

User's Guide for the Digital Video Recorder with Picture-in-Picture Control



Explorer[®] 8000[™] Digital Video Recorder and Explorer 8000HD[™] High-Definition Digital Video Recorder

- · Record your favorite programs when you're away
- · Record one program and watch another
- Watch two programs at the same time with the Picture-in-Picture feature on any TV you have
- · Record two live programs while watching a third program you recorded earlier
- · Use instant replay anytime you want
- · Pause live TV for up to 1 hour without missing a minute
- Record and store from 30 to 50 hours of standard-definition programs on the 8000 and, depending on the model, up to 80 hours on the 8000HD
- · Watch and record high-definition programs on the 8000HD

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Explore Your Entertainment Options

This guide describes how to use the following Explorer® Digital Video Recorders:

- Explorer[®] 8000[™] Digital Video Recorder (DVR), for use with standard TVs
- Explorer[®] 8000HD[™] High-Definition Digital Video Recorder (HD DVR), for use with high-definition TVs (HDTVs)

Get More Out of Your TV

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The 8000 DVR or 8000HD DVR changes how you watch TV:

- · Control live programs just like they are recordings.
- Create your own personal video library by recording and storing your favorite programs.
- Watch your recordings anytime you want.
- Add the Picture-in-Picture (PIP) feature to any TV you own.

With an 8000 DVR or 8000HD DVR, you can use your TV to . . .

| I | Record | One live and one pre-recorded program at once Two live programs at the same time |
|---|----------------|--|
| | | All future episodes of your favorite programs by performing a simple, one-time setup Hours of programs and store them for later viewing |
| , | Watch & Record | Watch one program while recording anotherWatch two programs and record one of them |
| | | Watch two programs and record both of them Watch a pre-recorded program while you record one or two other programs |
| | Explorer Model | Watch a pre-recorded program while you record |

| 3000HD | A minimum of 7 hours of HD programs. Contact your |
|--------|---|
| | cable service provider to determine the maximum |
| | storage capacity of your 8000HD. |
| | |

Take Control of Live Programs

Anytime you tune to a live program, the Explorer DVR begins buffering the program — that is, making a temporary recording of it — so that you can . . .

- · Pause the live program or rewind it
- · Fast-forward through the portion you have rewound
- · Instantly replay live TV anytime you want
- · Save the buffered program to the Explorer DVR by recording it

Buffered Programs

The channel buffer automatically buffers the last hour of the channel that you are watching and continues to buffer it until you ...



Watch the channel for longer than an hour

After an hour, the Explorer DVR removes the earlier minutes of the program from its buffer so that only the last hour is kept in the buffer.



Tune to another progam

When you change channels, the Explorer DVR begins to buffer the program you have just tuned to. It removes the program you were watching from the buffer.



Turn off the Explorer DVR

When you turn off the Explorer DVR, it erases everything from its buffer.



Have the Explorer DVR record the program

When you press **Record Q**, the Explorer DVR records the portion of the live program it has buffered, and begins recording the rest of the live program as it is broadcast.

• When recording, the red **Record** light turns on.

Get Started

Getting started is easy. After you've connected the Explorer DVR to your TV, VCR, or other audio-video equipment, you only need to prepare the remote control as described here. If you have an HDTV and are not using a DVI connection, you also need to set up the 8000HD to work with your HDTV.

Note: Your cable service provider may have already installed and connected the Explorer DVR for you. If not, follow the instructions in the Connection and Set Up guide that came with your Explorer DVR to make the appropriate connections.

Prepare the Remote Control to Work With Your TV and Explorer DVR

Set up the remote control in two steps:

- Prepare it to work with the make and model of your TV. (For additional information on preparing the remote control to work with your make and model of TV, refer to the guide that is included with your remote control.)
- 2. Place it in Cable mode as described in the picture at right.

Note: Your cable service provider may have already placed the remote control in Cable mode for you. You can verify this by pressing the **Power** we key to see how the Explorer DVR responds.

What's Next?

If you have a standard TV, you're ready to explore your entertainment options. Refer to other sections of this guide for assistance in making the most of the features your 8000 offers.

If you have an HDTV, you may need to prepare the 8000HD to work with your HDTV. Refer to "Prepare the Explorer 8000HD Explorer DVR to Work With Your High- Definition TV" on page 6. To place the remote control in Cable mode, press **Cable** (a). The **Cable** (a) key blinks red when you press it to indicate that it is in Cable mode. When the remote control is in Cable mode and you press **Power** (a), the green **Power** indicator on the front of the Explorer DVR turns on or off depending on the current status of the Explorer DVR.

Note: Each time you press a key on the remote control, one of the four mode keys blinks red to indicate the mode the remote control is in.



Can't find a key on the remote? Open the foldout on the back cover of this guide to display the illustration of the remote control.

How Programs Are Formatted

Programs are broadcast in various picture formats. The picture format is one factor that determines how your television displays a program. A picture format is made up of the picture's aspect ratio and screen resolution.

Aspect Ratios

The aspect ratio of a picture is the ratio of its width to its height. A standard picture format is 4 units wide for every 3 units tall, so its aspect ratio is 4×3 , or 4:3.



Standard (4:3)



A wide picture format has an aspect ratio of 16:9, meaning that the picture is 16 units wide for every 9 units tall.

Screen Resolution

The screen resolution indicates the amount of detail that the picture displays. Resolution is identified by the number of display lines on the screen. For example, a resolution of 1080i indicates that the screen shows 1080 lines in an interlaced display, and 480p means that the screen shows 480 lines in a progressive display.

Progressive and *interlaced* describe the technique that your HDTV uses to "paint" the picture on the screen.

With the interlaced method, half of the lines on the screen are updated with every new video frame. In one frame, an interlaced screen updates all of the odd-numbered lines on the screen. In the next frame, it updates all of the even-numbered lines.

The progressive method, on the other hand, updates each line on the screen every time the frame changes.



480 Interlaced



480 Progressive

How HDTVs Display Picture Formats

The type of screen your HDTV uses (wide-screen or standard-screen) also determines how your HDTV displays the various picture formats that are broadcast today.

Note: For your HDTV to display some picture formats, the 8000HD must be set up to output these formats to your HTDV. See the next page for details.

| Standard-Screen HDTVs automatically | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| display these picture formats: | | | |

480p or 480i standard



In this manner: In full screen



480p, 480i, 720p, or 1080i wide



Wide-screen HDTVs automatically display these picture formats:

480p or 480i standard



480p, 480i, 720p, or 1080i wide



In letterbox format



In this manner:

In pillarbox format



In full screen



Prepare the Explorer 8000HD DVR to Work With Your **High-Definition TV**

If you have an HDTV and are not using a DVI connection, you may need to set up the 8000HD so that it provides video to your HDTV in picture formats that your HDTV supports. Otherwise, your picture quality may be less than optimal.

During installation, your cable service provider may have already selected an appropriate picture format for you, or the factory setting of the 8000HD may be compatible with your HDTV. In either of these instances, you should see a picture when you turn on your HDTV and 8000HD.

Note: For an illustration of how HDTVs display various picture formats, see pages 4 and 5.

| If your HDTV supports: | The HDTV displays this when ON: | Follow these steps to setup the 8000HD: | |
|--|---------------------------------|---|--|
| A 1080i picture format | A picture | There are no steps to follow. (Your HDTV uses the picture format that the 8000HD is set to when it leaves the factory.) | |
| | | Optional: Although the 8000HD uses a format that your HDTV supports, you | |
| | or | may find the picture quality less than optimal when viewing certain picture formats. To enhance the display of certain formats, select additional picture format settings. For details, see "Selecting Picture Formats With the Setup Wizard" on page 8. | |
| These picture formats: 480i (standard or wide) 480p (standard or wide) | A black screen | Use the keys on the front of the 8000HD to select these formats. See "Selecting Compatible Picture Formats" on the next page. | |

720p (wide only)



Selecting Compatible Picture Formats

If your HDTV displays a black screen when you turn it on, the 8000HD may not be sending your HDTV a picture format that the HDTV supports. Follow these steps to select picture format settings that your HDTV supports.

