

*Information about the television and radio reception facilities in your new apartment, from the installers, Don Valley Aerials.*

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# The television distribution system

*This information sheet is designed to help residents make full use of the TV and radio reception facilities that are available in each apartment. Your apartment is connected to a television distribution system. You do not need to install your own aerial or satellite dish, because the system provides you with reception of analogue terrestrial TV, digital terrestrial TV, digital satellite TV, VHF FM radio, and VHF DAB radio. Because the system has been designed and installed to a high standard, reception quality will be as good or better than that from an individual aerial or dish.*

## TV and radio signals available at each apartment

- (a) The four basic analogue TV channels: BBC-1, BBC-2, ITV1, Channel 4.
- (b) Analogue Channel 5 if it is available in the area.
- (c) All the digital terrestrial TV and radio channels (including Freeview and TopUp) that are available in the area.
- (d) All the TV and radio channels from the group of satellites at 28°E, including Sky and Freesat.
- (e) All VHF FM radio stations available in the locality.
- (f) All Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB radio) stations available in the locality.

## Connections within each apartment

Each living room has a master aerial wallplate that provides all the signals, as listed above, from the distribution system. A typical living room wallplate is shown on page 3. If you have aerial wallplates in one or more other rooms the living room one will have a 'return' socket that connects to these 'slave' TV wallplates. The 'return' socket might be labelled 'other rooms' or something similar. The 'slave' outlet or outlets are not connected directly to the distribution system; they are only connected to the living room 'return'. This arrangement allows you to view the satellite channel from the living room satellite box in other rooms. The satellite receiver gets its incoming signals from the master socket and sends its output to both the living room TV and the TVs in other rooms. This would also work for a video recorder or a terrestrial digital box with a UHF output. See pages 5 and 6 for more information. Normal TV reception will be available from the 'slave' sockets as long as the TV aerial socket and the return socket on the living room wallplate are linked. They can be linked by the connections to and from the satellite receiver (as shown in Layout Option 2 on p5) or by a simple aerial splitter (as shown in Layout Option 1 on p5). The splitter and flyleads are not supplied but are readily available from TV shops, supermarkets, and DIY shops. Check that you get a splitter and flyleads that together give the correct set of male/female aerial plug connectors for your purpose. Line connectors can be used to link two male plugs or change a male plug to a female socket.

If you have Sky you could also use a Sky 'remote eye' system. The remote eye is a little device similar in appearance to a computer mouse. It sits near the bedroom TV set, receives the infrared remote control commands, and passes them back to the satellite box via the aerial cable. This means that if you purchase a Sky 'remote eye' you will be able to change satellite channels from the bedroom.

## If you have poor TV reception

The TV distribution system has been tested at your property, so if you experience difficulty with your TV set or other equipment when you first move in it is most likely that you have connected it up or tuned it in incorrectly. Please read this leaflet carefully. We are happy to answer queries by phone or email ([donvalleyaerials@f2s.com](mailto:donvalleyaerials@f2s.com)), but if you ask us to visit to correct a fault that proves to be due to the incorrect installation of your own equipment a charge will be made. If you feel that you need a visit by a professional domestic audio-visual equipment installer we can recommend Keith Barber on 07946 481125.

If you suddenly have poor TV reception (or no reception at all) when everything has been all right before, we suggest that you compare notes with near neighbours. If other people have reception problems as well it is very likely that the distribution system has developed a fault, or that the mains supply to the system has been interrupted. But if everyone else has good reception the fault is likely to be with your connections or your TV set.

This leaflet is only intended as a general guide, and should be used in conjunction with the instructions supplied with your TV, VCR, etc. If you are not sure how to proceed consult a qualified technician.

## Analogue Terrestrial Television

This is the name given to the ordinary, non-satellite, non-digital channels. The television system provides you with reception of BBC-1, BBC-2, ITV-1, Channel Four, and Channel 5 where available. Use Layout Option 1 on page 5.

