

NU QL-711V 17" LCD Monitor

Product Introduction

NU is a newcomer to the IT industry and is a trademark of the Quanta Storage Inc., a member of the Taiwanese corporation Quanta. NU is primarily concerned in the production of optical storage devices, LCD monitors, television sets, and PDP TVs. This brand's optical storage devices has are endowed with the strength of Quanta Storage Inc., the world's third ranked supplier of slim optical drives to call on..

LCD monitors are a major business to NU. Current global LCD panel supplies come from Japan, Korea and Taiwan, with the latter two taking up the biggest slice of the action. Quanta Display Inc. is one of big 5 Taiwanese LCD panel manufacturers. Of course, Quanta Display Inc. and Quanta Storage Inc. both belong under the umbrella of the Quanta Corporation; making a supply of high-quality, high-tech LCD panels a much simpler affair. This, of course, also represents the key that allows NU to create superior LCD monitor products.

The QL-711V was NU's first product; the 17" design aimed primarily at entry-level consumers. As the brand's preliminary effort, it was a wise choice to start from a low-end price point.



Making up the exterior of the QL-711V is a basic black shell ornamented by a stylish and modern-looking perforated and sculpted aluminum frame which serves to deliver a more dynamic, lively feel and accentuate the size of the screen.



We find the NU logo emblazoned at the top left corner of the front and dead center of the rear .

The monitor features an integrated inverter unit causing the rear end of the monitor to be on the thick side. An integrated inverter is beneficial as users no longer are no longer required to reserve space for an external inverter brick, keeping the desk neat, and there is reduced likelihood for malfunction.



Featured at the front on the bottom bezel are 6 OSD operation buttons and the power button in the middle. The design is quite textbook and easy to use. As the buttons are elongated, usage is quite comfortable and pleasant.



To each side of the bottom bezel is an integrated 1W speaker well concealed from view. These speakers provide a lot of practical value, especially to office users who often need the extra space freed up by not having a set of unwieldy speakers up on their desks. The 2W total output can be described as practical as well - the volume being adequate with respectable clarity for good voice and music playback.

The aluminum frame on the QL-711V is not just a flat metal cut out, but an aesthetically pleasing 3D construction. As mentioned above, it provides the basic black shell with a lot more liveliness and style. Most importantly, it gives the QL-711V presence.



As far as the ergonomics go, there isn't a whole lot to differentiate products at the low-end price points. The QL-711V's single-hinge base stand provides some tilt adjustability.



While the base stand has limited features, the detail and workmanship are very good. With the monitor stood on its side, we discover three rubber "feet" to provide more friction that will stop the monitor from moving unnecessarily.



At the rear, the monitor is equipped with the analog D-Sub connector and an audio-in port for the speakers.



This is the monitor's AC in connector. As mentioned earlier, the QL-711V features an integrated inverter which is just what the office environment needs.



The accessories package includes a user manual, AC cable, and audio connection cable.

Specifications

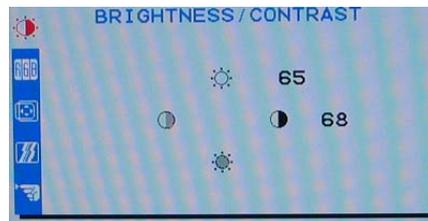
First, the NU QL-711V's major specifications:

- Pixel pitch: 0.264mm

- Optimum resolution: 1280 x 1024
- Brightness: 320cd/m²
- Contrast: 500:1
- Response time: 16ms
- Viewing angles: 160/135 horizontal/vertical
- Input type: D-Sub
- Speakers: 2 x1W
- Power consumption: <35W during normal usage
- Dimensions and weight: 15.7" x 15.9" x 7.5" (W x H x D) with base, 9 lbs

For an entry-level product, the QL-711V is quite outstanding; the maximum brightness level of 320cd/m² especially noteworthy and practical as well as it provides good visibility even under the extra bright lighting of the office environment

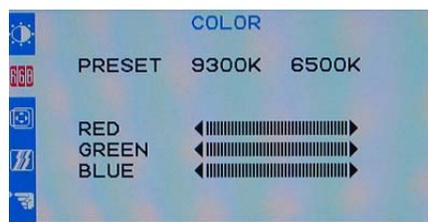
OSD Menu



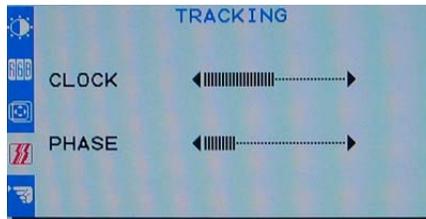
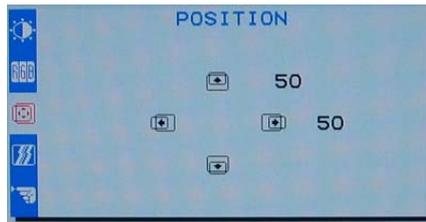
NU has provided a graphics + text combination OSD menu for the QL-711V and 6 OSD buttons located on the bottom bezel for easy and stress-free OSD adjustment.

