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Satellite TV: How Does This Actually Work?

By James Croydon

Satellite TV is TV delivered by way of orbiting communications satellites located 37,000 km above

the earth's surface. To start a Satellite TV we have to locate a transmitting antenna at an uplink facility. Uplink satellite dishes go towards the satellite on which its signals are transmitted to & are very large in diameter, say about 9–12 meters or 30–40 feet. This large diameter gives a perfect positioning & a clear signal reception at the satellite. The satellite signals are retransmitted to Earth through transponders with a different frequency. Satellite TV is much similar to the broadcast TV. Satellite TV is a wireless system for delivering television programming directly to a viewer's house. But in broadcast TV the major problem is of range because due to Earth's curved surface the signal line of site is broken many times. The other problem which broadcast TV gives is that there is much interruption in signal or the picture is distorted in the viewing area. Satellite TV solves all these problems of the range, broadcast signals, etc.

As due to Earth's surface the problem comes in signal but as satellites are high in the sky, the coverage scope for the customers is much more. They transmit & receive radio signals through satellite dishes which are a sort of specialized antennas.

The first Satellite TV was relayed from Europe to the Telstar Satellite over North America in 1962. Canada's Anik I, launched in 1973, was the first domestic North American Satellite to carry television. When Satellite TV was launched in the market, home dishes converted a lot of space in yards. Everyone was dying hard to have their own dish. Satellite TV has gifted today's generation with thousands of entertainment channels. They cannot imagine the tedious stage of people before the launching of Satellite TV.

Satellite TV is not only popular in America but it is equally popular in other civilized countries around the world. It is not only a channel but is actually huge information resource which is a source of entertainment as well as an important source of education.

Satellite TV is the best source we can rely on for entertainment. It gives us variety of channels some filled with comedy, laughter and drama, some of sports which take up each and every type of sport, some on cartoons, some on news taking in view the news of both, national as well as international

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news and moreover the most awaited movie channels. Even for children it is not only that they give cartoon films but they also give channels of general knowledge and educative information like Discovery Science, National Geography, etc. Satellite TV gives us a gala gift of music channels where we can listen to all types of favorites. Recent independent searches carried out came of a conclusion that Satellite TV is a far more better option than Cable TV because it is better to install a necessary equipment without paying rental for it rather than pay rental for Cable TV, which too is very expensive & see disturbed transmission & that too limited.

There are 3 choices of Satellite TV available in America: DirectTV, Dish Network & Voom. To buy Satellite TV equipment, you have a number of retailers offering you various types of schemes also. To make comparisons among all the retailers just be online & have all sorts of information in front of you. There is tremendous competition in retailers as the graph of popularity of Satellite TV is increasing day by day. Thus you can enjoy a selective choice of package according to the need of your family.

James Croydon, Satellite Installation Engineer and Dish Network Offer advisor at f-Tech Associates (

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How a Satellite Dish Works

By Gary Davis

How a Satellite Dish Works

Satellite technology has made leaps and bounds over the last decade, introducing the world to a whole new era of television entertainment. But have you ever wondered just how a satellite dish works? So did we.

Satellite Dish – A Parabolic Antenna

A satellite dish is basically just an antenna that is designed to receive signals from a specific broadcast source. The dish itself has a bowl-shaped (parabolic) surface to "catch" the signal and send it to the central feed horn as a narrow beam of energy.

To provide you with that quality satellite programming you enjoy so much, your satellite dish must receive a signal from the appropriate source. Man-made satellites orbit around the Earth at just about

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20,000 miles into the sky. These satellites receive digital signals from your programming provider, encrypt them and then send them back out to subscribers.

How does your satellite dish know which satellite to receive?

Satellite Dish – Azimuth, Altitude and Skew

Each satellite is put into the sky at specific coordinates, similar to a longitude and latitude for navigating on land. These coordinates, the azimuth, the altitude and the skew, tell your dish exactly where to look. The azimuth is the East/West location while the altitude or elevation tells you how far North of the horizon (ground level) you need to go. The skew is a calculation to compensate for the natural curvature of the Earth itself. With these three coordinates, you can accurately point your satellite dish to receive transmission from the right satellite.

There are some systems that can receive signals from more than one satellite, having multiple horns to pick up multiple signals. To prevent any mix-up, each signal must be accurately reflected to separate feed horns so that there is no interruption.

When your satellite dish catches the signal, it sends it through the feed horn where it is transmitted to your satellite receiver. To make sure you receive a strong satellite transmission, your satellite dish should be mounted in an open area without obstructions such as trees and buildings.

Gary Davis is owner of

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an authorized DIRECTV retailer, has over five years

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



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