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**Displays** 

## The DoubleSight DS1700 Gives Your PC Double Vision

### Introduction

### Article Info

#### The DoubleSight DS1700 Gives Your PC Double Vision

**Created:**  
March 31, 2005

**By:**  
[Benoit Dupont](#)

**Category:**  
[Displays](#)

**Summary:**  
Here at THG we review lots of hardware geared towards gamers, but there are many of you who need screens for work, not play. If you are a professional who is looking for more display space and resolution, DoubleSight's dual 17" LCD monitor may be the answer for you.



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As a prelude to our professional display solution roundup, we want to offer you a chance to learn about **DoubleSight** and its dual 17 inch [LCD monitor](#), the DS1700. If you are a designer looking for more screen real estate, or a CAD professional seeking an affordable resolution upgrade, the dual monitor option might be the right answer for

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you. But is the DoubleSight solution viable compared to two separate [LCD panels](#)? That's what we're going to figure out.

### DS1700

Diagonal measurement	17 inches
Native resolution	Dual 1280x1024
Contrast	500:1
Brightness	300 cd/m <sup>2</sup>
Latency	13 ms
Colors	16.2 M
H/V viewing angles	150/135
Loudspeakers	Yes
Connectivity	VGA, DVI
Average price	\$1100

### Design

The DS1700 is clearly oriented towards professional use, with all the advantages and drawbacks that implies as far as design is concerned. The finish is really nice, having a build quality rarely seen on consumer LCD panels. The plastics are good looking and tough, and the stand is a real masterpiece with fine mechanics and robust steel arms.

The panels themselves, however, show nothing special. As professionals are the real targets, the buttons are not placed in some funky location just to enhance the design. They stand straight below the panels, clearly labeled, easy to find.



While the overall quality is impressive, the most obvious drawbacks from a design perspective are due to the professional intended use of this [dual monitor](#). Plastics are robust, but the device looks bulky. Buttons are easy to find, but not really integrated into the device layout. All small things professionals are used to living with anyway.

One thing that surprised me - well, annoyed me, to be honest - is the bezel width. The manufacturer gave this unit big, bulky panel edges, for no obvious reason I could ascertain. While this is not a big deal in the case of a single [monitor](#), it becomes quit

noticeable on a dual one. Indeed, a thin bezel (like Samsung, ViewSonic or NEC have) would be preferable, to get a smooth field of view transition from one screen to the other.

**NEXT: Ergonomic**





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## The DoubleSight DS1700 Gives Your PC Double Vision

### Ergonomics



This is an area where we must be merciless in evaluating a professional-caliber [monitor](#). If you are using your monitor 10 hours a day, 5 days a week, you want it comfortable, user-friendly and painless to operate. Fortunately, the DS1700 fared pretty well in this area.

The stand is really well designed, and setting up the DS1700 was fairly easy. You do not need any tools to put the stand on and attach the screen to it. Once that is done, you only have to plug in the [cables](#) and power.

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One issue is that the stand does not work when you have only one monitor on it; you need the second one to balance the weight and make it stable. The stand itself is adjustable in height, and you can adjust the angle between the two panels with a reasonable amount of headroom. On the embedded [software](#) side, the on-screen display (OSD) is well-made, clear and feature-filled. The buttons on the front of the device make the OSD easy to navigate.

Overall, I was pleased with the usability of the DS1700.

**Features**

I have one small nit to pick here. There is a dual VGA/DVI input on both panels, with each basically treated as a separate device. We would have preferred an integrated power unit. The DS1700 still uses external transformers, although I do not see any reason for that. There are no [speakers](#) or [USB](#) connectors, either.