Note: Rather than selecting a single picture format setting, you may want to select all settings that your HDTV supports. Setting up the 8000HD to support a variety of picture formats allows you to toggle among the different settings while viewing TV and select the setting that provides the best picture quality for the format being broadcast.

- 1. Find the picture formats that your HDTV supports (If necessary, refer to the users manual that came with your HDTV.)
- 2. If the 8000HD is off, press the **Power** we we on the remote control to turn it on.
- On the front of the 8000HD, press and hold the Select we key until the Message Light = ⊡ blinks.
- 4. Then on the front of the 8000HD, press the Vol key to indicate that you want to select a picture format setting. The LED display shows HdSr to indicate that you are in the Picture Format mode for HDTV screens.
- 5. Use the following table to select settings that your HDTV supports.

Important: You have 20 seconds to begin selecting picture format settings. After 20 seconds, **HdSr** disappears to indicate that the 8000HD is no longer in the Picture Format mode. If this occurs, repeat this process by starting at step 3.

| To Select This Picture Format: | On the 8000HD Press: | The 8000HD Briefly Displays: | And Then Briefly Displays: |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 480i | CH+ | 480i | SEt |
| 720p | VOL- | 720p | SEt |
| 480p | CH- | 480p | SEt |
| 1080i | VOL+ | 1080i | SEt |

Note: The last setting (1080i) is the default picture format setting.

 To start watching TV, make sure the remote control is in Cable mode. You can change the picture format to any of the settings you selected above. Refer to "Change the Picture Format" on page 43.

Selecting Picture Formats With the Setup Wizard

Setting up the 8000HD to support a variety of picture formats allows you to toggle among the settings you have chosen while watching TV and select the setting that provides the best picture quality for the format currently being broadcast.

There are three ways you can select picture formats for your HDTV. The 8000HD Setup Wizard guides you through each one:

- The Quick Setup method, which automatically selects a setting according to the screen type:
 - For a standard-screen (4:3) HDTV, the Wizard selects 480i.
 - For a wide-screen HDTV (16:9) HDTV, the Wizard selects 1080i.
- The Standard Setup method, which selects the settings 480i and 1080i. You can then toggle between these two settings while watching TV.
- The Custom Setup method, which allows you to select any combination of the following picture formats that the 8000HD supports:
 - 480p (wide and standard)
 - 480i (wide and standard)
 - 720p (wide only)
 - 1080i (wide only)

To start the Setup Wizard, follow these steps:

- 1. Make sure that the Explorer DVR is **OFF** and the HDTV is **On**.
- 2. On the Explorer DVR, press the Guide and Info keys at the same time.
- After pressing the **Guide** and **Info** keys, 3. the Output Selection screen appears.
- 4. On the remote control, press \bigwedge to select the HD output type. The Set TV Screen Type screen appears.

Note: If the Setup Wizard begins cycling through all of the settings, wait for the Output Selection screen to display properly, and then press A. The Setup



Wizard begins cycling when there is a delay in pressing A.

- Press one of the following options to select a TV screen type: 5.
 - If you have a standard-screen HDTV, press A. The Set Picture Format screen appears.
 - If you have a wide-screen HDTV, press
 The Set Picture Format screen appears.

- 6. Use one of the following methods to select a picture format setting:
 - To use a setting of 480i for a standard-screen HDTV and a setting of 1080i for a wide-screen HDTV, use the Quick Setup method. For assistance selecting one of these settings, follow the on-screen instructions.
 - To be able to toggle between the settings 1080i and 480i while watching TV, use the Standard Setup method. For assistance selecting, these settings, follow the on-screen instructions.
 - To select any combination of the settings that the 8000HD supports, use the Custom Setup method.
 For assistance using this method, see "Using Custom Setup to Select Picture Formats," shown next.



To start watching TV, press Exit , Cable , and then Power . While watching TV, you can change the Picture format to any of the settings you selected. Refer to "Change the Picture Format" on page 43.

Using Custom Setup to Select Picture Formats

The steps described here help you use the Custom Setup method to select any combination of the picture format settings that the 8000HD provides.

With this method, you can toggle among the settings you have selected while watching TV. This allows you to select the setting that provides the best picture quality for the type of picture format being broadcast. (For help in toggling among different settings, see "Change the Picture Format" on page 43.)

- 1. If you have not already done so, start the Setup Wizard as described in steps 1-5 on the previous page.
- 2. When the **Set Picture Format** screen appears, press **C** to select **Custom Setup**.
- 3. Press \underline{A} to acknowledge that the HDTV is in Normal display mode.
- 4. Press <u>A</u> to start the custom setup process, which allows you to test each setting, one at a time, and gives you the opportunity to select the settings that provide a good picture quality.

Note: After you select a setting to test, wait 5 seconds for the HDTV to apply the setting.

- 5. Follow the on-screen instructions to select settings that provide a good picture quality.
- Press Exit . The End Setup screen displays and lists the settings you selected.
- To start watching TV, press Exit , Cable , and then Power . You can change the Picture format to any of the settings you selected. Refer to "Change the Picture Format" on page 43.

Make the Most of Your Entertainment Options

After you set up the remote control and the 8000HD, you are ready to . . .

- · Find out when programs are broadcast
- · Control live TV or recordings
- · Record one program while watching another live program
- · Watch two programs at once with the PIP feature
- · Record programs and play them back
- Manage programs and recordings
- · Watch HD and non-HD programs with the 8000HD

Note: If you have a wide-screen HDTV, you may find that you can improve the appearance of certain programs by adjusting the picture display. For assistance in adjusting the picture, see "Adjust Pictures On a Wide-Screen HDTV" on page 42.

Protect Your Recordings

To extend the life of the Explorer DVR and to save money on your electric bill, turn **Off** the Explorer DVR each night before going to bed.

When the Explorer DVR is powered **Off** (and plugged into an active outlet), all scheduled recordings will be performed automatically – and your recordings will be protected.

Turning off your Explorer DVR also resets the Parental Control feature so that it turns on automatically whenever the Explorer DVR turns on. Turning off the Explorer DVR and turning it back on is the easiest way to turn on Parental Control for all the programming you have chosen to block. For more information on this feature, see "Block Programs With Parental Control" on page 33.

Each night before you go to bed, make sure that the green **Power** indicator is off.



Find Out When Your Favorite Programs Are On

From the Program Guide, you can search for programs by channel number, program title, theme, or broadcast date. After you find a program, you can tune to it directly from the guide. This section provides instructions to . . .

- · Display the Program Guide
- · Select a program from the Program Guide
- · Search for a program by channel, title, or theme
- · Search for a program by date

Can't find a key on the remote? Open the foldout on the back cover of this guide to display the illustration of the remote control.

Display the Program Guide

- 1. Press **Guide** (a). The Program Guide appears and lists the next 7 days of programs.
- 2. To close the guide, press **Guide** (GUDE) or **Exit** (D). The Program Guide closes and displays the program that was playing in the Quarter screen.



Select a Program From the Program Guide

- 1. Press **Guide** (IDE). The Program Guide appears and lists the next 7 days of programs.
- 2. Press the **directional keys** (()) to move through the program listings and highlight the program you want to watch.
- Press Select see. If the program is currently on, the Program Guide closes and the program you selected appears in full-screen TV. If the program is on in the future, a future program option screen appears.

Search for a Program by Channel, Title, or Theme

The Explorer DVR automatically lists programs by channel number, but you can change this and list programs by title or theme.

- 1. Press **Guide** (IDE). The Program Guide appears and lists the next 7 days of programs.
- 2. Press **Browse By** A. The Browse By area of the Program Guide displays the options Title, Channel, and Theme.
- Press Move Up or Move Down to highlight one of the following options:
 - · Channel, which lists programs numerically by channel number
 - Title, which lists programs alphabetically by program title
 - **Theme**, which lists programs by theme, such as adventure, comedy, sports, or news
- 4. Press **Select sec**. The Browse By area of the Program Guide displays the programs according to the option you selected.



