

User Guides

TF5800

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A guide to using Freeview Playback on the TF5800

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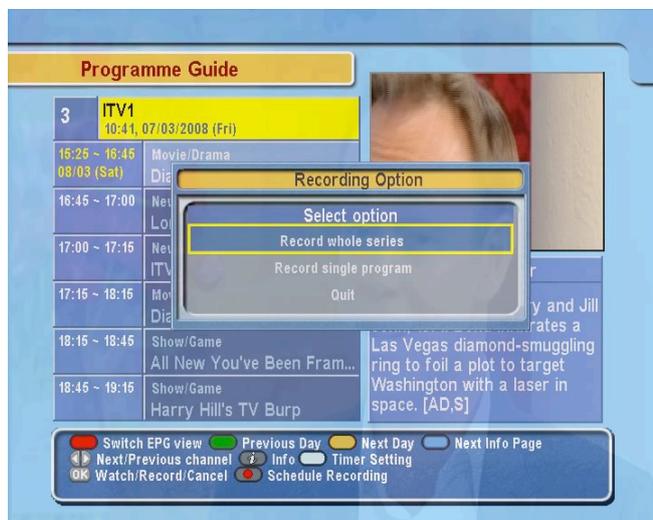
Introduction

This guide explains how to use the Freeview Playback features included in firmware 5.14.08 and later versions, for the TF5800. Since these features weren't in the original firmware, they aren't included in the manual. New features include the ability to record a whole series, automatic re-scheduling of timers in the event of clashes, and improvements to many of the on-screen messages, to make them clearer to understand.

You may have received the new firmware as an automatic "Over the air" update (known as an OTA) or as a download from the website. Either way, it works the same. *It's important that you do a full factory reset of your PVR after installing the firmware; that will re-scan for new channels, and delete old timers, but it won't affect the contents of your hard drive.*

Note that in the descriptions below, we assume that you do not have any TAPS installed on your PVR.

We'll walk you through the key new features - they're actually very easy to use. We'll start with how recording has changed.



Series link

Firstly, when you set a recording, the PVR will now use a feature called 'Accurate Recording,' which means that if a program starts or finishes late, the PVR will notice, and stop recording at the appropriate time.

On the main channels, when you press Record after selecting a program in the EPG, you'll see screen like the one shown here.

If you want to record the whole series, you simply select "Record whole series" and press OK on the remote; if you just want to record a single show, select the other option, or choose Quit if you don't want to record that programme.

If you choose to record the whole series, you'll see a message saying "Processing" appear briefly, as the PVR searches for other episodes and sets the necessary timers, which will appear in the timer list.

Remember that it can take a few minutes for the EPG to fill up when you first turn the PVR on, so we recommend that you wait a little while before setting series recordings - that will give the PVR a better chance of having all the information it needs to resolve any clashes, which we'll come back to later. You'll also notice that you can now go directly to the timer list from the Programme Guide by pressing the white button on the remote, so we'll take a look at that next.

Timer list

The timer list has had a few cosmetic changes; first you can now see the name of the programme for each timer, as well as the channel. You can press Guide to go straight back to the EPG if you like, and by pressing the white button on the remote, you can sort the timer list, viewing either by date or by series.

How do you know which programmes are parts of a series? Easy - as you can see in the screen over the page, there's a letter S next to some of the timers, which indicates that they're part of a series. And as you move up and down the list with the arrow keys, you'll notice that when you land on one part of a series, all the other timers that are part of the same series will be highlighted too.

When you delete a timer, if it's part of a series, you'll have the choice of deleting just that one, or of deleting the whole series, via a pop-up message box.

There's one other useful new button on the timer screen, labelled Update series entry. Normally, when you've set up recordings of series, the PVR will check for new episodes every half half hour or so, and automatically schedule them. But what happens if you have a lot of links? Sometimes you might get clashes. And when that happens, you'll see a message appear briefly at the top right of the screen. By pressing the Update series entry button, you can help resolve any of those issues.



Resolving clashes

Freeview Playback helps you when programmes clash, by looking for "Alternate Instances," which is where the same programme is repeated, on the same channel, or a different one. You'll usually see this when you first set up a recording, but you may also see it when you choose the Update series button in the timers list.



The picture shows an example - we tried to set a recording that clashed with "Relocation, Relocation," which we were recording from More 4 on Thursday. The PVR's found the same edition the previous day on Channel 4 - the arrow shows the alternate instance that's been selected, while the top item is the original recording. If there are several choices, you can pick the one that suits you best.

And if you can't set a recording without deleting another, you'll see a similar box, where you can select which of the other two recordings you'd like to delete, then press OK to delete it and set your new timer in one go, or press Exit to cancel the new timer and leave the other two alone.

Channels that don't support Freeview Playback

Finally, what about channels that don't support Freeview Playback, such as Virgin 1 and five? Well, you can still set repeating timers from those, just like before, though there's an extra couple of button presses needed now. Just find the programme that you want to record in the Guide, and press Record to set a one-off timer. Press it again, and you'll see the screen shown at the right. Press Yes, and the PVR will turn off Accurate Recording for this timer, and allow you to alter all the options, including changing it to a weekly timer, or every day. It won't show up in the EPG as a timer, but it will still be in the main timer list. You can actually do this on any recording for which Series Link is not available - so even on channels like BBC1 or ITV1, if you aren't asked about recording a series, you can just press Record again to create a regular recording.

