

# Della 048-GM-48231 Food Dehydrator Review

Purchased through Amazon from OneBigOutlet for \$84.97 with FREE SHIPPING

## PROS

Free shipping.

The timer is a wonderful feature.

Also in addition to the timer it has a little time keeper clock that tells you how long the timer has been running. That is a valuable tool with this dryer because you have to rotate the shelves every two hours.

The shelves have a polygon web structure but are very sturdy and easy to clean in spite of the little holes.

The shelves have a lip on the front so it is easy to tell when you are rotating front to back which ones you have already rotated.

The unit was only half as big as I thought it would be from the Internet ad. I should have looked at the dimensions of the shelves before I bought it. Pictures are deceiving. (my bad). But that makes the unit quite small and easy to set on your counter top without taking up a lot of room.

It has 10 shelves but 11 slots. In the top slot is a different looking tray that has horizontal slots about one inch apart. I assume that is to be used to dry beef jerky. But with not instruction book that is just a guess. It looks like that would work if you took all the other trays out. That is a nice feature to have. But you would likely need 2 of them to be efficient in drying beef jerky.

I thought that 10 shelves would be a an advantage... and it is for the amount you can dry at once. However you have to rotate them all every 2 hours so it just lets you do more at the same time. My 5 shelf round dehydrator dries things in about the same amount of time if this unit is set on 104 degrees (my round one is a set 100 degrees). So yes I can actually do twice as much in the same time. But I could have purchased 2 cheap round ones for \$20 less money.

When I decided to send it back Amazon and OneBigOutlet were really good about accepting my return request and sent me a return label by email within hours. They said they would refund my money as soon as they got it back.

I sent the unit back by FedEx on Monday. My refund was put back in the bank on ????????????

## CONS

The instruction book is worthless. It is not actually a manual or even an instruction book. They used the same book for several models and for each mode it just has one paragraph. That paragraph tells you how to turn it on and off and set the temperature. Nothing about the timer or time keeper. Nothing about how to load the trays. Nothing about the trays being dishwasher safe. No charts on what temperature to do each food at (I guess that is what the Internet is for, right?)

The door is not on hinges. It has a slot at the bottom and slides shut held in place by two small magnets at the tip of the lid. The first time I used it the plastic cover over one of the magnets fell off. The second time I used it the little magnet fell out (but luckily I found it). Without that magnet the door will not stay shut tight. You could not make your own if you lost it because it is only about ¼ inch square. I have never seen a magnet that small in a store.

The timer is really worthless even though it could be a nice feature if you could set the time and leave it. However, because you have to rotate the shelves every few hours (at least every 2 hours) the timer is pretty meaningless and the secondary time keeper clock is more valuable. Even though it has a timer you cannot just set it and go to bed because of the rotating. Otherwise what is on the bottom will over dry while the top is still wet.

I have a cheap round dehydrator and it works just as good. I have to rotate the shelves every two hours on that one too but it dries very evenly on each shelf. Not so with the Della. You not only have to rotate the trays top to bottom every 2 hours, you also have to turn them around front to back because the back dries faster than the front.

The fan is a great idea (so I thought) but it is totally useless. The food does not even dry evenly on the same tray even though it is all exactly the same size and shape. The food dries faster on the front and back of the trays in spite of the fan. The bottom 2 shelves by the heater / fan dry 5 or 6 times as fast as the top 2 shelves, thus the need for rotating any way in spite of the fan.

The middle of the tray really does not dry well at all so after the front and back food is dry I had to combine the fruit that was not done in the middle of the trays onto one or two other trays to get them all done.

The fan is very noisy. You would not want to try to sleep in the same room with it. But in the kitchen while you do other work you get used to the noise.

Della does not even list this model on their web page now so it must be a discontinued line.

I tried to contact Della using their contact form on their web page to get a user manual but no reply.

When I decided to return it they made me pay the postage to send it back. That cost me \$27 to send back an \$87 dehydrator. Sort of took the fun out of having it.

## **SUMMARY**

I would buy another dehydrator from Amazon or even buy something else from OneBigOutlet if the brand and price was right. I would never buy another Della dehydrator of any model or price from anyone. Instead I replaced my Della with the cheapest EXCALIBUR. It cost me \$150. Every survey rates EXCALIBUR dehydrators as the best because the fan is in the back not the bottom. That is a wonderful change from the bottom fan. It actually works. They are more expensive but as usual I find you get what you pay for. I also purchased my EXCALIBUR at Wal-Mart so I don't have to pay shipping if need to I take it back.

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