



VoodooTV FM FAQs

1. What is VoodooTV FM?

VoodooTV FM is the latest technology from 3dfx that brings the coolness of TV and FM radio to your PC. Want to watch that ball game while you are working on your morning presentation? VoodooTV FM. Don't want to miss your favorite soap while you are surfing the Web? VoodooTV FM. Do you like to listen to the radio while you are composing a letter? VoodooTV FM. VoodooTV FM gives you stereo TV, FM stereo and the ability to save audio from the FM radio in an MP3 format. Very cool.

2. Can I get a VoodooTV FM with a PC I purchase from a PC manufacturer?

Currently, VoodooTV FM products are not BTO options.

3. What's different about the VOODOOtv 100, VOODOOtv 200 and VoodooTV FM?

The VOODOOtv 100 is a value priced offering that provides basic mono TV for the PC and is only available in the US. The VOODOOtv 200 (US) and the VoodooTV FM (Europe) adds stereo audio for the TV, FM radio that is also stereo, and various pieces of software not included with the VOODOOtv 100. VOODOOtv 200 and VoodooTV FM will allow you to capture audio from the FM radio and save it in an MP3 format for playback later on personal MP3 players or your PC. We have also included Video Studio from ULead that allows you to edit video you've captured in MPEG 1 format and create your own home movies. Both products benefit from 3dfx's own VisualReality software control application that puts all the power and functionality of VoodooTV FM at your fingertips. The VoodooTV FM (Europe) includes a remote control; the US VOODOOtv 200 does not.

4. Why would I watch TV on my PC if I already have a TV?

VoodooTV FM is about more than just watching TV on your PC. It is about extending the capabilities of your PC. With VoodooTV FM, more can be done with your PC than when you originally purchased it. If you are having to work at home, you can keep up with your favorite TV shows, news, or sporting events while doing your work, if you think you'd like to be able to make a video that you can send to relatives or friends on a CD, if you want to have an excerpt of a radio broadcast that you could play later, VoodooTV FM can help you do those things. VoodooTV FM is about helping you get more from your PC than you ever dreamed. How many TVs do you know that can give you stereo TV, FM stereo, MPEG 1 recording, and MP3 record capability?

5. What type of system do I need to use a VoodooTV FM?

Minimum system requirements for watching TV on your PC include a 90MHz or faster Pentium or equivalent, 16MB of system memory, an open PCI 2.1 compliant expansion slot, Microsoft Windows 95/98/98SE, a 2x CD-ROM drive, at least 15MB of available hard drive space, a PCI or AGP graphics adapter with integrated scaler and DirectDraw video overlay support, and a sound card with an available MPC-2 audio input port. For the extended functions of VoodooTV FM such as MPEG recording and MP3 recording, Pentium II and above class machines will perform better. For best results from MPEG encode, we recommend a Pentium III class CPU running at 600MHz or greater to achieve the best performance on large frame size MPEG captures. You will also need an Internet connection to register your product to enable the MP3 encode of FM.

6. When can I buy VoodooTV FM?

Product will be available in November.

7. What are the anticipated prices of the VoodooTV FM?

The VoodooTV FM will be priced at:

UK £ 99

Germany DM 299

Spain pta 24,990

Italy Lit. 299,000

8. Will there be Macintosh versions of the VoodooTV FM product?

At this time, we do not have Mac versions of the VoodooTV FM.

9. So what does "tuner-on-a-chip" mean?

The VoodooTV FM utilize a small chip to receive TV and Radio signals rather than bulky, metal cased tuner. The Microtuner® from Microtune is a fraction of the size of traditional analog tuners. Since it is a chip, it can be programmed to provide better reception performance than the older generation tuners. For those on cable systems, channel isolation is important since there is usually programming on every channel available on the cable system. The dual conversion Microtuner® on the VoodooTV FM will provide superior performance in tuning each channel and do it much faster than traditional tuners.

10. What kind of performance can I expect on MPEG 1 capture with the VoodooTV FM.

That is largely dependent on the system it is installed into. For best results, we recommend that a Pentium III class machine rated at 600MHz or higher should be used, although higher speed Pentium II class machines rated at 300MHz or higher will work as well. Coupled with a fast hard drive with DMA turned on, 25fps at 352x288 is achievable. On Pentium III class systems that are fully optimized, that same performance is possible capturing at 768x576. Again, it is system dependent. It should be noted that when capturing at 768x576, we do not allow "preview" mode, which means the video window will be turned off due to bandwidth limitations trying to capture that high resolution data. We also recommend "defragging" the hard drive to ensure that video is written to the hard drive in contiguous blocks. This will also benefit capture performance. Again, the performance of capture will be dependent on overall system performance.

