

# User Guides

For Topfield PVR users

**www.toppy.org.uk**

## A guide to burning DVDs from your Toppy, with a separate DVD recorder

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### **Introduction**

Having scoured this site and the internet in general for information on how to make DVDs of Toppy recordings I decided to go the DVD recorder route rather than the PC software one. After further search I opted for the Panasonic DMR-EZ25EB partly since I have a Panasonic TV and there would be some coordination of the remotes but mainly because of the included Freeview tuner.

This recorder comes with a 72 page A4 manual describing its hundreds of functions but it took me several days to work out how to do the few things I needed. There must be many like me who could do with a step by step guide - so having worked it out here it is.

### **Equipment:**

For the record here is a list of the equipment described in this guide. However the process should be similar for different models and other manufacturers' equipment.

TV: Panasonic TX-28PL1 28" CRT television

Toppy: Topfield TF5800PVR

DVD: Panasonic DVD Recorder DMR-EZ25EB

VCR: Bush VCR913 VP

### **Setup:**

This assumes a DVD recorder has just been purchased and removed from its box. To keep things simple first disconnect the original cables at your TV. Connect the aerial to the RF IN socket of the DVD and then cable from the RF OUT socket of the DVD to the TV. Finally connect a SCART lead from the SCART socket on the DVD marked TV to the AV1 socket on the TV. Power on the TV then the DVD and let it run through its standard auto-setup procedure (page 9 of the DVD manual).

Once complete, check out the functions of the DVD recorder. Take a look at the EPG just to remind yourself how good the Toppy EPG is!! Insert a blank disc, preferably a DVD-RAM or a DVD-RW, otherwise one of the many other permitted media types (page 16). Follow the on screen instructions to format the disc, record a section of TV program and play it back (page 13).

### **Connections:**

Switch everything off and wire the aerial connections.

- Main aerial to Toppy ANT 1 IN
- Toppy RF Loop 2 OUT to DVD RF IN
- DVD RF OUT to TV

You could connect a VCR between the DVD and the TV but if you do not intend to record analogue channels on the VCR it is best left out.

Now the SCART leads

Although my TV has two SCART sockets I could find no way to use the second one. This is what I found would work.

- SCART 1 (21-pin) from TV (marked AV1) to Toppy (marked TV)
- SCART 2 (21-pin) from Toppy (marked VCR) to DVD (marked TV)
- SCART 3 (9 or 21-pin) from DVD (marked EXT) to VCR (marked EXT 1)

## **Operation:**

Switch on the TV.

With the Toppy and DVD in standby the VCR can operate to the TV screen.

With the Toppy in standby the DVD can operate to the TV screen (may need to press AV/TV/AV1 on the TV remote)

When the Toppy is powered on it takes over the TV screen automatically.

## **Copying from Toppy to DVD:**

- Select the Toppy recording you wish to copy and note its duration.
- Optionally set the Toppy sleep timer to the next increment over the recording duration.
- Start the recording and press Pause at the point you wish the copy to start
- On the DVD remote press REC MODE repeatedly until the correct mode (XP/SP/LP etc) is shown on the DVD display **NOT the TV** - SP is the default.
- On the DVD remote press INPUT SELECT until A1 appears on the display
- On the DVD front panel press REC and at the same time press play on the Toppy remote.
- Optionally press REC repeatedly until the next increment over the recording duration is displayed.

The advantage of setting the timers is that you can turn off the TV and go out or go to bed. Otherwise set the kitchen timer so that you can stop the DVD recording at the right time.

If you recorded on a DVD-RAM you can now edit the DVD using the procedures on page 27 of the manual. This is much easier and more precise than the Toppy process. If you have a DVD-RAM drive on your PC you can convert the file there and copy to a DVD-R/RW. With any other media type you cannot edit it at the recorder but can "finalize" the disc (page 16) to play on any DVD player or take to your PC for editing there.

The other copying procedures are similar - here are some notes;

## **Copying from VCR to DVD:**

- Toppy on standby
- Set the VCR tape to the start of the required recording
- On the DVD remote press INPUT SELECT until A2 appears on the display
- On the DVD front panel press REC and at the same time press play on the VCR.

## **Copying from DVD to VCR:**

- Toppy on standby
- Play the DVD and at the required start point press Pause
- On the VCR select channel AV1 (shown as E1 on my VCR)
- Press Record on the VCR and at the same time press Play On the DVD remote.

Notes:

1. Timings - formatting a disc is fast, about one minute. Copying the recording to the DVD recorder takes the full length of the programme. Finalizing a disc in the DVD recorder takes 10 to 15 minutes as it reformats the recording to a different version of MPEG so it can be played on any DVD player.
2. I am very pleased with this recorder. It will copy / edit Toppy recordings and my old VCR tapes to DVD. It also provides Freeview backup if my Toppy should ever fail.
3. Size - the DMR-EZ25EB has a big footprint, only 58mm high but 430mm wide and 329mm deep plus 60mm for cables at the back. Make sure it will fit your spot.