

The Six Dishes from „Lasmotos“

■ Daniel Hasink lives here. You can't see his satellite dishes from the street.

- Saw his first satellite with his naked eyes when he was eight years old
- Can receive every reachable satellite in the C-band and Ku-band
- Uses the AZBox as his main receiver
- Fascinated by all the different cultures brought to him by satellite channels from around the world

Software Specialist, Radio Amateur and Satellite DXer Daniel Hasink



Daniel Hasink has been fascinated by radio technology since he was a kid. Today he lives south of Buenos Aires in a quiet suburb. And this is where he told us over a pot of coffee how he became so interested in radio technology and how today he has six satellite dishes in operation. But first we wanted to know what his nickname "Lasmotos" is all about.

"Moto is the shortened version of the Spanish Motocicleta, or motorcycle. When I was younger I enjoyed riding motorcycles and had several of them. I even run a website where I publish operational manuals. Since then I've been visiting satellite forums, such as ftatv.com, using my nickname 'Lasmotos.'"

Then Daniel Hasink "Lasmotos" be-

gan explaining to us how it all started. "My family comes from a farming region in the extremely southern part of the Rio Negro Province. We lived in Buenos Aires but during summer vacations we always stayed for two months at my grandfather's and uncle's farms."

Back then there was no TV let alone electricity on the farm, "My grandfather would use a car battery so that we could listen to the radio in the evening." And this was the start of little Daniel's fascination with radio technology.

His passion for satellite technology has its roots from those days: "Since no one had electricity for lights, we often sat out on the patio and looked up at the stars in the sky." His grandfather explained to him all of the different



■ Daniel Hasink "Lasmotos" next to his foldable 60cm antenna that he enjoys taking with him on trips.

■ “Lasmotos” antenna parade. He mounted them all on the roof of his home’s extension so that they can “see” above his neighbor’s house.

constellations and how that all of the stars appear to be standing still. “But one of the stars is moving”, little Daniel called out one night. His grandfather explained that this was a satellite. “I was only eight years old then and those first satellites flew in low earth orbits at altitudes of only a few hundred kilometers.” Such a transition across the horizon took from 8 to 15 minutes and it was visible to the naked eye because of the sunlight reflecting off of the satellite. “My first satellite experience was seeing a small illuminated dot moving slowly across the sky.”

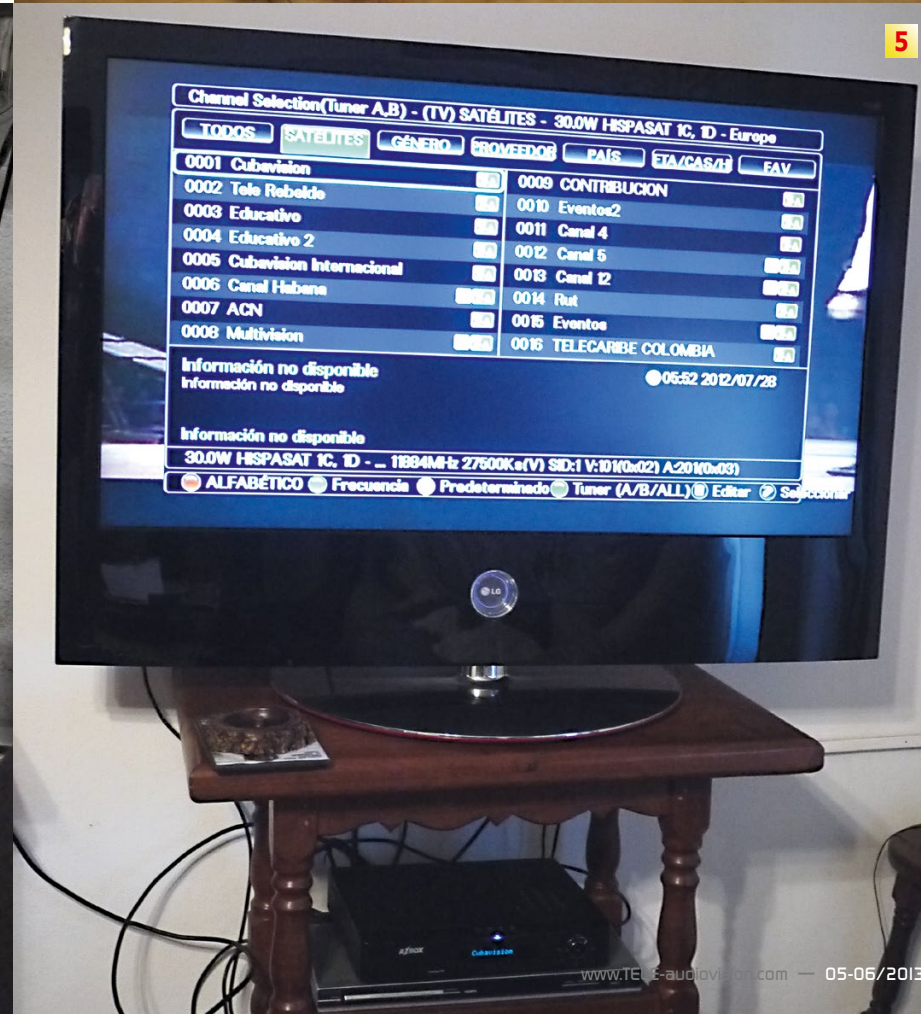
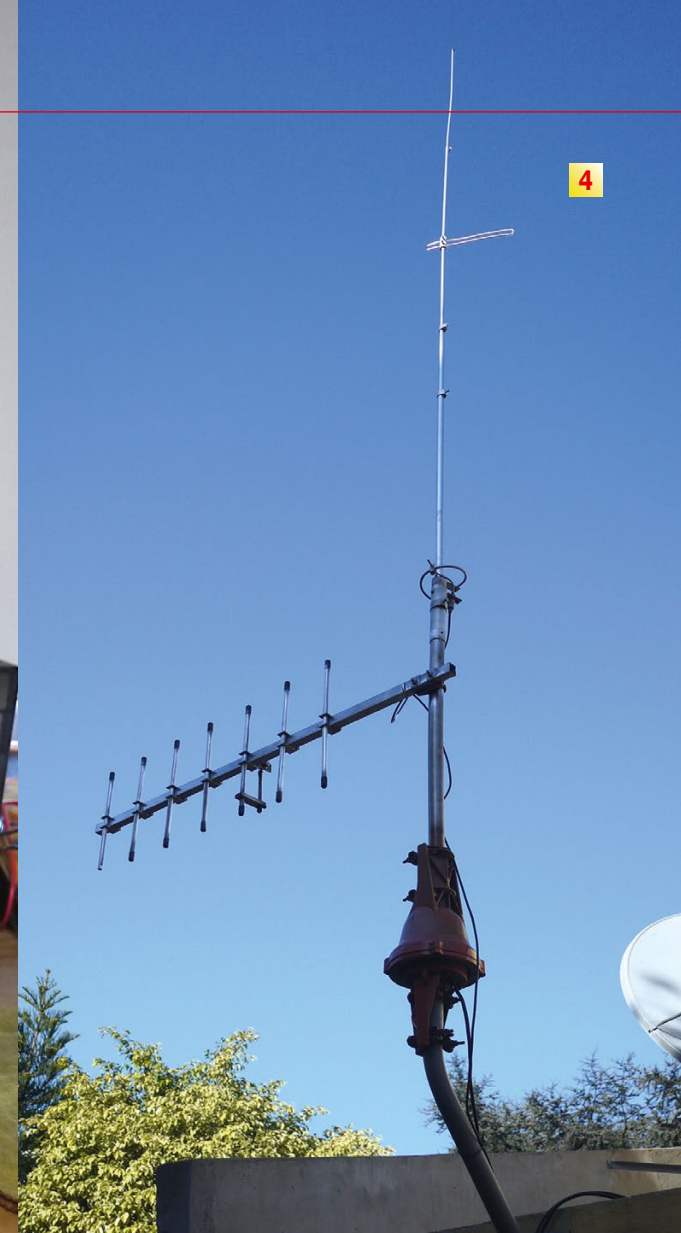
He had another experience in 1975 when he was serving in the Argentinean Air Force. “One day the American military was demonstrating a communications satellite. I was there and watched how the soldiers set up an uplink station.” But it took another 25 years before “Lasmotos” could finally receive his own satellite channels. That was the year 2000 when he acquired his first 1.2-meter dish.

