

Take Comfort ComfortVu Fireplace TV Mount

Above-the-fireplace HDTV installs are extremely popular, thanks to the central location of so many hearths and the fact that in many living and family rooms, this is the only viable place to integrate a television. But this location absolutely stinks for watching TV. If your seating is remotely close to the set, the area above even a relatively low mantel puts the TV uncomfortably high to the point of prompting neck strain or a too-prone resting position for the viewer. From a greater distance, the set still remains unnatural for day-to-day viewing, and you lose the intimacy that comes with sitting close to the detailed picture a 1080p HDTV can provide.

The ComfortVu motorized flat-panel mount directly addresses this concern by literally lowering and suspending the TV at something close to the ideal viewing height. ComfortVu founder Joseph Lee, who owns the Los Angeles-based install



firm Lee Entertainment Systems, was frustrated for years by this problem for which he saw no commercially available solution and finally decided to tackle it. Ten months later, he had a prototype finished and lined up an L.A.-area manufacturer.

The ComfortVu is built from aircraft-grade 6061 aluminum

and cold-rolled steel, with a durable textured black powder coating. It will accommodate 55-to-85-inch TVs (a model for smaller sets is said to be on the way) and supports up to 200 pounds on its own. No unusual mounting hardware or tools are required—it just goes into two or three studs,

or a brick or stone wall, as any other mount does. Once it's in place, the TV is easily hung on the mount via rails attached to the back of the set, as is done with many fixed and articulating mounts today. A number of options handle control, including IR (a handheld remote and easily concealed IR receiver are included), RF (with an optional receiver kit), the RS-232 or -422 control standards, or a relay contact closure. It can be stopped at any point along its path, with a maximum drop of 21 inches from its highest flush-to-the-wall position.

With its \$3,599 price tag, the ComfortVu might cost you considerably more than the TV you plan to mount on it. But there's no denying that this currently one-of-a-kind mounting solution could be the godsend you need for long hours of TV viewing. It belongs near the top of anyone's why-didn't-I-do-it-sooner list.

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**View the ComfortVu
Fireplace mount in action.**