

# Maspro DT330

## HDTV - For Japan Only

The Maspro DT330 is a combined satellite and terrestrial tuner for Japan's ISDB-format digital TV services. Because it's tied to these systems and

cannot be used with other services, such as DVB or MPEG2-based satellite broadcasting, the tuner requires very little set-up.



On the satellite-side the only set up that is required is connection to an antenna. The receiver automatically searches for channels and within a few seconds it is working. For terrestrial broadcasting users need select their nearest major city from a list and hit search. The receiver then scans for available channels and automatically adds them to the memory.

The channels in memory are automatically divided into four main categories based on the broadcasting platform: TR for terrestrial channels, BS for DBS satellite channels and CS1 and CS2 for non-DBS satellite channels.

A button press is needed to switch between the different platforms and you can't mix channels from different platforms together so, for example, if you are watching BS satellite channels the up/down buttons will cycle you through those but you'll have to press the platform button to watch any CS1 channels.

It's how must tuners in Japan work but it's annoying nonetheless. The tuner automatically switches between standard and high-definition and 4:3 and 16:9 aspect ratio output depending on the program being viewed. There are three video outputs for hooking up to a monitor:

a standard RCA video output, S-video output and a Japanese D4 connector, which supports an analog HDTV output. This can be switched between 525-i, 720-p and 1125-i to suit the monitor.

The on-screen display and electronic program guide are basic but easy to use. It's a shame that engineers couldn't have designed an HD program guide to make use of the higher resolution of some TVs to list more programs. As it is, users with HDTV sets see the same guide as standard definition TV owners.

The receiver has a sensitive tuner. This isn't so important for satellite broadcasts because Japan's DBS service delivers a powerful signal, but the terrestrial tuner managed to produce a picture from a low-powered local channel that was almost free of block noise. A reference TV, which also has a built-in digital tuner, can't produce a stable picture on the channel in question.

One thing missing from the receiver is an Ethernet socket for connection to a broadband Internet connection. That means

it can't access any interactive TV functions that rely on an Internet connection. There is a telephone

socket for some functions, such as registration for pay TV and interactive voting.

Annoyances include the receiver defaulting to the main audio of a bilingual program each time it is switched off. For Japanese speakers this isn't perhaps too much of a problem but English speakers, who will typically listen to the English-language secondary audio, will have to switch to this audio channel each time the receiver is turned on.

### Conclusion

The receiver is one of the cheapest currently available that supports terrestrial and satellite HDTV services. There is little difference between most of the tuners so this makes the Maspro DT330 an excellent choice as a primary or secondary tuner.

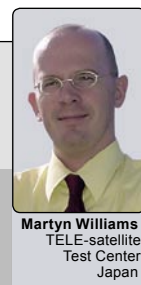
### Expert conclusion

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Very easy to install with a very sensitive tuner.

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Usability could be improved.



### TECHNIC DATA



Vendor	Maspro Denkoh Corp.
Address	Asada, Nissin, Aichi, 470-0194, Japan
Phone	+81-52-802-2211
Fax	+81-52-802-2200
Email	boekim@maspro.co.jp
Internet	www.maspro.co.jp
Model	DT330
Function	Digital terrestrial, BS satellite, CS satellite receiver
Channel memory	4,000 channels
Input	Terrestrial: 70-990MHz Satellite: 1032-2071MHz
Video output	RCA x2, S-Video x2, D4 HDTV x1
Audio output	RCA x2
Power supply	AC100 volts 50/60Hz
Size	60mm x 275mm x 270mm
Weight	2.3 kgs

