

RTN Satellite feature by Bill Pole, September 2010



Your UK TV Questions Answered - Part 2

Welcome back to RTN's series of monthly features about the world of British TV here on the northern Costa Blanca. Last month we answered some common questions, and this month we have more. Thank you all for your emails and calls, and I hope I've been able to help. Excerpts from emails requesting help (and their answers) follow below...

Q: On occasion a message pops up on the screen saying that unless I press BACKUP the digibox will go into Standby in "X" minutes. This is annoying enough when watching, but is exceptionally inconvenient when we are not at home, and we miss the end of a show being recorded because the box has switched off!

A: I'm surprised that this is happening during the day, as it's only supposed to occur at night. This is Sky's energy-saving feature introduced a while ago via an automatic software update. It is supposed to switch your box into standby at night if you aren't watching, to save on electricity and promote their 'green' values. However, many people have been confused and frustrated by this feature, and yet it's very easy to disable. Press SERVICES on your Sky remote, go down to AUTO-STANDBY, press SELECT, and set it to OFF. Then save the new settings, and press BACKUP to return to normal viewing. 'Et voila', as the French say...

Q: My Sky remote controls everything except the volume on my TV. Is there any way to set it up so that it does this too?

A: All genuine Sky remotes are set by default to work with Sony TVs. They can often be reprogrammed using a 4-digit code for your make of TV equipment; however older generations of handset and non-Sky versions WON'T support all the latest models of TV!

<http://www.thedigiboxshop.com/where-can-i-find-sky-digibox-remote-control-codes.html> will have many of the codes available online, listed alphabetically by manufacturer.

To reset your remote control: Press TV at the top-left of the Sky remote. Next, press SELECT and RED together for two seconds, after which the remote's LED light will flash twice to confirm. Press TV again. Next, enter your 4-digit code (for example, 0160 for Samsung). The remote will flash twice again to confirm. Press the POWER button (top-right of the Sky remote). If the TV switches off, you have the correct code. If not, press TV again, and then POWER. As soon as the set switches off, you have the correct code. Press SELECT to confirm your new code, then press the big blue SKY button. You should now find that the volume control works! If you go through ALL the versions of a particular code (pressing TV, POWER, TV, POWER etc until you get an 'end-of-the-line' two-flash signal) and the set doesn't switch

off, you probably have an older remote control, or a non-Sky version, or a brand new TV, and it may not be possible to synchronise the two.

Q: I have a DVD recorder with FreeView built in so I need to install a digital aerial... the only problem I have is which direction and elevation to point it? Could you please give me any advice on what to do?

A: The easiest and cheapest way to align an aerial is to cheat! Once up on the roof, have a look at neighbouring properties, and where their aerials point. Then point yours in the same direction, secure it, and test! If you use a decent quality digital TDT aerial, the *exact* direction is not critical. You should find you receive 40-70 channel slots, many filled with live channels. Alternatively, get a local expert to fit it and tune it for you professionally, and that way you'll be *guaranteed* a decent installation and lasting reception!

Next month: yet more of your emails, comments and questions over the last few months answered publicly. Got a question that nobody can give you a straight answer on? Something useful to shout about? Please share it with us, and hopefully many more can benefit. Until then, stay happy and safe!

Bill Pole owns and runs the successful business, 'ConeXionS Digital Satellite Solutions' (based in Javea). Originally established in 1988, we are one of the longest-running and best known satellite TV names on the northern Costa Blanca, surviving through success, customer loyalty and recommendation. Find out why clients rate us #1 for installation, service, after-sales and pricing! Phone us today on (+34) 660 638 975 or visit www.conexions-javea.com for the latest news, info and special offers. Legal & licensed.