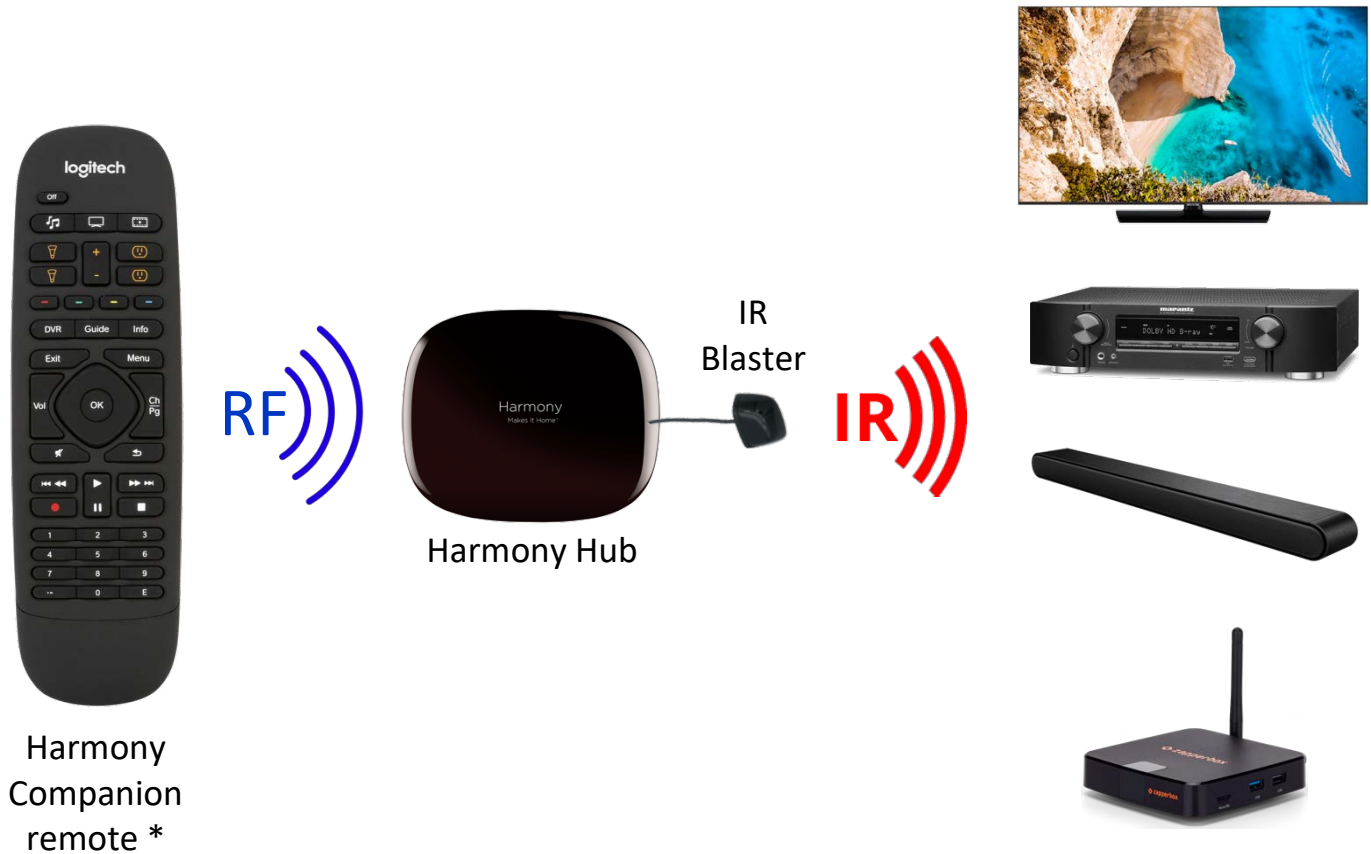


Programming a Harmony Remote to Control ZapperBox

David Henderson, Customer since October 2023

Logitech Harmony remotes are among the most popular for ease of use and their ability to control nearly all audio-visual (AV) equipment. One of the most popular combinations is a Harmony remote/Hub as pictured below. The remote communicates with the hub via radio frequency (RF) which has great range and can pass through solid items like walls, floors, and cabinet doors. The Hub communicates with AV equipment via infrared (IR) which is line of sight. The cable connecting the IR Blaster to the Hub can be quite long permitting the control of equipment not even in the same room as the Hub. For example, my ZapperBox is in a rack in my basement and I control it with a Hub in my family room on the first floor.



* There are several Harmony remotes that work with the Hub, see FAQs at the end of this article for a complete list

How do I know if my equipment can be controlled by the Harmony Remote?

Logitech's [device compatibility database](#) can be searched online. Keep in mind that even if your exact model is not listed, a similar model from the same manufacturer will likely work. For example, Logitech's database does not contain an LG G3 TV which was released in March of 2023 but a Harmony remote can still control this device by choosing an LG OLED55C8 which is in the database.

