Colorimetric and Resolution requirements of cameras

Alan Roberts

ADDENDUM 57 : Tests and Settings on a Thomson/GV LDK8000 Elite

A short assessment was made on a sample of the LDK8000 'Elite' (a demonstration model), a multi-standard HDTV camera, tested with a Canon HJ22x7.4 HD lens.

It is a novel camera in many respects, having 3 ⅔" CCD sensors of 1920x4320 pixels, and made under the Grass Valley name by Thomson. There is a mechanical shutter, obscuring the sensors during the readout process (frame transfer). It shares many features with the Thomson Viper camera.

Physically, it resembles many other system cameras, the familiar digibeta size and layout. It has good connectivity, and operates at 1080-, 720- and SDTV standards. The 4320 lines of the sensors are not available directly, they are summed as necessary on-chip to drive the image resolution for the selected format. Much of the content of this document is taken directly from that manual since there was insufficient time to test many of the innovatory features.

Power consumption is 44 watts and it weighs 5.5kg, both typical for a system camera. However, the power management and cooling system keep the camera cool to the touch, and acceptably quiet acoustically. The camera has both neutral and colour-temperature filter wheels. The camera can be connected to its CCU via Triax or optical-fibre, using appropriate adaptors.

The LDK8000 Elite Enterprise version operates at 1080i and 720p resolutions, at 50 and 59.94Hz. The Elite Worldcam version operates at 1080p (23.98, 24, 25, 29.97, 50 and 59.94Hz), 1080i (50, 59.94Hz), and 720p (23.98, 25, 29.97, 50, 59.94Hz). A sister camera, the LDK4000 Elite, is available in fixed resolution (1080i or 720p) but switchable between 50 and 59.94Hz. The menu structure and contents for all these versions is identical. The version tested was the 8000 Elite Worldcam, but the results should apply to all the other versions, where relevant.

Sensitivity is claimed to be F/10 for 200 lux illumination at 90% reflectance, a little lower than is normal for system cameras. Noise level is claimed to be -60dB, and two stops of over-exposure.

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Many menu items have little or no effect on the image. Those that do so are highlighted, default values are bracketed where known. The full menus are given for completeness. Noise level is claimed as 60dB, and the total exposure range is estimated as about 11 stops. However, the camera noise performance does not appear to be that good, measurements were rather disappointing, details are given in the measurements section at the end of this document.

Recommended settings are given for normal video use.

Settings are only starting points, recommendations. They should not be used rigidly, they are starting points for further exploration. However, they do return acceptable image performance.

The camera was tested without the CCU, the menus listed below are those obtainable at the camera head.

The menus are hierarchical, sub-menus are indicated by insetting items. For each item, the range of offered values is given, and the factory default value (where known) is underlined.

This document should not be used as a substitute for reading the manual.

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1 MENUS AND SETTINGS

VIEWFINDER MENU

Item	*Range*	*description*	*BBC*
VF monitoring	Y, R, G, B, -G		
VF detail			
VF detail	Off, On, Boost		
Level	0~50~99		
Focus assist	On, Off	Makes sharp edges crawl	
Zebra			
Zebra	On, Off		
Zebra mode	Level, Band	Level lights up above level, Band for ±2.5%	
Zebra level (%)	0~90~117		
Zebra contrast	0~15~99		
Center cross	On, Off		
QoS bar	On, Off	Show quality of wireless mic channels	
Focus ind	On, Off	0=close, 99=infinity	
Iris ind	On, Off		
Zoom ind	On, Off	0=wide, 99=tele	
Box downright	Off, Fltr, QoS	What shows bottom right	
Safe area	On, Off	80% box	
Safe area type	16:9, 15:9, 14:9, 4:3		
Marker	On, Off		
Marker type	15:9, 14:9, 4:3		
Marker style	Dot, Shad, Both	Dot-dotted, Shad=shaded	
Marker shading	Shad, Black	Shad=transparent	
Ind white	0~70~99	Character brightness	
Ind black	0~30~99	Character background	
Display	On, Time	On=always on, Time=goes off	
Menu time	3~10~30	Time to going off	
Rotary speed	1~5~10	Rotary encoder sensitivity	
Notch ext	On, Off	Notch filter	
Ext aspect ratio	16:9, 4:3	Aspect ratio for external signal in VF	

