killing any spare light.

Seymour says the Enlightor 4K's unique structure allows sound to diffract around the threads, so as to not impact sound quality, and it only creates a 2dB attenuation, which is easily corrected. In my setup I didn't have installed speakers behind the screen, but I placed some Definitive Technology models there, and then moved them to the side and bottom (the way they'd be arranged for a non-acoustic screen).

My experience confirmed the company claims. The quality was unaffected by the material, and only required a level adjustment to match speakers not behind the screen.

Overall, the Seymour Screen Excellence Enlightor 4K material proved that it could deliver on both picture and sound fronts by displaying a gorgeous, rich picture that wasn't marred by the presence of speakers placed at an unnatural level.

MSRP from \$2,225 to \$3,674 for 92-inch to 130-inch diagonal,

www.seymourscreenexcellence.com



LED Backlighting Improves TVs' Images

Sharp's 6-Series of LED televisions includes the 52-inch LC-52LE640U, the 60-inch LC-60LE640U and the 70-inch LC-70LE640U. The sets incorporate Sharp's high-performance Aquos LCD panel, edge-lit LED backlighting, the company's 120Hz Fine Motion Enhanced image processing and its new narrow-bezel industrial design. In addition, the televisions also offer multiple HDMI inputs, built-in Wi-Fi connectivity and access to the company's SmartCentral user interface, which includes some of Sharp's most popular apps.

www.sharppusa.com



7-Channel Amp Pumps out 200WPC

Adding to its home theater legacy, McIntosh introduced its MC8207 home theater amplifier. McIntosh says the seven-channel amplifier incorporates its proprietary Dynamic Power Management circuit that allows for full power delivery into 4- and 8-ohm speaker loads. The amp features the company's new "theater style" LED watt meters, which allows users to monitor the amount of power sent to their system's front three speakers. The amp is rated to deliver 200 watts per channel, and it can be used with the company's line of A/V controllers.

www.mcintoshlabs.com