Subject: Increasing The Frequency Range
Posted by Jethro on Tue, 09 Apr 2019 16:16:20 GMT
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I'm wondering whether we can increase the range of the radio to pick up radio stations that are far from our location. I know about increasing the range of Wi-Fi range, so there might be also a device that can increase the range of the radio.

Subject: Re: Increasing The Frequency Range
Posted by Rusty on Tue, 09 Apr 2019 18:21:44 GMT
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If you mean am/fm radio. Then a good antennae, as high up as you can get it.

Subject: Re: Increasing The Frequency Range
Posted by mamoss on Wed, 10 Apr 2019 17:23:56 GMT
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The fact of the matter is that antennas do matter but most of the time, people don't really pay much attention to it. The good thing is that most of the FM radios have a provision for an external antenna hook up. I think that how you place the radio determines the range of reception.

Subject: Re: Increasing The Frequency Range
Posted by Kingfish on Sun, 12 May 2019 20:46:23 GMT
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Couple with the size of the antenna? In a vehicle, there is really no way to re-position the radio so you are left having to put on more antenna's.

Subject: Re: Increasing The Frequency Range
Posted by gofar99 on Mon, 13 May 2019 02:05:55 GMT
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Hi, an external antenna is the way to go. I use a 10 element "beam" to reach stations as far as Phoenix (about 150-175 miles). It looks like a ladder laid flat. They used to be quite common, but rather scarce now. I suspect a Google search would find some. Height is also VIP. The biggest drawback is the higher the gain of the antenna, the more directional it is. Thus if you want stations that are in different directions you have a problem. Antenna rotors can fix this, but now you are getting complicated and likely costly. I personally have never had great success with FM antenna amplifiers when used on external antennas. They seemed to add as much noise as signal. If you go for an external antenna be sure to use quality wire. Both twin lead (nominal 300 ohm RF impedance) or coax (typically 75 ohm) are fine. Each has advantages and

disadvantages. BTW the supposed to be super indoor powered antennas are not nearly as good. in a pinch some TV antennas that cover the VHF band (channels 2-13 in the old days) can work fairly well on FM as the FM stations are actually in between what was channel 6 and channel 7.

Subject: Re: Increasing The Frequency Range
Posted by Kingfish on Mon, 13 May 2019 14:10:14 GMT
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Thank you for the information. That is well worth saving.

Now, when you say directional, what exactly do you mean? If I am traveling east on I-40 northwest of the valley (Phx.) will I have issues picking up Phx.?

Subject: Re: Increasing The Frequency Range
Posted by gofar99 on Tue, 14 May 2019 22:18:24 GMT
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Directional is just that. Stuff in the direction of the antenna is made stronger, stuff to the side is weakened.

Subject: Re: Increasing The Frequency Range
Posted by sawyer25 on Sun, 02 Jun 2019 15:50:19 GMT
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Great info in this thread. Is it advisable to also use aluminium foils or is just a myth that this greatly improves reception? Overall, I would easily go for an external antenna as I believe it to be the most effective.

Subject: Re: Increasing The Frequency Range
Posted by Jethro on Tue, 18 Jun 2019 15:53:02 GMT
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Thanks for answering my query. I have been busy things lately, so I failed to reply in a timely fashion.

What do you think of hooking up the radio to the TV antenna? I'm curious about this that I won't wait for the answer and experiment on it instead.

Subject: Re: Increasing The Frequency Range
Posted by gofar99 on Wed, 26 Jun 2019 02:35:29 GMT

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Hi, many TV antennas can be used for FM. The FM band is between VHF (not UHF or HD) broadcast channels 6 and 7 and it was easier to make the antennas wide band and thus cover the FM range as well. Some even had additional elements to fill in the range better as really channel 6 was way lower in frequency than 7. If you can find one, a true FM antenna is better. It will be narrower in band width and thus eliminate many of the TV signals that might interfere with FM reception. I am sure there must be sources for them still, but certainly not as common as in years ago. I guess in the long run it depends on how good your receiver is, how far away the stations are, the ability to mount an external antenna and your budget.

Subject: Re: Increasing The Frequency Range
Posted by Reggie on Thu, 27 Jun 2019 03:59:39 GMT
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I have no problem if people would like to have a wider scope of their FM radio. However, we can tune in to online FM radios with the internet speed that we have right now. I'm even listening to a few online FM radios that originated from other countries.

Subject: Re: Increasing The Frequency Range
Posted by Jethro on Tue, 02 Jul 2019 08:53:20 GMT
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The internet is another option if we wanted to increase the radio stations we want to listen to. However, there are places where there is no internet and only the radio is available for information, so a good FM signal would be handy in times of calamities.

Subject: Re: Increasing The Frequency Range
Posted by Nouri on Mon, 19 Oct 2020 11:13:29 GMT
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gofar99 wrote on Sun, 12 May 2019 21:05 I use a 10 element "beam" to reach stations as far as Phoenix (about 150-175 miles). It looks like a ladder laid flat. They used to be quite common, but rather scarce now. I suspect a Google search would find some. Height is also VIP. The biggest drawback is the higher the gain of the antenna, the more directional it is.
Is using both an option? I mean, will the 2 different types of antennae cancel each other out somewhat? Maybe put the beam in the front and the traditional type in the back?