

DVD Player Feature Comparison Chart



Last Updated 10/8/2003

The chart below is intended to be a general feature comparison between a number of DVD players currently on the market, ranging from entry-level players to progressive-scan players and DVD-Audio/SACD players. After the [Pre/Pro Chart](#) was created out of a discussion in the [Outlaw Forum](#), I created this chart of some of the more prominent players in the market today (along with the aging Panasonic A310 that was using at the time). The Pre/Pro Chart was based on comparing the Model 950 -- at the time in beta testing and only a month or so away from shipping -- to some comparable products on the market; this chart looks at a broader range of products (it would be like adding Sony and Pioneer receivers in the \$300 price range to the Pre/Pro Chart). This chart was a look at some of the players currently available in several categories -- interlaced, progressive scan, and DVD-Audio/SACD players. As with the Pre/Pro Chart, this chart does not offer any insight into performance -- it is only a list of features, and so cannot tell the entire story. Also like the other chart, the information here is gathered largely from online sources, and may have errors and omissions (for example, nobody lists "chroma bug" in their specs and DVD-R compatibility is rarely noted). Unlike the Pre/Pro chart, the list and street prices listed here are *very* subject to change, since there tends to be a lot of variance in typical retail prices for DVD players (particularly low-end and mid-level players) over the course of their manufacturing life.

I started this chart (and subsequently set it aside when work got busy) because I was interested in replacing my existing Panasonic A310 with a newer player that will provide DVD-Audio capability. Ideally, I'd like a player that offers progressive scan, DVD-Audio (with bass management preferably), SACD (again, with bass management preferably), a solid transport mechanism (so it could act as a CD transport as well, supplementing the convenience of my CD changer), and good interlaced video performance. I may add a column to the chart describing this "ideal" player at some point, just for reference. Because I will not be upgrading to a display that will support progressive scan for at least a year or two and because the "ideal" player I describe really hasn't appeared yet, I chose to go with an inexpensive player that offers DVD-Audio and good interlaced video performance for the time being and replace it in 18-24 months with something closer to my ideal; I am currently using a Panasonic RA60, which I got in May 2002.

Update, 1/21/2003: After about seven months, the players in this list had gotten a bit out of date. As a result, I've revised the chart to include newer players. Only the Panasonic DVD-RP91, Toshiba SD9200, Sony NS900V, and Denon DVD-9000 remain from the earlier chart. The Pioneer Elite DV-47A was updated to the 47Ai. Otherwise, all of the old players were removed and replaced with more current models.

Update, 10/8/2003: Once again, the player list has fallen behind the times, so I'm revamping it. The Panasonic CP72, RV32, RP62, and RP82 have been removed and replaced by the DVD-S55 and the

DVD-F85 (the [DVD-S35](#) is essentially identical to the S55, but lacks multi-channel DVD-Audio support and onboard Dolby Digital and DTS decoders); the venerable RP91 is still on the list. Toshiba's SD1800, SD4800, and SD9200 have made way for the SD-2900 and SD-4900. Pioneer's Elite players -- the DV-47Ai and DV-45 -- are still here, but the Pioneer DV-354 has been replaced by the DV-363. Sony's NS715P and NS900V have been replaced by the NS325 and NS999ES. Lastly, Denon's DVD-9000 is gone, and in its place are their new trio of universal players: the DVD-2200, DVD-2900, and DVD-5900.

Associated Product Links:

- [Panasonic: DVD-S55, DVD-F85, DVD-RP91](#)
- [Pioneer: DV-363, Elite DV-45A, Elite DV-47Ai](#)
- [Toshiba: SD-2900, SD-4900](#)
- [Sony: DVP-NS325, DVP-NS999ES](#)
- [Denon: DVD-2200, DVD-2900, and DVD-5900](#)

Other Reference Sources:

- [merc's pre/pro comparison chart](#): Outlaw 950, Rotel RSP-1066, B&K Reference 30, Anthem AVM-20
- [Pre/Pro and Receiver Comparison Chart](#)
- [HTF receiver comparison chart](#)

