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LCD VIDEO MONITOR

CoolTouch RX-563AL LCD Color Monitor

by Joey Gill

One of the constants in both DTV and analog TV worlds is the need to view a picture. Although CRT displays are still widely accepted and are very common in the professional video world, other technologies are emerging and gaining wide acceptance. LCD monitors are competing heavily for leadership in display technology, trying to displace CRT's. LCD technology has improved greatly over the last decade, and the displays continue to improve.

One manufacturer who is successfully developing and marketing high quality LCD monitor solutions is CoolTouch Monitors

FEATURES

The CoolTouch monitor shipped to me for evaluation was an RX-563AL. It is a rack-mountable, triple display, 5.6-inch color NTSC device. The unit weighed in at about five pounds, and is 18.5-by-5.1-by-2.1 inches. The actual screen size is 4.54-by-3.44 inches. Screen type is TFT-LCD (thin film transistor, liquid crystal display).

The aspect ratio is 4:3, and the dot pitch is 0.116-by-0.348 mm. The unit is shipped with a 12 VDC power supply that provides three amps. The monitor is available in red, gold, blue, silver and black and accepts composite NTSC and PAL video, with auto-recog-

niton. Each display has two video inputs, but only a single audio input. This is not mono, just one channel of audio available with each screen. According to the manufacturer, the audio monitor is only intended to be for confidence purposes and as such is provided with very limit-



The CoolTouch RX-563AL three-unit LCD video monitor

ed quality. CoolTouch indicates that later models will enjoy enhanced audio features.

There are three screens, with operating controls below each. The controls include a power switch, an input selector, a menu button and up and down scroll-type buttons. There's also a small speaker opening.

On the rear of the unit you will find the power connector, four input and output BNC connectors for each screen (channels A and B, plus loop-through), a toggle switch to select internal 75-ohm termination for each of the video inputs, an 1/8-inch mini audio jack for each monitor and very good labeling for each connector, switch and jack.

Viewing angle has always been one of the

limitations of LCD technology; however, the CoolTouch unit appears to be as good as any I've seen. The viewing angle for the top is 30 degrees, and the viewing angle for the bottom is 10 degrees. Left to right acceptable viewing is 90 degrees. To aid in connection with limited viewing angles, some manufacturers have added mechanisms that allow their displays to tilt up and down.

The CoolTouch unit has a very slick mechanism that allows users to easily adjust the display's tilt in the rack. However, there are no buttons to push or screws to loosen to change the angle. The monitor will stay where you put it due to the "ball-detent" system designed into it. The unit's workmanship appears to be top quality. The

FAST FACTS

Application

Video and audio confidence monitoring in limited space and other areas

Key Features

Compact design, supports multiple video formats, ease of operation, latest LCD technology

Contact

CoolTouch Monitors LLC
310-923-1354
www.cooltouchmonitors.com

