

Product Review:



Logitech DR-11-7

I was a little skeptical about Logitech's latest dream sequence recorder having read some of the raves in Spiritronics and Dreamtech's e-zine. It's true that the clarity of the video feed is quite remarkable, although the sound quality leaves a bit to be desired.

Earlier Logitech models were fraught with digital glitches; skipping from one scene to the next, muddy sound quality, etc. So, let's start with the bad news. Logitech has added an equalization boost feature which can select any frequency range you want, and increase it by 2 decibels relative to the rest of the spectrum. This would be a wonderful feature if only there was more to work with on the treble side in the first place. The muddiness still dominated most of my recordings regardless of how much I tried to emphasize the higher range frequencies. One might argue that my dreams are a bit ambiguous, and this muddiness is more my fault than Logitech's – garbage in, garbage out. If that were the case, my review last March of Thought-Sequence's TR 47 would have included the same complaint. Perhaps it's just a matter of finding the right product for the right person. Regardless, I suspect there are many others like me who have been frustrated by Logitech's muddy sound quality and would be delighted to discover the TR 47.

Since I started recording my dreams 3 years back, I have been amazed at the increasing sense of exhilaration, ecstasy, and pure terror these machines can provide. In those early days, recordings were poltergeist-like transmissions, filled with static & snow. Interruptions were frequent; non sequiturs dominated the dream landscape. Only when the technology started to catch up with my cryptic imagination, did my dreams start to make any sense at all. I can't say I was delighted with the results, having opened up a regular Pandora's Box of dark passions and unacknowledged desires.

It was also interesting to note the change in the overall tone of product reviews as improvements in technology led way to a new understanding of the subconscious. Three years back, one would be hard pressed to find a negative review of these products. Strangely, as the technology advanced and several improvements were made, the reviews became increasingly critical and even ruthlessly accusatory. The realization came over me that these reviews said more about the reviewer than the quality of the product. In

fact, I would say there is an inverse relationship between the two. As quality & accuracy increased, reviewer's ratings declined. Some would say these reviews have become more judgmental because consumer expectations have increased more rapidly. But, I think people just do not appreciate what they are discovering about themselves. This will surely be the case with the image quality of Logitech's latest model.

I have never witnessed such visual clarity in any dream recording technology before. Logitech has been secretly developing its own "nerve signal to image frame" technology in its research labs in New Delhi. By both increasing the number of frames taken per second and removing the messy SR40 interface, they have eliminated unnecessary processing errors while increasing action definition. In my last recorded dream, I was driving away from a tornado. Now, I've had this dream before, and whenever I would view the recording it would always jump from the tornado scene to me eating in this restaurant with my brother. Because of its increased sampling rate, the DR-11-7 found a split second sequence where I flew out the window of the car, glided over several suburban neighborhoods, ultimately to land in the restaurant in downtown Naperville, IL.

The downside to all this is the new found clarity of my nightmares. Everything from demonic possession to violent fights with strangers (and sometimes even *relatives*), are reproduced in frightening detail. The DR-11-7 reproduces horrors normally reserved for the subconscious mind, and no one is sure what the long term effects of these images will have on the human psyche. Although I am impressed by the quality and accuracy of the DR-11-7, I would not recommend the product for use with children.

-James Anderson

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