

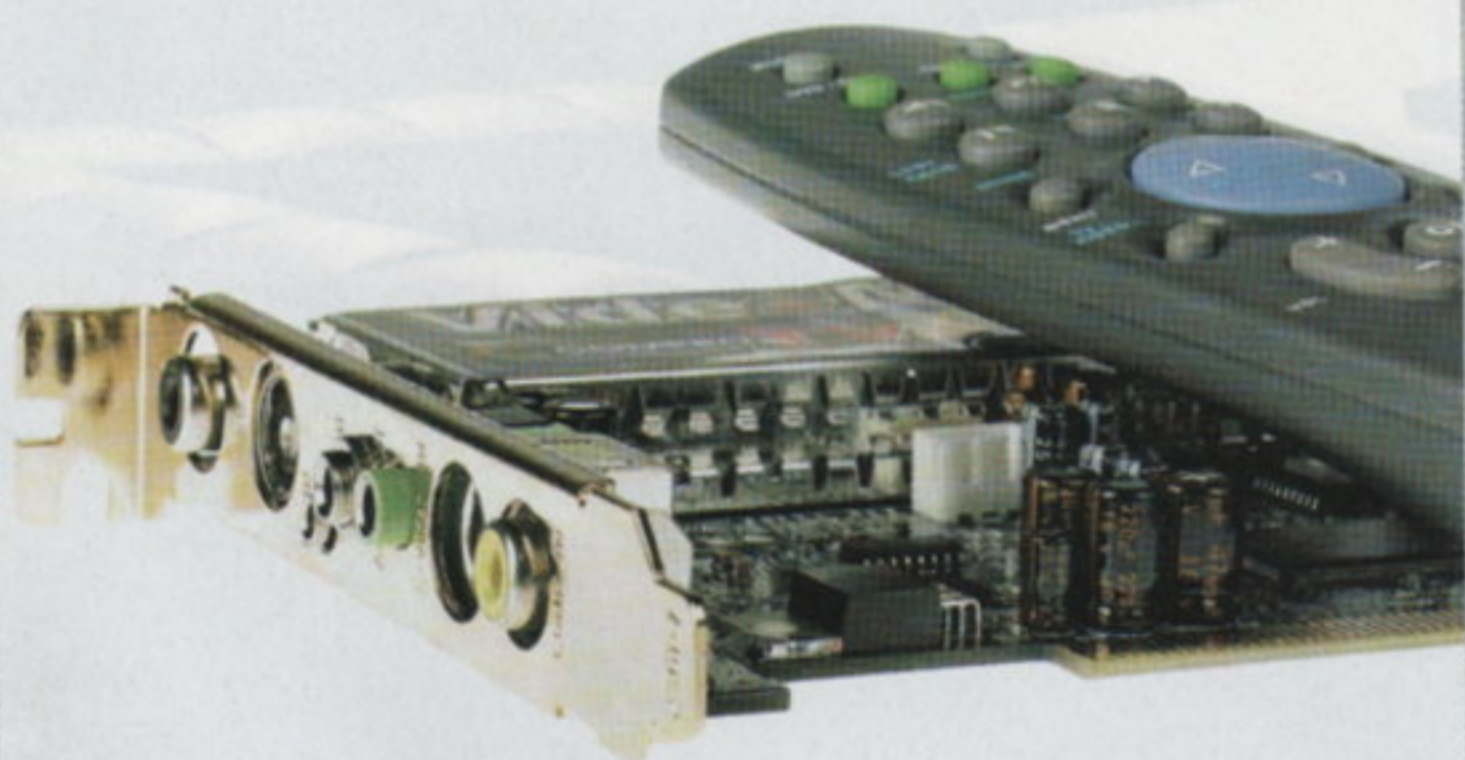
■ COMPRO VIDEOMATE TV GOLD PLUS II

Your personal video mate

PRICE **\$61**

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With the VideoMate TV Gold Plus II, Compro is targeting users interested in buying a comprehensive video recording solution.

It's a good thing then that the Compro's most interesting and useful feature is its ability to automatically boot and shut-down your PC. This means that rather than leaving your PC on to record a show, you can schedule exactly what you want recorded, then have it boot and shut down your PC when the recording is done. Ingenious!

For the Compro to work its magic however, you'll need a PCI 2.2-compliant motherboard with 3.3V standby power. Thankfully, most boards released in the last two years are PCI 2.2 ready. Thereafter, you simply connect your chassis' power button to the card and use the supplied cable to

connect the card to the power header on the motherboard.

The remote control can be used to boot your PC too, but only the firm's own Compro PVR2 software can govern the boot and shutdown features. This isn't a problem however, as it is very easy to work with. On first firing it up, a wizard guides you through channel tuning procedures, all of which can be done in less than 15 minutes. The only real issue we noted is that the program's channel guide works with USA-based TitanTV, so for regional users, scheduling recordings means setting the date, time and other specifics manually.

PERFORMANCE	★★★★☆
FEATURES	★★★★★
VALUE FOR MONEY	★★★★☆

VERDICT What the Compro lacks in outright quality, it makes up for with regards to features. If you're looking for a competent video recorder, this is worth a look.