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## How to set up a digital converter box

By Joan Greylord i tv control and tv 3 image by chrisharvey from Fotolia.com Digital TV is here to stay, and by now most people have added digital converter boxes to their analog television sets. But there are several alternatives to using a digital converter box with an analog set. The choice depends on how much you want to spend and how you like to incorporate television viewing into your lifestyle. Connect an analog television set to DVD or VCR/DVD recorder combo that has a digital tuner built in. This solution provides the functionality of a digital converter box plus the advantage of being able to record and play back your favorite shows. Look for a unit that has an integrated ATSC digital tuner. Expect to pay around \$200 for a new model. Purchase a television set with a built-in ATSC digital tuner. This is the simplest but most expensive alternative to digital converter boxes. The built-in tuner automatically processes the incoming digital signals. Just connect an antenna to the television set to receive over-the-air digital broadcasts. Although prices have dropped over the past several years, you should expect to pay around \$500 on average for a 32-inch class LCD 720p HDTV. Subscribe to cable or satellite TV. This is another potentially expensive alternative to a digital converter box. A cable or satellite connection can be used with both analog and digital television sets. Depending on the size of the programming package you choose, you will have a wider choice of shows beyond your local programming. The average monthly fee for cable TV is around \$70, while satellite TV subscriptions can run anywhere from \$30 to over \$100 per month. Upgrade your computer with a digital TV tuner and watch TV on your computer or laptop. Add an internal digital TV tuner card to your desktop, or a USB tuner device to your laptop. Connect an antenna to the tuner to receive over-the-air digital broadcasts. Most tuners come with digital recording software, or you can use the recording feature in Windows Media Center in Windows Vista and Windows 7 to record your shows. Also, USB-connected TV tuners allow you to take your TV with you on your laptop computer. You can watch TV anywhere you have access to an over-the-air signal. Expect to pay around \$70 for a USB digital TV tuner, and around \$25 for an internal digital TV tuner. Watch your favorite television programs on-line for free using your existing Internet service and computer. Most of the major networks broadcast nearly all of their prime time shows and specials from their websites. You can see the most recent episodes the day after they've aired on TV. You can watch your shows anywhere you have a computer and an Internet connection. Disconnect coaxial cable from the From Antenna port on the TV. Connect coaxial cable from the TV to From Antenna input on DTV box.Connect coaxial or RCA composite cable to Out to TV connector on DTV converter box and to From Antenna or Video I/AUX input on TV.Plug in TV and DTV converter box, turn TV to channel 3 or 4, and follow on-screen instructions to set up DTV converter box. If you have an analog TV and want to watch current digital cable content on it, you need a digital TV (DTV) converter box. These DTV boxes are relatively inexpensive and easy to find. Hooking them up is a breeze with this four-step process. Use coaxial or RCA composite cables to link your analog TV to a DTV converter box. Follow these steps to set up the connection. First, disconnect the coaxial cable. Go to the back of your TV and unplug the coaxial cable that's connected to the From Antenna port of the television. On the back of the DTV box, you'll see two connections. Look for the one that is labeled From Antenna. This is the one you want. Take the coaxial cable you just detached from the TV and attach it to the DTV converter box using the From Antenna input. Connect the output from the DTV converter. Another connector on the back of the DTV converter box is labeled To TV (RF). Out to TV composite, or similar. Take either a coaxial or an RCA composite cable (your choice) and connect it to the Out to TV connector. There is only one coaxial cable, but the RCA composite cable may have several connectors. The various cables are usually color-coded to match the ports. Connect your DTV converter to the TV. Look on the back of the TV. You'll see either a From Antenna or Video I/AUX input or a port with similar verbiage. Take the coaxial cable from the DTV box or the RCA composite cables and plug them into the corresponding ports here. Configure the DTV converter to decode the antenna signals. Plug in both the TV and DTV converter box and turn them both on. Follow the instructions that came with the converter box, and turn your TV to channel 3 or 4. Follow the on-screen instructions to configure the DTV converter box to decode the antenna signals, and enjoy your programming. Thanks for letting us know! Tell us why! © 1996-2014, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates digital converter box Traducción en tiempo real al escribir Calidad de primer orden a nivel mundial Traducción de documentos con tan solo "arrastrar y soltar" Traducir ahora Modified on: Thu, 11 Mar, 