Subject: Digital Antenna
Posted by audioaudio90 on Wed, 06 Feb 2013 20:12:01 GMT
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We stopped our cable service and use a digital antenna for the broadcast channels (and Hulu for everything else). It's been pretty nice but the antenna is definitely more sensitive to weather than cable was.

Do you use a digital antenna?

Subject: Re: Digital Antenna
Posted by Wayne Parham on Wed, 06 Feb 2013 21:10:16 GMT
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I do the same thing, and find an RF amplifier works wonders. You can find amplified antennas from various manufacturers.

Subject: Re: Digital Antenna
Posted by audioaudio90 on Sat, 16 Feb 2013 15:28:11 GMT
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Can you recommend a particular RF amplifier? I looked at an RCA antenna amplifier on Amazon that has mixed reviews. Also, what is the difference between an outdoor and indoor amplifier?

Subject: Re: Digital Antenna
Posted by Wayne Parham on Sat, 16 Feb 2013 15:35:06 GMT
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The RF amplifiers designed for television all provide about 10x to 100x gain (10dB - 20dB), which will improve a weak signal but it cannot help one that is too degraded. Indoor antennas are basically the same thing as "rabbit ears" from days gone by but some come in a more attractive "plate" package.

None of the indoor antennas is anywhere close to the performance of a good outdoor antenna. Those are the same as the beam antennas (also from yesteryear). The same antennas you used to see on people's house in the 1970s will work just fine today. You can also put an outdoor antenna in your attic. The main thing is the beam antennas must be pointed at the transmitting antenna.

Subject: Re: Digital Antenna
Posted by audioaudio90 on Wed, 20 Feb 2013 11:41:19 GMT
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Thank you. Clearly I was taken in by the indoor antennas, and will get an outdoor antenna instead, even though it'll corrode relatively quickly due to the salt air (we don't have an attic). Maybe I'll be able to get by without the amplifier.