Reading HDLN 36 Headline News 4:00-5:00pm Up-to-the-minute coverage of the alest events. 💿 🗛 🎧 Wed 6/18 4:02pm TITLE A-Z PROGRAM TIME CH Hawaii Five-0 Hawthome 8:30nm 4 36 Н (*)4:00pm Headline News A Browse By B Date WED 6/18 0 ⊋

4:02pr

Wed 6/18

 $(\star$

B Date WED 6/18

TIME CH

🧿 ⊋

HDLN 36 Headline News

4:00-5:00pm

THEME

À Browse By

News

latest events Coci ISAPI

Browse By Channel

Channel lists programs numerically by channel number.

Browse By Title

Title lists programs alphabetically by program title.

Note: A star next to a program indicates that the program is currently being broadcast.

Browse By Theme

Theme lists programs by theme, such as adventure, comedy, sports, or news.

Note: A star next to a program indicates that the program is currently being broadcast.

Search for a Program by Date

- 1. Press **Guide GUDE**. The Program Guide appears and lists the next 7 days of programs.
- 2. Press **Date** B. The Browse By area of the Program Guide displays the next 7 dates.
- 3. Press **Move Up** I or **Move Down** I to highlight a date.
- 4. Press **Select (see**). The Program Guide displays the programs that will be broadcast on that date.

Control Live TV and Recordings

With the Explorer DVR, you control how you watch a program because, in many ways, you can treat live programs like they are recordings. The Explorer DVR lets you control how you watch a program in all of the following ways:

- Pause a live program or a recording
- Replay the last 8 seconds of a live program or a recording using instant replay
- · Rewind a live program or a recording to watch a portion of it again
- Fast-forward through portions of a live program that you have rewound, or through portions of a recording that you don't want to watch
- · Slow the action of a live program or a recording to watch more closely
- · Watch action frame by frame in forward or reverse
- · Catch up with a live program to see what is currently being broadcast

Can't find a key on the remote? Open the foldout on the back cover of this guide to display the illustration of the remote control.

Pause a Live Program or a Recording

- 1. Press **Pause .** The action freezes and the **Status Bar** appears briefly in the Pause position at the bottom of the screen. For programs that you are watching live, the Explorer DVR will remain in pause for up to 1 hour.
- 2. Press **Pause** again or press **Play b** to resume playing the program.



Use Instant Replay

Press **Instant Replay ()** to watch the last 8 seconds of a live program or a recording again.

Note: The first time you press **Instant Replay** , the Explorer DVR replays the last 8 seconds of a live program or a recording. Every additional press jumps back 8 more seconds.

Rewind or Fast-Forward a Live Program or Recording

Rewind a live program or a recording to watch a portion of it again, or fast-forward through portions you don't want to watch. You can rewind or fast-forward in any of three different speeds, as shown in the box on the next page.

- 1. Make sure that that the program or recording is not in Pause mode. If it is paused, press **Play** .
- 2. Rewind or fast-forward the live program or recording by following these steps.

| То | Press | Result |
|--------|-------|--|
| Rewind | | Action reverses and the Status Bar appears in the Rewind position at the bottom of the screen. The pointer on the Status Bar moves to the left as you rewind the program. |
| | | Note: When you rewind a live program or recording to the point where you first tuned to it, the recording automatically begins replaying at normal speed. |
| | | Speed up: Press Rewind one or two more times to incrementally increase the speed. Press it again and the program resumes playing at normal speed. |

| То | Press | Result |
|--------------|-------|--|
| Fast-forward | * | Action speeds up and the Status Bar appears in the Fast-forward position at the bottom of the screen. The pointer on the Status Bar moves to the right as you fast-forward the program. |
| | | Speed up: Press Fast-forward (Press) one or two more times to incrementally increase the speed. Press it again and the program resumes playing at normal speed. |
| | | Live TV: When you reach the end of the buffered program and catch up with the live broadcast, the Status Bar briefly indicates Live and the program automatically begins playing at normal speed. |
| | | Recordings: When you reach the end of a recording, the Playback Status screen appears to give you the option to erase the recording. To exit from this screen and return to live TV, press Last (Last), or press Channel Up (a) or Channel Down (b). |

3. To resume play at normal speed, press **Play .** The **Status Bar** indicates the Play position and the program plays at normal speed.

Status Bar Speed Indicator

Rewind or fast-forward in any of three speeds:

- The first press (◀ or ▶) increases the speed to 4 times normal speed.
- The second press (<< or >>) increases the speed to 10 times normal speed.
- The third press (**\ or**)) increases the speed to **32 times** normal speed.



Use Slow Motion

- 1. While watching live TV or while playing a recording at normal speed, press **Play o** once. The action slows.
- 2. To resume play in normal speed, press **Play D** again.

Watch Action Frame by Frame

Analyze sports events and other programs by watching the action frame by frame. When you watch frame by frame, you fast-forward or reverse the action one second at a time.

- 1. Press **Pause**. The action stops.
- 2. Fast-forward or reverse action one frame at a time by following these steps.

| To Move Action | Press | Result |
|--------------------------|-------|--|
| Back by one second | Ŧ | Each time you press Rewind , action moves backward by one second. |
| Forward by one second | * | Each time you press Fast-forward (1997) , action moves forward by one second. |

3. To resume play at normal speed, press **Play D**.

Catch Up With a Live TV Program

When you pause or rewind a live program, the program continues to be broadcast. You can continue watching the buffered program (delayed TV), or you can catch up with the live broadcast by pressing **Live (I)**.

Note: The Live we is inactive when you are playing back a recording.

Watch Two Programs At Once

Watch a soccer game and a basketball game at the same time by using the PIP feature. The Explorer DVR gives you the ability to use PIP even if your TV doesn't have PIP. This section provides instructions to . . .

- · Turn the PIP feature on and off
- · Change the channel of the PIP screen
- · Move the location of the PIP screen
- · Swap the main screen and the PIP screen

Can't find a key on the remote? Open the foldout on the back cover of this guide to display the illustration of the remote control. The dedicated PIP keys are shown in blue.

Turn PIP On and Off

When you turn on the PIP feature, you can watch two channels at once. One channel appears as a full-screen image; the other appears as a small image within the full-screen image.

 While watching a program, press **PIP On/Off** . The PIP screen appears within the full screen, and a channel banner appears briefly under the PIP screen.

Note: You will hear the sound of only the program that is shown in the full screen.

 To turn off the PIP screen, press PIP On/Off again.

Notes:

- If you press Info when the PIP feature is on, a channel banner appears for both screens. If either program is currently being recorded, its channel banner will show the Recording Now REC symbol.
- You can turn on the PIP feature only while watching TV in full-screen.



Change the Channel of the PIP Screen

- 1. If the PIP feature is not on, turn it on. (See the previous page, "Turn PIP On and Off," for details.)
- 2. Press **PIP Channel Up** or **PIP Channel Down** to change the PIP channel.

Note: You must press the PIP channel keys to change the channel of the PIP screen. Pressing the main **Channel Up** or **Channel Down** key changes the channel of the program that is shown in the main TV screen.

Move the Location of the PIP Screen

If the PIP screen blocks action in the main TV screen, move the PIP screen by pressing **Move** .

Possible Positions of the PIP Screen

Each time you press **Move** , the PIP screen moves clockwise to the next corner of the main TV screen as shown here.



Swap the Main Screen and the PIP Screen

To move the full-screen program shown in the main TV screen to the PIP screen, press **Swap**.



Recordings and the PIP Screen

If you are . . .

Recording the program in the PIP screen

Recording the program in the main TV screen

Recording the program in the PIP or the main TV screen

And you . . .

Turn off the PIP feature, the program continues to be recorded.

Have the PIP feature on, the recording does not capture the PIP screen in the recording. The recording shows only the program in the main TV screen.