2021 at 1:16 PM \*Please note that all digital converter boxes are different. Please refer to the instructions that came with your device to connect. This information below describes the installation of a standard digital-to-analog converter box with your current antenna and analog TV. This guide will help you prepare so that when you purchase a converter box you will know what to expect and whether you may need help setting it up.You will need your analog TV, the antenna you have been using (indoor or outdoor), and the coaxial wire that currently connects your antenna to your TV. Your new converter box will come with a coaxial wire and a remote control. Before you begin the installation of the converter box, you should unplug your TV.Step Unplug the existing coaxial antenna wire into the "Antenna In (RF)" port on your Converter Box.Step Using the coaxial wire that comes with your Converter Box, plug one end into the "Out To TV (RF)" port on the Converter Box. Plug the other end into the "Antenna In (RF)" port on your TV.Step Plug the power cords on your Converter Box and TV into a power outlet, and turn on your TV and Converter Box. Using the instructions that come with your Converter Box, tune your TV to channel 3 or 4. Using the remote that comes with your Converter Box, follow the onscreen set-up guide to scan for available digital channels, and begin enjoying the benefits of Digital Television!\*Information taken from www.fcc.gov site Did you find it helpful? Yes NoSend feedback Sorry we couldn't be helpful. Help us improve this article with your feedback. HollySilver Post Medal for All Time! 364 PostsSeptember 15, 2008We're switching from analog TV to digital TV reception by way of those converter boxes that the government is advertising. It's a way of still using your old analog TV when the TV switch to digital occurs in Feb 2009. I bought a converter box with a government coupon in the Spring of 2008 which is probably no longer available (the DTA800 by RCA). Plugged it in and it worked OK, then the next day I figured it should be programmed properly. Big mistake (channel changing was now via the volume button and it went down hill from there). Called Customer Service and was told how to reset the box. I am posting this re-set info, because I am thinking this is going to happen to a lot of people and this message may save some hours and needless aggravation. To re-set the converter box: Push the STANDBY button for 15 seconds. Unplug the box from everything for 15 minutes and take batteries out of remote. Plug everything back in, put batteries back into remote. By Holly from Richardson, TX Comment Was this helpful? IRead More CommentsHollySilver Post Medal for All Time! 364 PostsSeptember 18, 2008We wanted to use our analog VCR with the new converter box (bought with a government issue coupon) for the analog TV. Had to call Customer Service for information as the TV would not communicate with the VCR no matter what I did. Comment Was this helpful? YesRead More...HollySilver Post Medal for All Time! 364 PostsJune 17, 2008This is just a comment about the new Digital TV converter boxes. They're inconvenient for recording. To record using RCA DTA800 converter box, you have to go to the unit and wind your hand, change the channel. Suppose you want to record ABC TV at 7 pm, and then CBS at 8 pm and then NBC at 8:30 pm. You'd have to walk up to your converter box and manually switch TV channels 3 times that evening, at 7, 8 and 8:30 pm. At best, the TV converter box is as useful as your memory and the ability to be in the same room when you want to record. The following is from RCA about the converter box: VCR's work differently with the digital box. When recording a program you will ALWAYS program your VCR to record on Channel 3 (the channel the switch on the back of the digital box is set to.) Then set the digital box to the channel you actually want to record and leave the digital box on. For example: You want to record something on channel 12 at 2:00 You program your VCR to record from channel 3 at 2:00 and the use the channel selector on the digital box remote to set the TV to channel 12. There are 2 inherent limitations in using your VCR with the digital box because of this: 1) You can not watch one channel while recording another, at all. 2) If you want to timer record two programs at different times on different channels then somebody will have to be there in between the two programs to change the channel on the digital box." Source: RCA Assistance. By Holly from Richardson, TX Editor's Note: This is only for people who are using an analog TV and receiving broadcast television. Cable and satellite users and anyone who has purchased a television since May 25, 2007 should not be affected.HollySilver Post Medal for All Time! 364 PostsJune 17, 20080 found this helpfulHaving to buy new vcr/dvd recorders and tv's is annoying at best and un-affordable at worst. Reply Was this helpful? YesLinda JonesJune 18, 20080 found this helpfulI have replaced one VCR with a Panasonic DVR/VCR because it has both a digital and analog tuner and I won't need a converter for it. I will replace the other VCR with the new Panasonic DVR 48 something for the very same reason. This is really a major pain.I had ordered the Echostar TR-40 which