Most modern TV sets (and recorders) tune themselves in automatically. Typically you need to press 'menu', 'install' and 'auto', but we suggest you consult your handbook for exact instructions. If you have to tune in your TV set manually you can find the correct channels by looking at

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/reception/transmitters/tv/index.shtml>

We suggest that you tune-in your TV set and VCR as follows: BBC-1 on preset 1, BBC-2 on preset 2, ITV on preset 3, Ch4 on preset 4, and Ch5 on preset 5. If you wish to tune-in your TV set to a VCR use preset 0 if possible. For a terrestrial digital box and/or a Sky digital box, use presets 6 and 7.

The RF (aerial signal) output channel of your VCR/DVD should be set to a clear channel; otherwise there might be interference on the picture during playback. The digital terrestrial transmissions occupy so many channels that finding a clear channel can be difficult. Consider the use of a SCART connection rather than an RF (aerial) connection for your VCR. This will remove any possibility of interference, and in any case will give a better picture.

## Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT)

An Integrated Digital TV set or a digital terrestrial set-top box will automatically tune-in all available channels. Consult the handbook to find out how to start the automatic tuning process. You will most likely need to carry out this auto tuning even if the TV set or set top box worked all right at your previous address. Use Layout Option One on page 5.

Connect the receiver as shown in one of the connection diagrams, then follow the on-screen installation guide. Be prepared to wait a few minutes for the installation procedure to end.

For the best possible picture quality ensure that the SCART lead linking the terrestrial digital set-top box to the TV set is an individually-screened 21-wire item with full RGB capability. Set the TV receiver for AV RGB input.

If you use the RF (aerial) output of your set-top box rather than the scart output, the box's RF output should be set to a clear channel; otherwise there might be interference on the picture. You might have to find a clear channel by trial and error, as mentioned in the previous section. It's really much better to use a SCART connection rather than an RF connection for the output from your DTT box. This will remove any possibility of interference, and in any case always gives a better picture.

To connect an IDTV (Integrated Digital TV set) follow the manufacturer's installation diagrams.

If an auto scan finds few or no channels, it might be that digital terrestrial TV will not be available in your area until analogue switch-off in 2011–14. Go to <http://www.bbc.co.uk/reception/digitaltv/index.shtml> to check your postcode for digital TV coverage. The postcode checker provides only approximate information though, because TV reception can vary enormously over short distances..

## Satellite television

The television system provides you with reception of Sky Digital and Freesat, both broadcast by the Astra group of satellites at 28° East. See <http://www.freesat.co.uk/home.php>

Either service requires the use of a satellite receiver, and Sky requires a monthly payment.

Use Layout Option Two on page 5. The system uses the standard method of band and polarity switching, so your receiver will function exactly as if it was connected to a standard dish.

Installation of a new Sky Digital receiver is usually carried out by a Sky Agent. Show him this leaflet. Of course, there is no need for the Sky Agent to install a dish, since the communal aerial system provides reception of Sky Digital. Ask the installer for the dish, LNB, and fixings, since you might need these in the future if you move house. You can install a Freesat receiver yourself.

For the best possible picture quality ensure that the SCART lead linking the digital satellite box to the TV set is an individually-screened 21-wire item with full RGB capability. View digital with the TV receiver set for AV RGB input.

If you connect your satellite box to the TV set using the aerial flylead only, the box's output signal should be set to a clear channel; otherwise there might be interference on the picture during playback. Consider the use of a SCART connection rather than an RF (aerial) connection. This will remove any possibility of interference, and in any case will give a better picture.

## Sky+, Sky HD, Freesat recorders, and other two-input devices

If the living room wallplate includes a second satellite connector, marked 'SAT 2', you can use this either for a second standard satellite receiver, or for the second input required by Sky+ or Sky HD receivers. Note that if the second satellite connector is not present such devices cannot be used with full functionality, and we would not recommend their use.

