

Humax's Foxsat-HD tunes into free-to-view satellite service

## Freesat box for TV fans

### SET-TOP BOX

**H**umax is one of the first manufacturers to sell a set-top box for the newly launched freesat service. We gave the £149 Foxsat-HD a first look.

The BBC and ITV launched freesat in May. They promise it will deliver 200 channels to 98% of the population by the end of the year – including free BBC and ITV high-definition channels.

Most of the familiar names are on freesat, plus a few less familiar ones, such as Al-Jazeera English and Euronews.

High-definition TV is available only in bite-sized chunks at the moment, such as BBC shows *Heroes* and *Planet Earth*, and Euro 2008 football matches.

The Humax Foxsat-HD can tune into freesat, though you'll also need



a satellite dish, which will cost upwards of £80 to fit if you don't already have one. It has good reception, and high-definition content looks good.

Setting up the set-top box is simple with a logical instruction booklet, although the quick-start guide is poor. Its electronic programming guide (EPG) shows TV listings for the week ahead. The information is quick to load and easy to navigate.

The set-top box comes with a clearly labelled remote, with a button for switching between radio and TV channels. We found that the buttons sometimes proved a little unresponsive, though.

The Foxsat-HD is supplied with three cables for connecting up to audio and video equipment, but the Scart lead feels cheap – it has no internal shielding, so there's a possibility of picture interference (ghosting) on the TV. It's available in high-street stores.

**VERDICT** Humax delivers a user-friendly set-top box that showed good-quality HD TV broadcast over freesat.

See [which.co.uk/tv](http://which.co.uk/tv) for our in-depth report on the freesat service and the Foxsat-HD set-top box, including what to look for when buying.



## Tassimo comes to the boil

### DRINKS MAKER

**B**osch brings a barista straight to your kitchen with the £99 Tassimo hot drinks machine. This compact device makes a range of beverages using the T-disc system.

Available separately from most supermarkets, T-discs feature barcodes that the Tassimo can read to determine the kind of drink you are making – it adjusts its brewing process accordingly. We carried out some initial tests, and here are our first impressions.

The Tassimo is ready to go as soon as you switch it on, so making a single hot drink is quick. The storage tank takes cold water, and the machine heats just enough for the drink you are making. It takes around two and a half minutes to make a cappuccino or latte.

We found the Tassimo fairly noisy, though quieter than a top-end coffee machine with a steaming mechanism. The results, however, fall short of café quality. The Kenco espresso shots we tried lacked richness and depth, and weren't improved by adding frothed milk.

The concentrated milk T-discs give an unpleasant sweet smell when brewing, and you are left with only a centimetre or so of unconvincing froth at the top of your drink. Twinings tea, available in T-disc form, proved to be rather weak for our tasters' liking when brewed through the Tassimo.

**VERDICT** Compact and fast, it has a wide range of beverages, but we were unimpressed with the results.

## Panasonic makes new satellite move

### PLASMA TV

**P**anasonic has unveiled the UK's first range of HD televisions with a freesat tuner built in, the Panasonic PZ81 series, and we'll soon be subjecting them to an in-depth Which? test.

Based on our tests of a previous Panasonic plasma TVs, we think the PZ81 range should prove to be a good option. This full-HD plasma range promises a smooth, clear picture from high-definition broadcasts over freesat.

Panasonic says that the PZ81 series will offer enhanced judder-



free playback when viewing high-definition Blu-ray discs, due to its in-built V-real Pro 3 and 24p real cinema technologies.

It includes three HDMI sockets for connecting high-definition devices

such as Blu-ray players, and can play HD camcorder footage.

The PZ81 series costs around £200 more than the equivalent Panasonic plasma TV without the in-built freesat.

As standalone freesat set-top boxes cost around £149, the PZ81 series is more expensive. The TVs are on sale now in 42, 46 and 50-inch screen sizes.

**VERDICT** Panasonic has a proven track record for Best Buy TVs, and the PZ81 series could be a winner with the addition of freesat.

