

High-Definition Television

Marathon Sets the Standard



by Kelly Kitchel

Marathon Coach paves the road in the marriage between coach and technology. The latest development in viewing entertainment is High-Definition Television (HDTV), and Marathon is proud to announce that HDTV is now standard in all new coaches. There are standards set for digital television that determine how sound and video are encoded and transmitted. HDTV is simply the highest quality digital signal available.

To achieve a true HD picture, two things are necessary: a high-definition station signal, and the proper equipment to view and receive the signal. Marathon coaches have featured DIRECTV digital television for many years through KVH in-motion satellites. KVH provides access to two satellites that offer HD programming, and the ability to easily switch back and forth between satellites. The HD signal is first received by the dish, then it is sent through the HD converter and through to each television in the coach. This comprises the true high-definition signal that is necessary for maximum clarity and viewing entertainment.

To further optimize HDTV, Marathon equips each coach with the best technology available. To begin with, every component used in the system is capable of high definition. Many televisions can receive a signal of 1080i, the highest

quality HD broadcast available, but only certain TVs actually display true 1080i. Marathon coaches are equipped with four TV stations and two HD receivers, and come with LCD TVs that are fully capable of supporting 1080i. The LCD brand Marathon uses is Sharp AQUOS, which is a next generation TV known for its award-winning design and excellent performance.

HDTV can achieve resolution of 1920 x 1080 pixels with an aspect ratio of 16:9, which refers to unit size, and is most comparable to a movie screen picture. As a comparison, HD can display roughly 10 times more pixels than a standard analog television. HDTV is also capable of showing standard digital and 720p, but these lower resolutions do not compare to 1080i, which is what Marathon provides in every coach.

Marathon also uses the highest quality components in the HD system setup. Many RV companies advertise true high-definition entertainment by installing an HDTV, but they do not use cables and components that are HD compatible. This greatly compromises image and streaming quality, and misleads coach owners into believing they are experiencing true HD when they are not. The components used in Marathon coaches are fully compatible with high definition. The coach inverters act as power conditioners, top-of-the-line component cables connect the system, and an HD switcher sends the signal to every TV in the coach. Marathon offers the highest quality HD viewing experience in the industry.

By February of 2009, stations will only broadcast in digital signal, and analog broadcast will no longer exist. Marathon coaches are already equipped for the future. There are many benefits to digital television. Primarily it provides greater picture clarity and Dolby Digital surround sound. Analog television is plagued by interference in reception that causes ghost shadows, blurry screens, and only two regular stereo channels.

HDTV is the new age in television. We hope you enjoy this quality technology in your Marathon coach. •