R_Volution PlayerPRO 8K TV - Universal Elite Media Player - An incredibly good device.

In July 2026, I treated myself to the luxury of buying a replacement for my aging Shield TV Pro.



Before I go into the details, let me briefly explain what I have already tried.

The Beginnings:

As an IT nerd—ever since the advent of the PC—I've always been able to rip music from CDs to my home computer. So, why should it be any different for films? Over the years, I've owned almost every physical format: Laserdisc, VHS, DVD, HD-DVD, Blu-ray, and eventually UHD Blu-ray. I certainly paid a steep price for backing HD-DVD—a format I considered superior, yet one that ultimately failed to gain a foothold. Oh well. It became clear that no more HD-DVDs would be released, and that the future format would be the Blu-ray Disc (BD). I sought out and found a way to store these films on my PC—or, more specifically, on the NAS (Network-Attached Storage) device I had since acquired. With the data now in place, all that was missing was a suitable player.

I took my first steps with XBMC (now KODI) around 2008, using a standard PC as the platform. That was perfectly adequate for DVDs, but the introduction of HD-DVD/Blu-ray and HDR meant that compatible hardware was required. I experimented with all sorts of hardware—always with a focus on Kodi (which I still maintain as an alternative for media playback). From Popcorn Hour, HiMedia, and Zidoo to the Shield TV—along with many other stops along the way—it was a constant process of change, driven in part by the new formats that have emerged over the last 20 years. But enough nostalgia; let's turn our attention to the current player.

The name "R_Volution" was surely not chosen by accident; for me, the PlayerPro 8K TV represents the quintessence of everything that has been experimented with over the last few years.

Media players have historically either excelled at one thing while handling others only via workarounds, or they have simply lacked certain features altogether. The Asian market, in particular, has flooded the space with countless cheap players that promised the moon—yet most of them lacked essential components, such as access to the Google Play Store or a sophisticated playback interface with robust media management. As a Kodi user, one knows what is technically possible, but until now, there hasn't been a suitable platform that truly delivers the full spectrum of features and technical capabilities—until now.

You can find out what the PlayerPro 8K TV is capable of, and the technology behind it, by checking directly with the manufacturer.

The features most important to me:

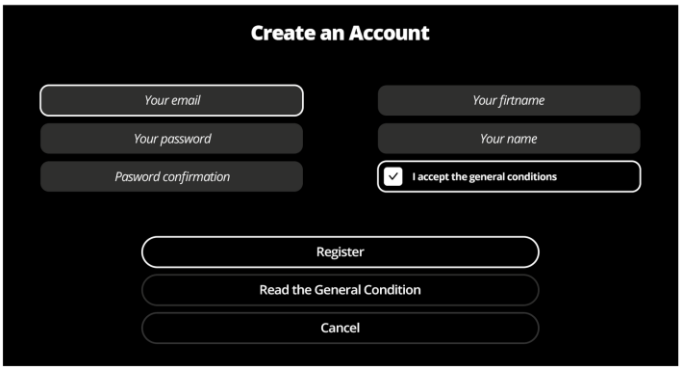
- A media management system that renders other central services (such as Plex, Jellyfin, or an SQL database for Kodi) obsolete, with support for all common formats, including multi-channel music (e.g., DSD, BD Pure Audio, DVD-A, etc.),
- an upscaler that can handle all formats and allows for adjustments across different platforms (e.g., for projectors), and which, furthermore,
- provides access to streaming apps that can be installed from the Play Store.
- Alternatively, you could install local hard drives—supporting up to 2x 32 TB—if you prefer not to use a NAS and would rather operate the player as a standalone device.

The connectivity options on the Player Pro 8K TV are extensive; for instance, it offers two HDMI inputs that can be used to connect existing playback devices. This can be particularly useful if, for example, your AV receiver (AVR) lacks sufficient ports. I've connected my Shield TV Pro there as an interim solution, allowing me to easily switch back and forth between devices..



