

# DVBShop TV Player

Alternative software solution for all TechnoTrend receivers

Anybody who purchases an internal PC card or external USB box of German manufacturer TechnoTrend is also provided with the software required to use the device. This TechnoTrend Media Center works well in principle, even though it lacks the finishing touches in some areas and – especially for beginners – a more intuitive interface would be helpful.

DVBShop is TechnoTrend's distribution partner in Germany and based on feedback from its customers it has decided to commission the development of its own TV player software. The project is carried out under the supervision of Bernd Hackbart, who also developed the DVBViewer Pro software, which is distributed via a website by the same name and has gained huge popularity among insiders, and who in the past has uncovered the wide world of possibilities hidden in TechnoTrend hardware.

In future, DVBShop customers will receive the in-house TV player bundled with appropriate hardware.

## Everyday use

The DVBShop TV player is compatible with all TechnoTrend PC products of the Connect and Budget series, no matter whether it's an internal PC card or external USB box, as well as with the TechnoTrend TV stick. Reception of HDTV is possible and if the hardware is equipped with a CI slot, a DVB-S2 tuner or a TechnoTrend remote control you'll be able to use these features as before. We experienced no difficulties whatsoever when installing the software on our lab PC and as far as hardware was concerned we used the TechnoTrend S2-3650CI receiver which was presented in TELE-satellite only recently.

Before we could begin our in-depth test of the software capabilities we first had to run a signal scan. Of course there is a pre-programmed satellite list comprising 160 European, Asian and American satellites, but the default version is not really up to date. Thankfully, however, it can easily be updated via the Internet, for example at <http://joshfun.peque.org/transponders/index.html>.

Just like the TechnoTrend Media Center the DVBShop TV player is compatible with DiSEqC 1.0 and – apart from the standard Ku band – supports C band reception. Even if you use a more exotic LNB you'll be fine using the manual LOF input.

Apart from satellite reception this software is also perfectly suitable for DVB-T and DVB-C with the scanning menu featuring the required options for all three modes.

Signal scans can be performed manually on a selected transponder or on the entire satellite based on the pre-stored

transponder list and can be restricted to FTA only, if required. Instead of a full signal scan overriding the existing list it is also possible to perform an update scan only.

The swiftness of the scanning process was impressive, as it took only slightly more than four minutes to do a full scan on a 90-transponder satellite, even though not all active channels could be found due to the somewhat out-of-date transponder lists.

Once the signal scan is finished the first active channel comes up on screen and with it a clearly arranged info bar is inserted in the lower part of the TV window. The bar displays the name of the current and next events (if provided by the channel operator) as well as the channel number.

The EPG is just as easy to use and – what's even more – it is of the very speedy kind. Simply click on the EPG button in the upper area of the video window and all the information you could ever want becomes available. It's another good thing that events can be selected directly in the EPG for recording – it doesn't get much better than this.

We were also delighted with the time shift mode which allows freezing the currently watched program at any time and continuing playback again at a later time. This is very handy if the phone rings while you're watching your favourite show, for example.

We also tested all the little features that we have come to expect from modern receivers, such as teletext, subtitles (teletext and DVB) as well as CI management. All of these worked flawlessly.

Apart from watching television the software can also be used as media player for all conventional video formats like DivX, MPEG, video CD, ASF, WMV, WMA, OGG and OGM, which makes it an ideal replacement not only for TechnoTrend's own Media Center but for virtually any media player you may have been using so far.

In future the tool is expected to support NVOD services as offered by some pay TV operators like Premiere in Germany and Austria. For the time being, the appropriate on-demand channel has to be looked for manually in the overall channel list, whereas with future NVOD support there will be a dedicated menu item for that.

The DVBShop TV player is available from the DVBShop website at [www.dvbshop.net](http://www.dvbshop.net).

