

RDS creates a radio revolution

All of a sudden, it's like zap! Radio's reborn! One day, people are studiously constructing radio kits piece by piece on the kitchen table, and seemingly in the next breath, they're hitting a button and getting station call letters, program information, song titles and artist names, navigation information, business news, up-to-the-minute traffic reports and plenty more need-to-know nuggets on the display area on the front of their radios.

OK, maybe it took a little longer than a single breath, but radio undoubtedly has been

reborn. Of course, radio is on the fast track to a string of rebirths, what with digital audio radio, CD-quality radio — and the promise of satellite radio just around the corner.

Yet, here and now, the Radio Data System (RDS) is changing the way we listen to our favorite stations on RDS radios. (Upwards of 300 stations are currently on the air with RDS, and the number is growing every day!)

Do you ever squirm in your seat when a disc jockey plays five or six songs in a row and

doesn't tell you who sang them? RDS can bring you that pivotal information, along with artist biographies and the name of the album the song comes from.

Have you ever found yourself stuck in a mountain of traffic on the way to a family reunion or an important business meeting without the benefit of a cellular telephone so you can call to say you're going to be late? RDS can bring you automatic traffic alerts by muting your cassette or compact disc player, thereby allowing you to avoid a bottleneck and get to your destination that much faster.

Have you ever wished you could search for stations by format? You can with RDS.

RDS can bring a wealth of information and features to RDS-equipped home, car and portable radios, thanks to the transmission of text information and the use of RDS encoders installed at radio stations.

Radio is with you everywhere you go. What other product can give you the latest news, sports, your favorite songs and disc jockeys, in the car, at home, and on the go? "Of all consumer products, radio is the most prolific," says John Casey, marketing manager, Denon Electronics.

Radio is with us everywhere — in the home, the car, on our person. RDS will enhance people's lives because of the enhanced information it can deliver."

Delco Electronics feels that RDS technology provides a wealth of new features and functions for consumers, as well as the ability to receive greater amounts of information in their vehicles.

RDS receivers, the company says, could be seen as the next step in the evolution of audio systems in vehicles, from entertainment systems to information systems.



Screened porch: This outdoor living room provides cool, summer living without the distraction of bugs.

Screened patios are easy to build

How can homeowners beat the summer's heat without burning up cover air-conditioning bills? Many solve the problem by turning a patio, carport or breezeway into a cool summer living room with the simple addition of screening.

Common hand tools and inexpensive materials make the job easy and affordable for do-it-yourselfers. Here are some tips from the Insect Screening Weavers Association on how it can be done.

You will need: wood beams (2 inch by 4 inch and 4 inch by 4 inch) a saw, hammer and nails, metal framing angles, utility knife, staple gun and screening. Corrosion resistant aluminum and fiberglass are the two most popular and inexpensive types. Both come in many widths to accommodate various porch panel sizes and can be cut with tin snips or a sharp utility knife.

Building on masonry, you will also need an electric drill with a masonry bit and non-rusting screws in lead sleeves to secure the wood frame.

To build your screen walls around a roof patio, the following steps are recommended.

Each screen wall can be prefabricated as a unit, then secured. Begin by mounting 2 inch by 4 inch wood base strips along the porch floor and main wall of the house — drilling through masonry if necessary — and measure the space within

the rectangles formed. You'll build a screen wall for each of these rectangles, then attach screening to the frames. Apply wood stains or other finishes before the screening is installed.

Build the frames separately to fit the three spaces, using vertical beams spaced evenly on 24-inch, 36-inch or 48-inch centers. All three are typical screen widths. A horizontal "rub rail" at chair back height, about 30 inches above the floor, will add stability. Use the metal framing angles on corners where the vertical and horizontal beams are joined.

To provide an outside exit from the porch, use two 4 inch by 4 inch studs to frame a door opening in one wall. You can then install a pre-made door easily.

Once the frames are finished, raise them into position and nail them to the floor and ceiling base strips, then nail the corners together. Now, add the screening in each vertical section by unrolling from the top down and stapling it into place. Cover the staples with wood studs. If you have built a door frame, install the door and start enjoying your new summer living room.

An eight-page booklet entitled "Design for Harmony" is available free of charge by mailing a post card to the Insect Screening Weavers Association, P.O. Box 2636, Pittsburgh, PA 15230.

Shut-off timer saves money

Returning home from a stressful day at work, the last thing you want to find is a light or fan that has been left on all day. The result is not only wasted electricity but the unnecessary increase in your electric bill.

While just about everyone forgets to turn off a switch or appliance occasionally, there's an easy way to make sure that it doesn't cost you any extra money. The solution is called a shut-off timer.

If you've traveled

lately, you're probably familiar with the shut off timers used in hotels and motels across the country.

The managers of these facilities have learned that forgetful guests leave lights, fans and heat lamps on occasionally after they leave the room. Installing shut-off timers in areas that are not occupied continually saves money by automatically turning off electricity after a preset time period.

As a homeowner, you can apply this cost-saving measure to your residence.

Designed to replace standard wall switches, shut-off timers are easy to install and operate. Users just turn the timer knob, which activates the light, fan or other power-consuming load. The timer then turns off electrical current after the time period set by the user elapses.

"Shut-off timers are also spring wound, so they do not use additional electricity," says Bruce Oellerich of Inter-

matic Inc., a manufacturer of energy control products.

Although shut-off timers can be used to control just about any appliance, most are used in the home to manage kitchen and bathroom fans, lights, heaters and air conditioners. They're also ideal for less frequented areas such as halls, closets, attics, storage rooms and garages.

"Because it's used only on demand, a shut-off timer assures that family members don't inadvertently leave lights and appliances on," says Oellerich. The device gives you peace of mind 24 hours a day.

Now that they've become increasingly popular, shut-off timers are offered with a variety of maximum time limits of five, 15, 30 and 60 minutes and two, four, six and 12 hours.

Available at local hardware stores and home centers, the timers come in ivory or white to match your home's interior.

"There's just no getting around the fact that people sometimes tend to forget things, including turning off their lights and appliances," says Oellerich. "But with the development of shut-off timers, this type of oversight is now a lot more affordable."

For additional information about shut-off timers, contact Inter-matic Inc., Inter-matic Plaza, Spring Grove IL 60081-0698. Request form TD/FF1.

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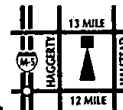


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