Which Interactive Projector is right for me?

What to look for when buying an Interactive Projector

Buying interactive technology can be a daunting task. How do you know you're making the best choice for your school or office?

When you're testing your potential new interactive projector, really **put it through its paces** by following the suggested test list.

This way you will make certain you find the interactive projector that offers the best solution for **your needs**.

Colour and Brightness questions.

"Ask to see a colourful image that you are familiar with, such as a colour grid, and observe the colour vibrancy and accuracy of the projected image."

Are the projected colours as vibrant as you would expect?

Are they true to the original image?

Colour vibrancy and accuracy is especially important in classroom environments. Colours create interest, excitement, and make watching multimedia content captivating!

"Ask to see the projected image with the interactive functionality turned both off and on."

Is there a perceivable difference in the brightness of the image?

The technology used in some interactive projectors affects the brightness of the projected image. The specification used by manufacturers in their brochures is often the interactivity "off" brightness level. Is the projector bright enough for your needs when the interactivity is turned on?

Real life functionality questions.

Write some text, then turn and point the pen away from the board (as if talking to the class or audience). Then turn back to the board and start writing in a different location.	Has the projector added any lines which you didn't draw?	With some interactive technologies, the pen has to be pointing at the board at all times or the projector loses the pen's position. When the pen touches to board again, a random straight line is sometimes drawn to the point where the pen is newly positioned.
Set the pen to a pen-like thickness suitable for handwriting, and draw a straight horizontal and vertical line.	Is the displayed line as straight as you drew it?	With the technology used in some projectors, this is an impossible task. It also makes it very difficult to read handwritten words in the workspace, both for you, and your class or audience.
Hold the pen naturally, as you would when writing (ie not 100% perpendicular to the board) and hold it to the board.	In this natural position, is the cursor where the tip of the pen is? Does this change at different areas of the board? Does this inaccuracy increase as you write?	In some interactive projectors, a camera is placed on top of the pen so that the projector can "see" where the pen is. With this technology however, the projector "sees" the point at which this camera is pointing, not where the tip of the pen is, causing issues of inaccuracy.
Write some text as you would in a classroom situation. Don't wait for the technology to catch up, write at your normal pace.	Is your writing legible? Would your class or audience be able to read what you have written?	The technology used in some interactive projectors is not fast enough to keep up with the speed at which people handwrite. This makes it difficult to know what you have written whilst you're writing. In addition, the projector may not follow exactly where you have written leaving your writing illegible for your audience.