



One factor to be considered when purchasing a monitor is the format used by your computer. There are two types of monitor signal in common use: RGB (Red, Green, Blue) and composite video. RGB gives a better picture, but both types are considerably superior to television output.

There are also two types of television/monitor — ordinary television receivers that have been converted to take a monitor signal, and purpose-built sets. The latter are more suitable, as converted sets are often modified without the television manufacturers' knowledge and thus will probably not be covered by a guarantee. Purpose-built television/monitors are mainly designed for use with video recorders. These generally feature composite video inputs — look for a socket marked 'video' or 'audio-visual'. The diagrams accompanying this article will show you how to connect your computer (assuming you have a composite video model) to one of these sockets. Once this is done, you may tune your set to the computer's display in the same way as you would select a television channel.

The major advantage of a combined television/monitor over a standard monitor is the sound facility. Many home computers — notably the Atari, Commodore and Dragon models — rely on the television set to produce sound effects. A standard monitor has no sound facilities, while television/monitors have built-in loudspeakers and amplifiers.

If your computer is equipped with RGB output, your choice is more limited. There are three main RGB-input television/monitors: the Sony Profeel system, televisions with Peri-TV connectors (notably the Normende range) and the ITT model. The Sony Profeel accepts both RGB and composite video signals, but uses a non-standard connector. The ITT television/monitor has an RGB connector that is pin-for-pin compatible with Oric and Atmos outputs but which may also be used with other RGB computers. The Normende is especially popular with home computer owners, as it features a Peri-TV socket. This is an international standard television expander socket that will accept both RGB and composite video signals.

Other television sets may be fitted with Peri-TV (also known as 'Scart') inputs — check to see if yours is one of these. The only problem with this system is that, on some sets, switching from television to monitor mode is accomplished by insertion and removal of the Peri-TV plug. This is much less convenient than selecting the computer display by switching channels, as you'd do on a receiver with a video socket. The fact that the Peri-TV system is compatible with both RGB and composite video inputs means that you can keep the same television/monitor, even if you change your computer.

But regardless of the particular system chosen, the superior performance of a combined television/monitor should make this the only type of television set a computer user should ever buy.

Ferguson TX With RGB

This TV/monitor can take both RGB and composite video inputs via two DIN sockets. Buttons on the front of the TV switch it between the three methods of display. This is the place for them as most users will be switching fairly often between using the unit for watching television and with a computer. The screen size is 33cm (13in). Made in Britain, the typical price is £219

Normende 1534

This is one of the many Normende televisions, all of which have Peri plugs and so can take composite video or RGB signals. Seven different screen sizes are available and for most of these there is a choice of manual or remote control. The set shown has a 33cm (13 in) screen. Made in Singapore, typical prices are £229 and £249 for 33cm sets with manual and remote control respectively



Fidelity CM14

This is available in two models. One is the monitor only, with RGB and the composite video inputs via a Peri plug. The screen size is 33cm (13 in). Made in Britain the typical price for the monitor only version is £199 and the TV/monitor is £219