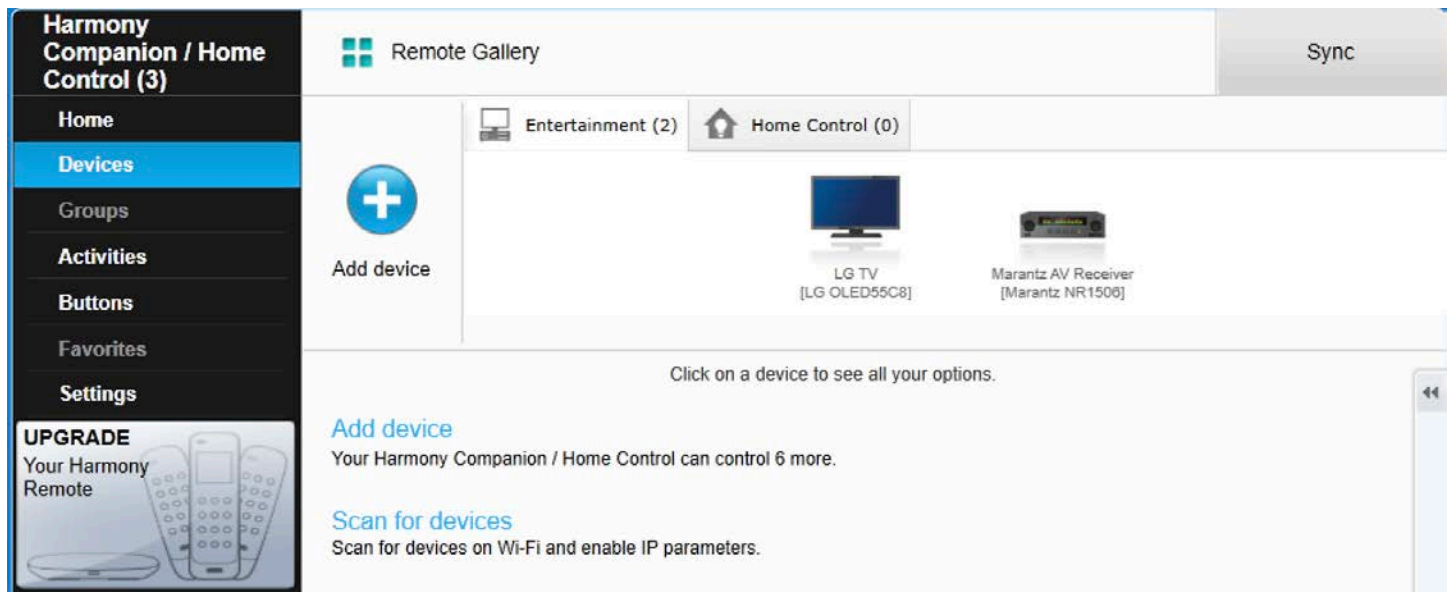
Programming the Harmony Remote

Unfortunately, Logitech announced in April of 2021 that it would be discontinuing its line of universal remotes. Used Remotes and Hubs can still be purchased on Facebook Marketplace, eBay, etc. The good news is Logitech is still updating its database of devices. The ZapperBox was recently added to their database. There used to be three methods to program a Harmony remote. Since Logitech is no longer updating its software it leaves just two reliable methods to program a Harmony remote:

1. MyHarmony software installed on a Macintosh computer – only works for MacOS 10.14 or lower. Nearly all Macs run a newer version of MacOS so this option is no longer viable. See FAQs for a method you can use to program a Harmony remote using newer versions of the MacOS.
2. Harmony Control software for iOS – I have had some success with this but with newer version of iOS it has become a bit unreliable.
3. MyHarmony software installed on a Windows computer – this option works just fine under Windows 10 or 11 with the Hub cabled directly to a PC. This method will be used in this guide.

You can download the MyHarmony Remote software for Windows [HERE](#). The Harmony Control software for iOS can be downloaded via the App Store.

Below is a screenshot from the MyHarmony Windows software. The Hub is directly connected to a laptop via USB. An LG TV and Marantz receiver have already been added under Devices.



Harmony Software Terminology

- **Devices** – these are individual pieces of equipment like TVs, receivers, soundbars, and the ZapperBox. Logitech maintains a huge database that contains nearly every piece of AV equipment on the market.
- **Activities** – these are items like watch TV, watch a movie, or game. An activity turns on the proper devices, changes inputs and allows control over volume, channel changing, etc.
- **Buttons** – the Harmony remote can “learn” certain button from the remote that came with a Device. We will take advantage of this to teach the Harmony certain buttons from the ZapperBox remote.