LENS MENU

Item	*Range*	*description*	*BBC*
Lens type	Std, WA	Affects white shading compensation	
Auto iris	On, Off		
Peak/Average	0~64~99		
Auto iris set point	0~35~99		
Mom iris set point	0~50~99		
RE iris comp	On, Off	Range extender iris compensation	
Auto iris const			
Auto iris gain	5~10	Speed, 5=slow	
Ext iris	On, Off	Range extender auto iris	
Ext iris const			
Gain speed	1~5~20		
Exp time speed	1~4~20		
Min iris	F5.6, F8, F11, F16		F8[1]
Max iris	F1.4, F2, F2.8, F4, F5.6		[2]
Min exp time	1/100, 1/200, 1/500		
Max gain (dB)	0~15		
Handgrip zoom	On, Off		
Zoom speed	1~5~10		
Zoom curve	0~3		
Zoom/Focus	Loc, Rem	Local control when SuperXpander installed	
Lens i/f	Analog, Digital	Type of lens interface	
Lens i/f state	OK, Not OK	Display only, status of digital lens interface	

[1] Iris diffraction starts at about F/8 in ⅔" cameras.
[2] HD lenses are generally good wide open, it is safe to use them wide open.

VIDEO MENU

Item	*Range*	*description*	*BBC*
Colour temp			
Colour filter	0~50~99	Value of auto white balance	
Col temp level	2500~3200~20000		
Detail			
Detail	On, Off		On[3]
Level	0~30~99	Enhancement level	26
Source select	R+G, R, G, Y		
MORE			
Vert detail	0~50~99		29
Coarse/fine	0~5~99	Set coarseness, 0=very fine	99
Level	0~30~99		30
Level dep	0~40~99	Low signal level for detail to start	40
Noise slicer	0~10~99		10
Soft detail			
Soft detail	On, Off	Avoid over-correction of contrasty edges	
Level	0~70~99		
Knee detail	1, 2, 3, 4, Off	Edges in the knee	
Skin			
Skin	Off, 1, 2, 1+2	Skin-tone softening	
Auto skin	On, Off		
View	On, Off		
Skin 1 level	0~50~99		
Skin 2 level	0~50~99		
MORE			
Width 1 red	0~50~99	Hue range	
Width 1 blue	0~50~99		
Color 1 red	0~50~99	Signal gain	
Color 1 blue	0~50~99		
Width 2 red	0~50~99		
Width 2 blue	0~50~99		
Color 2 red	0~50~99		
Color 2 blue	0~50~99		
Flare			
Flare	On, Off		
Red	0~10~99		
Green	0~15~99		
Blue	0~25~99		
Black			
Black stretch	0~50~99		
Master	0~50~99		
MORE			
Red	0~50~99		
Green	0~50~99		
Blue	0~50~99		
Master	0~50~99		
Gain			
Red	0~50~99		
Green	0~50~99		
Blue	0~50~99		
Range	3dB, 6dB		
Master gain (dB)	-6~+12	In steps of 0.5 dB	
Knee			
Knee	Off, Var, Auto		Var[4]
Knee type	Y, NAM	NAM=highest of RGB	NAM[5]

[3] Detail values are those derived for the LDK6000, they

[4] Knee function is good, and can cope with 2 stops, which the camera can easily handle.

[5] Using non-additive mix here makes sure that no individual RGB channel is arbitrarily clipped, preventing highly saturated colours from clipping.

Item	*Range*	*description*	*BBC*
Slope M	0~50~99		90[6]
Point M	0~60~99		17
MORE			
Knee limit	0~99		99
Auto point	0~30		
Auto ref	0~30~99		
Gamma			
Curve	BBC0.4, BBC0.5, BBC0.6, ARD, 6xARD, RAI, CCIR, 709-J, 709_S	Standard gamma curves	CCIR[7]
Preset	1, 2, Lin, Var	1=normal, 2=low gamma	
Master	0~76~99		
Red	0~76~99		
Green	0~76~99		
Blue	0~76~99		
Matrix			
Matrix	EBU, Skin, B/W, RAI, BBC, 1:1, CoolFl, Var1, Var2, XGL	XGL=Asian/Sony matrix	BBC[8]
Saturation	0~50~99		
R>G	0~50~99		
G>R	0~50~99		
R>B	0~50~99		
B>R	0~50~99		
G>B	0~50~99		
B>G	0~50~99		
Mat/gam	G/M, M/G		M/G[9]
Col Corr			
Corrector	Off, On		
CCview	Off, On	View selected colour sector	
Set	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	6 colour sectors for correction	
Set On/Off	Off, On	Enable selected sector correction	
Color	0~359.99	Select sector, steps of 22.5 degrees	
Width	22.5~360.00	Set sector width, degrees	
Hue	-180.00~+180.00	Hue shift for sector	
Sat	0~99	Saturation level	
Lum	0~99	Luma level	
Name	MG-, MG, MG+, R, R+, YL-, YL, YL+, G-, G, G+, CY, CY+, B-, B, B+	Display only, selected color sector	
Smoothing	Sharp, Medium, Smooth	Sector-sector transition	
Reset CC		Reset colour all corrections to default	
White limiter			
White limit	Off, On		
Master	0~80~99		
Shading			
White shading	Off, On		
H saw red	0~50~99		
H saw green	0~50~99		
H saw blue	0~50~99		
V saw red	0~50~99		
V saw green	0~50~99		

[6] Detail values taken from LDK6000 recommendation. Knee point is 65%, slope extends 2 stops.