[BACK](#) | [NEXT: Color Quality](#)



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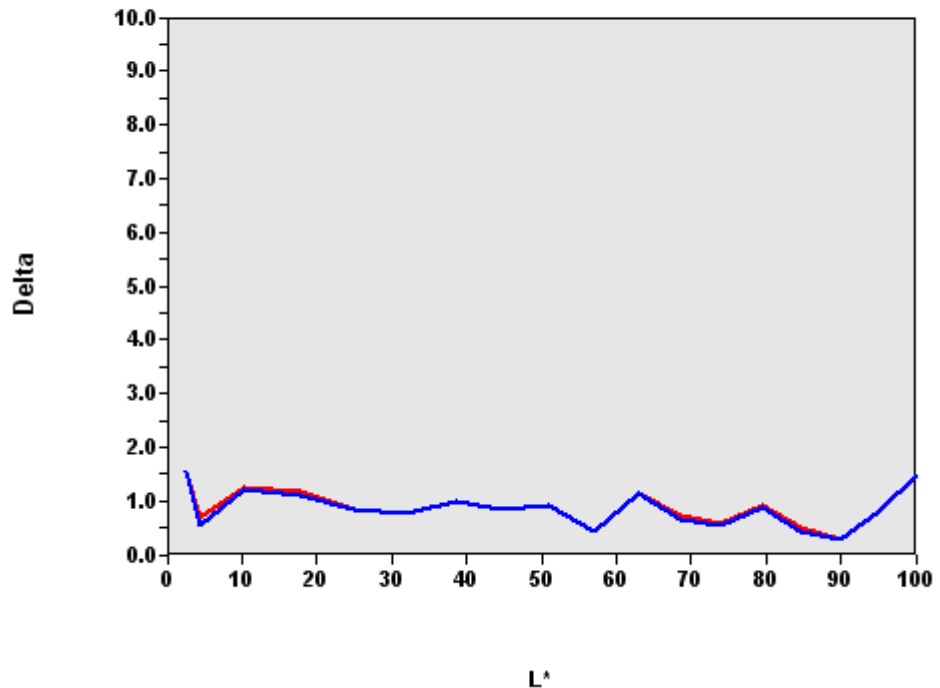
## The DoubleSight DS1700 Gives Your PC Double Vision

### Color Quality

We subjected the DS1700 panels to our calibration test, and the results were quite good.

### Delta Tracking

E\*  
C\*



As we've seen before, this graph shows the difference between the desired color shade and the one actually displayed.

- If DeltaE >3, then the color displayed is significantly

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different from the one called for, meaning that the user will be able to perceive the difference.

- If  $\Delta E < 2$ , [LaCie](#) considers the calibration successful, with a slight difference remaining, yet all but undetectable by the user.
- If  $\Delta E < 1$ , the color fidelity is excellent.



In this case, the colors all show a  $\Delta E < 2$ . So, there is a difference between the requested and displayed tone, but it's unlikely to be noticeable. This was the result we had for the consumer color space: 6500 K and a gamma of 2.2. But as this is a professional screen, you might be interested in other color spaces, so we also tested it at a color temperature of 7500 K.

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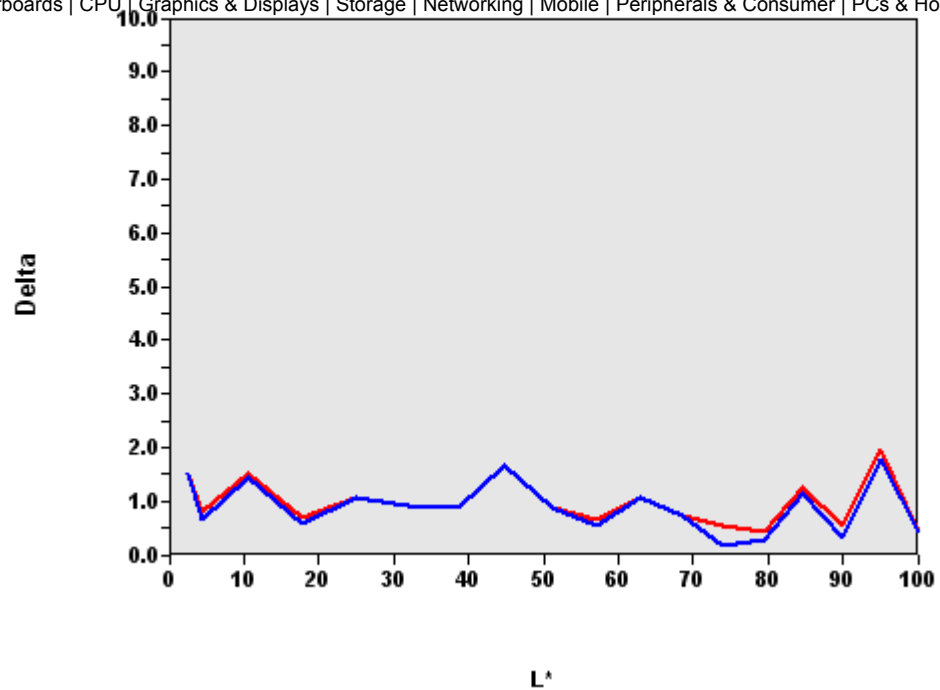
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## Delta Tracking

