



## Oehlbach® XXL® Razor Flat

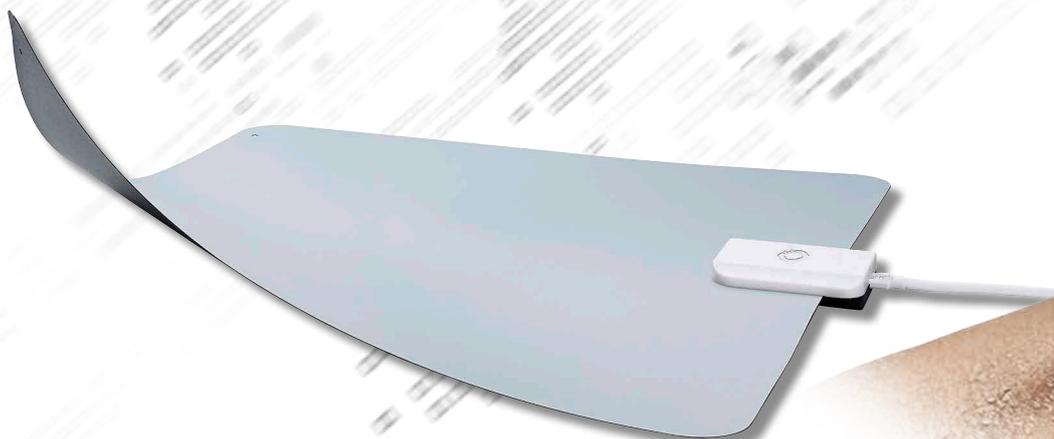
"Extremely flat DVB-T2 antenna for excellent TV reception"  
Recommendation from lite-magazin.de 03/2017

### Conclusion

"With a bit of eagerness to experiment, connecting and fitting the XXL® Razor Flat DVB-T2 antenna from Oehlbach® will be no problem whatsoever and you will then be rewarded with top-class HD reception. The integrated booster ensures the best possible transmission results even in adverse conditions like the corners of a room and the XXL® Razor Flat looks pretty good too with its clever connectivity options."

Overall score: Recommendation  
Price/performance: very good

Reception 98 %  
Practice: 96%  
Configuration: 96%



**DVB-T makes it possible to watch television without a cable connection or satellite dish. Nonetheless, transmission was also subject to major restrictions for a long time. However, the imminent transition to its successor DVB-T2 will also facilitate the reception of HD images as well as a greater variety of channels. So it's high time to start looking for a suitable indoor antenna. And we are going straight to the top shelf to test the XXL Razor Flat from Oehlbach.**

Particularly in places with no cable network connection or satellite dish, DVB-T antennas are a popular alternative and are therefore also frequently used in caravans and mobile homes. However, the modern representatives of this antenna type are now also being developed from a visual perspective and are therefore also being used more in apartments - especially in rooms with no connection socket for a TV. To make use of terrestrial reception, you don't automatically have to decide against any of the other types of transmission, fortunately - these are currently even more widespread, after all.

#### **New standard for better quality**

In Germany, TV signals are mainly transmitted via satellite or cable connection. Especially in rented apartments, the existing availability and greater channel variety of these two variations provide a competitive advantage over the DVB-T standard, which is only used by around 19% of households nationwide. The transition to DVB-T2 could change this, however, as the new standard will also lead to an increase in both the quantity and quality of channels. HD content can now also be viewed via terrestrial reception - some of these are free-to-air services (in the case of public broadcasters like Das Erste, ZDF and the regional third programmes), while the freenetTV programme package available for an annual subscription of €69 (comparable to HD+ for satellite TV) is needed for private channels (e.g. RTL, ProSieben, Sat.1).

At the time of this test, DVB-T2 was still at the first stage of the transition process and will switch to regular operation on 29 March 2017 with up to 57 channels. As DVB-T2 is not compatible with its predecessor DVB-T, the latter standard will be disabled on the change-over date. The regions concerned can also be viewed at [dvb-t2hd.de/regionen](http://dvb-t2hd.de/regionen). The XXL Razor Flat can be used already, however, even in those regions still supplied with DVB-T. Rather than being exclusively dedicated to the DVB-T2 standard, the antenna is also suitable for DVB-T signals. However, those who definitely have to upgrade will also need a reception device that must support the new DVB-T2 standard. As a rule, modern televisions are already equipped with an appropriate integrated tuner. Older models may need the support of an additional set-top box (i.e. a receiver) and, of course, a suitable antenna (old DVB-T antennas might also be sufficient for this). The regional reception check at [dvb-t2hd.de/empfangscheck](http://dvb-t2hd.de/empfangscheck) can be of assistance here. After entering the applicable post code, it then lists the channels currently available there and also specifies the hardware needed - an indoor antenna is a prerequisite in our case. However, this is nothing new to us. After all, we had a good reason for ordering the XXL Razor Flat model from Oehlbach for test purposes.

