

EASY VIEWING

Happy Wanderer has recently released a new version of its HW-DT8 TV antenna as well as a combined signal finder/booster. The antenna is Australian-made, while the signal finder/booster is made in the UK.

Happy Wanderer supplies a special 'through the wall' fitting with the antenna, which prevents loss of signal quality in a corroded wall fitting. This is a common cause of poor TV reception.

The antenna is suitable for any type of reception found in Australia, including digital, analogue, UHF/VHF, vertical or horizontal reception, and this new model has been fitted with two extending (not telescoping) arms for better VHF reception.

The literature with the DT8 claims it receives very low powered signals and will still receive a signal if not pointed directly at the transmission tower. It also states the DT8 gives good performance in poor reception country areas, and in most cases does not require a booster.

The Easy Tune signal finder/booster will indicate the direction to point your antenna: tune to the maximum number of LEDs that light up as you rotate the

antenna. You can then amplify the signal if required. The tuner operates on either 240V through a transformer or 12V.

OUR TEST

On opening the package, we found all parts and cables were supplied, including instructions, and we had no trouble putting it together. We did not require the wall fitting, as we already had a 'through the wall' fitting in our van, so the antenna cable could go straight into the new signal finder/amplifier.

Our initial test was at home where our van is under cover with a steel roof. We had good reception without using the booster.

Next we drove up to Cape Hillsborough, where a few sites have limited reception. We went to a site where we previously carried out a review on a well known brand.

Using the signal finder for antenna direction, we re-tested the other antenna and found the same results: there were two channels we could not pick up without using their amplifier.

The Happy Wanderer, however, received all digital channels without having to plug in the amplifier, and gave an excellent picture. We moved the antenna around a

little and, as the advertising said, still had reasonable reception, meaning you do not have to be exactly facing the tower. When we plugged in the amplifier, the signal finder showed two lights only, indicating a poor signal, but still not requiring the use of the booster.



In poor reception areas, firstly find the direction of the signal by turning your TV antenna until the maximum LEDs are lit, and then turn the button on the signal finder if you need amplification. It is as simple as that.

Some cheaper LED TVs require higher signal strength to work properly, and the Easy Tune claims to provide this.

Happy Wanderer supplies an ingenious rotating head that adjusts the antenna from horizontal to vertical in one easy movement. It is the easiest and best solution I have seen yet, and this head fits most poles (22mm).

My major concern is that the exposed wires from the extending arms are thin, and I feel may break with a lot of use. The antenna is heavier than some, but we had no trouble with it in about 15 knots of wind.

The antenna has a five-year warranty, and Happy Wanderer has a very informative website. Does this antenna provide the best reception available? To date I have not seen better, but we will measure its performance against others during our next trip.

– Tony Allsop



HAPPY WANDERER TV ANTENNA AND COMBINED SIGNAL FINDER/BOOSTER

RRP HW-DT8 Antenna: \$199

'Easy-Tune' signal finder/booster combined: \$79

WHERE: Most RV accessory stores or direct

MORE INFO: info@happywanderer.net.au,

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RATING ★★★★★