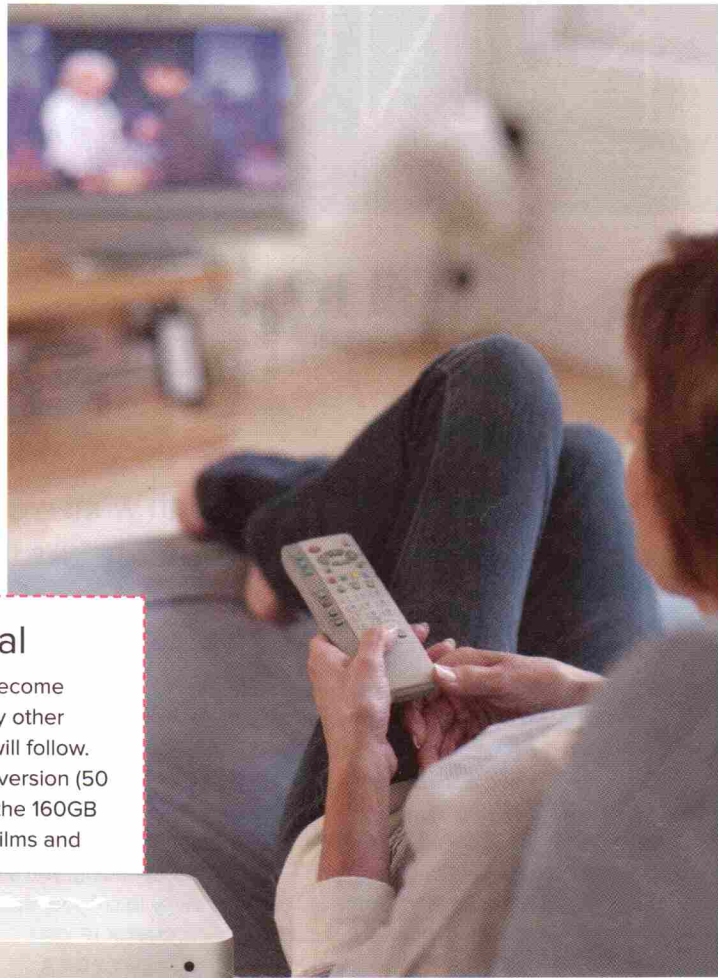


Is it time to update your TECH?

Camilla Chafer, editor of technoglam.com, gives her pick of the best televisions and digital recorders in the shops now



The gadget that means no more DVD rental

A one-stop box for all your film rentals, music and TV programme buying?

That's what Apple TV aims to be. Instead of using a DVD rental service, you can get films (for about £6.99, or £2.50 to rent) via the Apple TV box, which operates via your Internet connection. So you can buy and download music, and buy programmes just a day after they've aired on TV. But it'll only work with a High Definition (HD)

TV. Devices like this should become standard in future, so it's likely other home-entertainment brands will follow. Prices are £195 for the 40GB version (50 hours of video) and £263 for the 160GB (200 hours of video). Songs, films and TV shows all cost extra. apple.com/uk/



FIND THE RIGHT TV TO SUIT YOU

Sports fans take note

Samsung LED 7000

WHY IT'S GOOD: Super-slim, it can be hung on the wall using just one screw, and is also great for movies, sports and video games fans, as Motion Plus technology keeps the picture blur-free during fast action. Plus, it consumes up to 40 per cent less power than regular LED TVs, and has a recycled frame, so does its bit for the environment.

HOW MUCH? From £999.99 from Dixons, Currys, John Lewis. Call 0845-7267864.

FOR THE ECO-AWARE



BEST ALL-IN-ONE

Digital solution

LG LF7700

WHY IT'S GOOD: This is ideal if you're planning on upgrading to an all-in-one digital TV. It has built-in freesat, offering around 140 digital channels, as well as HD and invisible speakers. A nifty feature, called "Intelligent sensor 2", automatically adjusts the picture quality to the room's conditions, so the picture will be brighter or darker as needed.

HOW MUCH? From £448, Dixons. lge.com

Super luxury!

The Philips Cinema 21:9

WHY IT'S GOOD: It's as close as you'll come to a cinema experience at home. The ultra-wide 56-inch set matches the format in which movies are recorded, so the picture fills the screen, and ambilight technology adjusts the TV's background light, enlarging the screen's appearance. With built in Wi-Fi and NetTV, it does the jobs of a PC too.

