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MONTH'S
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HWMM

PHILIPPINES

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TEXT // JASON MARGES

KWorld M200

FROM LIVING SPACE TO MULTIMEDIA HUB

Downloaded and/or BD/DVD-ripped multimedia content offer the conveniences of handier storage and easier access as compared to, say, having several BDs or DVDs lying around. The catch is, sometimes you'll want to enjoy and share such content via your home entertainment setup instead of just playing them on a PC. Fortunately, there's a growing wave of media players being designed and made for this purpose. This month, let's take a look at the KWorld M200 Home Media Center, in particular.

Right at the outset, one will see that the M200 can be a welcome addition to any digital home A/V setup, thanks to its modern look which is defined by an curved, glossy black casing. Data and AV output interfaces line the front, left, and rear panels of the unit. Up front, there are the SD/MMC card reader and a pair of USB 2.0 ports; YPbPr and Audio L/R ports are placed on the left; and HDMI, Coaxial, and LAN (provided for UPnP functionality) connectors

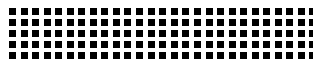
are found on the rear panel. Only the right side of the media box is spared from any sort of connector port; instead hosting a line of basic playback control buttons. Practically speaking though, these buttons are mostly just for aesthetics, as the user will likely depend on the supplied remote control during actual use.

Using the M200 requires a basic understanding of how to switch video sources on your TV set. But if you have that down pat, then setting up should be no more than a plug and play affair.

The M200's menu is simple and nothing particularly eye-catching, but it is easy to understand. When the device is turned on, the user will be greeted with large icons that indicate separate playback modes for Movie, Photo, Music, Text, Flash, and Document files. An additional icon for the settings sub-menu is found at the end. Three icons on the upper left corner of the menu screen indicate the source from which the media files are being read.

Performance-wise, there's not much to complain about regarding the M200's file format support, as it covers the most common ones used today. We did however encounter some lags in the responsiveness of the menu interface, as well as at certain times during playback, where audio and video became slightly off-sync (good thing this was easily remedied by stopping and resuming playback). Other than that though, the M200 delivered well on its promises.

Overall, with UPnP support thrown in the mix, the M200 makes for an attractive option for those who love digital multimedia.



Verdict:

PHYSIQUE: 9.0
FEATURES: 8.5
USER-FRIENDLINESS: 8.0
PERFORMANCE: 8.0
VALUE: N/A

VERDICT SCORES ARE OUT OF 10.

LAB TEST

CONSUMER ELECTRONICS

AT A GLANCE

RESOLUTION
Up to 1080p
Full HD

STORAGE
Via USB And
SD/MMC
Media

FILE SUPPORT
Video, Audio,
Image, Text

A/V OUTPUTS
HDMI, YPbPr,
Coaxial/Optical,
Audio L/R

PRICE
TBC

SPECIFICATIONS VIDEO FILE FORMATS Real Video, MPEG4, H.264, Flash (SWF) // SUBTITLE FORMATS SRT, SUB, SMI, SSA // DATA INTERFACES 2x USB 2.0, SD/MMC Card Reader, RJ45 LAN // A/V OUTPUTS RCA Jack (YPbPr, Audio L/R), HDMI 1.3, Coaxial/Optical // POWER 5V 2A DC Connector // WEBSITE www.kworld-global.com



The YPbPr and audio connectors flanking the left panel of the M200. At the rear panel are the HDMI, coaxial, and LAN ports.



The M200's remote control covers all bases in terms of functions, but it doesn't quite complement the main unit's sleek, curved look.

