






Connecting the
Explorer® 8300™
Digital Video Recorder



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Safety Compliance Statements

<p>Note to CATV System Installer (USA/Canada Only)</p> <p>This reminder is provided to call the CATV system installer's attention to Article 820-40 of the NEC (Section 54, Part I of the Canadian Electrical Code), that provides guidelines for proper grounding and, in particular, specifies that the CATV cable ground shall be connected to the grounding system of the building, as close to the point of cable entry as practical.</p>	 <p>CAUTION RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK DO NOT OPEN</p> <p>AVIS RISQUE DE CHOC ÉLECTRIQUE NE PAS OUVRIR</p>
 <p>This symbol is intended to alert you that uninsulated voltage within this product may have sufficient magnitude to cause electric shock. Therefore, it is dangerous to make any kind of contact with any inside part of this product.</p>	<p>CAUTION: To reduce the risk of electric shock, do not remove cover (or back). No user-serviceable parts inside. Refer servicing to qualified service personnel.</p> <p>WARNING TO PREVENT FIRE OR ELECTRIC SHOCK, DO NOT EXPOSE THIS UNIT TO RAIN OR MOISTURE.</p>  <p>This symbol is intended to alert you of the presence of important operating and maintenance (servicing) instructions in the literature accompanying this product.</p>

Read and Retain These Instructions


- Read all of the instructions before you operate this set-top. Give particular attention to all safety precautions. Retain the instructions for future reference.
- Comply with all warning and caution statements in the instructions. Observe all warning and caution symbols that are affixed to this set-top.
- Comply with all instructions that accompany this set-top.

Placement

Place this set-top in a location that is close enough to an electrical outlet to accommodate the length of the power cord.

Note: The power cord is the mains power supply disconnect device.

Place this set-top on a stable surface. The surface must support the size and weight of this set-top.

 <p>WARNING: Avoid personal injury and damage to this set-top. An unstable surface may cause this set-top to fall.</p>

Ventilation

This set-top has openings for ventilation that protect it from overheating. To ensure the reliability of this set-top, follow these guidelines to avoid obstructing the openings:

- Do not place other equipment, lamps, books, vases with liquid, or any other object on the top of this set-top.
- Do not place this set-top in any of the following locations:
 - On a bed, sofa, rug, or similar surface
 - Over a radiator or a heat register
 - In an enclosure, such as a bookcase or equipment rack, unless the installation provides proper ventilation

Cleaning the Set-Top

Before cleaning this set-top, unplug it from the electrical outlet. Use a damp cloth to clean this set-top. Do not use a liquid cleaner or an aerosol cleaner. Do not use a magnetic/static cleaning device (dust remover) to clean this set-top.

Safety Compliance Statements

Object and Liquid Entry

Never push objects of any kind into this product through openings as they may touch dangerous voltage points or short out parts that could result in a fire or electric shock. Do not expose this set-top to liquid or moisture. Do not place this set-top on a wet surface. Do not spill liquids on or near this set-top.



WARNING:

Avoid electric shock and fire hazard. Never push objects through the openings in this equipment. These objects can cause electrical shorts that can result in electric shock or fire. Do not expose this set-top to rain or moisture. Do not place objects filled with liquid (such as vases) on this set-top.

Accessories

Do not use accessories with this set-top unless recommended by your cable service provider.

Overloading

Do not overload electrical outlets, extension cords, or integral convenience receptacles, as this can result in a risk of fire or electric shock. For equipment that requires battery power or other sources to operate, refer to the operating instructions for that equipment.

Lightning and Power Surges

Ground (earth) your cable system to provide some protection against voltage surges and built-up static charges. Plug your set-top into a surge protector to reduce the risk of damage from lightning strikes and power surges. If you have questions, call your cable service provider.

