

Leo Stouten

A satellite DXer in the heart of Europe! In the city of Leuven, home to Europe's oldest university (dating back to the 13th century), which happens to be near Brussels, the "capital" of the European Union, Leo Stouten has his antenna farm erected on a small row of attached houses. He has been retired for quite some time yet at 74 he is at the prime of life. Only recently did he acquire a DRM radio (Digital Radio Mondiale) because he wanted to hear what it sounded like listening to AM digital radio signals.

But his true love has always been satellite reception. It began with him back in 1987 with a 1.2-meter offset dish and Nokia's first analog receiver. He has since stuck with the Nokia name and is today using the Nokia Mediamaster, although for blind scanning he opted for a receiver from FortecStar. 1996 was the year of the motorized antenna for him: a 1.2-meter Gregorian antenna; an antenna with a second reflector for the LNB. This kind of dish gives the same performance as a standard 1.5-meter antenna. Leo is very proud to say, "I can now receive Nilesat at 7° west, just not with that much bad weather reserve." His motorized setup makes it possible for him to receive all the Ku-band satellites from 70° east to 60° west.



Leo Stouten on his roof next to his 1.2-meter motorized Gregorian antenna.

"I did have some big problems with the motor at first", explains Leo, "This is the fifth motor I've had to install." Fortunately, this last motor has been working perfectly for several years now. Leo is extremely satisfied with his antenna system, the signals from which he observes on his 16:9 TV. "The LNB has a noise figure of 0.2 dB", admits Leo, "I couldn't

ask for a better system." Leo, who worked for many years for Philips in their computer department, is very active in Belgium's satellite scene and is well-known by many in the satellite industry. He regularly visits the satellite trade shows ANGA in Cologne and IBC in Amsterdam. You might bump into him there some day!



The 1.2-meter motorized antenna is hidden behind the branches to the upper left. Another multifeed antenna is mounted on the outside wall and is used for reception of standard channels. Leo Stouten is standing in his garden.



At work DXing. Here he is checking up on channels on Nilesat at 7° west.



A true DXer: Leo can't pass up the opportunity to test a DRM radio.