[7] Gamma is very confusing. The CCIR ceased to exist many years ago, and never defined any gamma curves. The CCIR cuirve is possibly the ITU.709 curve, see measurements section.

[8] Matrix is also very confusing. Neither the BBC nor the EBU has ever calculated a matrix for this camera, and presumably, neither has RAI. The exact matrices used here are therefore unknown, and very difficult to measure. The BBC matrix performs well.

[9] 'Gamma before matrix' is colorimetrically wrong, although it usually delivers slightly better noise performance. Thomson's advice to use matrix before gamma when attempting to match performance to other cameras, is right, that's how other cameras are made.

Item	*Range*	*description*	*BBC*
V saw blue	0~50~99		
H par red	0~50~99		
H par green	0~50~99		
H par blue	0~50~99		
V par red	0~50~99		
V par green	0~50~99		
V par blue	0~50~99		
Freeze	Off, On	Holds current image	
Noise reduction	Off, 1, 2, 3, 4	1=light reduction, 4=strong	

INSTALL MENU

Item		*Range*	*description*	*BBC*
Video mode	8000 Worldcam	1080p/23.98, 1080p/24, 1080p/25, 1080p/29.97, 1080p/50, 1080p/59.94, 1080i/50, 1080i/59.94, 720p/23.98, 720p/25, 720p/29.97, 720p/50, 720p/59.94	Video acquisition mode, depends on model	
	8000 Enterprise	720p/50, 720p/59.94, 1080i.50, 1080i/59.94		
	4000/70	720p/50, 720p/59.94		
	4000/71	1080i/50, 1080i/59.94		
Disable camera		Off, On	Locks camera user panel	
Intercom				
Side tone level		0~50~99		
Cam mic		Off, Switch, Track, Prod	Switch gives control to cam back panel	
Cam mic gain		0, 40dB		
Cam mic power		Off, On	+12V power to camera mic socket	
Prod volume		Front, Rear	Which volume control to use	
Cam prod		Off, Left, Right, Both	Which can it goes to	
Cam eng		Off, Left, Right, Both		
Cam prog		Off, Left, Right, Both		
Cam track		Off, Left, Right, Both		
Cam track level		0~50~99		
Track mic to		Off, Can, Eng, Prod, All		
Track mic gain		0, 40dB		
Track mic power		Off, On		
Track source		Eng, Side		
Audio				
Audio ip mode		Ch1, Ch1&2	For wireless mic connetion	
Audio gain mode		Loc, Ext	Ext=CCU control	
Audio 1 source		Line, Mic, Mic48, Front	For wireless mic connetion	
Audio 1 level		-22, -28, -34, -40, -46, -52, -58, -64dB		
Audio 1 hpf		Off, On		
Audio 2 source		Line, Mic, Mic48, Front		
Audio 2 level		-22, -28, -34, -40, -46, -52, -58, -64dB		
Audio 2 hpf		Off, On		
Tally				
On air lamp		Enable, Disable	7” vf tally lamp control	
Tally lock		Off, On	Locks some controls when tally’s on	
Reverse scan				
Reverse scan		Off, On		
Mode		Horiz, Vert, Both		
Exposure				
Lighting		-10~0~+10	Fine correction for ac lighting	
Clean scan				
Cl scan mode		Extended, Normal	Extended turns off mechanical shutter	
Value		50Hz: 50.8~125.0Hz 60Hz: 61.0~150.0Hz	Tweak to eliminate lighting strobing	
Units		Hz, mSec	Change ‘value’ to time	
Gain preset				
Gain – (dB)		-3dB, -6dB	Gain switch, low setting	-3dB
Gain + (dB)		3dB, 6dB, 9dB		0dB