E\*  
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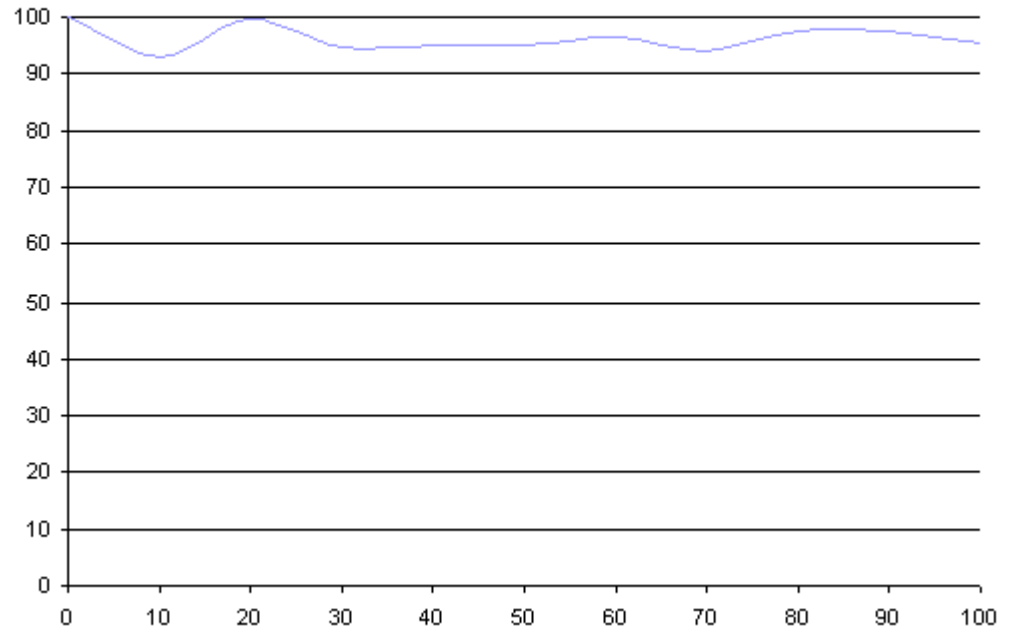
The results are a little worse but still acceptable.

Unfortunately, the screen doesn't feature 5500 K color temperature. This is probably a deal-breaker for photographers, as that value corresponds to the daylight white balance standard. This is actually a fairly significant limitation for a professionally-oriented display. I would have preferred to see lower K values available.

Black spot	White spot	Contrast
0.7	270	385: 1

Contrast is rather good on this device, but the white spot at optimal calibration point is too high. Same is true for the black level: way too high in our opinion. On the one hand this might be a good solution to getting clear images if you have a lot of light in your office. On the other hand, working day long under these conditions might be considered by some to be "retinal suicide." We strongly suggest a luminosity of 150 to 180 cd/m<sup>2</sup> maximum under normal light.

### contrast stability



This curve indicates the contrast value measured at a given brightness adjustment seen via the OSD. In theory, brightness and contrast are independent parameters, and good contrast stability is required regardless of the brightness adjustment. Unfortunately that isn't always the case in practice.

Our test showed the contrast of the DS1700 to be very stable across the luminosity settings, which makes the screen easier to adjust to ambient lighting conditions.

