

# Skyworth DVB-S and DVB-T Scart Receiver with PVR Function

## Small but Beautiful!



*Who hasn't seen this before? Flat screen TV, DVD player, game console and stereo system - they all want to have their own spot in your wall unit or TV cabinet but it's already bursting at the seams and finding a spot for another device is next to impossible. Wouldn't it nice if you could make one or two devices disappear yet still be able to keep their functions?*

The engineers at Skyworth have also been thinking about this for some time and have developed a DVB-S and DVB-T receiver that isn't much bigger than a deck of cards. The receivers utilize an integrated Scart connector and therefore can be plugged directly into the back of a TV into a corresponding connector. In this way you don't use any valuable space in the cabinet and also manage to avoid adding any more cables.

While the manufacturer opted for a white cabinet for the DVB-T model, the DVB-S model comes in black. The DVB-S model comes with an F-type input connector whereas the DVB-T model was fitted with a European-style RF connector. Unlike the DVB-T model, the DVB-S model does not come with a looped-through signal output.

As small as these receivers are, it's obvious that there's no room for a built-in power supply. Instead the manufacturer includes a 12-volt external power supply in both receiver packages.

There's also no doubt that the infrared signal from the included remote control would



never find its way to the back of the TV. Naturally the manufacturer thought of this too by including an external IR receiver in the package. This IR receiver is placed in a convenient location and takes the incoming infrared signals and passes them via a cable to the receiver. To top it all off, a USB interface was included so that external storage device can be connected; a PVR function is also available in both units.

In general, we were very satisfied with the quality of the receivers. Even the remote control sits nicely in your hand although some of the buttons are rather small and you have to be a little careful not to accidentally press two buttons at the same time with your finger.

Our two test receivers did not come with user manuals but considering that operating these receivers was mostly self-explanatory and that they didn't come with an overly-complicated range of functions, the user manuals weren't really missed. Since both of these receivers operated mostly from the same menu structure and came with the same basic functions, we opted to present both of them in one test report. Any differences between the two will be highlighted here.

## Installation

Since both of these receivers don't use an installation assistant, „No Signal“ is displayed the first time the receiver is turned on as there are no pre-programmed channels stored in memory. The circular main

menu icon near the bottom of the TV screen takes you to five different submenu points (TV, Radio, Multimedia, Game and Setup) after pressing the menu button.

The Setup menu lets you match both receivers to the reception system in use as well as to the TV. The OSD can be displayed in English, French, German, Portuguese, Spanish, Italian, Dutch, Danish, Swedish, Finnish, Russian and Turkish. These same languages are also available for audio and subtitles. The internal clock can be set automatically through the DVB data stream or it can be set manually if needed. Both receivers are PAL and NTSC compatible and are able to recognize the color standard of the incoming signal automatically.

The Scart output provides the output signal of both units in CVBS; through the setup menu, RGB and S-Video outputs are also available. YUV outputs for connection to a projection TV system or HDMI outputs for use with a high-definition plasma or LCD TV are unfortunately not available.

The receiver you end up using, DVB-S or DVB-T, depends on what kind of incoming signal you have. We

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Available online starting from 2 April 2010

want to start with the DVB-S model. A list of 43 European and Asian satellites have been preprogrammed into the box.

The list may be up to date but it is unfortunately not quite complete. For example, ABS1 at 75° east or INTELSAT 3R at 43° west are not to be found even though satellites further east and west are in the list. The parameters of each satellite such as LOF, switching voltage or 22 kHz signal can be individually set up. The LOF can also be manually entered so that every type of LNB can be supported.

The manufacturer did a fine job setting up the DiSEqC menu. It is graphically very easy to read and clearly displays the switching setup so that it's easy to understand even for beginners.

In addition to tone burst

for use with two satellites, DiSEqC 1.0 for use with up to four satellites and the motor control protocols DiSEqC 1.2 and 1.3 (USALS) are also supported.

The next step after all the LNB parameters are taken care of would be to fill up the channel list. Three scanning modes are available for this task: Standard, NIT and BlindScan.

In standard mode, the receiver scans only the transponders that have been pre-programmed into it. In NIT mode the receiver also takes a look at the NIT data found during a standard scan. In BlindScan mode the receiver scans all the frequencies and polarizations without the need of a preprogrammed transponder list.