Power Cord Protection

Arrange all power cords so that people cannot walk on the cords, place objects on the cords, or place objects against the cords, which can damage the cords. Give particular attention to the cords at the point at which the cord connects to the plug, at electrical outlets, and at the places where the cords exit the set-top.

Power Sources

A label on this set-top indicates the correct power source for this set-top. Operate this set-top only from an electrical outlet that has the voltage and frequency that the label indicates.

If you are unsure of the type of power supply to your residence, consult your cable service provider or your local power company.

Power Cord Polarization

This set-top has a two-prong plug. Properly ground (earth) this set-top by inserting the plug into a grounded electrical, two-socket outlet. If this plug is polarized, it has one wide prong and one narrow prong. This plug fits only one way.



CAUTION:

To prevent electric shock, match wide blade of plug to the wide slot, and then fully insert.

If you are unable to insert this plug fully into the outlet, contact an electrician to replace your obsolete outlet.

Servicing

Do not open the cover of this set-top. If you open the cover, your warranty will be void. Refer all servicing to qualified personnel only. Contact your cable service provider for instructions.

Damage that Requires Service

For damage that requires service, unplug this set-top from the electrical outlet. Refer to qualified personnel when any of the following occurs:

- There is damage to the power cord or plug
- Liquid enters the set-top
- There is exposure to rain or water
- Operation is not normal (the instructions in this guide describe the proper operation)
- If you drop this set-top, or damage the cabinet of this set-top
- If this set-top exhibits a distinct change in performance

Upon completion of any service or repairs to this set-top (home terminal), the service technician will perform safety checks to determine that the equipment is in proper operating condition.

Change the Way You Watch TV

Use the Explorer® 8300™ Digital Video Recorder (DVR) to control live TV, record TV programs without a VCR, and watch two programs at the same time.

When two of your favorite programs are scheduled at the same time, you can record one program on the 8300 while watching the other.

With the 8300 you can watch two programs at the same time, even if your TV does not have picture-in-picture (PIP) capability.

Follow the instructions in this guide to install the 8300, to become familiar with the buttons on the front panel and to access your cable services. Then, enjoy the features of the 8300 and change the way you watch TV!

Safety First

Before using the DVR, read the SAFETY COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS section of this guide.

The Explorer eClub

The online Explorer eClub provides news and information about the Explorer 8300 DVR. You can access the Explorer eClub on the Internet at the following Web address:

www.scientificatlanta.com/explorerclub

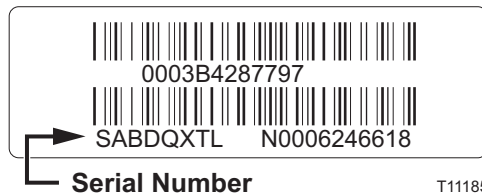
To join and access the online Explorer eClub, you need the serial number of the 8300.

Identify Your 8300

To find the serial number for your 8300, look on the back for a label that is similar to the example shown here. The serial number begins with SA and is located in the lower left corner of the bar code.

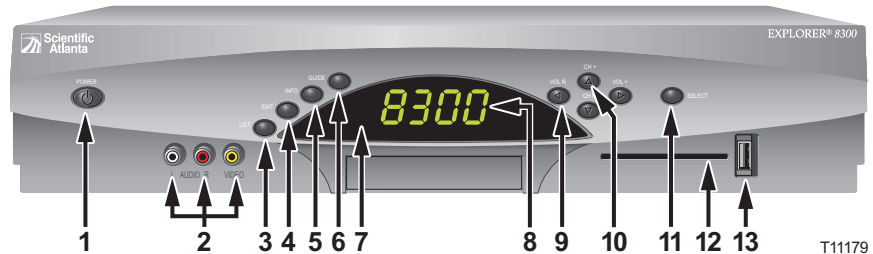
If the 8300 requires troubleshooting in the future, your cable service provider may ask for this serial number.



