

# Application Note AN-38 copyright April, 2017

# Shopping Lists for Amateur, DVB-T, Digital TV Equipment

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I have received numerous requests from radio amateurs interested in getting into amateur TV, all wanting to know (1) "How much will it cost me?" and (2) "What all equipment do I need to purchase?". After doing many emails of correspondence, I have decided to put down in one reference able location, shopping lists for several possible station configurations. Hence this application note.

I am restricting this app. note to High Definition (1080P), Digital TV (DTV), using the European DTV broadcast standard, DVB-T [1]. The major emphasis will be on stations for the amateur 70cm band (420-450MHz). For hi-def (1080P), in the USA, we use typically the standard FCC authorized TV channel bandwidth of 6 MHz. Other countries in Europe and elsewhere are using 7 or 8 MHz BW for broadcast digital TV. We also use the standard 6 MHz, cable TV channels which land in the 70cm band [2]. These are: Ch57 (423), Ch58 (429), Ch 59 (435), Ch 60 (441) & Ch 61 (447MHz). Hams often simply refer to these as channels 1 thru 5. Note, that standard DTV convention is to designate the channel frequency as the center frequency of the channel. Of secondary interest, I will also cover items needed to expand a 70cm DTV station to also operate on the 23cm band (1240-1300MHz). [similar items can also be obtained for the 33cm band (902-928MHz)] I will also cover what is needed for a simple, portable DTV repeater.

At the bottom of this app. note, I list the many different sources to obtain the needed items. The prices listed are typical, retail list prices obtained from the internet. With careful shopping around and surfing online on the internet, the serious shopper can often find even lower prices.

#### TV CAMERA & Other VIDEO SOURCES:

Fundamental to all amateur TV stations is the requirement to have one or more sources of Audio / Video (A/V) material. This can be a TV camera, TV camcorder, VCR, DVD or Blu-Ray disc player, or a computer. With this equipment, one can transmit "live" video, pre-recorded video and computer monitor screen images. The digital A/V output format used for amateur DTV is the consumer HDMI. Composite video (yellow RCA)

connector) can also be used, but it is only standard definition with 480i max. resolution. When using composite video, a converter to HDMI will be required. These can be purchased on the internet for typically \$10-\$15. At a minimum, each ATV ham shack should include at least a TV camera. Great, suitable, Hi-Def camcorders with excellent zoom and optics can be purchased new from companies such as Canon, Sony, etc. in the very reasonable \$200 - \$300 price range.

Item	Description	Mfgr.	Model #	Price	Source
CAMERA	Camcorder: Hi-Def (1080P), HDMI A/V	CANON	HF-R800	\$300 or	3
	output, plus USB, requires memory card			less	
memory	32GB SD Memory Card	misc		\$12	4, 5
Tripod	sturdy, preferably with fluid head, level	Sunpak	620-840	\$57	6

#### **DTV RECEIVER:**

The basic ATV ham shack will require as a minimum a DVB-T receiver. These are not available in the USA as a complete TV receiver with display screen which will also tune the amateur 70cm band (420-450MHz). One must buy a separate "set-top" box receiver with an HDMI output and connect it, via an HDMI cable, to any Hi-Def (1080P minimum), flat screen monitor of what ever size desired. For any portable operation where 115Vac power is not available, one will require a 12Vdc HDMI monitor. These are much more difficult to find and typically come in sizes from 7" to 22". The ATV amateur should always have at least 70cm receive capability. Adding higher bands, such as 33cm, 23cm, etc. requires additional equipment.