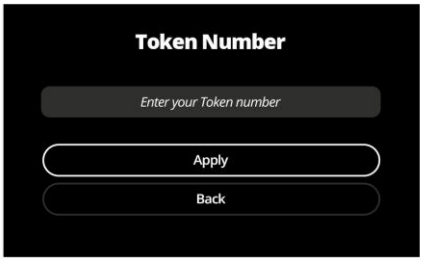
In addition to the hardware, software is also provided. R_Video serves as the foundation for movie management.

You need an account with R_Volution (registration is unfortunately mandatory), and once you have registered your device, you can also download the R_Video software for your PC.



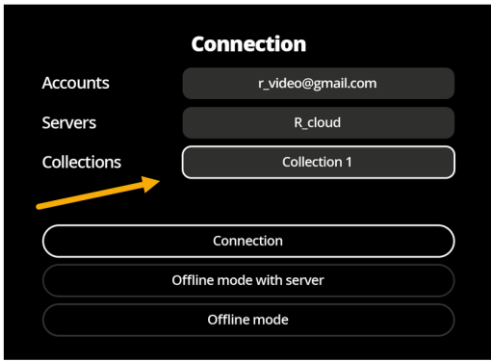
During registration, you will need the token (a unique device ID, which can be found on the device itself or on the accompanying card).



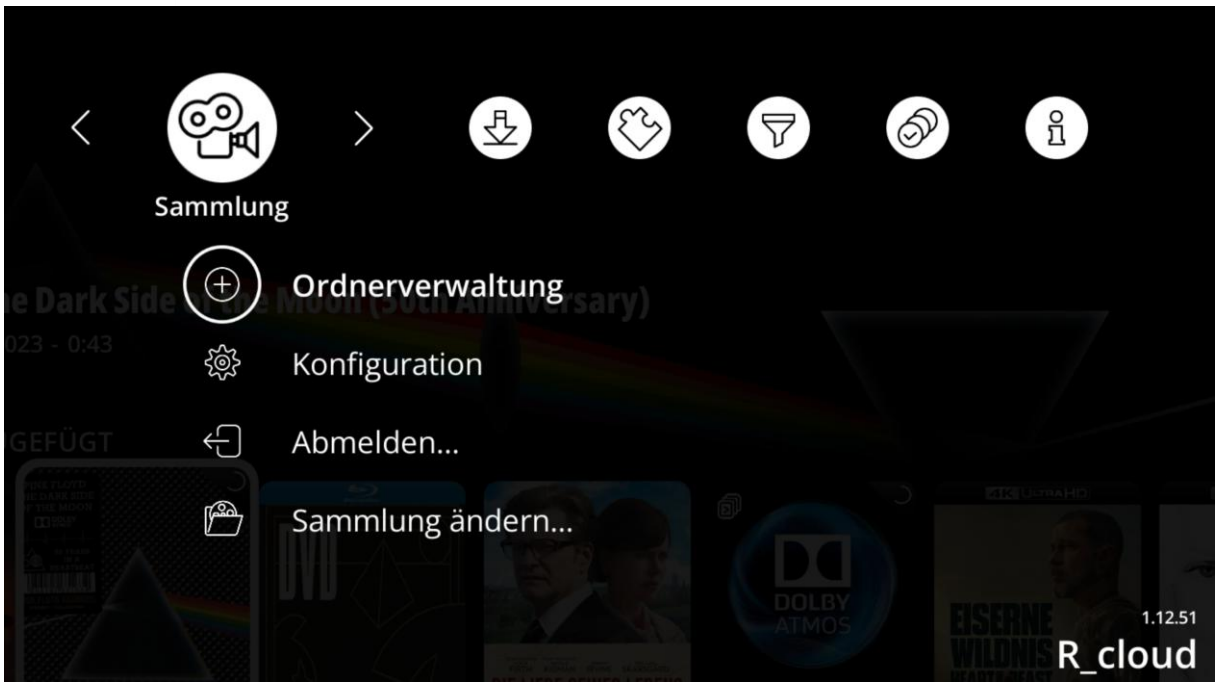


(Code is an example)

After that, a screen appears where you can enter a name for your collection.