Item	*Range*	*description*	*BBC*
Gain ++ (dB)	6dB, 9dB, 12dB		6dB
Auto white			
AWB speed	0~4~99	Auto white balance	
AWB gain	0~10~99		
Timing			
H phase	0~50~99	Horizontal phase	
V shift	Off, On	Use this to sync the camera to a display, to hide the frame bar	
V shift level	0~99	0 to 1 frame delay	
PCI id	0~1~8	set ID for external PC operation	
Main text insert	Auto, On, Off	Adds text to video at OCP/MCP	
HD-SDI (B) video	Main, VF	What comes out of B connector	
Buttons			
Ext 2 assign	Ext 2, Ext 3	Fibre adaptor output selector	
Sw 1	Call, Ext 1, Ext 2	Ext=select external video to VF	
Sw 1 control	Mom, Alt	Alt=toggling	
Sw 2	EIris, Foc ast, Ext 1, Ext 2	EIris=Extended auto iris	
Sw 2 control	Mom, Alt	Alt=toggling	
VTR start	Prod, Eng, Zoom, Ext 1, Ext 2		
VTR st control	Mom, Alt	Alt=toggling	
VTR lens	Prod, Eng, Zoom, Ext 1, Ext 2		
VTR l control	Mom, Alt	Alt=toggling	
Ret lens	Zoom, Ext, Foc ast		
Ret control	Mom, Alt	Alt=toggling	
Ret 2 switch	Zoom, Ext		
Ret 2 control	Mom, Alt	Alt=toggling	
2” VF option	None, Disab		
Handgrip left	Prod, Eng		
Fan operation			
Head fan	Off, On	Comes back on after 2 hours or when overheating	
Adaptor fan	Off, On		

FILES MENU

Item	*Range*	*description*	*BBC*
Store scene file			
File select	Standard, Scam1~4, Scard1~20, new file	Scam and Scard writes scene files to camera or card	
Store		Execute	
Recall scene file			
File select	Standard, Scam1~4, Scard1~20, new file	Scam and Scard reads scene files from camera or card	
Store		Execute	
Store oper file			
File select	Standard, Ocam1~4, Ocard1~20, new file	Ocam and Ocard write operator to camera and card	
Store		Execute	
Recall oper file			
File select	Standard, Ocam1~4, Ocard1~20, new file	Scam and Scard reads files between camera and card	
Store		Execute	
Attributes			
File select		List and select file	
File name		Shows file name	
Attribute	R/W, R	Set read/write	
Card			
Name		Display card name	
Card type	None, Storage, Owner, Serv 1, Serv 2, Unknown	Display only, type of inserted card	
Free (%)	0~99	Shows free space left	
Num files	0~255	Show number of files on card	

Item	*Range*	*description*	*BBC*
Card Attr			
Card name		Enter card name	
Format card		Execute formating	
Files			
Select	Scard1, Scard2, Ocard1, Ocard2	Select a file on the card	
Delete		Execute to delete it	
File name		Enter new file name	
Attribute	R/W, R	Set read/write	

SECURITY MENU

Item	*Range*	*description*	*BBC*
Installed level	User 0, User 1, User 2, User 3	Select user level	
Cur user level	No oper, User 0, User 1, User 2, User 3, Serv 1	Show current user level	
PIN code	(0000)	Enter 4 digit code to enter S level	
Customer files			
Store cust scene		Exec to store current setting to scene file	
Cust scene attrib	R/W, R		
Store cust oper		Exec to store current settings to operator file	
Green button			
Standard	Fact, Cust	Type of file to recall when pressing the Green button	
Scene file	Yes, No	Recall scene file with Green button	
Operator file	Yes, No	Recall operator file with Green button	
Factory defaults		Exec, all reset to factory	

DIAGNOSTICS MENU

Item	*Range*	*description*	*BBC*
Communication			
BS connected	Yes, No	Show base station status	
C2IP panels	0~99		
Trasmission			
BS>cam			
Signal status	OK, Critic, Error, NoSig	Show fibre status	
Rx margin (dB)	-100~0~+100	Show optical data margin	
Cam>BS			
Signal status	OK, Critic, Error, NoSig	Show fibre status	
Rx margin (dB)	-100~0~+100	Show optical data margin	
Transm details			
Opt module	Unknown, Ftlf1242P2	Show type of optical module	
Rx power (µW)	0~65535	Show received power level	
Rx power (dBm)	-100~0~+100	and in dBm	
Tx power (µW)	0~65535	Show received power level	
Tx power (dBm)	-100~0~+100	and in dBm	
Module temp (C)	-40~0~125	Show internal temperature, ºC	
Module temp (F)	-40~0~125	Show internal temperature, ºF	
Optical signal	OK, Loss		
Rx locked	No, Yes	Show status of signal	
Frame locked	No, Yes	Show locked frame status	
Cam config	Invalid, 4000Mk2, 5000, 6000, 62000, 8000	Show camera type	
Camera ID		Show camera ID code	
Camera number	0~99	Camera number on the network	
Adaptor type	None, Triax, Fiber, Wireless, NonTriax	Show type of camera connection	
Sensor voltage	OK, NotOK		
Shutter run	Run, Off		
Front power	OK, NotOK		