## The living room TV wallplate

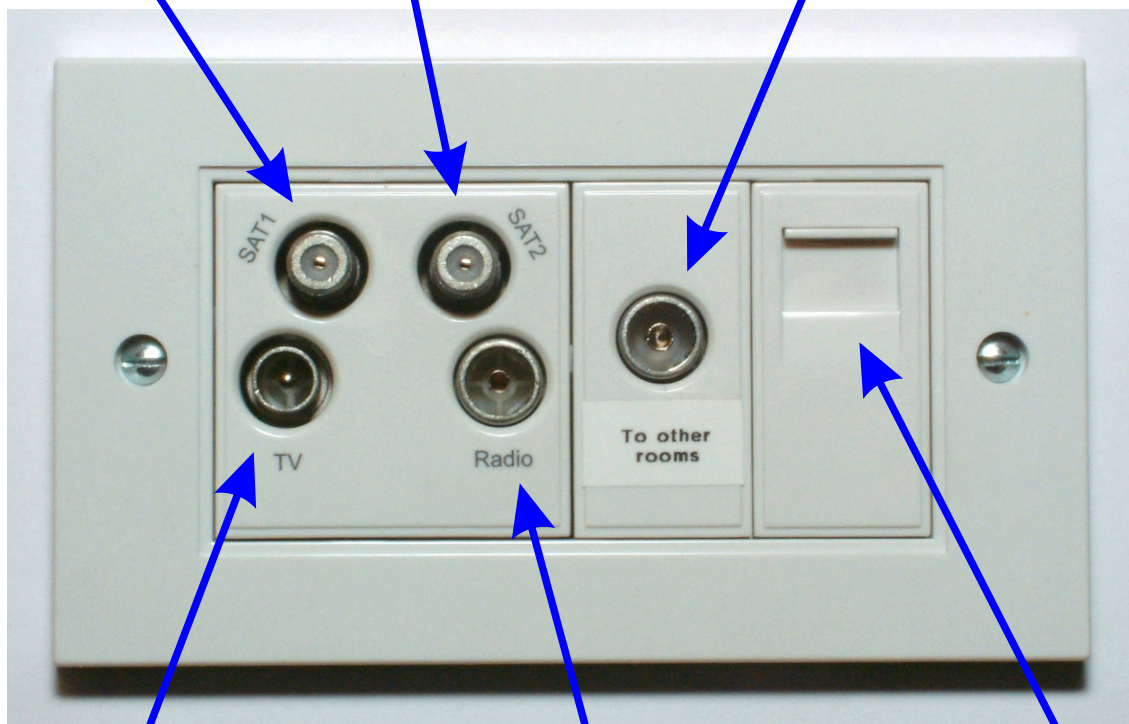
In a corner of the living room near a mains socket you will find the TV aerial wallplate. Because we use this leaflet for many different projects the example shown below is intended to show all possible variations, so your wallplate might vary significantly from the one shown. In particular yours might be a single — rather than double — width plate. However the plate pictured here shows all the different sockets that you might have available, and their functions are explained. Note that some of the sockets shown in this example might not be present on your wallplate. If a socket is not present on your wallplate it means that the function of that socket (as shown below) is not available.

**TIP:** You must have a connection to the return socket if you want to use a TV set in any of the other rooms. See pages 1 and 5.

This is the primary satellite socket, for use with standard one-input satellite receivers. It is an 'f' socket, and will accept a standard 'f' plug.

This is the secondary satellite socket, for Sky+, Sky HD, or any device needing two satellite dish inputs. It is an 'f' socket, and will accept a standard 'f' plug.

This is the return feed to other rooms (usually bedrooms). Signals fed into this socket will be available from each bedroom socket. The 'return' socket is a Belling female connector, and will accept a Belling male connector (an ordinary aerial plug). See the information about the 'slave' outlets elsewhere in this leaflet.



This is the terrestrial TV aerial socket. It is a Belling male connector, and will accept a Belling female connector. Use this connector for analogue TV and digital terrestrial TV.

This is the terrestrial radio aerial socket. It is a Belling female connector, and will accept a Belling male connector (an ordinary aerial plug). Use this connector for VHF-FM radio and VHF digital radio (Digital Audio Broadcasting or DAB).