Press **Info** (MO), an information banner appears for both the PIP and main TV screens. (If a program is being recorded, the **Recording Now REC** symbol appears in the channel banner.) The recording does not capture the channel banner in the recording.

The PIP Screen and the Quarter Screen

The PIP screen and the Quarter screen look alike, but they are different. The Quarter screen is actually the main TV screen, but it has been reduced, as shown here, to fit within Explorer screens such as the **Recorded Program Options** screen.

To control the program in the Quarter screen, use the main keys on the remote control. To control the program in the PIP screen, use the PIP keys.



Record and Play Back Programs

Record programs and watch them whenever you want by referring to the topics in this section:

- · Record a program that you are watching live
- · Record a single program or all episodes of a future program
- · Record two programs at once
- · Record a pay-per-view event
- · Display a list of your recorded programs
- · Play back a recording
- · Display a list of programs that you have scheduled to be recorded in the future
- · Cancel a scheduled recording
- · Cancel a recording that is in progress

Can't find a key on the remote? Open the foldout on the back cover of this guide to display the illustration of the remote control.

Saving Your Recordings

Whether you record a program you are watching live or schedule a program to be recorded in the future, you have three ways that you can select how long to save the recording.

- Use the default Save Time setting. Using the default Save Time setting is the quickest way to save recordings because you don't need to select the save time each time you record a program. For details, see "Recording With the Default Save Time Setting" on page 24.
- Select the Save Time when you schedule a new recording. For details, see "Recording Without the Default Save Time Setting" on page 25.
- Change the Save Time after recording a program. For details, see "Change the Save Time of a Recording You Have Saved" on page 40.



Important: Because the Explorer DVR can save between 30 and 50 hours of recordings, depending on the programming source, it is not intended as a long-term storage device. When saving recordings, consider the impact of the save time on your storage space.

Want to maximize your storage space? Reduce the length of your Save Time setting.

Record a Program That You Are Watching Live

To record a program that you are watching live, make sure that you tune to the channel when the program begins. This ensures that you record the entire program from its beginning. Otherwise, you'll record only part of the program.

Before recording the program, decide how long you want to save it, and then follow these steps.

Save Time Setting

When the Explorer DVR leaves the factory, its default Save Time setting is set at 14 days. Using this setting, the Explorer DVR automatically saves each recording for 14 days. At the end of 14 days, the Explorer DVR erases the recording to make space for other



programs you want to record. You can change the default setting from 14 days to 1, 2, or 7 days, or you can change the default setting to save recordings until you erase them.

To change the default Save Time setting from the factory-set time of 14 days, see "Change the Default Save Time Setting for Future Recordings" on page 39.

| To save the program | Follow the steps in |
|-----------------------|--|
| Using the default | "Recording With the Default Save |
| Save Time setting | Time Setting," shown on this page. |
| 1, 2, 7, or 14 days, | "Recording Without the Default Save |
| or until you erase it | Time Setting," shown on the next page. |

Recording With the Default Save Time Setting

If you want to record a program that you are watching and save it according to your default Save Time setting, follow these steps:

- 1. Press **Record** O. The **Confirm Recording** screen appears.
- Press Select ser. The Explorer DVR records the program using the default Save Time setting.



Recording Without the Default Save Time Setting

If you want to record a program that you are watching and save it for a length of time other than your default Save Time setting, follow these steps.

- 1. Press **Record** . The **Confirm Recording** screen appears.
- 2. Press **Options** A. The **Edit Recording** screen appears.
- 3. Press Move Left Conce. The "Save Time" options are highlighted.
- Press Move Up or Move Down to highlight the length of time you want to save the recording.
- 5. Press Accept Recording A. The Explorer DVR records the program using the Save Time option that you selected.



While the Explorer DVR records ...

You are free to do the following without affecting the recording:

- Continue to watch the channel while the recording is being made.
- Pause, fast-forward, or rewind the program.
- Change channels (as long as only one program is being recorded).
- Turn off the TV.
- Turn on the PIP feature.
- Display the **Recorded List** screen or the Program Guide.
- · Playback a recording.



Want to maximize your storage space? Reduce the length of your Save Time setting.

Record a Single Program or All Episodes of a Future Program

To record programs when you are away or to schedule future recordings, start the recording from the Program Guide.

- 1. If the Program Guide is not shown, press **Guide GUDE**. The guide appears with the program you are tuned to highlighted.
- 2. Press the **directional keys** (()) to move through the listings in the guide and highlight the program you want to record. Or, press **Browse By** and look for a program by title, channel, or theme.
- 3. Press **Record O**. The **Confirm Recording** screen appears.
 - To record a single program, follow the instructions in the following table for "A single program."
 - To record all episodes of a program, follow the instructions in the table on the next page for "All episodes."

| To Record | Press | Result |
|---------------------|-------|--|
| A single program | SELCT | The Explorer DVR saves this information and displays the Program Guide, which now highlights the program title in red. A red highlight indicates that a program is scheduled to be recorded. |

How Many HD Programs Can the 8000HD Record and Store?

The standard 8000HD can store a minimum of 7 hours of HD programs. Optional models of 8000HDs have a higher storage capacity. Contact your cable service provider for details about the storage capacity of your 8000HD model.

HD programs require more storage space than non-HD programs because HD programs use more *pixels* than non-HD programs. HD programs need more pixels in order to produce images with the clarity and crispness that are characteristic of HD pictures.

Want to maximize your storage space? Reduce the length of your Save Time setting.

Important: Whenever you set up the Explorer DVR to record all episodes of a program, it records indefinitely until you cancel the recordings or run out of storage space. For details on making the most of your storage space, see "Maximize Your Storage Space" on page 38.

| To Record | Press | Result |
|--------------|--------|---|
| All episodes | A | The Edit Recording screen appears. |
| | Twice | The "Record" options are highlighted. |
| | or | Each option is highlighted as you move up or down the list. Stop when "All episodes" is highlighted. |
| | SELCT | The "Record" options show "All episodes" and the "Save Latest" options are now highlighted. (For details, see "Save Latest Options" at the bottom of this page.) |
| | or | Each option is highlighted as you move up or down the list. Stop when the option you want to select is highlighted. |
| | SELECT | The "Save Latest" options show your selection. |
| | À | The Explorer DVR saves this information so that it can record episodesas they are broadcast. |

Save Latest Options

When scheduling a recording of all episodes, you can choose to save the 2, 3, 4, or 5 most recent episodes. Or, you can save every episode until you cancel the recordings or run out of storage space.

For example, let's say that you choose to save the 2 most recent episodes of a program that is broadcast every weeknight Monday through Friday. When the Explorer DVR records the program on Wednesday, it automatically deletes the program it recorded on Monday. So the Tuesday and Wednesday recordings are now saved. Then, on Thursday, the Thursday episode will be recorded, the Tuesday recording will be erased, and so on.



Record Two Programs at Once

The Explorer DVR gives you different ways to record two programs at once:

- Schedule two programs to record at the same time by following either of the procedures in "Record a Single Program or All Episodes of a Future Program" on page 26.
- Record two programs live at the save time by recording one program and then tuning to another channel and recording a second program. For details on recording programs live, see "Record a Program That You are Watching Live" on page 24.
- When recording two programs live at the same time, you can watch them while they record using PIP, or you can play back a previously recorded program and watch it as well, but you cannot tune to another channel and watch a third program live.

Record a Pay-Per-View Event

If your cable service provider allows, you can record pay-per-view events.

- 1. Purchase the event and wait for it to begin playing.
- 2. Record the event just like any other live program. For details, see "Record a Program That You Are Watching Live" on page 24.

Recording and Watching Programs

If, while recording two programs, you try to tune to another channel, the Explorer DVR displays a **Channel Change Notice** to let you know that you must stop a recording to change channels. For details, see "Cancel a Recording That Is in Progress" on page 31.



Display a List of Your Recorded Programs

To display a list of your recorded programs, press List us.

To exit from the **Recorded List** screen and display full-screen TV, press **List** use again or press **Exit** .



