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DIRECTV HR54-500 Genie DVR



EDGECUTTER
EXCLUSIVE review

DIRECTV HR54-500 Genie DVR



DIRECTV HR54-500

Basic Specs:

- SWM7 device, it requires 7 channels
- Capable of 5 simultaneous recordings
- Built in WiFi for broadband connection
- Can be used to power SWM LNB - Not external SWM
- No phone jack
- Optical and coax digital audio outputs
- 1 TB HDD internal
- Powered eSATA port
- 2 Way RF remote that is self programming and offers longer battery life than the older remotes

Are you on the Cutting Edge?

iamanedgecutter.com is home to the Edgecutter Cutting Edge forums, where users actively participate in testing pre-release software for DIRECTV receivers. The resulting rapid-deployment development method allows for faster fixes and abundant new features.

[Learn more at iamanedgecutter.com!](http://iamanedgecutter.com)

Please note that some Edgecutter Cutting Edge forum testers and staff members may have received free equipment from DIRECTV or its partners for the purpose of evaluation and testing.

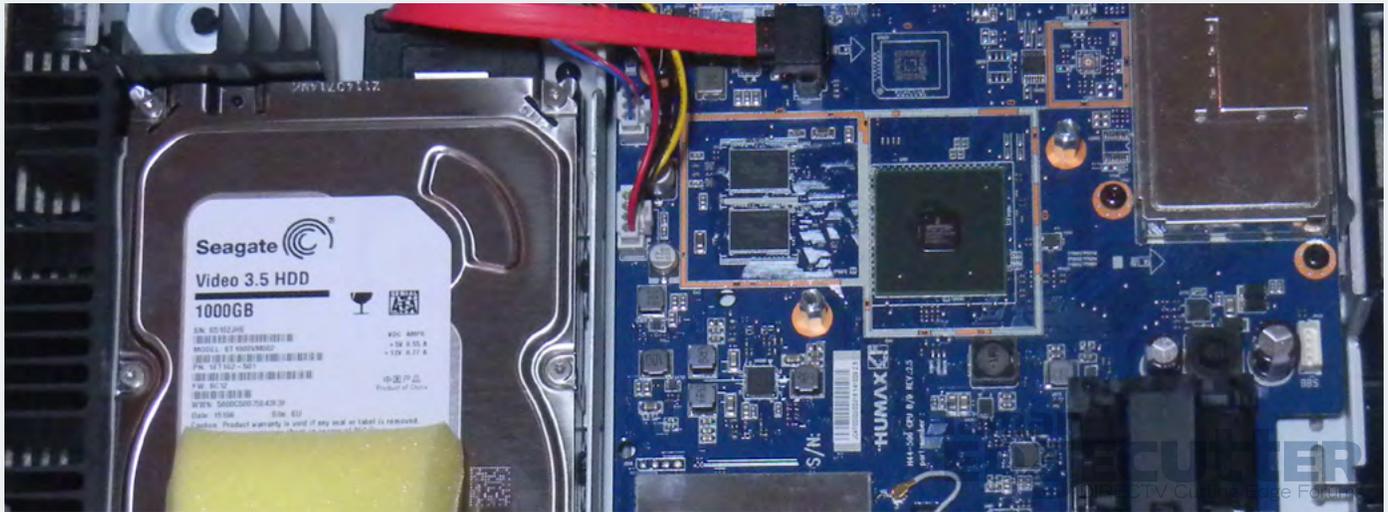
DIRECTV HR54-500 Genie DVR



I have had absolutely no issues at all with the HR54! I have the HR34, HR23, 22, 21 and had 20s and this is leaps and bounds faster and never freezes or needs reboots. It's so much more enjoyable to use over the 34 that I will go watch TV in the room with it just because of the performance. I like the caller ID feature, so my only complaint is there's no phone jack on this genie. The size is amazingly smaller and lighter compared to the 34. It's amazing that a test unit performs better than all of my other receivers, great job by Directv on this one. Even watching recordings from other rooms using whole home DVR on this unit are almost as fast as local recordings.

