GENERAL

thomas the tank engine dvd list

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Introduction

For generations of children and nostalgic adults alike, the whistle of Thomas the Tank Engine has become a timeless soundtrack of childhood. While many people remember the show from their own television sets, the convenience of owning a physical collection has surged in popularity. Whether you're a devoted fan looking to complete your library or a new viewer curious about the best way to enjoy the series, a comprehensive **Thomas the Tank Engine DVD list** is your ultimate guide. In this article we'll explore why DVDs remain a favorite format, break down the full collection by series, offer buying tips, and even suggest streaming options for those who prefer digital. By the end, you'll have a clear roadmap to build or expand your own Thomas DVD collection.

Why Choose DVDs Over Streaming?

In the era of instant digital access, it might seem counterintuitive to invest in physical media. However, DVDs offer several advantages that appeal to collectors and families alike:

- Durability and Longevity – DVDs can last for decades when stored properly, ensuring that your favorite episodes remain accessible long after streaming services change.
- Bonus Features – Many releases include behind the scenes documentaries, interviews with voice actors, and interactive games that aren't available online.
- Offline Viewing – Perfect for road trips, flights, or areas with limited internet connectivity.
- Gift Ready Packaging – Themed cases, collectible boxes, and special edition artwork make for great presents.
- Ownership – You own a permanent copy; you're not subject to licensing changes or subscription cancellations.

Because of these benefits, a solid **Thomas the Tank Engine DVD list** is essential for anyone who wants the most complete and enjoyable viewing experience.

How the Thomas Series is Structured

Before diving into the list, it's useful to understand how the series is organized. The original show, *Thomas & Friends*, debuted in 1984 and has evolved through multiple production phases. The DVDs are grouped primarily by **series number** and occasionally by **season** or **special edition**. Each series contains 26 episodes, each roughly 10 minutes long, and often features a thematic arc that ties the stories together.

Here's a quick reference of the main production phases:

1. Series 1–2 (1984–1988) – Classic stop motion animation and the original voice cast.
2. Series 3–6 (1991–1998) – Transition to digital animation and new storylines.
3. Series 7–12 (2000–2005) – Refined CGI and an expanded universe.
4. Series 13–20 (2006–2012) – Modern CGI with updated character designs.
5. Series 21–27 (2013–2020) – Latest CGI, more diverse storytelling, and a focus on environmental themes.

Knowing this structure will help you locate specific DVDs and compare releases across the years.

The Complete Thomas DVD Collection

Below is a detailed, chronological list of the DVDs that make up the full Thomas collection. For each series, we provide the title, release date, and notable extras that come with the set. If you're a collector, this is the definitive reference to ensure you're missing nothing.

Series 1 (1984–1985)

- Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends: The Complete Series 1 – Released 1999 – Includes all 26 episodes, plus a short documentary on the making of the show.
- Thomas & Friends: The First Adventure – 2001 – A special edition featuring the first 13 episodes and a bonus "Behind the Whistle" featurette.

Series 2 (1986–1988)

- Thomas & Friends: The Complete Series 2 – Released 2000 – Contains the remaining 13 episodes from the original run.
- Thomas & Friends: The Lost Episodes – 2004 – A collector's edition with previously unaired content and a behind the scenes interview.

Series 3 (1991–1992)

- Thomas & Friends: The Complete Series 3 – 2003 – Features the first 26 episodes of the new CGI format.
- Thomas & Friends: The First Train – 2006 – A limited edition set with a special case and a booklet on the evolution of the animation.

Series 4 (1993–1994)

- Thomas & Friends: The Complete Series 4 – 2004 – Includes all 26 episodes and a bonus "Thomas & Friends: The Making of the Series" documentary.

Series 5 (1995–1996)

- Thomas & Friends: The Complete Series 5 – 2005 – Comes with a bonus DVD of the first season's special episode.

Series 6 (1997–1998)

- Thomas & Friends: The Complete Series 6 – 2007 – Features all 26 episodes and a bonus "Thomas & Friends: The History of the Railway" featurette.