Play Back a Recording

Play back your recordings whenever you want. You can even record one or two programs live while you play back any program you recorded earlier. But you can play back only one recording at a time.

- If the Recorded List screen is not displayed, press List user. The Recorded List screen appears.
- 2. Press **Move Up** or **Move Down** to highlight the recording you want to watch.
- Press Select (see). If you select the recording that you have most recently watched, the recording begins playing immediately. Otherwise, the Recorded Program Options screen appears with the option "Play [title of program]" highlighted.
- 4. Press **Select ser**. The recording begins playing. You can use the pause, rewind, fast-forward, or any other keys on the remote.
- When the recording finishes (or when you fast-forward to the end of the recording), the **Playback Status** screen appears. To exit from this screen and return to live TV, press Last (AST) or press Channel Up (a) or Channel Down (a).

Want to maximize your storage space? Erase or copy recordings to a VCR tape after watching them.

Display a List of Programs You Have Scheduled To Be Recorded in the Future

- If the Recorded List screen is not displayed, press List IIII. The Recorded List screen appears.
- 2. Press Scheduled Recordings A. The Scheduled Recordings screen appears with a list of all the programs you have scheduled to record.



Cancel a Scheduled Recording

You can cancel a scheduled recording at any time.

- If the Recorded List screen is not displayed, press List IIII. The Recorded List screen appears.
- 2. Press Scheduled Recordings A. The Scheduled Recordings screen appears.
- 3. Press **Move Up** or **Move Down** to highlight the recording you want to cancel.
- 4. Press Select . The Edit Scheduled Recording screen appears.
- 5. Press **Cancel Recording B**. The **Confirm Cancel** screen appears with the question "Are you sure you want to cancel recording this program?" displayed.
- 6. Press **Yes**, Cancel A.

Cancel a Recording That Is in Progress

You can stop a recording in progress at any time. When you stop a recording, you can save what has been recorded or erase the entire recording.

- 1. If you are not watching the recording, tune to the channel that is being recorded.
- 2. Press **Stop .** The **Stop Recording** screen appears.
- 3. Press **Move Up** or **Move Down** to highlight either the option "stop and save" or the option " stop and erase."
- 4. Press **Select** (sec). The red **Record** indicator on the front of the Explorer DVR turns off.

Forget Which Channel You're Recording?

The Explorer DVR gives you three ways to find channels that are currently being recorded:

- Turn on the PIP feature and press **Info (NO)**. Both channel banners appear, and the **Recording Now (REC)** symbol is displayed if one or both of the channels is currently recording.
- Display the Recorded List screen and, as you move up or down the list, look in the Information area of the screen for a recording with the Recording Now REC symbol.
- Display the Program Guide and look for a program that is highlighted in red.

If you want to view the program that is being recorded, select the program either from the **Recorded List** screen or from the Program Guide, and then press **Select** (stop).

Manage Programs and Recordings

You can manage programs and recordings in the following ways:

- Keep others from watching a program or recording by using the Parental Control and Block features
- Maximize your storage space
- · Copy recordings to a VCR tape
- · Change the default Save Time for future recordings
- Change the Save Time of a recording that you have saved
- · Erase a recording

Can't find a key on the remote? Open the foldout on the back cover of this guide to display the illustration of the remote control.

Block Programs With Parental Control

You can prevent children or anyone else from watching specific programs by using both the Block and the Parental Control features:

- First, select programs you want to block. (For details, see "Selecting Programs To Be Blocked" next in this section.)
- Then, turn blocking on by turning on the Parental Control feature. (For details, see "Turning Parental Control On and Off" on page 35.) When programs are blocked in this manner, they can be watched only after entering a 4-digit personal identification number (PIN).

Selecting Programs To Be Blocked

You can select programs to block by channel, rating, time of day, or any combination of these methods as described in the following steps:

Note: Even if you have blocked programming by channel, rating, or time or day, you can record the blocked programming. However, the Explorer DVR *blocks the playback* of the recording so that it is played back only after you have entered a valid Parental Control personal indentification number (PIN).

- 1. Press Settings wice. The General Settings menu appears.
- Press Move Up or Move Down to highlight one of the following options:
 - Block: Channels blocks all programs on a specific channel.
 - Block:Rating blocks all programs according to the rating assigned to the program, such as G, PG, PG-13, or R.
 - Block:Time New blocks all programs broadcast during a specific time.
Manage Programs and Recordings

- 3. Press Select . A PIN Entry screen appears.
- 4. Press the number keys to enter your 4-digit Personal Identification Number (PIN). A menu for the option you selected in step 2 appears.
- 5. Press **Move Up** or **Move Down** to highlight the channel, rating, or date you want to block. Or, if your cable service provider allows, you may select a channel by pressing the numeric keys on your remote control.
- 6. Press **Select (sec)**. The Explorer DVR indicates that the channel or rating is blocked. If you are blocking a broadcast time, skip to step 8. Otherwise, go to step 7.

Note: The Explorer DVR indicates a blocked channel or blocked rating in the following ways:

- Blocked channels: The channel number is listed in the right column on the General Settings menu, and a Closed Lock 1 symbol appears in the CHANNELS column next to the channel that you selected.
- Blocked ratings: A Closed Lock i symbol appears in the RATING column next to the rating that you selected.
- 7. Continue this process of highlighting and selecting the channels or ratings you want to block. When all channels and ratings that you want to block have a Closed Lock is symbol next to them, press Accept A to have the Explorer DVR accept your blocks. Go to step 10.
- 8. In the START column on the **General Settings** menu, change the time shown to the time you want the block to start by following this process:
 - First, press **Move Left** or **Move Right** to highlight the one you want to change (hours, minutes, and A.M. or P.M.).
 - Then, press Move Up or Move Down to change the setting.
 Or, if your cable service provider allows, you may select a setting by pressing the numeric keys on your remote control.
 - Repeat this process to change each setting as necessary.
 - When the correct START time is shown, press **Select second**. The time you want to start blocking programs appears in the START column and the cursor moves to the STOP column.
- 9. In the STOP column, change the time shown to the time you want the block to end by following this process:
 - First, press **Move Left** or **Move Right** to highlight the one you want to change (hours, minutes, and A.M. or P.M.).
 - Then, press **Move Up** or **Move Down** to change each setting. Or, if your cable service provider allows, you may select a setting by pressing the numeric keys on your remote control.
 - · Repeat this process to change each setting as necessary.
 - When the correct STOP time is shown, press **Accept** A to have the Explorer DVR accept the start and stop times you have entered.
- 10. Turn on the Parental Control feature to have the Explorer DVR block the programming you selected. For details, see "Turning Parental Control On and Off" on the next page.

Removing Blocking From Programs

To remove blocking from programming, follow the same steps in the previous procedure, "Selecting Programs To Be Blocked." The process you follow to remove blocking is essentially the same as the process for selecting programs to be blocked. When you remove blocking from programs, the **Closed Lock** symbol is removed to indicate that the programming is no longer selected for blocking.

Turning Parental Control On and Off

When you turn on the Parental Control feature, you can watch blocked programs only after entering your 4-digit Parental Control PIN.

Important: As a precaution, the Explorer DVR automatically turns on the Parental Control feature whenever you turn off the Explorer DVR from the **Power** button on the front of the Explorer DVR.

- 1. If you have not already done so, select the programming you want to block. See "Selecting Programs to be Blocked" on page 33.
- 2. Press **Settings** . The **Quick Settings** menu appears.
- 3. Press Move Up r or Move Down to highlight the option **Turn OFF/ON Parental Control**.
- Press Select sur to change the Parental Control setting to ON or OFF. The PIN Entry screen appears.
 - When Parental Control is on, programs that you have selected for blocking can be viewed only by those who know your PIN.
 - When Parental Control is off, programs that you have selected for blocking can be viewed by anyone.
- 5. Press the numeric keys on the remote control and enter your 4-digit PIN. The **PIN Entry** screen disappears.