Item	*Range*	*description*	*BBC*
Y carrier	OK, NotOK		
Cam, 12NC		Last 4 digits of camera 12NC	
Cam version		Show camera version	
Cam status	0~99	Show camera status	
Adap 12NC		Show last 4 digits of adaptor 12NC	
Adap version		Show adaptor version	
Adap status	0~99	Show adaptor status	
Cam temp			
Head temp C	-55~+128	Show head temperature in ºC	
Head temp F	-67~+262	and in ºF	
Head fan (V)	n.n	Show head fan motor voltage	
Head fan	Off, Var	Show fan status	
Adaptor temp C	-55~+128	Lens adaptor	
Adaptor temp F	-67~+262		
Adaptor fan			
Adaptor fan (V)		Fan voltage	
PCB status			
Board	DVP, SyncM, PPG, PPGsb, SeDa, LSP, RCB, PrePr, FSP, DaCam, FrDri, DacOu, FwDri, Front	Select a board to get info on	
Board PID		Show product id	
Board 12NC		Show last 4 digits of 12NC code	
Board status	0~99	Show hardware status	
Boot sw ver	0~99	Show software version	
FPGA ver	0~99	Show FPGA version	
Firmw 12NC		Show last 4 digits of 12NC code	
Firmw status	0~99	Show firmware status	
Firmw version	0~99	Show firmware version	
Softw 12NC		Show last 4 digits of 12NC code	
Softw status	0~99	Software status	
Softw version	0~99	Software version	
System status			
System	Unknown, HD, HS-HS, SD, Illegal	More displays	
Camera	Unknown, HD, HS-HS, SD, Illegal		
Head	Unknown, HD, HS-HS, SD, Illegal		
Adaptor	Unknown, HD, HS-HS, SD, Illegal		
Base station	Unknown, HD, HS-HS, SD, Illegal		

SERVICE MENU

Item	*Range*	*description*	*BBC*
Test signal			
Test signal	Off, On		
Test input	DacO, DVP	Select injection point	
Test select	SawT, Step	Inject at DVP	
Test select	SawT, Bars	Inject at DAC O	
LPC	Off, On	Enable ‘leaking pixel’ correction	
BPC	Off, On	Enable ‘black pixel’ correction	
Calibrations			
3200K	Off, On	Run calibration procedure	
3200K preset	Fact, Cust	Select test mode for calibration	
H-phase front	0~128~255		

2 Measurement results

All visual tests and measurements were made using a Sony 32" crt HD monitor and digital waveform monitor. Analytical measurements were made by capturing HDSDI, and subsequent software analysis.

2.1 Colour performance, gamma, matrix and headroom

2.1.1 Gamma and headroom

The selection of gamma-correction curves, while extensive, has no adequate descriptions. Also, one item in the offered list refers to a long defunct organisation (CCIR) which was never known to have defined any gamma correction curve. Therefore, several of the gamma curves were measured accurately using software analysis.

The 'BBC 0.4' law has a slope at black (gain) of 5.0, and 20% exposure produces a signal value of 50.1%, whereas the mathematical curve should produce 50.5%. This is a very accurate BBC curve.

The 'CCIR' curve has a slope at black of 4.5, and 20% exposure produces 43.4% signal, both values are exactly those of the ITU.R BT-709 curve universally adopted for HDTV.

'ITU-S' has black slope of 3.25, and 20% exposure produces 46.1%, and so should produce reasonably accurate colour reproduction (because the 20% value is quite high) with poor shadow performance but improved noise levels, because the slope near black is low.

'ITU-J' has black slope of 3.7, and 20% exposure produces 42.9% signal, so colour rendering will be more saturated and noise levels a little higher.

The other curves were not investigated, but, given the accuracy of the BBC and ITU curves, the RAI and ARD curves are expected to be accurate as well.

Using the knee values established for the LDK6000, applied to the 'CCIR' gamma curve, the knee breaks at about 65% signal level, and extends the curve to a little over 400% exposure. This was confirmed visually using the Colorchecker chart. Therefore about 2 stops of overexposure can be dealt with. Visual tests confirmed this.

2.1.2 Colour matrix

The menus offer the choice of processing order, performing gamma-correction before or after the matrix. 'Matrix-before-gamma' results in more accurate colorimetry and more consistent results, but 'gamma-before-matrix' can deliver slightly lower noise levels.

However, the list of matrices is as confusing as is the list of gamma-correction curves. The 'correct' matrix for any camera must be calculated for that camera, since its primary function is to approximate the channel responsivity curves (RGB) to approximate to the colour-matching functions of the display primaries for the selected transmission system (HDTV, ITU.709 for this camera). Therefore, there should be little or no need for any choice of matrix. Unless each of the organisations listed in the choice of matrices has actually calculated a matrix for this specific camera, the matrices can only be approximations, calculated for other, unknown cameras. Thus, all the matrices are suspect.

