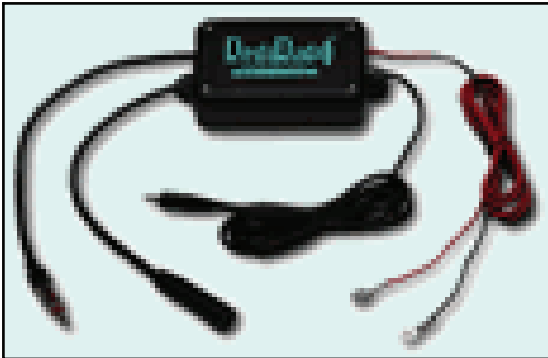


Rockin' Oldies: "New" Radios For Classics

By John Ossenfort

Getting tired of that one AM station your classic can pick up? Wish you could listen to your iPod or your favorite FM station? Maybe even listen to audio books on long trips, just like you do in your modern iron? Well, it's now possible!

RediRad at www.rediscoveradio.com (note only one "r" in the middle) is an adapter that can be attached to your existing radio and allows you to play portable CD players, iPods, Walkman-type radios and cassette players, and even Sirius/XM satellite radio through your existing radio. Developed by a company called Brew City Engineering, the system is easy to install and is designed to be hidden under the dash. And it comes in all the flavors: both 6 and 12 volt and both positive and negative ground. Cost is \$149 plus \$5 shipping.



I installed mine in just over a half-hour - results will vary depending upon the space under your dash and your personal flexibility! The unit consists of a small box (approximately 4" x 2" x 1 1/2") with five wires. One wire is attached to any convenient ground, and another goes to your fuse-box (or alternatively, you could connect it to your ignition switch and add an inline fuse for protection). Both these wires are 40 inches long, long enough for most situations. Then there is a male Motorola jack on a 6-inch cable that plugs into your radio antenna input, and a female Motorola jack on another 6-inch cable that you can plug your existing antenna lead into. (This is not necessary, but it does allow you to pick up any AM stations you currently get at their normal dial position). The final

wire contains a standard audio jack on a 6-foot long cable that is plugged into the headphone socket (or line out socket) of your portable music maker. You then tune your AM radio to 1000 kHz (usually appearing as 10 or 100 on the old radios) and voila! - whatever is playing on your portable device comes through your speakers!

Now for the caveats. Number one: you probably do NOT have quadraphonic high fidelity amplifiers and speakers in your classic, so the sound itself isn't much better than what you get now. You just have a much greater play choice. Also, if your portable player runs off the battery in your modern car, obviously you'll have an issue attempting to power it with 6 volt positive ground. This device does NOT solve that problem. However, any portable AA-battery-operated player should work fine. Finally, a minor issue: due to the short length of the antenna cables, you are limited in where exactly you can mount the box on this device. I just zip-tied mine to a convenient bracket.

If you're interested, check out the website shown above. The RediRad comes with a 60 day money-back guarantee as well as a comprehensive 12-month parts and labor warranty. The 6 volt RediRad won Best New Restoration Product for 2009 at the Hotrod & Restoration Show in Indianapolis. For those interested in improving their sound quality, the company also restores old radios.

