

the group." Claire was a big fan of the chair sans electronics, saying that they were "fun for about a minute—then they get annoying." Adrienne also liked the electronic aspect of the chair.



about this chair for him to give it a high rating. In fact, it was one of his lowest picks. His biggest complaint was that the seat area was too long. For

This wasn't a perfect seat, though. Chris and Adrienne both commented that the footrest is a little too loose (i.e., the chair likes to close a bit too easily). The idea of a chair like this, in this price range, not having a locking footrest was a major disappointment for an otherwise great chair. That was the only real mark in the negative column. The Broadway was also one of our larger chairs, which everyone liked. If you have money to burn and you like the look, this is an excellent chair.



someone of his dimensions, it just wasn't comfortable. Adrienne also mentioned this, but it didn't seem to bother her as much. I liked this chair quite a bit. It was one of my top three, but it just didn't give me the support that some of the others did. Depending on your body size and price bracket (this was the most expensive chair), the CineMatic could be the chair for you. It's beautiful (to most) and very comfortable.

The CineMatic CinemaChair

After just a brief look at the results, the CineMatic from Acoustic Innovations seemed to be the winner. After all, Claire, Adrienne, and Chris all rated it as their number-one pick. Its soft black leather quickly attracts the eye, and only impressed from there. Chris loved how it was comfortable in every seating position that the electronic adjustment could arrange. Adrienne and Chris both thought that the chair had good head support, which is quite an accomplishment given the 12 inches between their respective heights.

Claire simply loved it: looks, comfort, everything.

So, why wasn't this the Face Off's clear-cut winner? In a word, Adam. There were just too many things that he didn't like

elicit a second-place showing, Adam's dislike of the CineMatic pushed the Celebrity into first place.

A classy chair in its own right, the black leather is smooth and supple to the touch, and the wood front pieces add distinction to its look. While everyone said, at first glance, that it might be too "squishy,"

HIGHLIGHTS

Acoustic Innovations CineMatic CinemaChair:

- Simple black is simply stunning
- Almost a unanimous favorite
- Difficult to resist the urge to stay seated for hours

HIGHLIGHTS

Universal Seating Celebrity Lounger:

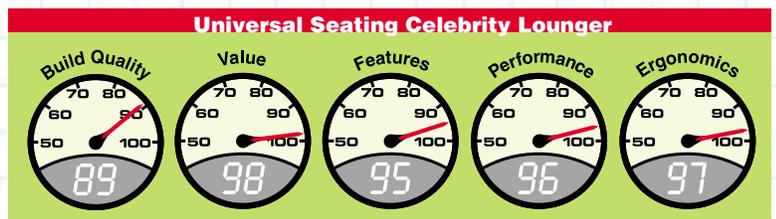
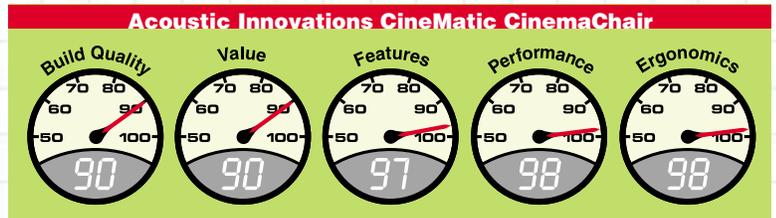
- Like sitting on your favorite teddy bear, minus the guilt
- By far the best comfort for the buck
- What footrest problem?

all were quickly impressed by how the chair balanced softness and the need for support of key areas (for me, the lower back). This was also one of the few chairs in which you could still watch TV from the fully reclined position.