It is extremely difficult to measure the matrix in a camera by any direct means, the only possibility is to check the colour performance using test colours, so visual assessments were made using Colorchecker charts. Colour performance was generally good.

The 'EBU' curve produced higher saturation and slightly blue skin tones. The 'Skin' matrix desaturated the oranges but was no more accurate for skin tones. The 'BBC' matrix produced lower saturation, although the yellow patch was slightly shifted towards green. On the basis of these tests, it is difficult to recommend one matrix over any other, although the BBC matrix was subjectively a little more pleasing.

2.2 Resolution

A HDTV zone plate chart was used. This contains six circular patterns that fully explore the spatial frequency performance of the camera, up to 1920x1080 pixels per width and height. There are patterns for grey-scale, RGB and chroma channels. Modulation is cosine rather than square wave. Each pattern is a "phase space" map of the possible frequencies that the camera can be expected to deal with, reaching 1920 pixels/picture width (960 cycles) horizontally, and 1080 lines/picture height (540 cycles) vertically. For each measurement, only one quadrant of the luma channel is used, although the other patterns were examined during the tests, and showed nothing untoward.

2.2.1 Resolution 1080 interlaced

Measurements were taken with detail enhancement turned off.

There are no visible alias patterns, even at the exact edges of the pattern. The clean way in which resolution falls to the edges of the pattern confirms that the sensors are full resolution, and that there is an optical low-pass filter designed for 1920x1080 use. The clean resolution also indicates that there is probably no "precision offset" of the green from red and blue sensors, a common technique to enhance resolution in cameras. This is very encouraging

The horizontal resolution droops gracefully to 1920, while the vertical resolution is rather soft as a result of the inevitable line-pairing involved in interlaced scanning. Due to the unique sensor construction, the interlaced scanning is probably done on the sensor chips themselves, by summing the contribution from 8 adjacent vertical elements (the sensors are 1920x4320, so each field has a resolution of 540=4320/8). The phase of the selection of 8 sub-pixels must be shifted by 4 on alternate fields, to generate the interlaced structure.

Vertical resolution is clean, and in this grabbed frame, extends to about 830 lines, all resolution above 540 lines contributes to interlace twitter on an interlaced display (e.g. CRT), and is recoverable as resolution in frames only in the absence of motion.

There were no alias patterns resulting from frequencies beyond the limits of 1920x1080 video.

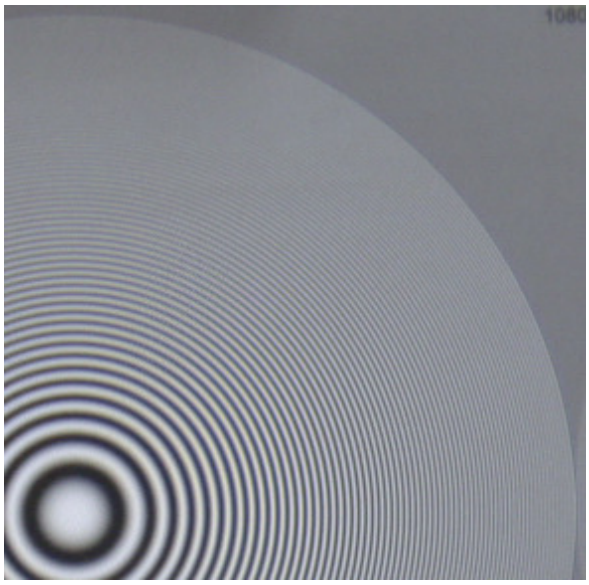


Figure 1 Resolution, 1080i, detail off

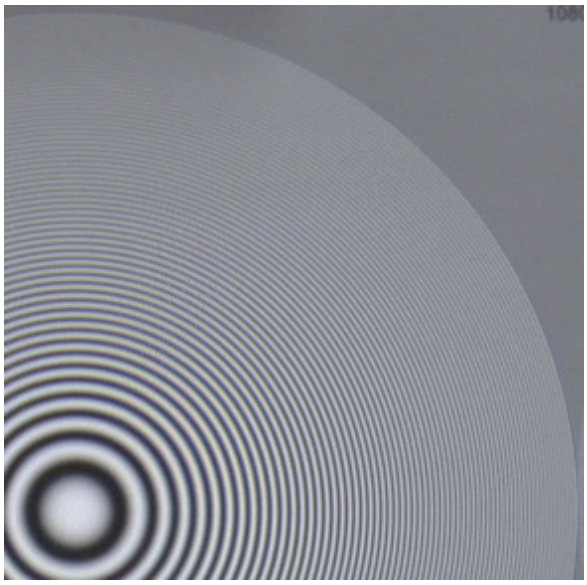


Figure 2 Resolution, 1080p, detail off

2.2.2 Resolution 1080 progressive

Measurements were taken with detail enhancement turned off. Resolution in 1080 progressive mode is a little disappointing. Horizontal resolution is the same as for interlaced, but vertical resolution now extends only to about 960 lines (about 88%) while horizontal resolution reaches about 1830 pixels (about 95%). This hints at asymmetrical optical filtering.

