

# Tuning Your C-Band Dish



Tuning of a c-band dish can be described very simply "up-down, back- forth". You move the dish up and down back and forth.

## Purchasing a used dish

The best starting point is checking your dish. In the c-band world of 2006 you may have obtained your dish in "used condition" by answering an ad in a "buy-sell" paper or even knocking on doors in your neighborhood to see if people may be interested in selling their old dish. In many cases you may be able to check the unit on the spot for basic performance. G1,F3,F4,G5, and W3 are good check stops. At this point you are only checking to see that everything functions--that is there is a picture and the arm moves, you want to flip odd and even channels to be sure that the polarizer works.

When you make your best deal it is best to try and obtain the dish, receiver, and the pole. When you transport the dish to its new home break down the dish into sections--usually 4. Do not touch the nuts on the mount as they will be set reasonably close to your location and only minor adjustment may be needed.

Most used dishes have an "age of 15 years" as c-band declined many companies halted production in the early 90's. Any object sitting outside for 15 years some maintenance is required. The mount should be sanded and repainted.

Use a good grade of spray primer then exterior enamel. Rustoliem or a good store brand will work well. Remove all adjustment nuts on mount. Prior to removal carefully and accurately measure how far the nuts are from the end of the rods--this will make accurate tuning easy later on. Inspect all rod threads and clean with wire brush when spray with [Jig-a-Loo Lubri-Penetrata](#) . Replace all nuts with new ones.

Check the mesh. Over 15 years of usage some "ding and dents will exist" . If critical tears exist then you may need to get new mesh panels. [Sami](#) will sell you pre-cut mesh panels to your specifications.

## Aiming , Tuning , Installing Your C-Band Dish

For this series [SatmanCanada](#) issuing links to [geo-orbit.org](#) web site. Their descriptions and visuals are so well written [SatmanCanada](#) needs to say no more. These people have done an excellent job in preparing this site:

[Learn Big Dish Theory and Components](#)

As in real estate ...location,location.location is important in tuning your satellite dish .  
Many tools exist for finding your location. With increasing interest in GPS systems if you have one simply use it ..you will be accurate within a few feet or inches... You can be a bit less accurate as most tools you will use are in the 1/2 degree range of callibration.

First thing you do is grab a shovel start digging a hole to mount a pole.

[Learn how to install a big dish pole/mount](#)

The pole is plumb and the concrete had had a couple of days to dry now the *FUN* begins  
Remember "up-down,back- forth"

[Learn How to Tune Your C-Band Dish](#)

WOW YOU DID IT!!! You dish is tracking properly. Now lets finsih the job

With the exception of the [General Instrument 4DTV](#) series no c-band satellite receivers have been produced since the mid 90's. Therefore most units you find on e-bay or in homes are 10-15 years old. E-bay sellrs appear to have kept original boxes and instruction manuals. If you need to learn how to program you machine [you can go here for complete instructions](#) .  
Once you power up the machine you may find the previous owner had a password in the machine. No problem [just turn the can and open the door!!](#)



## **FTA Receivers Open the Digital C-BandWorld**

All Viewsat product is designed to function on C-Band Frequencies. A close examination of the Viewsat Antenna Setup Menu will show that all North American C-band satellites are listed.