

**ViewSonic**  
*See the difference.*



 **LG Electronics**



**Huh????!!!**

**FUJITSU** COMPLETES  
**SIEMENS**



**PHILIPS**



ADC Connector



Digital

Digital

Digital



*Aaaa-hhhh!!!*

*I struck while the iron was hot*

*- so exciting !!!!!*

I've had my new 17" Apple Studio Display for a week, a Liquid Crystal Display (LCD), and am still walking on air ... Quite apart from the clarity and size, it responds at a rate which makes the whole Mac seem noticeably faster.

Only thing is, of course, is that for the last five years I've been working with two screens side-by-side - usually whatever it is I'm producing sits on the main one, and I spread out the controls and palettes on the other, so I don't have to keep clicking things into the foreground and remembering what's hidden all the time.

The screen which used to be my main one is now my second, and although it's also a 17" Apple Studio Display, wonderfully empowering compared with what I had before, it's the Cathode Ray Tube model (CRT), and when I move my eyes from one to the other, it's almost like someone switched the lights out: it's also so much higher up physically that switching from one to the other gives a me crick in the neck ...

I bought it together with the G3 PowerMac, and it suits very well with that, so I thought I would let them carry on living together wherever they're going to be, and consider a 15" liquid crystal display as a possible screen 2 for the G4, which is due to come in a week or so.

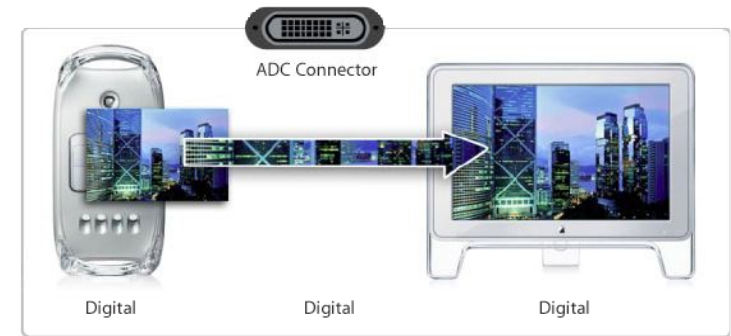


I'd spent several hours checking out alternatives, and had come down in favour of LG's model, which at an affordable €300 still had the fastest response rate of any I saw - that's the speed at which the little crystal lights are switched on and off.

I was in the process of writing down my thoughts to check with local Mac-guru Ulf, when I realised there was a significant factor which I hadn't taken account of: computers think digitally, a liquid crystal display thinks digitally, but the standard connection between them, VGA, is made for analogue screens: most manufacturers choose VGA because there are still so many Windows-computers which were made for cathode ray tube screens and only have that outlet. But the result is a long-winded process of converting digital > analogue between the computer and the connection, and back again from analogue > digital between the connection and the screen. This - says Apple - leads to all kinds of degradation (or do I mean degrading?!) - fuzzy edges, colour shifts, alignment, brightness/contrast.

Apple's display system is now completely digital right down to the tips of its toes (i.e. including the connection), so you don't have to mess around with all this: it was when I read this for the tenth time this morning that I understood it for the first time, and then my thoughts went again to trying to get a second Apple display alongside the first one.

I wanted first to ask someone who knows how significant these degradations are in practice, but Ulf was off selling insurance, so I couldn't ask him: at the same time I didn't even know if there was an affordable Apple screen available - a second Apple screen needs a €100 adapter, so second 17" model would cost €900, and I had to accept that that was simply not reasonable. As far as I could see, there was only one new 15" model in the whole of Sweden, on the 'clearance' list of a firm far away in Helsingborg: but three e-mail letters and three phone calls had failed to establish details like whether they still had it, which it was of the two different models with the same name, and so on ...



Lagerrensning



15" Apple Studio Display



So I rang a fourth time, and now the guy was back after having been off sick and visiting customers: at first he thought I was someone who had written and offered a lower price, and it said 'Wasn't it you who thought it was a bit too expensive?': I had the feeling that that was what he thought himself, and it gave me a clue that he was ready for a bit of bartering :-)

So it wasn't long before we had agreed that they would treat me to the shipping, as well as the VAT on both the screen and the adapter, and that I would transfer the money in advance so we didn't have to mess around with COD fees :-) The final price was €500, which is only €170 more than the one I'd nearly bought, and for that I'm wholly digital, wholly Apple, and free of degrading problems, and it'll arrive next week :-)

When the guy heard that I already had the 17" model, he said 'Goodness me, it's going to look beautiful!'; he asked if I had lots of Macs around me, thought it sounded great that I'd bought and sold fourteen G3 PowerMacs, wondered if I had started off as a Windows-user, knew well the source of my inspiration, Apple's 1991 multimedia *Welcome to Macintosh*, said he'd been a 'Mac-believer' since 1985 - 'I missed the first year!' - and that the firm had been selling Macs since 1987 :-)

*variant 1:*

- a wide picture stretches itself across both screens



And now the money's all gone, so once the new G4 comes, it'll be time for consolidating and learning how to make movies with Apple's Final Cut Pro, which I picked up at one-tenth of the real price because someone had bought it and found it too advanced.

David



*variant 2:*

- the piece you're producing on one screen, the controls and palettes on the other.