Use the space provided here to record the serial number:



T11185

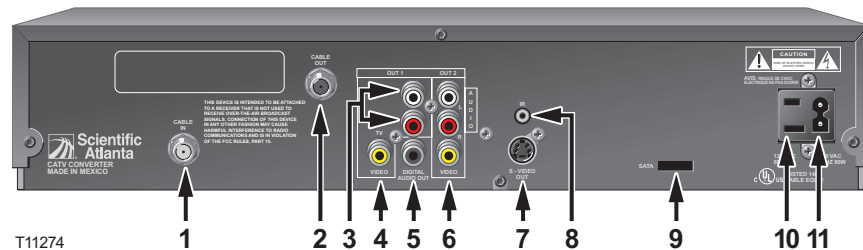
What's On the Front Panel?



- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1 Power | Turns the 8300 on and off |
| 2 Video and Audio Input | Connects to video and left/right (L/R) audio outputs of an external device to deliver the video and audio to a TV or other device |
| 3 List | Displays the list of recorded programs |
| 4 Exit | Exits menus, the on-screen guide, and program information |
| 5 Info | Displays a description of the selected program. The key is available from the on-screen guide and while viewing a program |
| 6 Guide | Accesses on-screen services, such as the on-screen guide, video-on-demand, or pay-per-view |
| 7 IR Sensor | Receives the infrared signal from the remote control |
| 8 LED Display | Displays the selected channel number and time of day. The LED also displays the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Message () • Power () • RECORD |
| 9 VOL + and VOL - | Enables you to increase and decrease volume |
| 10 CH + and CH - | Enables you to scroll up and down through the channels |
| 11 Select | Provides access to your on-screen selection |
| 12 Smart Card* | Allows smart card access |
| 13 USB Port* | Connects to external equipment, such as a keyboard |

**This connector is reserved for future use or may not be available on all 8300 models.*

What's On the Back Panel?



- T11274
- 1 **Cable In** Connect the coaxial cable that delivers the signal from your cable service provider
 - 2 **Cable Out** Connect a coaxial cable to Cable Out to send analog audio and video signals to a TV or VCR. These signals are SDTV video and stereo audio
 - 3 **Audio Out (LEFT and RIGHT)** Connect RCA cables to Audio Out to send analog audio signals (left and right) to a stereo receiver or TV with stereo outputs
 - 4 **Video Out** Connect to video input of TV or VCR
 - 5 **Digital Audio Output** Connect an RCA cable to send a digital audio signal to a surround-sound receiver or other digital audio device
 - 6 **Secondary Video and Audio Out** Connect either to a VCR for archiving saved content from the 8300 or connect to another set of inputs (composite) on your TV
 - 7 **S-Video Out** Connect an S-Video cable to send an S-Video signal to your TV or VCR. This signal is standard definition but higher quality than other SDTV connections
 - 8 **IR** (This connector reserved for future use)
 - 9 **SATA** Connect to an external Serial ATA (SATA) hard disk drive for expanded recording capability. Please check with your cable service provider for a list of approved hard drive models for use with the 8300
 - 10 **AC Outlet** Connect the AC power cord from another device, such as a TV
 - 11 **AC Power Input** Connect the power cord to deliver power to the 8300

Connecting Entertainment Devices

Where Are the Connection Diagrams?

The diagrams on the following pages show examples of common ways to connect the 8300 to your TV, VCR, and home theater receiver.

However, these diagrams do not show every possible combination of devices. Please consult the user's guides that came with your other electronic devices for further information.

What Cables Do I Need?

Some of the cables shown in the diagrams may not be included with the 8300. The required cables are shown in the connection diagrams on the following pages.

How Do I Connect the 8300 to My TV and Other Entertainment Devices?

When you are ready to connect the 8300, follow these instructions.