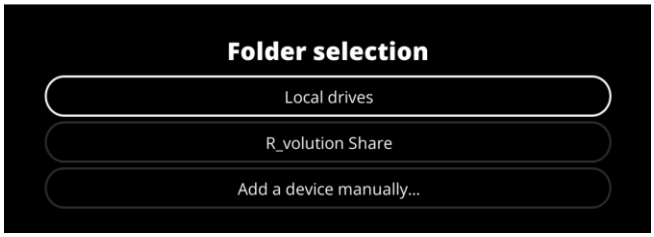


This allows you to set up your film catalog—with all its features—conveniently on a PC, which simplifies the available options.



Once you've had a short time to get used to it, the system is very easy to operate. Start by defining basic settings in the configuration—such as language, appearance, sorting (by title, name, etc.), and other attributes.

In the folder management section, you connect the player to the NAS shares.

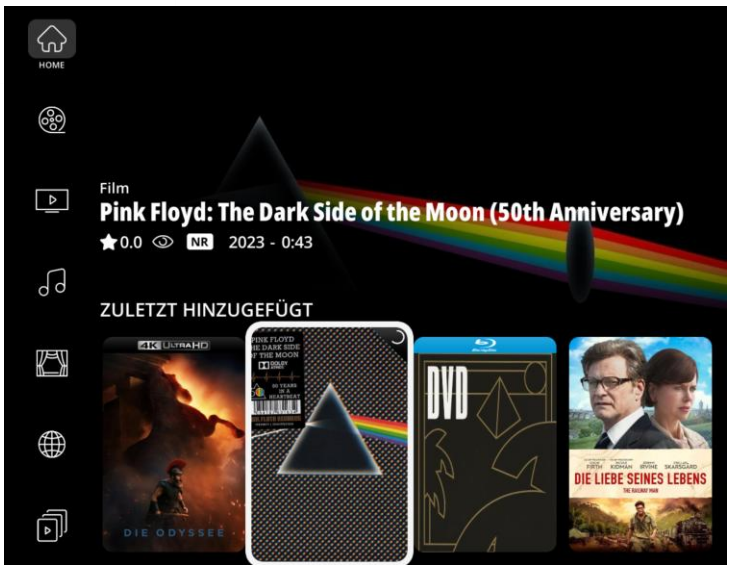


After that, the software begins searching for (scraping) the films and sets everything up—including covers, descriptions, trailers, and film scores. When creating the folders, it is important to keep track of exactly what kind of content you have stored in them.



Documentary films that consist of multiple episodes should be classified under the category of series.

If a film cannot be clearly identified, it is listed under "For identification," allowing you to search for the correct entry. A particularly useful feature is that R_Volution uses an interface to TMDB (https://www.themoviedb.org/). You simply find the right film there, copy the ID number from the address bar, and enter it. The film is then linked to that entry.



In cases where no suitable entry exists—which can happen with music concerts or certain Blu-ray Pure Audio/Atmos releases (as TMDB only supports films, not other formats)—you can also create an entry manually.

