

TechniSat DigiPlus STR 1

Elegant CI Receiver with LCD Display

There are already plenty of bulky CI receivers with segmented displays available. So you can just imagine how excited we were to actually be holding an elegant receiver with readable display on our hands!

The new TechniSat DigiPlus STR1 was nicely

packed and impressed us not only from its external appearance but also from its internal workings. The large and extremely easy to read display in the middle of the front panel stands out as soon as you open the box. To the left behind a flap are two well-hidden integrated card readers for Conax and Cryptoworks.

variety of LNBs, from your basic single LNB, through a Quattro LNB up to and including TechniSat's own one-cable solution (Disicon series). Additionally, there are also corresponding local oscillator frequency (LOF) values for the C-band and also for circular LNBs available. And if you absolutely must use your S-band antenna with this new TechniSat receiver, you can set up the necessary LOFs manually. A pair of signal and quality displays constantly keep an eye out on the incoming satellite signal letting you easily adjust all the settings as needed for optimum reception.



To our great surprise, we found that one of these slots was already fitted with a TechniSat Smart Card for a 30-day free trial of the radio package on Astra at 19.2° east. If you happen to like listening to that radio package, just fill out the order card that came with the receiver package to keep the Smart Card active after the 30-day trial.

Six buttons are located to the right of the display for control of the receiver should the remote control not be available. Nevertheless, it would be a good idea to keep fresh batteries in the remote since most of the receiver's features can only be accessed through the remote.

As long as we're on the subject of remote controls: TechniSat is trying to follow a very straight line by including the same remote in all of their units. If you already have a TechniSat box to call your own, you should have no trouble at all getting comfortable with the remote that comes with the DigiPlus STR1. It sits nicely

in your hand and all buttons are within easy reach of your thumb.

On the rear panel, you will find two Scart connectors, three RCA jacks for video and stereo audio, a digital audio output (optical and coaxial), a satellite IF input as well as a service connection. Unfortunately, you won't find a main power switch, a looped-through IF output, an S-Video output and a modulator output.

The included user manual is in typical TechniSat quality: it is quite detailed with numerous illustrations and should therefore be an excellent tool even for beginners.

Everyday Use

After turning on the receiver for the first time, you are taken directly to the Installation Assistant that guides through all of the necessary setup parameters step-by-step. Choosing the desired OSD language is the first step. You can choose between German, French, Italian, English

and Spanish. A second version of this receiver with the choices English, Turkish, Czech, Hungarian and Bulgarian is also available.

The next step involves selecting your location. A large selection is available that includes Germany, Switzerland, Great Britain, Spain, Holland, Turkey, Denmark, Norway, Russia, Luxembourg, Austria, The Czech Republic, France, Italy, Belgium, Poland, Sweden, Finland and Greece. If you now ask yourself what the use would be in the receiver knowing location, the answer is simply ISIPRO. The ISIPRO system was developed by TechniSat to provide up-to-date and country-specific channel lists to the user. As soon as a new channel is added or an old one removed, the receiver recognizes this automatically and loads the updated channel list via satellite. The days of time-consuming channel scans and channel sorting are over.

The next step is based on your existing antenna system. Naturally the receiver is compatible with all standard DiSEqC protocols as well as with the TechniSat developed Multyenne system previously introduced by TELE-satellite. The Multyenne system provides for multiple satellite reception at the same time. A DiSEqC motor can also be operated. The preprogrammed satellite list includes all of the more popular DTH satellites in Europe. 13 additional satellites can be manually added if need be.

The DigiPlus STR1 supports a

Before the installation procedure comes to an end, the receiver takes a quick look to see if any new software is available via satellite. Only after this step is completed can you get into the channel menu. The user must choose between the ISIPRO system mentioned earlier and an automatic channel scan for all or free-to-air (FTA) only channels. We began our tests by activating the ISIPRO system; the download of an up-to-date channel list started immediately and was completed in just about one minute. The DigiPlus STR1 needed a little more time, roughly eight minutes, to download SFI data. This system is similar to the familiar EPG but on the one hand it comes with a number of sort and search functions and on the other it is a single download for all of the major broadcasters with information up to a week in advance.

After successfully exiting the Installation Assistant, the receiver switches over to the first receivable channel. The Info bar that immediately appears displays the current channel number and name as well as the title of the current program. This information is also visible on the receiver's LCD display and can easily be read from a distance. The receiver switches between channels in just under a second



and there are no noticeable video or audio distortions after switching channels.

Since we entered Austria as our test location, all German language channels including those from Austria were loaded. Even the large German PayTV providers were made available in the channel list. If we had chosen Switzerland as our location, all of the corresponding German-language channels would have been placed at the head of the list. Overall, this is a well thought out and extremely practical feature. It should also be noted that the so-called option channels of various PayTV providers were also supported and displayed without any problems.

