

Monitor Explained

There are two different types of Monitor currently available these are Cathode-ray tube (CRT) or TFT (thin-film transistor). Telling the difference is straight forward; CRT screens are large and heavier units whilst the TFT are thin and light in weight.

CRT Monitors

CRT technology has been around for decades from mono through the different versions to the versions which are being superseded today. TFT screens were previously limited to the wealthy and of course were an essential part to a Laptop or Notebook.



TFT Monitors

Thin film transistor liquid crystal display (TFT-LCD) is a variant of liquid crystal display (LCD) which uses thin-film transistor (TFT) technology to improve image quality. A typical 17-inch TFT monitor has about 1.3 million pixels and 1.3 million transistors

LCD Monitors

A liquid crystal display (LCD) is a thin, flat electronic visual display that uses the light modulating properties of liquid crystals (LCs). LCs do not emit light directly. LCDs are more energy efficient and offer safer disposal than CRTs.

Plasma TV

They are called "plasma" displays because the pixels rely on plasma cells, A plasma is a collection of particles that respond strongly and collectively to electromagnetic fields or electrical charges, also achieves better and more accurate color reproduction than LCDs. Far wider viewing angles than those of LCD (up to 178°); images do not suffer from degradation at high angles unlike LCD and Virtually no motion blur, thanks in large part to very high refresh rates and a faster response time, contributing to superior performance



Refresh rates - is the number of times the image is drawn on the display each second. If your refresh rate is 85 then this is measured as 85 Hertz (Hz). You should ensure the refresh rate is on the highest possible setting, by ensuring a fast refresh rate you will reduce flickering often the rates are set incorrectly or too low and the flickering leads to headaches and eye strain. Try checking your refresh rate and if it is not at the highest increase it and see if you notice any difference.

Resolutions - CRT screens can work perfectly up to the quoted maximum resolution. The TFT is recommended to be used at only one resolution. The reason for this is the pixel makeup differs between CRT and TFT. The most common resolutions are 1024x768 and 1280x720 of course you may have your own preference.

Tilt/Swivel - If you can purchase a screen which allows you to alter the screen either through tilts or swivel you may be better off. By being able to adjust the display to your working level you should be more comfortable and make better use of the display. Many TFTs only allow for minor changes in the angle often just on a horizontal axis.

Response times - This is another word to not look to deeply at. With TFT's the response time is the TFT version of refresh rates and is the time taken for a pixel to reach maximum brightness. However companies can measure this differently so there is often room for interpretation.