



Neat solution: LG's LCD TV built-in set-top box avoids the need for a tangle of cables.

Hats off to glove guys

 They've built a classy radio in the WR-2, writes Peter Familiari

TO ME, it's a first — a radio packed with a pair of white gloves.

That's a value-added feature Sangean includes with its stunning high-gloss, white version of its upmarket bedside AM/FM radio, the WR-2.

The gloves are a nice touch on what's already a well-priced, top-shelf radio. The rrp is \$299.

That buys a hefty-sized radio whose fit and finish belie the budget price.

As does the sound quality, which is extraordinarily sophisticated and pleasing.

The WR-2 is sitting on my desk and pulling in station Vega 91.5, which is displayed, including station ID, on the WR-2's illuminated dial.

The song broadcast is The Who's *My Generation* and the reception is as clear and distinct as the notes of the proverbial church bell.

Vocals are succinct and velvet smooth, treble is full of fine detail and devoid of residual harshness. And a full lower mid-range register fools the brain and ears into thinking the WR-2 has ample bass.

The WR-2 comes with an external and removable FM antenna and an internal AM

AT A GLANCE

SANGEAN
Model: WR-2
Price: \$299
Canohm: 9645 4700
www.canohm.com.au
 Sturdy radio with great sound quality and reception. A bargain.

antenna that works well in a difficult city environment.

The sound is provided by a decent amplifier and a quality 3-inch speaker built into the front fascia.

The speaker works in a tuning duct that fools it into thinking it is driving air in a much larger cabinet.

The same fascia carries all the controls, including a welcome headphone jack.

On the rear is the removable FM antenna, auxiliary input to connect a CD player and a line-out socket that allows the WR-2 to be linked to a stereo system.

As well as AM/FM radio, the WR-2 has a clock and alarm.

The radio is mains-powered, but will run off a feed of 9-14 volts DC.

Anyone who wants to use it in a car or caravan can buy an optional power adaptor socket from Radio Parts.



Smart one: the WR-2 displays the station ID on the dial.

Swish and smart

 Peter Familiari finds LG's new LCD TVs more than just good-looking

THERE'S no denying LG's latest range of LCD TVs look swish.

Even before they are switched on and tuned in, something about them sets them apart from most of the LCD pack.

Maybe it's the fresh, uncluttered styling or the refined level of finish.

But however classy looking the LG 32LX2D 32in LCD undoubtedly is, it is picture quality that counts when buyers are willing to splash \$3999 on a flat-panel TV.

On this score, the new LG is a solid performer — as it should be, given the price and the picture-enhancing addition of a built-in high-definition digital receiver.

It's a neat solution for buyers who want HD digital

TV but don't want to buy a separate HD set-top box and all the connecting cables.

The built-in set-top box also has a decent level of signal sensitivity.

Connected to a dodgy aerial point in my bedroom, it picked up all the HD TV channels without a glitch.

The range between whites and the best black the set could muster was wide, which means the LG has a solid contrast ratio.

LCD brightness levels are a function of the amount of backlight used with any given LCD panel, which in the LG was good.

The set has what is called an intelligent eye, a sensor that tailors screen brightness to the available light intensity of a room.

LG
Model: LG32LX2D
Price: \$3999
LG: 1800 725 375
www.lge.com.au
VERDICT
 A refined, nicely sorted and well-featured 32in LCD with pleasing picture quality and a built-in high-definition digital tuner. A HDMI connection is a bonus.

Colour reproduction was articulate for an LCD TV of this price, but LCD colour reproduction isn't as accurate or as natural as that produced by quality plasma TVs.

Though the LG's screen refresh rate is quoted at a speedy 8ms, some fast-action moving sequences from *The Chronicles of Riddick* were a little smeary and some detail was lost in the darkest blacks of this movie.

Since LCD is a technology that "holds" an image, a

trace of motion smearing isn't fatal.

As with the rainbow effect produced by DLP projectors, some people see it clearly, others not at all.

It's a small glitch that doesn't detract from the LG's refined picture quality.

That quality goes up a couple of notches when a HDMI-equipped DVD player is connected to the LG32LX2D via input.

It's churlish to expect any TV's built-in sound system to have the drive, venom and poise of an external surround-sound or stereo system.

Even so, it bodes well that the one in the LG made dialogue easy listening.

The new LG is also PC-compatible and can be used as a computer monitor.

LG has another two LCD TVs with built-in HD tuners: the \$4999 37in 37LP1D and the \$7999 42in 42PID.

ARCAM

SOLO



Solo consists of an audiophile CD player and a 50watts per channel amplifier combined with a high quality DAB (Digital Audio Broadcast) FM radio tuner. Listen to the exceptional performance of the Solo playing your favourite CDs and you'll agree that Arcam's considerable investment has been well spent. The amp complements the tuner and CD, delivering real power with finesse, loud enough for parties yet sensitive enough for more complex music. Newly available is Arcam's interface control, rLead, providing a one stop connection from your iPod to your Solo. What more could you ask for at only \$2,498.

"This is serious-sounding kit that just happens to have been crammed into one rather good-looking metal case." Hi-Fi Choice - July 05

"Arcam has struck gold with the Solo: if you want fuss-free hi-fi, you must put this on your list." What Hi-Fi? - March 05



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