# 42

the number of coffee beans it takes to make an average espresso

ROAST & POST COFFEE COMPANY

# 6 million

the number of iPhones sold worldwide since June 2007

APPLE

Apple updates mobile phone with fast web and satnav features

## iPhone dials up the speed

### MOBILE PHONE

Apple has updated its touch-screen iPhone, adding new features including GPS and faster 3G connectivity. The basic 8GB model will go on sale on 11 July for £99 – half the price of the previous version – with a £30 monthly tariff from mobile network O2. A 16GB model will be available in white or black.

The iPhone 3G will be able to download data up to twice as fast as the first iPhone, which used the slower Edge network, and will work on phone networks worldwide, according to Apple.

The company has added assisted GPS support. This links to the iPhone's maps program to locate the handset and plan journeys. Assisted GPS uses a mix of satellite navigation and phone mast locations to give a more accurate position.

The iPhone's software has been updated, Apple says, and a new scientific calculator and parental controls to restrict image viewing



have been added. The previous model wouldn't work with Microsoft Office documents, but Apple says the new iPhone will handle Word and PowerPoint files.

Extra software for the iPhone, such as games, health and reference programs, will be available to

download in a similar way to buying music from iTunes. Prices should be around £5 for a software program, and some will be free to download.

Apple says it has doubled the iPhone's battery life, with 10 hours of talk time on a 2G network, and five hours on a 3G network. The battery will last for six hours of web browsing, seven hours of video playback, and 24 hours of audio playback.

However, Apple has not said whether previous complaints, such as mono audio when using Bluetooth headsets or the inability to send multimedia messages, have been addressed.

Buyers will be tied into a contract with mobile phone operator O2 – although O2 says it plans to launch a pay-as-you-go tariff with no monthly contract. The camera is still a lowly 2Mp.

**VERDICT** We'll be testing the new iPhone when it goes on sale, but the addition of 3G and GPS, and a lower price, could make it a worthwhile upgrade.

### NEW IPHONE FEATURES

We look at the new features that will be included with the iPhone 3G



■ **MAPPING** Uses assisted GPS to find your position and search for nearby locations such as restaurants.



■ **APP STORE** Download software programs over 3G and WiFi using the built-in software store.



■ **SAFARI** The web browser should benefit from faster 3G connections for quicker data downloading.



■ **CALCULATOR** Tilt the iPhone sideways, and the calculator transforms on-screen into a scientific version.



■ **EMAIL** The new iPhone supports push email, loading email messages on to the iPhone automatically.



■ **PHOTOS** Images can now be saved from web pages and sent to a photo library on your home computer.

### Just out

#### Morphy Richards Slow Cooker

£24.99

Morphy Richards has released its jet-black slow cooker from the Accent range. The slow cooker can safely cook 2.5 litres, and both pot and lid are dishwasher safe. It's available from Amazon, Argos and Additions Direct.



#### Nikon Coolpix P80

£299

Aimed at photo enthusiasts, the P80 has a 27-486mm zoom, and both manual and automatic controls. It promises fast continuous shooting and a high ISO setting. The 10.1 megapixel camera features Nikon's Expeed image-processing technology, which the company says enhances photos.



#### Orange Liveradio

£99.99

Orange has launched an internet radio called the Liveradio. It connects to broadband internet to access more than 4,000 worldwide radio stations, as well as podcasts and audio books. It has a favourites button that will save the current song into a folder on the Liveradio website. You can then buy this track via the Orange Music Store. It's available from Orange.



#### Philips 32PFL7603D 32-inch TV

£799

This 32-inch LCD TV is HD ready and uses Philips' Pixel Plus 3 HD engine to display a high-resolution picture. Philips says that the TV offers vivid colours and sharpness. It's capable of supporting the latest Blu-ray and HD games consoles, and comes with USB and HDMI inputs. It also features Philips' Ambilight technology, which produces ambient light as screen content changes.