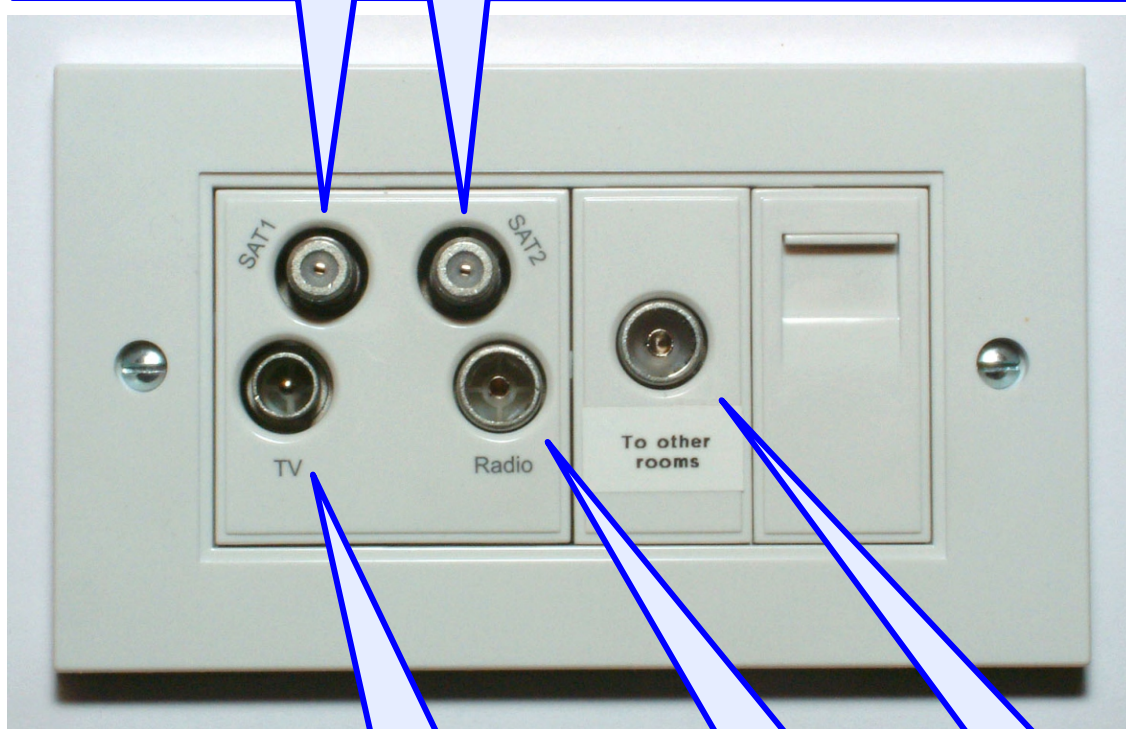
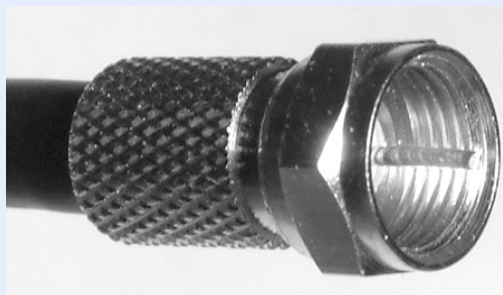
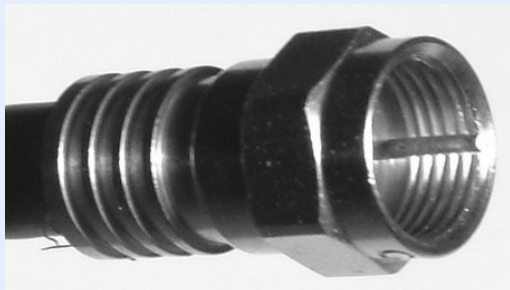
This is the telephone socket.

**TIP:** Note that the normal aerial socket (at bottom left) needs a female connector rather than a male one (see p4). If you have a black flylead supplied with a VCR it will have a female connector on one end and a male one of the other, so you can use that. Otherwise buy such a flylead, or buy a male-male flylead and a line connector. The line connector will convert the male connector to a female one. Please don't try to use the female Radio socket for TV — it will give you a very poor picture!



**Which connector?** Most styles of wallplate will be compatible with the connector types shown below for each function, although in a few cases the Belling male and female types are reversed. Check by looking closely at your wallplate.

