

THE BIG PICTURE

Post-holiday specials make this season the ideal time to upgrade your set—just in time for some *super* bowl viewing. Here are three of our top flat-panel HDTV choices, plus a few must-have components, that will make any viewing event grander.

BY JOSHUA GOLDMAN

PIONEER PDP-4360HD

More than just a pretty face, this smartly designed 43-inch plasma HDTV comes with an external media receiver, which takes the A/V ports off the set and puts them into a box so only one cable runs into your TV. Add to it dual standard-definition tuners (NTSC) and one HD tuner, and you've got one very well-connected flat-screen. **\$7,800** @ PIONEERELECTRONICS.COM



SONY VAIO VGX-XL1

It has the cool Sony aesthetics we're accustomed to, but with its TiVo-like functionality, massive 200-disc CD/DVD changer, and Microsoft's simple Media Center interface, the XL1 is the perfect replacement for all the units in your A/V rack. **\$2,299** @ SONYSTYLE.COM



LOGITECH Z-5450

An HDTV signal also carries six-channel surround sound. These have the audio punch you'd expect from traditional home-theater speakers, and since the rear surrounds are wireless, there's no cross-room cabling. (Subwoofer and rear speakers not shown.) **\$499** @ LOGITECH.COM

MF ADVICE

Few things are sexier—in the electronics world, anyway—than a slim, high-definition plasma or LCD television. When buying one, there are three things to look for: resolution (720p, 1080i, or 1080p), a DVI/HDCP or HDMI connection (to ensure it's future-proofed), and a built-in HD tuner (also called a digital or ATSC tuner) to receive content. Also keep in mind that this is one of the best times of the year to find a deal, so keep an eye on circulars and Web sites for the very best offers.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRISTOPHER COPPOLA

HP PL5000N

We're skeptical of any PC maker jumping into the TV biz, but this 50-inch plasma changed our tune immediately. The PL5000N's incredible 1,366 x 768 resolution lets you see even the finest details clearly, while an advanced color filter helps tone down external reflected light, producing deeper levels of black that keep the picture rich and full. Plus, decked out in piano black, this is one set that looks fantastic, even when it isn't turned on. **\$4,299 @ HP.COM**



SONY BRAVIA KDL-V40XBR1

Sony's 40-inch Bravia LCD is loaded with the company's propriety WEGA technology, designed to help improve processing of any audio or video signal. A unique "upconversion" feature, for example, takes standard-definition content and allows you to customize it to the quality you prefer. And the WEGA GATE easy-operation onscreen menu puts all settings—from picture adjustments to favorite channels—in one easy-to-navigate interface. **\$3,499 @ SONYSTYLE.COM**



HARMONY 880

This is the clicker we've all dreamed about. The Web-programmable universal remote has a customizable color LCD and is optimized for complex home-entertainment systems and multiple components, making it the only remote control you'll ever need. **\$249 @ LOGITECH.COM**



CANON SX50 REALIS

Want an even more cinematic experience? The compact HDTV-compatible Realis projector puts big-screen action anywhere. With a full selection of input options onboard, including DVI, you can connect it to almost any video source. Plus, its Liquid Crystal on Silicon (LCoS) technology allows for theater-level brightness and contrast. **\$4,999 @ CANON.COM**



PUREAV RAZORVISION

Using technology developed for medical and military imaging, the RazorVision enhances the picture quality sent from the source to your TV, giving images more depth and greater contrast and making the detail of any high-definition set really pop. **\$249-\$299 @ PUREAV.COM**

NEWPOINT ARG0 XP ANTENNA

Over-the-air HDTV broadcasts are free. All you need to get them is a high-def-ready antenna. Aside from being better-looking than your average indoor antenna, the Argo XP also has amplifiers with separate gain controls for improved picture and sound. **\$70 @ NEWPOINT.COM**