- A. The CineMatic CinemaChair's soft leather and electronic adjustment were a big hit with the panelists.**
- B. The wood panels on the Celebrity Lounger, our victor, aren't just for aesthetics. They house this chair's cup holders.**
- C. Contributor Adam Peabody didn't mind the Royal Rocker VIP's interesting shape.**

The Celebrity Lounger

The envelope, please. Having Universal Seating's Celebrity Lounger win this Face Off is kind of an upset. I was the only one who liked this chair the best (no, I didn't smudge the figures so my chair would win—how dare you think that), but everyone else selected it as their second favorite. So, while that usually would





Another feature that everyone thought was very clever were the cup holders. Most of our chairs had cup holders in the arms or in slide-out trays on

the front. While these are both fine options (and better than no cup holders at all), they seemed distinctly “uncool” when compared with the Celebrity’s tilt-forward front panels. The wood

panels, which got much praise on a strictly visual level, push out and lock in place to become cup holders—hidden from view unless needed and never distracting from the lines of the chair, out or in.

Claire pointed out that this chair was “better than my bed.” Adrienne said that it seemed to be well-tailored to a smaller body, yet Chris also found it comfortable at first sit and throughout the test, as well. He didn’t find himself fidgeting, and Claire said that she could “stay in this chair all day.” I loved it, and so did Adam, except for one fairly major flaw: While I, and my chicken legs, didn’t seem to mind it, Chris disliked and Adam hated

the footrest. A few other people (not part of the Face Off) with muscular and/or bigger legs also commented that the footrest was digging into their calves.

Whether it was the angle of the footrest or the lack of sufficient padding on the top edge, those with the heavier legs did make a point to mention that it was at least noticeable, if not a small bother.

Overall, the Celebrity was the “best” chair of the bunch. I put that

word in quotes because it would be hard to classify any of these chairs as a clear winner. Two people with the same-sized body and similar tastes in furniture might like a different chair. As I said at the beginning, follow the person who has

the body type closest to yours, and see what they have to say.

Adam’s top vote went to the Contempo, followed by the Celebrity Lounger and the Nikko love seat.

His stockier stature caused him to dislike most of the narrower chairs, such as the Corona, the CineMatic, and the Moderne.

Adrienne liked the CineMatic the best, followed by the Celebrity Lounger and the Corona. Her smaller stature let her enjoy the smaller chairs better than Chris or I did. By the same token, she didn’t like the chairs that had longer seat areas, which us taller folks didn’t mind. She disliked the Deco, the Moderne, and the Royal Rocker VIP.

Chris also liked the CineMatic the best and the Celebrity Lounger second, followed by the Broadway. His height caused him to not like some of the shorter chairs. He disliked the Nikko, the Moderne, and the Deco CinemaChair.

Claire leaned toward liking the CineMatic the best, followed by the Celebrity Lounger and the Broadway. About average height for a woman, Claire didn’t have the same dislikes as Adrienne, but she still didn’t

like some of the seats that Chris or I did. She disliked the Deco, the Nikko love seat, and the Royal Rocker VIP.

As for me, I liked the Celebrity Lounger the best, followed by the Deco and the CineMatic. About average height for a guy, I didn’t have the same complaints as Chris, but my back tells me what to think when I’m sitting for a long time, so I didn’t lean toward the really soft chairs. I disliked the Corona, the Nikko, and the Moderne.

The Traditional

Some of you math majors may be wondering where the eleventh chair is. One chair sent to us by Home Theater Resources was more of a showcase piece than a real entry in our test. A part of Home Theater

HIGHLIGHTS

Home Theater

Resources Traditional:

- Would fit well in any living room
- Stain-proof fabric
- A little firm for most tastes

Resources’ Traditional line, this chair was dark burgundy in color and had the feel of rough suede. The material is its claim to fame, as it is impervious to stains. We didn’t test this aspect, but the chair itself received several comments about its grandfather-esque look. This chair, compared with most of the others, would fit into a living-room environment perfectly. If you’re looking for a chair to fit in with your current décor, this is the chair for you. Claire liked it, as did Adam, who said that, although it was firm, it gave great support in the behind. Everyone said that it needed

- A. In a battle of the elements, the Traditional model might just prevail, thanks to its stain-proof material.**
- B. The DreamLounger Sport was firmer than any of the chairs in the comparison.**
- C. A bit larger than the Sport, the DreamLounger Jazz offers good back support.**