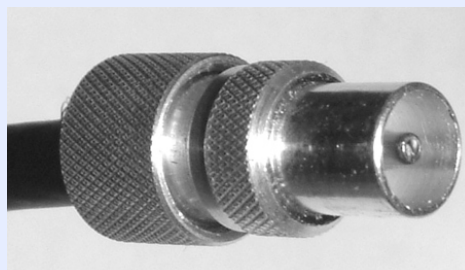
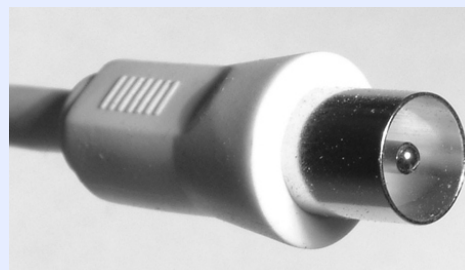
For the satellite dish feed(s) use an 'f' connector.



For the terrestrial TV aerial use a female coaxial (Belling) connector.



For the radio aerial and the feed to the other rooms use a male coaxial (Belling) connector.



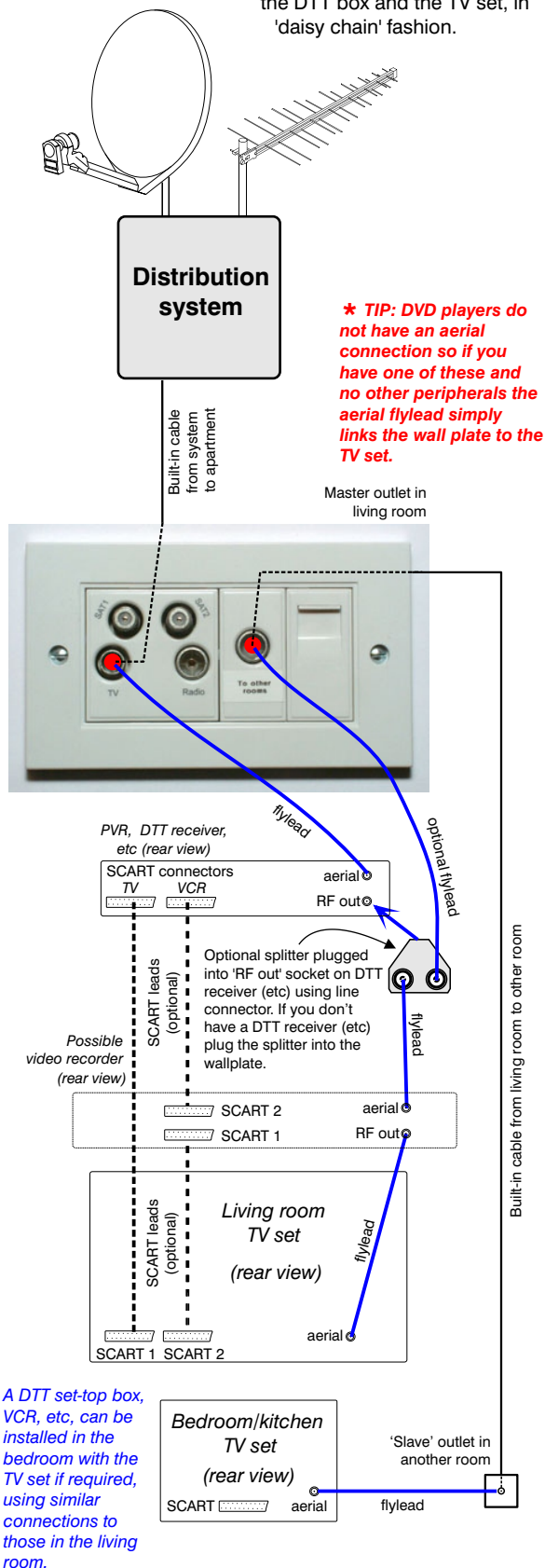
## Connecting the TV set and other equipment

If you have more than one 'slave' TV socket (in two bedrooms for instance) see the next page as well as this one.