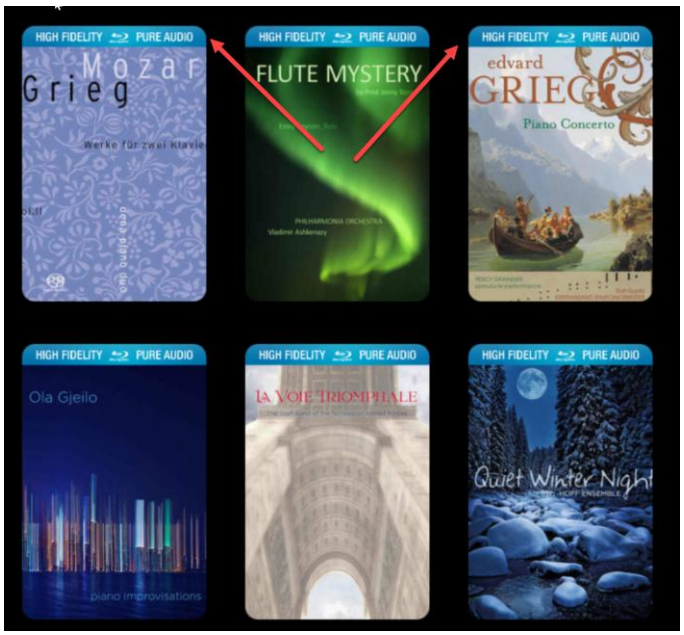


All films are automatically assigned to a genre (referred to here as "categories"). The navigation bar can be customized, and you can pin your own categories directly to it.



I use this feature for demos, concerts, BD Pure Audio, etc., and can then access the corresponding views through it.

Depending on the original format, the corresponding format bars (overlays) are displayed above the cover art. The system assigns these automatically, but it also allows for manual assignment on a per-film basis (as shown here in the example for "Pure Audio").



Categories can be created and used at your own discretion.

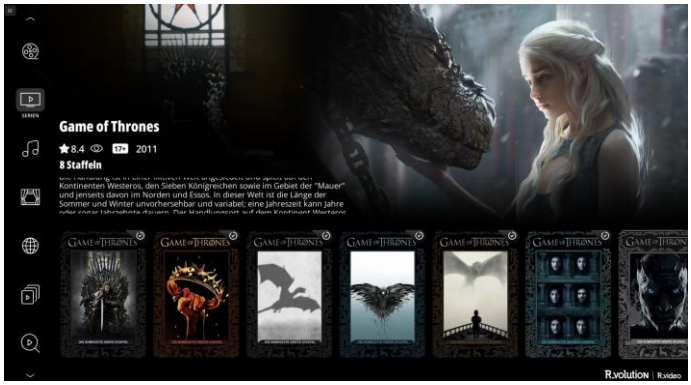
The CONCERTS category must be created manually, but once set up, it is used by the system for concert videos. Other categories I created myself include DEMO and Documentaries. You can select icons for them from an extensive catalog.

During editing, you can assign additional categories to each video, or remove them again.

