

Affordable digital TV tuner card

COMPRO DVB-T200A

Plenty of features and a competitive price tag make the DVB-T200A a worthy choice for any PC that requires digital TV functionality. It displayed standard-definition and high-definition channels in pristine quality during our tests and playback was smooth on our AMD Athlon 64 3000+ PC, even while we used the Internet in the background. The tuner's ability to pick up all available channels using our old antenna is commendable; however, it did have trouble picking up channel Nine's standard-definition channels.

The card can also be used to record from composite or S-video sources, which worked well in our tests, and the card's software

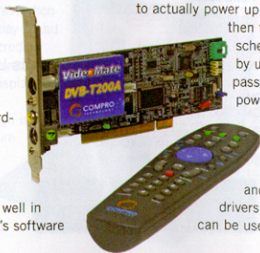
interface — Compro DTV — has a button for quick switching between these sources. Compro DTV has a couple of little annoyances, including slow channel changes, disappearing mouse cursors and slow timeshifting.

Manual recording was straightforward and worked well, as did the scheduler. The DVB-T200A is one of the few cards on the market that has the ability to actually power up a computer and then follow a recording schedule. It does this by using a power switch pass-through for ATX power supplies.

For lounging, the card is supplied with an infrared remote control and it also has BDA drivers, which means it can be used with Windows

Media Centre Edition (MCE) 2005.

VERDICT Despite some quirks during timeshifting and the slow channel changing, the DVB-T200A is a versatile card and is well worth considering, especially for a Windows MCE 2005 machine. **ELIAS PLASTIRAS**



COMPRO DVB-T200A

PRICE \$149.90

VENDOR Anyware

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SPECIFICATIONS

Standard-definition, high-definition digital TV; composite input, S-video input; remote control; power-up scheduling; time-shifting; BDA drivers; ComproDTV interface software.

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VALUE  9

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