supposedly has VCR programming (who knows how it works) but the company I ordered from no longer has the coupon program and won't be handling the new DTV Pal which is the new name of the Echostar TR 40.OH YOU NEED A CONVERTER FOR THE TV ANYWAY SO YOU CAN WATCH A DIFFERENT CHANNEL WHILE RECORDING!!!!!!!!!!!!!!This is a major pain in the neck!!!!!!!!!!!!!!Anyone have a converter box they like and why? Reply Was this helpful? YesBy Jan (Guest Post)October 14, 20080 found this helpfulA Walmart electronics salesperson suggested I set my (Zenith) VCR to Channel 3 and the RCA converter to the channel that I want to record - just as "Holly" says RCA Assistance suggests. Didn't work. All I got was static. Anyone out there know of a VCR I can buy that will let me program shows while using my new converter? Or maybe another brand of converter that will let me program shows with my current VCR? I've asked at several electronics stores and keep getting entirely different answers, even people in the business don't seem to have a clue.I think it's outrageous that they couldn't have waited 10 years or so for most all analog TVs to die out before pulling this. Unfortunately, my old TV died about a year before they stopped selling analog TVs and the digital TVs were selling for thousands of dollars. So now I'm stuck with a perfectly good TV and VCR, but have no way to program shows while I'm out. Reply Was this helpful? YesBy Marty (Guest Post)December 19, 20080 found this helpfulThis is another tax on the people who can afford it the least. This transfer couldn't have come at a worse time. \$40 come on, it should of at least been \$50 and what about all the vcr's that won't work now. They really thought this out. Stick it to the middle class. Reply Was this helpful? YesHollySilver Post Medal for All Time! 364 PostsDecember 20, 20080 found this helpfulAnalog vcrs and tv will work with cable, I have been told. Check it out before signing up for the service! Reply Was this helpful? YesKelly M. HawkinsMay 13, 20090 found this helpfulI can't believe the TV industry or the FCC didn't anticipate this VCR/Converter problem. Do you suppose they want to sell more DVR's? Is the FCC really there to protect us from those kind of schemes, or did someone pay someone off. If they would have announced well in advance that VCR's would be practically useless after the digital change, people would be up in arms. Now there's no choice. Reply Was this helpful? YesAnswer this QuestionOnesummerBronze Post Medal for All Time! 219 PostsAugust 13, 2009I have been looking for ways to save money and decided to cancel my cable services. Please tell me how well the TV converter boxes are working. I have 3 flat screen TVs and was wondering how well those converter boxes worked with flat screens and if they are difficult to install. Is the converter box the only component I need to buy? Please share your suggestions. By OnesummerLisaAugust 13, 20090 found this helpfulI have one TV on a converter box and don't get all the stations that it scans in. Supposedly I have 11 channels but only 4 will actually show a picture. The antenna is very sensitive and moving it just an inch or two here or there makes a difference.If I had it to do all over again I would have done a lot more reading at dtv.gov/ before purchasing a converter box and antenna. There is a YouTube video that shows how to make your own DTV antenna. I haven't done this but apparently people swear by it!www.youtube.com/watch?v=EWQhlmJTMzw Reply Was this helpful? YesDuane De VriesAugust 13, 20090 found this helpfulI have one installed at a cottage where reception is not the greatest! The old analog signals, while grainy, were watchable and I got all four of our local stations. Since the switch to digital, I now get only two. When I contacted the local 'digital questions' hot line, I was told that if you get a good signal, the picture will be great but if your signal is not good enough, the converter won't show it to you. Apparently the converter manufacturers have decided that you get great pictures or nothing. Bummer! Reply Was this helpful? YesDuane De VriesAugust 13, 20090 found this helpfulForgo to mention, I just ran the antenna wire to the converter box and from there to the TV. Very simple to set up and use. Reply Was this helpful? YesLizOAugust 13, 20090 found this helpfulI haven't had cable since Nov. 1995 and while I still miss certain channels I don't miss the monthly cost. You figure that in that amount of time if the average cable or satellite bill is say \$60, that's close to \$9000. Of course recalculate your monthly bills x 153 months and there's the breakdown.Anyhow, I got Insignia converters for both my TVs last October and get 15 channels total. Mix in some spanish language and a reading channel and I have 10 channels (two are strictly local weather channels but one does show regular TV programming in a little box sometimes) that I actually watch - my converter allows me to edit out the channels I don't want. I am missing one of the PBS stations as we are still on their analog translator (from Denver to Colorado Springs - KBDI). I live in Colorado Springs, CO so all our towers are on top of a mountain and our city is closer to the mountains that much of say the Denver Metro area. People who