Since there is no CI slot in either receiver, the scan can be limited to free channels only. It is also possible to scan every satellite that has been activated. This is a very prac-





Main menu |



Matching the receiver to the TV |



Setup menu |



Editing the satellite settings |



Excellent SCPC reception at only 1.331 Ms/sec |



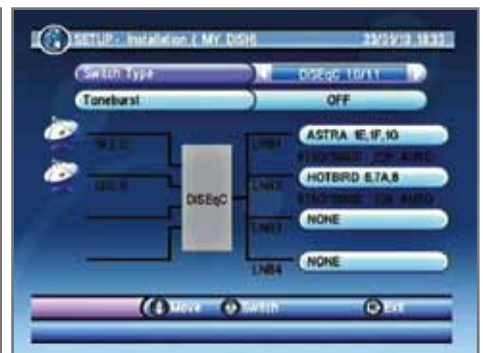
Three different scan modes are available |



Channel scan |



DVB-S Channel List |



DiSEqC options are clearly displayed |



Transponder Editor |



The electronic programming guide |



Options and Info on external storage media |



All channel list editing options are presented in an easy-to-understand menu |



DiSEqC motorized systems are also supported |



Reception of circular polarized channels on EUTELSATW4 at 36° east |

tical feature especially when a DiSEqC motorized system is being used. The standard scan finishes its task relatively quickly and needs only about six minutes to process all the transponders on the HOTBIRD satellite at 13° east.

In BlindScan mode 14 minutes was needed but the extra time allowed 1299 TV and 455 radio channels to be found. Compared to the 1223 TV and 414 radio channels found during the standard scan, it's a significant difference.

Thanks to an easy-to-understand transponder editor, many of the entries in the pre-programmed list can be modified. There's also a manual scan for individual transponders that can be accessed via the editor. Unfortunately, there was no way to enter PID's in manually and thus no way to receive channels with incorrect or incomplete NIT data.

## DVB-T Receiver

The DVB-T model comes with an automatic and manual

channel scan. The automatic scan quickly goes through the entire frequency spectrum looking for active frequencies. In manual mode, the user can enter the frequency manually.

## Everyday Use

After the channel scan on both receivers is completed, a push of the OK button exits the main menu at which point the receiver switches to the first receivable channel.

An Info bar at the bottom of the screen displays information on the current and upcoming program as long as this data is made available by the provider.

As expected, a second push of the Info button displays more detailed programming information on the currently running program. With a third push of the Info button the Skyworth receivers display a variety of technical parameters such as frequency, symbol rate or PIDs.

Pushing the Guide button opens up the electronic pro-

gram guide (EPG) giving the user programming information for the next several days.

The EPG display was nicely organized by Skyworth although it would have been nice if more than five lines of EPG data were shown. As it is though you might have to scroll through several pages of data before you find the channel information you want.

Since both receivers come with a USB interface so that external storage media can be connected, they naturally both have the capability to set up recordings directly from the EPG. It's even possible to set up recordings on a daily, weekly or monthly basis.

Pushing the OK button brings up the channel list; this list is also displayed in a nicely organized fashion. If desired, the channel list can be limited to single satellites or to favorites.

While scrolling through the channel list we found it a little annoying that the receivers

would automatically switch over to the currently highlighted channel in the list.

The channel list can be set up to your personal tastes via the main menu. Channels can be moved to a Favorites list, or with the push of one button can be repositioned in the list, deleted, renamed or blended out. You can also sort the entire channel list automatically and lock out individual channels with a PIN code. And of course all of this is also true for all the stored radio channels. The DVB-S model performed quite well in our SCPC test on a test transponder with a symbol rate of 1.331 Ms/sec.

There were also no problems with the reception of weaker transponders such as the circular polarized Russian channels on EUTELSAT W4 at 36° east.

We were also impressed with the tuner in the DVB-T model; it provided interference-free reception even while using a skimpy indoor antenna.



Automatic DVB-T channel scan |



Editing the DVB-T Channel List |



Detailed information on a DVB-T channel |



Music Player, picture viewer and video player are available |



Previously recorded programs |



Practical picture viewer |

## Multimedia and PVR

Thanks to the USB interface on both receivers it is possible to connect external storage media and thereby activate the PVR function in both units. Thereafter it's easy to record or playback programs.

A Time Shift function is also provided so that a telephone call can no longer interfere with your evening programming schedule. Unfortunately it's not possible to watch a previously recorded program while another one is being recorded nor can you watch a live program while another is being recorded even if the live channel is on the same transponder or on the same frequency.

Today we expect that almost every PVR compatible receiver is capable of functioning as an music or a picture viewer. Skyworth is no exception and included both of these functions in both of their receivers.

