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Direct TV Tivo Equals Compromise

By James Croydon

Do you own your own satellite TV system and subscribe to Directv (aka Direct TV)? Then consider an upgrade to a Directv Tivo system. Tivo is a type of digital video recorder that allows you to record one thing while watching another. So ladies, if your man wants to watch the game at the same time that your favorite television show is on, you can have your show recorded while he watches the game. Or make him suffer by taping the game.

When you have a Direct satellite TV, you have a lot of options to choose from, including the Direct TV Tivo. Like mentioned above, the Directv Tivo records one show while you watch another. Well, other digital recording devices do that too and have for a while now. The Direct TV Tivo is a little special. You can actually record two different shows at the same time!

When a customer first gets their TV satellite dish through Directv, they turn down the Directv Tivo option. However, after a few months of realizing all of the cool shows they miss because of the plethora of programming choices through Direct TV, they decide to go the Tivo route after all. People tend to get attached to certain TV shows and when they start to conflict, agony pursues on deciding which show to watch!

Your Direct TV Tivo is also easy to set up and program. You just bring up your Directv programming guide on your TV screen and choose the TV shows you want to record. And voilà! You will soon have a digital recording of your favorite shows. The neat thing about this Tivo is that you can program your set to record an entire season of shows! There are no more worries about trying to remember to set your Direct TV Tivo each week.

Another advantage to the Tivo is that, unlike a VCR, you are not fumbling with the buttons trying to set the time and date. You also don't have to worry about recording gray static or whether the VCR tape gets stuck in the machine. Then there's that pesky double checking to make sure you have the television on the correct channel as well as the VCR being set properly too.

Direct TV's competitor the Dish network has digital video recorders available but they can only tape one show, unlike the Directv Tivo option. So if you do not have a TV satellite dish and satellite TV

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receiver yet, think about the Tivo option before deciding on the satellite TV service you want to go for. Directv Tivo may be just the ticket to make your decision.

Kids want to watch one thing while mom and dad also disagree on what to watch. Direct TV Tivo equals compromise in many households. You might say that it makes a great peacekeeper. Now all you have to do is decide on who gets to hold the remote control!

James Croydon, Satellite Installation Engineer and Dish Network advisor at f-Tech Associates (

<http://www.satellite-tv-web.com>

) publishes other articles related to Dish Network at

<http://www.satellitetvstore.com>

and

<http://www.cheap-satellite-tv.com>

TiVo: An Introduction for the Few Who Don't Know Yet

By Bear Cahill

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TiVo will change your life... for the better. Plain and simple: record shows by telling TiVo to record them (not when, what channel, how long, etc.), record all new episodes of X, record all movies w/ so-and-so in them, etc.

High Points:

Most people know the basics of the concept. Here's the low-down on the things I'm asked most...

1. You can record one thing and watch something else already recorded.
2. You can get a dual tuner TiVo, but you'll need two SEPARATE feeds to the TiVo (i.e., two lines from your satellite dish). Then you can record 2 things at once or watch one/record another. These are more expensive, but you can get a DirecTiVo w/ dual tuner cheaper and then the monthly TiVo fee is about half normal.
3. Pause live TV – if you don't realize the value of this, I can't explain it. :)

TiVo has many different versions which all some slight variations. If you want to go beyond 'average guy' level, check out this forum.

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Comparison to ReplayTV:

TiVo seems to have a better interface from what I've seen and what others have said. It's easier to use. However, ReplayTV is more easily hackable – you can access it from the web and the PC easier to convert/archive shows, etc. I have a DVD recorder for this which is another post for another time.

Both can be made to do mostly the same things, but you get the idea.

My Suggestion

I recommend the DirecTiVo Hughes HDVR2 (dual tuner) w/ the Triple LNB dish (this is the oval dish w/ 4 lines from it and it's HDTV ready). It's got the satellite converter box built in so it's only one box to deal w/, the TiVo monthly fee is less and it's dual tuner.

This model isn't as hackable as some TiVo's, but it can do some and if you want to go beyond the basics than you probably haven't read this far.

Sites:

<http://www.dvrinfospot.com>

<http://www.TiVo.com>

<http://www.TiVoCommunity.com>

<http://www.Weaknees.com>

Bear Cahill runs: The Armchair Geek (www.thearmchairgeek.com), Webpage Hosting Info (www.webpagehostinginfo.com), Go To College Online (www.gotocollegeonline.com) and The Video Exchange Community (www.videoexchange.org)



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