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Directv genie 2 reviews 2018

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FILED UNDER:directvhdvsatellite Two generations ago, Clint Eastwood’s “Dirty Harry” uttered the immortal words we all still know and quote… “Do I feel lucky?” Really that’s the question you need to ask yourself if you’re trying to decide between DIRECTV’s HR54 Genie DVR and its HS17 Genie 2. Both are available now at Solid Signal, and both cost the same. Let’s look at your choices. What’s the same Both DVRs have the same operating system. They work the same. Both use the same remote, and both have almost all of the same features. They work at the same speed, both let you record at least five things at once and watch two programs at the same time. Both support clients and both can use DIRECTV’s interactive apps. As with all DIRECTV technology, there’s only one place you can be sure you’re getting the exact model you want: SolidSignal.com. What’s different For starters, the HR54 and Genie 2 look very different. This is the HR54: This is the Genie 2. The HR54 is designed to sit in your home theater. It puts out a live TV signal and acts like a traditional DVR. The HS17 Genie 2 doesn’t output live TV. It’s designed to be a server, providing TV to all your client boxes. The Genie 2 is designed to minimize the number of extra boxes in your system. It has built-in Wi-Fi and a video bridge so that it supports wireless clients. Both the HR54 and Genie 2 can be used without a power inserter in most cases. The biggest difference Without a doubt the biggest difference between the HR54 and the Genie 2 is the way both fit into your overall home theater strategy. Genie 2 is designed to be the one-size-fits-most solution. You can have up to seven rooms of TV going at one time using only client boxes, and three of those can be 4K at the same time. That’s probably enough for over 99% of people. The HR54 can support a total of four rooms, using the DVR and three client boxes. One of those can be 4K. That’s considerably less than the Genie 2, but the HR54 has an extra benefit. AT&T doesn’t allow customers to add any other receivers if they have a Genie 2. That means you’re out of luck if seven rooms isn’t enough for you. However, with an HR54, you can continue to upgrade your system to almost limitless levels and create the system of your dreams. Do you feel lucky? There’s no question that HR54 is sort of “yesterday’s tech.” It’s designed to help people make a transition to the Genie era. Genie 2 is the future. It’s been around for three years and its proven technology, and it’s really the only choice for most customers. But on the other hand, HR54 is still supported and new software is being developed for it. That’s not likely to change for years to come. So you have to ask yourself if you want to be confined by AT&T’s vision of your home theater, or if you want to leave the door open to a virtually limitless home theater. Whichever you choose, you’ll get the best product and selection when you shop the great selection you’ll find at the all new, massively renovated SolidSignal.com. © 1996-2014, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates Luckily, you don’t have to pay for the highest-tier packages to get the channels you want with DIRECTV. You’re likely to find the channel variety you need in the ENTERTAINMENT plan. But don’t let us stop you if you need a channel lineup that has all the sports or all the movies. We’ll highlight some channels each package includes when you upgrade from one to another. DIRECTV’S ENTERTAINMENT plan includes the following: ABC Family Animal Planet Cartoon Network CNN Disney Channel ESPN, ESPN2, ESPN3 Fox News Food Network Hallmark Channel HGTV Lifetime Movie Network MSNBC Nickelodeon TBS TNT Turner Classic Movies USA Network And more DIRECTV CHOICE plan includes the following: Big Ten Network Cooking Channel ESPNNEWS ESPN U FUSE Independent Film Channel NFL Network Science Channel And more DIRECTV ULTIMATE plan includes the following: Boomerang ENCORE Action ENCORE Drama NHL Network PBS Kids Sprout Style Network Sundance Channel The Movie Channel Tennis Channel And more DIRECTV PREMIER plan includes the following: CINEMAX ActionMax ESPN CLASSIC ENCORE Family ENCORE Love FLIX Fox Deportes Fox Soccer Channel HBO2 HBO Family Outdoor Channel STARZ Cinema STARZ Edge SHOWTIME Beyond SHOWTIME Showcase STARZ Comedy STARZ Kids & Family CINEMAX ThrillerMax And more Guess what? DIRECTV tosses a free subscription to HBO Max for one whole year and a free subscription to CINEMAX, SHOWTIME, STARZ, and EPIX for three months. Now, that’s currently the best premium channel-perk in the TV industry! Don’t forget to cancel your subscription after the year is up, or else you’ll be charged \$57 per month. Or just make sure you budget so you won’t have to miss out on Raised by Wolves, Strike Back, or