

# SWM-13 LNB

*Solid Signal's Hands On Review*



So easy to install, there was almost no need for a review. DIRECTV's latest outdoor hardware makes installation easy and takes away the need to run extra lines and an external SWM. It's the DIRECTV SWM-13 LNB. This is an early review; the product will be available at Solid Signal later this year.

The purpose of the SWM-13LNB is to allow you to run 13 tuners on a single wire, without the need for an external multiswitch. Right now, it's designed for people who want a Genie and two HR24 DVRs, but we believe that it will eventually replace the SWMLNB which only gives 8 tuners from a single line.

There's really not much to see here. The LNB itself is a little bigger than a regular Slimline-3 LNB, with a single feed horn. The larger size lets DIRECTV emboss their logo into the LNB, and that's really the only visual difference. This is also a 3-location LNB; there may be a 5-location version later but for now it's only for people with no need to see the 119 satellite.

The SWM-13LNB should fit on any Slimline dish, but is not designed for use with any of the older reflectors. If you have a standard definition dish or non-Slimline HD dish, you'll need to replace the whole dish assembly.



# SWM-13 TECHNOLOGY

About now, you're probably asking yourself, "How can they fit 13 tuners on one wire? I thought the limit was 8." There's a lot of technical stuff behind it, but by switching to digital filtering as in the SWM13LNB lets you use 14 channels in the same space allocated for the 9 channels currently used in SWM technology. This is done by reducing the spacing between channels. Making the system digital allows the space between channels to be cut in half, and that makes room for five more channels.

If you're wondering why we're talking about 9 channels and 14 channels... there is always a control channel that is not used for tuning.

## INSTALLING THE SWM-13 LNB

This was by far the easiest install to date. Before you begin, unplug all your receivers and DVRs.

Start by marking the position of all adjustment screws with a pencil or Sharpie so you'll know if you accidentally move the dish. Disconnect the existing LNB and replace it with the new LNB... that's pretty much it!

If you are using a "legacy" four-wire LNB, just use one of the existing wires. You won't need the other three. If there's an existing SWM multiswitch (external), disconnect it and replace it with a [2-way splitter](#) to feed the two outputs from the LNB. Make sure the line that comes from the power inserter goes into the red port on the splitter so you can power the LNB.

If this is a new install, you will also need a [power inserter](#). Either the PI21 (black) power inserter or the PI29 (grey) power inserter will work. You can run a single wire from the LNB to an [8-way splitter](#) and feed all your devices from there.

When it's all done, power up your receivers and DVRs. They should automatically sense the new LNB and set themselves accordingly, but if you get an error or no picture, Go into [Satellite Setup](#) and check to see that the dish type is 19: Slimline3-DS (DSWM) and the Multiswitch type is DSWM. The diagram on page 4 shows proper installation of the SWM-13 LNB.

# HOW TO CHANGE AN LNB



**Carefully mark your dish's position on these pieces using a pencil so you will know if you've knocked anything out.**

If you have four lines coming from your dish, you're all set. If not, follow these instructions. When you have more receivers than you have connections for at the dish, you need to use another switch, but if you're connecting two or more receivers to the same signal from the dish, the signal would get divided and the power would drop equally, so these switches have buffer amps to isolate each receiver and keep the levels the same whether one or 8 are connected. This type of setup is based off switches, and each receiver must connect each tuner to the switch at the dish, or the additional switch.

A legacy dish (non-SWM) has four outputs which carry all the signals between these four, so connecting a switch down the line, means all four cables need to connect. All receivers must connect to a switch with four cables from the dish, and you can't add a switch or a splitter to one of the outputs of the switch to connect another receiver, because each tuner sends a voltage and a signal that controls the switch position, powers the buffer amp, and ends up powering the LNB at the dish.

