

AOC e2343F2k

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By Zara Baxter | Wednesday, 2 March, 2011



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First impressions are good – the screen of the e2343F2k is just 1.29cm thick, and the entire thing is a lush and glossy piano black. The bezel is just as svelte, which helps make the screen feel super-wide, bigger than its actual 23.6 inches. The base includes touch-sensitive controls for power and OSD. There's minimal setup required: just flick a switch on the base, level up the screen off the base, and you're done.

There's not much in the way of adjustment available – you can angle the lever arm a little, and swivel the screen, but there's no height adjustment and minimal tilt. At least the screen is matte, so even without the adjustment, you should be able to find an angle without glare, even under neon lights.

It's when you adjust the monitor, however, that you'll notice that all those sleek lines also mean a lot of wobble. I was a little worried I'd irreparably bend or break the screen while moving it around, and while it should be stable once on your desk, it's not the kind of screen that will play well with animals, small children or aggressive desk-shaking printers. There's a lot of flex in the panel itself, but it seems resilient despite its apparent flimsiness.

But enough about the looks; how does it perform?

As with most LED-backlit screens, the screen is bright, with deep blacks and bright whites. AOC claim a dynamic contrast ratio (DCR) of 1,000,000:1, and we measured a calibrated contrast ratio of 365:1. Those two numbers sound wildly disparate, but our measured contrast ratio is the difference between a static black and static white, rather than the DCR's deepest and brightest over time. In our performance testing, using the suite of LCD benchmarks at lagom.nl, the AOC performed slightly better than the Luvia we tested last month. Contrast is excellent, and gradients were smooth with no apparent banding. We saw some flickering and pixel walk during the inversion testing, but the e2343F2 only offers HDMI and VGA connections, so the results of that test (using the VGA cable to connect to our test laptop) aren't too surprising. We'd expect less flicker through HDMI. Having said that, the lack of DVI is disappointing, given its current ubiquity on desktops and laptops.

The default colour setting – warm – was set to sRGB for our tests, but we found that whichever colour temperature or setting was used, there was a slight yellow cast to the image. Colour accuracy was otherwise very good, although there's a definite colour gradient across the screen, and the edge backlight bleed is notable. These aren't unusual results for LED screens, however, and the AOC is no worse than most monitors with similar specifications. We'd perhaps avoid it for professional photography or desktop publishing, but most computing uses should be fine.

The grey-to-grey response time was snappy – AOC advertises 2ms – and we found no noticeable ghosting during testing – this monitor should perform well for video and games.

We'd recommend the AOC predominantly for general purpose computing, but what it comes down to, at that point, is deciding which of the current 23.6-inch monitors offer the best performance for price. At \$399 the e2343Fw is more expensive than the Chi Mei 23-inch monitor we reviewed last month, but it's also better quality. We think it's worth spending a little extra, in this case.