



SCOPE VISION

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- + Very good reception
- + Booster with USB power supply
- + Marking on the antenna for horizontal and vertical adjustment



The Oehlbach Scope Vision is an active TV antenna for DVB-T/DVB-T2 reception. It is offered at a recommended retail price of €49.99 and is so compact with dimensions of 118 x 205 x 14 mm and a weight of just 260 grams that it can be positioned even when there's not much space in the living room. The finish makes a visually solid impression.

While a lot of antenna manufacturers supply their active antennas with 5 volts via the antenna cable, this rather ingenious solution has so far been supported by the TV producers in isolated cases only. Oehlbach has chosen a different solution and powers the booster via a separate USB cable, which can be connected to one of the USB ports on the TV and then switches the booster on and off automatically with the TV set. A USB plug-in power adapter is also included as an alternative power supply. The cable, together with the antenna cable and the USB connector, gold-plated in each case, is 3 metres long.

The Oehlbach Scope Vision offers a large variety of set-up possibilities. The package includes a small clip support that can be plugged into the back of the antenna. You can choose between the vertical set-up for vertically broadcasted stations and horizontal set-up for horizontal channels. The openings on the antenna have a somewhat larger diameter than the clip support, which is why this does not plug really firmly into the antenna but, rather, quickly lands on the floor. The 'quick & dirty' solution is found by wrapping some adhesive tape around the clip. The antenna can also be hung directly on a wall via two openings at the rear.

The precise horizontal or vertical alignment becomes particularly relevant for greater transmitter distances over 20 km in order to achieve optimum reception: If you want to receive stations that are more than 20 km away, you should check whether the respective transmitters broadcast their channels horizontally or vertically. Further information can be found, for example, in the various tables at www.ukwttv.de.

The local conditions allowed us to conduct a reception test for both the close range as well as weaker stations from greater distances. In a reception environment with adverse indoor conditions and strong signal attenuation through the walls, both strong local stations (DVB-T2 HD) at a distance of around 6 km and DVB-T channels up to 80 km away are transmitted which can at least be received in the outdoor area with more precise alignment.

Reception of the local DVB-T2 HD stations was perfect at most points in the room with 100% signal quality, with the result that forward error connection (FEC) does not have to be active in the receiving device. Even though the signal did get weaker at some places in the room, reception was still possible with the antenna, even without precise alignment in most cases. It was even possible to receive some of the stations 80 km away in-house by turning the antenna in the direction of the transmitter. However, somewhat more precise alignment was necessary on occasions, although this then made it possible to achieve 100% signal quality in most cases. In the outside area, the stations could also be received very easily over greater distances. A signal could quickly be found even with just rough alignment. In addition, the antenna gain is not excessively high, with the result that the signal from the strong local stations is not clipped in the TV.

Conclusion

The Oehlbach Scope Vision is a compact DVB-T2 antenna that is very easy to install with its compact dimensions and the power supplied via USB port. Although the Scope Vision in the Oehlbach range is one of the more simple antennas, the reception results are so good that it offers a far greater range than just the reception of local stations and, when aligned precisely, can also receive stations from up to 80 km away. The manufacturer also provides optimisation of reception through horizontal or vertical alignments as well as corresponding marking, which is unfortunately not the norm for TV antennas. Only the clip support, which is used to set up up the antenna, appears to be a bit unstable.

