

konsolenfan.de



Oehlbach® Falcon HD

– Beam me next door, Scotty

Posted by konsolenfan.de 10/2016



I'm finished for the year. After all of the rebuilding, renovating and modernizing work, as well as planning and constructing a near perfect hi-fi corner complete with gaming consoles and all of the necessary audio and image connections, painting walls and assembling furniture is mere child's play. Because, if you're a technology enthusiast like me, you will probably spend most of the time making sure all of the cables are laid properly.

And there are quite a few of these. If you have got an AV receiver, a 5.1 surround system, a TV, maybe a SKY decoder and a Blu-ray player, along with a few of the latest consoles, there will be several meters of cable that needs to be properly labeled, routed around the living room and accommodated perfectly in your phono rack. If you ever experience a technical problem, there is hardly anything worse than having to struggle through a jumble of cables to find the corresponding device and its wiring.

But what if you haven't got any more space in your phono rack for another device? Or if your second TV is in the bedroom, but you don't want to buy a second Blu-ray player? Or if you've finally installed your new projector but don't want to rewire everything or, worse still, run a loose cable through the living room or mount ugly cable trunking on the walls or ceiling? The solution is an HDMI transmitter, which transmits the signal wirelessly. Oehlbach's Falcon HD is such a device.

The typical Oehlbach packaging includes a receiver, a transmitter, the corresponding IR cables, two HDMI cables and two USB power supplies. Set up is simple, as it is not possible to mix up the cables on account of their different 2.5 mm and 3.5 mm jacks. This means, for example, that the IR transmitter cable cannot be inadvertently connected to the receiver unit. Measuring 80 x 80 x 25 millimeters and weighing just 88 grams, the two units can be placed anywhere. For good measure, the units can also be wall mounted.

The Falcon HD supports the current full HD standard in a 5 GHz range. Resolutions are supported from a simple 480i to 1080p in Dolby True HD and DTS HD, and even 3D is supported. Signals can be transmitted at a distance of up to 30 meters. According to Oehlbach, the latency between the transmitter and receiver is less than 0.5 seconds. For comparison: A blink of an eye takes between 0.3 and 0.4 seconds. Another nifty feature is that the Falcon HD transmitter is equipped with an HDMI-Out port as well as an HDMI-In port. This means an additional output device can also be connected.

Unfortunately, our Neo Geo X Gold is used far too rarely. Optimum conditions, therefore, to put the Falcon HD to the test. We simulate a lack of space and place the console where it wouldn't normally be positioned – right next to the sofa. The transmitter is connected to the Neo Geo and the receiver is connected to the TV; that's it for the wiring process. To allow the devices to find one another, we first press the pairing button on the receiver and then the button on the transmitter (similar to a Bluetooth pairing process). The connection is established within seconds.

An important aspect for video gaming is an imperceptible latency, i.e. the input on the joystick and the execution of the action on the screen must occur virtually simultaneously. After all, what's the use of a late braking maneuver when playing Forza or not sighting the enemy quickly enough when playing a shoot 'em up? Unfortunately, this latency is both noticeable and visible when gaming. It's precisely this moment between performing an action (namely, pressing the button) and it being executed on the screen that can be

the difference between victory and defeat. However, this is not the case with a shoot 'em up, as players often wildly press anything that merely resembles an action button. Likewise, this minimal delay is also negligible in PC simulations. But when playing games like NAM 1975, in which you have to avoid generic bullets, or Baseballstars 2, where a fraction of a second can be the difference between a strike and a home run, this moment makes or breaks the entire game. In saying that, the Falcon HD is not designed for this.

Admittedly, having a second TV in the kitchen is a luxury problem, but how often do you find that there's something on that you want to watch while you're cooking? Or, conversely, how often have you left something burning on the stove because you're distracted by the football on the living room TV? This is where the Falcon HD comes into its own. You can watch your desired program in any room without any haphazardly laid cables, without any additional decoders and without any additional Blu-ray players. The low latency doesn't really make an impact here, as you are just a spectator. The program is sent from the transmitter to the receiver in the best possible quality.

We have watched Blu-rays from a PS4 and Bundesliga games on SKY. We have downloaded YouTube videos and streamed movies via Amazon Prime. Everything is sent reliably and without any interference, and it's received at the other end just like it would be with a direct connection via HDMI cable. Unlike the IR remote controls usually used by TVs and TV decoders, these transmitters and receivers do not need direct "visual contact". There was no juddering or interruption to the transmission even when sending the signals through walls and up to the second floor.

CONCLUSION

The Falcon HD from Oehlbach is the cable-free solution for transmitting HDMI signals from one location to another. Whether it's a projector on the ceiling, a second TV in the kitchen or bedroom, or watching a Bundesliga game during a party in the garden. Tripping hazards and getting caught in ugly, loose cables are a thing of the past.

Of course, you could use a second card and a second decoder for SKY. Or set up another Blu-ray player in your bedroom. But why? A second SKY card will incur additional monthly fees, plus there's the cost of another decoder. For good measure, the Falcon HD is simply more flexible in terms of its possibilities.

Only video gamers would really need to put it to the test before parting with their cash to see whether they can live with the latency produced when dealing with fast paced action titles. For all kinds of simulations and games where quick reactions aren't important, however, the Falcon HD is a really good choice.