Item	Description	Mfgr.	Model #	Price	Source
DVB-T RCVR	DVB-T. must receive 70cm band (420-	KH6HTV	70-14	\$90	1
	450MHz) with at least 6MHz band-width	VIDEO			
	HDMI & composite video outputs				
opt DC	adds +12Vdc operation, plus "Valid	KH6HTV	70-14-DC	+\$60	1
	Signal" output for PTT	VIDEO			
Pre-Amplifier	70cm, 18dB gain, 0.5dB NF, +12Vdc	Advanced	P432VDG	\$100	7
	(ok to power with surplus 12Vdc wall	Receiver			
	wart)	Research			
Video Monitor	1080P min. resolution, flat screen, HDMI	many		\$125 on	many
	input, 115Vac size as desired	sources		up	
Video Monitor	for portable operation from +12Vdc	Super-	SC-1311	\$100	8
	13" LED flat screen, 1080P, HDMI	Sonic			
HDMI Cable	to connect revr to monitor. length as			\$5 +	11
	needed				
Antenna	for base station use recommend X-	Diamond	X-50NA	\$95	9, 10
	50NA [4], 2m/70cm, omni-directional,				
	66" length, N connector, 12dBi (70cm)				
Coax Cable	$50\Omega$ , - must use very low loss coax, N	DX	DXE-	\$78	10
	connectors - suggest LMR-400 or	Engineering	400MAX		
	equivalent - length required depends upon		DN050		
	installation		(50ft)		
	price will vary depending upon length, etc				
coax adapter	N(female) / BNC (male) - for antenna to			\$5	11
	pre-amp				
BNC patch cable	to interconnect pre-amp to dtv rcvr.			\$8	11
	length as needed.				
coax adapter	BNC (female) to F (male) - for preamp to			\$4	11
	dtv rcvr				

## **BASE STATION DTV TRANSMITTER:**

The typical DTV ham will start out with his own 70cm DTV base station in his home QTH ham shack. The following items are required. Note: this table includes it's own transmit antenna. If a single 70cm antenna is to be used for both DTV transmit and receive, then a coax switch will be necessary to switch the antenna from transmit to receive. This can either be a manual switch, or coax relay. Caution: never operate the linear amplifier into an open switch. It must always be terminated into a  $50\Omega$  antenna. Failure to do this will result in a blown-out final amplifier.

Item	Description	Mfgr.	Model #	Price	Source
A/V Source	see above table for TV Cameras, etc. HDMI A/V output to modulator				
DVB-T Modulator	HDMI A/V input 50-950MHz & 1200- 1350MHz	Hi-Des	HV-100EH or HV-102EH	\$560	2
RF Linear Power Amplifier	10 Watts (DTV, avg) rf output, 50dB gain adj 10/3/1W, +13.8Vdc @ 10/3/2 Amps	KH6HTV VIDEO	70-9B	\$450	1
+13.8Vdc Power Supply	+13.8Vdc, 20 Amps min. rating. Must support 10 Amps at 100% duty cycle Do NOT buy Samlex poor reliability!	several mfgrs		\$125	9, 10
Antenna	for base station use recommend X-50NA [4], 2m/70cm, omni-directional, 66" length, N connector, 12dBi (70cm)	Diamond	X-50NA	\$95	9, 10
Coax Cable	$50\Omega$ , must use very low loss coax, N connectors - suggest LMR-400 or equivalent - length required depends upon installation price will vary depending upon length, etc	DX Engineering	DXE- 400MAX DN050 (50ft)	\$78	10
SMA jumper cable	SMA / SMA, $50\Omega$ , patch cable to connect modulator to linear amplifier, length as needed, 1 ft. min.	various		\$8	various
F attenuators	type F connector (m/f) needed to set proper rf drive level from modulator to linear amplifier. available in 3, 6, 10, 12, 16 & 20dB values. suggest buying several cheap!	ATV Research	FAM-XdB	\$1 ea.	12
Coax Adapter	F (male) to SMA (female) for output from modulator	various		\$5	various

## **MOBILE STATION DTV TRANSMITTER:**

The mobile station is similar to the base station. All equipment works off of 12Vdc. The power source is the vehicle storage battery.

