

Miglia TVMini

REVIEW

by Jordan Kaplan

Oh well, another NWoU program that included a demo that never worked out as advertised.

The concept was exciting, and the sample product looked like it would fit on the desk top G4. I examined the product and concluded it was worth a shot at the special price being offered to the membership.

Not having been exposed to digital TV, and also having been exposed to poor TV from the analog stations in the Chicago area, I knew that to get good signals, (that is with minimum multipath reception, ghosts, I needed a directional antenna up on the roof) and the adjustable whip antenna that comes with the TVMini did little to instill confidence in the product.?

It was stated that the product would be shipped from a warehouse in Florida, so the fact that the unit was offered by a firm in the UK did not bother me.

Two weeks later, UPS dropped off a package that was shipped from the UK via air to Louisville, then via truck to my home.

The package contained every thing that was promised and I could not wait to hook everything up and see how good or bad a signal I would get on the 17" monitor.

The software was loaded on to the computer, the whip attached, the USB connection made, and after entering my zip code, and selecting terrestrial TV instead of digital cable TV, the device began to list all stations that were in the area.

Back came a very long list of possible stations including stations in Rockford, Milwaukee, and a few in Indiana.

The moment of truth arrived. I selected a scan of the on the air stations that the TVMini could actually see/hear. And a

strong very clear, (no ghosts) signal appeared on the monitor.

I was receiving channels 5, 7, 9, and 11. Wait a minute, what happened to the rest of promised station coverage? I moved the

whip around the desk, and in other



parts of the room and the number of channels received changed by one or two, Some new, some lost.

When I switched to cable TV, I kept the old outside antenna on the roof mount. The next step was to disconnect the whip antenna and connect the coax going to the outside antenna.

I now had 25 clear/sharp channels to choose from. In conjunction with the G-4, the 1280 x 1024 resolution monitor, the HI Definition image was startling.

The truth be told, the images on my Mac was better than most of the so-called Hi-Def sets being sold in the stores.

The picture is adjustable from small size, half size, normal size, maximum size and full size monitor. You can move the image

to any place on the screen.

Normal usage for me is to have a small image at the top left of the screen while working on the remaining real estate. When something of interest shows up, selecting Cmd+3 gives me a normal size image. When I just want to do the TV thing, Cmd+0 gives me a full size monitor HI-Def TV set.

You also have a choice of aspect ratios. 4:3, 14:9, 16:9, wide and fully automatic. If the channel is offering a TV movie in Hi-Def and wide screen, select the 16:9 ratio and you see all that the big screen movie house down the road projects up on its screen.

Options available include on-off over-scan, Normal or stretch of full screen, and 4 closed captions.

Included is a full function remote. A On Line Guide is

updated daily to let you know what programs are available to chose from.

By the way with all of the excitement of using the TVMini, I forgot to mention the fact this is also a means to record your favorite channel on the hard drive in HI Def TV. TIVO MAC, but in HI Def.

The question of the day, "Is my Dual G4 1 GB a true computer or a TV entertainment center" ?