

|| ■ HUMAX PVR-9200T ▶▶



Cost: £189 | Details: www.cwddigital.co.uk 0800 0192 131

Want to record oodles of telly without cluttering your designer pad with DVDs, but don't fancy stumping up for a Sky+/Sky HD box? Then this remarkably

affordable Humax HDD recorder could be just the job. For starters, with 160GB of hard disk space (enough for 100 hours of recordings) it provides plenty of scope for that time-honoured practice of recording far more programmes than you'll ever have time to watch.

Next, it satisfies the analogue hater in all of us by carrying two Freeview tuners, along with a slot for adding subscription channels to the basic Freeview package.

Elsewhere on the 9200T's outstandingly long features list you'll find the ability to record two digital channels at once and even, under certain circumstances, watch a third; pausing of live TV; the

option to upload and play MP3 and JPEG files from a USB-connected PC; and even a picture-in-picture feature for watching two things at once.

If you're worried this is all getting complicated, fear not: the 9200T is blindingly easy to use. Even the nightmare known as 'setting a recording' (shudder) is made effortless by the 9200T's support of the Freeview seven-day electronic programme guide, which lets you set recordings simply by selecting programmes from its listings.

The 9200T's digital tuners produce pictures that rival those of many fine digital TVs, and since it records the direct digital incoming stream, its recordings look just as good as the original broadcasts. And thanks to Chase Play, you can now watch a programme from the start that you're still recording, à la Sky+.

The only imperfection then comes trying to edit stuff, as it can throw up major glitches at edit points. But this doesn't even come close to breaking what's currently one of the PVR world's sweetest deals.

KEY FEATURES ▶▶

RECORDING SYSTEM: HDD – 160GB

HD CAPABLE: No

ADJUSTABLE RECORDING QUALITY: No

RECORDING TUNER: Freeview digital

CONNECTIONS: Aerial in/out; optical digital audio output; composite video output; USB 2.0; CAM slot; RS232 port; analogue stereo audio output; 2x SCARTs (one RGB capable)

WHY WE'D BUY IT

• It's got loads of storage space, its recordings look superb, the features count is off the scale for £189.

WHY WE'D LEAVE IT

• There are better digital editing options around if that's your bag.

OVERALL VERDICT

Proof if it were needed that you don't have to be a 'household name' to make seriously good digital recorders.

