



High definition on the big-screen is possible, too. This basement rec room designed by Advanced Communication Technologies (ACT) of Hingham, MA, features an 82-inch Da-Lite screen that receives an image from an Optoma HD DLP projector (opposite).

147. Go digital. Sooner or later, all TV broadcasts will be digital—the current deadline is still the end of 2006—so you’ll want your next TV set to be a digital one. In fact, the transition to DTV has already begun. Starting this July, all sets 36 inches and larger must include a built-in (or integrated) HD tuner. Next year, all sets 13 inches and larger are required by law to include an HD tuner.

148. There are several different flavors of DTV: SDTV for standard TV resolution, EDTV for enhanced resolution that’s on par with DVD quality, and HDTV for high definition. All HDTVs are part of the larger DTV family, but not all DTVs are HDTVs.

149. Lots of high-definition programming is now available on TV. For instance, much of the major networks’ prime-time fare is in HDTV.

There’s also a good deal of live sports coverage in HD. Premium cable channels such as HBO and Showtime offer high-definition channels to subscribers. And there are stunning nature and educational programs available in high definition on PBS affiliates and Discovery HD Theater.

150. Any program shot in high definition for television will appear on widescreen TVs in the more rectangular widescreen format (also known as 16:9). Programs that are advertised as high definition but appear in the traditional squarish format (known as 4:3) have probably been “upconverted,” meaning they weren’t shot in high definition but instead are older shows that have had resolution added so they appear as high definition.

151. There are two basic types of HDTV