

What's "TiVo Basic" service?

The TiVo corporation lets some companies sell a "watered-down" version of TiVo to include with products like DVD players and recorders. Like its name, TiVo Basic offers basic recording features: Hard drive recording, fast-forwarding, rewinding and pausing live TV, and manually scheduling recordings up to three days in advance.

TiVo Basic users may upgrade to the regular TiVo Service (referred to as "TiVo Plus") by paying the

standard subscription fees. Once subscribed, they can search for shows by title or subject, record their favorite shows automatically with a *Season Pass*, receive TiVo's suggestions — the usual fare expected of TiVos.

(TiVo's Home Media Option, covered in Chapter 8, never comes free, no matter what plan or planet you're on.)

Sign up for the TiVo Service by entering your credit card number on TiVo's Web site (www.tivo.com), or by calling TiVo's Customer Support team directly at (877) 367-8486. (The service fee for DirecTV TiVos is part of your monthly satellite bill.)



- ✔ A few pokes on a calculator show that a \$299 subscription fee equals about 23 months of \$12.95 payments. If you plan to keep TiVo more than two years (and you will), paying \$299 is a better deal: It's completely paid off, and you won't be stuck with monthly fees. If you live paycheck-to-paycheck, stick with the monthly fee.
- ✔ And if you *don't* pay the Service Fee? Your TiVo won't work. Actually, it still works well at nagging you to pay, but don't expect anything more.
- ✔ The Lifetime Subscription is tied to the life of your *TiVo*, not you. If you ever sell your TiVo, the lucky buyer receives the Lifetime Subscription along with it. Price it accordingly.
- ✔ Did your new, Lifetime Subscription TiVo die within warranty? Your heartbreak earns you a break: TiVo lets you transfer the dead TiVo's Lifetime Subscription to your replacement TiVo when repaired through an authorized service center. Make the transfer through TiVo's Web site (www.tivo.com/manage) or by calling TiVo Customer Support (1-877-367-8486).
- ✔ Bought a second TiVo? You must pay the monthly service fee, or purchase a second, separate Lifetime Subscription for it.
- ✔ Series 2 TiVos don't work at all without the TiVo Service. But the older "Series 1" TiVos limp along by letting you schedule recordings manually, entering the date, time, channel, and recording length of desired shows. Without a subscription, the "Series 1" TiVo's internal clock slowly loses

