

Digital to Analog TV Converter Boxes

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Overview

- **Digital TV Conversion Date**
- **Do I Need a Converter Box?**
- **Digital TV Pros and Cons**
- **DTV Converter Box Coupon Program**
- **Important Converter Box Features**
- **Converter Box Set Up**
- **My DTV Reception**
- **Converter Box Comparisons**

Digital TV Conversion Date

- **February 17, 2009 or Earlier**
- **Low Power TV Stations Do Not Have to Convert to Digital**
- **Wilmington, NC Converted Early**
 - **Network Affiliates and TBN Converted**
 - **Many People Caught Unaware**
 - **Poor Reception Caused by Antenna Problems**

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Do I Need A Converter Box?

YES

- TV Antenna for Over the Air Reception
- TV Only Has an Analog Tuner

NO

- Cable TV
- Satellite TV
- TV Has ATSC (Digital) Tuner

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Digital TV Pros and Cons

PROS

- **Clear Picture – No Snow**
- **Higher Resolution with HD Digital TV Set**
- **Additional Channels**
- **Program Guide**

CONS

- **Digital Signals May Not Go as Far as Analog Signals**
- **Weak Digital Signals Are Affected by Weather and Day/Night Conditions**

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DTV Converter Box Coupon Program

APPLY

- Online <https://www.dtv2009.gov/>
- Telephone 1-888-DTV-2900
1-888-388-2900

RULES

- Two Coupons per Household
- \$40 per Coupon
- Coupon Expires 90 Days After Date Mailed

Coupon Eligible Features

<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/ntiahome/frnotices/2007/DTVFinalRule technical.htm>

REQUIRED

- Tune Ch 2-69
- Signal Meter
- Program Guide
- Closed Caption
- Ch 3/4 RF Output
- RF Cable
- Composite Output
- Sleep Mode
- Remote Control

OPTIONAL

- Analog Pass Through
- S Video Output
- Smart Antenna Interface
- Additional Cables

NOT PERMITTED

- Recording
- Component Output (YPbPr)
- HDMI Output
- VGA Output
- USB Output
- Ethernet Output
- Wireless Output

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Important Converter Box Features

- **Analog Pass Through**
- **S Video Output**
- **Scan Update**
- **Manual Tuning**
- **Remote Control Extra Features**
 - **Volume Control**
 - **Mute**
 - **Favorite Channels**
 - **Aspect Ratio/Zoom**
 - **Universal Remote**

Converter Boxes with Analog Pass Through
<http://www.keepuson.com/index2.php>
Community Broadcasters Association

- **Apex DT250**
- **Digital Stream DSP7700T**
- **Digital Stream DTX9950**
- **DIGITAL STREAM DX8700**
- **Dish Network DTVPal**
- **Magnavox TB-100MG9**
- **Philco TB100HH9 (Access via Menus)**
- **Philco TB150HH9**
- **RCA DTA800B1**
- **Zenith DTT901**

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Converter Box Set Up

- **Select Output**
 - **RF Ch 3 or 4**
 - **Composite**
 - **S Video**
- **Auto Scan**
 - **Find and Memorize All DTV Channels**
- **Adjust Antenna**

Converter Box Set Up (Cont)

- **Scan Update**
 - **Add New Channels Found**
- **Manual Scan**
 - **Add No Picture Weak Signals**
 - **Add/Delete Channels from Memory**
- **Select Favorite Channels**
 - **Does Not Change Channels in Memory**
 - **Exclude Weak Signals**
 - **Exclude Foreign Language Channels**

Converter Box Set Up (Cont)

- **Select Aspect Ratio for Each Channel**
- **Fine Tune Other Features**
 - **Language**
 - **Closed Captioning**
 - **Parental Control**
 - **Transparency**
 - **Text Colors**

