



# Saved by the box

**MATT SUN** investigates a way to put the old spare-room television back in the picture

The flatscreen TV revolution has seen many old sets retired to the spare room, probably never to be seen again.

Many of these shoved-aside sets work just fine and are probably of a decent size.

But many viewers may scoff at the thought of watching snowy analog pictures when they could enjoy digital perfection in the lounge room.

Kogan's latest set-top box not only provides digital TV coverage, but also turns the spare-room set-up into a useful recording device.

The \$99 box is about as thick as a paperback Dan Brown novel and slightly longer, but packs in plenty of features.

It can be easily connected to a TV via standard audio/video, component or HDMI cable.

Kogan's box receives all freeview digital channels, including SBS, ABC, 7, 9, 10,

ABC2, 7Two, GO! and One HD, and has Electronic Program Guide and info displays. But the best feature is the ability to digitally record and playback programs.

The STB becomes a Personal Video Recorder when you plug in a USB stick or external hard drive into the USB port at the front.

Recording programs is simply a matter of choosing what you want or pressing the record button during a live broadcast.

The STB recorded flawlessly using an empty USB stick and one with other files and content.

Unlike other PVRs, you can easily copy or archive your recorded shows by plugging the stick or external drive into a PC.

You can only record one show at a time, but the Kogan will be a useful option in homes where the Foxtel IQ or the TiVO are hogged by other family members.

See more at [www.kogan.com.au](http://www.kogan.com.au).