



Loops of stainless steel rod pick up signals from all directions.

**SIGNAL STRENGTH** ★★☆☆☆  
**CONVENIENCE** ★★★★★  
**PICTURE QUALITY** ★★★☆☆

## TERRESTRIAL OMNIDIRECTIONAL Maxview Omnimax **£75.00**

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One of the big snags of directional antennas is that they are directional! The very fact that they are able to pull in weak signals from some directions makes them less able to pick up signals from other directions. So when the boat swings on its mooring, or moves from one marina berth to another, a directional antenna is likely to need re-aligning. The solution is an omnidirectional antenna, whose performance is more or less consistent, regardless of the direction to the transmitter.

There are several possible designs, of which the Omnimax is one of the classics. It's an odd-looking contraption, consisting of four loops of 4mm stainless steel rod arranged at right angles to each other, mounted on a plastic base. With the base removed, it could conveniently be mounted on a standard 1in pole. It's supplied with 14ft 9in (5m) of cable and a 22dB signal booster, plus a shorter length of co-ax to link the booster to the TV.

Signal strength isn't everything. One of the reasons we use directional antennas at home is because they effectively filter out a lot of the spurious signals coming from other directions. An omnidirectional can't do that, so boosting the signal inevitably involves boosting the interference as well. We plugged it all in, and got pictures – analogue and digital – with no hassle. The analogue pictures weren't the greatest, but they were perfectly watchable.

### Verdict ★★★

Not the greatest performer, but around most of the coast it should provide hassle-free telly at a modest price.