1. Power off all electrical devices before connecting to avoid electrical shock.
2. Connect the 8300 to your TV, VCR, and other entertainment devices as shown in the diagrams on the following pages. (The diagrams in this guide do not cover every possible combination.)
3. Connect the 8300 to the coaxial cable coming from the wall.
4. Plug the 8300 and the TV into an AC power source.
5. Do *not* turn on the set-top or TV yet.
6. Wait until you see one of the following displays on the front of the set-top:
 - Current time
 - Four dashes (- - - -)

Important: It may take several minutes for the set-top to receive the latest software, programming, and service information. When the front panel displays the time or four dashes, the update is complete.

7. After the update is complete, turn **on** the TV.

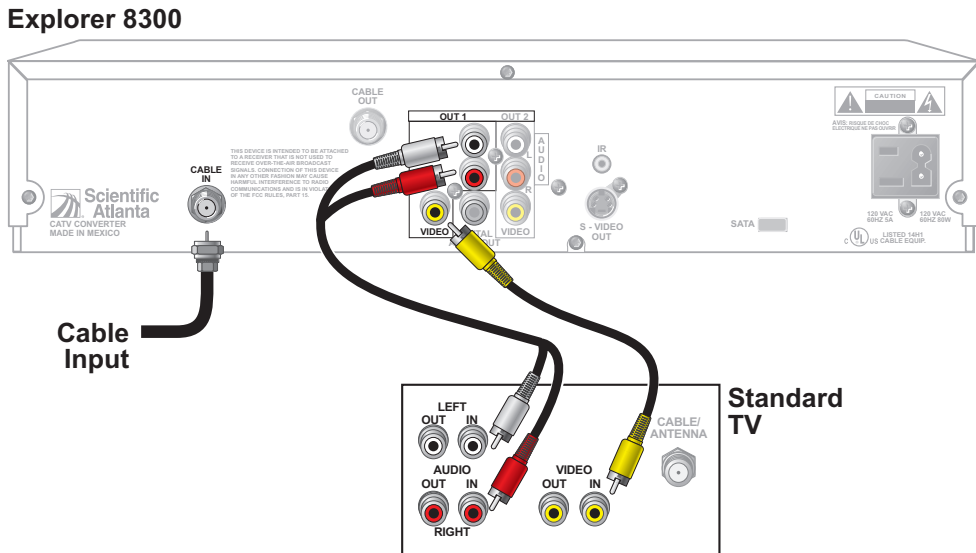
How Do I Set Up Stereo Sound?

To set up stereo sound, choose one of the following options:

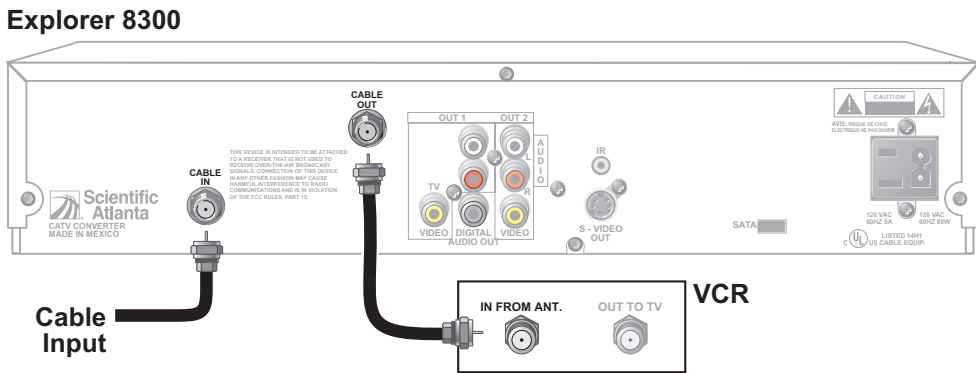
- Connect an RCA cable from the DIGITAL AUDIO OUT on the 8300 to the DIGITAL AUDIO IN on your TV (if equipped) or stereo receiver.
- Connect stereo audio cables from the AUDIO OUT LEFT and RIGHT connectors on the 8300 to the AUDIO IN LEFT and RIGHT connectors on your TV.