11. What if I'm not using a 3dfx graphics accelerator in my system?

While that is certainly the preferred setup, the only requirements for proper operation is that the graphics controller have a built in scaler and that it provide Direct Draw overlay support. These are very basic requirements at this time in graphics subsystem evolution. If you are unsure about the graphics subsystem you have, check with your manufacturer to verify your card's capabilities. You may need to use the latest drivers for your graphics subsystem to enable the Direct Draw overlay support.

12. Is motion compensation required for my graphics card?

No. Motion Compensation is not required to use VoodooTV FM.

13. I just purchased a Voodoo5 5500? Will VoodooTV FM work with it?

Yes.

14. Do I need a separate antenna for FM reception?

VoodooTV FM has separate inputs for FM and TV and will require an antenna, but in most in most cases it just works without it. We recommend one!

15. How much of my hard drive will be taken up when I capture video?

The answer really depends on which format you choose to capture with. When capturing in raw AVI format, no compression is taking place. This makes the resulting video stream rather large. When capturing in MPEG 1 format, there is compression taking place during the writing to the hard drive making the resulting video much smaller than a comparable length AVI capture. As a comparison, 10 minutes of MPEG 1 video consumes approximately 110MBytes worth of hard drive space. That same clip in AVI format would use over 2 GigaBytes! Capturing in MPEG format will definitely save hard drive space and allow you capture far more video.

16. Which format is better for capturing video?

That depends on what your criteria for capturing video are. If hard drive space is at a premium or you want to perform many captures, MPEG is going to be better. If you want better individual frames, raw AVI will be better, it will just use up far more space on your hard drive.

17. What is time shifting and can I get it?

Time-shifting is the process of recording a program, "pausing" it while you do something else, coming back and restarting it later, picking up where you left off and being able to "catch up" using fast forward until you get to where the "live" broadcast matches the exact point in time that you are capturing. Basically, it is altering the real time video to suit when you want to see it. It is the concept utilized in Tivo™ and RePlayTV™ equipment. This function may be available in the future from some 3rd party software vendors.

18. Will there be an additional third-party software bundle included?

Yes. On the VoodooTV FM, a video editing software package will be included as part of the bundle. In addition, software Teletext, NetMeeting and Internet Explorer 5 will be on the CD as well.

19. Can surf the Web while I watch VoodooTV FM?

Yes - part of the attraction of VoodooTV FM is that it does allow you to do other things while you are watching TV or listening to Radio such as Web surfing, typing a letter, editing a spreadsheet or editing a photo. VoodooTV FM allows you maximize your time on the PC by letting you keep up with the news, ball game or your favorite show.

20. Can I play a game and watch TV at the same time?

As long as the game does not require a Direct Draw video surface or require that you go full screen to play, you should be able to do that. Again, that depends on several factors including stability of your system setup and the capabilities of your graphics subsystem.

21. Why can't I watch a DVD and VoodooTV FM at the same time?

Usually, both these activities require the graphics subsystem to supply a Direct Draw video surface to display the video in. If one application has that video surface, the other cannot get it. Usually, there is a message that says the app you are trying to run can't get the resources it needs to operate properly and quits nicely. Sometimes, the app doesn't quit nicely and puts the system in an unstable state.

22. Why won't my machine go into Power Save mode while the TV is running?

We assume that if you have the TV running, you don't really want to go into Power Save mode, and we disable it while TV is running.

23. Can I send my captured video files to other people?

As long as you are not copying and distributing copyrighted material, you can share your captured video, as well as your captured MP3 files with others. They will need to have a media player to play them back.

24. Since VoodooTV FM product is a "capture" product, can use them to do web based video conferencing?

Yes, by using our VFW (Video for Windows) drivers, applications such as the current version of Microsoft NetMeeting can be used with VoodooTV FM products. Currently there is not a version that will use WDM drivers. We understand that this may be a bit confusing, but as some of these packages move to the WDM model and away from VFW, it should simplify things in the long run. To illustrate what driver set you would use for the type of scenario you are interested in, please refer to the table below:

Operating System	3rd party app to be used	Driver set
Windows 95	NetMeeting	VFW
Windows 95	WebTV	Not available, WebTV is for Windows 98SE and higher
Windows 98	NetMeeting	VFW
Windows 98	WebTV	WDM(Win98SE update required)
Windows 98SE	NetMeeting	VFW
Windows 98SE	WebTV	WDM
Windows ME	NetMeeting	VFW
Windows ME	WebTV	WDM

Should a version of NetMeeting be released that is WDM based, a Windows 98SE based systems with our WDM drivers will be the preferred setup.