[BACK](#) | [NEXT: Spatial Uniformity](#)



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## The DoubleSight DS1700 Gives Your PC Double Vision

### Spatial Uniformity

We measured the uniformity of the panel's lighting, using the standard THG method. For those of you who aren't familiar with it, here's a recap. We set the panel at 50% brightness and 50% contrast and measure the uniformity of the lighting on a white image separated into 64 areas of equal size. The brightest point is considered to be 100%, and the previously measured black value is considered 0%, with the other value obtained distributed between them.

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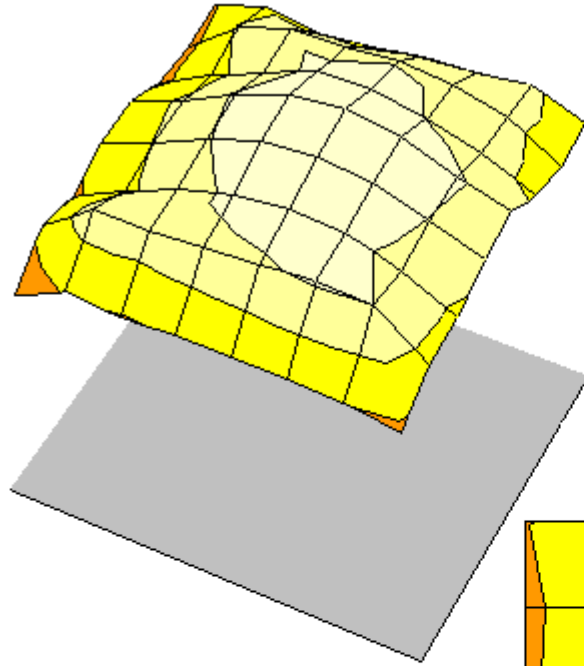
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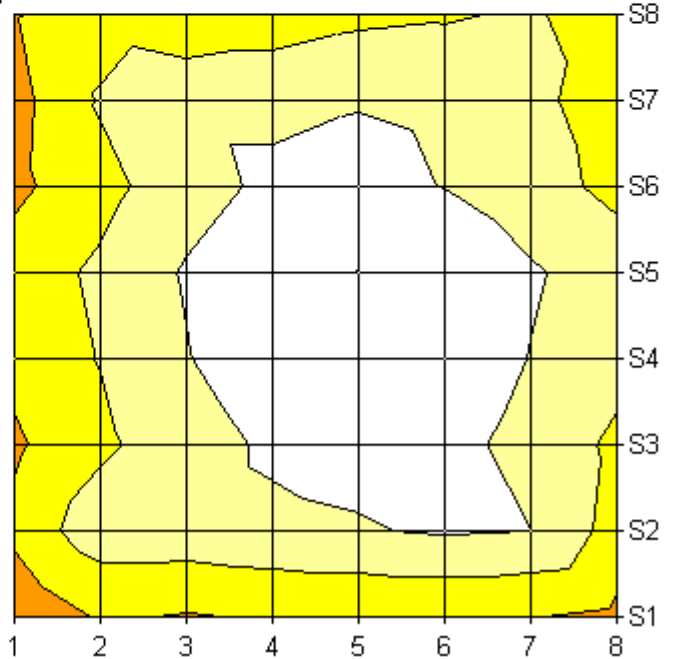
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Here, the spatial uniformity is within the average range encountered across LCD tested by THG. Not bad, but not better than others.

The overall static performance of the DS1700 is okay and suits the needs of certain applications well, especially if you work in bright conditions. But still I miss the 5000 K preset here.

