

19th Annual Product of the Year Awards

From the thousands of products introduced in 1994, the editors of Electronic Products have chosen the most outstanding. The selections are based on significant advances in technology or its application, a decided innovation in design, or a substantial gain in price-performance. As usual, picking winners was made difficult by the many impressive products announced during the year. Here is a product by Fujitsu Microelectronics, Inc., chosen as a 1994 award winner.



Large, full-color plasma display reaches commercial markets

In the on-going search for an alternative to the bulky CRT, Fujitsu has introduced to the commercial market a 21-in., full-color, ac plasma display, the FPF21C8060UA-02. While several other manufacturers have large color plasma displays for

show, they have not been able to reach the commercial market because of technical difficulties.

While plasma displays have many of the qualities of a CRT, including high brightness, high contrast ratio, fast response, wide viewing angle,

and recently, color capability, they come in a much thinner and lighter package. The FPF21C8060UA-02 measures 18.90 (H) x 15.75 (W) x 1.25 (D) in. while weighing only 11.16 lb.

Plasma displays are relatively easy to increase in size, and they are extremely rugged and safe. They do not implode, and the gases used (a mixture of xenon and neon) are highly stable. Active-matrix LCDs, long acclaimed as the future replacement for CRTs, have only just reached 21 in. diagonal as a prototype. Fujitsu has already declared that it will double its plasma display's size to 40 in. in two years.

At present, the FPF21C8060UA-02 has a resolution of 640 x 480, a dot pitch of 0.66 mm, a peak white luminance of 150 cd/m², and a viewing angle of 140°. The luminous efficiency is 0.7 lm/W. The device can display 64 gray shades and 262,000 colors with a contrast ratio of 60:1. Panel life exceeds 10,000 hours. (\$10,000—available now.)

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Joining in the race to oust the CRT in high-information-content display applications, the FPF21C8060UA-02 is the first large-screen plasma display to reach the commercial market.