Note: These symbols indicate the status of the Parental Control feature:

- A **Closed Lock** on the channel banner indicates that the Parental Control feature is on and that this channel or program is blocked.
- An **Open Lock** indicates that the Parental Control feature is off and that this channel or program is set to be blocked, but is not currently blocked.

Block Recordings With Parental Control

You can keep others from watching a recording by using the Block feature. When using this feature, keep in mind that you can block only recordings that you are not watching. This feature is useful if children also use the Explorer DVR and you do not want them to watch certain recordings.

Note: To block a program that is scheduled to be recorded, block the program from the **General Settings** menu. (For details, see "Block Programs With Parental Control" on page 33.) The Explorer DVR will record the program, but the recording can be watched only after entering your 4-digit Parental Blocking PIN.

- If the Recorded List screen is not displayed, press List www.istation.org The Recorded List screen appears.
- 2. Press **Move Up** or **Move Down** to highlight the recording you want to block.
- 3. Press Select . The Recorded Program Options screen appears.
- 4. Press Move Down C. The option "Block [title of program]" is highlighted.
- 5. Press Select . The PIN Entry screen appears.
- 6. Press the number keys to enter your 4-digit PIN. The **PIN Entry** screen disappears, and the **Closed Lock 1** symbol appears in the Information area of the **Recorded List** screen.

Recorded Program Options Screen

After you block a recording, the **Closed Lock** is symbol appears in the Information area to indicate that the recording can be played only by entering a PIN.

In addition to blocking a • program from this screen, you can also play or erase a program, or you can change the save time of a program.





Want to maximize your storage space? Erase or copy recordings to a VCR tape after watching them.

Maximize Your Storage Space

The Explorer DVR can save from 30 to 50 hours of recordings, depending on the programming source; it is not intended as a long-term storage device. To make the most efficient use of your storage space, follow these guidelines:

- Set your default Save Time setting to 14 days or less. Setting it to "until erased" causes the storage space to fill up more quickly. (For details, see "Change the Default Save Time Setting for Future Recordings" on page 39.)
- After you watch a recording, decide to either erase it or keep it permanently by transferring it to a VCR tape. (For details, see "Erase a Recording" on page 40, or "Copy Recordings to a VCR Tape," shown next.)

Copy Recordings to a VCR Tape

When you copy recordings to a VCR tape, make sure that the recording is displayed on the main TV screen for the entire time that the recording is being copied. If you change channels or display other Explorer screens during the copying process, your tape copy will contain these images and you will not have a complete copy of the recording.

1. Connect the VCR to the **Cable Out** or **OUT 1 (TV)** connection on the back of the Explorer DVR.

Note: In the near future, the VCR port can be used for recording to VCR tape. By using the VCR port, you can watch another channel or recording while you copy a recording to tape.

- Make sure that you have a tape in your VCR and that the VCR is set to record.
- 3. Press List III. The Recorded List screen appears.
- 4. Press **Move Up** or **Move Down** to highlight the recording you want to copy to the VCR.
- 5. Press **Select (see**). The **Recorded Program Options** screen appears with the option "Play [title of program]" highlighted.
- 6. Press **Select** . As the recording plays, it is copied to your VCR tape.

Want to maximize your storage space? Erase or copy recordings to a VCR tape after watching them and reduce the length of your Save Time setting.

Change the Default Save Time Setting for Future Recordings

When the Explorer DVR leaves the factory, its default Save Time setting is set at 14 days. Using this setting, the Explorer DVR automatically saves each recording for 14 days. At the end of 14 days, the Explorer DVR erases the recording to make space for other programs you want to record. You can change this setting from 14 days to 1, 2, or 7 days, or to "until erased."

Important: When you change the default Save Time setting, it affects all future recordings, not the currently recorded programs.

To change the default Save Time setting, follow these steps:

- If the Recorded List screen is not displayed, press List www.istance.com. The Recorded List screen appears.
- 2. Press **Preferences B**. The **Preferences** screen appears.
- Press Move Up Or Move Down to highlight "Change Save Time for future Recordings."
- 4. Press Select sur. The options for "Save Time" appear.
- 5. Press **Move Up** for **Move Down** to highlight your desired Save Time.
- 6. Press **Select** (1). The "Save Time" options disappear, the **Preferences** screen appears, and the new default Save Time setting appears in the Information area of the screen as shown here.

| Preferences Screen | |
|---|--|
| After you select a new default Save Time, the Explorer DVR displays your new selection in the Information area. | Preferences Save time is 1 Day Press (a) to set how long future recordings will be saved. Options Options Soft Recorded List alphabetically (a) Change Save Time for future recordings (b) Schedule a new Manual Recording (c) Schedule Recordings (c) Schedule Recordings (c) Schedule Recordings |

Change the Save Time of a Recording You Have Saved

After recording a program, you can change how long the Explorer DVR will save the recording.

- 1. If the **Recorded List** screen is not displayed, press **List use**. The **Recorded List** screen appears.
- 2. Press **Move Up** or **Move Down** to highlight the recording whose Save Time you want to change.
- 3. Press **Select .** The **Recorded Program Options** screen appears.
- Press Move Up . The option "Change save time" is highlighted.
- 5. Press Select . The Change Save Time screen appears.
- 6. Press Move Up or Move Down to highlight the new Save Time.
- Press Select ser. In the Information area of the screen, the message "One moment please" appears and the new save time displays on the Recorded List screen.

Erase a Recording

Erase a recording and permanently remove it from the Explorer DVR. Erasing programs that you no longer want to watch creates space to record and store other programs. If the Explorer DVR becomes full, some programs may be partially saved or not saved at all. The Explorer DVR holds from 30 to 50 hours of programs.

- If the Recorded List screen is not displayed, press List IIII. The Recorded List screen appears.
- Press Move Up Or Move Down to highlight the recording you want to erase.
- 3. Press Select . The Recorded Program Options screen appears.
- 4. Press **Move Down** 🐼 twice. The option "Erase" is highlighted.
- 5. Press **Select (IEC)**. The message "Are you sure you want to erase this recording?" appears.
- 6. Press **Yes, Erase** A. The message "One moment please" appears in the Information area of the screen and the program is removed from the list.

Want to maximize your storage space? Erase or copy recordings to a VCR tape after watching them and reduce the length of your Save Time setting.



Adjust the Picture Display for HDTVs

You can watch high-definition (HD) programs if you have an HDTV that is connected to the 8000HD.

When watching programs on an HDTV, keep in mind that currently, broadcasters are offering HD programs from only their parent station, such as CBS, ABC, NBC, Fox, WB, UPN, or PBS. Other stations offer programs in non-HD formats, such as these:

- Standard definition (SD) format, which is usually a digital format, but can also be an analog format
- National Television Standards Committee (NTSC) format, which is the same analog format that broadcasters have been using since the 1940s

Because both HD and non-HD formats are being broadcast, the 8000HD automatically places bars around certain formats to enhance the picture as illustrated on page 5.

In addition to these automatic picture adjustments, you can select other ways to display pictures on HDTVs. The instructions in this section explain how to make the following adjustments:

- Adjust the picture on a wide-screen HDTV by removing the bars and filling the screen with the picture
- · Adjust the picture by changing the picture format
- · Change the darkness of bars used in picture displays

Adjust Pictures on a Wide-Screen HDTV

HD-formatted programs have a wide format, similar to the format used in movies. If your HDTV has a wide screen, it's perfectly suited to show HD programs.

However, non-HD programs do not use a wide format and are unable to fill the wide screen. For this reason, the 8000HD automatically adds bars to the sides of non-HD programs. This display setting is called Normal or "Pillarbox." However, you can select from two other settings: Stretch and Zoom. These two settings remove the bars and fill the wide screen with the picture.

Note: Stretch mode stretches the picture and removes the bars (letterbox bars or pillarbox bars) from the screen.

To select a setting other than Normal, cycle through the selections Normal, Stretch, and Zoom as described in the picture to the right.

