

Alan Pierce

Technology.Today@worldnet.att.net

Show-Stopping Video Recorders

IT'S the bottom of the sixth inning of the fourth game of the World Series.

A phone call, that you just can't ignore, pulls you away from your television set. Wouldn't it be great if you could call a game delay until you return from your call?

As you know, you can't stop the actual TV broadcast. However if you own a new type of video recorder, you can place any live broadcast on hold for your own later personal viewing.

Your personal delay can be minutes, hours, days, or even months. If your delay isn't longer than the show's air-time, you will resume watching your show while it's still a live broadcast. This is definitely something that you can't do with an ordinary VCR.

Play It Again, TiVo. Two California companies brought video hard drive digital TV recorder technology to market at just about the same time. They are ReplayTV Inc., which is located in Mountain View, and TiVo Inc., located in San Jose. The hard disk recorders and software that these companies designed are similar in function; however, these machines are not the same products distributed under different names.

The differences between these machines probably fall into the category of personal preference. The one significant difference is that TiVo charges separate fees for the telephone part of their service, while ReplayTV provides it free. After researching both units, my personal preference was ReplayTV, based on these extra fees and the fact that ReplayTV received seven prestigious awards.

To get familiar with this technology for this column, I used a ReplayTV recorder manufactured by Panasonic. It has a 20.4 GB hard drive, 30 hours maximum recording capacity, and uses MPEG2 video compression format to maximize its recording space.

I got the hookup. The ReplayTV Video Hard Disk Recorder hooks up to your TV antenna, cable, or satellite dish following the same protocol used to hook up a VCR. A telephone wire connects the VHDR to your telephone line so the unit can acquire television guides and automatic software updates. You also can hook up the VHDR to



Photo courtesy of ReplayTV Inc.

your VCR to archive broadcasts that you don't want to keep on the VHDR's hard drive. The recorder uses an "IR Blaster" to control your cable or satellite box. To change your satellite or cable box channels, the VHDR unit emits the correct infrared signal for your equipment through the IR Blaster.

The seven-day channel guide (updated each night) comes to you through the telephone hookup, making it very easy to select programs to

record. You can perform keyword searches, surf by "ReplayZones," or setup your own TV channel. For more details, visit the ReplayTV and TiVo websites and view their on-screen presentations.

If you purchase a ReplayTV (www.replaytv.com) or a TiVo (www.tivo.com) player by the end of September, you could watch the World Series in slow motion or view a strikeout frame by frame. By skipping commercials, you could catch up to real-time viewing, so there would be no delay in your learning the outcome of the games. ©

Recalling the Facts

1. What is the most significant advantage of a VHDR over a VCR?
2. Why must you eventually remove shows from a VHDR recorder's hard drive?
3. Using your knowledge of current audio and video equipment, which features would you like to see added to VHDR machines in the future?

Correction: The photo captioned "Genetically Engineered for Freshness" in the May/June issue should have been credited to Alan Pierce, not the USDA.

Scan it. Mill it. All with one machine.

The MDX-15 is an easy-to-use, all-in-one desktop design tool. Attaching the Roland Active Piezo Sensor (RAP5) to the machine transforms it into a 3D scanner capable of scanning objects with a resolution of 0.002." Replace the sensor unit with a spindle and the MDX-15 mills ABS, acrylic, chemical wood, modeling wax and light metals such as aluminum and brass.



MDX-15 Sample Output

- Work area: 6" (W) x 4" (D) x 2.375" (H)
- Includes full suite of easy-to-use software compatible with most major 3D programs.
- One-year warranty



MDX-15 \$2995us



For more information on the entire line of Roland Workbench products, visit our web site at www.roland3d.com/td, or call (800) 542-2307, ext. 422.

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