



WideScreen The Essential Home Theatre Resource™ Review®

Wolf Cinema, the new projector company, had their demonstration set up in a theatre next door to the convention center, at The Denver Center for the Performing Arts. Now, when I say next door, it's kind of like saying Russia is next door to Alaska. But their demonstration was so impressive that I did it not once, but twice, in the snow, bare-foot... Seriously, the new high-end three-chip DLP projectors are something to see. The in-room **DCX-500FD** was being demonstrated, which features a full on/off contrast ratio up to 50,000:1 with 2,500 lumens light output, and is equipped with a VariScope 2.35:1 constant-height lens system, which is able to accommodate every motion picture aspect ratio. Two configurations were shown: a traditional stylish boxed version designed for in-room installation and an integration package version designed for installation in a soffit. All the DLP projectors in Wolf's product range feature Xenon lamps rated at 500 to 1,225 watts, and the projectors are optimized for custom installation, with promised reliability and service support. Saturday night was movie night, and Wolf was showing *The Matrix* on their Reference Analog 35mm film projector—popcorn and all. It really was something special, sitting there in the intimate theatre watching the film being played in 35mm film. The projectors are priced between \$60,000 and \$117,000 for the **DCX-500i**, **DCX-500FD**, **DCX-1000i**, **DCX-1000FD**, **DCX-1500i**, and **DCX-1500FD** models, with face plates, VariScope 2.35, and Wolf WARP options extra. The **Reference Analog** projector, with black levels down to 0.01 foot-Lamberts is priced at \$55,000, and the **Reference Digital** (with a 2048 x 1080 resolution and Texas Instruments' software packages for improved black levels with less noise and the ability to view digital cinema files for those who have access to them) is \$180,000. Also available is the **Reference Suite**, which includes two Reference Analogs, one Reference Digital, and a Cinema Audio Processor—all for \$300,000. Wolf's projectors aren't cheap, but, as in everything else in life, you get what you pay for. All of Wolf Cinema's projectors come with a 10-input scaler, which includes 6 HDMI 1.3 inputs and a dedicated HDMI 1.3 audio output for sending signals to a preamplifier/processor.