Item	Description	Mfgr.	Model #	Price	Source
A/V Source	see above table for TV Cameras, etc. HDMI A/V output to modulator				
DVB-T Modulator	HDMI A/V input 50-950MHz & 1200- 1350MHz	Hi-Des	HV-100EH or HV-102EH	\$560	2
RF Linear Power Amplifier	10 Watts (DTV, avg) rf output, 50dB gain adj 10/3/1W, +13.8Vdc @ 10/3/2 Amps	KH6HTV VIDEO	70-9B	\$450	1
SMA jumper cable	SMA / SMA, $50\Omega$ , patch cable to connect modulator to linear amplifier, length as needed, 1 ft. min.	various		\$8	various
F attenuators	type F connector (m/f) needed to set proper rf drive level from modulator to linear amplifier. available in 3, 6, 10, 12,	ATV Research	FAM-XdB	\$1 ea.	12

	16 & 20dB values. suggest buying several cheap!				
	several cheap!				
Coax Adapter	F (male) to SMA (female) for output	various		\$5	various
	from modulator				
Mobile Whip	recommend NR2000NA	Diamond	NR2000NA	\$85	9, 10
Antenna	7dBi (70cm) & 7dBi (23cm), N connector				
Mag. Mount	magnetic mount for above NR2000NA, N,	Diamond	DPK-4NM-N	\$55	9, 10
	13ft. low loss coax, N connector				
	or for a fixed installation, pick a				
	suitable mobile mount from Diamond				

#### **MOBILE STATION DTV RECEIVER:**

The mobile station is similar to the base station receiver. However, all equipment must work off of 12Vdc. The power source is the vehicle storage battery.

Item	Description	Mfgr.	Model #	Price	Source
DVB-T RCVR	DVB-T. must receive 70cm band (420-450MHz) with at least 6MHz band-width HDMI & composite video outputs	KH6HTV VIDEO	70-14	\$90	1
opt DC	adds +12Vdc operation, plus "Valid Signal" output for PTT	KH6HTV VIDEO	70-14-DC	+\$60	1
Pre-Amplifier	70cm, 18dB gain, 0.5dB NF, +12Vdc	Advanced Receiver Research	P432VDG	\$100	7
Video Monitor	for portable operation from +12Vdc 13" LED flat screen, 1080P, HDMI	Super- Sonic	SC-1311	\$100	8
HDMI Cable	to connect rcvr to monitor. length as needed			\$5 +	11
coax adapter	N(female) / BNC (male) - for antenna to pre-amp			\$5	11
BNC patch cable	to interconnect pre-amp to dtv rcvr. length as needed.			\$8	11
coax adapter	BNC (female) to F (male) - for preamp to dtv rcvr			\$4	11
Mobile Whip Antenna	recommend NR2000NA 7dBi (70cm) & 7dBi (23cm), N connector	Diamond	NR2000NA	\$85	9, 10
Mag. Mount	magnetic mount for above NR2000NA, N, 13ft. low loss coax, N connector	Diamond	DPK-4NM-N	\$55	9, 10
	or for a fixed installation, pick a suitable mount from Diamond				

## BACK-PACK, PORTABLE, DTV TRANSMITTER:

For many ARES operations, it is necessary to have "feet on the ground" to get in up close to the emergency situation. The June, 2015, QST article [4] gives a good description, including photos. The typical setup consists of an inexpensive camcorder on a tripod, 3 watt DVB-T transmitter (adjustable to lower power levels & lower current draw), rubber duck whip antenna on an antenna bracket mounted on the tripod, plus a 12Vdc, sealed battery for power. The battery and transmitter are transported in a back-pack. Low cost, sealed gell cell batteries can be used. For much longer operational life, very expensive Li-Ion batteries should also be considered.

