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DoubleSight Dual 15" LCD - Josh



Josh puts DoubleSight's Dual 15" Monitor under the microscope.



Once in a great while, a product hits the test bench that is beyond the scopes of any scale previously used to gauge quality and performance. I give you Double Sight's Dual 15" LCD monitor.

Double Sight, a rather new face in the display market, is aiming to make a huge impact and succeeding in that goal day by day. Their introductory product offering is the dual 15" LCD that I see before me today. Here are a few specs from Double Sight's website:

Display

Panel Type	Dual 15" TFT-LCD
Viewable Area	608.2mm (24 inches) horizontal; 228.1mm (9 inches) vertical
Resolution	2048 x 768 max.
Colors	16M max.
Brightness	250 cd/m2 typ.
Contrast Ratio	400:1 typ.
Pixel Pitch	0.297mm
Pixel Configuration	R,G,B vertical stripe
Response Time	25ms typ. (Tr+Tf)
Viewing Angle	-65~+65° horizontal; -45~+55° vertical typ.
Glass Treatments	Anti-glare, hard coating
Lamp Life	30,000 hours min.

Input Signals

Video	Analog 0.7 Vp-p; 75 ohms
Frequency	31.5~60.0 KHz horizontal; 56~75 Hz vertical
Sync	TTL, positive/negative, separate sync.

Connection

Video Connectors	Two 15-pin D-sub type
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User Controls

Manual Control Buttons	SELECT, MENU, LEFT, RIGHT, EXIT, AUTO, POWER
On-screen Display Functions	Select Source, Brightness, Contrast, Color, Position (horizontal/vertical), Image (phase, clock), Misc. Menu (reset, language, OSD position, system information)

Power

Voltage	Input: AC 100~240V, 50~60Hz; Output: DC+12V, 4.0A max.
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Packaging:

I must admit the packaging the monitor was shipped in was rather disconcerting. I don't know how this box with a picture of the monitor on the side in full color made it through FedEx's hands and through my receiving department without being noticed and stolen.



The package was completely unharmed and in great condition. I had no doubts that

the monitor that lay inside would be in one piece and fully functional.



Once the box was opened I noticed the decent foam packing that keeps the screen snug in one place during even the roughest of shipping routes. The parts are all situated as to not come in contact with one another and cause any damage.



Inside the package you will find the following:

- 1 Dual Screen Flat Panel Monitor
 - 1 Monitor Stand
 - 2 vga cables
 - 1 Power cord/Block
 - Several Manuals/Guides

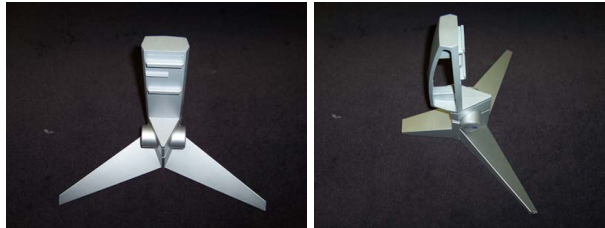
Some Assembly required: (Some is a big word)

Everything is out of the box now and time to put her together. A quick lift of the monitor and set on the stand and it slides right into place effortlessly.



This is one of the most hassle free stands I've ever had the pleasure of putting

together. The monitor is extremely stable while in the stand and has a lot of room for movement and adjustment to the extreme variety of users who will find themselves in front of one.



Attached the 2 vga cables and the power block and the display was up and running.

Dive a little deeper:

Setting up this monitor was a breeze, so let's see how easy it is to navigate the seemingly complex "Smart Control" Technology.

"Smart Control?" You ask. Ok let's put this into perspective with a few words from DoubleSight's website.

DoubleSight's patent-pending "Intelligent Multi-screen Control Mechanism" technology and industrial design employ a single controlling motherboard that seamlessly manages and adjusts the display of multi-screen monitors. By distributing or replicating signals to both display panels, users have the ability to display a different window on each monitor panel at the same time, or stretch Excel spreadsheets across two monitors so they can see more columns without scrolling. While using one monitor to do research on the Web, users can summarize their data in a Word document on the other monitor panel. DoubleSight's one-stop access for controlling dual displays also includes intuitive menu-driven on-screen display controls for selecting how the user wants to set up each LCD panel.