Billions. To put it simply, the more you can budget for your monthly satellite bill, the more sports channels you’ll get. You’ll get a complete list of sports channels if you go as high as the ULTIMATE package (especially if you want to watch your O’s, D-backs, or Yanks). DIRECTV ENTERTAINMENT includes the following sports channels: DIRECTV CHOICE includes the following sports channels: Big Ten Network ESPN ESPN2 ESPN3 ESPNNEWS ESPN U NFL Network DIRECTV ULTIMATE includes the following sports channels: Big Ten Network CBS Sports Network ESPN ESPN2 ESPN3 ESPNNEWS ESPN U Golf Channel MLB Network NBA TV NBC Sports NFL Network NHL Network Tennis Channel NFL SUNDAY TICKET is one of DIRECTV’s best features. You get all out-of-market Sunday NFL games right on your TV. And guess what? You get a free season subscription for your first year if you get the DIRECTV CHOICE package or above! DIRECTV offers the following add-on packages: Movies Extra packs \$4.99/mo. (first three months included) DOGTV: \$4.99/mo. (first month included) Outdoor Channel: \$4.99/mo. Hallmark Movies Now: \$5.99/mo. (or check out other ways to watch the Hallmark channels) Lifetime Movies Club: \$3.99/mo. A&E Crime Central: \$4.99/mo. Pantaya: \$5.99/mo. You can also get DIRECTV packages for the following languages (\$10.00-\$37.99): Italian Filipino Russian Brazilian Portuguese Chinese Korean Vietnamese Spanish Japanese Data as of post date. Offers and availability may vary by location and are subject to change. CableTV.com uses paid Amazon links. DIRECTV has two DVR/receivers: the Genie and the Genie 2. There’s no monthly fee for either device, and you get to choose the one you want. The standard Genie stores 200 hours and has five tuners (simultaneous recordings). The Genie 2 has stronger stats (450 hours, seven tuners) and exclusively wireless connectivity—so no cable clutter. It’s clearly superior to the original; we recommend it for most users. But we actually prefer the DISH Hopper 3 to the DIRECTV Genies. Unlike the Genie, the Hopper 3 isn’t free (it’s \$10 a month), but it’s the better DVR, and DISH is the cheaper and better service in the long run (we explain this further down). Either way you go, let’s take a deeper look at the Genie and Genie 2 so you can form your own opinion. No extra fee Up to 450 hrs. of HD storage Up to 7 simultaneous recordings No cable clutter (Genie 2 only) High activation fees for some equipment No built-in streaming apps DIRECTV has two promotions for new customers: Free premium channels for three months: Sign up for ENTERTAINMENT (\$74.99/mo., 160+ channels) or higher and get three free months of HBO MaxTM, CINEMAX®, EPIX, SHOWTIME®, and STARZ®. NFL SUNDAY TICKET: Sign up for CHOICETM (\$79.99/mo., 185+ channels) or higher and you get the current season free. Data as of post date. Offers and availability may vary by location and are subject to change. We think the best DIRECTV package is CHOICE (\$79.99 a month, 185+ channels). It has a solid channel lineup, affordable price (for the first year, anyway), and it qualifies you for DIRECTV’s best promo deals (listed above). Data as of post date. Offers and availability may vary by location and are subject to change. Of the five DVR/receivers in this table, the DIRECTV Genie has the third-lowest storage capacity and third-fewest tuners (simultaneous recordings). But 200 hours of HD storage and five tuners will satisfy most users, and getting it all for free equals incredible value. Same goes for the Genie 2 (450 hours, seven tuners, and wireless-only connectivity), which works a bit differently than the standard version (we cover that in an upcoming section). Unfortunately, the value doesn’t last with either Genie, since DIRECTV has steep 30-38% rate hikes—after the first year. That means you’ll pay at least an extra \$360 over the second year. By contrast, the DISH Hopper 3 rental fee will cost \$240 over two years. That said, DISH offers a two-year price guarantee, so you’ll save money on your TV plan and get a better DVR. If your heart isn’t set on DIRECTV, we recommend going with DISH and its Hopper 3 DVR/receiver instead. Data as of post date. Offers and availability may vary by location and are subject to change. DIRECTV automatically adds the Genie to most orders. If you want the Genie 2, just order service on two or more TVs and upgrade to wireless connectivity. Your cart will then update your equipment selections for you. Let’s run down the main features of the Genie and Genie 2: storage, tuners, whole-home TV, the DIRECTV app, and more. The DIRECTV Genie DVR/receiver has 200 hours of HD storage (on a 1 TB drive). If you get the Genie 2, it stores 450 HD hours on a 2 TB drive. Again, 200 hours is enough for most people—so 450 hours will be plenty of storage for anyone. For instance, I have a DISH Hopper 3 DVR and I’ve used only 17% of its 500-hour storage capacity—and I’ve recorded a ton of stuff. The Genie has five tuners, which means it can record five programs at once. That’s a good amount because finding five programming conflicts in the same time slot should be a rare occurrence. TBH, we’ve never used more than three tuners at a time. But if you’d like a couple extra simultaneous recordings, the Genie 2 can suck down seven programs at once. We really wish that the DIRECTV Genies had built-in streaming apps like the Hopper 3, but they don’t. They do, however, have a couple of cool little features that you won’t find on the Hopper 3. 