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My DTV Reception

<u>DIG</u> <u>CH</u>	<u>RF</u> <u>CH</u>	<u>CALL SIGN</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NETWORK</u>
2-1	19	WGBH-SD	Boston, MA	PBS
2-2	19	WGBH-HD	Boston, MA	PBS
4-1	30	WBZ-TV	Boston, MA	CBS
5-1	20	WCVB-DT	Boston, MA	ABC
7-1	42	WHDH-HD	Boston, MA	NBC
7-2	42	WHDH-SD	Boston, MA	Weather Plus
9-1	59	WMUR-DT	Manchester, NH	ABC
11-1	57	WENH-DT	Durham, NH	PBS
11-2	57	WENH-DT	Durham, NH	PBS
21-2	33	WPXG-DT	Concord, NH	ION
21-3	33	WPXG-DT	Concord, NH	qubo
21-4	33	WPXG-DT	Concord, NH	IONLife
21-5	33	WPXG-DT	Concord, NH	Worship
25-1	31	WFXT-DT	Boston, MA	FOX
27-1	29	WUNI-DT	Worcester, MA	Univision
34-1	34	WNEU-DT	Merrimack, NH	Telemundo
38-1	39	WSBK-DT	Boston, MA	Independent
44-1	43	WGBX-DT	Boston, MA	PBS
44-2	43	WGBX-DT	Boston, MA	PBS World
44-3	43	WGBX-DT	Boston, MA	PBS Create
44-4	43	WGBX-DT	Boston, MA	PBS Kids
48-1	47	WYDN-DT	Worcester, MA	Daystar
50-1	35	WZMY-DT	Derry, NH	My TV
56-1	41	WLVI-DT	Boston, MA	CW
62-1	18	WMFP-DT	Lawrence, MA	Shopping Channel
62-2	18	WMFP-DT	Lawrence, MA	Audio Only
66-1	23	WUTF-DT	Marlborough, MA	TeleFutura
68-1	32	WPX-DT	Boston, MA	ION
68-2	32	WPX-DT	Boston, MA	qubo
68-3	32	WPX-DT	Boston, MA	IONLife
68-4	32	WPX-DT	Boston, MA	Worship

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Consumer Reports Ratings

<http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/electronics-computers/tvs-services/digital-tv-converter/ratings/dtv-converter-boxes-ratings.htm>

Brand & model	Price paid	Program guide	Configurable closed captioning	Universal remote control	Aspect ratio button on remote	Auto aspect ratio	Easy to add new channels	Analog pass-through	Control buttons on box	AV cable included	Retailers (You can find local and online retailers via the NTIA's Web site.)
BEST PICTURE QUALITY Capable of images that come close to DVD quality.											
Tivax STB-T9	\$50	Better	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Online retailers
Lasonic LTA-260	55	Basic	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Online retailers
Sansonic FT300A	55	Basic	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Online retailers
AccessHD DTA1010D	60	Better	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Online retailers
Microgem MG2000	65	Better	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Online retailers
Channel Master CM-7000	80	Better	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Online retailers
BETTER PICTURE QUALITY A small step below the best, but still better than most analog broadcasts.											
Coship N9988T	50	Better	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Online retailers
Venturer STB7766G	50	Basic	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Target, online retailers
Philco TB100HH9	50	Better	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Online retailers
Magnavox TB100MW9	50	Better	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Wal-Mart, K-Mart, online retailers
Artec T3A Pro	55	Better	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Online retailers
Insignia NS-DXA1	60	Better	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Best Buy, online retailers
Zenith DTT900	60	Better	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Circuit City, Radio Shack, hhgregg, online retailers

Dish Network DTVPal	60	Best	•	•	•	•	Online retailers
Winegard RC-DT09	60	Basic	•		•	•	Online retailers
Apex DT250	60	Better	•	•	•	•	Best Buy
RCA DTA800B*	65	Better	•	•		•	Wal-Mart, online retailers
Magnavox TB100MG9	90	Better	•		•	•	Online retailers

ACCEPTABLE PICTURE QUALITY Generally comparable to a good analog broadcast, despite some minor flaws.

Digital Stream DTX9950	60	Better	•	•	•	•	Radio Shack, online retailers
Digital Stream DTX9900	60	Better	•	•	•	•	Radio Shack, online retailers
Digital Stream DSP7500T	70	Better	•	•	•	•	Online retailers
GE 22730	70	Best	•	•	•	•	Online retailers
Goodmind DTA 1000	70	Best	•	•	•	•	Online retailers
GE 22729	80	Best	•	•	•	•	Online retailers

* This model is being replaced by the DTA800B1, which adds analog pass through and other features. We've seen it online for \$70 to \$90.

Posted: June 20

Other Web Sites Rating Converter Boxes

- **Wikipedia Detailed Chart, Many Manufacturers**
 - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_CECB_units
- **Magnovox, Insignia, Zenith, Digital Stream, RCA, Artec, Tivax, Sansonic, MaxMedia**
 - http://www.hdtv.biz/Article-DTV_converter_boxes_compare_and_contrast.shtml
- **Digital Stream and GE**
 - http://www.hdtvexpert.com/pages_b/DTVconverters.html
- **Zenith**
 - http://www.hdtvexpert.com/pages_b/Zenith_DTT900%20.html

My Ratings

- **Receiver Sensitivity Most Important**
- **Zenith DTT901**
 - **Slightly Better Receiver Sensitivity than Digital Stream DTX9900**
 - **Channel Information Is Lost When Signal Disappears**
- **Digital Stream DTX9900**
 - **More Detailed Program Guide than Zenith DTT901**
 - **Channel Information Is Retained When Signal Disappears**
 - **No Analog Pass Through**