Steps to add the ZapperBox

1. Click Add device and type in ZapperBox for Manufacturer, M1 for model and click Add

Add A Device

Help

Enter your device information

You can add your devices in any order, be sure to enter your exact model number.

[Learn more >](#)

Manufacturer (e.g. Sony)


ZapperBox

Device Model Number (e.g. X4S2000)

M1

If you are adding a Windows or Mac computer you can add directly from here.

Add Computer



Cancel

Add

2. ZapperBox now shows up in Device view

Harmony Companion / Home Control (3)

Home

Devices

Groups

Activities

Buttons

Favorites

Settings

UPGRADE Your Harmony Remote

Remote Gallery

Sync

Entertainment (3)

Home Control (0)

Add device

LG TV [LG OLED55C8]

Marantz AV Receiver [Marantz NR1508]

ZapperBox DVR [ZapperBox M1]

ZapperBox DVR

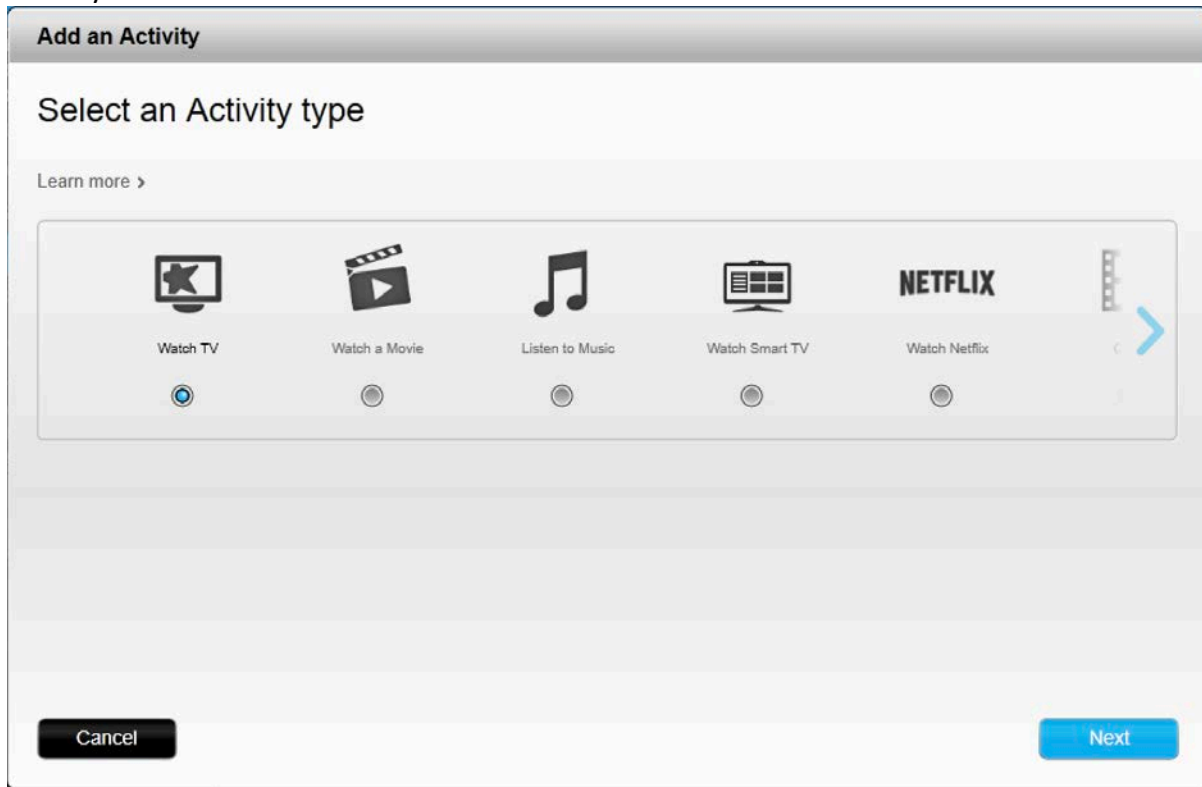
[Change Device Settings](#)
Change power, input and delay settings.

[Add or Fix a Command](#)
Teach your Harmony a new command, or fix one that isn't working.