Series 7 (2000–2001)

- Thomas & Friends: The Complete Series 7 – 2008 – Includes all episodes plus a "Thomas & Friends: The Story Behind the Story" documentary.

Series 8 (2001–2002)

- Thomas & Friends: The Complete Series 8 – 2009 – Comes with a bonus DVD of the original theme song and a behind the scenes look at the new animation studio.

Series 9 (2003–2004)

- Thomas & Friends: The Complete Series 9 – 2010 – Features all 26 episodes and a special "Thomas & Friends: The Sound of Whistles" audio commentary.

Series 10 (2004–2005)

- Thomas & Friends: The Complete Series 10 – 2011 – Includes a bonus "Thomas & Friends: The Art of Animation" booklet.

Series 11 (2006–2007)

- Thomas & Friends: The Complete Series 11 – 2012 – Comes with a bonus DVD of the first episode's

storyboard sketches.

Series 12 (2008–2009)

- Thomas & Friends: The Complete Series 12 – 2013 – Features all 26 episodes and a special “Thomas & Friends: The Evolution of Characters” documentary.

Series 13 (2010–2011)

- Thomas & Friends: The Complete Series 13 – 2014 – Includes a bonus “Thomas & Friends: The Animation Studio Tour” featurette.

Series 14 (2011–2012)

- Thomas & Friends: The Complete Series 14 – 2015 – Comes with a special “Thomas & Friends: The Making of the New Theme Song” DVD.

Series 15 (2013–2014)

- Thomas & Friends: The Complete Series 15 – 2016 – Features a bonus “Thomas & Friends: The Story Behind the Stories” documentary.

Series 16 (2014–2015)

- Thomas & Friends: The Complete Series 16 – 2017 – Includes a bonus “Thomas & Friends: The Animation Process” featurette.

Series 17 (2015–2016)

- Thomas & Friends: The Complete Series 17 – 2018 – Comes with a special “Thomas & Friends: The Music Behind the Whistles” DVD.

Series 18 (2016–2017)

- Thomas & Friends: The Complete Series 18 – 2019 – Features a bonus “Thomas & Friends: The World of Railways” documentary.

Series 19 (2017–2018)

- Thomas & Friends: The Complete Series 19 – 2020 – Includes a special “Thomas & Friends: The Future of Animation” featurette.

Series 20 (2018–2019)

- Thomas & Friends: The Complete Series 20 – 2021 – Comes with a bonus “Thomas & Friends: The History of the Railway” documentary.

Series 21 (2019–2020)

- Thomas & Friends: The Complete Series 21 – 2022 – Features a bonus “Thomas & Friends: The Making of the New Theme Song” DVD.

Series 22 (2020–2021)

- Thomas & Friends: The Complete Series 22 – 2023 – Includes a special “Thomas & Friends: The Animation Studio Tour” featurette.

Series 23 (2021–2022)

- Thomas & Friends: The Complete Series 23 – 2024 – Comes with a bonus “Thomas & Friends: The Story Behind the Stories” documentary.

Series 24 (2022–2023)

- Thomas & Friends: The Complete Series 24 – 2025 – Features a bonus “Thomas & Friends: The Animation

Process” featurette.

Series 25 (2023–2024)

- Thomas & Friends: The Complete Series 25 – 2026 – Includes a special “Thomas & Friends: The Music Behind the Whistles” DVD.

Special DVD Collections

- Thomas & Friends: The Ultimate Collection – 2020 – A 10 disc set that includes every episode from Series 1–10, plus a bonus DVD of rare clips.
- Thomas & Friends: The Complete 2010s Collection – 2021 – A 12 disc set featuring Series 13–24, with exclusive behind the scenes content.
- Thomas & Friends: The Classic Box Set – 2022 – A 4 disc set of the original Series 1–2, packaged in a collector’s tin.

How to Choose the Right DVDs for Your Collection

With so many releases, it can be overwhelming to decide which sets to purchase. Consider the following factors before making a decision:

1. Budget – Complete series sets can be pricey. If you’re on a tight budget, look for bundle deals or second hand options.
2. Condition – For collectors, new or sealed DVDs are ideal. For casual viewers, gently used discs often provide the same viewing experience.

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