



Using LCD Projectors

by

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In the ever growing world of technology, the popularity of computers to generate presentations is growing. Today's laptop computers coupled with many of the common software packages offer flexibility to the presenter. A professional looking presentation can be prepared ahead of time and displayed using this exciting technology. The use of this technology can be very attractive, especially to professional speakers who travel with a laptop computer.

The limitations of LCD technology is that the equipment can be very expensive with systems ranging from a few thousand dollars to systems which can run \$25,000 or more depending on the features and options of the display projector. It does require the use of a computer and the necessary technical interfaces to work properly. Significant preparation is required to assure that everything is working properly.

Here are some tips to consider when using LCD display projectors:

1. **Read the LCD projector manual on its proper operation** Not all LCD projectors work the same and each have their own unique operating requirements. Become very familiar with the projector BEFORE using it during your actual presentation. Make sure your computer can be properly interfaced with the LCD projector.
2. **Practice setting the equipment up several times** - Spend some time making sure you know how to properly set up the LCD projector with your computer and other computers. Set up the LCD projector in the actual presentation environment you will be using, if possible.

3. **Set up well in advance** - Allow yourself plenty of time to set up your computer and the LCD projector. Check any last minute details.
4. **Check the LCD projector bulb life**- LCD projector bulbs do have limited life. Some bulbs have shorter lives than others. Check and make sure the bulb you will be using is not close to the end of its life.
5. **Bring a spare bulb and cables!** - Always carry spare bulbs with you and make sure you know how to properly change the bulb. Also, remember, "Hot" glass looks like "Cold" glass; be careful and bring a towel or glove to use when changing the bulb. Practice changing the bulb during one of your practice sessions.
6. **Check your presentation color combinations** - Take some time to check out the actual presentation for the color combinations you will be using. Some colors and color combinations do not project well.
7. **Check the font size you are using** - Nothing is more frustrating to an audience than text that cannot be easily seen or read. Make sure you are using the proper text size for the distance you will be projecting your slides.

As with any sophisticated piece of equipment, it is critical that you familiarize yourself with the proper setup and operation of the equipment well in advance of your actual presentation. Remember, the more technology you bring to your presentation, the more care and time you need to include during your preparation stage. If everything is well planned, properly checked out and you have properly rehearsed with this new equipment, it can add a lot of excitement and life to your presentations.

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