72-hour Rewind: If you forget to record a show, you can jump back up to 72 hours. Mix channels: This feature allows you to watch up to six kids, news, and sports channels at once. Unlike the standard Genie, the Genie 2 doesn’t connect to your TV. It’s a wireless access point that beams a signal to a Genie Mini Wireless that’s connected to each TV. You get the first Mini Wireless free when you sign up, but extras cost \$7 a month. So a three-TV setup with the Genie 2 would require three Mini Wireless boxes—but you’d pay rental fees for only two (\$14 a month total). Data as of post date. Offers and availability may vary by location and are subject to change. Unlike the standard Genie, the Genie 2 doesn’t connect to your TV. It doesn’t look like a traditional DVR/receiver—it’s a tall, slender tower instead of a flat, wide box—and it doesn’t work like one, either. The Genie 2 is a wireless access point that beams a signal to a Genie Mini Wireless connected to each TV. You get the first Mini Wireless free when you sign up, but extras cost \$7 a month. So a three-TV setup with the Genie 2 would require three Mini Wireless boxes—but you’d pay rental fees for only two (\$14 a month total). Since the DIRECTV Genie 2 isn’t what you connect to your TV—that would be the Genie Mini Wireless—where does it go in your house? Here are our recommendations, based on how many TVs you own. Single-TV homes: Place the Genie 2 near your TV. It doesn’t have to be visible to work, so you can place it in your home entertainment center’s cabinet or on a nearby shelf to keep things tidy. Multiple TVs: To ensure that the Genie 2’s signal gets to your TVs, we recommend placing the Genie 2 in a location that’s central to your TV rooms. You can use either the wired Genie Mini or Genie Mini Wireless with the standard Genie too. The same \$99 bridge fee applies with the Mini Wireless, but you won’t get the first Mini Wireless free like you do with the Genie 2. The \$49 activation fees look pretty scary, but they kick in only when you get DIRECTV service on more than four TVs. (That applies to both Genie types.) The Genie and Genie 2 have parental controls to help you maintain control over what your children watch when you’re not home. Check out all the ways you can exercise this control: Block content based on ratings or your preferences View more detailed ratings and content information so you can decide what to block Limit watch time Set spending limits for purchases (including pay-per-view) While we’re talking about control, the DIRECTV Genie remote controls up to four devices and has simple, intuitive controls. It doesn’t have native voice control, but there’s a loophole if you have an Alexa device: the DIRECTV Alexa skill, which enables voice control of your Genie. It’s not perfect—especially if you have to buy an Alexa device only for this feature—but it works. CableTV.com uses paid Amazon links. When you’re not home, you can use the DIRECTV mobile app (Android, iOS) to watch your Genie DVR recordings on your mobile device. Here’s the full list of features: Stream live TV, on-demand content, and DVR recordings Download movies and shows to watch offline Set and manage DVR recordings Set and manage parental controls Stream on up to five devices at once The DIRECTV Genie and Genie 2 DVR/receivers have enough storage and simultaneous recordings to satisfy most users, and they’re certainly worth the price (free with your DIRECTV subscription). But we wish that the Genies had built-in streaming apps, native voice control, and none of those pesky activation fees. Ultimately, our recommendation comes down to DIRECTV’s plan pricing. It’s hard to eye the Genies, and to see their value, when you know that your plan payment will increase by 30%-38% in only a year. If you’re set on getting DIRECTV—perhaps because you get the current season of NFL SUNDAY TICKET free when you sign up for the CHOICE plan or higher—you’ll be happy with the Genies. Otherwise, we suggest going with DISH for its even more powerful Hopper 3 DVR/receiver and two-year price guarantee. Get the DIRECTV Genie DVR Data as of post date. Offers and availability may vary with location and are subject to change. Don’t miss an update Stay updated on the latest products and services anytime anywhere.

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