



YOUR STEP BY STEP GUIDE TO
THE DIGITAL SWITCHOVER

Are you ready?

HUMAX

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The digital switchover

Humax has put together this handy guide to help you understand the digital switchover, what it means for your household, and how you can take advantage of some of the exciting new features and services.

What is it?

The digital switchover is the process of moving from analogue to digital TV. Between now and 2012 the analogue TV signal from every transmitter in the UK will be switched off and replaced with new digital signals.

Why is it happening?

Digital TV uses less broadcast space than the analogue signal, which means there will be more room for extra TV channels in standard and high definition.

How will it affect me?

The digital switchover means that every analogue TV needs to be upgraded or replaced to receive the new digital signals - or you won't be able to continue watching TV. Your VCR will also lose some functionality.



What are the benefits?

Digital TV offers a host of benefits over analogue TV, including:

- More TV, radio and interactive channels all through your TV set
- Electronic programme guides for instant, on-screen information about what's on now and over the next seven days so you can plan your viewing and set reminders
- Audio description and subtitling for people with visual and audio impairments
- Interactive features through the red button service, for extra channels, news and information
- Access to high definition (HD) content with up to five times more detail



When will it happen?

The switch from analogue to digital TV is being phased across the UK, so different regions will switch over at different times.



To find out exactly when your transmitter will be switched over, visit www.digitaluk.co.uk/when_do_i_switch and type in your postcode.

How can I go digital?

When the digital switchover happens, the analogue signal will disappear completely so you'll need to replace or upgrade your analogue TV to make sure you can receive the digital signal and continue watching TV.

There are four main ways you can go digital:

1. Connect your TV to a digital set-top box
2. Connect your TV to a digital TV recorder
3. Buy a new TV that has a built-in digital tuner
4. Sign up to a subscription-based digital TV service

But whatever route you choose, remember to look for the Digital Tick, which certifies the equipment is designed to work through the digital switchover.



What about my video recorder?

The digital switchover will affect your VCR and analogue DVD recorder, so it's time to think about an upgrade!

After the switchover, you can continue to use your VCR or analogue DVD recorder to play back recordings, but most will only allow you to record the channel you are watching.

Upgrade to a digital TV recorder!

A Freeview+ or freesat+ digital TV recorder will automatically convert your TV to digital and give you a range of great features for hassle-free recording, at no extra cost!

At the touch of a button, you'll be able to record one channel while watching another using the on-screen programme guide, and there's no need for tapes or DVDs as these clever boxes can store hundreds of recordings on a built-in hard disk drive.

Recording features

Digital TV recorders put an exciting range of recording features at your fingertips to ensure you never miss TV's best bits:

- **Pause live TV** – to make a cup of tea or answer the phone, then continue playing from where you paused
- **Rewind live TV** – missed a crucial scene? Instantly rewind to replay it!
- **Series linking** – select one programme and automatically set your box to record all the others in the same series

What's right for me?

Freeview and freesat are cost-effective options for going digital as there are no monthly subscriptions or contracts.

*Freeview boxes and TVs receive the digital signal through your aerial
freesat boxes and TVs receive the digital broadcasts through a satellite dish*

Before you buy, consider the digital TV features that are important to you:

- **Smart recording**, like live pause and instant rewind
- **High definition** programmes for crystal clear pictures
- **On-demand services**, like ITV Player, BBC iPlayer and internet radio

Smart recording

Freeview+ and freesat+ digital TV recorders, like the PVR-9300T pictured below, give a range of advanced recording features at no extra cost, including live pause and instant rewind, series linking and recording up to two channels at the same time.



Crystal clear high definition TV

A Freeview or freesat HD box will receive HD channels from the BBC, ITV, C4 and S4C, subscription-free. But remember, you'll need an HD-ready TV to make sure the pictures display in high definition. The FOXSAT-HDR, pictured, offers HD channels, as well as recording features, ITV Player and BBC iPlayer.



Catch-up and on-demand services

Some Freeview and freesat boxes can give you access to extra internet content if you connect them to your home broadband network. The HDR-FOX T2, pictured below, has a special TV Portal that offers free services, including YouTube, BBC iPlayer and internet radio, plus recording features and HD channels.



What else do I need to know?



• Remember to re-tune!

When the analogue signal switches off in your area, it's very likely that broadcast frequencies and channels will change, so remember to re-tune your set-top box or TV at this time. Visit www.tvretune.co.uk to find out more about how to do this



• Are you in a Freeview area?

While Freeview is available to most UK households, some will not be able to access this service. To check if you can, use the postcode checker at www.freeview.co.uk/availability



• Check your TV aerial

Your aerial may need to be upgraded to watch digital TV from Freeview. Installers belonging to the Registered Digital Installer Scheme are security checked experts. Visit www.rdi-lb.tv to find one in your local area



• Choosing a satellite service

If you choose a digital satellite service and live in a listed building or conservation area, you may need planning permission to install a satellite dish, so check with your local planning authority first



• Help schemes

There are help schemes in place for people who are 75 or over, have certain disabilities, or are registered blind or partially sighted. To find out more about the schemes and eligibility, go to www.helpscheme.co.uk or call 0800 40 85 900. You may qualify for financial assistance

Jargon buster

Confused by all the tech-speak? Here's our handy guide to the more commonly used acronyms and phrases.

STB – set-top box – a device that connects to your TV to receive the digital signals and sends them to your screen

EPG – electronic programme guide – the on-screen TV guide that gives you information on what's on now and for the next seven days

DTR – digital TV recorder - an alternative to a VCR that allows you to record straight from your TV, without needing tapes. These are sometimes called PVRs – or personal video recorders

VCR – video cassette recorder – these old fashioned boxes record programmes from your TV onto video tape cassettes

HDD – hard disk drive - these are built into digital TV recorders and store all your recorded programmes digitally, instead of on video tapes

HD – high definition – provides up to five times more detail than standard definition TV, with crystal clear images and deep, rich colours

HD-ready – to watch high definition you need a screen that can display HD pictures, so make sure your TV has the HD-ready logo

For more information

If you want to upgrade any of your TVs or VCRs, or want to know more about the extra features and services that digital TV can offer, your local retailer is here to help. They can demonstrate the latest products and guide you through the range of choices to help you make the right one for your home.

The following links also offer useful information about moving to digital TV:

Humax – 0844 669 8800

www.humaxdigital.com/uk

Digital UK – 08456 50 50 50

www.digitaluk.co.uk

Freeview

www.freeview.co.uk

freesat

www.freesat.co.uk