Normal or "Pillarbox"

Normal or "Pillarbox" display is the setting that the 8000HD automatically uses. With a Normal display, bars appear on the sides of pictures broadcast in a non-HD format. Normal



Stretch

Stretch

To stretch the display, press once. The picture stretches to fill your widescreen television



Zoom

To enlarge the display, press
again. The picture enlarges to fill yourwidescreen television

Note: To return to the Normal setting, press
 one more time. Bars appear on the sides of the picture as shown in the television screen at the top.



Zoom

Change the Picture Format

Because the picture quality of a program is affected by many factors, such as how the program was originally recorded and the method used to broadcast the program, you may find that displaying certain programs in a specific picture format provides the picture quality you prefer.

Note: For details on setting your 8000HD to use more than one picture format setting, see "Selecting Picture Formats With the Setup Wizard" on page 8.

Follow these steps to change the picture format.

- 1. Press Settings . The Quick Settings menu appears.
- 2. Press Move Up r or Move Down to highlight Picture Format.
- 3. Press **Move Right** to highlight the picture format setting.
- 4. Press **Move Right** again to display another picture format setting. Each time you press **Move Right**, another setting displays.

Note: Only the settings that you selected using the Setup Wizard are available for selection. For example, if you used the Setup Wizard's Standard Setup method, only the settings 480i and 1080i are available for you to select.

- 5. Press **Select see** to view the picture with this setting.
- 6. If necessary, repeat these steps to find a setting that you prefer.

Change the Darkness of Bars Used in Picture Displays

As illustrated on page 5, the 8000HD automatically adds bars to certain types of program formats to improve the picture's display.

If you decide to use these automatic settings to watch programs, you can change the darkness of the bars from Light (the default setting) to Medium or Dark. To change the darkness of the bars that the 8000HD uses, follow these steps:

- 1. Press **Settings** wice. The **General Settings** menu appears.
- Press Move Up or Move Down to highlight the option Set:TV Borders.
- 3. Press **Move Right** to display the Borders options Light, Medium, and Dark.
- Press Move Up Or Move Down to highlight the shade you want to apply to the bars (Light, Medium, or Dark).
- 5. Press Accept A to have the 8000HD accept this setting. The 8000HD displays the Set:TV Borders option with your selection shown.
- 6. To exit from this screen and return to live TV, press Exit .

Caution: When displayed for too long, any fixed image, such as station logos, Pillarbox bars, or Letterbox bars, can reduce the ability of HDTVs to display colors evenly across the screen. When this occurs, the image becomes permanently burned into the screen leaving a faint image of it on the screen. This occurrence is known as "burn in." For ways to reduce the effects of burn in, refer to the user's guide that came with your HDTV.

Find Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

If you have questions or encounter difficulties controlling live TV, recording programs, playing recordings, or displaying the PIP screen, this section may provide the information you need. If not, see page 51, "Get More Information or Assistance."

Questions About the Explorer DVR

What happens if the Explorer DVR temporarily loses power?

The recordings that were saved prior to the power loss are preserved, except, of course, those recordings that were automatically deleted because their Save Time was reached. Future recording schedules are also preserved. You miss only the recordings that were scheduled to be made while the power was out.

Where can I find details on installing the Explorer DVR?

Access Scientific-Atlanta's Explorer eClub Web site at **www.scientificatlanta.com/explorerclub**. It contains documentation on a number of topics, including installation and setup. You will need the serial number of the Explorer DVR to access the Web site. See page 52 for details on locating the serial number.

Why doesn't the Explorer DVR respond when I press the keys on the remote control?

Your remote control may not be in the Cable mode. To use any of the features provided by the digital video recorder (DVR), including the PIP feature, the remote control must be in Cable mode. See page 3 for details.

Questions About Controlling a Live Program or Recording

How far back can I rewind a program?

It depends upon whether the program is a live or a recorded program. You can rewind all recorded programs to the beginning of the recording.

The situation is different for live programs. If you have watched a live program for less than one hour, you can rewind back to the point that you started watching the channel. If you have watched a live program for longer than an hour, you can rewind up to the last hour that you've watched. For details on how the Explorer DVR allows you to rewind, fast-forward, pause, or record live TV, see page 2.

Can I pause, rewind, or fast-forward a program in the PIP screen?

No. Keys such as pause, rewind, and fast-forward control only the program shown in the main TV screen. They also control the small *Quarter screen* that appears on Explorer DVR screens like the **Recorded List** screen and the Program Guide. See page 22 for details on the main TV screen and the Quarter screen.

Can I pause, rewind, or fast-forward a program shown in the upper right corner of Explorer screens?

Yes. The small screen shown in the upper right corner of Explorer screens (the *Quarter screen*) is actually the main TV screen. It is reduced to fit within Explorer screens. Keys such as pause, play, rewind, and fast-forward control the main TV screen, whether the screen fills the monitor of your TV or whether it is reduced to fit in an Explorer screen.

Questions About Watching Two Programs at Once

If a program is being recorded in the PIP screen and I turn off the PIP feature, will this stop the recording?

No. The Explorer DVR will continue to record the program even if you turn off the PIP feature.

What if my TV doesn't have the PIP feature?

That's no problem. You can still use the PIP feature because the Explorer DVR provides the PIP feature, not your TV.

Questions About Recording Programs and Playing Them Back

Can I record the program that is shown in the PIP screen?

You can record a program that is shown in the PIP screen, but you must start the recording from the main TV screen. For details, see "Record Two Programs at Once" on page 28.

Can I play back more than one recording at the same time?

No. You can play only one recording at a time. For a list of how you can make the most of the features provided by the Explorer DVR, see page 1.

Can I recover a recording that was erased from the Explorer DVR?

No. There is no way to recover a recording that has been erased from the **Recorded List** screen. You can copy programs to a VCR tape or extend the length of time a program is saved, though. For details, see "Copy Recordings to a VCR Tape" on page 38 or "Change the Save Time of a Recording You Have Saved" on page 40.

Can I record two programs at the same time and watch a live program on another channel?

No. If you are recording two programs and try tuning to another channel, the Explorer DVR displays the message shown here. But you can watch either of the two channels you are recording or you can play back a recording and watch it.

If, while recording two programs, you try to tune to another channel, the Explorer DVR displays a **Channel Change Notice** to let you know that you must stop a recording to change channels. For details, see "Cancel a Recording That Is in Progress" on page 31.



Can I record a pay-per-view event?

Yes, if you have been authorized by your cable service provider. After you purchase the event and wait for it to begin playing, you can record it just like any other live program. If you try to record the event before it begins playing, the Explorer DVR will display a conflict message. For details, see "Record a Pay-Per-View Event" on page 28.

What happens if a sports event that I scheduled to record goes into overtime?

The Explorer DVR cannot determine whether a live program will end at its scheduled time. If there is a chance that the event you are recording may continue past its scheduled time, you can allow for this uncertainty by extending the stop time on the **Confirm Recording** screen.

If I have used the Parental Control feature to block a rating or channel in the guide, will recordings of these programs also be blocked?

Yes. If you have blocked programs by channel or rating in the **General Settings** menu, recordings of these programs will also be blocked. They will be recorded, but to play them back, you must enter your 4-digit PIN. For details, see "Playing Back Blocked Recordings" on page 37.

Can I record video-on-demand (VOD) programs?

No.

Why did the Explorer DVR record only part of a program?

If the beginning of the program is missing, you may have started recording the program after it began. For an explanation of how the Explorer DVR records live TV, see page 2.

If the end of the program is missing, the Explorer DVR may have reached its storage capacity, the program may have continued past its scheduled time, or you may have manually stopped the recording.

If there is a chance that the program you are recording may continue past its scheduled time, you can allow for this uncertainty by extending the stop time on the **Confirm Recording** screen.

To determine if the Explorer DVR has reached its storage capacity, display the **Recorded List** screen and highlight the program in question. The Information area indicates one of the following reasons:

- · User stopped recording early.
- Reached storage capacity.

