

REVIEWS / HOME OFFICE

AOC Verfino V22



Company: AOC

Pros: Excellent image quality; Attractive design; Extremely thin and lightweight; Lower power consumption; More environmentally friendly.

Cons: Webcam, Speakers and Microphone are fairly mediocre.

Product rating:



"First Review: World's Slimmest WLED Monitor?"

By **Dave Jansen** | Published:02/04/2009

Over the last few years AOC have gone from strength to strength. Only a short time ago they were an unknown element in the market, but now their name is becoming synonymous with quality.

Their latest offering, the V22, is an excellent monitor, among the first to utilise WLED technology. It is not only attractive from a design standpoint but it also produces clear and crisp images while using less power than a conventional fluorescent backlit monitor. It isn't all roses and rainbows though. While it does the most important things well, it's in the minor details that pangs of disappointment creep in.

We tested the unit with various test patterns as well as videos and gaming. It performed brilliantly at every turn. There was no backlight bleeding, colours were rich and blacks were accurately reproduced. The brightness was fairly uniform although there is a very slight drop off on the outer edges but it isn't anything to be concerned about. We were quite impressed with how well the ColorBoost feature worked as it was able to create realistic colour without sacrificing contrast. Out of the box, the colour temperature is set to 'warm' but with ColorBoost, any warm tones get automatically adjusted. We tried the colour temperature on cool and normal but it tended to make whites look a little too blue or slightly off-white. The fact that you can simply set up the panel and not have to adjust it is a definite bonus.

The specifications claim the panel has a two millisecond refresh rate which seems accurate from what we observed in the gaming tests. We had no problems at all with tearing and motion was smooth at all times. If you are looking for a good looking panel for gaming, the V22 should be on your consideration list.

The first thing you notice about the V22 is how insanely thin it is - the panel measures only 34mm deep. The screen has a native resolution of 1680x1050 and as the name suggests, it is a 22in widescreen model. The design is mostly gloss black although the bottom of the bezel has a colour highlight, in the case of our review unit a nice maroon. The entire chassis has rounded edges with the outer edges framed in a clear border. The connections at the rear are well placed and easy to access. They include one 15 pin DSub connection and a HDMI port. There is also USB to connect the webcam and a 3.5mm audio jack as well.

The sales package includes a DVI to HDMI adapter but we would have liked to see a dedicated DVI port as well as the HDMI. This would be a great monitor to look up a games system or DVD player to but to do so means you have no choice but to connect the PC via analogue DSub.

The Verfino V22 uses WLED backlight technology allowing the monitor to be thinner but also more environmentally friendly. WLED monitors are mercury free making them safer to dispose of at the end of their lifespan. Also, according to AOC, WLED allows for a reduction in power consumption of up to 20%. In addition to the monitor itself, AOC also attempts to reduce environmental impact with its packaging by using recycled materials as opposed to foam. If green credentials are important to you, it certainly seems that AOC is doing its part.

The failings of the V22 come from the speakers, microphone and webcam. Like most monitors, the speakers are quite dreadful although, to their credit, they don't distort at high volume. They sound rather tinny and muffled though and lack both volume and bass.

The webcam is fairly mediocre too. Like most 1.3 Megapixel integrated cameras, the images lack sharpness and clarity. With Apple notebooks and monitors sporting the iSight camera, manufacturers of the PC equivalent devices need to step up to the plate and offer something that is on-par or better. The microphone is reasonable but a little too sensitive, picking up unwanted background noise. It sounds clear enough to have a video chat but could have been better.