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Subject: Reception in the hills

Posted by [brian21](#) on Thu, 29 Sep 2011 04:29:07 GMT

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I grew up in a town where most of the major freeways went through hills. Naturally, the radio reception there was usually pretty terrible. I've always wondered if there was any way to improve reception when you're traveling through an area with those obstacles. Is it just something you have to live with when you're surrounded by hills?

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Subject: Re: Reception in the hills

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Thu, 29 Sep 2011 15:35:58 GMT

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There's an old-school loop antenna called "Select-A-Tenna" that works wonders for AM. Can't help you with FM though.

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Subject: Re: Reception in the hills

Posted by [gofar99](#) on Fri, 30 Sep 2011 15:17:06 GMT

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Hi, Here is a photo of one. Mine is from a long time back and only cost \$5 at a thrift shop. I believe "Crane" still carries them.

#### File Attachments

1) [Select-a-tenna.jpg](#), downloaded 2714 times

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Subject: Re: Reception in the hills

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sat, 01 Oct 2011 00:24:43 GMT

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Yes sir-ree! I have one just like it. Used to listen to WOAI out of San Antonio with it every night, about 15 years ago. They had a program I wanted to hear, and it wasn't available locally. The distance from San Antonio to Tulsa is about 500 miles, but with that passive loop antenna, it sounded like they were a local station.

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Subject: Re: Reception in the hills

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Posted by [Nymeria](#) on Sun, 02 Oct 2011 14:51:48 GMT

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That's very interesting; I'd never heard of Select-A-Tenna before, but then I never listen to AM anyway, only FM. Whenever I drive through areas with hills, I listen to CDs.

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Subject: Re: Reception in the hills

Posted by [DJ Dave](#) on Mon, 03 Oct 2011 16:47:08 GMT

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I would think that with stronger satellites that we have, you should have better reception, but I suppose it is all about how far in the hills you live.

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Subject: Re: Reception in the hills

Posted by [brian21](#) on Tue, 04 Oct 2011 05:26:25 GMT

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DJ Dave, I would think that you're right. I'm sure reception has improved, but there will probably always be some limits.

That Select-A-Tenna looks really cool, but FM is what I always had a problem with. The local AM stations weren't too bad. When I'm visiting my old home town, I always hope I'll be driving in late at night. Then at least I know I'll be able to catch Coast to Coast AM.

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Subject: Re: Reception in the hills

Posted by [Danny](#) on Sat, 06 Apr 2013 09:00:37 GMT

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So does that mean that AM satellites are stronger than FM? I never knew that. If that's the case, why aren't there better stations available on AM radio?

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