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Solwise NET-PL-200AV

The NET-PL-200AV adapters from Solwise deliver solid performance over clean connections and are resilient enough to maintain high transfer rates over noisy links.

Solwise's device is an average performer when connected over a short run. However, lengthen the distance and introduce some troublesome noise from energy-saving lamps and battery chargers, and this adapter manages a better performance than any other.

The supplied software utility is not very user-friendly. It asks you if you want to install the .Net framework 1.1 without telling you what it is and, once the utility is installed, it is difficult to locate, being listed as a generic Homeplug AV utility. It is also baffling to use.

None of these utilities is suitable for novice users, but the Homeplug AV utility is a struggle even for those who know what they are doing. A little explanatory text and a help menu would make a big difference.



Solwise NET-PL-200AV

A tab marked Encryption allows you to enter a private network name, but there is nowhere to enter a password, nor are there QoS options. A Network Information tab shows device MAC addresses with coded and raw data rates so

you can evaluate your network performance.

Unlike every other adapter in the group test, the Solwise device is dark blue. In many cases this will not make any difference, but against domestic skirting boards, which are more often than not white or cream, it looks less than pretty.

The Homeplug AV standard allows interoperability with Homeplug AV devices from other vendors and, while the Solwise can be beaten over short connections, nothing can touch it with troublesome loads.

It is not available as a twin pack, but a pair of NET-PL-200AVs will cost less than most rival starter kits.

Verdict: Unintuitive software, but an excellent performer in a noisy environment

Rating: ★★★★★



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