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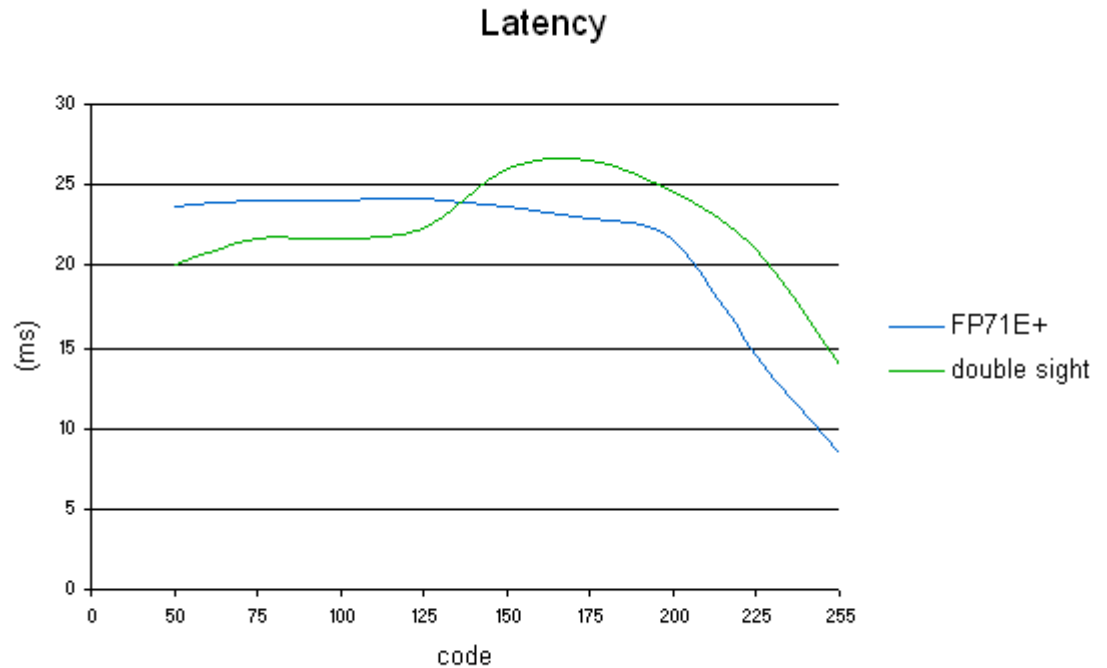


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Now let's take a look at the matter of moving pictures.

## Reasonably Fast

The DS1700 performs well in our standard latency test, but it's clearly not outstanding.



Again we'll recall our test method: the curve shows the different latency values for various levels of gray. A black-white alternation is shown on the curve by a point at X axis 255, a black-light-gray alternation produces a point at X-axis 125, black-dark-gray shows as 50, etc.

The official ISO latency rating specified by the manufacturer is only for black/white transitions (0/255). While the value we measured agrees with the manufacturer on this point, it's not of much value in judging the actual responsiveness of the panel in practice.

As you can see from the curve, this is not the best [monitor](#) we have ever had here a THG, but it performs relatively well. Even if the performances are not state-of-the-art for a 17" LCD, they are as good as a consumer 19" 12 ms panel as far as latency is concerned.

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Let's start with the negative points. Video is clearly not the best attribute of this unit. Apart from the video noise, the biggest issue is the poor range of viewing angles. Of course, the panels are not meant for that. [Gaming](#) is not bad with good latency and vibrant colors. Still, the high black level is not ideal for ambience games like [Doom 3](#) for example. Then again, the panels are not really designed for gamers either.



The use of this device in an office environment is what's really interesting, and that's actually where a dual screen makes perfect sense. It's a cheap way to get extra screen space and resolution. When you consider that a 1600x1200 panel will cost you \$700, the DS1700 offers 2560x1024 for less than \$1100. The adjustments are good enough to let you get a comfortable ergonomic work position, and you can also rotate the screens to get portrait mode view if you need to (though in that respect, the poor viewing angles of TN panels are not ideal.) You will also have to lower the brightness quite a bit to get less eye stress.

## Conclusion

Based on what I have seen, the DS1700 is a good productivity screen. Its build quality is high and it features good ergonomics. As the video is rather poor and it lacks 5000K color temperature, I am afraid this [monitor](#) will be mostly used for monitoring tasks like lab equipment, finance graphs, audio studio wave monitoring and so forth, because that's where its qualities make the most sense.

Should you choose the DS1700 or two separate [monitors](#)? Well, that's another story. Sure two separate screens like the [Samsung 710T](#) will give you a thinner bezel. It will be cheaper too. But the DS1700 still has the integrated display solution card to play around with it you are sure to get matched displays and not devices that may be very different.

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