

www.televes.com ■ 01633 875821 ■ £90

## Televés DIGINOVA

➤ If the thought of a combined high-gain UHF, FM and DAB aerial less than 35cm long with a distribution amp thrown in appeals, then the Televés Diginova kit is well worth a look.

The kit comprises the Diginova aerial itself, an indoor amplifier that provides three outputs and power for the aerial, an alternative power injector, 14m of double-shielded co-ax cable, connectors and cable boot. The kit doesn't include any kind of mast or wall bracket but the Diginova clamps to any horizontal or vertical bar of about 1in-2in diameter.

The aerial is housed in a white plastic T-shaped case with eight Yagi directors and the reflector and dipole all inside. The Diginova uses printed circuit antenna elements, which allow for greater accuracy and complexity than hunks of aluminium and the casing protects their more fragile nature.

The three signals – UHF, FM and DAB – are multiplexed together with an MRD unit built in, providing



13dB of amplification to the UHF. Ideally, diplexing wallplates would be used to separate the TV and radio signals wherever they are used.

The MRD passes the signal (without amplification) when the aerial is used in 'passive' mode, or it amplifies the signal when power is applied up the connecting co-ax.

The power voltage can be 12-24V (sadly not 5V as supplied by some TVs) and can be supplied remotely either with the power injector unit supplied or using the distribution amplifier. The amplifier is tiny but includes a 12dB variable attenuator to cope with different cable lengths. A lift-up cover conceals a special tool to switch on or off the DC supply to the aerial and to adjust the attenuator.

### Discreet for balconies

The unit was tested in an area with moderate DTT reception and proved very effective, with a good signal obtained at ground level on all but the weakest multiplex without the MRD switched on, and excellent signals on every multiplex when the MRD was brought into play. In the FM and DAB bands, the Diginova surpassed the simple indoor antennas it replaced.

It's hard to recommend this instead of proper external aerials but for discreet use on balconies or where protection against rough handling or weather is important, such as on boats and caravans, the Diginova is ideal ■ **Geoff Bains**

### Features

**Specification:** Reception bands FM, DAB (Band III), UHF. Antenna gain -2dBi (FM and DAB) 4-7dBi (UHF). Aerial amplifier gain (UHF) 12dB. Aerial amplifier power 12-24V 42mA.

**Contents:** Diginova aerial with MRD, mast clamp, indoor 3-way distribution amp/power supply, power injector, 14m cable, connectors

### Ratings

#### PLUS

- Small ■ Weather resistant
- Discreet ■ Good performance

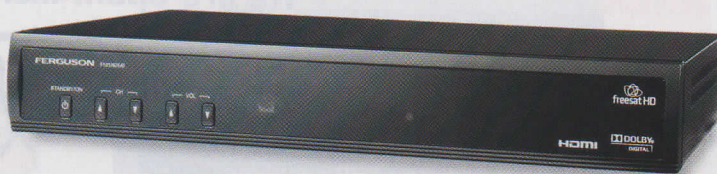
#### MINUS

- Expensive ■ Not as good as separate external antennas

Build	★★★★★★★
Ease of use	★★★★★★★
Performance	★★★★★★★
Features	★★★★★★★
Value	★★★★★★★

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**86%**

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## Ferguson F101HDSAT

➤ This Freesat HD zapper is pretty much a clone of the Metronic Sat HD 100. Both have the benefit of media playback from USB drives but lack BBC iPlayer – with no signs that it will be added.

Like the Sat HD 100, the receiver is heavy and runs rather hot. Power, channel-changing, and volume buttons make up a plain fascia.

The rear features an LNB loopthrough, an HDMI out, TV and VCR Scarts, an optical S/PDIF and Ethernet and USB ports.

The remote's buttons are small, but there are VCR-style pads for controlling music and video.

There are two tuning modes – Freesat and manual. Freesat tuning involves the usual process of punching in your postcode to determine which regional variations of ITV and BBC occupy the top slots in the EPG before scanning.

'Manual' can be used to receive non-Freesat channels from 28.2°E or other satellites in range of your dish. You can scan a single satellite (a full scan of 28.2°E took 20 minutes), scan a transponder or perform an NIT scan, but there's no support for advanced features such as DiSEqC. If you do a manual scan of 28.2°E you get Freesat and more channels but you can't switch across to the Freesat EPG. Instead, all channels get a more basic guide listing DVB data for the current channel.

Channels (Freesat or otherwise) can be sorted A-Z, Z-A into SD and HD channels, by network or grouped into lists headed movie, music, sports, shopping, guide, news, scramble, FTA or Favourites 1 or 2.

Perform a Freesat scan and you get a rather low-res version of the standard Freesat EPG – viewable as a full-screen grid for all channels, skippable in 24-hour periods with synopses included. This can be further sorted into 12 genres (e.g. news) and you can schedule up to eight timer events with once, daily and weekly repeat options.

Format support for media

playback from USB drives is limited to MP3, JPEG (with slideshows) and MPEG-2 files and there's no provision for playlisting.

Both HD and SD pictures look reasonably crisp using the HDMI output, but SD Scart pictures can leave colours looking pale and unnatural, even with RGB enabled.

The FD101HDSAT isn't great for those who want other channels but it just about passes muster for a Freesat HD zapper ■ **Grant Rennell**

### Features

- No. LNB inputs:** 1
- LNB loopthrough:** Yes
- DiSEqC:** N/A
- No. channels:** 200
- Selectable FEC:** No
- Symbol rate:** 2 - 45Ms/s
- CAM:** None
- Common interface:** None
- Teletext:** DVB decoded
- EPG:** DVB now-and-next/Freesat 7-day
- Timer:** 7 days
- UHF modulator tuning:** N/A
- Software upgrade:** USB, OTA
- Data ports:** Ethernet, USB
- SD out:** TV Scart (composite/S-video/RGB), VCR Scart (S-video/composite)
- HD out:** HDMI (576p, 720p or 1080i)
- Audio out:** Optical digital audio (Dolby Digital bitstream-compatible)

### Ratings

#### PLUS

- Cheap ■ Basic media playback
- HDMI pictures

#### MINUS

- Poor Scart pictures ■ No iPlayer
- Not good for non-Freesat channels

Build	★★★★★★★
Setup	★★★★★★★
Searching	★★★★★★★
Navigation	★★★★★★★
Performance	★★★★★★★
Features	★★★★★★★
Value	★★★★★★★

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**68%**