

# HIGHER PERFORMANCE?

*There was a time that if an application called for a high performance DVR, the only option was to go for a PC-based system. Indeed, Mitsubishi had several such systems, and also had the DX-TL range of standalone DVRs aimed at more mainstream applications. However, the divide between PC-based and standalone systems has been erased in recent times, and Mitsubishi – which had two clearly defined groupings of DVRs – has bridged the divide with the DX-TL5000E, a standalone recorder with a very impressive level of performance! PSI put one through its paces to see if it offered the best of both worlds!*



■ *The DX-TL5000E blurs the boundaries between standalone DVRs and PC-based units.*

Things used to be straightforward when it came to DVRs. If you wanted a simple and easy-to-install recording device for smaller systems, you opted for a standalone unit, and if you wanted a high level of performance, you went for a PC-based system. However, the boundaries between the two have blurred recently, and one company that used to be famed for its powerful PC-based DVRs has introduced a machine with real bite - and it's a standalone unit!

Mitsubishi's DX-TL5000E is a heavyweight machine, and we mean that in both senses. It packs a powerful punch, and is a seriously bulky bit of kit. The 5000E is a 16 channel recorder with integral multiplexer, and is the latest addition to the comprehensive DX-TL range of compact DVRs. However, it has little in common with the other DX-TL machines, as this model is a serious contender at the higher end of the market-place.

The DX-TL5000E ticks all the right boxes; it utilises the latest JPEG2000 compression algorithm which makes use of Wavelets-style compression to give high quality images with a small file size, it offers high record rates, resolution is high, and you can store a few months worth of data on it. These features are often touted for most mainstream recorders. The DX-TL5000E, however, is no ordinary standalone unit! For starters, it boasts a recording

rate of up to 200 images per second and a viewing rate of 800 fields per second.

It's also no slouch when it comes to memory either. As standard the unit is supplied with 500GB of storage space. However, the DX-TL5000E can be equipped with up to 3 internal hard disks, and the optional DX-ZD5UE HDD extension unit can house an additional 2 hard disks. Considering that the DX-TL5000E can accommodate up to 7 extension units, this means the machine can be upgraded to support up to 17 HDDs. You're not going to run out of space very quickly!

However, the DX-TL5000E is not all about having more disks than its competitors. Other features include built in telemetry, triplex recording, full networking capability, DVD/CD copy function, covert camera function, dual video outputs, multi-channel audio recording, motion detection, advanced search functions, individual recording setting, cascading connections and graphical user interface menus including a help function.

## Programming and set-up

The menu structure allows the unit to be easily configured. There are a number of screens with multiple settings, and working from the front panel



■ *The DX-TL5000E is just like many standalone DVRs, except that it performs at a higher level than similarly specified units.*



■ SPECIFICATION

**Supplier:** Mitsubishi  
**Model:** DX-TL5000E  
**Resolution:** 720 x 576  
**Compression:** JPEG2000  
**Video Inputs:** 16  
**Video Output:** 2 x BNC (independently configurable); S-Video; RCA jack  
**Cascade Video:** BNC in/out  
**Communications:** LAN 10/100; RS232; RS422; RS485  
**HDD:** 500GB (expandable to 17 additional drives)  
**Archive:** DVD-RW; CD-RW



**Performance**

If the truth be told, what sets the DX-TL5000E apart from other machines is its performance. The processing capabilities and memory capacities mean that you have to go some to make the machine creak. We didn't manage it!

Remember, for example, that with 16 cameras recording, the worst frame rate you are going to get is 12.5fps (if all inputs share recording - they are individually configurable)! Live

images are all real-time, so views remain crisp, clean and smooth, even when all 16 inputs are processed simultaneously. Resolution is excellent in the higher modes, and compression artefacts are only noticeable in the lower res modes (JPEG2000 shows a slight fuzziness rather than the blocky look of traditional JPEG compression).

The DX-TL series has never skimped on image quality, and the 5000E does everything incredibly well, so long as sensible settings are used.

can therefore be a bit of a pain. Luckily, the unit is supplied with a USB mouse, which gives quick and easy access to all the functionality via the on-screen display. There is no need to load drivers; simply plug the mouse into the USB port on the front of the unit and away you go!

To go through all of the functions and options here would take up too much space. The DX-TL5000E comes with two fairly hefty manuals, and these are well written and concise, underlining just how much flexibility is on offer.

The dual video outputs is a feature of other DX-TL DVRs, and this makes it possible to display different outputs and multi-screen formats on independent monitor displays. The formats used can include a mixture of live camera images and recorded footage. This is something that has often won installers over on these triplex machines.

This is further enhanced with the cascading connection feature. If two or more DX-TL5000E units are connected together in a traditional cascade, one machine can be configured as a master connected to the monitor outputs, with the other DX-TL5000E connected to the master but with live images and sound being displayed on the monitors. This adds another layer of functionality.

**In summary**

The DX-TL5000E not only has a very impressive specification sheet, but it matches that with an equally impressive performance. It also has some features that will be welcomed on a standalone machine. These include panic-based recording, making it suitable for use in higher risk sites such as banks and pharmacies.

Performance-wise, the DX-TL5000E uses its processing capabilities well; it delivers consistent quality and a high level of performance and usability. Mitsubishi have been building up to the launch of this unit for some time, and it certainly won't disappoint those looking for a serious DVR!

A final point is that if you consider the DX-TL alongside other 16 channel multiplexed DVRs, you might just miss the point. This is a step up in class, and needs to be considered as such by installers.

■ PSI RATINGS

Product Design	■■■■■■■■■□□	Instructions	■■■■■■■■■□□
Build Quality	■■■■■■■■■□□	Installer Friendliness	■■■■■■■■■□□
Ruggedness	■■■■■■■■■□□	Video Quality	■■■■■■■■■□□
Ease of Installation	■■■■■■■■■□□	Features	■■■■■■■■■□□
Ease of Set-up	■■■■■■■■■□□	Overall Security	■■■■■■■■■□□