



SPECIFICATIONS

Video MPEG-1/2/4/DivX/Xvid/RMP4	Audio MP3-OGG/AC3-AAC/WMA9/PCM	Connect RCA/Component/DVI/S-Video	Network USB/LAN/Wi-Fi	Price \$659
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Video Output: Composite (RCA), S-Video, Component (Y Pb Pr), DVI-I, VGA (via optional adapter). Supports progressive scan.
Audio Output: RCA x6 Surround 5.1, coaxial SPDIF, optical SPDIF
Media Format: MPEG-1, 2, 4, DivX, Xvid, RMP4
Audio Format: MP3, OGG vorbis, AC3, MPEG-4 AAC, WMA9, PCM, THX, DTS, Dolby Digital, WMA9 Pro, AC3, Linear PCM
Image Format: JPG, BMP, PNG, TIF, GIF, Animated GIF
Video Resolution: Up to 1920 x 1080 (interlaced)
DVI Resolutions: 480p, 720p, 1080i, 640 x 480, 800 x 600, 1024 x 768, 852 x 480
Component Resolutions: 480i/p, 720p, 1080i (60Hz); 576i, 576p, 720p, 1080i (50Hz)
Network: 10/100Mbps LAN, 802.11b/g Wi-Fi
USB: USB HDD, Thumb drive, MP3 player, USB-based Media Reader



Wire up your device to your network and you can access remote PCs and your external storage to view movies, music and photos.

Definitely High Definition

ON TEST SnaZio* Net DVD cinema HD (SZ1350) Media Center

BY TECHTOYER

SnaZio* on the Right Track

Owning a set-top DVD player, a wireless media gateway (to receive video from PC and transmit to TV) and a HDTV-capable video card in my PC, I discovered that SnaZio*'s Net DVD cinema HD can do all of those in a standard set-top device. The Net cinema series comes in three versions—SZ1300, SZ1350 and the SZ1310.

Unlike the other two, our higher end SZ1350 unit plays DVD, supports true high-definition decoding (720p/1080i), WMA9 Pro audio and uses a 162MHz 32-bit ARM processor with 12-bit video D/A converter. The SZ1300 (\$399) relies on 720p/1080i upscaling minus a few features while the mid-level SZ1310 (\$499) is similar to the SZ1350 except that it doesn't play DVDs.

Distinctively High-Definition (HD)

The Net DVD cinema SZ1350 is truly a high-definition-centric networked device. While HDTV broadcasts and clips are hard to find, there are

dependable sources online (eg. Microsoft's WMV HD Content site). Once you've downloaded HD content into your PC, you must first install the SnaZio* Net Cinema software on your PC. With it, you can link video, photo, music or Net favorites folders with your Net DVD cinema HD device through a wired or a wireless connection.

On the device end, choose either wireless (you get a nifty black antenna and 64/128-bit WEP encryption) or wired (10/100Mbps port). Boot up the device, go into Setup and manually configure your IP and gateway under IP Config or Wi-Fi Config. You can also set other options like Fit to Screen/Full Screen/Actual Size, firmware update (via the network) and time synchronization.

SnazziZone and Internet TV

When you turn on the Net DVD cinema, you will be taken to the Net cinema menu screen. This screen allows you to access your external USB-plugged thumbdrives or HDDs or Net Cinema-

installed PCs on the network.

You can even rout podcast transmissions via connected PCs or enter the SnazziZone portal straight from the menu to access news, Internet radio and Internet TV (there are preset channels from Asia, Europe and the US). You can even bring up the URL address bar to manually input Web addresses SMS-style and surf HTML sites.

In a Nutshell

We played almost an entire repertoire of files on the Net cinema device, from HDTV 720p and 1080i clips (1080p works but it downsamples), XviD, DivX, MP3s to WMV HD clips by connecting the device via component cable to a 1080i 32-inch LCD TV. Despite a slow start-up, DVD ejection and slightly delayed response on the remote, we believe the SnaZio* Net DVD cinema HD echoes the pent-up demand for HDTV broadcasting in our living rooms. If you're a hi-fi aficionado, it will be worth giving this device a closer look.

OUR RESULTS




This is a demo shot from a 1080i clip. Notice that a HD clip does away with cropping to show more visuals. The quality is also substantially better.



This is the same shot from a 2.35:1 anamorphic widescreen DVD. Not only do you lose subtle details from cropping but you still get artifacts from MPEG-2 compression.

HWM's Rating

Physique: **7.5**
 Features: **9.0**
 User-friendliness: **7.5**
 Performance: **9.5**
 Value: **9.5**



A HD-compatible wireless/wired DVD player that heralds the emergence of HD content.

8.5

Overall Score **Out of 10**