

----- Original Message -----

From: [MIKE KOHL \(Global Communications\)](#)

To: tim@dmsiusa.com

Sent: Thursday, March 02, 2006 12:54 PM

Subject: Traxis DBS-3500 Report

Dear Tim,

Sorry for the delay in getting this report out to you, but the more that I play with this receiver, the more hidden features I find, and that improves my opinion of this receiver still further.

We had some "warm" 40 degree temperatures yesterday, before a period of freezing rain and snow, so I took the time to do some critical antenna alignments on my tower, and brought the DBS-3500 out there to see how it performed. Normally I will lug my Avcom 37D spectrum analyzer and/or an in-line satellite tuning meter, to accurately locate things. My experience with Pansat receivers has been mixed in this department, and I always find it quicker to initially locate satellites (especially on a home-brew multifeed system) by first looking at the display on the analyzer, and hook up the receiver in parallel to check a Quality reading on a digital signal.

Quality readings are very elusive, requiring a spot-on fix to even register, and my experience with the TriMax T-100 was to not use that receiver for metering due to its time delay between readings when moving the antenna. Pansat's meters have been dampened in recent models, which actually makes it more difficult to initially find signals (although you have a better alignment when finished because you have to literally fight for every point on the meter). The DBS-3500 strikes a much happier (and useful) balance in metering circuits, with a less-damped circuit with a continuous readout that detects every bump during alignment. This is actually much better than all but the most expensive spectrum analyzers or other devices that may have the ability to detect 0.1 dB variations in signal. The Quality meter of the DBS-3500 is the perfect balance of sensitivity and continuous readout, and would be quite acceptable for me to use in aligning a system if I did not have an in-line meter or a spectrum analyzer available. It could be considered an essential alignment tool for every free-to-air installer, once they have become comfortable with its various modes of operation.

That brings up the subject of intuitive logic in the layout of the receiver. Since I have used Pansat receivers going back to the original Hyundai design in 1997, the mindset of their operational layout is burned into my brain, and I rather like the way that the current generation of their receivers accesses each function. This may put me at a disadvantage in the initial use of the DBS-3500, because I truly have to rearrange my thought processes. Your manual is quite informative and has numerous screen shots, but some basic points hung me up because the manual did not go into detail. Perhaps a second look could create a supplementary page or two for some advanced functions and things that I could not figure out except by trial and error the first time.

After hitting MENU, it is rather strange to have to cursor LEFT what

seems like 4 or 5 times to get into many functions commonly used during initial setup process. (maybe it was only 3 or 4!!)

It is not very clear to the novice that one has to find the LIST button, which is in an almost invisible dark blue color under the power button, in order to start the editing process. Once there, the second layer of commands must be entered. Overall, it is much easier to use than most receivers, but I did find it strange to have to select (5) EDIT first, and then go over to (4) to select EDIT again in the next level.

I did figure out how to do Manual PID insertion, which is done in the TV CHANNEL LIST EDIT menu. (If I had read the manual more thoroughly, it would have been obvious, but the best way to learn operations is to make a few mistakes and repeatedly have to navigate through the menus to make it stick in your mind.

The first thing that drove me insane for several hours was the DiSEqC 1.0 versus 1.1 position in Antenna Setup. I mistakenly assumed that since 1.1 would be a later version, it should be selected when using DMS DiSEqC switches. I found out that no matter how many DiSEqC positions you have on the switch, or how many satellites you have in memory, there is a maximum of 2 satellites accessible in the 1.1 position, and it appears as if the receiver is making satellites vanish from memory as you enter them, and after the second satellite, the metering circuits quit functioning on further entries. Problem solved instantly by setting all store satellites to DiSEqC 1.0 mode.

The ZOOM and M/P buttons were an interesting touch. I have never had an MPEG-2 receiver that could blow up the picture size through use of the remote control. It might have practical application in looking at small numbers on the screen, and also serves to show how badly compressed some signals are. Best example is to look at Intelsat 5's RUSSIA TODAY channel, which has flawless digital production in their studio and uplink video chain, and then compare with ASSYRIA channel from California, which has some of the worst video quality in the sky. Great for demonstration purposes. So is the 9-picture split screen found in the M/P (Multiple Picture) mode. Take all of the RTN network channels from Equity Broadcasting on Galaxy 10R, and put them into the channel list in consecutive order. All transmissions are coming from the same computer in Little Rock---it is interesting to compare time delays on the pictures of each affiliate, as well as time zone feeds.

I have not yet had the chance to set up Motorized operation, as I was quite impressed by what I could do with a 4-input DiSEqC switch and access to 87, 97, 101, and 123 West Ku-band satellites. If your Coax output produces the same unfiltered digital audio in AC-3 format that can be recovered by a stereo receiver, you have another huge selling point.

The Traxis DBS-3500 will be my "Magic Bullet" receiver to counter other receivers in the market. It does not have the capability of being hacked for illicit subscription reception, which means that I will not be bothered by people wanting to buy it for that purpose. This

will allow me to concentrate on serving the legitimate market of free-to-air viewers. Thank you for bringing this product to market.

Sincerely,

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----- Original Message -----

From: [MIKE KOHL \(Global Communications\)](#)

To: [Tim Heinrichs](#)

Sent: Thursday, March 02, 2006 2:05 PM

Subject: Re: Traxis DBS-3500 Report

Dear Tim,

Feel free to add it to your collection, and I forgot to mention one of the most important things---the video quality is as good as anything I have ever found in consumer MPEG-2 receivers. A common problem with reception of Montana PBS from AMC-3 Ku-band is that when it rains or snows at your location, it takes very little loss in signal strength to have pixelated garbled reception. Like the TriMax T-100, the Traxis DBS-3500 absolutely shines under the challenge of holding together the picture under threshold conditions. Picture is as sharp and vivid as ever, until there simply is not enough signal left to lock onto.

Mike