Still, at this price, you might have to charge your friends to come and watch a movie!

HOW MUCH? £4,500, Philips, 0906-1010016.

GREAT FOR FILM BUFFS



THE LATEST WAY TO RECORD YOUR FAVOURITE SHOWS

If you want to record programmes, go for a Digital Video Recorder, or DVR. Also known as DTRs (Digital TV Recorders) or PVRs (Personal Video Recorders), they can record straight to a hard drive, in the same way you save documents on a PC. You can save hundreds of hours of recording and some are also combined as set-top boxes for receiving digital channels. Look out for larger hard disks for longer recording time: the more gigabytes or GB, the better.

HOW'S YOUR TECH TALK?

BLU-RAY DISC Or BD is activated by connecting your Blu-Ray player to your Internet connection.

BD LIVE A service that allows extra downloads in addition to those on your Blu-Ray disc.

DIGITAL TV Digital TV transmission (full digital will replace the old analogue signal by 2012).

HD High Definition is a digital-broadcasting system with a higher resolution than standard TV.

FREEVIEW Digital TV through a rooftop aerial with a one-off fee (£103) for the box.

FRESAT A digital-satellite service offering 140 channels with a one-off fee (about £95) for the box.

SUBWOOFER A speaker that reproduces lowest bass sounds that complement other speakers.

USB DONGLE Plug into your computer to receive an Internet signal anywhere there's reception.



Best for technophobes

PVR-9150T

WHY IT'S GOOD: This is brilliant for non-techie types because it's just a case of "plug in and go". It has Freeview for digital access, and a clever split-recording function means a film with a news broadcast break, for example, can be recorded seamlessly just by pressing a button. The 160GB hard drive gives up to 100 hours recording, and two digital tuners enable viewers to record two programmes and watch another recorded programme simultaneously.

HOW MUCH? £149.99, humaxdigital.com/uk.

For TV addicts

Sagem DTR67320T or DTR67500T

WHY IT'S GOOD: Combining a set-top box and digital recorder, Sagem's energy-saving eco model can record up to 250 hours of TV. Content can also be uploaded via the USB port on the side, so that you can transfer content from your PC, or it can be saved to a USB memory stick, which enables you to watch programmes on a PC while you're on the move. Plus, "picture in picture" technology allows you to watch two channels at the same time, while the eight-day programmable TV guide means that you'll never miss your favourite show ever again.

HOW MUCH? £149.99 for the DTR67320T (which has 320GB), or £179.99 for the DTR67500T (with 500GB). For more information, visit sagem-online.com.



BLU-RAY OFFERS MORE THAN DVD

Blu-ray is the next level up from a standard DVD, with more and more movies released in this format. The discs are packed with more data for improved viewing. If you're buying a Blu-ray player, check that it will "upscale", so you can still play your regular DVDs on it.

Multi-featured

Samsung BD-P3600

WHY IT'S GOOD: A wireless USB dongle (see glossary) plugs in to allow access to online features such as BD Live, which is a newly developed Blu-ray feature. There's full HD playback and it offers "upscaling", so you won't need to buy new discs. It'll play CDs too, has a fast loading time, and ejects discs in just one second.

HOW MUCH? £259.99, samsung.com/uk.



Record in HD

Panasonic Blu-ray DMR BS850 recorder

WHY IT'S GOOD: It's the UK's first Blu-ray player to record in HD to a Blu-ray disc, hence the larger price. Use this instead of a PVR if you want to record to a disc rather than just your hard drive. With integrated digital channel provider freesat+, it's possible to record two channels at once and use the Internet. Plus, it doubles as a jukebox by saving music digitally. A clever powersave function turns off the box automatically when the TV does.

HOW MUCH? Around £800, panasonic.co.uk.

Everyone's talking about... Twitter



WHAT IS IT? A way of social networking via phone or Internet – think online conversations with several participants.

HOW DOES IT WORK? It's free to use – just log on and pick a username. Search for friends by

email or name, then add them by clicking the "follow" button to receive their updates or tweets. Celebrity tweeters abound – but so do celeb impersonators, so look for the "verified account" symbol on the tweeter's profile page.

WHY WOULD I USE IT? Twitter's largely just a bit of fun, but you can hear about recruitment opportunities from companies that tweet. Equally, you can promote your own business or give consumer feedback if you've something to say. You can follow us at twitter.com/womanandhome. >>

NEW
CLEVER
TECH