live far distances from major TV markets have problems and some people on the eastern edges of places like the Denver metro area have problems.Thus far my signal is so much better than with the analog signal so I can still continue to save money. I still have analog TVs but the picture quality is only limited by the screens instead of the analog signal and it's far superior than before.As for what you need to know, you need to find out if your TV is DTV ready.Here's the government's website on DTV:www.dtv.gov/Also check with your local PBS station. Both PBS stations in my market really went over and above to help those switch.For my TVs I simply took the antenna out of the back of the TV, installed it to the converter and connected the converter to the TV. My main problem has been connecting the DVD player and the stereo with the converter. It's weird how I had it set up and I haven't been patient enough to sit down and hash through it...plus a move and just haven't been watching movies lately. :-) Reply Was this helpful? YesLizOAugust 13, 20090 found this helpfulFor duanedv: You posted "I was told that if you get a good signal, the picture will be great but if your signal is not good enough, the converter won't show it to you. Apparently the converter manufacturers have decided that you get great pictures or nothing."This is untrue.Having had to deal with problems after the switch even though things were working well prior to the official switch, it is the TV stations signal power that makes the difference. In addition, simple things like buildings, mountains, and such interfere with digital signals. Here is an okay site to check your location for digital signal strength, what equipment you may need (antenna wise) and what they think those stations will show in terms of how they think the signal will carry:www.antennaweb.org/.../welcome.aspx You only need to provide your zip code, then get as close as possible...it will help you determine what kind of antenna you need.Good luck on getting beter signals.BTW - I am using the same antennas that I had prior to getting my converters. No special antennas needed and most people don't need super expensive ones. Reply Was this helpful? YesAnswer this Questionahw455January 2, 2018I have two small digital TVs connected to an external antenna. Neither works very well alone (3 or 4 channels). However, when the signal is passed through a converter box reception is remarkably better 35 to 40 channels). Does that make sense? Does it mean that converter boxes are better quality? Are there small (12 to 15 inch) TVs that work as well as converters? I would gladly pay 2 or 3 times as much for a really good small TV, but can not find one.Read More AnswersANNETTEDecember 6, 2010In canceling our cable TV, I see we need a converter box and an amplified antennae. Are all digital converter boxes the same? Any issues I should know about? By ANNETTE from Cocoa Beach, FLDeanDecember 7, 20100 found this helpfulAll converter boxes should be the same. I also have old analog TV sets and would like to dump cable. So I bought a converter and rabbit ears,hooked them up and got about 8 TV stations. But I didn't get some of the stations I wanted that available over their. So I returned the items. Now I think I will break down and buy a new TV, rabbit ears and try it again. A new TV will have the requirements to receive a TV signal without a converter box. Reply Was this helpful? YesFrankDecember 7, 20100 found this helpfulYou should be able to find a slightly used one cheap. Many were purchased when the government had the rebate program during the change over. Now persons have new TV that don't require the box. Only older analog sets need the box. They all do the same thing, just that like anything else there are different features between them. Ask around am sure someone you know has one. Reply Was this helpful? YescdossDecember 10, 20100 found this helpfulNo, they are not all the same. There are two basic kinds. One, the kind the government gave out free coupons for - will work for any analog TV. It "dumbs" down the signal. The second is for TVs like mine which were sold as "HD Ready" meaning they can display HD images but were not equipped with an HD tuner. These boxes were not eligible for the government coupon and were more expensive to begin with. The vast majority of boxes out there are the first kind. Again, they should work with any TV, even those that were sold as "HD ready". But, the ones specifically designed for "HD ready" tv's will not work on other tv's. Ask your friends/family if they have any extra boxes around. They may have gotten a new TV but not thrown out their old box! Reply Was this helpful? YesAnswer this QuestionHollySilver Post Medal for All Time! 364 PostsMay 5, 2008Any TV converter box brand or features you'd like to recommend or vice versa? Holly from Richardson, TXBy vince (Guest Post)June 7, 20080 found this helpfulI have a friend who has been a tv engineer for 30 years. He recommends the DTVPal by Dish. It will be out around the end of June and will sell for 39.99. Since you can get a free \$40 coupon from the government, this makes it free! Check it out on DTVPal.com. Reply Was this helpful? YesAnswer this Question



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