

digital tv 101 www.myetv.org/dtv

TV screens have a thread count, like sheets. TV threads are lines of light that run from the top of the screen to the bottom. Your old tv has a "thread count" of 480. Digital TV gives you more threads, so you get more detail. The two new thread counts are 720 and 1080, called HD (high definition).

i and *p* are how your tv set makes a pictures. *i* is "interlaced" and *p* is progressive. You can also think of it this way: *i* stands for "inexpensive", *p* stands for "prettier picture" and "pricier".

480*i*

your old tv
though still sold,
must carry warning label

480*p*

enhanced tv
digital, *not HD*
may not be widescreen

720*i*

never manufactured
doesn't exist

720*p*

digital and HD

1080*i*

digital and HD
top quality limit for tv channels

1080*p*

digital and HD
used for Blu-Ray, HD-DVD,
and enhanced video games

TYPE OF TV

PLASMA

neon and xenon gas
in a glass panel

PRO

excellent picture
better viewing
from side angles

CON

"burn-in"
possible
big sets use
lots of electricity

LCD

liquid crystal display

sharp picture
deep blacks
less expensive

better for
bright rooms

may be hard
to view from
side angle

too much blur
for gamers?

DLP

digital light projection

same technology in
digital movie theatres

good uniform picture
3D in future?

lamp must warm
up and cool down

rear-projection
may be hard to
view from side

LCoS

liquid crystal on silicon

very smooth picture
"elegant"
wait and see?

expensive
limited contrast
short lamp life

For informational
purposes only.
As always,
"buyer beware".

Trust your own
eyes and your
own judgment
when choosing
products.