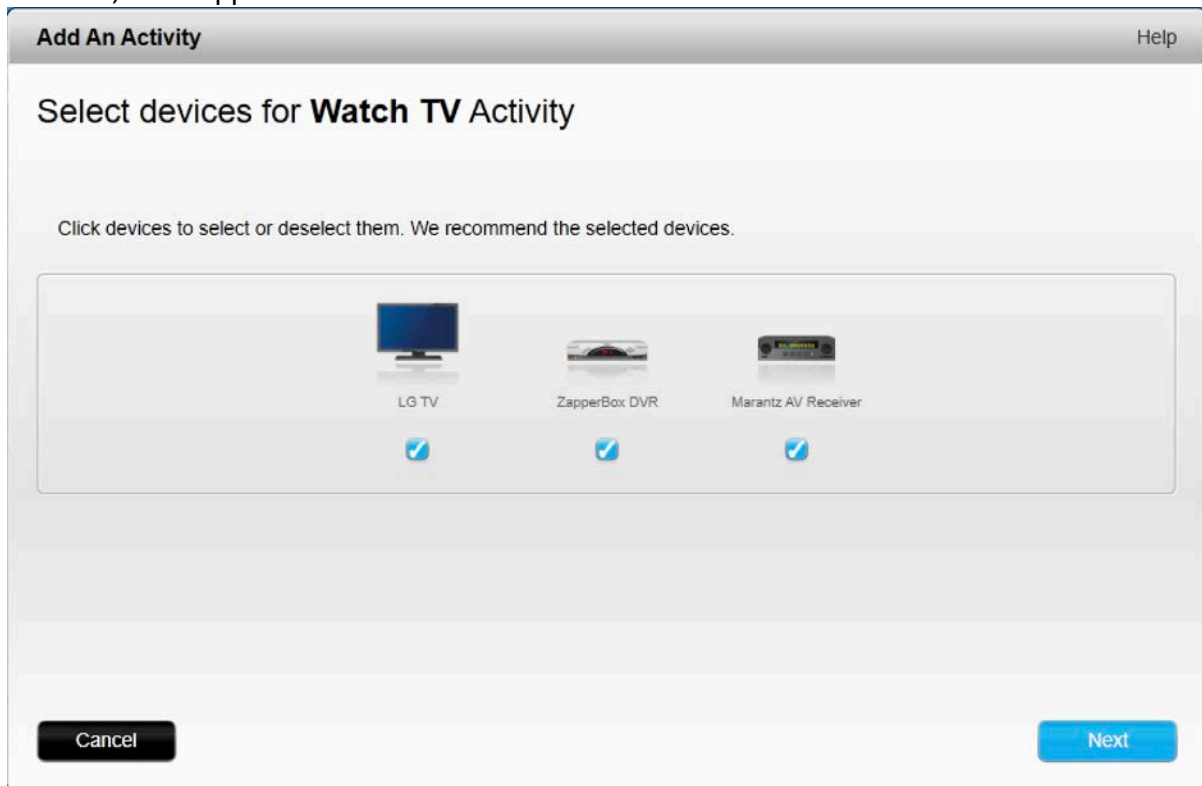
[Rename This Device](#)
Choose a new name for your ZapperBox M1

[Delete This Device](#)
Permanently remove this device from your account.

3. We now want to associate an Activity to the three devices. Click Activities on the left and the Add Activity button. Click Watch TV and click Next twice.




4. Harmony software makes a guess what devices are used for the Activity "Watch TV". It chose the TV, receiver, and ZapperBox which is correct. Click Next




5. The tuner in the ZapperBox is being used to change channels, not the tuner built into the TV set. Make sure the ZapperBox is selected and click Next

Add An Activity

Which device do you use to change channels in your **Watch TV** Activity?
[Not sure? Learn more >](#)


LG TV
☐


ZapperBox DVR
☒

We recommend the selected device.

Cancel


Back


Next


6. Harmony wants to know what Device is used to control volume. In this case the Marantz receiver is used. In your use case you might be using the TVs built in speakers or a soundbar. Click Next.

Add An Activity

Which device do you use to control volume in your **Watch TV** Activity?
[Not sure? Learn more >](#)


LG TV
☐


Marantz AV Receiver
☒


ZapperBox DVR
☐

We recommend the selected device.


Cancel

Back

Next

7. The Marantz receiver is hooked to the LG TV via HDMI 3. Choose this input and click Next.

Add An Activity



Which input should your **LG TV** be set to when you start your **Watch TV** Activity?

[Not sure? Learn more >](#)

☐ TV - Channel 3

☐ HDMI 2

☐ TV - Channel

☒ HDMI 3

☐ TV

☐ HDMI 4

☐ AV

☐ Smart TV

☐ Component

☐ Amazon

☐ HDMI 1

☐ I do not set an input

[My input is not listed here >](#)


Cancel

Back

Next

8. The ZapperBox is hooked to the Marantz receiver via the CBL/SAT port. Choose this port and click Next.

Add An Activity



Which input should your **Marantz AV Receiver** be set to when you start your **Watch TV** Activity?