#### **Well hidden**

With the XXL Razor Flat indoor antenna, the name itself gives a very clear idea of how it looks. With a footprint of 33x32 cm, the extremely flexible, lightweight model is comparatively large, but incredibly flat and with very clean edges in return. But they are definitely not razor-sharp - the only point on which the model name contradicts the appearance. The big advantage apart from the modern look in black/light grey, however, is that the DVB-T2 antenna can, due to its flat design, also be mounted on the wall without any difficulty and therefore ensures sharp TV images while remaining out of sight. This is also a rather significant factor that absolutely justifies the relatively high price of €99. After all, additional devices in modern, minimalistic styles have only a limited positive impact. However, the XXL Razor Flat solves this problem in a skillful way through elegant restraint.

This is particularly good on account of the DVB-T2 antenna being equipped with a booster that facilitates more stable signal transmission in the event of problematic reception. However, as this is secured to the antenna by a cable and also has to be connected to the TV or a power socket with a USB cable, a bit of cable tangle cannot be avoided - but that's not a problem when it's hidden behind the TV. In terms of colour, everything is kept completely white - and there's a good reason for this, especially for the 3.6 metre supply cable of the XXL Razor Flat.

#### **Experimentation desirable**

For adequate reception, the DVB-T2 antenna requires an uninterrupted "line of sight" to a window where possible. Internal walls and items of furniture block the transmission, which cannot always be compensated for by the booster either. So the antenna cable might have to be run along the wall - and white strips are the least risky colour choice in this case. In the test, we tried the XXL Razor Flat in different positions in the room. This confirmed what Oehlbach says. The further away we got from the window, the weaker the reception became. At a distance of around 5 metres from the window, we were able to receive precisely nine channels following an automatic search whereas, at only two metres, as many as 30 channels were found. With the booster switched on, we were finally able to include the full range of available channels in the favourites list. We also tried out the different positions again for viewing. This confirmed the impression given during the programme search - the further we moved away from the window, the more often the picture skipped briefly, displayed artifacts or was completely replaced by an error message. Points that every DVB-T user is familiar with from the first version and which are simply "normal" for terrestrial reception. Conversely, we had no more problems whatsoever around two metres away from the window and could enjoy first-class reception. So it makes an awful lot of sense to first try out different positions in the room before finally fitting the indoor antenna and decide on one of the places with the strongest reception. Generally, it is advisable, of course, to also position the TV as close to the window as possible, especially if the XXL Razor Flat is to be mounted on the wall behind. After all, the TV set itself is an obstacle that could weaken the reception.

#### **Adhesive instead of screws**

Once you have found a suitable position for the TV and the antenna, fitting can be completed quickly and easily using the adhesive strips provided. These are not only extremely firm and stable, they can also be removed from just about any surface again without leaving any residue. There is another advantage that should not be underestimated if you want to hang the XXL "openly" on the wall instead of putting it behind the TV. If you're not that happy with how it looks, it might be a good alternative to place the antenna at least partially behind the curtain or, perhaps, a sufficiently large screen. Although the cable will still remain visible, the super-flat antenna itself will be out of sight. Here too, it should be checked once again as a precaution whether this interferes with reception - picture frames or even metal plates are not suitable for covering the antenna.

Even though the XXL Razor Flat should only be permanently fitted after extensive trial and error, it should be connected to the TV a lot earlier, of course. All that needs to be done here initially is to plug the antenna cable into the appropriate socket on the TV. If you need or want to switch on the booster (this should be done, in principle, if you are not in the immediate vicinity of a transmission mast), this requires an additional power supply. This will ideally be a USB slot on the TV to which the power cable provided can be connected. If there is no vacant port available, a power socket adapter is provided via which the booster can be powered equally well. The plug connectors are also of the highest quality. We wouldn't have expected anything else from a cable expert like Oehlbach. In line with the high demands the company places on its own products, the XXL Razor Flat is, of course, also fitted with high-quality connectors with 24-carat gold-plated contacts. So no cause for complaint whatsoever. In the case of the XXL Razor Flat, in particular, we couldn't find fault with anything at all.

#### **Conclusion**

"With a bit of eagerness to experiment, connecting and fitting the XXL® Razor Flat DVB-T2 antenna from Oehlbach® will be no problem whatsoever and you will then be rewarded with top-class HD reception. The integrated booster ensures the best possible transmission results even in adverse conditions like the corners of a room and the XXL® Razor Flat looks pretty good too with its clever connectivity options."