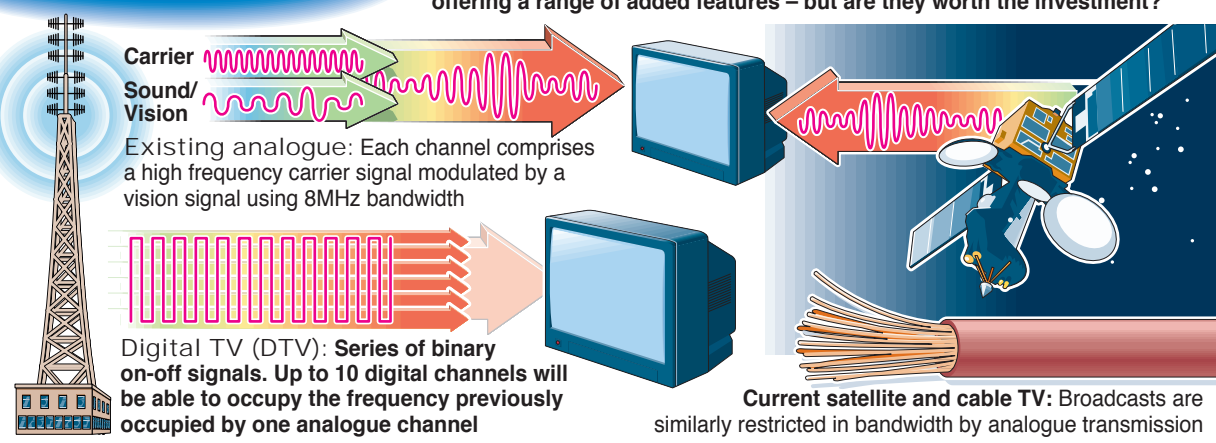


# DIGITAL TELEVISION

## The revolution will be televised

With U.S. and UK digital signals beginning in November, couch potatoes should prepare themselves for a media revolution akin to the advent of colour television. In the UK, as many as 30 channels on terrestrial TV and 200 on satellite will be available in widescreen format with CD quality sound, offering a range of added features – but are they worth the investment?



**Digital terrestrial TV**  
Set-top boxes – to decode digital signals  
Price from £200

**On the receiving end**

**Digital satellite TV**  
Set-top boxes and new satellite dishes will be needed to receive new channels  
Price from £300

**Buying a new digital wide-screen set – instead of using a set-top box – will be the recommended option:** Price from £3,000  
By Jan 2000 all new TVs in U.S. must also contain **V-chip** to block adult content

Old aerials may need to be replaced or realigned  
Price from £30

**SONY HDTV 05**

**Cable TV:** Could also offer two-way interactive services built-in, such as video-on-demand, telephone and high speed internet access

**Your Choice TV:** Staggered starting times of TV shows

**High-definition, cinema quality broadcasts**

**PayTV channels and pay-per-view**

**Choice of camera angles at sports events**

**Datacasting:** Access to home banking, stock prices, home shopping, enhanced teletext with pictures

**More airwave 'space'**  
**More channels – new types of content**

**Gates to the internet**  
A deal with Sony means Bill Gates' Microsoft Windows 98 will be built into your digital TV to access the internet

Sources: BBC, DVB, Financial Times © GRAPHIC NEWS