[Not sure? Learn more >](#)

☒ CBL/SAT

☐ FM

☐ Internet Radio

☐ Pandora

☐ Media Player

☐ iPod/USB

☐ SmartSelect 1

☐ Media Server

☐ Bluray/DVD

☐ TV Audio

☐ SmartSelect 2

☐ I do not set an input

☐ Game

☐ CD

☐ SmartSelect 3

☐ Aux

☐ Online Music

☐ SmartSelect 4

☐ AM

☐ Bluetooth

☐ SiriusXM

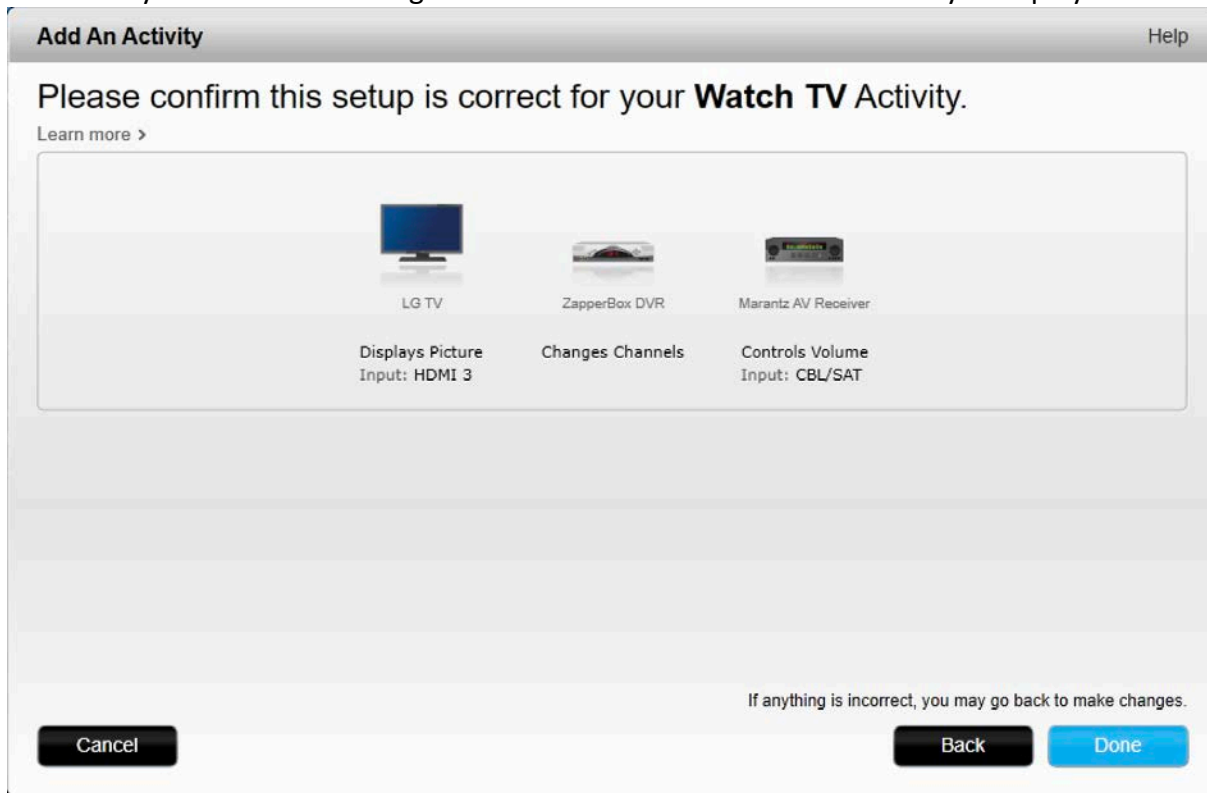
[My input is not listed here >](#)

