

TechniSat Multytenne

The 'happy go lucky' package

When the courier delivered a quite compact package (considering we were expecting a satellite dish) from TechniSat to the sacred halls of our editorial offices just before the deadline for the current issue we were a little

surprised, to say the least. This miracle dish has a width of just 45 cm and should be able to receive four satellites simultaneously: Astra 19.2° East, Hotbird 13° East, Astra 2 28.2° East and Astra 3A 23.5° East.

We quickly opened the package and started to assemble the individual items. TechniSat really did a great job here with its very comprehensive, logical and easy to understand manual. Even absolute beginners should be able to assemble and align the antenna in next to no time.

rather futuristic. It would easily fit in any science fiction movie.

It is fairly easy to correctly align the antenna because only Astra 19.2° East has to be found and all other positions are then automatically be received thanks to the special multi-feed LNB. We

Another point worth mentioning is the fact that TechniSat has optimised this dish specifically for the German speaking countries. Once the Multytenne is introduced in these countries TechniSat might present special versions for other markets and satellite positions as well.



The package comes complete with a wall-mounting device, which is necessary because the Multytenne is not compatible with standard installation equipment and must be mounted on this particular device. The LNB is specifically developed and designed for this dish and looks

should emphasise at this point that it absolutely pays to spend some extra time on precisely aligning the dish towards Astra 19.2° East, because an exact alignment makes sure that the three other satellite positions will be received with reasonable quality as well.

Everyday use

Unfortunately the Multytenne arrived just before the editorial deadline for the current issue, so we did not have all the time we would have liked to thoroughly test the reception quality for all four positions. We can, however, give you a short overview of the antenna's capabilities:

As expected there were no problems whatsoever with the reception of the strong satellite positions Astra 1 19.2° East and Astra 3A 23.5° East and all transponders that we scanned and measured for testing purposes were processed flawlessly and with a surprising good C/N value, considering we're talking about a 45 cm dish here.

A slightly different picture emerges for Astra 2 and Hotbird. While all transponders of Astra 2A and 2B could be received without problems, some signals of Astra 2D and Eurobird did not make it to the TV screen. However, this is not to blame on the Multytenne but rather on the weak signals being beamed

from these two positions. The reception of Hotbird signals was generally OK, even though we noticed that of all four satellite positions the signals from Hotbird were the weakest. Nonetheless, MCPC transponders with high symbol rates came in without difficulties.

On the whole it can be stated that the Multytenne is an almost perfect compromise between a maximum of positions for multi-feed reception and the smallest possible antenna size. The spread of interesting and popular channels over different satellite positions – such as the moving of HDTV channels to Astra 3A – or the quite large range of English language channels on Astra 2 as well as the increasing number of erotic channels on Hotbird make the Multytenne an interesting option for many households. Thanks to its small size it will fit and work on any south-facing balcony.

Digit MF4-S

You can use the Multytenne





in combination with any receiver featuring the DiSEqC 1.0 protocol, but TechniSat sells the Multytenne package complete with its own Digit MF4-S digital satellite receiver. It, too, looks very futuristic at first sight, thanks to its simple but elegant design.

On the front panel we find an LED segment display plus three buttons for controlling the receiver without using the remote control, as well as a card slot. On one side the box features a Common Interface slot and an RS-232 serial interface for connecting the receiver to a PC. Multytenne packages sold in the German speaking countries also include a smartcard for reception of the TechniSat satellite radio package.

The back panel of this very slim digital receiver (28.5 x 13 x 4 cm) features two scart euro-connectors, two RCA sockets for stereo audio out, the IF input for the satellite signals as well as an optical and an electrical output for digital audio. The remote control has a nice touch and feel and is characterised – just like the receiver and the Multytenne – by immaculate build quality.

Reception

After switching on the receiver for the first time the typical TechniSat installation wizard appears on the screen and allows the user to customise the box step by step. The first and most important step is the selection of the preferred OSD language. The Digit F4-S is very international

and offers English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Turkish, Swedish, Portuguese, Russian, Polish, Czech, Hungarian and Dutch.

The next step is a special feature of this TechniSat receiver: from a list of 19 different countries the user can select his country and the receiver will then automatically adjust all country-specific parameters such as the local time zone. What follows is the antenna configuration, which has no default setting for the Multytenne yet and has only Astra 19.2° East and Hotbird 13° East activated right from the beginning. By clicking on 'Manual', however, the settings can be changed to include the other two satellites as well.

The box then automatically checks whether new software is available over-the-air and if so downloads and installs it. The final step is the channel search and the MF4-S took a little less than six minutes to scan an 80-transponder satellite. While not being that fastest on the market, it certainly is one of the most thorough boxes and found all channels. After all, you don't do a complete search every day.

The logical main menu can be used to adjust all major settings such as the video output (CVBS, RGB or S-Video) or the favourite lists for radio and TV. Just like all other TechniSat digital receivers the MF4-S is capable of downloading pre-sorted channel lists saving users the fuss of manually arranging their lists.

The EPG of TechniSat receivers is another very handy feature deserving special praise. TechniSat has its own editorial staff for EPG information for all German language satellite channels, which is downloaded at given times by TechniSat receivers. The feature is called SFI and allows for a very clear and comprehensive EPG overview with the option of marking events for recording using a connected recording device.

Channel switching takes approximately one second,

which is absolutely reasonable. The perfect overall impression of MF4-S is complemented by the built-in teletext decoder and the possibility to use the multi-channel feeds offered by German pay TV provider Premiere.

Multytenne LNB



TECHNIC DATA

Manufacturer	TechniSat Digital GmbH TechniPark, D-54550 Daun Germany
Fax	+352-710707-959
E-mail	international@technisat.com
Model	Multytenne
Function	Satellite antenna for multi-feed reception of Astra 19.2° East, Hotbird 13° East, Astra 3A 23.5° East and Astra 2 28.2° East
Antenna diameter	45 cm
USALS	Yes
DiSEqC	1.0 / 1.2 / 1.3
Scart connections	2
Audio output	2 x RCA
UHF modulator	No
0/12 Volt output	No
Digital audio output	Yes
EPG	Yes
Power supply	180-250 VAC, 50 Hz

Expert conclusion



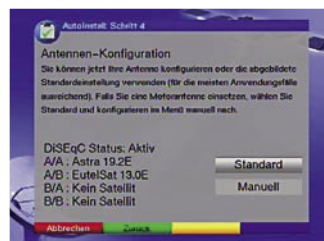
With its Multytenne TechniSat offers a true 'happy go lucky' package. Assembly is child's play, the reception quality of the dish is very good considering it's a 45 cm antenna. The receiver that is included in the package is easy to use and fit to please the whole family. You could hardly wish for more!



Thomas Haring
TELE-satellit
Test Center
Austria



None



Installation wizard |



Channel list |



Main menu |



Info bar |