

i**2,200 LUMENS BRIGHTNESS****2 X HDMI****1.6X OPTICAL ZOOM**

Epson EH-TW6000W

The perfect entry-level projector.

@ www.epson.com.au

✓ Solid 2D and 3D performance, wireless HDMI, 2 sets of 3D glasses.

✗ Average contrast ratio, no lens shift.

Epson might be better known for its line of printers, but it also happens to be one of the most dominant projector suppliers Down Under. Around 60% of the units sold in Australia have Epson technology hidden inside, regardless of the outside branding, and the EH-TW6000W shows why. Out of the box you get a true HD projector that pumps out a 1,920 x 1,080 native resolution image... with full 3D. Two pairs of 3D glasses are included in the box, and they're rather comfortable even for those who wear regular glasses. They're a little bit tight at the top of the nose, but overall they compare well to other face-huggers. We tested the 3D mode right off the bat with a quick play of the animated film *Legend of the Guardians*, and the result was a hoot. Unlike 3D TVs, the issue of ghosting (also known as crosstalk, a side effect of stereoscopic 3D where certain objects in the scene have a strange shadow or aura around them) was minimal. Even better, the projector has the necessary brightness to punch through the darkened lens of the 3D glasses, delivering a clear and vivid image in both 2D and 3D.

The next test was our *Dark Knight* opening scene, where we noticed a very minor amount of judder in the panning shot, but nowhere near that seen with the ViewSonic. Given that this is an LCD-based projector, we weren't expecting contrast to match the ViewSonic DLP, and we were right. Detail in the dark folds of Batman's cape and uniform was often hard to see, but newcomers to

projectors will still find the overall image quality amazing. Skin tones were beautiful, an area that some projectors struggle with, while the overall colour reproduction was brilliant out of the box.

Our *Battlefield 3* test was up next, and we immediately noticed a slightly sluggish response. Disabling a few of the image enhancing options helped clear it up for the most part, but it still wasn't quite as snappy as the Panasonic's dedicated game mode. Again, most gamers won't notice unless they've used a different projector, and for less demanding games it won't be an issue at all.

While there's no lens shift on this projector, meaning you'll need to be extremely precise when you set it up, it comes with a feature that most will love – wireless HDMI. Included in the box is a wireless transmitter that connects to your HDMI outputs and then beams it directly to the projector. It's a fantastic way to get rid of one cable, but bear in mind you'll still need to get a power cord to the unit. Bulb life is an incredible 5,000 hours, and a replacement can be had for around the \$300 mark, making maintenance extremely affordable.

Like all projectors, shop around and you'll shave a healthy chunk off the purchase price, at least \$300 or so. At this price you're getting a projector that shows the big boys a thing or two. It's got excellent entry-level 2D and 3D performance, and is a steal for both gamers and movie lovers alike. If you're looking for your first projector but can't blow the bank, you can't go wrong with this budget beast.