### TV layout option one (terrestrial only)

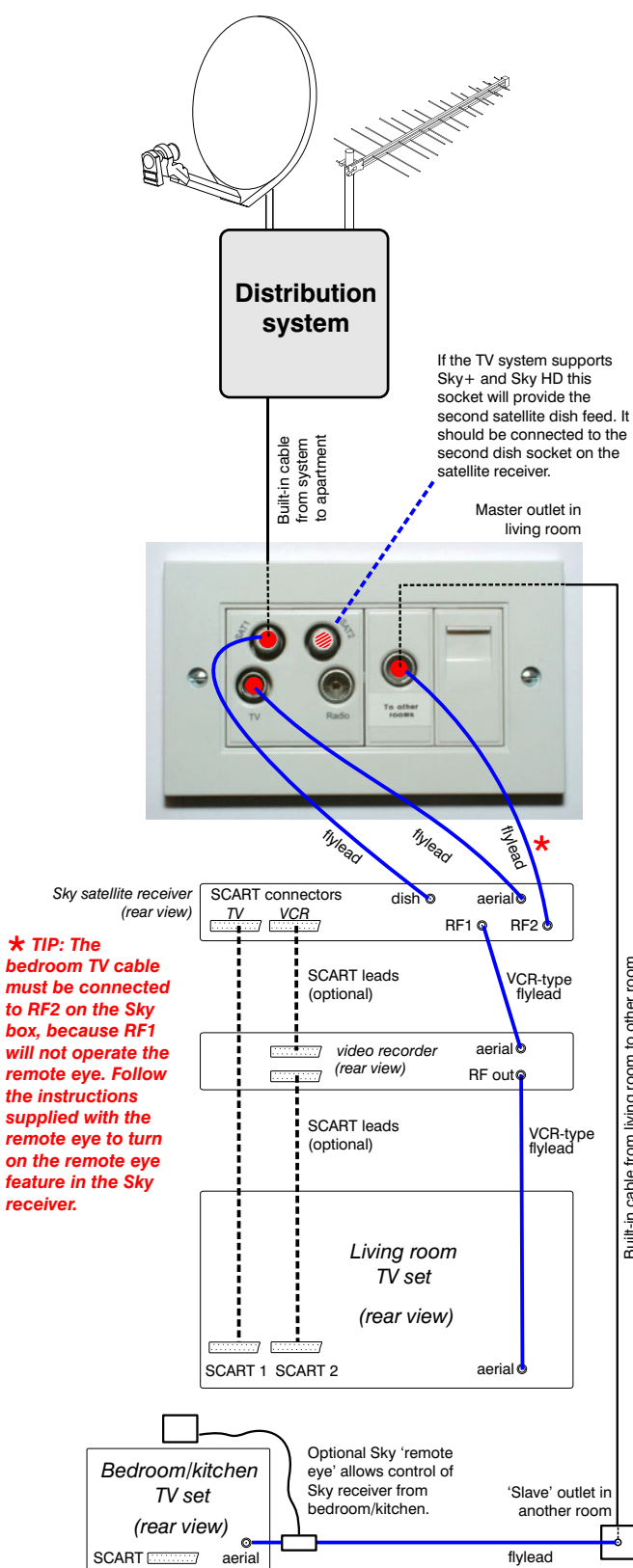
This is the basic connection diagram for a DTT (Freeview) receiver and a TV set. As an option you can also connect a bedroom TV set using the return socket, in which case both sets will receive terrestrial analogue or digital signals from the distribution system and the output of the DTT receiver. A

VCR can be connected between the DTT box and the TV set, in 'daisy chain' fashion.



