

Matrix Planet Blind-Scan FTA Receiver with OTA



In a previous issue of TELE-satellite (#194) we reported on a Blindsan receiver offered by Stella Satindo, a satellite equipment distributor based in Jakarta Indonesia. They got a new model out,

called Matrix Planet, a Blindsan receiver as well, designed in a black housing and with OTA (Over The Air firmware update).

Its front panel has seven buttons for full control of the receiver: power on/off, menu/exit, ok, vol-, vol+, ch- and ch+. It also has eight LEDs above the display, acting as a signal strength indicator. With its slim design, it should be easily fit with to any other equipment. A calendar feature is also available.

The Matrix Planet is less equipped on the rear panel: three RCA jacks for video and stereo audio, a satellite IF input with corresponding looped through output, plus an RS-232 interface and an RF output. There is also a main power switch. Unfortunately there is no digital audio output, as well as no SCART connector.

The included remote control is clearly labelled, but somehow uncommon with the numeric pads at bottom. Although buttons are small, they are not too close together and thus still easy to operate. The overall workmanship of this receiver is fine and left us with a good impression.

Everyday Use

The Matrix Planet can store up to 3200 channels. It supports both DiSEqC 1.0 and 1.2 protocols, and can be used to switch up to four LNBS, or to be connected to a motorized antenna.

This box comes with pre-programmed channels from six satellites and ready to use with a 4in1 LNBFs system: PalapaC2 (113.0E),

Telkom1 (108.0E), Asiasat3S (105.5E) and Asiasat2 (100.5E) and Apstar6 (134.0E) .

This receiver only has two OSD languages: English and Indonesian. The user manual that comes with the receiver is only available in Indonesian language.

A push of the Info button delivers all relevant provider data and content information on the current selected channel. It also has four Favorite Lists. A test on 3747V at Asiasat3S (105.5E) showed that a transponder with a low SR as 2626 can be handled without any problem. The specifications state that even SRs as low as 2000 can be received, but at our test location we do not get such low SR.

OTA

Stella Satindo is the first local distributor to offer a receiver with OTA feature. Using this feature is very easy. The receiver software can be upgraded automatically from satellite Telkom1 (108.0E) transponder 3580H, by simply tuning to channel 20 in the channel list. Unfortunately, during our test, there was no new software available yet.

Blind Scan

The Matrix Planet also offers blind scan. This feature updates the channel list without manually entering any transponder data.

Using this feature is very easy, simply select the desired satellite, configure the LOF of LNB, choose to scan only-FTA or all channels. The blind scan will find any active transponders and directly get the channels list. While the search is in progress, only the frequency and SR are shown, as well as the found channel names. It would be nice if the polarity would be included as well.

Conclusion

We were pleased to test this receiver's feature and reliable operation. With the ability to upgrade from satellite, this receiver will always have an up to date firmware. This Matrix Planet is a cost effective FTA receiver.



TECHNIC DATA



Manufacturer	PT Stella Satindo Komplek Daan Mogot Prima Blok B3 No. 7 Jl. Daan Mogot Raya km 12,8 Jakarta 11740, Indonesia
Website	www.stella.co.id
Phone	+62-21-54373829
Fax	+62-21-54373833
Email	sales@stella.co.id
Model	Matrix Planet
Function	Digital FTA receiver with OTA
Channel Memory	3200
Satellites	no
Symbolrate	2 – 45 Mbps
DiSEqC	1.0, 1.2
22 kHz switch	yes
USALS	no
Programmable 0/12V	no
Scart connectors	no
Video/ Audio Output	3 X RCA
Digital Audio Output	no
Color systems	PAL, NTSC
S-VHS Output	no
RF Modulator	yes, fixed on 621 MHz (ch 39)
SCPC Compatible	yes
EPG	yes
Teletext	no
Power Supply	90 – 240 VAC
Power Consumption	20 W (max.)

Expert conclusion

- + **Software upgrade by OTA. Blind scan as additional feature. Cost effective FTA box for easy use**

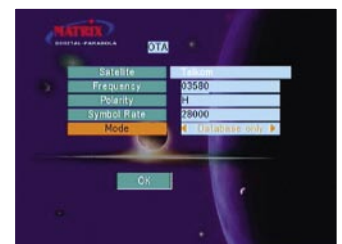


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- **Uncommon positions for the remote buttons**



Blind Scan |



OTA |