Connecting the 8300 to Your TV and VCR

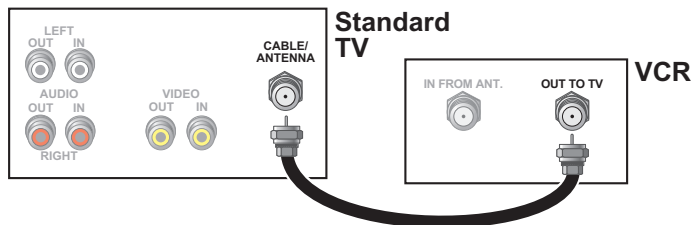
- 1 Connect the 8300 to the TV.



- 2 Connect the 8300 to the VCR.



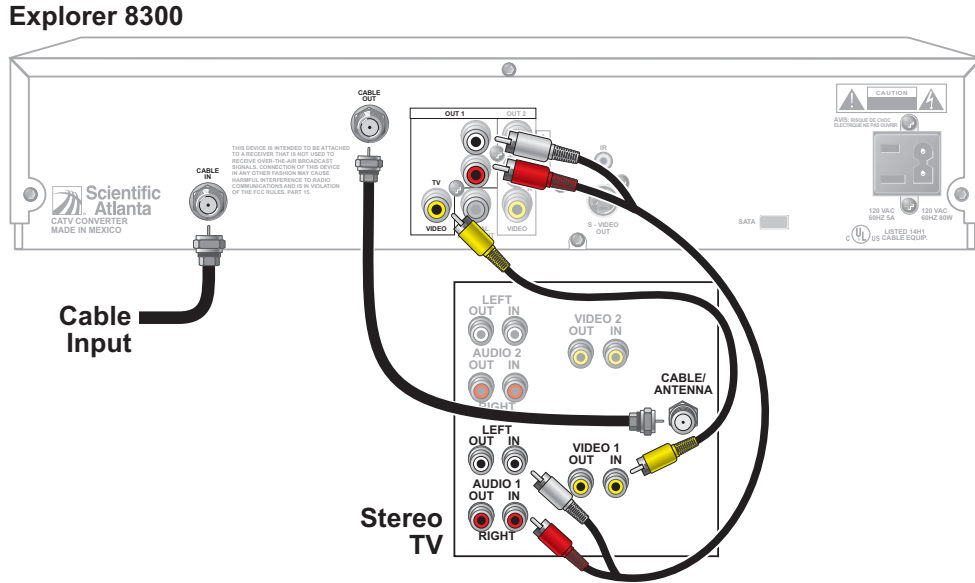
- 3 Connect the TV to the VCR.



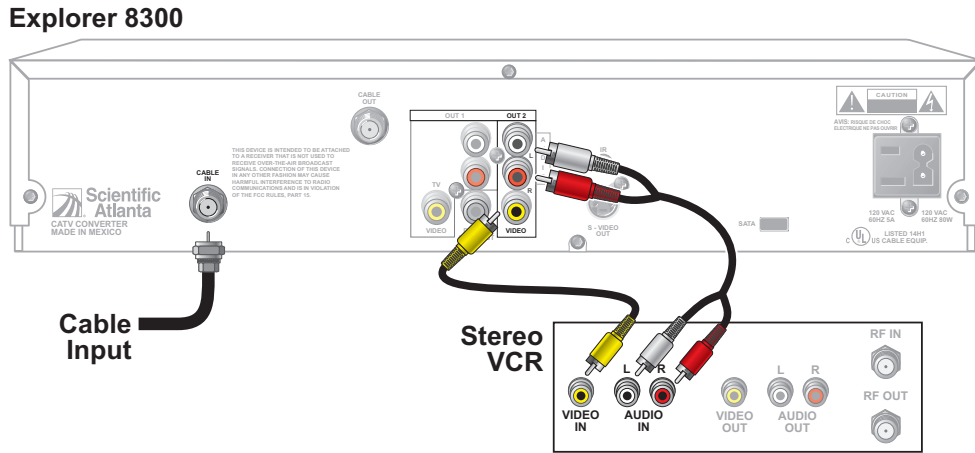
WARNING:
Electric shock hazard! Unplug all electronic devices before connecting or disconnecting any device cables to the 8300.