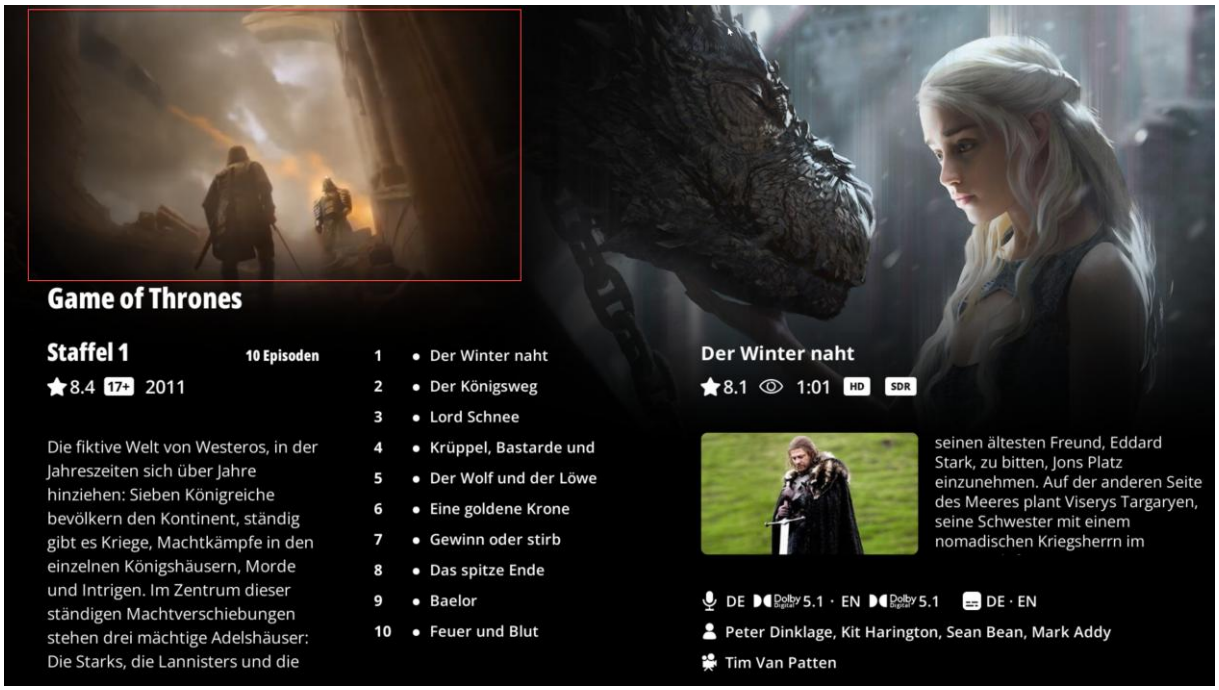


The video view displays details about the film or series and often features an animated video background along with background music.

Here is the season overview

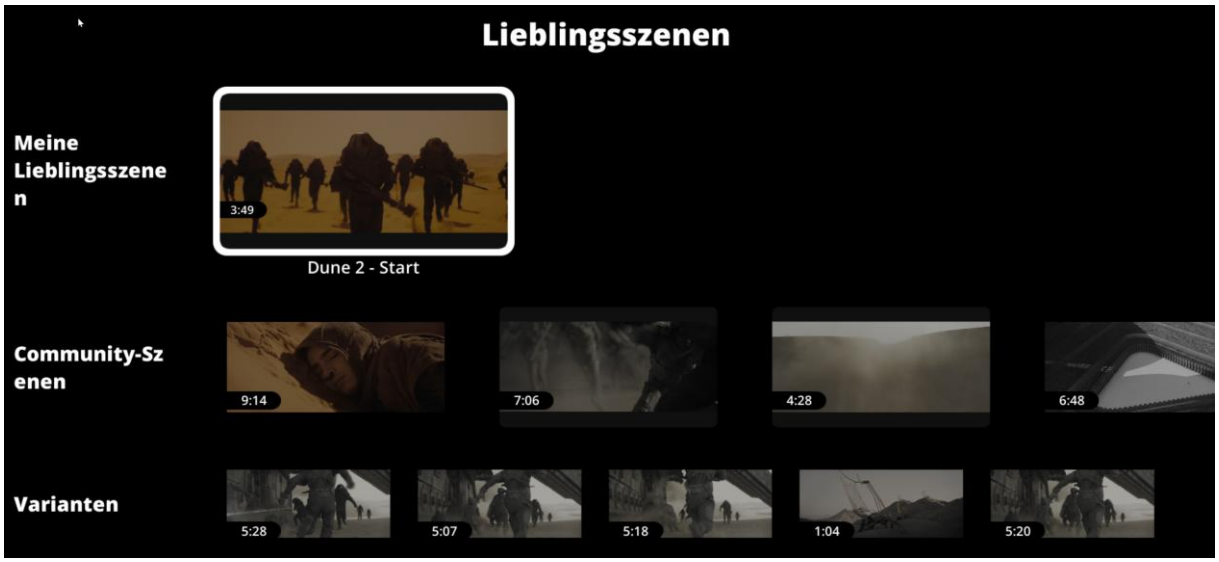


And the episode view (a video that plays automatically is outlined in red).



Another great feature is "favorite scenes."