Cancel

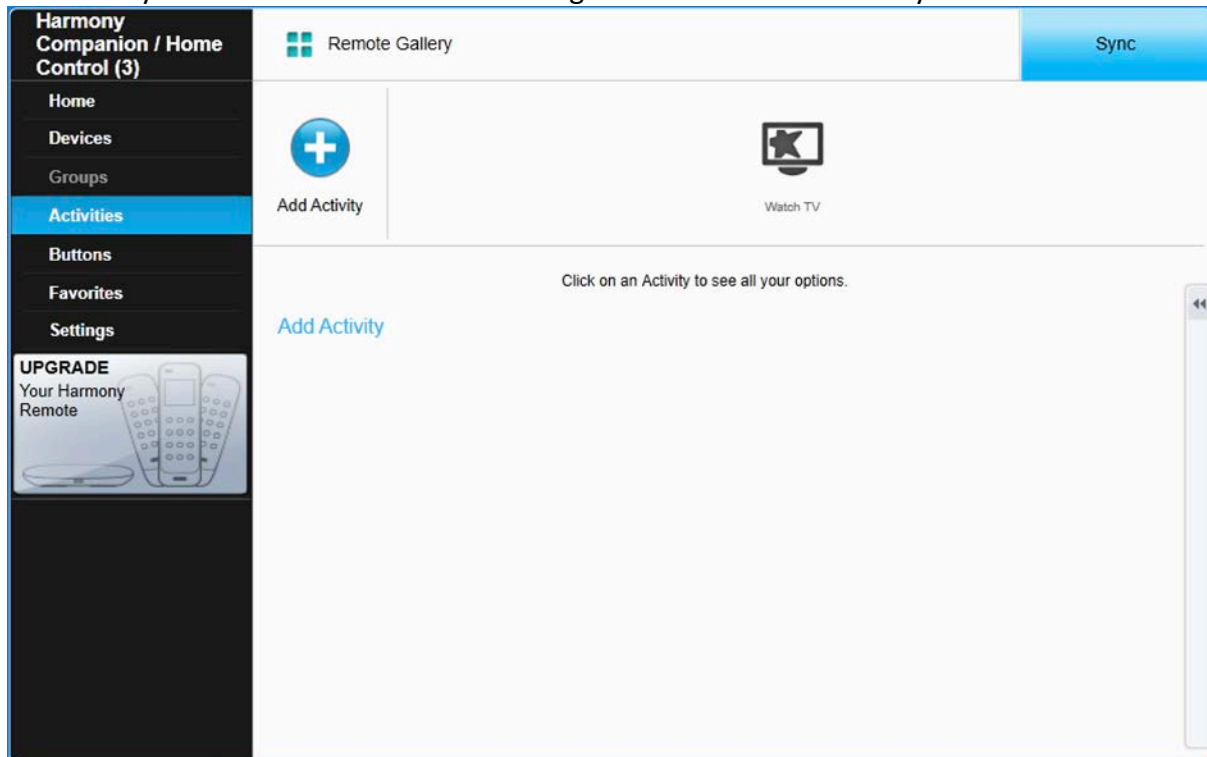
Back

Next

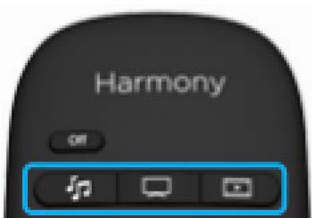
9. A summary of the Devices along with their role in the “Watch TV” activity is displayed. Click Done



10. Click the Sync button which sends the configuration from the Harmony software to the Hub



The Harmony remote now knows we have 3 Devices used for the Watch TV activity. At the top of the Harmony remote are three Activity buttons with icons for listen to music, watch TV, or watch a movie. We can assign the Watch TV activity to the middle button below.



Choose Buttons on the left and to the right of Activity Button Assignment click Go

Harmony Companion / Home Control (3)

Home


Devices

Groups

Activities

Buttons

Remote Gallery




Activity Button Assignment

Assign Activities to the 3 Activity buttons on your remote.

Go

For Short press and Long press set the Watch TV activity as shown below and click Done

Assign Activities to buttons






The three Activity buttons on your Companion / Home Control remote allow you to : Activities you've created.

Quickly pressing an Activity button will launch one Activity, and pressing and holdin launch another.

Short press

Long press

	None	None
	Watch TV	Watch TV
	None	None

With a single press of the Watch TV button the receiver, TV, and ZapperBox are turned on. The receiver and TV are set to the proper inputs and an over-the-air TV station will be displayed via the ZapperBox. A single press of the Off button will turn off all 3 Devices.

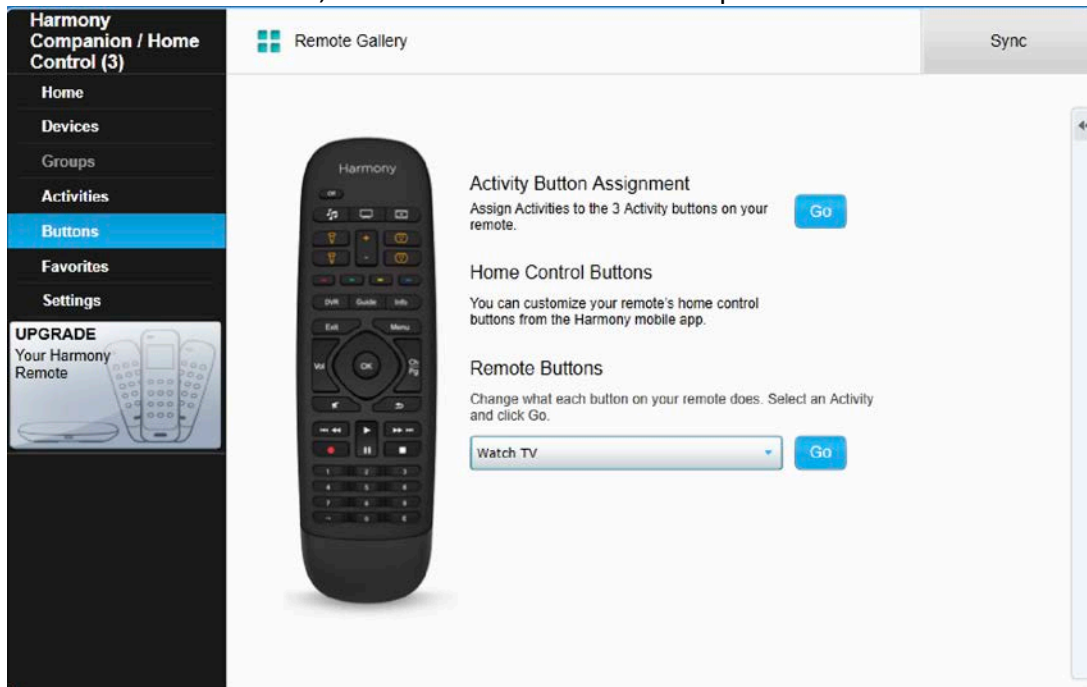
At this point the Harmony remote can control many functions of the ZapperBox. Below is the Logitech Harmony Companion remote together with the ZapperBox remote. You will notice that many buttons on the ZapperBox remote have an equivalent button on the Harmony remote including DVR, Guide, Info, and Menu. The exceptions are:

