Digital TV /P

By G8MNY (Updated Feb 07)

Here is my experience of /P DTV. I have had mixed success with this.

MY /P SYSTEM
I have a small 12V Freeview STB by Panasonic, & I feed the PAL video from it into a 7" Widescreen DVD player (Duff player) which is ideal as it is matching in size, although limited to 3MHz (300 line resolution) is the best the player will actually display although anything on a small screen looks really sharp.

Broadband 7el
Log Periodic
Set top Aerial

The aerial can be mounted either H or V polarization in it's set top support bracket on top of my van latter rack for /P.

It is a very useful set up for seeing if there is usable Freeview TV possible at different locations as well as /P operation.

VARIOUS LOCATIONS
I have tried it for /P operation (camping in my Van) @ 3 sites where I had plenty of time to sort out all the Rx options.

One location was at VHF Contest site 280M high @ Woldingham in Surrey, it is line of site to the main Crystal Palace QRO analogue & QRP digital Tx 15km away. Although the DTV signals are weak at that distance for the small aerial mostly all the signals were OK, but early morning I tended to loose all the signals in tropo where the signal is no where near the ground!

The 2nd location was Shilton in Oxfordshire, where only some channels could be found from 1 Tx, the obvious TV Tx in Oxford was not usable /P, but was fine in a local cottage in the valley on proper aerial Rx all the stations OK.
The 3rd /P location was @ Reigate hill in Surrey just inside the M25, very near (1km) to the Reigate analogue & digital TV repeater. It gave only a few channels & attenuators did not help.

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 | Crystal *      |  
 | Palace         |  
 | W'ham           |  
 | C'ham *        |  
 \-------------------/  
 M25 \       [ ]/P     /  
 " -- ... ___ ... -- "  
 Reigate *  
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Crystal Palace QRP Tx was line of sight, but too far really for that small aerial with weak digital signals, so again only a few channels worked. But I did unexpectedly find another repeater in the Caterham direction (I did not know it was digital) that was OK with all the channels.

**CONCLUSION**

Playing around with digital /P is not like analogue, as it does take a lot longer to find a usable signal with all the STB scanning & beaming up etc. & not always from the obvious Tx source!

Y don't U send an interesting bul?

73 De John G8MNY @ GB7CIP