### TV layout option two (satellite and terrestrial)

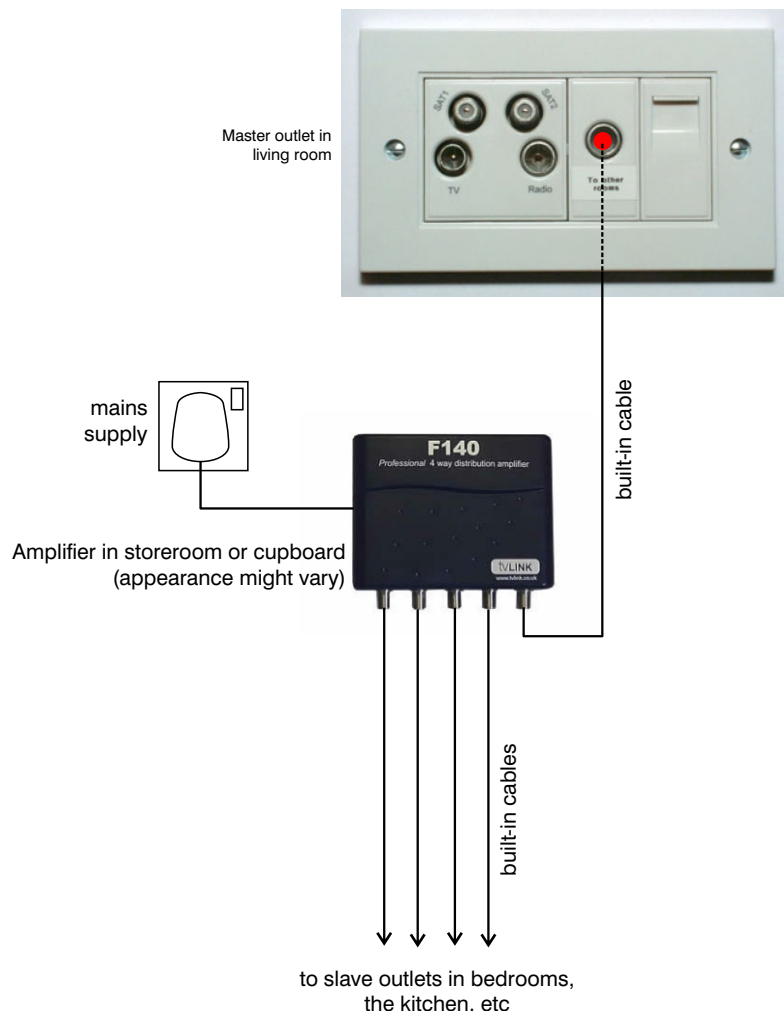
This diagram shows how to connect a Sky digital satellite receiver. The socket marked 'to other rooms' or 'return' feeds the aerial signals and satellite box output to all the 'slave' outlets. A Sky remote eye can be fitted at each slave outlet, allowing remote control of the Sky box from that room.



