

Digital TV Service Guide

The digital cable system requires a television with a QAM tuner. You must check the specifications from your TV manufacturer to determine if it includes the required tuner. The types of tuners currently in use in the United States are listed here for your reference.

1. QAM Tuner (**REQUIRED**)

QAM (quadrature amplitude modulation) is the format by which digital cable channels are encoded and transmitted via cable television providers, including Apogee. A QAM tuner is the cable equivalent of an ATSC tuner which receives over-the-air digital channels broadcast by local television stations. Many new cable-ready digital televisions support both of these standards. Because there is no requirement, though, some very inexpensive manufacturers or models may not include the QAM tuner.

Please be advised that less expensive TVs sometimes come with a lower quality QAM tuner that may be unable to tune all of the channels. We have found this to be true of bargain brands. If that is the case a digital conversion box can be purchased.

2. NTSC TUNER (NOT COMPATIBLE)

3. ATSC TUNER (NOT COMPATIBLE)

Digital Conversion Boxes

If your television does not have a QAM tuner, you can update your television or purchase a digital conversion box. Just like the TV, you should ensure that the conversion boxes include a QAM tuner and not just an ATSC tuner. Most tuner boxes available at electronic stores for over-the-air digital TV transition do not include a QAM tuner, be sure to verify the specifications from the external tuner manufacturer before completing your purchase. Apogee has tested and recommends the following Tuner.

Pico Digital -HD-2.1-High Definition MPEG-2/4 QAM Set-Top Box with CAS

QAM Digital Tuner Guide

We have compiled the following information about television compatibility, and provide this list as an informal reference for newer devices. This information is compiled from staff and student reports, and is not intended to be complete. We cannot guarantee the accuracy of this information. You should verify the specifications when you make a purchase.

- * Dynex - Only limited models have a QAM tuner
- * Insignia - Only limited models have a QAM tuner
- * LG - Most models since 2007 have a QAM tuner
- * Samsung - All models since 2009 have a QAM tuner (fifth digit of model number must be B or higher)
- * Sony - Most models since 2007 have a QAM tuner
- * Sylvania - Do not appear to have QAM tuners
- * Toshiba - Most models since 2007 have a QAM tuner
- * Vizio - Recent models have a QAM tuner
- * Westinghouse - Some models require QAM tuner activation