

# Eycos S30.12CI

## Elegant Little Brother

After the test report of the Eycos S50.12PVR appeared in the last issue of TELE-satellite magazine, we received numerous positive comments on this receiver. At the same time we also received many requests to test that receiver's

little brother, the S30.12CI. Naturally, what the reader wants, the reader gets (well, most of the time anyway...). We contacted Satforce and they were kind enough to send us the latest box from Eycos.

If first impressions mean anything, then the S30.12CI is a winner: without question, it is by far the most elegant receiver that we have ever tested. Even this receiver's bigger brother does not measure up. Based on the motto "less is sometimes more", Eycos has hidden all of the buttons and card slots behind a large flap that covers the entire front panel. Through the dark, yet still see-through plastic panel, the receiver's segmented display can still easily

output, you will also find a pair of Scart connectors, four RCA jacks for video, analog audio plus digital audio outputs, an RF modulator, a main power switch and of course an RS-232 serial interface for uploading new receiver software or channel lists.

The included remote control is also elegant and ergonomically shaped. It sits nicely in your hand and the buttons are all clearly labeled and easy to read. Thanks to the extremely detailed

become comfortable with this box. The OSD, available in English, German, French, Italian, Russian, Farsi, Spanish, Dutch, Turkish, Greek, Hungarian, Swedish, Romanian, Slovenian and Portuguese, is divided into five sections: Satellite Setup, Channel Scan, Channel and System Editing and Accessories (including calendar and video games).

from that, hidden deep in one of the sub menus, satellites and transponders can be manually added. The receiver is both C-band and Ku-band compatible and in addition to the numerous preprogrammed LOF values, the user can also manually enter LOF values that are not preprogrammed such as those for the S-band.

After matching the receiver to our antenna, it's time to take a closer look at all the different settings possibilities in the Setup menu. Next to basic settings such as clock adjustment and video output selection (RGB or CVBS - S-video and YUV are unfortunately not available), you can also select the desired color standard (PAL, NTSC or AUTO) as well as activate some optical effects (fade in/fade out after a channel change, etc.).

The unusually fast chan-



<b>TEST RESULT</b> <b>SATELLITE INTERNATIONAL</b> <small>TELE</small>	Features	
	Channel Memory	
	Channel Scan Speed	
	Channel Switching Speed	
	Video Quality	
	Audio Quality	
	Tuner Sensitivity	

be seen. With the front panel flap open, the two CI slots (for all CA modules including Irdeto, Nagravision/Betacrypt, Seca Mediaguard, Viaccess, Conax etc.) as well as the eight buttons for full receiver operation even without the remote control can be seen.

user manual written in both English and German, the user should easily become familiar with this receiver without spending too many hours studying the manual.

### Everyday Use

Thankfully, Eycos did not change the menu structure in the S30.12CI. This should allow even total beginners to quickly

The S30.12CI supports all of the DiSEqC protocols (1.0, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 or USALS) and can therefore be used with almost any antenna configuration starting from a simple fixed antenna to a multifeed system using up to 16 LNB's all the way to a DiSEqC 1.3 motorized system. The receiver comes preprogrammed with 55 satellites; this list can easily be updated via the manufacturer's web site. Aside

nel scan speed caught us by surprise. A scan of 80 transponders was completed by the S30.12CI in just about three minutes with no network scan. With the network scan activated it was more like 4.5 minutes but in return an additional 328 TV and radio channels were found. The receiver can also perform a manual transponder scan (with or without network scan) as well as an expanded scan with





PID entry for the more seasoned users. The rather large channel memory is also something worth noting: up to 8000 channels can be stored without any problems. There are quite a few other manufacturers that should take note of this and perhaps consider something similar.

Thanks to multifeed reception, a scan of two or more satellite positions could easily result in 1500 to 2000 channels being added to the receiver's memory. It would probably be a good idea not to waste any time organizing all of these channels. Unfortunately, the Eycos does not offer too many sorting possibilities other than sorting alphabetically or by FTA/CAS in the channel list. Channels can, however, easily be renamed, moved or deleted. The more popular channels can be transferred into Favorites lists so that they can be quickly recalled at a later time with just the push of a button.

