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» PAGE 22

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» PAGE 30

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» PAGE 38



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2009 **SOUNDVISION**
CERTIFIED & RECOMMENDED

MITSUBISHI

UNISEN LT-46153 46-INCH LCD HDTV

Reviewed by AL GRIFFIN Photos by TONY CORDOZA

KEY FEATURES

- +47-inch, 1080p-resolution screen
- +120-Hz display with Smooth 120Hz film mode
- +USB input with JPEG photo and MP3 music player
- +16-speaker sound projector
- +IR output for pass-through device control
- +Inputs: 4 HDMI, 2 component-, and 1 component-/composite-video; coaxial digital audio and 2 stereo analog audio; RF Ant/Cable; USB
- +Outputs: Coaxial digital audio; analog stereo audio; subwoofer; IR repeater

Dimensions + Weight
42 x 28 x 3 in; 62 lb
(without stand)

Price
\$2,200

mitsubishi-tv.com

Model-thin TV designs are all the rage these days, but there's evidence of other efforts on the part of set makers to transform the electronic hearth. Making TVs Internet-friendly by adding Ethernet connections and onscreen "widgets" is one example. Another is the media-streaming deals that let them directly access movies from services like Netflix, CinemaNow, Amazon Video on Demand, and Vudu. But a more obvious scheme — one that, surprisingly, only Mitsubishi appears to have given serious consideration — is beefing up a TV's audio performance so that a separate surround-sound system isn't necessary.

Mitsubishi's Unisen 249 and 153 Series TVs (including the 46-inch model LT-46153 under review) all feature a 16-speaker integrated sound projector. Unlike basic soundbars, which typically deliver "virtual surround" from stereo speakers, sound projectors use digital signal processing to intelligently direct 5.1 signals, bouncing the sound off the walls of your room to more realistically approximate a rear-speaker effect. A 3-inch-high speaker enclosure — even one packed with 16 drivers — can only deliver so much bass, however, so Mitsubishi also includes a subwoofer output jack. To make the most of that feature, many Mitsubishi TV dealers package the set with Polk Audio's PSWi225, a wireless powered model with an 8-inch woofer.

But surround sound is only part of the LT-46153's picture. This TV also has a 120-Hz display, along with Smooth 120Hz processing to reduce judder with film-based programs. And a user-accessible Advanced Video Calibration mode lets you dig deeply into fine-tuning the set's picture, with color-temperature controls, color-management menus, and selectable gamma presets.

The LT-46153's look is classy and understated. With its barely-there ¾-inch-wide frame, there's not much to detract from the picture. The sound projector runs the full width of the TV's bottom edge, and a sturdy

gloss-black stand keeps everything firmly propped up. Around back are two sets of inputs — one directly on the back panel and the second on a recessed panel for wall-mounted installations — both of which offer two HDMI jacks and a component-video/stereo audio input. A side panel offers up component-video/stereo audio inputs and a USB port.

Mitsubishi's compact and strikingly minimal remote control is a radical departure from the cluttered ones that come with most other TVs. Buttons that may not see everyday use, including those that control Input, Aspect Ratio, and Picture mode, have been banished to the virtual domain. To access these, you press a button labeled More, and an onscreen keyboard pops up. You then trigger the controls by hitting a corresponding number button on the remote's keypad. I liked Mitsubishi's approach here, but also would have preferred backlit buttons and larger menu-navigation controls. (You need to really dig in with your thumbnail to access the arrow buttons.)

The LT-46153 also provides a streamlined system for managing source components. Instead of switching to Input 1 or 2 directly on the remote, an Activity button brings up an onscreen menu with categories like Watch Movie along with a grid of related components (for example, Blu-ray and VCR for Watch Movie, and DVR for Watch TV). From here you select a specific activity/component and the TV switches to the correct input. You can use the remote to operate other components via HDMI-CEC, and also set the TV up to relay controls via infrared repeaters.

SETUP

The TV's Picture Mode options include Brilliant, Bright, and Natural presets, each of which can be independently adjusted per input. Natural delivers a picture that adheres closely to the 6,500-K standard, so that's the one you should choose for watching movies in rooms with dim, theater-like lighting. Settings here include variable backlight, High and Low

