

DETAILS ▼



CONTACT

www.epson.co.nz

SPECIFICATIONS

PROJECTION SYSTEM: LCD

Native resolution: 1280 x 720

CONTRAST RATIO:

10,000:1

BRIGHTNESS: 1600 lumens

INPUTS: HDMI,

Component RCA, S-Video, Composite, PC VGA, D4 (Japanese only digital connection), Serial control port, 12V trigger

ZOOM: 2x optical

DIMENSIONS: 406 x 124 x 310mm (W/H/D)

WEIGHT: 5.4kg

PROS

- ✦ Excellent image quality
- ✦ Loads of scope for set-up
- ✦ Very quiet operation

CONS

- ✗ Not compatible with high-definition 1080p images

VERDICT

Great image quality and set-up versatility for the price

Aesthetics	88%
Performance	98%
Features	95%
Functionality	95%
Price Value	92%
Overall	



Pearler

EPSON EMP-TW700 PROJECTOR \$2999

Epson has always put considerable effort into making its projectors stand out from the crowd, and with its pearlescent finish and sweeping curves the new EMP-TW700 is no different. At the front there is a deep, sports car-like scoop to vent hot air, but what really stands out is the giant protruding lens barrel.

This lens assembly boasts both a 2x optical zoom and horizontal and vertical lens shift. These attributes, combined with that front air vent, make the EMP-TW700 hugely flexible in terms of set-up. You can happily project a 100-inch diagonal, 16:9 image from as close as three metres from the screen or as far as seven metres. This allows for casual placement on a coffee table in front of the audience, or more permanent placement high on a rear shelf or on the ceiling at the back of the room.

At the rear of the TW700 you will find one of each of the connections you are likely to need, including HDMI, and handy extras like a 12V screen trigger. However, it seems a little perverse to include a D4 connector – a connection only used in Japan – instead of a second HDMI or component connection.

The Epson's remote is nicely shaped for the hand, backlit and thoroughly logical with one-button access to each of the functions you will use most often. Menus too are attractively set out and easy to navigate. Available adjustments are comprehensive and include features like six-axis colour adjustment so that you can control the hue and saturation of both primary and secondary colours, and Epson Super White to accurately portray white and bright parts of the image and prevent overexposure.

Another significant attribute of the TW700 is the auto-iris function, which dynamically controls lamp output in real time and boosts contrast to this projector's claimed 10,000:1 ratio. Unusually this feature is turned off by default in the Epson, but it is definitely something that you will want to turn on as it does its job effectively and unobtrusively. Black levels are excellent and shadow detail is very well defined, giving the overall image a satisfying depth.

With a native widescreen 1280 x 720-pixel resolution the TW700 does a great job with standard definition DVD content, producing a picture almost completely free of image noise. It is also compatible with high-definition input signals up to 720p and 1080i, though not 1080p.

With a brightness of 1600 lumens the Epson still looks its best in a darkened theatre room, but with its brightest Dynamic mode you can get away with a bit of daytime viewing, as long as sunlight is not falling directly on the screen. It's worth noting here that with the Epson's long zoom lens you will be giving up a significant amount of lumen output if you have it wound out near its maximum setting.

In terms of colour, the TW700 needed a bit of tweaking out of the box, but with adjustments made it produced a nicely balanced and natural result with good saturation and accurate skin tones.

On the whole, this is a well-engineered projector offering great performance and set-up flexibility. It is also priced to tackle its obvious competition from the likes of Panasonic and Sanyo and, as such, demands a test drive if that is the market you are looking in. ■ TED GIBBONS