Item	Description	Mfgr.	Model #	Price	Source
TV Camera	Camcorder: Hi-Def (1080P), HDMI A/V	CANON	HF-R800	\$300 or	3
	output, plus USB, requires memory card			less	

memory card	32GB SD Memory Card	misc		\$12	4, 5
	suggest you purchase several				
Tripod	sturdy, preferably with fluid head, level	Sunpak	620-840	\$57	6
spare batteries	suggest buying extra batteries for	Canon &		\$30+	6, 8, 14
	camcorder	other			various
		sources			
battery charger	charger for extra batteries	Canon &		\$50	6, 8, 14
		others			various
sun shade	to shield LCD screen from direct sunlight	various		\$12	8
rain cover	see AN-16 for details, [6]			\$5	home
					built
antenna bracket	see AN-15 for details [5]			\$15	home
					built
DVB-T	HDMI A/V input 50-950MHz & 1200-	Hi-Des	HV-100EH or	\$560	2
Modulator	1350MHz		HV-102EH		-
RF Linear Power	3 Watts (DTV, avg) rf output, 50dB gain	KH6HTV	70-7B	\$340	1
Amplifier	adj 3/1/0.3W, +12Vdc @, 3/1/0.7 Amps	VIDEO	' ' ' -		
SMA jumper	SMA / SMA, $50\Omega$ , patch cable to connect	various		\$8	various
cable	modulator to linear amplifier, length as	various		0	Various
Cuore	needed, 1 ft. min.				
F attenuators	type F connector (m/f) needed to set	ATV	FAM-XdB	\$1 ea.	12
1 attendations	proper rf drive level from modulator to	Research	1711171100	φ1 σα.	12
	linear amplifier. available in 3, 6, 10, 12,	researen			
	16 & 20dB values. suggest buying				
	several cheap!				
Coax Adapter	F (male) to SMA (female) for output	various		\$5	various
Coux / taapter	from modulator	various		Ψ5	Various
Whip Antenna	recommend RH951S, 2dBi (70cm), 14",	Diamond	RH951S	\$45	9, 10
Willp Ameilia	BNC 2m/70cm/23cm	Diamond	K119313	343	9, 10
Antenna Cable	low loss, RG-58 size, BNC, 6 ft.	various		\$20	various
Coax Adapter	N (male) to BNC (female) for output	various		\$10	various
Coax Adapter	from amplifier to antenna	various		\$10	various
Battery	Sealed lead acid, Gell Cell 12Vdc, 7	Power-	PS-1280F2	\$32	13
Battery			PS-1280F2	\$32	13
	Amp-Hour minimum size.	Sonic			
Dattama Classica	suggest you purchase several.	Danna	DCC 12000 A	021	12
Battery Charger	Automatic Gell Cell Charger, switch	Power-	PSC-12800A-	\$31	13
DIA	mode, for 4 to 8 Amp-Hr batteries, 115Vac	Sonic	С	Φ1.C	1 .
DVM	Digital Volt Meter to monitor state of battery.	various		\$10	various
Back-Pack	Suitable to carry modulator, linear	various		\$75	various
	amplifier, battery, plus other accessories				

# PORTABLE DTV REPEATER:

A simple, manually controlled, portable DTV repeater is relatively simple to assemble. For details, see AN-23A [7] It simply consists of using an HDMI cable to connect the output of a DTV receiver directly to the input of a DTV transmitter. The DTV receiver's Valid Signal LED indicator is used to provide a PTT control to the transmitter's PTT line.

Item	Description	Mfgr.	Model #	Price	Source
DVB-T RCVR	DVB-T. must receive 70cm band (420-	KH6HTV	70-14	\$90	1
	450MHz) with at least 6MHz band-width	VIDEO			
	HDMI & composite video outputs				
opt DC	adds +12Vdc operation, plus "Valid	KH6HTV	70-14-DC	+\$60	1
_	Signal" output for PTT	VIDEO			
Pre-Amplifier	70cm, 18dB gain, 0.5dB NF, +12Vdc	Advanced	P432VDG	\$100	7
		Receiver			
		Research			

