

this kit's enclosures is an audio powerhouse that thumps 120 watts of audio. We tested the DA5000 with DVD movies and even hooked it up to a multimedia player and a PC and we really found the sound quality to be quite good. While the high tones appear clean and are prominently present, the midtones came out a little washed out and the bass backbone could be a little overpowering at times. Of course this can be remedied by tweaking the sound settings to get your desired output. This proved to be great with electronica and metal tracks as well as with action-packed games and movies where we received an auditory barrage. Also notable is the fair amount of detailing it churns out, as the conversations, the subtle noises and the background music came out well-blended and sounded natural. Also, we

noticed that the sound quality heads southbound at high volume levels, but to its credit, you won't really need to get that loud as its volume is adequate for small to medium-sized rooms when set at 50%. —Luis Anthony G. Oliveros

A bit pricy, but the Edifier DA5000's well-balanced audio and good sound detail should do well for setting up a mid-range home theatre system.

Power Output	120W
Drivers	eight-inch woofer (subwoofer) / three-inch full range drivers each (satellites)
Dimension	270x300x435mm (subwoofer) / 94x200x76mm (satellites)

Flawless Design for Your Desktop

AOC 2218PH

www.aocmonitors.com.ph



THE shape certainly looks familiar; with solid aluminum panels that makes it look like it came out of Apple's drawing board. The black glossy frame gives it away, but this 22-inch LCD display looks pretty good nevertheless. The 2218PH is highlighted by its attractive mix of aluminum and piano gloss materials, hidden touch-sensitive controls, built-in HDMI input, and a highly flexible "Pivot-Flex" stand that lets you tilt, swivel, raise and twist the display.

The blue backlit power button also pulls up the on-screen menu, while navigation is easily done through four touch-sensitive buttons that light up on touch: left, right, enter and exit. The button set is pretty simple and the interface is very intuitive, although the touch controls seem too sensitive (just hovering your finger closely over the button will usually result in an accidental press). The on-screen menu sports a comprehensive set of tweaks and optimizations including your basic color, contrast, hues and picture adjustments, as well as other useful auto-features such as an Eco mode that adjusts the screen brightness according to use.

This 22-incher has built-in stereo speakers, which are positioned under the bottom edge of the display frame. Audio quality is nothing special, giving you relatively low audio detail. Output power won't be enough for watching home movies in a big room, but it should be enough for default beeps and pings from the OS, so it should be good enough for the office. (It doesn't make sense to rely on built-in speakers for entertainment anyway, so this isn't considered a big let-down). There's a line-out jack for headphones or external speakers behind the panel though, so connecting an external set shouldn't be that big a chore. Volume is adjusted using the left and right buttons.

The entire panel measures only a little over 30mm thick, with the rear side made up of a single, solid aluminum panel, which adds to the monitor's clean overall look. This is where the ports and connectors (DC IN, HDMI, D-SUB, Audio In, and Audio out ports (for connecting headphones or external speakers). One noticeable feature is the DC IN power connection, which connects to an external power brick (the same you would find on a laptop's power cable). This helps keep the shape compact and the main display relatively cool—the exterior is built solid after all, with no vents or holes except for the speaker holes at the bottom.

The stand's pivot-flex design and build quality is excellent. Built with solid aluminum-zinc materials, the three-part stand has two hinges that allow you to tilt

and raise the display, and a rotary hinge connecting the stand to the monitor that lets you rotate the display 90 degrees into portrait orientation. The base plate (the foot) also hides a rotating disc under it, allowing you to easily twist the monitor around 180 degrees to each side. The stand in its entirety is heavy enough for stability, and the multiple hinges were able to hold different positions.

Image and video quality is very good overall, showing very slight (almost unnoticeable) banding on dark shades and a slight loss of contrast towards the lighter end of the spectrum. It also showed very little blurring on video and object movement tests, thanks to a quick 2ms response time, while colors and sharpness were ideal for a desktop display. —Sean de Jesus



All in all, this is a very attractive 22-inch kit, with bonuses such as HDMI input and a highly flexible stand. Performance is pretty good and the design and build quality is outstanding.

Screen size	22-inches
Max Resolution	1680 x 1050
Contrast Ratio	12000:1 (dynamic)
Brightness	300cd sq m
Response time	2ms
Ports	D-Sub, HDMI (with HDCP support), audio in/out