

## PEAK Class 101: DVB-T

DVB, or Digital Video Broadcasting, is the most popular digital broadcasting standard in the world. Users within the signal coverage area can enjoy high quality digital video/audio for little or no cost. DVB uses special streaming technology to compress the video/audio signals, allowing many TV and radio channels to share the available bandwidth. Freeview, the largest DVB-T service provider in the UK, can be received by a whopping 36.6% of the UK's 60 million TV sets.

DVB has various versions, or "flavours", including DVB-T (T for terrestrial), DVB-H (H for handheld), DVB-C (C for cable), and DVB-S (S for satellite), to name just a few. Each standard distributes the signal differently. We'll focus on the DVB-T standard.

Generally speaking, to enjoy DVB-T channels you'll need the following:

- DVB-T receiver (including aerial )
- PC software or a TV set to display digital content
- Digital signal

**DVB<sup>®</sup>T**  
TERRESTRIAL

**DVB<sup>®</sup>**  
Digital Video  
Broadcasting

### *DVB-T receiver*

A digital set-top box can be rented from most content providers or purchased at a minimum price. You'll also need an aerial/antenna to capture the free-over-the-air DVB-T signal. Your existing TV aerial is often sufficient. As an alternative to a set-top box, a DVB-T USB dongle or a PCI TV tuner card can be purchased separately for your personal computer system which will turn your PC into a digital video recorder. All of these can access the EPG (electronic programme guide) which is transmitted via DVB-T and can be viewed on screen or used to schedule recordings.

### *PC software or a TV set*

If you have a set-top box, a TV set would probably be your best bet. For computer users, you'll need specialized software that will enable you to watch digital channels. The software is usually provided by the tuner manufacturer. You can record and play back TV programmes via the hard disk, with the options of pause, fast-forward and rewind. You can also pause and resume any live programmes you wish.

### *Digital signal*

Make sure you are within a DVB-T broadcasting areas. Content providers in the area should be able to provide you with information on the latest signal coverage, or you can check on the web at <http://www.freeview.co.uk/availability/main/index/landing>.

PEAK offers a full range of DVB-T tuners/dual tuners to turn your PC into a digital video recorder. For more product information, please visit our website at [www.peakhardware.com](http://www.peakhardware.com)



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