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› Night Owl 8 Channel HD Wired Video Security DVR with 1TB Hard Drive, Model DVR-X3-81 Instruction Manual

## Night Owl DVR-X3-81

# Night Owl 8 Channel HD Wired Video Security DVR (Model DVR-X3-81) Instruction Manual

Your guide to setting up, operating, and maintaining your Night Owl security system.

## INTRODUCTION

This manual provides detailed instructions for the installation, operation, and maintenance of your Night Owl 8 Channel HD Wired Video Security DVR, Model DVR-X3-81. Please read this manual thoroughly before using the product to ensure proper functionality and to maximize the lifespan of your device. Keep this manual for future reference.

## SETUP

### What's in the Box

Verify that all components are present in the package:

- 1 x 8 Channel DVR with 1TB HDD
- 1 x DVR Power Adapter
- 1 x 6ft. HDMI Cable
- 1 x 6ft. Ethernet Cable
- 1 x USB Mouse
- 3 x Night Owl Security Stickers
- 1 x Quick Start Guide

### Initial Connection

Follow these steps to connect your DVR for the first time:

1. **Connect Cameras:** Connect your wired BNC cameras (not included) to the BNC video input ports on the back of the DVR. Ensure a secure connection for each camera.
2. **Connect to a Monitor:** Use the provided HDMI cable to connect the DVR to a monitor or TV.

3. **Connect USB Mouse:** Plug the USB mouse into one of the USB ports on the DVR.
4. **Connect to Network (Optional):** For remote viewing and updates, connect the DVR to your router using the provided Ethernet cable.
5. **Power On:** Connect the DVR Power Adapter to the DVR and then plug it into a power outlet. The DVR will power on automatically.
6. **Initial Setup Wizard:** Follow the on-screen instructions from the Quick Start Guide to complete the initial setup, including setting a password and configuring basic settings.

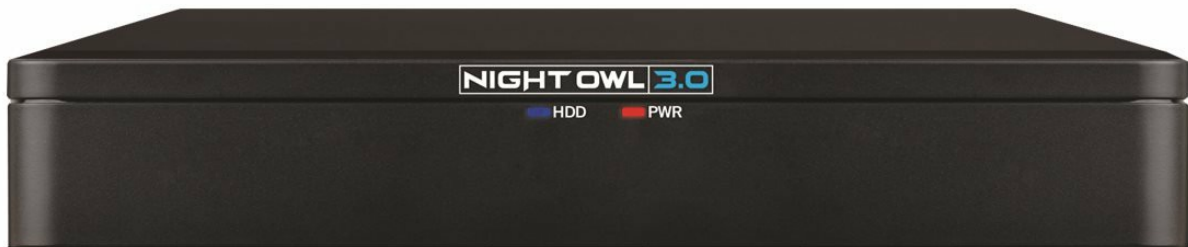


Figure 1: Front view of the Night Owl DVR-X3-81 unit. This image shows the compact design of the DVR, which houses the 1TB hard drive for local storage.

## OPERATING YOUR DVR

### Viewing Live Footage

Once the DVR is powered on and connected to a monitor, you will see the live view from your connected cameras. You can switch between single-camera view, multi-camera grid view, and customize the display layout using the on-screen interface and USB mouse.

### Playback and Recording

The DVR continuously records footage to the pre-installed 1TB hard drive. To review recorded footage:

- Access the playback menu from the main interface.
- Select the desired date and time using the calendar and timeline.
- Choose the camera channel(s) you wish to view.
- Use the playback controls (play, pause, fast forward, rewind) to navigate through the footage.

The DVR supports motion-activated recording. Red segments on the timeline typically indicate periods of motion detection.

## Motion Detection Alerts

The DVR is equipped with real-time motion alerts. You can configure motion detection zones and sensitivity for each camera through the DVR's settings menu. When motion is detected, the system can trigger recordings and send alerts to your connected smart device (if remote access is configured).

## Remote Access

To view and playback footage directly from your smartphone or tablet, download the Night Owl Protect app (or the relevant Night Owl app for your model) from your device's app store. Follow the in-app instructions to connect your DVR using its unique device ID or QR code. Ensure your DVR is connected to the internet via the Ethernet cable for remote access functionality.

## MAINTENANCE

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### Hard Drive Management

The 1TB hard drive will automatically overwrite the oldest footage once it reaches full capacity. Regularly back up important footage to an external USB drive if needed. You can also configure recording schedules and motion detection settings to optimize storage usage.

### Cleaning

To clean the DVR unit, use a soft, dry cloth. Do not use liquid cleaners or aerosol sprays. Ensure the DVR is powered off and unplugged before cleaning. Keep the DVR in a well-ventilated area, away from direct sunlight and moisture.

## TROUBLESHOOTING

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If you encounter issues with your DVR, refer to the following common problems and solutions:

- **No Video Output:**

- Ensure the DVR is powered on and the power adapter is securely connected.
- Check the HDMI cable connection between the DVR and the monitor.
- Verify the monitor input source is set correctly (e.g., HDMI1, HDMI2).
- Try a different HDMI cable or monitor if available.

- **Cameras Not Displaying:**

- Check all BNC cable connections from the cameras to the DVR.
- Ensure cameras are receiving power.
- Verify camera compatibility with the DVR (720p to 3MP Night Owl wired BNC cameras).

- **Remote Access Not Working:**

- Confirm the DVR is connected to your router via Ethernet and has an active internet connection.
- Check your router's internet connectivity.
- Ensure the Night Owl app on your smart device is updated to the latest version.
- Verify that the DVR's network settings are correctly configured (refer to the Quick Start Guide or online support).

- Restart both the DVR and your router.
- **No Recording or Playback Issues:**
  - Check the hard drive status in the DVR's system settings to ensure it is detected and functioning.
  - Verify recording schedules and motion detection settings.
  - Ensure the hard drive is not full (though it should overwrite oldest footage).

## SPECIFICATIONS

<b>Brand</b>	Night Owl
<b>Model Name</b>	X3-81
<b>Model Number</b>	DVR-X3-81
<b>Connectivity Technology</b>	Wired (Ethernet for network)
<b>Number of Channels</b>	8
<b>Hard Drive</b>	1TB Pre-Installed HDD
<b>Video Capture Resolution</b>	3 MP
<b>Special Feature</b>	Motion Sensor
<b>Compatible Devices</b>	Cameras, Personal Computers, Smartphone, Tablet
<b>Item Dimensions (L x W x H)</b>	9.65 x 10 x 1.73 inches
<b>Item Weight</b>	3.05 Pounds
<b>Color</b>	Black
<b>Indoor Outdoor Usage</b>	Indoor
<b>Power Source</b>	Corded Electric

## WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

**Warranty Information:** The manufacturer's warranty description for this product states "No Warranty". Please refer to your purchase agreement or retailer for any applicable return policies.

**Customer Support:** For further assistance, technical support, or to access additional resources, please visit the official Night Owl Security website or contact their customer service department. You can often find FAQs, updated manuals, and software downloads on the manufacturer's support pages.

**Online Resources:** [Night Owl Support Website](#)