Today Daniel Hasink is fully equipped: he has a total of six dishes mounted on the roof of his house. He lists them for us: “The big 1.8-meter antenna with the C-band feed is fixed on NSS 806 at 40W. The smaller 1.1-meter dish is also for the C-band and is aligned with IN-TELSAT 9 at 58W.”

For the Ku-band, Daniel uses a 90cm dish with a motor. “I use that antenna to receive the AMC6, GALAXY 28, AMAZONAS, INTELSAT 11, TELSTAR 12, HISPASAT and VENESAT 1 satellites.”

That last satellite, says “Lasmotos”, “has an especially strong beam that is aimed towards Uruguay and broadcasts a channel from Uruguay.” Two additional 60cm antennas on the terrace are fixed on TELSTAR 12 and HISPASAT. “And this 60cm dish on the terrace is foldable; I take it with me whenever we travel on vacation to the Atlantic coast.”

“Lasmotos” is particularly fascinated with channels from other countries. “You can learn so much from foreign TV, for example, from the many different regional channels from Spain with all of the different cultures.” Daniel is even fascinated by the channels from the various Argentinean provinces; in this way he can keep tabs on what’s going on there, something you don’t often hear about in the capital city. “But I really like the HD channel from NHK; it’s a channel of exceptional technical qual-



ity." Daniel comments that he can also receive a few other channels that say they are HD, "but it's a lie. They don't transmit in high resolution at all." It's an experience that he has in common with many other HDTV viewers: quite a few broadcasters carry the "HD" in their channel name but often only transmit in SD or artificially upscale their channels to HD.

In his living room he has a large plasma TV connected to an AZBox. "All of my antennas are connected there so that I can surf to my hearts content." Since Daniel is also connected to the local cable network and even has an ISDB-T antenna on his roof, he can proudly say, "I can watch some channels in triple play - via satellite, via cable and terrestrially!"

Daniel Hasink "Lasmotos" is set up perfectly for all of the different reception methods.

1. Because the neighbor's house limits the view, he had to install the antenna for the Argentine DTH package on the outermost edge.

2. Daniel Hasink "Lasmotos" in his shack. Here he keeps track of the satellite channels on a monitor and reads the Spanish version of TELE-satellite on his laptop.

3-4. "Lasmotos" is also an active radio amateur in the 2m band.

5. "Lasmotos" connected the AZBox to the large plasma TV in his living room.