We all enjoy playing short scenes from time to time to show guests what our system is capable of, and everyone has their own personal favorites they like to share. This is where the benefits of a centralized management system really shine: you can easily select scenes that other users have already identified as their own favorites. These scenes don’t require any additional content to be loaded; they are simply specific timestamps within your existing films, allowing for precise playback of the chosen moments.



Where scenes are already available, you can save them to your list of favorites without having to manually mark them within the film yourself. If you prefer to do it yourself, simply navigate to the desired scene in the film, press the 'C' button on the remote control to start, and then press the 'D' button to stop. You can then label the scene, and it will appear below the film (accessible via the down arrow).

I have compiled other demo material into a separate category called DEMO.



Whether it’s MKV, AVI, Video_TS, a BDMV structure, or even an ISO file, the Player Pro 8K TV plays absolutely everything. Read more about it here.: https://www.rvolution.com/r-volution-playerpro-8k-tv

The most important functions are documented here: https://rvolution.freshdesk.com/en/support/solutions

A brief explanation regarding the device itself.

You can launch R_Video from the standard interface, or access various apps via the "Apps" tab within the Android TV section.

I had to update the Android TV component first, but the process was almost entirely automated and functions exactly like it does on the Shield TV. As of November 2026, the latest version is Android 14 (whereas devices like the Shield TV are still stuck on Android 11—a version that should eventually be retired due to security vulnerabilities). The home screen also provides access to the player's own settings, where you can perform the initial setup. Additionally, there is a file explorer for navigating through your storage. While there is no dedicated software for music files—which some might consider a drawback—it's not an issue for me, as I use a separate platform for music (Roon, along with a dedicated stereo player). That said, I do occasionally use the explorer to play multi-channel SA-CD audio. Here's what that looks like.

Unfortunately, due to licensing restrictions, the player cannot output native DSD material as a bitstream (a minor shortcoming), but it converts the data into multi-channel PCM at 176.4 kHz, which effectively renders the issue moot. In any case, following a recent episode of sudden hearing loss, I can no longer distinguish these differences myself. Furthermore, the interface is much more polished—complete with cover art and animations—than what I have on my Magnetar.

The Magnetar, on the other hand, does play these files natively; there's always a trade-off, I suppose.



There is still so much to say about the Player Pro 8K TV, but I'll leave it to you to see it for yourselves. You're also more than welcome to drop by and check it out in person—visitors are always welcome!

Conclusion:

For me, the R_Volution PlayerPro 8K TV is the ideal platform for a high-end setup. It perfectly meets my needs and is worth every cent. Sure, the device costs many times more than a Shield TV or Apple TV, but you really can't—or shouldn't—compare them directly. The R_Volution is superior in every qualitative aspect and delivers a remarkably authentic cinematic experience (provided you take the time to get familiar with it). With its expansion options, connectivity, and myriad features, it is, for me, the ultimate "all-in-one" solution among media players.

Of course, I should also mention a few things that could have been handled better. The Android TV component operates on its own network, sitting behind an internal, non-configurable proxy—which means you cannot use Kodi or other local media software. Streaming service apps, including Plex, all run without any issues. Ultimately, however, you'll likely use the R_Video app for watching movies, rendering the need for Plex or Kodi obsolete. If you still want to use them during a transition period, you can simply connect

your media player via one of the two HDMI inputs; these inputs can then be accessed from the main menu just like an app. That's quite convenient.

As an owner, you also get free access to PC software, which makes setting up, correcting, and fine-tuning the player significantly more convenient. I can have the software scan new movies—which I've just ripped and saved to my NAS—directly from my PC. The scan runs automatically in the background every time the software starts; once a film is correctly identified (within the file structure), the player handles everything else on its own, requiring no further manual intervention.

Personally, I am more than thrilled with the R_Volution PlayerPro 8K TV.



Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions. I've become quite comfortable using the device by now, though I likely haven't tried out every single feature yet.

Truly Yours
Adi

ASC/November 2026