

# Basic manual for satellite receivers

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**It happens very often** that you buy a cheap receiver without a manual or that you simply loose the one that was attached and now you don't know how to operate your receiver. The dozens of emails we receive every day in our office speak a clear language and many users have problems to find out how to look for new programs, sort or delete them without the manual.

This article will try to help you finding and using the basic functions of your receiver. After that, you should be able to even use the more specific feature, by simple try and error.

Satellite receivers are designed for television signal reception, which means that they have to be connected to a TV set, which they can use as OSD (on screen display). As a matter of fact, the front sides are mainly very poorly equipped and just contain a few buttons and a segment display, only very few receivers can show channel names and other information via an alphanumeric display, sometimes a display is missing at all. So if you are a radio freak, you'll have to turn on your TV for most receivers to know which channel you are currently listening to.

## The front sides are mainly very poorly equipped

Some receivers offer a few buttons to operate the unit without remote control, but these buttons are just duplicates of the ones available on the remote, with one exception: Some of them contain a manual power on/off button, which sometimes can also be found on the back side. The other buttons are normally just channel up/down and maybe sometimes volume up/down. If a special button to enter the main menu is available, it's in most cases not very useful, because there are no numeric keys available on the receiver's front and so you can't use most of the menu entries at all.

## All available connectors are on the back side

Luckily there's one point, where all receivers are similar, they offer the available connectors (which are also standardized) on the back side. Normally, the receiver is even ready for use if there are just the signal input and the video output connected.

- The antenna cable has to be connected to the signal input, which is normally labelled IF Input or LNB-IN.

- Your TV gets connected via the Scart plug (in Europe)

- For all other regions, you can use the video output via the yellow RCA plug (e.g. USA)

- Some receivers also offer an RF output in the UHF range

- The audio signal e.g. for radio output can be taken from the white and red RCA plug (Stereo)

- Your PC can be connected via the 9 pin RS232 connector

- Sometimes a manual power switch is also available.

## Connect your TV via the Scart output

As soon as the receiver is connected via the IF input with your antenna and via the Scart output with your TV, you can turn it on and you should immediately see some pictures.

If you use an older TV set which has no Scart or video input, you have to connect it via your receiver's RF output. In this case you have to setup the correct channel on your TV first (in Europe it's normally UHF channel 38). Sometimes it happens that the receiver's modulator and the TV use different modulation types and the TV has to be setup first. In this case you'll need another TV to setup the receiver correctly, before you can connect it with the other one.

The Scart and video input should always offer a picture and if you are very lucky, your receiver was pre-programmed with a channel list and you can immediately start zapping. However, if there's just some strange message on the TV, don't panic, some receivers need a few seconds before they show the first channel.

In general we recommend that you perform a complete new system setup, this helps you to setup the receiver correctly and get all the new available channels, but please be aware that you need your original remote control to use all the special features of your device.

To open the main menu, try to find a button, labelled with Menu or Setup on your remote. Sometimes the main menu also pops up if you press the OK button.

The installation procedure is basically the same with all receivers, but the necessary menu entries are sometimes labelled in a different way.

1. Search (adjust satellites, select/enter transponders, channel search)

2. Edit (antenna, transponders, group/sort/delete programs)

3. Basic settings (language, video output, time setup, PIN)

4. Information (status, factory reset, software upgrade, games)

First of all you



A simple type remote control



Standard plugs for LNB and Audio



Can be found with many receivers: RS-232 plug for programming via PC



Common with European receivers: the two SCART plugs for connecting TV and VCR



UHF connectors (left) became a rarity nowadays, instead the S/PDIF plug is more common

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should setup the OSD language to English. This helps you to find the correct buttons on the remote control, which are normally labelled in English. Furthermore you can prevent some confusion, because it happens very often that translated menu entries contain strange and misunderstanding text. Also the manuals contain sometimes lots of translation errors, which can make it quite difficult for the beginner to understand their meaning.

After setting up the OSD language, some other basic settings like time setup or video output have to be adjusted. Some receivers prompt you to enter a pin code to access these menus, which is normally 0000 or 1234.

In the next step, it's time for cleaning up. If you bought a used receiver, there might be hundreds of old channels, but even a new receiver might contain some over aged data. In this case it's very useful to perform a complete factory reset.

## The important factory reset is normally available in every receiver

The factory reset can be found on nearly every receiver and normally it does only reset channel data and some user settings, the so very important transponder and satellite data will not be deleted, because the receiver would be useless without them. However, considering that the receiver was manufactured a few

months or even a few years ago, these transponder data might not be very up to date and you will probably have to add new transponders, which can be found in the SatcoDX lists at [www.satcodx.com](http://www.satcodx.com).

## Enable the „FTA only“ option during channel search

If you own a FTA only receiver which has no CI slots or card readers, it's very useful to reduce the channel search to free programs only. Normally this can be done in the search menu by selecting the option „FTA only“. This helps you to keep control of your channel list and if you scan a few different satellites, you might fill up the receivers channel memory with hundreds of unwanted and encrypted channels and loose space for other free to air programs, because most receivers channel memory is limited to 3000 TV and 1000 radio channels.

Right now, the most important functions are setup and you can start fine-tuning your receiver.

## Update your receiver via PC and the Internet

It's much more comfortable to setup the receivers channel list on the PC than on the unit itself. Just connect your receiver and the PC via a RS232 cable (cross over cable) and use a PC program like SetEdit or some other

program offered by the manufacturer to do the job. Sometimes these programs are capable of directly importing new channel lists from e.g. SatcoDX.

Nearly every manufacturer offers a homepage on the internet and normally they are really worth a click. If you can't find the one of your receiver's manufacturer, try some internet search engines and encyclopaedias like Google or Wikipedia, but normally you'll find the correct site by entering the manufacturers name with .com or with the local country extension.

## Be careful when upgrading the receivers software

Finally I have a very important warning for you: Manufacturers offer from time to time new software updates to fix newly discovered bugs or to enhance the receiver's functionality. If you are lucky, your receiver can update its software automatically via satellite, but most of the older models don't offer that option. You have to visit the manufacturer's website, download the software there and install it to your receiver via the RS232 connector and your PC. In this case, please read all the information provided by the manufacturer on the website and check if you are really using the exactly fitting software for your receiver. If you install the wrong software, your receiver might get destroyed.