



Topfield PVR Tips and Tricks

Recording – Timeshift

The Topfield has two Freeview tuners and so can record a maximum of 2 streams at once - and this includes the "timeshift" memory buffer which lets you pause/shift realtime TV.

If you are already recording one channel and start to record a second, this will stop the timeshift buffer - so while "dual recording" you can't also "timeshift" a third channel.

However, while the timeshift buffer itself is not active during dual record, the Topfield can still play back from the start either of the two files currently being recorded, which means that you can still rewind/playback either of the two programmes being recorded.

Recording – Pause Function

The Topfield has a recording pause function in the "Recording" menu. Press the RECORD button (whilst already recording) to access this menu - from here you can also amend the duration of the recording and other features.

Recordings less than 60 seconds long

The Topfield assumes that recordings stopped less than 60 seconds after being started are to be discarded, so they are not saved. Make sure you record for more than 60 seconds to ensure recordings are saved.

Record a TV Show Already Started

Press MENU and choose the Recording menu option.

Change the "Start Time" field to "Current Event". This will save that part of the programme already in the timeshift buffer (assuming you have the timeshift feature enabled) and continue to record the remainder. This is the easiest option as it automatically fills in the start and stop times from the Now and Next information.

Alternatively:

- Press PLAY to bring up the Progress Bar.
- Scroll left to where you want the recording to start.
- Press RECORD. This will invoke the default 2 hour record duration.
- Press RECORD a second time to select a different stop time.

Please note: Pressing RECORD purges the timeshift buffer. If you start the process by pressing Record, you won't then be able to save the timeshift buffer as it will have already been cleared.

Remove Adverts/Edit a Recording

- Press the PLAY button to bring up the Progress Bar.
- Press the WHITE button to mark the start of a cut area.
- Fast forward or rewind to the end of the area (the selected area will darken).
- Press BLUE to mark the end of the selection. An option will appear asking if you want to save or dump the marked area. Confirm your choice.

Please note: Due to the file format of broadcast TV streams it is currently not possible to edit digital video files with "frame perfect" accuracy. Approximately every 30 seconds the broadcast stream includes a "frame marker" which keeps the video synchronised. The Topfield allows selections of video only to the nearest frame marker, which could be +/- 30 seconds to the frames you have tried to select. Practice using this feature to get a feel for how much space to allow either side.

Set a Bookmark

- Whilst a recording is playing press the PLAY button.
- The yellow Progress Bar will appear at the top of the screen.
- Press the GREEN button whilst the Progress Bar is displayed to set a Bookmark at your current position.
- To revisit the bookmark bring up the Progress Bar and press the YELLOW button to jump to the Bookmark.

Which Tuner?

Using the List button, you can see which tuner (T1 or T2) is currently in use, or which tuner it would use for a different channel.

Signal Strength

From the tuning menu, you can read the signal strength by percentage.

Buttons

The RED button is needed to access interactive services.

The BLUE button jumps back 10 seconds.

Sleep Timer

Sleep Timer is a timer you can set for the Topfield to turn itself off. Its most common use is to switch off after recording has finished. The Topfield will never switch off until any recordings are actually finished, so you don't need to set the exact time.

Organising Favourites

- Select Organising Favourites in menu.
- Press RED to get to required list.
- Press GREEN and your current selection will be highlighted yellow.
- Move the selected Favourite using the arrow keys.
- Press GREEN once more to set the place.

Using this method, you can rearrange your favourites in the order you choose.

To add RADIO favourites create a Favourites list called RADIO.

- Switch to Radio.
- Press LIST.
- Press RED.
- Select 2 or 3 channels and save to your new RADIO Favourites.

- Go back to Organising Favourites.

RADIO will have a new, radio icon and all radio channels are available to it.

Recoding to DVD (via PC)

Here is a short guide for converting ".rec" format TV Broadcast files to DVD format.

1) Download and install **Java Runtime Software**

From <http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp>

2) Download **ProjectX Software**

From <http://www.oozoon.de/main.html>

NB. At time of writing, the current download link is:

<http://www.px-info.de/progs/projectx/ProjectX-v0.82.01.00-20050402.zip>

3) Unzip files from "ProjectX-v0.82.01.00-20050402.zip" into a new folder.

4) Run the java file "ProjectX-v0.82.01.00-20050402.jar" by double clicking it (or choosing "File > Open" from Java)

5) Drag your selected ".rec" file into the window at the top left and then choose "go" from underneath this window. Several files should now be created.

For example, if your.rec file was called "simpsons.rec" the important files it creates are:

simpsons.m1v - This is the video file
simpsons.mpa - This is Audio file 1
simpsons-1.mpa - This is the Audio file 2

Note: Audio file 1 is empty but Audio file 2 contains the soundtrack relevant to the UK model.

6) Download and install **TMPGEnc DVD Author 1.6** Ver.1.6.26.73 (31 day free trial) which you can get from <http://www.pegasys-inc.com/en/index.html>

The current download link is http://www.pegasys-inc.com/en/download/tda16_license.html

You must agree to their terms and conditions.

7) Run TMPGenc DVD author

- a) Create New project
- b) Add files (Example - Choose simpsons.m1v)

The audio is automatically selected as "simpsons.mpa". This first soundtrack is empty and must be changed to the second soundtrack. (ie. change audio from "simpsons.mpa" to "simpsons_1.mpa")

- c) There is a tick box to re-encode the audio - leave unchecked.
- d) Click output at the top, leave the "Create DVD Folder" ticked.
- e) Choose begin output and this will save DVD files.
- f) Click on the start button at the top, you now have the option to write the DVD folder to DVD.

Note: You can use **WINAVI** (<http://www.winavi.com/>) for video conversion of .wmv files to Topfield .rec files for playback on your Topfield.