- Zap – ZapperBox remote with no equivalent on the Harmony remote
- Live TV – ZapperBox remote with no equivalent on the Harmony remote
- Skip forward and reverse on the Harmony remote do nothing at the moment



Steps to program buttons on the Harmony remote

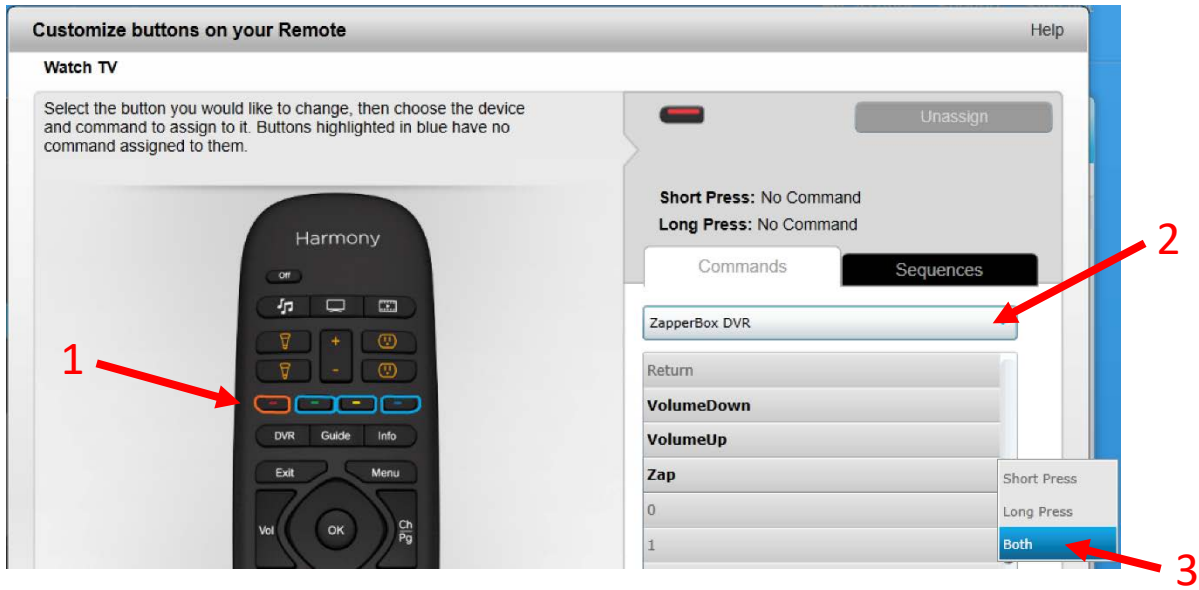
1. On the left click Buttons, from the Remote Buttons drop down menu choose Watch TV, and click Go



