

Nanoxx 9600 IP

CA Receiver With That Little Extra

CA receivers are ten a penny, but if you're after a really good box you still have to search around. We found such a receiver, the 9600 IP of German distributor Nanoxx. The IP in the model name reveals some great extras – but let's take it one step at a time.



The casing of the box comes in elegant silver with a shiny black front panel where an easy to read segment display indicates the currently selected program number. To the left, Nanoxx has put seven buttons to operate the box without remote control and to the right a flap hides the card reader which is XCrypt compatible.

The back panel is nicely equipped as well, featuring the standard IF input with looped-through output, two scart euroconnectors, RF modulator output, 3 RCA sockets for stereo audio and video, composite video, optical digital audio output, RS-232 interface as well as an RJ45 network socket as an added extra. But more about that a little later.

The included remote control sits well in your hand and sports an ergonomic shape. The buttons on the lower half

of the control could be slightly larger, though.

The multilingual user's manual will answers all questions and has an easy to use layout.

Everyday use

Turn on the box for the first time and you'll be immediately presented with the main menu which prompts the user to customise some parameters and to define which reception equipment is used in combination with the receiver. The new Nanoxx box turns out to be a true globetrotter, offering the following languages for OSD messages: English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Turkish, Russian, Arabic, Persian, Croatian and Greek.

Thanks to automatic detection the box can handle PAL and NTSC signals flawlessly and

switching between the 4:3 and 16:9 aspect ratios also went smoothly in our tests. Unfortunately, the Nanoxx receiver has neither S-Video nor component video outputs, which is a drawback considering the large number of flat screen TV and beamers in use these days. On the positive side the OSD can be customised to an extremely high extent so that users can configure the box just the way they prefer.

Once the initial set-up is completed the installation menu comes up to assist in adjusting the receiver's setting to the reception system used. The Nanoxx 9600 IP supports DiSEqC 1.0 to control up to four LNBs as well as DiSEqC protocols 1.2 and 1.3 (USALS) to control motors for rotating dishes.

As an extremely smart feature – especially for newbies

– the relevant DiSEqC protocol is detected automatically and all parameters are set by the receiver accordingly, so that users have one thing less to worry about when installing their equipment.

If you own a multifeed antenna with up to 16 LNBs then this receiver is not for you, however, because unfortunately it does not support DiSEqC protocol 1.1.

Apart from standard universal Ku band LNBs some other types such as C band LNBs can also be used and if required the LOF data can even be entered manually. The manufacturer ships this receiver with a pre-stored satellite list featuring 58 European and Asian orbital positions. Up to 20 additional



Clearly laid out info bar of the 9600 IP |



EPG |



Main menu |

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available channel will be found quickly after only a few clicks.

Network interface

Now it's time at last to turn to the IP in the Nanoxx 9600 IP's model name. Contrary to most other CA receivers this particular box comes equipped with a fully functional network interface, which the manufacturer has built in with two purposes in mind: One is to facilitate easy and convenient software updates via the Internet, and the other is to transform this CA receiver into a full-flung PVR.

If you decide to use this interface all you have to do is access the Internet main menu on the OSD in order to set the required parameters. If required, all data (i.e. IP address, subnet mask, standard gateway IP) can be entered manually or alternatively DHCP can be activated, prompting the receiver to obtain all settings from the local router.

Smartly enough the 9600 IP can be set up in such a way that it searches for new software on the manufacturer's server every time it is turned on so that users can be sure the box runs the most recent version of the operating system at all times. Of course we tried that out in our test and the receiver reliably detected any updates and started to download and install new software.

The second purpose of the network interface is currently in its trial phase, but we have word from the manufacturer that they are working day and night to make this feature ready for release. Nonetheless, TELE-satellite was authorised by Nanoxx to have a sneak peek. At the start of all planning was

If you have a more pronounced sense of order you can proceed with permanently adjusting the full list to your personal liking. This includes renaming, moving or deleting channels or putting a parental lock on those offerings that are not suitable for children. Only those possessing the correct PIN can then watch these channels.

To make things even easier, all channels of a specific satellite can be deleted or PIN-locked at once.

