

What's NEW

Tell them you saw it in *Monitoring Times*

One Speaker: One Radio: Six Radios Eight Antennas

Most handheld and communications receivers aren't equipped with the best-sounding speakers, so most users end up connecting them to an external speaker for higher-quality sound and more intelligible speech. However, this can be a hassle if you have multiple receivers and transceivers in your radio shack. B & D Enterprises' new SCAN•A•MIX model BX1 accepts and combines up to six audio signals into one speaker output. By combining all receiver audio into one, an external speaker will not be needed for each receiver or transceiver.



The BX1 is especially ideal for listening to the low audio output of portable units, since it contains a 2.5 watt RMS audio amplifier. The source receiver or transceiver can operate at a lower volume level to reduce audio distortion.

There is a convenient front panel switch to mute all audio out of the BX1, enabling you to instantly mute all radios. You can even mute overnight, for example, and restore audio at your preset levels with the push of one switch. A large front panel LED indicates normal (green) or muted (red) operation.

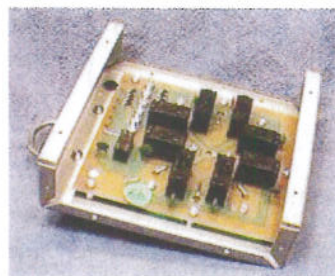
The BX1 is easy to use and operate – simply plug the speaker output from your gear into one of the BX1's inputs and plug your speaker into the BX1 speaker output.

The BX1 Scan A Mix is \$129 plus shipping from B&D Enterprises at <http://www.bdenterprises.com> (PO Box 28362, San Jose, CA 95159; (408) 246-6231).

Equipment flexibility in the radio shack is the fond desire of most hobbyists, and having the luxury of choosing between antennas optimized for particular HF bands can make a real difference in DXing. The Dunestar Model 808 8-position remote HF antenna selector is mounted at the antennas, which means the operator doesn't have to run a pipe full of coax through the wall of the shack.



The Model 808 uses sealed 12vdc relays and a diode matrix select system to control the 8-positions on a 6-wire control cable. The relays operate reliably down to 9vdc. Unused antenna positions are grounded. The enclosure is all aluminum (black over gray) for maximum durability. Mounting is by a single U-bolt for simplicity and ease of installation. Connectors are UHF-type. Power handling 3kW. Requires 12VDC nominal at 200-ma maximum.



The indoor Control box is a 9-position rotary switch (Off and eight antenna positions) with diode matrix housed in a black over gray aluminum enclosure.

Model 808 is \$299 from Dunestar Systems, P.O. Box 37, St. Helens, OR 97051 U.S.A; 1-800-457-1690, orders; 1-503-397-2918, information; <http://www.QTH.com/dunestar>, email dunestar@QTH.com

The All Canadian Baby Boomer Quad

Like hundreds, if not thousands, of other hams, I participated in that annual jamboree of amateur radio fun called Field Day. Operating as VE3XR on 20 meters from a school bus parked in a field in Brampton, Ontario, I had the opportunity to try out a new Canadian-built antenna from Degen Designs.



The antenna is called the "Baby Boomer Quad," also nicknamed "BBQ." The BBQ is a triband (10, 15 and 20 meters), reduced size, quad antenna with a single 50 ohm coax feed point; it does not require an antenna tuner. Weighing less than 30 lb it is designed for rooftop mounting using light-duty rotors and can be assembled and erected by just one person. The BBQ can be taken apart and packed in a box measuring just 8 inches square and 8 feet long.

Talking together at Field Day, the designers of the BBQ – father and son team Erwin and Guenther Schweigl – told *MT* that the development of the antenna took four years of computer modeling and field trials to perfect. The BBQ is designed for low wind loading and high durability. The high quality of construction results in a hefty price tag of CD\$998, but the investment

provides a high performance antenna suitable for discrete use in space-limited urban environments.

And the performance at Field Day 2002? VE3XR doubled the number of contacts over the previous year!

For more information go to <http://www.degendesigns.com>; send e-mail to info@degendesigns.com; write Degen Designs, c/o G. Schweigl, Bramalea, ON, Canada L6S 1S9; or call 905-790-1698 Eastern Standard Time.

Sadly, I learned that, only three weeks after Field Day 2002, Degen Designs founder, Erwin Schweigl VE3CVS, became a silent key. The business will be carried on by his son Guenther.

– Reviewed by John David Corby, VA3KOT

Rebels on the air: An alternative history of radio in America

by Jesse Walker
New York : New York
University Press, 2001
ISBN: 0-8147-9381-9.
\$24.95.

When radio broadcast licenses come up for renewal, there's usually some statement about "public airways" and "serving the public interest" and other phrases that foster the impression that the license-holders are stewards of the publicly owned airwaves.

That may be true, technically, but given the reality of American society, broadcasters are giving precious little back to the American public in return for the privilege of making a profit selling advertisements and programming mostly uninteresting music, talk or sports radio. The author of *Rebels on the Air* would say that in America the state has socialized the airwaves on behalf of big business. Additionally, there are non-profit broadcasters who "are essentially elitists transmitting experimental or radi-