

COMPRO VIDEOMATE S300

Turn into a couch potato on the cheap

PRICE **\$42**

CONTACT +9714 397 2345

WEB www.comprousa.com



PERFORMANCE

FEATURES

VALUE FOR MONEY



SPECIFICATIONS

Philips SAA7130HL chipset, NTSC/PAL compatible, digital TV ready, MPEG2 video,

Compro manufactures a range of products that can turn your home PC or laptop into a PVR (personal video recorder), thereby allowing you to watch and record live TV.

The desktop-only VideoMate S300 is one of Compro's digital TV offerings, which means it's designed to work with satellite source signals from companies such as ShowTime or Orbit.

The S300 is powered by Philips' SAA7130HL chipset and the quality of recorded video is high with images appearing sharp and vibrant as well. We did spot a bit of graininess around on-screen text but this is common to many tuners. Being a PCI card rather than an external USB model, the S300 didn't feel sluggish at all when channel surfing or when using 'timeshifting' to rewind and

standard and high-definition 1080i ready, infrared remote control, Compro DTV software, two-year warranty.

watch a scene we missed.

Compro's DTV software is user-friendly and offers support for electronic programme guides (EPG). This means you can find out what will be playing and when without having to reach for a newspaper or TV guide. The app even lets you assign specific colour and audio settings to individual channels. This is very useful, if for example you want a channel to be very bright (such as a science fiction channel), so that you can see what's going on, but don't want that brightness affecting all the other channels.

Compro also bundles its own 'ComproDVD 2' DVD playback software, and Ulead's PhotoExplorer 8.5SE. At a cost of \$42 then, the Compro offers excellent value considering its features and performance.

VERDICT A well thought out PVR with competent performance and features, plus a strong emphasis on value.