It has generally become standard in any receiver for the channel list to be accessed with the OK button on the remote control. This is also true for the S30.12CI. A push of the Info button displays expanded channel information while the signal strength and quality bar graphs are first visible in the expanded Info menu.

If you can do without the optical effects such as fade in/fade out with each channel change, channel switching is actually quite fast at less than one second. Shortly after switching to another channel, the EPG with

its daily and weekly programming data is available. As with most of the other software functions, Eycos kept the software very much the same as with its bigger brother; software that we were also very happy with in the previous issue of TELE-satellite.

Even on the hardware side Eycos was thinking of quality and, contrary to many other manufacturers, included a very sensitive tuner that can handle even weak signals with low FEC rates without any difficulties. Various tests on weak satellites such as Arabsat 2D or the horizontal transponders of Nilesat or Astra 2D always came back with positive results.

We were a little disappointed with the SCPC capability of the S30.12CI. The manufacturer specifies 2-45 Ms/sec. in the user manual and this turns out to be quite accurate in that the test transponder on Pas12 at 45° east at with 1.320 Ms/sec. or the 1.028 Ms/sec. signal on NSS7 at 22° west could not be handled by this receiver. Only symbolrates starting at 2.0 Ms/sec. could be processed by the S30.12CI.

On the other hand, we were pleased with this receiver's lack of interference with cordless telephones (assuming of course that high quality cables are used); something that occurs quite often with other receivers according to our readers.

Our overall good impression of this receiver was made even better thanks to the integrated

8-event timer function, the good functioning teletext decoder and the extra integrated accessories such as the calendar, calculator and three video games.

Eycos makes available a channel list editor for your PC free of charge on its web site ([www.eycos.de](http://www.eycos.de)). Despite all of its capabilities, this editor is actually quite easy to use. A software update via satellite is not available (not yet anyway) but thanks

to the practical update tools, this is easily done via the PC.

Eycos took great pains to make sure that the software was designed with simplicity and detail in mind. We did not come across any software problems during our tests. We also took a closer look at the various OSD languages available in this receiver and the overall impression on the presentation of these languages was generally positive.

### TECHNIC DATA



<b>Manufacturer</b>	Eycos Multimedia Systems No.756, 189-1, Kumi-dong Bundang-ku, Seongnam 463-810, Korea
<b>Distributor Europa</b>	Satforce Kommunikationstechnik GmbH
<b>Tel.</b>	+49 (0)86 54 773 851
<b>Fax</b>	+49 (0)86 54 773 852
<b>E-Mail</b>	<a href="mailto:info@satforce.com">info@satforce.com</a>
<b>Model</b>	S30.12CI
<b>Function</b>	Digital Satellite Receiver with CI Slots
<b>Channel Memory</b>	8000
<b>Satellites</b>	75
<b>Symbolrate</b>	2-45 Ms/sec.
<b>SCPC Compatible</b>	•
<b>USALS</b>	•
<b>DiSEqC</b>	1.0 / 1.1 / 1.2 / 1.3
<b>Scart Connectors</b>	2
<b>Audio/Video Outputs</b>	3 x RCA
<b>UHF Output</b>	•
<b>0/12-Volt Output</b>	-
<b>Digital Audio Output</b>	•
<b>EPG</b>	•
<b>C/Ku-band Compatible</b>	•
<b>SatcoDX Compatible</b>	-
<b>Power Supply</b>	100-240 VAC, 50/60 Hz
<b>Power Consumption</b>	max. 30W

## Expert conclusion



If you can do without twin tuners and a PVR, the S30.12CI would be a very good choice for you. The receiver functions very reliably and is very easy to use. The user manual is very detailed and can help in almost any situation. The receiver would be an ideal and above all a very optically pleasing addition to any living room.



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Unfortunately, the Eycos S50.12PVR and the S30.12CI both function using the same remote control signals.



Main Menu (ex. Farsi) |



Channel Scan |



SCPC |



EPG |