## The 'mini' distribution system in the apartment for the 'slave' outlets

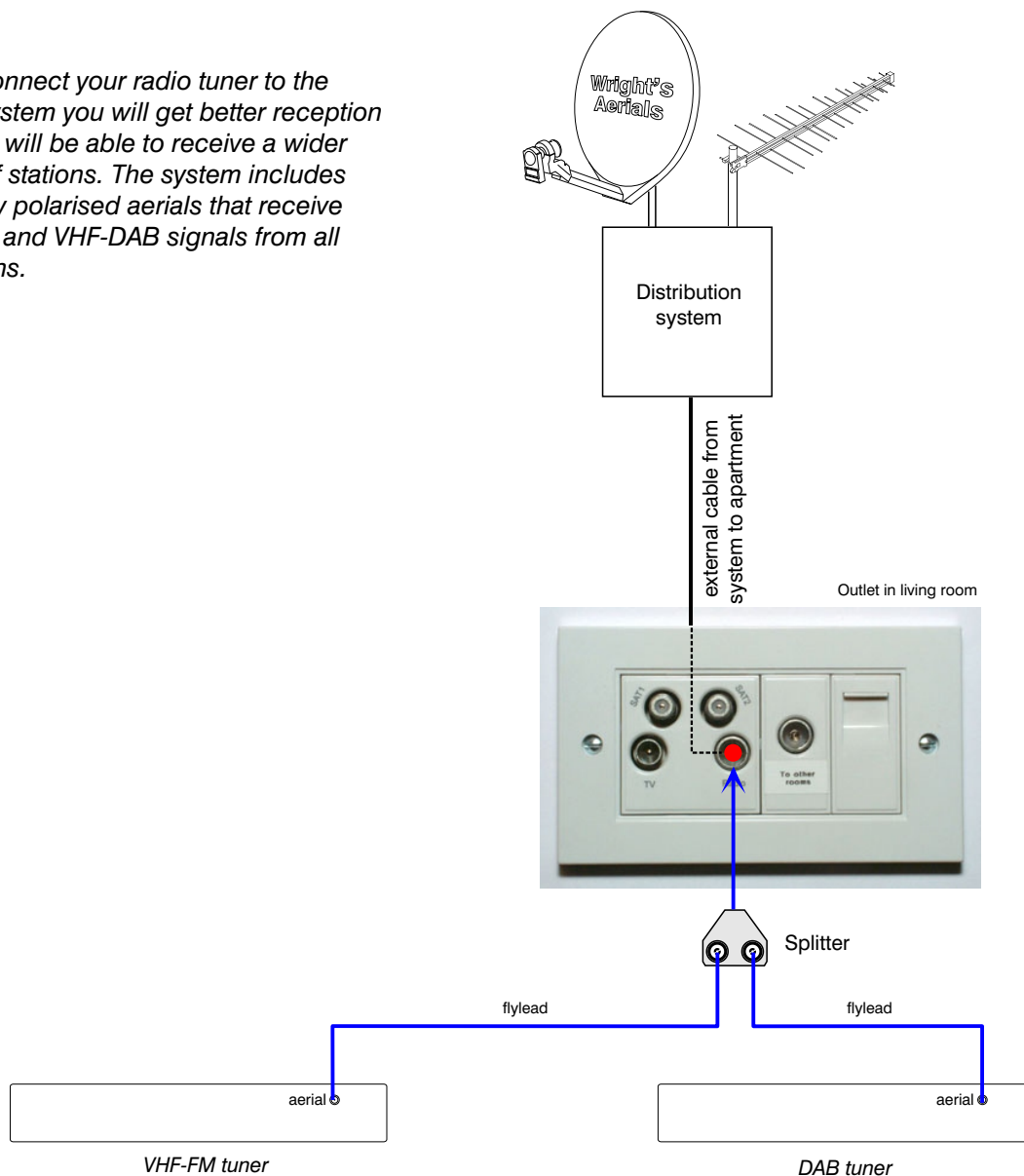
*This section is only applicable if you have more than one 'slave' TV outlet.*

If there is only one 'slave' TV socket in your apartment it will be in the master bedroom. The 'return' link shown on the previous page will simply run directly from the living room to the bedroom. However, if you have more than one slave TV socket (for instance in several bedrooms and the kitchen) there will be a small amplifier (or 'booster') in your apartment. This boosts the signal so that it is strong enough to feed several TV sets. The amplifier will be located in a store room or cupboard. Before attempting to install TV sets in the bedrooms or kitchen make sure that the amplifier is turned on. It should be plugged into a mains socket and the socket (if switched) should be 'on'. The amplifier is a special type that allows the use of a Sky 'remote' eye' at every 'slave' outlet. For more information on the amplifier see [http://www.globalcom.co.uk/upload/F\\_120\\_140.pdf](http://www.globalcom.co.uk/upload/F_120_140.pdf)



## Connecting a VHF-FM radio and a Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) radio

*If you connect your radio tuner to the aerial system you will get better reception and you will be able to receive a wider range of stations. The system includes vertically polarised aerials that receive VHF-FM and VHF-DAB signals from all directions.*



If you have only one of the two types of tuner you don't need a splitter.

The aerial connector on most DAB tuners is an 'f' socket, the same as on a satellite receiver. The aerial socket on most VHF FM tuners is a Belling socket, the same as on a TV set. To make the connections shown here obtain flyleads with the appropriate connectors at each end.

The whip aerial on many DAB portables is connected via an 'f' socket. If reception on the whip aerial is unsatisfactory you can unscrew the whip and fit a flylead that connects to the aerial system as shown above.

The signals from the aerial system are very strong. If you get interference with the system connected try a 12dB attenuator (signal reducer) in line with the aerial connection.

***And finally – from Bill, Hil, Paul, Simon, Keith,  
and Albert – enjoy your viewing and listening!***