

Panasonic DMP-BD75 DVD player

This DVD player is a boring black box. On the front is the DVD tray, and PLAY/STOP buttons. On top right is a TRAY OPEN button. Round the back are LAN and HDMI connections and three phono sockets (stereo audio and video). It is capable of any number of functions, described in a 36-page PDF manual.



The unit comes with a hand-held controller (#035) which has the expected buttons – PLAY, PAUSE, STOP and so on.

In a U3A context, the device is most likely to be used for showing videos using a projector and a screen. The easiest way of connecting it to a projector is with an HDMI lead, which should be in the projector bag.

Several of our digital projectors have built-in loudspeakers, but they are small, tinny and little better than a laptop computer or a phone. If the soundtrack is important, it is better to use a separate amplifier and speaker. We have three options:

- ◇ A wheeled QR10PA public address amplifier (#079 or #127) as used by U3A dance groups in QMH and Morecambe.¹
- ◇ The Adastra CS50 mono amplifier (#097) with a single loudspeaker.
- ◇ A Marantz PM6003 stereo amplifier (#043 or #112) with two loudspeakers.

Any of these amplifiers would allow the soundtrack to be easily audible in any of our usual venues.² For a high quality music soundtrack, the Marantz amplifier with the SP3500 speakers (#125 and #126) is probably best.



Connecting any of the amplifiers is straightforward and uses a twin phono lead from the DVD player to the input on the amplifier. These are labelled LINE IN on the QR10PA systems and AUX DVD on the Marantz system. (On the Adastra amplifier there is only one pair of inputs, so there's no ambiguity.) One consideration might be weight – a QR10PA amplifier/speaker is 10.1 kg, a Marantz amplifier 7.5 kg and the Adastra amplifier 4.7 kg (but the last two need separate speakers).

I have tested the unit, with my desktop computer screen (2560 x 1440 pixels), the Adastra amplifier and a Celestion KR8 speaker. It was easy to use and played old DVDs (The Wicker Man) and newer Blu-ray discs (Nixon in China) without problems.

Roger Kemp 1 December 2025

¹ See separate notes in this series for information on these amplifiers.

² The largest problem is likely to be the acoustics of the room. I would advise against trying to show DVDs in the library meeting room or the CoA hall in Morecambe. Both have far too much reverberation and/or resonances.