



The Lone Wolf

Designed for true videophiles, the Wolf projectors with their top notch performance quality are here to stay. Must say, a true winner in the offing!



is due to their high quality that you will find a Wolf projector as a reference projector in a number of studios across the world. For starters, we have reviewed a projector from their entry level series called the SDC-12.

OUT OF THE BOX

The SDC-12 is a rather unusual design for hi-end projector—very subtle and subdued as compared to a number of other such hi-end projectors that claim half of their price for the looks that they carry. But we really like the simple elegance that the SDC-12 wears with it. Though a box, the subtle nuance of the wire mesh in the front fascia and a slight luster and shine flowing all across its body makes it a treat for the eyes.

TECHNOLOGY

Though SDC-12 looks subtle and understated, but when it comes to technical features, it is no less than a nuclear bomb. The SDC-12 is a full HD 3D projector powered by JVC's D-ILA technology which claims to produce stunning film-like pictures with deep contrast level performance and natural colour renditions. The total system in this Wolf projector is complemented by advanced video processing and precision optics for razor-sharp imaging equipment from the biggest leaders in the industry. It does come across like a high profile OEM activity but the best and most unique part about Wolf projectors is that each projector is carefully hand-calibrated at the factory by utilising exhaustive man-hours to ensure top performance when viewing both 2D and 3D content.

Another interesting feature of the SDC-12 is the 4K video capability that it proudly boasts of in all the literature that you will find for the projector. Now the trick here is that the SDC-12 (also known as GrayWolf-4K) is not a native 4K playback device; instead, it is capable of upscaling your regular SD and HD video to 4K resolution using its advanced V4K technology. The final result of which is a seamless film-like image that can easily fill home-theater screens up to 12 feet in width. And one more feature that will excite projector aficionados

In keeping up with our mission of introducing at least one new brand every issue, this time for our 'Projector Special' issue, we present to you, Wolf projectors. Based out of Berkeley, USA, Wolf Cinema is known across the world for its high quality projectors that offer immense flexibility, control and longevity to the end-user. It

Specification

- TYPE** D-ILA (3D)
- BRIGHTNESS** 1300 ANSI
- CONTRAST RATIO** 70000:1
- RESOLUTION** 1920x1080p
- MAXIMUM SCREEN SIZE** NA
- LAMP LIFE** 3000- 4000Hrs (In Normal Mode)
- WEIGHT** 28Kg
- DIMENSIONS**



Wolf Cinema SDC-12	
PRICE	₹ 11,99,000 ₹ 60,000 (3D Emitter With Two Glasses)
WARRANTY	2 Years
CATEGORY	Projector
AESTHETICS	★★★★★
BUILD	★★★★★
VIDEO	★★★★★
EASE OF USE	★★★★★
VFM	★★★★★
WHAT SAY AV?	
We were truly impressed with the Wolf SDC-12. The projector gives 100% in terms of performance and accordingly scores very high on price-to-performance ratio. Be it picture quality, connectivity, ease of use and more importantly convenience of use; Wolf scores full marks here.	
OVERALL	★★★★★
CONTACT www.soundandvisionhifi.com	

the most is their VariScope Lens memory system. Now, with at least a dozen of film formats active in the market, this feature is like a magic wand in the hand of user who would always like to enjoy the best of all worlds. This system enables one click access to five of the most common widescreen aspect ratios – ex: 1.78:1, 1.85:1, 2.20:1, 2.35:1 and 2.40:1. So you don't have to waste your precious time in adjusting the screen size every time you put in a Blu-ray disc with some different aspect ratio. Very handy we must say.

REMOTE CONTROL

The remote for the SDC-12 is spot on for the placement of buttons, convenience of use and also the way it fits in your hands. So there is hardly any complaint on the usage front. But we would have loved if the remote was a tad more elegant and stylish. The plastic, kind of kills the fun to use it (especially after you have paid Rs 12 lakhs for the projector).

PERFORMANCE

Setting up the SDC-12 is quite fun, if you like to dwell in the world of brightness, contrast, colour management and gamma management. The SDC-12 offers a plethora of options for you to tweak the picture according to your liking and its super easy to do it as well. The best part about the projector setup that we liked was that it is made for both first time users and also experts. For first time users, there are good start points that will help them get the desired picture and for experts it is like a treasure cove where they can adjust the slightest bit of picture performance as they want. A good example of this is where you can adjust the RGB settings not only for black levels but also for white levels. This is like extreme precision! This time we decided to go the easier way wherein we started using the projector just as it came—right out of the box. One can truly trust Wolf's claims of those exhaustive man-hours behind every single projector. As even without any initial tweaking the picture quality, the Wolf SDC-12 projector managed to reproduce was simply



spell bounding. The details in the black levels were so stark that, while watching a Blu-ray for a 'Hit Man Returns: David Foster & Friends', we could actually see the difference between the textures of blazers worn by every artist on the screen. Very impressive! Even the brightness that the projector managed to produce was highly commendable. There is a setting within the projector wherein you can actually select the lamp power that you would want to use. Even at a regular lamp setting the projector was comfortably lighting up a screen as big as 140" in its full glory. There is a high lamp output mode that will come in really handy when you are watching 3D movies. The high lamp output mode neatly compensates for the dip in brightness that you will get because of active shutter 3D that the Wolf projector employs. Speaking of 3D, the SDC-12 was absolutely hassle free when it comes to 3D rendition.

The glasses are very handy and most importantly very lightweight (as compared to other active shutter 3D glasses). There was a problem of vertical viewing angle wherein the 3D rendition lost its definition whenever we tried to see it at vertical angle of more than 45 degrees to the screen (ideally in a lying down position on a

recliner). The best solution for this is to have your screen set up in a way that it does not feel as if you are looking upwards like in a dome theatre and have it more on an eye-level height. With this, you will never have the problem of vertical viewing angle.

Lastly we decided to try the 4K upscaling in the projector and put in a Blu-ray of 'Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara'. The 4K mode works quite interestingly in the SDC-12. By what we could make out, it considerably enhances the sharpness and detail in the image so that it looks crisper and more resolute. The good thing about this feature is that you have enough control over the amount of sharpness enhancement that you would want. Otherwise the sharpness enhancement can go overboard to make the picture look very gimmicky and unnatural. As we could see in the Blu-ray, at 'High Resolution' 4K mode the edges of all the characters seemed highly made-up and very artificially sharp. But at the same time in the 'Film' mode, the same images were optimally sharp and even the detail was aesthetically enhanced which truly accentuated the viewing experience. This feature will truly come in handy in mega screen sizes.

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