

The ASTRA Fan

Cahit Nuri Or lives in the city of Adapazari, roughly 150 Km east of Istanbul. He loves music and collects CD's and LP's. But watching and listening to live music channels is what he loves to do most of all. Unfortunately, he lives in an area that is not all that ideal for such a hobby: he can't receive all that many music channels. But wait...what about satellites? Most of the music channels can be found on ASTRA at 19.2 east and most of them are in exceptional quality.




■ Cahit installed his monster dish in his garden

If you look at the footprint for the ASTRA satellite, it would seem that Cahit won't have much luck receiving this satellite in Turkey. But then again...

Cahit explains to us: "I bought my first satellite dish in 1990. It had a diameter of 1.5 meters. I used a Drake ESR 3240 E

analog satellite receiver along with a Gardiner 0.8 dB LNB."

He couldn't receive ASTRA with this set up so he upgraded his system a year later: "I bought a 3-meter antenna." Finally, he was able to receive three TV channels from ASTRA but "only at night", comments Cahit,

A photograph of Cahit Nuri Or standing next to a large, white, parabolic satellite dish. The dish is mounted on a metal structure and is tilted upwards. The man is wearing a white shirt and dark trousers. The background shows green foliage and a clear sky.

■ Cahit Nuri Or from Turkey on the platform of his enormous 5.2-meter dish. With it he can receive ASTRA 1 at 19.2 east in Turkey

■ A look at the dish from behind. Cahit regularly inspects the installation.

"and the signals broke up often or were below the noise threshold."

In 1992 Cahit had enough with experimentation: he decided to buy a 5.2-meter solid aluminum dish, with no segments. The best of the best. The antenna weighed in at half a ton!

How would you install such a monster dish and where would you put it? Cahit explains, "We constructed a 70x70cm concrete mast that was four meters high with an iron platform at the top." Five tons of cement, sand and iron rods were used in the construction. Cahit calculated what all of this cost him: "The dish itself cost roughly 11,000 Euros, shipping by truck was 700 Euros, construction of the concrete mast came to about 2750 Euros and renting the crane to lift the dish in place was another 150 Euros." This makes the total 14,600 Euros just for the reception of one satellite.

It turns out though that it was all worth it. Cahit explains: "Now I could receive five analog TV channels: RTL, SAT1, 3sat, Pro7 and Eurosport." Cahit was still using that Drake receiver because it had an adjustable threshold. The LNB in the meantime he swapped for a 0.5 dB model.

The next big step came in the year 2000. Cahit once again swapped his LNB for a 0.3 dB model from Invacom and acquired an ECHOSTAR AD 3600 IP receiver. This receiver could receive digital signals as well as analog ones. Unfortunately, this receiver bit the dust a few years later. He replaced it with a Topfield TF 5000 CI. "Now I can receive every transponder from ASTRA at 19.2 east!" He explains further: "With my old

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1.5-meter antenna I can receive 645 TV channels from ASTRA 2 at 28.2 east and with my 5.2-meter dish I can receive 1125 TV channels from ASTRA 1 at 19.2 east."

For Cahit the enormous financial expense for his monster dish was definitely worth it: he can receive all the channels he wants in top notch quality.



■ One of the footprints from ASTRA 1 at 19.2 east. Reception in Turkey is not possible unless of course you use a monster dish like the one Cahit has.



■ Cahit in his music room. He used information from TELE-satellite to set up his receiver.



■ Cahit in his shack: as you can see, the satellite receivers and audio components are nicely organized. He explains: "All the walls have been soundproofed." He laid out a grand total of nearly 30,000 Euros for the technical equipment in his house.

22.04.
1992

Installation of a 5.2-meter dish in 1992



■ The antenna was delivered by truck



■ The crane is being prepared



■ The mounting frame is being prepared



■ The crane lifts the dish in place



■ Finished! The dish is mounted



■ The small 1.5-meter dish in the foreground is used by Cahit to receive ASTRA 2 at 28.2 east