Nevertheless, there are no alias patterns visible, the performance is very clean.

2.2.3 Resolution 720p HDTV

Figure 3 shows the camera performance at 1280x720, with detail switched off.

There are no disturbing horizontal aliases, the down-sampling from 1920 to 1280 is very clean. There is a faint alias visible, resulting from frequency-folding at 1280, hinting that the down-sampling filter does not have zero response at 1280, but the results are actually very good.

Vertically, there are aliases visible from the 1080 structure. This is an inevitable result of the simplified down-sampling used in this camera, where 6 sub-pixels are summed on the 4320 sensor (720=4320/6). However, the level of aliases is acceptably low, and there are no other indications of aliasing.

Performance at 720-line is good.

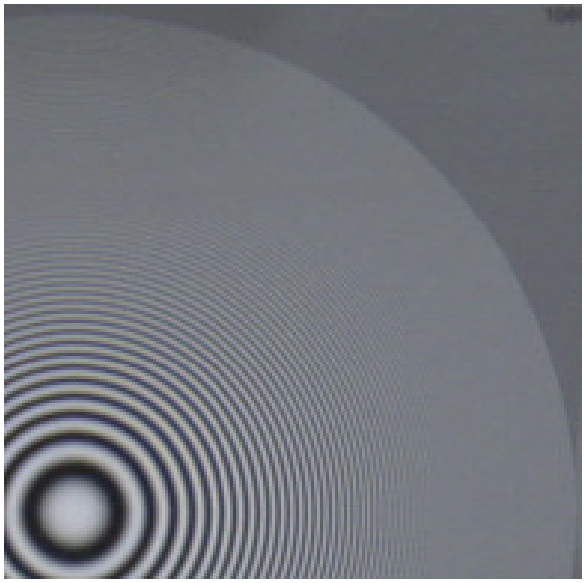


Figure 3 Resolution, 720p, detail off

2.2.4 Detail enhancement

Figure 4 shows 1080-progressive performance with detail switched on, and factory settings. Performance is good.

Since the LDK8000 has menus which are strikingly similar to those of the LDK6000, the same detail enhancement settings found for that camera can be used, and the performance slightly better.

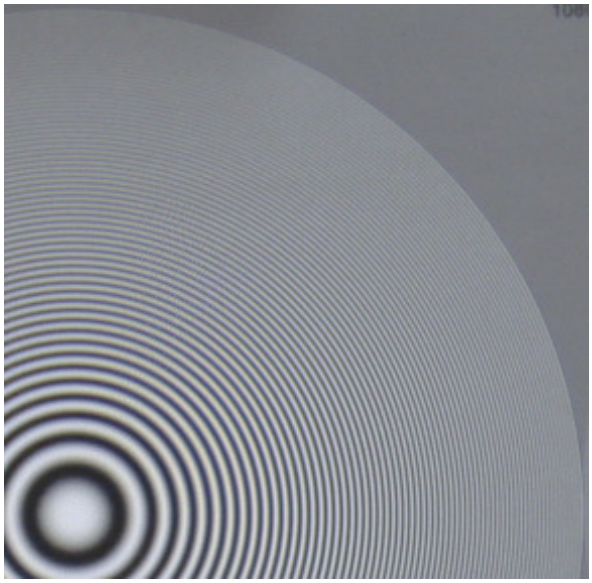


Figure 4 Resolution, 1080p, detail on, factory settings

2.3 Noise performance

The camera specification claims that noise level is -60dB, presumably with gamma-correction switched off, and distribution weighted.

Measurements were made by exposing the camera to a plain white card, evenly lit, highly defocused to eliminate any marks. Gamma-correction was switched on (CCIR) because this is the mode for normal use, gain was set to +6dB and exposure set to generate video signals at 4 levels over the signal range. Data files were saved either to a data store via HDSDI. Software analysis was then used to convert the files to BMP format, and to measure the rms noise levels in each file, using specialised software. Compensation for the 6dB gain was included in the processing. Detail settings were as recommended in the menus.

The shape of the curves is curious. Normally, noise level should be directly proportional to the slope of the gamma-correction curve, least at white, most at black, with up to 17dB between them. The rise in noise levels near white is odd. It could be explained as shot-noise, thermal noise in the sensors, but other cameras do not show such a rise. The rise in noise level towards black is to be expected, but is rather steeper than normal. This type of noise distribution is more typically found in cameras with noise reduction, where

efforts are made to reduce the noise around mid-grey, but for this measurement, noise reduction was switched off.