—Edgecutter Cutting Edge forums member SDizzle

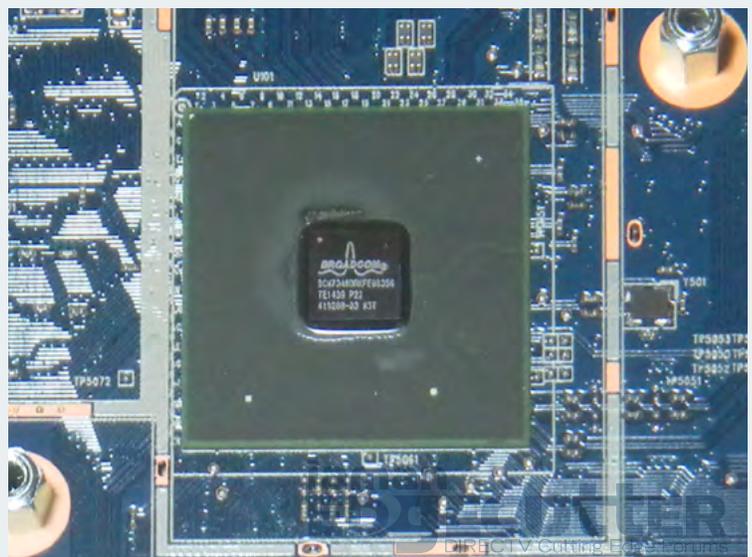
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Above:
1 TB internal HDD

Right:
Broadcom BCM
7346 Processor

Below:
Rear panel with
cover removed



DIRECTV HR54-500 Genie DVR



Building upon the legacy of the Genie product family, the HR54-500 demonstrates DIRECTV's continued commitment to product advances and leadership. Following in the path of many consumer products, the HR54 introduces a slightly smaller Genie when compared to the HR44 capable of 5 simultaneous recordings, without compromising speed and performance. The HR54 supports all Genie clients and RVU

TV's, comes with an internal 1TB HDD, wireless internet connectivity, and offers WHDVR performance with other DIRECTV HD products. The HR54 includes a built in power inserter to power SWMLNB's however an external power inserted may still be used.

The front and rear panels of the HR54 are redesigned from the HR34/HR44 series. The front panel has only one control, a power button, but all functions are accessible via the DIRECTV remote controls. The recording light is now text that displays "REC" when recording. The front access card door is gone with the access card inserted on the side like an H25. The rear panel has many familiar ports including Ethernet, USB for AM21 compatibility, HDMI, digital and optical audio ports and a remote power supply like the HR44. However, the component and composite video are supported via the familiar AV port (with optional cables) and the phone jack is absent. That does eliminate caller ID functionality in the HR54.

We noted the RF input was labeled SWM7, the HR54 will require 7 channels in the future. However, during testing the functionality required only 5 SWM channels and the DVR is capable of 5 simultaneous recordings so we don't know what the SWM7 means. Does it mean live 4K functionality using transponder bonding? Could be. We don't know and look forward to finding out if any new features may be coming in the future.

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The HR54 is extremely fast and responsive. The HR54 is about the same size as the HR44 and is quiet, and the front panel has no buttons or lights other than the Recording light and the LED DIRECTV power button. If you are used to other DIRECTV receivers you might have to look twice to see if it's on, but it functions just like the previous two Genie models. Restarts after a reboot or power failure are fast - you can be back to live TV in about 4 minutes! A noticeable difference in performance is in playback from other DVRs like an HR24 or HR21 in a whole-home environment. When you use the HR54 to play back a program recorded on those other DVRs trick-play is super-responsive, it's almost like you are watching a recording from the Genie itself. The same is true when using a C41 client, playback on the client from the Genie is also very responsive. This is definitely the best Genie yet.

—Edgecutter Cutting Edge forums member Drew2k



**Thank you to the
HR54-500 Test team,
it's been a pleasure working
with all of you.**

Photos: hdtvfan0001, Scott Kocourek
Outline: NR4P
Layout: Scott Kocourek

History of the Cutting Edge

The Cutting Edge program started with a partnership between DIRECTV and hobbyist Earl Bonovich, Earl had been known for his reviews of the DIRECTV R10 and R15 DVRs. In 2005 Earl was asked to join the staff at DBSTalk and he was able to build the bridge between DBSTalk and the DIRECTV engineering department. In 2006 DIRECTV released the HR20 HD DVR, later in 2006 Earl announced the first optional download for DIRECTV receivers and the Cutting Edge was born. Since then thousands of downloads have been available over the entire DIRECTV line of receivers. The Cutting Edge was hosted at DBSTalk from 2006 - 2015. In 2015 it was requested that the program be run at a neutral, more DIRECTV -central site with a desire to do a better job serving the needs of the Cutting Edge program as DIRECTV defines it. Today it is hosted at iamanedgecutter.com, the Edgecutting Cutting Edge forums. We thank DBSTalk for hosting the program for all of those years and wish them the best going forward.