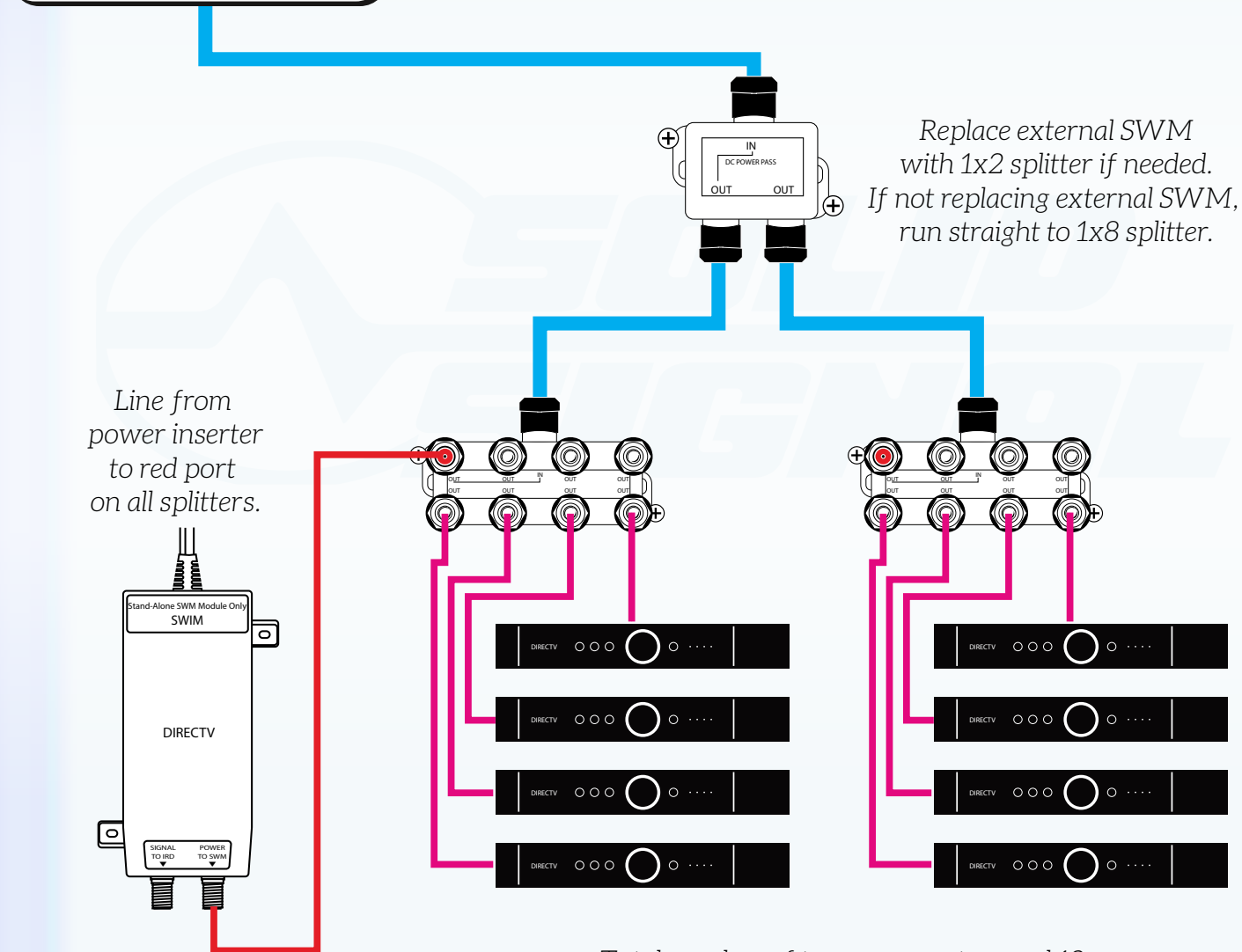
If you need to change out the LNB, do that first. Be careful. Use a pencil to note the mounting angles on the dish. This will help you see if you have inadvertently moved the dish. Gently mark the position of the dish on the dish bracket and also mark the angle on the top and bottom adjustment areas on the mounting arm. Disconnect and remove the old LNB and attach the new one. You will need to run four wires to the multiswitch, so connect those and run them inside.

# INSTALLATION: SWM-13 LNB

13-tuner Single Wire Multiswitch



Your installation may vary depending on the number of splitters needed. Always use the smallest number of splitters.



Replace external SWM with 1x2 splitter if needed. If not replacing external SWM, run straight to 1x8 splitter.

Line from power inserter to red port on all splitters.

Total number of tuners cannot exceed 13.  
Genie = 5 tuners (each Genie Client = 0 tuners)  
DVR = 2 tuners, receiver = 1 tuner



Difficulty (1 star is easiest) ☆☆  
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# INSTALLATION TIPS

The most important tip is to use as few splitters as possible. You will get the best possible performance by running the LNB straight into an 8-way splitter and running all your devices from there. Also, remember [“tuner math”](#) -- you can run thirteen regular receivers, six DVRs+ 1 receiver, a Genie plus three DVRs, or anything where the number of tuners doesn't exceed thirteen.

At this time there are no amplifiers certified to run with this LNB so it shouldn't be run in cases where an amplifier is used.

Also, this product should not be confused with the [DSWM13 multiswitch](#) which is used exclusively in hotels. That multiswitch has a much higher power level which allows it to be used with special taps. Taps cannot be used with this LNB.

This LNB was incredibly easy to install and should break down barriers for people who have an existing SWM LNB (which is the default installation for DIRECTV) but want to add a second or third DVR. It's self-configuring and worked right away out of the box. It's definitely a worthwhile upgrade.

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