HDMI splitter	Active HDMI signal splitter. 1 Input & 2	various		\$25	8
TIDIVII Spiritei	Outputs use 1 output to monitor, use	various		Ψ23	
	other output to transmitter				
Video Monitor	for portable operation from +12Vdc	Super-	SC-1311	\$100	8
	13" LED flat screen, 1080P, HDMI	Sonic			
HDMI Cable	to connect revr to monitor. length as		need 2 cables	\$5 +	8, 11
	needed				
DVB-T	HDMI A/V input 50-950MHz & 1200-	Hi-Des	HV-100EH or	\$560	2
Modulator	1350MHz		HV-102EH		
RF Linear Power	6 Watts (DTV, avg) rf output, 50dB gain	KH6HTV	70-12C	\$380	1
Amplifier	adj 6/2/0.6W, +12Vdc @ 5/1.3/0.8 Amps	VIDEO			
	NOTE: could also use either 70-7B or 70-				
	9B amplifier				
Band-Pass	70cm, 6MHz BW, Inter-digital, Band-Pass	KH6HTV	70-BPF-5P-	\$325	1
Filters	filters. 2 required. 1 for receiver, 1 for	VIDEO	6M-XXX	ea.	
	transmitter				
misc.	also need an assortment of coax adapters,				
Containe	coax patch cables, etc.			6200	
Container	a rugged container / carrying case is			\$300	
	required with all components securely attached. Suitable cases are available			est.	
	from the music industry, etc.				
ANTENNA	typical configuration uses (2) wide spaced				
ANTENNA	yaggi antennas. Other antennas can also				
	be used, but must take care to minimize				
	coupling between antennas.				
+13.8Vdc Power	+13.8Vdc, 20 Amps min. rating. Must	several		\$125	9, 10
Supply	support 10 Amps at 100% duty cycle	mfgrs		-	'
	Do NOT buy Samlex poor reliability!				
Batteries	large automobile storage battery or				
	several gell cells				

## **HIGH GAIN YAGGI ANTENNA:**

For any of the transmit or receive situations, be they portable, mobile, repeater or base station, there may be situations where a high gain, directional antenna is required. Not just any antenna is suitable for TV service. Any antenna used for TV must be extremely broadband, capable of covering the entire amateur radio band. For details on recommended antennas see AN-4 [3].

Item	Description	Mfgr.	Model #	Price	Source
Antenna	6 element Yaggi, 70cm, 13dBi, N connector, end mount	M-Squared	440-6SS	\$80	9
Ant. Tripod	classical roof mount antenna tripod several choices available at Wal-Mart- online only (not in stores)			\$30	5
Ant. Masts	as desired, stackable 5ft. sections - or - 15 ft. telescoping	various Channel Master	 CM-1820	\$10ea \$71	5
Coax Cable	50Ω, must use very low loss coax, N connectors - suggest LMR-400 or equivalent - length required depends upon installation price will vary depending upon length, etc	DX Engineering	DXE- 400MAX DN050 (50ft)	\$78	10

## 33cm BAND OPTION:

The next higher amateur radio band is the 33cm band at 902-928 MHz. Wideband TV is also allowed in this band and all higher microwave bands. This band suffers from a lot of RFI due to unlicensed devices. All of the basic 70cm DTV equipment is still required. The Hi-Des model HV-100EH or HV-102EH will work on this band also. The key extra items needed include an receiver, pre-amp, RF linear power amplifier, and antenna(s).

Item	Description	Mfgr.	Model #	Price	Source
Receiver	DVB-T, must tune beyond 928MHz	Hi-Des	HV-110	\$169	2
	HV-110 covers 70cm & 33cm		or	or	
	HV-120A covers 70cm, 33cm, 23cm &		HV-120A	\$209	
	13cm				
Pre-Amp	need >15dB gain, < 1dB NF	KH6HTV	23-4LNA	\$100	1
		VIDEO	opt - 33cm		
RF Linear Power	2/0.6/0.2 Watts RF,	KH6HTV	33-1A	\$370	1
Amplifier	12Vdc @ 2.3/0.9/0.6 Amps	VIDEO	or	or	
	6/2/0.6 Watts RF		33-3B	\$450	
	12Vdc @ 10/3/2 Amps				
Antenna(s)	Directive Systems perhaps, untested by				15
	KH6HTV				

## 23cm BAND OPTION:

The second most popular amateur band for ATV is the 23cm band (1240 - 1300 MHz), which supports up to ten, 6 MHz bandwidth, TV channels. It is relative free from RFI except for some FAA radars. All of the basic 70cm DTV equipment is still required. The Hi-Des model HV-100EH or HV-102EH will work on this band also. The key extra items needed include an receiver, pre-amp, RF linear power amplifier, and antenna(s).