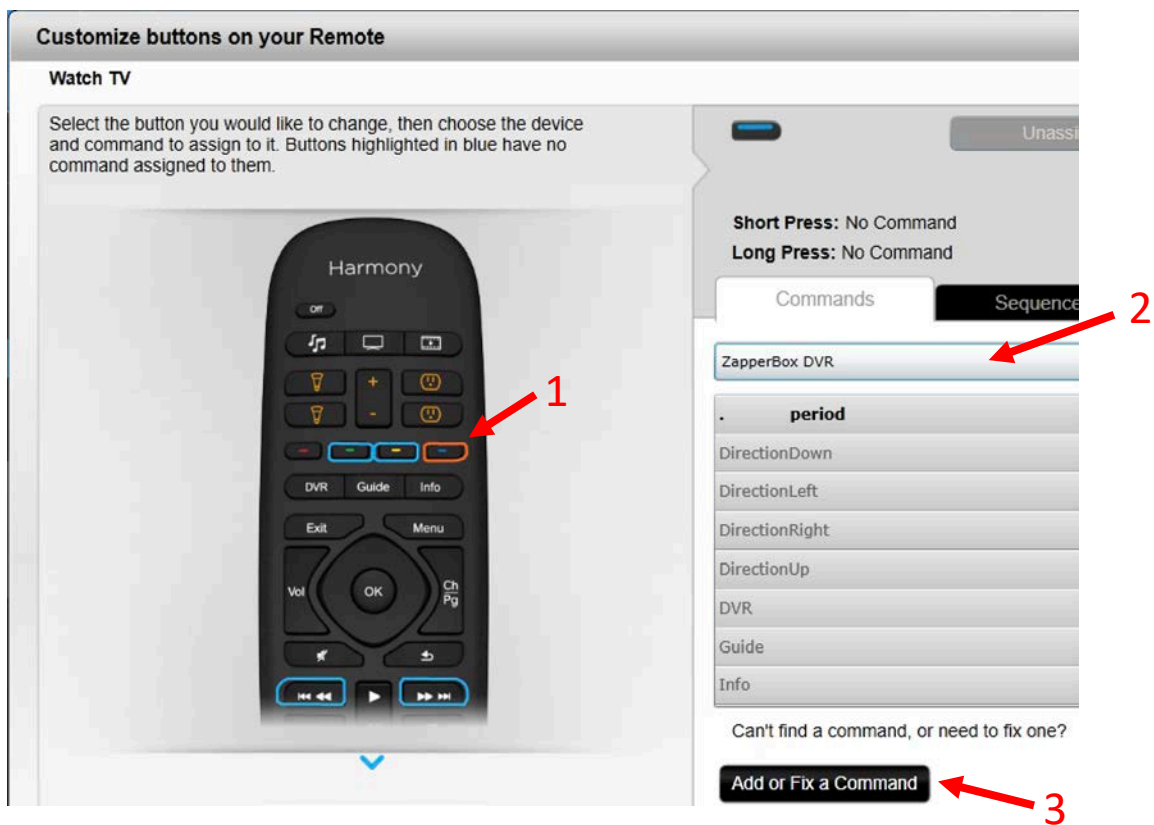
2. Below are the buttons on the Harmony remote that currently are not used. We will be programming the skip, rewind and fast forward buttons as well as two other buttons to act as Zap and Live TV as shown below.



3. Choose the button on the left side of the Harmony remote (1), in the dropdown menu choose ZapperBox DVR (2), scroll down and click the Zap button and choose Both from list (3)



4. In the list of Commands, the Live TV command is not shown, we can teach the Harmony remote this command and then assign it to a button. Choose the button on the right side of the Harmony remote (1), in the dropdown menu choose ZapperBox DVR (2), click the Add or Fix a Command button (3)



5. Type Live TV in the Add a missing command box and click Next

Add or Fix a command for ZapperBox

Do you want to:

☐ Fix a command that doesn't work

Select the command to fix

Commands

- DirectionDown
- DirectionLeft
- DirectionRight
- DirectionUp
- DVR
- Guide

☒ Add a missing command

Enter the name of the new command

Live TV

6. Take the ZapperBox remote, point it at the Harmony Hub and click the Live TV button. The Harmony software will respond with "You have successfully taught the **Live TV** command". Click Finish



7. Assign the Live TV button as shown below



8. On the ZapperBox remote pressing the left or right button once skips back by 10 seconds or forward by 30 seconds respectively. Holding the left or right down activates fast forward and rewind. The FF and REW actions speed up as the buttons are held down for a longer duration. The Harmony remote needs to be taught these buttons and their function. Teach the Harmony remote the following items using the same process we used for teaching the Live TV command.
 - a. Skip30 – press the right arrow button on the ZapperBox remote once.
 - b. FF – press and hold the right arrow button on the ZapperBox remote.
 - c. Skip10 – press the left arrow button on the ZapperBox remote once.
 - d. Rew – press and hold the left arrow button on the ZapperBox remote.
9. Assign these 4 commands as shown below



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What Harmony remotes work with a Harmony Hub?

Touchscreen remotes - Pro, Pro 2400, Elite, 950, Ultimate, Ultimate Home, Touch, and Ultimate One
Screen-less remotes - Companion and Smart Control.

If I own a Macintosh can I still program a Harmony remote?

The MyHarmony for Mac software only works with MacOS 10.14 or earlier. MacOS 10.14 was released in June of 2018 with nearly all Mac owners running a newer version. The Macintosh does have the ability to run Windows 10 or 11 in a separate virtual machine by installing [Parallels Desktop](#). Once installed MyHarmony software for Windows runs just fine. The other choice is to use Harmony Control software for iOS.