FEATURES	Panasonic DVD-S55	Panasonic DVD-F85	Pioneer DV-363	Toshiba SD-2900	Sony DVP-NS325	Toshiba SD-4900	Panasonic RP-91	Sony DVP-NS999ES	Denon DVD-2200	Pioneer Elite DV-47Ai	Pioneer Elite DV-45A	Denon DVD-2900	Denon DVD-5900
Outputs/Inputs													
Composite Video Outputs	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	2
S-Video Outputs	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	2
Component Video Outputs	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
VGA Video Outputs	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
DVI Video Outputs	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Coaxial Digital Output	.	.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Optical Digital Output	X	X	X	.	.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
XLR Digital Output	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
IEEE-1594 Output	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Stereo Analog Outputs	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	1
5.1 Analog Outputs	X	X	.	.	.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Coaxial Digital Input	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Optical Digital Input	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
RS-232	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	X	X
Features													
# of discs	1	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dolby Digital Decoder	X	X	.	.	.	X	X	X	X	.	.	X	X
DTS Decoder	X	X	.	.	.	X	X	X	X	.	.	X	X
Dolby Digital Compatible	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
DTS Compatible	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
DVD-Audio	X	X	.	.	.	X	X	.	X	X	X	X	X

DVD-A Bass Man.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	X	.	.	X	X
SACD	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	X	X	X	X	X	X
Multi-Channel SACD	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	X	X	X	X	X	X
SACD Bass Management	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	X	X	.	.	X	X
DVD-A/SACD Digital Out	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	X _*	.	.	X
Progressive Scan	X	X	X	.	.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
3:2 Pulldown	X	X	X	.	.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
"Chroma Bug" **	?	?	X	X	X	X	.	X	.	X	X	.	.
CD-R/RW	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
DVD-R (read-only)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
DVD-RW (read-only)	.	.	X	X	X	.	.	X	X	X	X	X	X
DVD-RAM (read-only)	X	X	.	.	.	.	X	.	.	.	.	.	.
MP3 Playback	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Video CD	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Zoom	X	X	X	X	.	X	.	X	X	.	.	X	X
Video DAC	10-bit 54MHz	10-bit 54MHz	10-bit 54MHz	10-bit 27MHz	10-bit 27MHz	10-bit 54MHz	12-bit 54MHz	14-bit 108MHz	12-bit 108MHz	12-bit 108MHz	10-bit 54MHz	12-bit 108MHz	12-bit 216MHz
Audio DAC	192/24	192/24	192/24	192/24	192/24	192/24	192/24	192/24	192/24	192/24	192/24	192/24	192/24
HDCD Support	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
THX Ultra	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
PAL/NTSC Conversion	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Regions Available	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Manual Online	X	X	X	.	.	.	X	.	X	.	X	X	X
Dimensions (WxDxH)	17x 10 1/2x 2 3/8	17x 16x 2 3/8	16 1/2x 12 1/4x 2 3/16	17x 9 7/16x 2 3/16	16 7/8x 10 11/16x 2 3/16	17x 9 7/16x 2 3/16	17x 10 7/16x 3 15/16	17x 15x 4 1/2	17.1x 12.5x 4	16 3/4x 11 1/8x 4 1/8	16 9/16x 11x 4 1/8	17.1x 13.0x 5.2	17.1x 17.1x 5.5
Weight (lbs.)	4.7	9.1	?	5.5	?	5.5	7.7	?	10.2	9.25	?	17.6	27.7
Price													
List Price (\$)	129	149	149	129	99	149	699	999	629	1200	700	999	2000
Street Price (\$)	129	149	100	85	89	?	400	999	?	800	500	840	?
AudioReview													
Rating	<u>3.00</u>	<u>3.5</u>	<u>5.0</u>	<u>4.5</u>	<u>0.0</u>	-	<u>4.48;4.82</u>	<u>4.33</u>	-	<u>4.44;4.0</u>	<u>4.33</u>	<u>4.42</u>	-
# of Reviews	3	2	1	2	0	-	67;11	9	-	27;5	30	12	-

* The Pioneer Elite DV-47Ai replaced the DV-47A and added an i-Link output for DVD-Audio and SACD digital output.

** The "chroma bug" (also called the chroma upsampling error) is an undesirable MPEG decoding defect described [here](#); it is a chroma upsampling error that generates horizontal streaks on brightly colored objects and is present in many DVD player MPEG decoder chips. See [this page](#) (maintained by [Secrets of Home Theater and High Fidelity](#)) listing some players and whether they have the chroma upsampling bug or not. Some people are more affected by (and concerned with) this bug than others.

PDF Format: PDF version of this page is available for download [here](#).

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