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Different Channels on a DIRECTV Dish

By Gary Davis

Determining the different channels on a DIRECTV Dish means determining what frequencies arrive

in the IRD (integrated receiver/decoder). The DIRECTV Dish itself is made up of a dish, either oval or round and one, two or three LNB's (low noise block converter. A DIRECTV Dish single LNB is one that receives satellite transmissions from only one orbiting satellite. The DIRECTV Dish double LNB is able to intercept signals from two different satellites. The most advanced antenna at the moment is the DIRECTV Dish triple LNB that intercepts signals from up to three different satellites at once.

DIRECTV Dish Single LNB

When we look up at the satellite dish antenna on the roof pointing up into the sky we notice that the pointer is not facing the sky, but rather, the dish itself. Why is this? Actually, the concept revolves around advanced optics. Beams. Satellite transmission and reception is all about beams. To think about it easily, think like a laser beam that starts out small, but as it picks up distance it spreads out like a giant ice cream cone (the waffle kind). The more distance, the larger the area of the circle beam will be. In essence, a beam will travel only so far, until finally, the signal loses power. In space a signal should keep traveling theoretically, and that is why we have interference in the atmosphere (beams bounce around). Sunlight is a big cause of this kind of interference. But what is important to remember is that beams bounce. The DIRECTV Dish with one single LNB is designed so that when a satellite beams a signal in the direction of the DIRECTV Dish, it will bounce back to that pointing device called an LNB.

DIRECTV Dish Double LNB

The LNB's used in all DIRECTV Dish antennas do the job of catching a signal that bounces off the dish, from any area that those beams from a satellite might hit the dish. As long as the dish finds itself inside that satellite's broadcasting beam area (remember the ice cream cone) and pointed in the correct direction, the beam signal will bounce correctly and hit the LNB. But satellites stay up in the sky over the equator in an orbit called geosynchronous orbit, and point year round at one area over the earth's surface. In the case of the DIRECTV Dish double LNB, there are two LNB's so that if there are two satellites pointing at an area from different angles (still in the general cone area of the dish), the DIRECTV Dish will catch both satellite beams. But this means pointing "between" the two orbiting satellites in geosynchronous orbit above the equator, one next to the other.

Different Channels on a DIRECTV Dish

DIRECTV Dish Triple LNB

Why would you need to get transmissions from two different satellites? Doesn't one satellite send all the channels in one beam? Not always. A single beam can capture digitally, up to some 12 to 32 different channels. The more powerful a beam the more channels it can send, but in the case of someone with 250 channels, they need to reach other satellites with different transmissions. Thus a DIRECTV Dish triple LNB catches three different satellite beams from three different positions. In this case, each DIRECTV Satellite is next to the other and your DIRECTV Dish will point to the middle Satellite.

Depending on how many channels you want and how many channels are available in a given satellite beam, one, two or three different LNB's might offer more options for satellite transmissions. But it really does depend on your DIRECTV service and how much you pay monthly. The technician will install your DIRECTV Dish for free, and depending on the service you buy, will give you the proper DIRECTV

Dish for free as well and even point it in the proper direction.

"Buying a DIRECTV Dish means buying a unique service package that only comes with a service that cares about you the consumer."

5–Room DIRECTV® System – D10 Receiver (5) / Triple LNB Dish with Professional Installation (D10)

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years experience in the Satellite TV business and has written numerous articles on the subject.

High Definition Television – Who Has The Lead In The Satellite TV Market?

By James Croydon

Directv HDTV versus the high definition option through your satellite dish network. Which do you go with? In many ways, Direct TV and the Dish Network are comparable like with similar programming and similar pricing structures. But who offers the best service and quality in high definition television? First of all, let's find out exactly what high definition television (aka HDTV) is and if you would even want that option in your TV satellite dish system.

Clarity is what most people think of when they think of HDTV. The picture quality is outstanding and many people have exclaimed that it is like they walked right into the TV, as if it was part of our world. The picture on the screen is so life-like; you could almost feel that sun on the TV shining on you or could almost feel the blades of grass beneath your feet as if you were in the TV show yourself. The sound that accompanies the high definition picture is also very life-like. It is digital sound, not analog, so it is almost like having your CD player inside your TV.

Both the Directv HDTV and the one that the Dish Network offers are similar. The clarity of the picture is about ten times better than an analog broadcast. The format of the shows and movies you watch through the HDTV programming is a wide screen format, much like what you experience at a movie theater. The audio feed of the programming you watch via HDTV is digital – that means, it is crisp and clear.

The difference between the Directv HDTV and the Dish Network's version is a matter of programming. Depending on what you are looking for in satellite TV's programming will influence your choice of these two rivals. So, let's do a quick comparison of the two. The Dish Network offers a few more channels in high definition TV than does Direct TV. Several movies channels and news channels are in HDTV as are a few sports channels and pay per view movies. In other programming offerings, they are more global, offering extra foreign markets.

Directv HDTV does not have quite a many HDTV channels, but if you are a sports fan, the Directv option may be the best bet for you. While the Dish Network's HDTV programming does offer some sports, your Direct satellite TV in high definition has more sports options, including the NFL Sunday Ticket, the Holy Grail for the football fanatic. Football widows despised the day that HDTV came out, that is for sure! Not only does the Directv HDTV have great sport coverage, it also has a few major networks that Dish Network does not have like Fox and NBC.

So, if the sports thing is not for you and you appreciate the more international flavor the Dish Network has to offer in regards to high definition TV, then they are the logical choice. However, if the sports are a major selling point for you, then the Directv HDTV is the way you should go.

James Croydon, Satellite Installation Engineer and DirecTV HD advisor at f-Tech Associates (

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