

## SCREENING ROOM by Robert Archer

# Screen Material 'Weaves' Performance Imaging with Audio



Screen Research's ClearPix2 screen material (seen far left) promises no detectable audio degradation as well as moiré-free video.

MSRP varies depending on the application in which the material is used.

Screen Research  
www.screenresearch.com



**I listened to the music coming from behind the screen, and did not detect any obvious audio degradation.**

As popular as flat panels are with consumers, they could be more appealing. There are many consumers that complain flat panels don't mount flush to the wall. And the speakers, they say, make the things look even worse.

Unlike a flat-panel television, a projection screen can mount nearly flush to the wall and can hide in-wall speakers for aesthetic purposes.

Screen Research, a manufacturer of acoustically transparent screens, has a new material, ClearPix2, that is available in nearly any configuration.

### Features (A)

The ClearPix2 is a screen material designed for use with a loudspeaker system. The material is not perforated; it is woven in such a way that audio is able to pass through while, the company claims, preserving appropriate light levels.

Installers can order the diagonally constructed, coated-fiber material in a choice of sizes, as well as a choice of matte-white or pearl gray. The material is offered in fixed-frame or motorized versions. It has met the testing standards of THX and the Imaging Science Foundation (ISF).

### Set-up (B)

When the screen arrived to my house in a couple of packages, I asked Screen Research New England rep Taylor Sales to help me with the setup.

Taylor's Michael Isacco and I unboxed the screen and assembled the legs of its frame. We unfurled the screen and black backing material, which shipped rolled up in long cylinders. Using a cutting tool included in the packaging, we cut the materials to fit the frame and trimmed off the excess. We pulled the material tight. Michael

used a wooden mallet to tap the frame's locking clips into their channel. We finished by installing the screen's black backing material and the legs onto the frame. We placed the screen about 11 feet away from a Digital Projection iVision 30 and in front of an RBH center-channel speaker.

(NOTE: Since the time of this review, Screen Research has re-engineered the installation procedure with the FastGrip system.)

### Performance (A)

To get a good sense of the screen's quality, I paired with the DLP-based iVision 30 DLP projector as well as the Dream Vision Dream E Sony LCoS-based projector.

I listened closely to the music coming from behind the screen. With an HD broadcast of ZZ Top "Live in Texas," I did not detect any obvious audio degradation (nor did I see any moiré effects).

Switching over to movies, like "National Treasure 2," I found the voices to be intelligible and clear. The background effects emanated fully, and found color accuracy, brightness and grayscale all to be solid — with both projectors.

### Value (A)

This is a top-of-the-line video product that will please the most hardcore videophile. It can also be configured to meet any application a comfortable margin.

### Final Grade (A-)

This screen can handle dark environments, ambient light environments, DLP, LCoS and everything in between — not to mention accompanying music and movie dialog. ■