Connecting the 8300 to Your Stereo TV and Stereo VCR

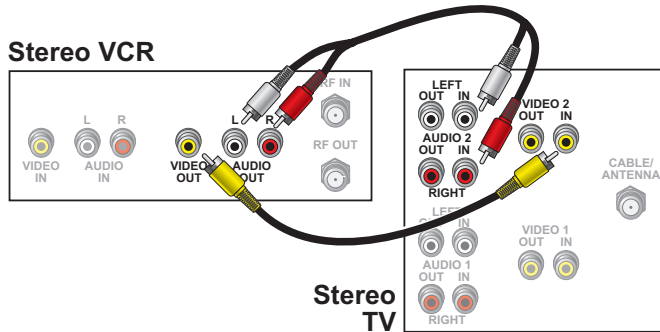
- 1 Connect the 8300 to the stereo TV.



- 2 Connect the 8300 to the stereo VCR.



- 3 Connect the stereo TV to the stereo VCR.

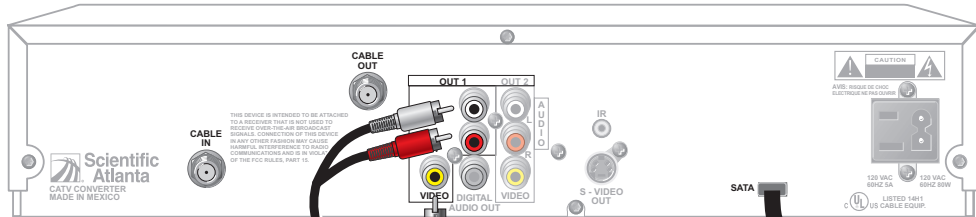


WARNING:
Electric shock hazard! Unplug all electronic devices before connecting or disconnecting any device cables to the 8300.

Connecting the 8300 to Your Home Theater, Stereo TV, and External SATA Hard Disk Drive

- 1 Connect the 8300 to the Home Theater Receiver.

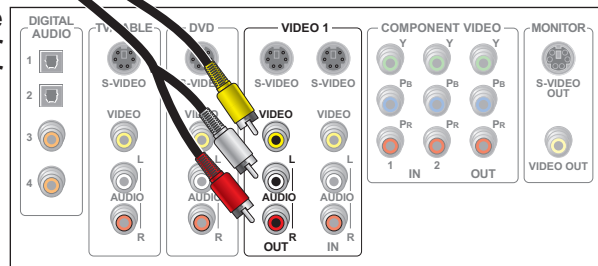
Explorer 8300



- 2 Connect the 8300 to the SATA hard disk drive.

External SATA Hard Disk Drive

Home Theater Receiver

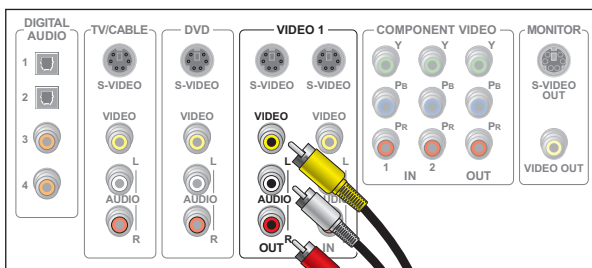


Notes:

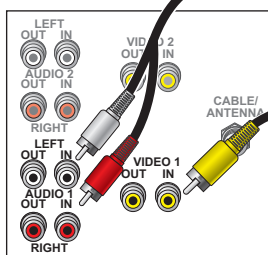
- Consult with your cable service provider for a list of approved external SATA hard disk drives that work with the 8300.
- External SATA hard disk drives allow for greater program storage capacity and are not meant to be used for archiving.