Complementing various search filters is manual PID input, a feature all DXers will be most thankful for. Eight favourites lists are available and can be filled with the most frequently watched channels at

positions can be added to this list later on. We have found that some transponder data are out of date, so we hope Nanoxx will look at the matter and provide more current data in future.

After the antenna settings are completed the next step is to fill the 6000-plus channel memory (boot loader version 1.33 and higher) of the IP 9600. To this end we can select either a full scan on one or more satellites or a manual scan on specific transponders.

Our test also confirmed that it's always a good thing to be able to restrict a scan to FTA, TV only or radio only. Scanning is speedy and took a little less than seven minutes for performing a full search on an 80-transponder satellite.

After the completion of the first channel scan the receiver leaves the main menu and displays the first available channel together with a highly informative status bar which features the title of the current and next events (if made available by the channel provider) as well as icons for teletext, subtitles or encryption.

Press the Guide button and the EPG appears on screen showing all events of the following three to seven days. Our extensive tests revealed, however, that the EPG window on screen is divided by the 9600 IP in a rather awkward way. On the one hand the area displaying all program and event information is rather tiny and on the other hand the area dedicated to show the currently selected channel is

quite large. We believe it would be wise to reduce this area for the sake of more program information, because that's what an EPG actually is there for in the first place.

Similar to most other receivers the OK button calls up the channel list. The new Nanoxx receiver features a clearly laid out list complete with comprehensive editing and sorting options. This makes sure any

the touch of a button. No more time is wasted any longer looking for those favourite stations.

The overall positive impression of the Nanoxx 9600 IP is rounded off with standard features like selection of audio channel, teletext decoder or multi-picture viewing mode which helps you keep track of up to four channels simultaneously. That's a convenient way of bridging commercial breaks.



While we were at it, we tested the limits of the Nanoxx 9600 IP tuner and were amazed about the good reception it managed to obtain from relatively weak transponders on NILESAT 7° West, BADR 26° East and ASTRA 28.2° East. SSCP reception was no problem either and our test transponder on EUTELSAT SEASAT 36° East with a symbol rate of just 1.628 Ms/s was detected and processed without a glitch.



Channel search |



Multi-picture display |



Network settings |

Nanoxx's assumption that most households these days own high-performance PCs and burning a DVD is as easy today as recording a tape used to be a decade or two ago.

Most PVRs sold today allow transferring recordings from the internal hard disk to the PC, even though this process may be very time consuming, depending on the available connection type.

Now, if you were able to record an event directly on the PC, this would save all this time spent moving huge files from one disk to another.

That's where Nanoxx enters the stage with a small tool that runs on the PC and waits for any incoming recordings from the receiver.

As soon as the Record button

on the remote control is pressed the recording starts and the receiver transmits all data to the PC via the network interface. The PC saves the recordings for playback at a later time or for processing and burning using any standard DVD authoring software.

Even though in beta stage this added feature of the Nanoxx 9600 IP worked flawlessly in

our test. The only thing we were not yet able to test was playing back content that is stored on PC directly on the receiver, since the manufacturer has not yet finished the implementation of this feature in its software.

Considering the perfectly functional recording mode, however, we are confident that this feature will be available and in perfect working order shortly.

Expert Opinion

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The Nanoxx 9600 IP is a fully functional CA receiver sporting all required features with reliability and sophistication. Thanks to its network interface a whole new world of possibilities opens up and the manufacturer uses these in a smart way. The 9600 IP is self-explaining to operate and even beginners will have no difficulty using it.



Thomas Haring
TELE-satellite
Test Center
Austria

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The satellite and – above all – transponder lists are in need of some fresh air and playing back recordings from the PC is not yet possible. DiSEqC 1.1 would also be a welcome addition.



Recording software on the PC |

TECHNIC

DATA

Manufacturer	NanoXX www.nanoxx.info
Model	9600 IP
Function	Digital CA satellite receiver with PVR functionality via network
Channel memory	6000
Satellites	78
SCPC compatible	yes (1.628 Ms/s and above in our test)
USALS	yes
DiSEqC	1.0 / 1.2 / 1.3
Scart connections	2
Audio/Video outputs	3 x RCA
YUV outputs	no
UHF Modulator	yes
0/12 Volt output	no
Digital audio output	yes (optical)
EPG	yes
C/Ku-Band compatible	yes
Power supply	100-240 VAC, 50/60 Hz