



Test: AB-Com PULSe 4K Combo

## The flagship of the Slovak company AB-Com

*Among the most popular receivers at the moment are combo receivers that enable the reception of satellite, terrestrial and cable signals. This is one of them, and in addition to the basic functions, it also offers a number of advanced features characteristic for upper-class receivers.*

The new receiver from the Slovak company AB-Com represents their strongest model: the PULSe 4K Combo. It is an upper-class receiver that targets demanding users. The dimensions (270x190x62) show that it is a serious receiver of an upper-class. The receiver comes in 3 variants: as satellite, as twin satellite and as combo. In the last two cases, the additional tuner can be inserted on the principle of plug&play. This test refers to the combo variant.

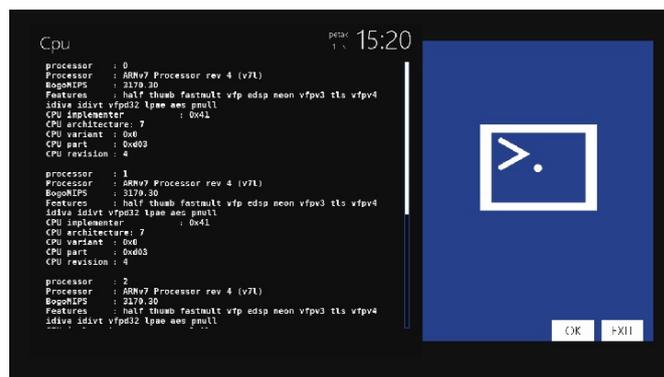
With its housing design and functionality, the AB-Com PULSe 4K Combo looks like similar upper-class receivers. It has Quad core processor with 15000 MIPS, 2GB of RAM and 8GB

of flash memory. On the front there is a display, and under the cover there are a USB slot (2.0), 2 CI slots, a card reader and a SD-card slot. 2 CI slots and the card reader are certainly commendable, and at the same time they represent the maximum that is offered on the market. Card modules for all 3 types of technologies were tested: for DVB-S2 HRT card and Max TV Sat module, for DVB-T Evo TV module and for DVB-C A1 module. All of the above works fine.

The front USB slot is a great idea for occasional use and is much more practical than the rear or side variants. The display consists of 4 classic 7-segment blue LED displays.



**French, Italian and Bulgarian channels that broadcast FTA in multistream work fine**



**The receiver is powered by a Hi3798MV200 Quad-core processor with 15,000 DMIPS**



**The back of the receiver is equipped with a hard disk slot, and as a special advantage there is the loop-out**

Of course, any display is better than none, but it is a pity that a better LCD display was not used for a receiver like this.

The back of the receiver consists of a DVB-S2 input, a DVB-T2/C input, a loop-out (well done, many new receivers do not have that), an HDMI port, an optical SPDIF, a LAN port, a USB port, IR for the sensor (which also comes with the receiver), power connector, switch and hard disk slot (2.5 "). There is the possibility of inserting a hard disk which is one of the features of upper-class receivers that distinguishes them from smaller receivers of a lower price range. Inserting a hard drive is very simple: it is fixed to a plastic holder and inserted, and initialized to be ready for use. In the test, a 500 GB disk was tested, everything works great.

The remote control is nicely designed, and in the middle it also has an ergonomic segment to better fit in your hand. It has all the usual functions, and what is quite unusual at first sight - the number keys are located below, not up, as it is usual. This creates a bit of confusion for those who are used to a different key layout.

The intended connection of the AB-Com PULSe 4K Combo receiver to the network is via a LAN cable. Unfortunately, the receiver does not have built-in WiFi, which is, compared to the competition of many cheaper receivers that have it, certainly a disadvantage. This is a tip for the manufacturer to think about for a possible future upgraded version.

DVB-S2, DVB-T2, DVB-C and IPTV were tested on the receiver. Everything works fine. What is pleasantly surprising is that the receiver does not heat up very much even when



**The remote control is ergonomically designed, visually attractive, but has a slightly unexpected key layout with the number keys at the lower part**

the IPTV channel is being switching for a long time while double recording is taking place in the background. This is a very high load for the receiver and for its processor and tuners. An OpenATV image was used for testing, as the standard image for testing and comparisons, and it already comes installed on the receiver. The receiver supports multistream, so Italian, French and Bulgarian channels work on 5W, 9E and 33E. Unfortunately, T2MI is not supported, so Russian channels at 54.9E in the Ku-band, and at 49E and 40E in the C-band are not available. This could be solved with additional plugins (astra-sm), but it is quite complicated for the average user. Furthermore, scanning high SRs goes smoothly, same as DVB-S2X channel scanning. The receiver also supports the blindscan option. As for UHD channels, all that are available work without any problems.

The overall impression of the AB-Com PULSe 4K Combo is great, more than expected. If it should be compared to any of the leading receivers, the closest in terms of functionality and appearance would be the Dreambox 920 UHD. The hardware of the AB-Com PULSe 4K Combo is not far behind the Dreambox 920 UHD, with some little things like the display. Software, on the other hand, makes no difference, except that the choice of images for Dreambox is far greater. For AB-Com PULSe 4K Combo I managed to find OpenATV and OpenPli image, which is actually quite enough. And finally - the price. At the manufacturer, the price ranges from 189 €, depending on the tuner. Compared to other receivers of such characteristics, this is the lowest price on the market, and it is also the main advantage that will attract customers.

#### Advantages:

- possibility of combining tuners according on the principle of plug&play
- supports DVB-S2X and multistream
- 2 CI slots and a card slot
- possibility of inserting a hard disk
- SD card slot
- power switch
- loop-out
- price

#### Disadvantages:

- no integrated WiFi (possible via wireless USB adapter)
- 7-segment LED display
- does not support T2MI

<b>Manufacturer</b>	AB-Com
<b>Model</b>	AB-Com PULSe 4K Combo
<b>Dimensions (mm)</b>	270x190x62
<b>Processor</b>	Hi3798MV200
<b>CPU</b>	15000 MIPS
<b>RAM</b>	2 GB
<b>Flash memory</b>	8 GB
<b>USB</b>	2
<b>CI slot</b>	2
<b>Card reader</b>	1
<b>DVB-S2X</b>	YES
<b>DVB-T2/C</b>	YES
<b>Multistream</b>	YES
<b>Blindscan</b>	YES
<b>WiFi</b>	NO (YES with additional adapter)
<b>Optical SPDIF</b>	YES
<b>Price</b>	215 €