If the Explorer DVR has reached its storage capacity, make space to record other programs. You can make more space by erasing recordings that you no longer want or by copying those you want to keep to a VCR tape and then erasing them from the Explorer DVR. For details, see "Erase a Recording" on page 40 or "Copy Recordings to a VCR Tape" on page 38.

I watched two 30-minute programs on the same channel, but when I pressed Record, the Explorer DVR recorded only the most recent program. Why didn't it record both programs since it buffered both programs?

It recorded the most recent program because it was the live program at the time that you pressed Record. The Explorer DVR does buffer all programs on a channel for up to one hour. However, when you are watching live programming, the Explorer DVR assumes that you want to record a specific program, not a specific channel. For that reason, the Explorer DVR records only the program that is currently being broadcast at the time that you press Record.

For example, let's say that you tune to a channel for 45 minutes and during that time watch a 30-minute "Friends" episode and then watch the first 15 minutes of "Seinfeld." You can rewind to the beginning of "Friends," but if you press Record, the Explorer DVR records only "Seinfeld." The Explorer DVR records only "Seinfeld" because "Seinfeld" is the live program at the time you pressed Record.

Can I erase part of a recording?

No. Whenever you erase a recording, the Explorer DVR erases the entire recording.

Questions About Watching, Recording, and Playing Back HD Programs

Are local TV stations broadcasting in HDTV?

Many local TV stations are transmitting digital signals. However, transmitting a digital signal does not mean transmitting an HDTV signal. Most stations, however, once they begin broadcasting in digital are offering HD programs from their parent station, such as CBS, ABC, NBC, Fox, WB, UPN, or PBS.

How can I find out which programs are broadcast in HD?

To find out which programs are broadcast in HD, log on to the Web site of your cable service provider. Many cable service providers list their channel lineups on their Web sites and indicate the channels that are broadcast in HD.

What are the differences between standard TVs and HDTVs?

- HDTVs can be 1/3 wider than traditional TVs, although some HDTVs have a traditional (4:3 aspect ratio).
- HDTV uses a much finer resolution to create the TV picture—1125 lines for HDTV, compared to 525 lines used in standard TV (SDTV). This means that the resolution for HDTVs can be up to 1920 x 1080 pixels compared with 720 x 480 for SDTVs.
- In the United States, HDTV is always broadcast with digital signals. SDTV is currently broadcast in both digital and analog. (However, HDTV and digital SDTV do not use the same digital signal.)
- Generally, all HDTV-ready monitors or integrated HDTV sets are capable of supporting an SDTV 480i or 480p signal. Not all HDTV monitors support both 720p and 1080i HDTV signals. For instance, some plasma displays support only 720p.

I have a wide-screen HDTV and am tuned to a channel that is listed as an HD channel, but the picture is not displayed in a wide-screen format. What's wrong?

The program may not be an HD program. Not all stations broadcast HD programs. Because non-HD programs do not use a wide format, the picture does not fill the width of the screen. To fill the space, the Explorer DVR automatically places bars on the sides of non-HD programs. You can change this display to one that removes the bars and fills the screen with the picture. For details on changing the setting, see page 42, "Adjust Pictures on a Wide-Screen HDTV."

I'm concerned about burn in. Can I remove the bars that display when watching certain programs on my HDTV?

Yes. You can remove the bars and enlarge or stretch the picture to fill the screen. For details, see page 42, "Adjusting Pictures on a Wide-Screen HDTV."

If you have a standard-screen HDTV, you might try removing the bars by displaying the program in a different picture format. See "Change the Picture Format" on page 43 for assistance.

Burn in or "ghosting" occurs when an image is displayed on a television for an extended period of time. Through time, the image becomes permanently burned into the screen, leaving a faint image of it on the screen. Some kinds of HDTVs are more susceptible to burn in than others. For other ways to reduce burn in, refer to the user's guide that came with your HDTV.

Get More Information or Assistance

This guide is designed to help you become familiar with the tasks you use most often when controlling live programs or recordings, recording programs, playing recordings, and displaying the PIP. It does not provide comprehensive information about the Explorer DVR. For example, you won't find instructions on how to install the Explorer DVR in this guide.

If you haven't found the answer to a question you have, you can make use of the following resources.

Frequently Asked Questions

The "Find Answers to Frequently Asked Questions" section of this guide provides answers to questions about the capabilities of the Explorer DVR and how it operates.

Online Documentation or the Explorer eClub

If you have questions after looking through the "Frequently Asked Questions" section of this guide, check the Scientific-Atlanta Web site at **www.scientificatlanta.com**. It contains online customer support on a number of topics, including installation and setup. You'll also find the latest information about the Explorer DVR there, including updates to frequently asked questions.

For additional information about your Explorer DVR, Scientific-Atlanta invites you to join the Explorer eClub. This online club provides news and information about the Explorer DVR. Information about joining the Explorer eClub is given on the next page.

Customer Support

If you have questions after looking through the "Frequently Asked Questions" section of this guide and the Explorer eClub, contact your cable service provider.

Information to Provide When Calling for Assistance

To best answer your question, your cable service provider may ask you for the following information:

- **Product name and number:** To find the model name and number, look on the front of the Explorer DVR. The model name (Explorer) and model number (8000 or 8000HD) are printed there.
- Serial number: To find this number, look on the back of the Explorer DVR for a label that is similar to the example shown on the next page.

To Join the Explorer eClub

To join the Explorer eClub, you need the serial number of your Explorer DVR and your email address.

To find the serial number, look on the back of the Explorer DVR for a label that is similar to the following example. The serial number begins with SA and is located in the lower left corner of the bar code.

Access the Explorer eClub on the Internet at the Web address: www.scientificatlanta.com/explorerclub.



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Quick Tips



Press to display the last channel you were last watching.



While in normal Play mode, press once while watching live TV or a recording to see the program in slow motion. Press a second time to resume normal play.



Press to remove any Explorer screens or banners and display full-screen TV.



Press to display the Information banner. This banner provides information about the channel you are watching. It can also help you confirm that you are recording a particular channel. When a channel is being recorded, the **Recording Now REC** symbol appears in the banner.



For HDTVs, press to remove the letterbox or pillarbox bars. Press once to stretch the display and remove the bars. Press a second time to enlarge (zoom) the display and remove bars. Press a third time to return the display to the normal setting (letterbox or pillarbox).

Explorer Screens

This illustration explains the format of a typical Explorer screen, showing where to look for key information and how selections are presented. Although each screen contains information and options that are specific to a particular task, most of the screens are very similar to the example screen shown here.



The **bar** at the bottom of each screen displays selections that you can make from the screen.

See all of your favorite programs

When you're watching a favorite program and the phone rings, the Explorer DVR lets you pause the program and rewind it to play the part you missed. You can also fastforward through portions you don't want to watch.





Never miss your favorite programs

Record and save your favorite TV programs to watch later. Record a single episode or all episodes of your favorite programs.

When two programs are on at the same time, record one program and watch the other, or record both and watch them later. You can even record two programs and play back a third.

If you have advanced features, like video-on-demand, use one of these features while you record a program.

Make the most of your time

Watch two programs at once. Use Picture-in-Picture to watch a golf tournament on the main screen and a soccer game on the small, Picturein-Picture screen. If you miss a big play in the soccer game, swap it to the main screen, rewind the play, and watch the action again.





AllTouch[®] AT8400 Remote Control

Use the main keys to control the program shown in the main TV screen or quarter screen and to make selections in Explorer screens like the Program Guide and the **Recorded List** screen.

Use the dedicated Picture-in-Picture keys (shown in blue) to control the Picture-in-Picture feature.

Important: To use the features provided by the digital video recorder and Picture-in-Picture, the remote control must be in the Cable mode. To place the remote control in the Cable mode, press **Cable** (a). For more information, see page 3 of this guide.





With the Explorer 8000 DVR or 8000HD DVR, you can record your favorite programs and then play back your recordings whenever you want.

The built-in digital video recorder and

Picture-in-Picture feature give you

complete control, convenience, and choice when watching TV.



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