Thanks to the small size of both of these receivers, there are other possibilities such as when using a USB stick: both receivers are not only perfect for camping trips where they could be used as a PVR receiver or a music player, but you could also take your receiver and USB stick when you visit friends or relatives to show them your latest vacation pictures on their TV. All you have to do is plug the receiver into a spare Scart jack and you're ready to go.

To round it all off, both of these mini-receivers also come with an integrated video game, a calendar and a calculator.

Just as practical is the ability to upload new software via a USB stick or a USB hard drive; you just need to download it first from the manufacturer's website.

Finally a note to our energy diagram: the power consumption of the DVB-T model already achieves the "eco-

design requirements for simple set-top boxes standard" as required by the Commission Regulation (EC) No. 107/2009 of 4th February 2009. Recently Skyworth introduced another of these miniature sticker receivers supporting this standard. Both DVB-T and DVB-S models also support the "Auto StandBy" software function, which is required by the above standard. It means the box switches to StandBy when no customer control signal has been received in last 3 hours.

## Expert Opinion



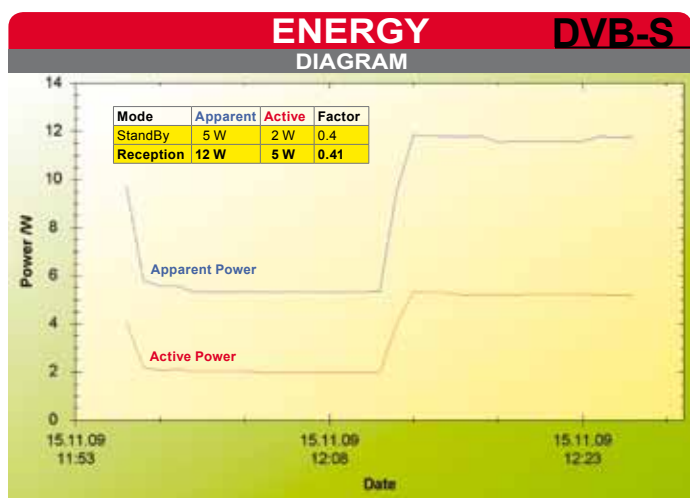
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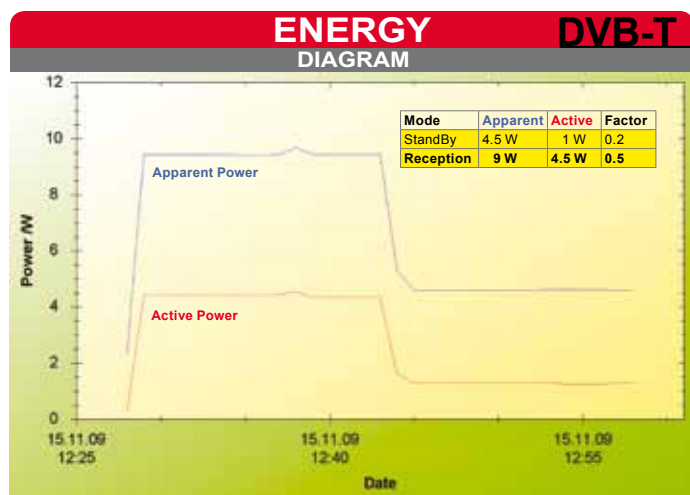
Both receivers are compatible for daily use and are very family friendly. Thanks to their extremely small size they virtually disappear behind your TV but still manage to provide all the necessary features and control everything via a nicely organized OSD.

The problem-free software also left us with a very positive impression.

While recording a program, it is not possible to watch a live program or playback a previously recorded program at the same time.



The first 15 minutes standby, then channel surfing and intensive PVR use



The first 15 minutes active use including PVR operation, the second 15 minutes standby.

## TECHNICAL DATA

Manufacturer	Skyworth, 13-16/F, Block A, SKYWORTH BUILDING, Gaoxing Ave 1.S, Nanshan District, Shenzhen 518057, China
Email	Sales@skyworth.com
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Model	Mini Box for DVB-T: DVBTM0001 Mini Box for DVB-S: DVBSM0001
Function	Miniature SCART Receiver with PVR Function
Channel Memory	4000
Symbolrate	1.3-45 Ms/sec
DiSEqC	1.0, 1.2, 1.3 (USALS)
USALS	yes
22 kHz	yes
HDMI Output	no
SCART	1
Color	PAL and NTSC
Video Output	CVBS
RGB Output	yes
S-Video	yes
HDMI	no
Audio Output	yes
RS232	yes
UHF-Modulator	no
Power	12 V
Dimensions	84.6 x 53.5 x 25.2mm