

THE PVM-20L5 PRE-PURCHASE SWEEP

The one-page companion to the full buying guide at orlandu.com — print it, fold it, take it to the seller's garage.

BRING

A geometry grid you control — the **240p Test Suite** on whichever console travels easiest. A moving blanket. A friend: this is a seventy-three-pound, two-person lift.

1 · START WITH THE GRID — it tells you the most, fastest

- ☐ Corner-to-corner grid on screen — from **your** source, not the seller's hookup
- ☐ Verticals actually vertical at the far left and far right — no bowing
- ☐ Box spacing even from edge to edge — one side stretched wider is a different conversation
- ☐ Red/green/blue fringes separate only slightly, only in the corners — drift is adjustable; bent lines mean a service bench and a bill

2 · THEN THE REST OF THE SWEEP

- ☐ Full white field — purity, uniformity and blotching; watch corners for color casts, center for dimness
- ☐ Full black in a dim room — retrace lines, glow, a badly set screen control
- ☐ A real 240p source — clean lock, honest scanline structure (it's what you're buying it for)
- ☐ Every input, one at a time — composite, S-Video, the RGB/component BNCs, and whatever is in the option slot
- ☐ Every front-panel button and pot — scratchy controls and dead buttons are common and annoying
- ☐ The plastics — bezel tabs, handles, vent slots; cracks here are forever
- ☐ Chassis and rear — rust, water staining, evidence of a hard life in a rack or a damp garage
- ☐ Switched on from cold, then again after half an hour — some faults only live at one end of that

3 · JUDGING THE TUBE — there is no hours counter

- ☐ Whites clean, not dull and warm · blacks deep, not gray · picture deep, not washed
- ☐ Normal brightness **without** the screen control run up high — a maxed control is compensation for a tired tube
- ☐ Ask what the settings were before you arrived; be suspicious of brightness and contrast near maximum

4 · THE CARD QUESTION

The option slot changes the price. A unit already carrying the right input card is worth more than the same monitor plus that card bought separately — the cards are their own hunt. Weigh it properly, not as a bonus.

5 · MONEY

Verify against current eBay **sold** listings — sold, not asking — before you make an offer. The gap between those two is where most disappointment lives.

RULE ONE: DO NOT SHIP IT. Buy one you can drive to. The only exception is a freight company that will crate it properly **and** insure it for what it is actually worth — both, or walk away.

Orlandu's Arcade · Orange County, California · the full guide, with the why behind every line: orlandu.com/pvm-2015-buying-guide.html