25. Will VoodooTV FM products work with Windows ME?

Yes

26. How do I get software updates?

Please check our Web site <http://www.3dfxgamers.com> for periodic software updates

27. Is it necessary to upgrade to Windows 98SE or ME to use VoodooTV FM?

No, it is not necessary, but these two OS's are generally full of fixes compared to the previous versions of Windows 95 and 98.

28. Is there a hardware remote control option?

Yes, a remote option is available with the VoodooTV FM (Europe) and it is not available with the US products at this time.

29. What is a "skin"?

A "skin" is a graphic that sits on top of the user interface that gives the user control over the product. It is a mix of colors and/or shapes that define the "look and feel" of the software interface. Skins are selectable from the "Skins Tab" inside VisualReality. Several skins are shipped with VoodooTV FM products.

30. When I want to do still captures, do I have any control over the quality of the capture resolution?

Yes, still captures can be up to 768x576. The quality of the captured image is largely dependent on the video quality settings that are used inside VisualReality. As an example, by selecting a quality level that is designated as being "Best for Still Captures", the video will be set to an "interleaved" mode, meaning all lines of the video are displayed simultaneously. This will result in motion artifacts from the temporal or time differences between the 2 fields that make up a frame of video. This will manifest itself in seeing a "combing" effect on moving edges. However, if the video is relatively static, meaning not much motion, still captures will be of a higher quality.

31. Can I change the frequency of a given channel to "fine tune" it?

Yes, VisualReality includes a fine-tuning mechanism for altering the frequency of a given channel.

32. How many channels will I be able to get with my VoodooTV FM?

That will depend largely on where you live, what your antenna source is, and how good of a signal you get. Over the air broadcasts range from Channel 2 to Channel 69, cable broadcasts can range from Channel 2 to Channel 125. If a channel you think you should have doesn't come up, it may be because the signal wasn't strong enough. Try manually tuning and using the fine-tuning control in VisualReality.

33. Is VoodooTV FM cable ready?

The VoodooTV FM is equipped with a "cable ready" Microtune silicon tuner. This tuner is a dual conversion tuner and should perform very well on cable systems.

34. Can I receive digital cable channels?

If there are analog transmissions on the cable, those channels can be tuned in. If however, your cable provider requires that you have a special decoder box in order to get their programming, VoodooTV FM will not be able to decode the TV channels. It may also be that you can get the TV signal, but you cannot get the digital channel guide and other pay-for-view services unless you have the decoder box.

35. Does VoodooTV FM support HDTV?

No, VoodooTV FM is designed for analog TV support only.

36. What software is included with the VoodooTV FM?

VoodooTV FM ships with Microsoft Internet Explorer 5, Microsoft NetMeeting, Microsoft DirectX, and 3dfx's own VisualReality software, Software Teletext, SkinPak and U-Lead Video Studio.

37. Is the VideoStudio software included in the box a full version or a "lite" version?

It is the full OEM version. The main difference is that it does not have MPEG 2 support as VoodooTV FM only has MPEG 1 support.

38. Will I be able to capture in MPEG 2 format?

No, currently the VoodooTV FM only allow capturing in MPEG 1 format. Capturing in MPEG 2 format requires a much faster system. Capturing in MPEG 1 format allows 3dfx to maintain a very aggressive shelf price for the product.

39. What frame rate performance can I expect to get when capturing?

This depends largely on the type of system you have and the overall speed of the system. For good, consistent performance while capturing, a 300MHz or higher Pentium II class machine is recommended. The higher the performance of the machine, the better the capture performance. There are other factors that can have an impact on capture performance. For example, not having the Hard Drive controller set to have DMA turned on, other applications or hardware using the PCI bus, hard drive performance, and overall system resources available are all factors that can have an effect on capture performance. Experiment with the settings that seem to work the best for your system. As long as 24fps or greater is being generated during capture, frame rate should not be a problem. Typical film or movie frame rate is 24fps. DVD and live video typically is from 24fps to 30fps. For video, frame rate is not the same as it is for 3D game play where the higher the number the better the video looks. In general, good video is characterized as being between 24fps and 30fps.

40. What frame sizes are available for still and live capture?

VisualReality allows setting the capture resolution all the way up to 768x576 for both still and video capture. Native MPEG 1 resolution is a maximum of 352x288(PAL/VFW), although these can be scaled to higher resolutions. Raw AVI can go to 768x576, but this resolution requires significantly faster system resources than the lower resolutions.

41. What is the color depth that video and stills are captured?

Video on the PC that is viewed on an overlay surface, by definition, is 16bpp.

42. Does VoodooTV FM allow me to output captured video to a TV or VCR?

No, there is no mechanism on the VoodooTV FM cards that will allow output of captured in an analog format. Some other TV out device will be required to accomplish that. Digital media, the files you captured, can be transported from one machine to other, as long as no copyrighted material is being captured.