

## Upgrade for your Crank-Up TV Antenna

Winegard began selling their newest model of “Off the Air”, Digital TV Antennas in February. They call it the *”Sensar IV with Integrated Wingman”*.

I upgraded ours by replacing the antenna head only which was about half as much as buying the complete crank-up assembly. It was a quick and easy upgrade which took less than 5 minutes to complete. Swapping two pins and the antenna cable are all that’s required. The two pins that hold the antenna head in place are secured with easily removed clips. (New pins and clips were included in the package but not needed.) It uses the same power supply as the older antennas so no changes are needed inside the RV.

Our reception was vastly improved afterwards according to the signal strength meter of our new flat screen DTV and we began to receive some new channels. I bought two of the replacement heads online (one for us and one for a friend of mine we were visiting in Florida). My friend's reaction was WOW! He raved about the improvements he saw with his reception.

I bought them from Adventure.net for \$58.99 each, plus shipping – two of them came to \$134.28 delivered. Below is a link to the replacement head at Adventure.net.

<http://www.adventurerv.net/winegard-sensar-antenna-replacement-head-with-integrated-wingman-p-22363.html>

If you’re close enough to home to receive your local channels with your satellite you probably never use your crank-up TV antenna but, if you want to receive whatever local TV channels are available in the area, this upgrade will give you the best reception possible.

We’re Dish Network subscribers and for the last few years, we’ve added a month to month subscription to a distant network service so we could still see the major network feeds (from San Francisco and New York) when we’re not able to receive the St Louis local channels. Right now, we’re not planning on renewing that service in the future for several reasons and upgrading our crank-up antenna will allow us to receive better reception of the nearby local stations which should off-set the loss of St Louis’ TV.

You’ll notice in the press release below that Winegard says the Sensar IV is an “optimized Sensar III” antenna with the Wingman integrated into it. If you already have a Sensar III antenna head, you might want to add the Wingman to your antenna and give it a try before replacing the whole antenna head. Make comparisons of the signal strengths with and without the Wingman and compare the channels you receive with someone parked nearby.

The original antenna head I replaced had the shape of a flat oval. The Sensar III/IV antenna heads are teardrop shaped (see the picture below) so it easy to tell which model you have.

Here is Winegard's press release:

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## Winegard Introduces New SENSAR IV Antenna



Burlington, Iowa – (February 15, 2010) - [Winegard Company](#) has taken RV television reception to the next level with the introduction of the SENSAR IV amplified antenna. The company, an innovator in television reception for more than 55 years, has integrated its SENSAR III antenna with the UHF-enhanced Wingman antenna for increased over-the-air TV viewing.

Optimized for the new DTV spectrum, the new SENSAR IV receives all available VHF/UHF/Digital channels, enabling viewers to enjoy watching all local programming in the U.S. while the RV is parked.

“With the changes brought on from the Digital Transition and the frequencies the local broadcasters now use to transmit their programming, it became apparent we needed to integrate the Wingman with the Sensor III to adapt to the change” said Aaron Engberg, Winegard Mobile Products Director. “The enhanced Sensor IV provides an unsurpassed range of up to 55 miles allowing it to receive the most television stations - bar none.”

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Before I replaced our antenna head, I added a Wingman (about \$26-\$30) to our older antenna. The improvement wasn't earthshaking like upgrading to the newer Sensor IV has been. Below is a picture of the Wingman add-on. It snaps on easily to the Winegard antenna heads.

