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10 Remedies for Everyday Video Problems

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+ REMEDY #9

SPACE-SAVING TRICKS FOR LARGE PROJECTION SYSTEMS.

In the past, it may large-scale projection systems may have seemed like the exclusive domain of high-profile businesses or universities with billion-dollar endowments. Technology managers may have dismissed the concept for obstacles such as the perceived extra cost, extra maintenance, and the lack of space. Recently, however, the costs of having a decent projector with a high-

grade, business-class screen have dropped into the same price range as that of a flat-panel TV. The big differences now, according to David Rodgers of Elite Screens, are that the flat-panel TV's image is fixed/finite, and projection screens offer more creative possibilities. Take, for example, the inevitable replacement of a projector lamp; the unit can be replaced, and even recycled, thanks for services like ReLampIt from Projector Lamp Services.

In regards to space consciousnesses, "every square foot of property has a monthly cost," Rodgers added. A visual image capable of reaching every set of eyes in the room is one way to maximize its value. "The trick is to get the big picture without dedicating too much space," he said. To conserve space, think of three main points—throw distance, functionality, location, and usage.

1. GET AN ACCURATE THROW DISTANCE.

Many standard projectors require a considerable amount of space or throw distance to create a rela-



New products and materials are expanding application possibilities, like a conference room design that goes "full wall."

tively large projected image. Throw-distance is the measured space between the projector's lens and your projection screen surface. Hence, the longer the throw-distance, the larger the image will be. Visit Digital Projection Inc's Projector Calculator App (digitalprojection.com). Or, Google "projection screen calculator." Resources like this can help you establish the ideal throw distance for the projector you have.

2. CONSIDER CEILING-MOUNTED PROJECTION.

For professional meeting rooms, resorts, and large halls, try a ceiling-mounted projector. This keeps the projector safely out of the way and your space open. For smaller or

DIY meeting rooms, a tabletop projector is a good solution. For the average-sized conference room, use a screen with an 84-to-150-inch diagonal size range. For ballrooms and conference facilities, the size may equal

that of a movie theater (200-to-600-inch). Large ballrooms should have a screen positioned so that it is easily visible to either a standing or seated audience. Meeting rooms should have the screen positioned in a way that the people sitting closer to the front of the room will not eclipse the image from those in the back.

3. MAKE IT RETRACTABLE.

It is best to use either a retractable "in-ceiling" projection screen or a flush-mounted "fixed" screen. When you don't need a screen, it hides in the ceiling leaving your wall open to be used in any way you need.

4. GO "FULL WALL."

"If you plan on having a designated presentation spot, then I recommend using two relatively new products, the ultra-short throw projector and the whiteboard-projection screen," Rodgers said. "Ultra short-throw projectors will give you that big-screen punch from a distance of less than two feet. The presenter does not make a shadow on the screen."

Rodgers says that the whiteboard projection screen is "nothing short of awesome." It's a cinema-grade projection surface that is coated with a scratch-resistant optical nanotech resin. Users of the product say that it is easy to clean, durable, and can also be used as a dry-erase teaching aid. They come in either hard-framed or as a pliable wall-covering format.

Source: InfoComm's CTS Essentials, David Rodgers, Digital Projection Inc.

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