

Test Drive Report for BenQ FP71V+ LCD Monitor

The LCD industry's prominent manufacturers have all raced to release products with GTG (Gray to Gray) response time ratings through fear of losing the LCD monitor response time contest ever since BenQ introduced the GTG response time concept. Thanks to the mega support of Taiwanese panel big boss AUO, BenQ continues to be able to stand at the forefront of this never-ending battle.

BenQ's FP71V+ LCD monitor is claimed to be the "first 5ms GTG response-time LCD monitor on the market". In theory, that represents a step forward from LCD monitors with 8ms GTG response time. When compared to traditional 8ms monitors, the benefits should be even more apparent during everyday usage.

In terms of development, a dead-end might have been reached with the achieving of traditional 8ms response time, with little chance of the panel manufacturers releasing traditionally rated 6ms or even 5ms products. Conversely, the industry has in one short year progressed from 8ms GTG to 4ms GTG, with further improvements in the pipeline.

BenQ FP71V+ Intro



The FP71V+ adopts a fashionable silver exterior, ultra-thin bezels, and an overall design that is nothing if not befitting of our modern times.



From the side the arced lines become apparent, and while there is a lot of black, the overall feeling is very lively.



With the exception of the attractive power button, all other OSD controls and a single earphone jack are concealed beneath the bottom bezel, which itself is where the control descriptions are

etched for no required guess work and usage that is far from inconvenient. The power button is the eye-catching centerpiece of the entire lower bezel; glowing blue during operation, and orange during standby. To its sides are a couple of integrated surround-sound speakers that make sense for business users, but are of limited value to home users.



The base stand is slightly mundane-looking, but this has to do with the FP71V+'s positioning as a home-use multimedia monitor. In terms of ergonomics, the base stand limits adjustments to only screen tilt. In addition, the hollowed-out support is not just aesthetically pleasing - it features a thoughtful cable management system as well.



The red running puppet represented its outstanding GTG response time, and the TCO'03 label is also prominently located.



At the rear, the FP71V+ features the power connector for its integrated inverter, as well as DVI-D + D-Sub connectors and audio input jack.

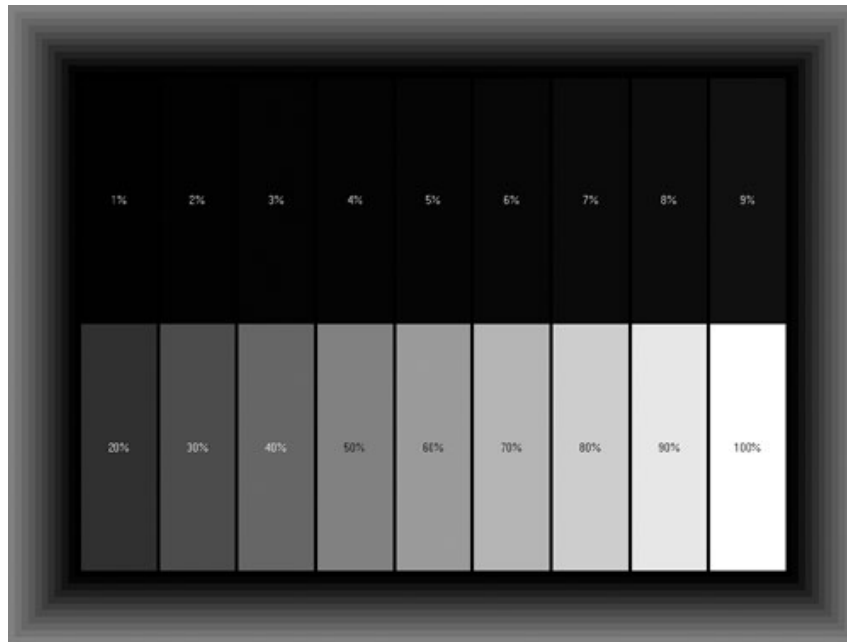
OSD Menu

While the look of the OSD menu is standard BenQ, with the majority of the menu design being the same, this menu has some added functionality through the Reset function, which is able to reset either a given set of color settings or all color settings back to their factory default values. Leaving the practical value aside, a richer set of adjustment options tends to provide greater convenience to the user.

Performance Testing

The FP71V+'s specifications include a panel brightness of 400cd/m², as well as contrast of 500:1, plus horizontal and vertical viewing angles of 140 and 130 degrees respectively. From a performance perspective, the 5ms GTG time is definitely the bright spot. As a home-use multimedia monitor, the onus is on response time performance to enhance gaming and entertainment performance.

While the FP71V+'s panel is capable of high-brightness levels, during actual usage, only 50% of the maximum brightness should be adequate. At this point, contrast performance is at its best. During our gray scale test, we were able to see every shade of gray clearly down to 2%.



Color performance is where this monitor really rocks. As a home-use multimedia monitor made especially for gamers, color performance is outstanding with very high saturation levels, but the colors are very slightly on the warm side. On the overall, color restoration is extremely accurate.

In response time testing, traditional test software focuses on the time required for a pixel to switch between full black and full white. GTG response time, on the other hand, is the amount of time needed for a pixel to switch between arbitrary shades of gray, which is what monitors spend the most time doing.

To test GTG response time, we use moving images onscreen to detect ghosting problems visually. This method more accurately measures the performance of 5ms GTG response time as it simulates actual usage situations. In testing we discovered that image ghosting was visually reduced compared to average LCD monitors.

The specified 140 degree horizontal viewing angle for the FP71V+ is obviously on the narrow side, but BenQ is not the type to overstate a product's performance numbers. There was also some yellowing to the screen when viewed from both the side and the top. The screen, therefore, is best viewed by a single user.

Summary

The FP71V+ is an excellent monitor whose gaming and multimedia performance is strong thanks to the 5ms GTG response time. Home-users – the gamers especially – will find that the FP71V+ is a fine choice.