This is, as yet, unexplained.

The noise level at about mid-grey is representative of the camera performance with gamma-correction switched off. For 1080p, this is about -47dB.

With noise reduction set to maximum the mid-grey noise level has dropped to about -49dB, lowest level being about 51.5dB at 20% signal level. Noise near white is about 1 dB improved, but noise near black has dropped by about 4.5dB. This is a worthwhile improvement, but results in pictures which are distinctly more noisy near white than black, which is unusual in a video camera. It is actually more typical of film noise.

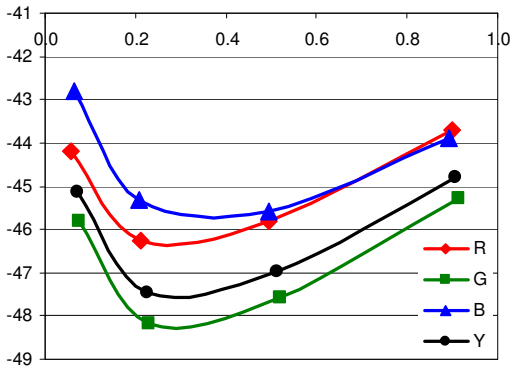
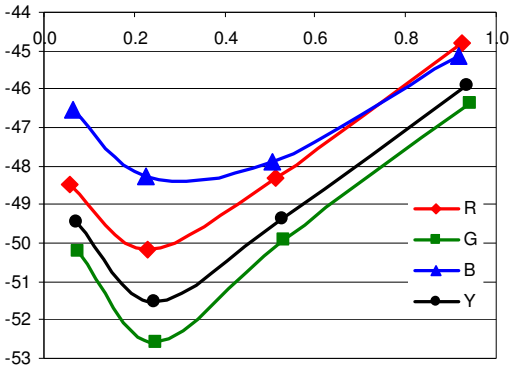


Figure 5 Noise levels, 1080p, NR off



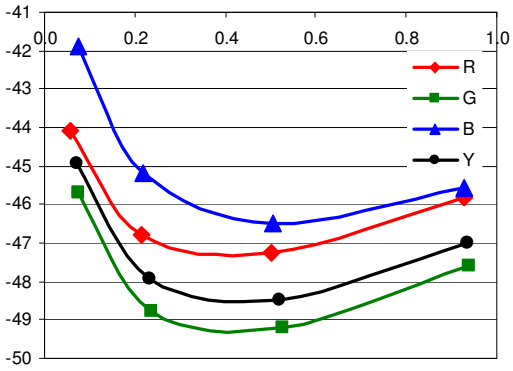


Figure 6 Noise levels, noise reduction=4 (a) 1080p **(b) 720p**

Noise levels at 720p are distributed more normally, with a best performance of -48.5dB.

Figure 7 shows the effect that maximum noise reduction has on resolution. There appears to be little or nothing lost. However, it is always possible that noise reduction can cause other problems on moving images, therefore noise reduction should be used with care.

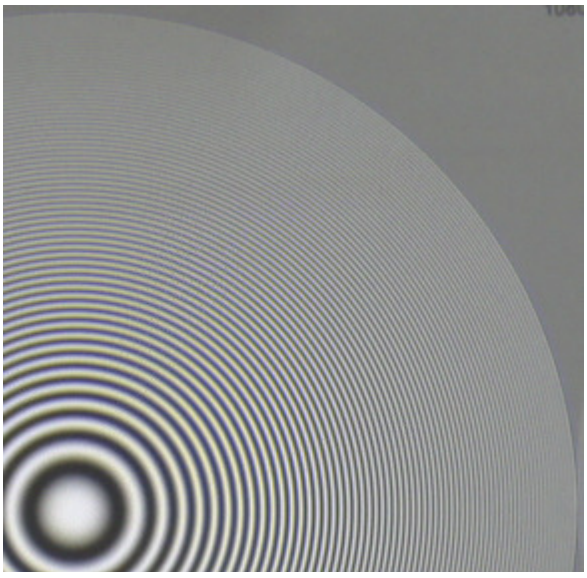


Figure 7 Resolution, 1080p, noise reduction=4

2.4 Conclusion

Several menu items are confusingly misnamed, and wrongly used. However, the performance is not compromised by this.

Resolution at HDTV 1080 is good. There are slight aliases in the pictures at 720p but this should be acceptable in practice.

Noise performance is only adequate, it not as good as the specification claims and the noise profile is odd.

Colour performance was good, but could probably be improved by installing a colour matrix calculated for the camera, and eliminating all the preset matrices.