"Huh??" Ok, that was a lot of info. Let me explain. Basically the dual screen monitor isn't a wide screen monitor in the most basic thought. It uses built in software to decide what input is displayed where and can be configured numerous ways. "Smart Control" is DoubleSight's way of making this all user-friendly. Push a button and you get what you want, when you want it.

The first time I booted my system with the DoubleSight attached it auto-calibrated itself like any high-end LCD does. This ensures you won't be fumbling around with tuning the horizontal and vertical ratios for an hour. (Editors note: If that is your thing they still allow you to play with it.)

Once in an OS (Win XP to be exact) the display was extremely clear and refresh was beaming along and unnoticeable. A quick press of a button and I had the same

desktop on both screens. Nifty! Press again and one screen is blank. (2nd machine isn't hooked up yet)



“2nd machine???” Yes, that’s right I said 2nd machine. Anyone can hook up this beauty to a 2nd video card or 2nd output on a single card. I wanted this review to not only showcase the monitor’s qualities but to open your mind to something extremely different and something that will make this monitor triple in productive value.

Time to boot machine number 2. Auto-calibration went fine in Fedora and I had it on the right screen and XP on the left screen. I know what you’re thinking , wow , you saved all that room with your dual screen flat panel and you have 2 keyboards on your desk and 2 mice , good one.. Well , Allow me to introduce you to Synergy. Synergy uses server/client architecture and your LAN to allow you to use 1 keyboard and mouse on any number of pc’s. The machines don’t even need to be in the same room. Slide the mouse to the edge of the screen and you’ll traverse monitors and be on the opposite screen , keyboard is now focused there as well slide it back and it’s just like using an extended desktop but with 2 separate machines running any operating system combination. I’m not going to go into the dynamics of the software as this is a review of the monitor not the software. I will however give you the link and suggest downloading it and running it.

<http://synergy2.sourceforge.net/>

Back to the review:

Now that I have both machines up and running on the test bench it was almost time to put these monitors through some tests. First of course I had to get a sweet dual monitor wallpaper and slice it up for the 2 machines.



The wallpapers even though running on 2 different cards , from 2 different machines stayed at the same brightness and same clarity. It was amazing how similar they were. Like the image was one big image flowing under the skinny black bar that separates the 2 displays.

I ran a few games on both displays (under wineX for linux of course) and refresh rate was never noticeable during any test. All whites were extremely crisp and not washed out in the least. I also noticed that I didn't have any ghosting that is all too common on low-end LCD units.

The one downfall (Yah I know there always has to be at least one.) Is the max resolution is locked at 2048 x 768. I would like to see higher resolutions in the future but I will say that this is more then adequate at the price the unit is offered.

The Conclusion:

I have yet to see any product put a smile on as many faces and induce as many questions as this monitor did. 3 co-workers bought these screens just from what they'd seen on my desk and are all currently running them on cross linux/2k setup using Synergy.

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I highly suggest this be your multi-display solution whether it is, in your bedroom, your office, your work place or your kitchen, if that's what suits you. The tons of features combined with the ease of use make this display an asset for anyone struggling with other multi monitor solutions available to consumers today.

I'd like to see the 2x15" model hit higher maximum resolutions, but the current 2048 x 768 provides more than enough space for the average to advanced user. I would

also like to see larger screen size combinations, which I'm sure, are already currently in the works at DoubleSight. If you are interested in purchasing one of these beauties, head over to DoubleSight's website and grab one!!

Pros:	Cons:
Double the screen space in 1 unit.	2048 x 768 Maximum Resolution
Easy to use configuration and assembly.	Available sizes limited to 2x15"
Crystal clear display in multiple environments..	
Ability to rotate displays from screen to screen effortlessly.	
Multiple display systems shouldn't be without this display.	
Extremely efficient when used on multiple systems in combination with Synergy	



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