Note: Without entering the OSD menu, the left and right buttons can be used to control speaker volume, while the up and down buttons are used to control brightness and contrast.

We were pleasantly surprised by the brightness and contrast controls. Many LCD monitors provide large adjustment ranges, but what almost always happens is image distortion before the highest brightness/contrast value has been reached. What happens is that the adjustment range takes the settings outside the normal operating range, so increasing the settings any further will be futile. The QL-711V does what's right and keeps the settings within the normal operating range, so any changes to the brightness and contrast levels will not be accompanied by any negative effects.



Color temperature settings are a choice of 9300K and 6500K, or user-defined RGB.



The OSD menu also provides image position as well as clock (helps to cancel noise/flicker if present) and phase (image fine tuning) adjustments.



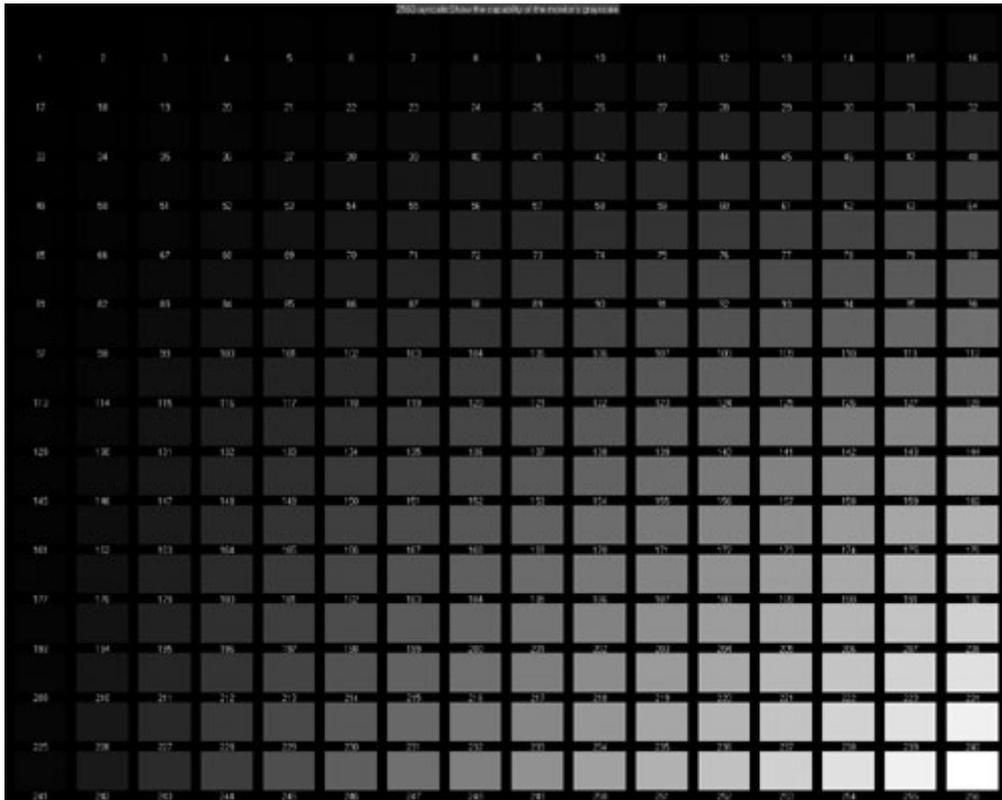
The OSD menu is available in multiple languages, inclusive of English, French, and German, etc.

