

FREQUENTLY-ASKED HDMI QUESTIONS AND THE ANSWERS YOU NEED TO HELP YOU BUY SMART!

Q: I keep hearing about another new HDMI version. Should I care?

A: *Definitely not* – these new versions always highlight the “*potential for enhanced capabilities.*” Unfortunately, these ongoing revisions to the HDMI specification, added to the rapid technology march that we have been seeing for the last few years, are making the fear of rapid product obsolescence even more pronounced. Keep in mind that new HDMI versions are about connections, not necessarily features, and are always backward compatible.

Q: What’s the most important feature I should look for in HDMI?

A: *Interconnectivity* – so that all your new HDMI-connected components will work together ... you can’t enjoy the benefits of HDMI connections if the products don’t work when they’re hooked together – and this has nothing to do with the version of HDMI that is being used. HDMI interconnectivity is THE most important feature that you need in an HDMI A/V Processor, and Anthem processors are the best in the world at making digital audio/video products work together.

Q: Am I missing out by not having HDMI interconnectivity now?

A: *Yes, absolutely!* The advantages of digital video transmission and lossless digital audio are clear and spectacular, and available to you right now with today’s sources and today’s high-definition displays. Just add an Anthem A/V processor and stir ...

Q: Tell me more about the future capabilities of HDMI

A: Video – Deep Color: Not yet available on any source. There aren’t any sources that actually have more than 8 effective/real bits of color information (with the possible exception of a high-end gaming computer video card, but with no game to utilize it). To become a usable feature, a lot more than the HDMI connection would have to change: First, video production, then storage and broadcast, and of course your home display. For carrying HDTV, HD-DVD, and Blu-ray, more than enough bandwidth is provided by HDMI v1.1. No monitors accept the latest version of HDMI that supports deep color yet and when they do they may not utilize more than 8 bits color anyway. And just in case they do, deeper colors are available right now on the Anthem processors if you use 4:2:2 output setting, which uses the 10-bit color output of the Gennum chip.

A: Audio – Dolby TrueHD: Decoding is provided right in hi-def sources such as the PS3 and several HD-DVD players. A source containing TrueHD decoding is identified by the logo on its faceplate. With a lossless audio format there is no performance advantage to moving the decoding out of the source and into the preamp. Plus, it makes no difference whether the source’s HDMI output is v1.1 or v1.3 when sending this multichannel PCM (i.e. decoded) audio to a current Anthem processor. (Side Note: Sending Dolby TrueHD across HDMI v1.3 causes loss of interactive audio features built into the disc, such as language selection.)