Item	Description	Mfgr.	Model #	Price	Source
Receiver	DVB-T, must tune beyond 1300MHz HV-120A covers 70cm, 33cm, 23cm & 13cm	Hi-Des	HV-120A	\$209	2
Pre-Amp	need >15dB gain, < 1dB NF	KH6HTV VIDEO	23-4LNA	\$100	1
RF Linear Power Amplifier	3 W / 1 W / 300mW 12Vdc @ 4 / 2 / 1.2 Amps	KH6HTV VIDEO	23-11A	\$450	1
Antenna - Base	base station, omni-directional, 7dBi 2m/ 70cm / 23cm, note: do not use on 70cm, except for 440-450MHz	Diamond	X-6000A	\$	9, 10
Antenna Mobile	2m/70cm/23cm, 39", N connector good for both 70cm & 23cm ATV	Diamond	NR2000NA	\$	9, 10
Mag. Mount	magnetic mount for above NR2000NA, N, 13ft. low loss coax, N connector	Diamond	DPK-4NM-N	\$55	9, 10
Antenna- Portable	rubber duck whip, 6m/2m/70cm/23cm, 20", SMA, 4dBi across band, 2m/70cm/23cm, 14", BNC, 1dBi to 4dBi,	Diamond	SRH999 or RH951S	\$ or \$	9, 10
Antenna - Yaggi	loop yaggi, 14 elements, 17-18dB across band, 3ft. boom, rear mount, N connector	Directive Systems	DSE2414LYRM	\$80	15

#### **REFERENCES:**

- 1. "DVB-T the solution for Ham Digital Television", Jim Andrews, KH6HTV Video application note, AN-17, July, 2014.
- 2. "70cm & Microwave Amateur TV Frequencies", Jim Andrews, KH6HTV Video application note, AN-10a, Oct, 2014.
- 3. "Antennas for Ham TV" Jim Andrews, KH6HTV Video application note, AN-4, Sept. 2011
- 4. ."DVB-T: A Solutions for ARES Television Operations", Jim Andrews, June, 2015, ARRL magazine QST, pp. 42-44.
- 5. "Simple Camera Tripod Antenna Bracket", Jim Andrews, KH6HTV Video application note, AN-15, Nov. 2013
- 6. "TV Camera Rain Cover", Jim Andrews, KH6HTV Video application note, AN-16, Nov. 2013
- 7. "DVB-T Television Repeater", Jim Andrews, KH6HTV Video application note, AN-23A, March, 2017

# **SOURCES:**

- 1. KH6HTV VIDEO, www.kh6htv.com Maui, Hawaii & Boulder, Colorado, USA
- 2. Hi-Des Technology, www.hides.com.tw, Taiwan
- 3. CANON, <u>www.usa.canon.com</u> note: often times, you can find better prices at stores such as Best Buy, Wal-Mart, etc.
- 4. Best-Buy, <u>www.bestbuy.com</u> many local stores
- 5. Wal-Mart, <u>www.walmart.com</u>, many local stores
- 6. B& H Video, www.bhphotovideo.com, New York
- 7. Advanced Receiver Research, <u>www.advancereceiver.com</u>, Burlington, CT
- 8. AMAZON.com www.amazon.com
- 9. Ham Radio Outlet, <u>www.hamradio.com</u>, several stores throughout USA
- 10. DX Engineering, www.dxengineering.com, Tallmadge, Ohio
- 11. Show Me Cables, www.showmecables.com,
- 12. ATV Research, <u>www.atvresearch.com</u>, Dakota City, NE
- 13. Mouser Electronics, <u>www.mouser.com</u>
- 14. Batteries Plus, www.batteriesplus.com
- 15. Directive Systems, <u>www.directivesystems.com</u>, Virginia