

Hello,

I am writing with my experiences pertaining to described TV in the Kansas City, Missouri area. Currently, the KC area isn't in the top 25 television markets. But I was able to get WDAF and KMBC, the local Fox and ABC affiliates respectively to start passing the description audio sub channel from the networks. I am still trying to work with the NBC and CBS affiliates, KSHB and KCTV respectively.

There were and still are hang-ups, however. When checking my previous cable company, Comcast, to turn on the description, They didn't appear to send the description sub channel even though the local stations were broadcasting it. I tried calling and emailing, but with no success. I even emailed an address they claimed was specifically for video description. So I gave up for a little while, hoping they would get their act together.

This summer I switched to Dish, and thought I'd try getting description working with them. The dish installed only provided the HD channels for my local stations. I did some extensive reading, and found that the description audio sub channel was only broadcasted on the standard definition channels, which I didn't have. I was quite disappointed. I called and emailed, but they were, if possible, less helpful than Comcast. All was not lost. The guys who set up my satellite service were very helpful and showed me the buttons on the remote and how to get the description turned on. I am able to watch other cable networks with description just fine. But again, on the standard definition channels only.

Recently my old CRT TV went out, so I ended up buying a new 40" TV from Wal-Mart. It is the Sceptre X409BV-FHD. I bought it because it was on sale. What a good decision that was. The manual was in a PDF on their site, and it was well written. They even named the buttons on the TV and remote, input and output plugs and even menus in order. The one slightly annoying thing is that graphic symbols are used for certain buttons on the remote, such as left and right arrow. It would be better if it was written instead. For example, left arrow, right arrow, ETC.

What really sweetens the deal is that there's a button right on the remote that can be pressed to switch audio sub channels. I am pleased to say that when using an antenna, I can pick up the description audio sub channels on the local stations that are sending along the description. So while not the perfect solution, it'll do for now. But ideally, the Dish set top box as well as the TV would have voice guidance, I could pick up description on all channels including HD and there would be a way to figure out the many buttons on the Dish remote without asking someone sighted.

As far as the quality of the description of shows, I'm pretty satisfied. There are some shows I feel that there is too much dialog and not a chance to describe everything. Obviously this can't be helped. I've also noticed in rare cases the narrative leaving things out that may be of a slightly graphic nature. If it can be seen and there is a pause in the dialog to describe it, I believe it should be done.

I hope what I've shared will be useful and aid in better access to described TV in the future. If I can be of any assistance, please let me know.

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