To change channels, simply press the OK button to display the channel list. The current TV channel continues to be visible in a smaller window in the upper right corner of the screen. The channel list can also be sorted by provider and each channel can have its EPG info displayed assuming that this data is available. A push of the SFI button opens the editorially arranged EPG system that can handle a large number of channels. Various modes such as an overview (what happens to be playing on each channel) plus a total and detailed overview of all the channels can be accessed in just seconds.

Pushing the red function button provides access to the Timer settings from which you can choose between a video recorder timer and a channel switching timer. The channel switching timer lets you switch to another channel automatically at a specified time while the video recorder timer operates in a locked mode so that no one can accidentally change channels or turn the receiver off while a program is being recorded.

If you've never been too happy with the quality of the Scart's CVBS signal, you can go into the Settings menu and change the output to RGB or S-Video plus activate automatic 16:9 switching. TechniSat also did not forget to include child protection set-

tings; in addition to a typical PIN lock-out of the entire menu system, individual TV and radio channels can also be hidden from the nosy kids.

As practical as the ISIPRO system is, it could never cover every desired channel. This is reason enough for us to take a closer look at the manual channel scan.

The Channel Scan menu offers four different modes: an automatic scan on all available satellites, a scan of individual satellites or transponders as well as a manual scan with PID entry for DXers. In all four modes, the scan can be set for all or FTA-only channels. A look at the pre-programmed transponder data reveals that they are for the most part up-to-date. For our channel scan test, the DigiPlus STR1 managed to scan 80 transponders in a little over eight minutes. All things considered, not bad at all.

The picture was not so easy with the reception of very weak signals. Only those signals starting with a C/N of roughly 5dB could be processed by the receiver and displayed distortion-free. We were thus unable to use our 1.2-meter antenna on the relatively weak horizontal signals from NILESAT at 7° west. Even our test center in Berlin reported little to no success on ASTRA2D at 28.2° east with a 1.2-meter dish.

These less than positive results with its tuner sensitivity were more than made up for with this box's SCPC capabilities. Our test transponder with a symbolrate of 1.142 Ms/sec. was processed effortlessly and displayed without any distortion.

Radio fans will be very happy the first time they switch from TV to radio mode. Even in this mode the STR1 displays easy-to-read channel names, not to mention EPG data should it be available. Now you no longer need to turn the TV on in radio mode since even the TV and radio channel list is visible in reduced size on the receiver's display.

Expert Opinion



Thomas Haring
TELE-satellite
Test Center
Austria

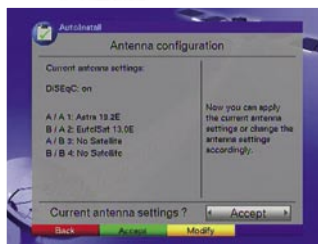
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The TechniSat DigiPlus STR1 is an ideal receiver for every living room and every age group. It is very easy to use and, thanks to the Installation Assistant and the ISIPRO system, many of the setup difficulties that might otherwise pop up with a standard receiver are done away with. It also comes with quite a few setting variations for the more ambitious user or the professional. SCPC reception is very good and thanks to the SFI system the user has access to a fully-featured electronic program guide that other receivers cannot offer.

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It would have been nice to see a main power switch, a satellite looped-through IF output and modulator on the rear panel.

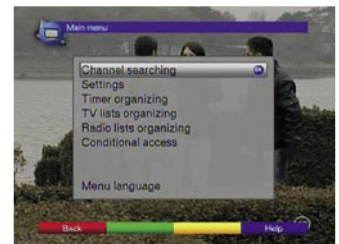
TECHNIC DATA



Manufacturer	TechniSat Digital GmbH, 54550 Daun, Germany
Tel	+49-6592-712-600
Fax	+49-6592-4910
E-Mail	http://www.technisat.com/en/kontakt.php
Model	DigiPlus STR1
Function	Digital CI Satellite Receiver with two integrated card readers
Channel Memory	5000
Satellites	33
Symbolrates	1-45 Ms/sec.
SCPC Compatible	yes, starting at 1.142 Ms/sec. (test result)
USALS	no
DiSEqC	1.0 / 1.2
Scart Connectors	2
Audio/Video Outputs	3 x RCA
UHF Modulator	no
Programmable 0/12 Volt	no
Digital Audio Output	yes, optical and coaxial
EPG	yes
C/Ku-band Compatible	yes
Power Supply	180-250 VAC, 50 Hz



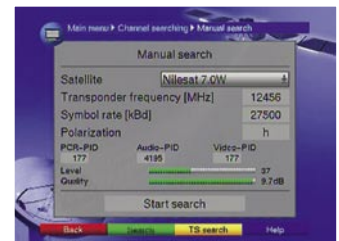
Antenna Configuration |



Main Menu |



SCPC Reception |



Channel Scan |



Downloading the ISIPRO Channel List |