- 3 Connect the Home Theater Receiver to the stereo TV.

Home Theater Receiver



Stereo TV



WARNING:
Electric shock hazard!
Unplug all electronic devices before connecting or disconnecting any device cables to the 8300.

Watching TV

Access Services and Programs

Access cable services and programs by pressing the following keys on the remote control:

- **Guide**—Access the on-screen guide. The on-screen guide displays schedules of TV programs and other services available from your cable service provider, such as video-on-demand and pay-per-view programs.
- **Arrows**—Highlight a program in the schedule.
- **Info**—Display a specific program description (either from the on-screen guide or while viewing a program).
- **Select**—View a specific program in



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Record One Program While Watching Another

When two of your favorite programs are scheduled at the same time, you can record one program on the built-in DVR while watching the other. Use the DVR keys on the remote control to record programs or to play back recorded programs.

Watch Two Programs at the Same Time

You do not need a special TV to watch two programs at the same time. Use the picture-in-picture (PIP) keys on the remote and you will see a PIP screen on your TV.



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Performance Tips

If the 8300 does not perform as expected, the following tips may help. If you need further assistance, contact your cable service provider.

No Picture

- Verify that the power to your TV is turned on.
- If plugged into a wall switch, verify the switch is in the ON position.
- Verify that all cables are properly connected.
- If your system includes a VCR and/or stereo, verify that you have properly connected them to the 8300.
- Verify that the TV is set to the proper input.
- Verify that your TV is connected to the proper TV input port.

No Color

- Verify that the current TV program is broadcast in color.
- Adjust the TV color controls.

No Sound

- If your setup includes a VCR or stereo, verify that you have properly connected them to the 8300.
- Verify that the volume is turned up.
- Verify that the mute function is not engaged.

Automatic Software Updates

The TV screen displays a message that indicates the 8300 is automatically updating its software. Wait for the time to display on the front panel of your 8300 before continuing with the installation process. When the front panel displays the time, the update is complete.

Compliance Information

United States FCC Compliance

This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the applicable limits of Part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio or TV reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on. The user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected
- Consult your cable company or an experienced radio/TV technician for help

Any changes or modifications not expressly approved by Scientific-Atlanta could void the user's authority to operate the equipment.

Important: The information shown in the FCC Declaration of Conformity paragraph below is a requirement of the FCC and is intended to supply you with information regarding the FCC approval of this device. *The phone numbers listed are for FCC-related questions only and not intended for questions regarding the connection or operation for this device. Please contact your cable service provider for any questions you may have regarding the operation or installation of this device.*

FCC Declaration of Conformity

This device complies with *Part 15 of the FCC Rules*. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: 1) this device may not cause harmful interference, and 2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

EXPLORER® 8300
Home Entertainment Server:
Model 8300
Manufactured by: Scientific-Atlanta, Inc.;
5030 Sugarloaf Parkway;
Lawrenceville, Georgia 30044; USA
Telephone **770-236-1077**

Canada EMI Regulation

This Class B digital apparatus meets all requirements of the Canadian Interference Causing Equipment Regulations.

Cet appareil numérique de la classe B respecte toutes les exigences du Règlement sur le matériel brouilleur du Canada.

Software and Firmware Use

Scientific-Atlanta, Inc. owns copyrights to the software included in your set-top and furnishes the software to your cable service provider under a license agreement. You may only use or copy this software in accordance with the terms of your cable service provider.

Scientific-Atlanta, Inc. owns copyrights to the firmware in this equipment. You may only use the firmware in the equipment in which it is provided. Any reproduction or distribution of this firmware, or any portion of it, without the express written consent of Scientific-Atlanta, Inc. is prohibited.

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