Display Performance

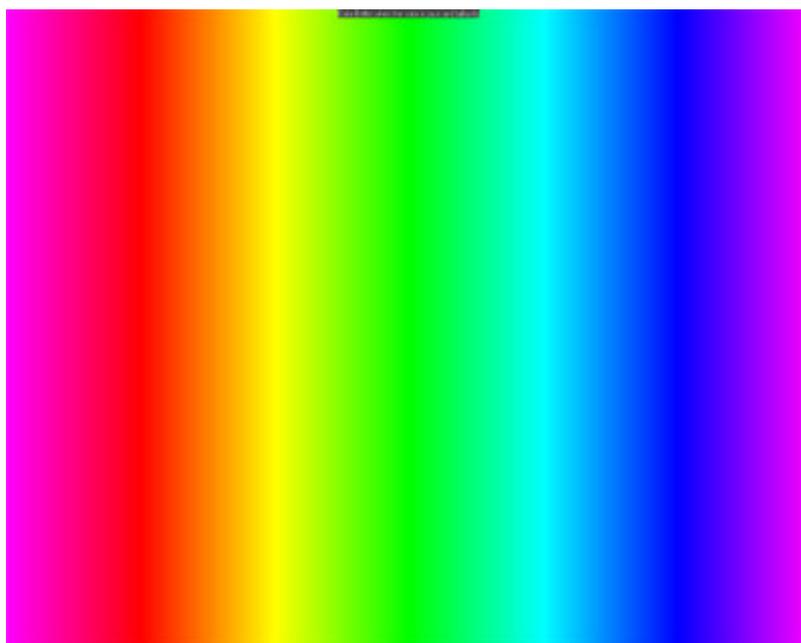
When benchmarking an LCD we are primarily concerned with its spatial uniformity, contrast performance, color saturation, color performance, response time, and viewable angles.

As for spatial uniformity, an LCD monitor contains a limited number of backlights, so it is nearly impossible to achieve perfectly even illumination across the whole screen. In most cases a user can expect the lower half of a screen to be slightly brighter than the upper half. Spatial uniformity is very well controlled in the NU QL-711V, with the viewer unable to detect any unevenness during normal usage, and not even with the brightness turned up to maximum.

For contrast performance, in the 256 level gray scale test, the screen was able to clearly display gray levels down to 5% and 6%. This is a relatively good contrast performance level.



High brightness and contrast levels are both factors for good color saturation. The QL-711V shows good saturation and color vibrancy, as well as color balance giving the screen impressive still image performance. The monitor was used to display many still images; all of which immersed the viewer completely. The vividness of the colors was not the product of only a high degree of color saturation, but also the brightness level setting. A higher brightness level can cause a monitor's colors to look even more vivid and vibrant.



A 16ms response time is mainstream for current low-end LCD monitors. And while there already are 12ms and 8ms products on offer, very little has changed in terms of fundamental performance. The truth is that the 16ms QL-711V is capable of smooth movie and gaming performance – users do not have to worry about severe ghosting/streaking/blurring taking away from the screen’s normal usage and the user’s enjoyment.



We tested the Quake3 and Need for Speed Underground 2 game titles on the QL-711V and found nothing that we would describe as negative. Ghosting was not non-existent, but it is quite difficult to detect.

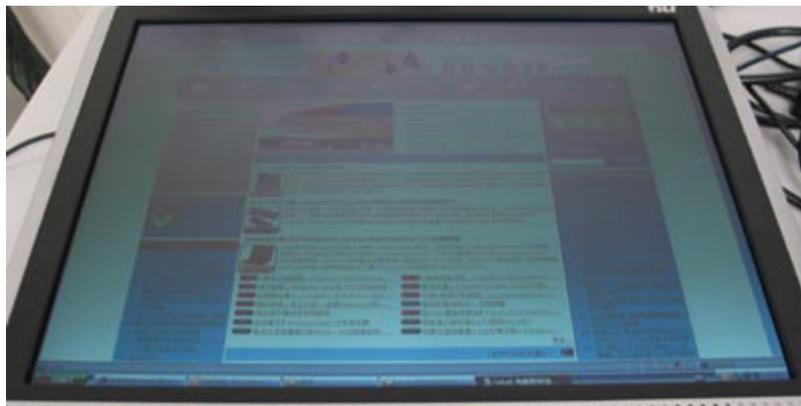
Finally, in terms of viewability, when the screen is viewed from the sides, or from the top or bottom, there is a slight greenish color bias to the screen, but it is within the boundaries of the acceptable and is basically inline with the advertised viewing angles (160 degrees horizontal/135 degrees vertical).



Viewed from the side there is a very minor, cold color bias going on with a drop in brightness and contrast. Screen clarity remains high, however, and does not prevent a user from using the monitor.



The same issues occur from this view.



Viewed from the bottom the decrease in contrast and brightness is slightly more severe, but most users will never view a monitor from this angle, so it shouldn't be a problem at all.

Summary:

The NU QL-711V is an entry-level 17" LCD monitor with good value. Its strengths include high screen brightness and vibrant, vivid color, and integrated speakers and inverter; making it a very suitable choice for both the office and the home.