

A PORTABLE LCD MONITOR FOR WIDESCREEN

Now that many camcorders are increasingly using the 16:9 widescreen format, it was inevitable that a portable LCD monitor would become available for viewing it. DataVideo's new TLM-70D monitor fits the bill perfectly. It's pricey (\$1,299 MSRP), but then what new technology isn't. But, it's feature-rich, so read on and see how it can help you capture and monitor better video.

The TLM-70D is small (7.5-in. W x 5.5-in. H x 2.5-in. D) and lightweight (3.5 pounds with self-contained speakers.) It's extremely versatile, in that it can be operated from conventional 110V AC, as well as 12V DC, and includes speakers as well as a Line-Level Out (RCA) for connection to a separate audio system.

The heart of the TLM-70D is a 7-inch 16:9-format active matrix LCD, with a resolution of 1440x234 pixels and with selectable 4:3 (conventional) and 16:9 (widescreen) aspect ratios. It has a variety of video inputs: composite and DV, as well as stereo audio. The LCD monitor has a fairly wide viewing angle—40-degrees top, 60-degrees bottom, left and right—so you don't have to view it dead-on, like some early models.

When my evaluation unit arrived, the first thing I wanted to test was to see how it handled widescreen 16:9 format video. I had amassed a number of DV tapes that I've been shooting in 16:9 format, some of them most recently with Canon's exciting XL2 camcorder. It was a pretty simple job to connect the camcorder's DV Output to the DV Input of the TLM-70D. DV Input was selected and the Flip Aspect switch was adjusted until proper viewing was noted. This Flip Aspect switch changes modes between 4:3, true 16:9, and a slightly compressed version of 16:9. It was such a joy to see the original videos shot in true widescreen format. If I had played them back to a conventional TV monitor, they would have been severely compressed horizontally to fit the boundaries of standard 4:3 TVs.

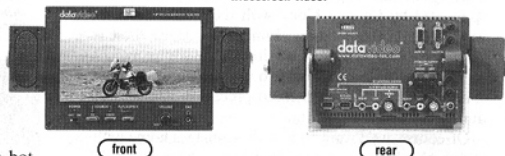
Playback in true stereo mode was equally impressive. Stereo audio is detected from the DV Input and directed to the small attachable speakers. Stereo audio can also be directed to bigger external speakers by way of speaker output ports.

The TLM-70D is a professional monitor in that the Composite Video Input connector is a standard BNC design (a simple BNC-to-RCA adapter is needed for consumer video). The DV Input also supports DV25 and can operate in the PAL mode, as well as through automatic recognition. For the Composite Video Input mode, Brightness, Contrast, Color, and Tint are available at the rear panel. Rounding out pro features is a 3-way Tally LED indicator

Consider this unit if you were, say, making a documentary film or an independent production where it was important that you see everything in the monitor that the camcorder was capturing. With the camcorder connected



DataVideo's TLM-70D is a portable LCD monitor solution for viewing 16:9 widescreen video.



to the TLM-70D (via FireWire) at the same time that the recordings are taking place, you as a director can get a very accurate picture of what's being recorded. This is especially critical if you're shooting in the 16:9 widescreen mode. It's also extremely useful in playback. No unexpected surprises will greet you in post-production. If you were to see side-by-side playback from a camcorder and the TLM-70D, the difference is startling.

For more information, contact DataVideo at www.datavideo.us

omega's USB 2.0 Mini Hard Drive

SMALL DRIVE, BIG STORAGE

Omega's latest slim USB 2.0 Mini Hard Drive delivers in a big way. It's available in either 20GB or 40GB capacities and is the first Omega hard drive to receive 100 percent of its power from the USB data port. This is great for mobile computer enthusiasts. (The Mini Hard Drive is also listed in our "Zoom In" section; check it out!)

The Mini Hard Drive uses 1.8-inch hard disk technology, so it's smaller and more energy efficient than most other portable hard drives. The 4200-rpm drive has a rugged aluminum enclosure and features a Hi-Speed USB interface for plug-and-play simplicity with any compatible Windows or Macintosh computer. A blue drive light signals disk activity, and an On/Off switch allows laptop users to power down the device without disconnecting it.

Each Mini Hard Drive comes with a sleek leather travel case, USB cable, and software CD, including MusicMatch Jukebox music management software (PC and Mac) and Adobe Photoshop Album SE (PC) for digital photos.

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