Subject: HD Radio
Posted by FredT on Thu, 21 Dec 2006 09:27:18 GMT
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Our local NPR station, KUHF (which happens to be the only station in America's very sophisticated 4th largest city broadcasting classical music), had been promoting their new digital HD signal. I started a thread about HD radio on the Houston Audio Society web site and found that one of our members has researched the availability of HD tuners and the quality of the signal. His post on this topic can be seen at the link below.At least one other member, who subscribes to both satellite signals, tells us he will stick with satellite in spite of the poor signal quality because of the programming divrsity and the fact that the announcers are less inclined to talk over the music, as with our local jazz station. But he listens mostly in his 350Z and not on his $25K home system, so the signal quality doesn't matter so much anyway.That Sangen tuner looks very attractive at $200, and it just happens that my father sent me Christmas card with two $100 bills in it. I believe I'll stop by Fry's today.
HD Radio Comments

Subject: You ought to live in Dufur :)
Posted by MWG on Fri, 22 Dec 2006 05:02:19 GMT
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We're just now getting FM stereo Which is a big upgrade over the simulcast stereo

Subject: Re: HD Radio
Posted by Wayne Parham on Fri, 22 Dec 2006 15:10:05 GMT
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Sangean makes very fine equipment. Can't beat 'em for portable shortwave radios.

Subject: Got It
Posted by FredT on Tue, 26 Dec 2006 19:57:24 GMT
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Fry's has restocked after the Christmas rush and I picked up the Sangean tuner today. There's the usual problem you get when you play a tuner through a high resolution audio system - when you turn the volume up you hear some background noise, but the sound quality at normal listening levels is good. The output level of this tuner is a bit higher than the typical CD player, which

means you listen at a lower volume setting. The sound is on the bright side, so if you have a choice avoid bright interconnects. But for only $199 it's a good choice for listening to your favorite station at a background level.

Subject: Re: HD Radio
Posted by Forty2wo on Sun, 11 Feb 2007 17:21:08 GMT
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I have a Squezzebox and I find myself listening to a lot of Internet radio. The higher streaming rate ones sound quite decent.. Not CD quality but not bad at all. It’s a bit like short wave in that I can listen to stations all over the world and many that don’t exist outside the net. Plus it is a great way to find new music…John

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Subject: Re: HD Radio
Posted by Wayne Parham on Mon, 12 Feb 2007 18:19:44 GMT
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We're planning to install an internet radio server on ART. I've done some research, and have handed it off to Melissa. She's trying a few software packages right now. I think it will be cool to have an ART radio station music stream that we can all listen to. We'll all want to give her some requests to add to the playlist after she gets it going.

Subject: Great idea
Posted by colinhester on Tue, 13 Feb 2007 01:24:10 GMT
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What a cool idea!!

Subject: Re: HD Radio
Posted by Melissa on Tue, 13 Feb 2007 21:11:02 GMT
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Currently working on getting a station up and running for ART, will keep you updated on progress. Melissa

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Subject: Final Outcome
Posted by FredT on Thu, 22 Feb 2007 23:58:08 GMT
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I returned the Sangean tuner to Frys near the end of the 30 day return period. There was nothing wrong with the tuner, but after some listening to my classical station I became aware of an inharmonic high frequency ringing sound on one of their channels. It was one of those sounds that's so distracting once you notice it that you can't listen anymore. Far worse than the cheapest mass market cd/dvd playback I have ever heard. So much for HD radio.

Subject: IP audio
Posted by Wayne Parham on Fri, 23 Feb 2007 16:38:31 GMT
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Sometimes I get those kinds of artifacts on VoIP phones too. Audio over IP uses technologies that really don't work well together. IP technology uses packets that are sent over arbitrary paths. The system is designed for fault tolerance, and allows for packets to arrive at differengt times, not necessarily in the order sent. This is great for fault tolerance, but terrible for something like an audio stream that is, by nature, time sensitive. It's not a good system at all for audio quality, but since we've moved so far in the direction of IP, it can be pressed into service to carry digitized audio or video streams. It's a force fit, at best. But as long as the packets arrive in a timely fashion, the audio stream sounds good.

Subject: Re: Final Outcome
Posted by akhilesh on Tue, 03 Apr 2007 00:50:35 GMT
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Thanks for the feedback Fred. I like my 1970-s Kenwood K-7500 tuner (as yet unmodded but still sounding excellent). But then I like my Nakamichi decks playing well recorded cassette tapes too...-akhilesh

Subject: Re: HD Radio
Posted by akhilesh on Tue, 03 Apr 2007 00:51:50 GMT
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Awesome idea, Wayne & Melissa! Look forward to tuning in. -akhilesh

Subject: Re: Final Outcome
Posted by randle on Mon, 23 Apr 2007 17:32:15 GMT
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Im not really into the whole high definition radio. It does nothing for me. I can't stand the whole cd.dvd player thing neither. It's pointless to even try to listen to music that way.

Subject: Re: HD Radio
Posted by randle on Thu, 26 Apr 2007 15:21:22 GMT
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So Fred how did the sangen tuner turn out? was it what you expected it to be or were you disappointed?

Subject: Re: HD Radio
Posted by FredT on Fri, 27 Apr 2007 00:14:40 GMT
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I liked the Sangean, but I bought it to listen to my local NPR station which broadcasts classical music. It turned out the station's signal quality was completely unacceptable. There was an inharmonic high frequency ringing sound, and once you heard it you couldn't ignore it. If the sound had been equal to that of a mass market DVD player feeding a mass market receiver I would have been fine with it, but it wasn't even in that league. So I returned the tuner for a refund.

Subject: Re: HD Radio
Posted by Ricardo on Fri, 27 Apr 2007 14:35:09 GMT
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I'm sorry to hear about that. I don't think I've heard about HD radio. Is it available on a cable line, or is it only broadcast on air waves?

Subject: Re: HD Radio
Posted by FredT on Fri, 27 Apr 2007 19:28:09 GMT
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HD radio is broadcast on the airwaves using the same frequency as the station's original analog signal. See the link below for the advertising hype. Notice that the digital signal is compressed, and many stations broadcast the original analog signal plus two digital signals in the same frequency allocation they originally used for analog only.
HD Radio

Subject: Re: Final Outcome
Posted by randle on Tue, 29 May 2007 21:22:06 GMT
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If you don't mind me asking, where did you get your Nakamichi deck player?

Subject: Re: Final Outcome
Posted by akhilesh on Wed, 30 May 2007 01:25:16 GMT
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HI,Sure. Judicious use of ebay. -akhilesh

Subject: Re: HD Radio
Posted by willyable on Mon, 17 Sep 2007 17:49:37 GMT
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Hd radio sounds a little old to me. You listen to Am radio thats how Hd comes off to be.

Subject: Re: HD Radio
Posted by FredT on Mon, 17 Sep 2007 20:06:42 GMT
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It's probably as bad as AM radio, but in a very different way. AM is bandwidth limited, while FM HD isn't. The problem with HD is that it sounds very much like the first CD's back in the 1980's - harsh and edgy. And the better the system you'er playing it through the worse is sounds. Best listened to with a thin blanket thrown over the speakers.
