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# Best Plasma Ever

**Pioneer 50-Inch Plasma TV** | By Scott Wilkinson

When Pioneer first demonstrated its new plasma technology at CES 2007, everyone who saw it was astonished by its incredibly deep blacks and rich colors. Dubbed Kuro—Japanese for “black”—these new panels take plasma to a whole new level never seen before. Among the first models to become available is the PRO-1150HD, which is part of company’s upscale Elite line, and I can say without reservation that it’s the best plasma I’ve seen.



**FEATURES** The PRO-1150HD is rife with features, some of which are limited to the Elite line. For example, Home Media Gallery lets you connect the set to your home network and access Windows PlaysForSure music or video files on any connected computer that conforms to DLNA (Digital Living Network Alliance) standards. The TV can also display photos and other files from any storage device connected to its USB port.

Unfortunately, the remote is a step backward from the wonderfully simple and straightforward handset that came with the

PRO-FHD1 (reviewed in Issue 73). It feels a bit cluttered, and it’s a universal type that can control up to three components other than the TV. At least there are dedicated input buttons, which makes it easy to switch from watching satellite or cable TV to DVD. However, I had to aim the remote more carefully than most

#### INSIDER TIP

Paying a professional to calibrate this set is a worthwhile investment.

others, which was a little frustrating.

The menu system is not among my favorites, either. You have to drill down two levels to get to the main picture controls, and the advanced controls are four levels deep. Not only that, some of the control labels and settings are cryptic. For example, you can set the incorrectly named Color Space control to 1 or 2, but what do these numbers mean? (For the record, 1 means “vivid, vibrant color reproduction,” and 2 means “standard.” Why not just name these settings accordingly?)

