



Radio Receivers for the Holidays

Consumer electronics gadgets are some of the most popular holiday gifts, and some of the most exciting include radio receivers! Below is a sampling of some products available now which include HD Radio or Radio Data System (RDS) technology:

LG PC12 – a 2008 CES Innovations Award Winner, the LG PC12 is a unique and full-featured tabletop stereo radio. In addition to HD Radio capability, it includes a dock for an iPod, a vacuum-loading CD slot, a USB connector for playing Windows Media Audio (WMA) or MP3 format music from flash drives, MP3 players, or disc-based USB storage devices, and it supports clock, alarm and sleep modes that work with the radio, CD or portable audio players. Available online for \$179 from Beach Camera at www.beachcamera.com/shop/product.aspx?sku=L-GPC12&omid=169&ref=ci.



Coby HDR-650 home receiver – another HD Radio home receiver with an innovative design is the Coby HDR-650. It has a brushed aluminum casing and comes with a full-featured remote control, a power supply, stereo RCA-type connectors for use with home audio systems, a 3.5mm headphone jack and an AM loop antenna. It has a 10-station preset memory and a high-contrast LCD display with backlight which will display station information including song title and artist. The Coby HDR-650 is available from a number of online retailers including audiovideobargains.com where it sells for \$89.99 (go to

www.audiovideobargains.com/0/13435406.html).

Crutchfield – Crutchfield (Charlottesville, VA, www.crutchfield.com) is a well-known, mail-order catalog-based (and now Internet-based) auto radio specialty retailer. In recent years, Crutchfield has expanded their offerings to digital TVs and other digital consumer electronics products like camcorders and navigation systems. The 2008 Crutchfield Holiday catalog is full of HD Radio receiver products and information, including:

- an in-dash auto receiver comparison chart listing 26 models (out of 49) with HD Radio receiver capability (and one of four marine receivers has HD Radio capability, as well). Brands with HD Radio capability available from Crutchfield include Alpine, Dual, JVC, Kenwood, Pioneer, and Sony, with prices starting at \$99;
- a four-page “HD Radio in your car” information section, providing information to consumers about HD Radio technology along with some featured HD Radio products. Other technologies featured in a similar fashion in the catalog include “USB in your car,” “Bluetooth in your car,” and “iPod in your car.”

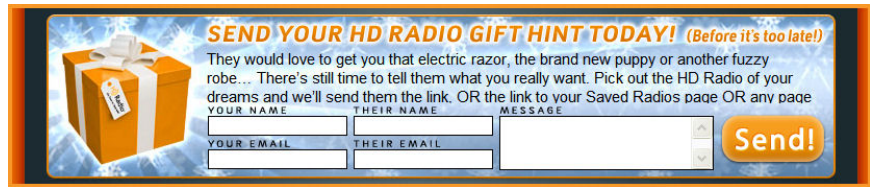
In addition to the radios in the catalog, Crutchfield has twelve HD Radio home and tabletop models, and additional marine radio models, available on their Web site. Crutchfield is offering up to \$70 instant



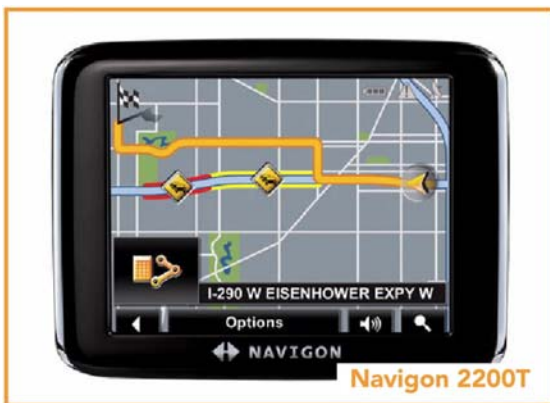
rebates when buying an add-on HD Radio tuner together with a compatible car stereo on the same order—for more information go to www.crutchfield.com/hdradiorebate.

Holiday specials – numerous special offers are listed on the HDRadio.com Web page at www.hdradio.com/gift/, including:

- “Send a hint” – using the HD Radio buyer’s guide included on this Web site, consumers can create what is essentially an HD Radio wish list that can be easily emailed to potential gift givers – this is available at www.hdradio.com/buyers_guide.php;
- *iLuv i68 HD Radio alarm clock* – Walmart is selling this radio for \$89.88 – it includes an auxiliary input compatible with MP3 players (available online at www.walmart.com/catalog/product.do?product_id=10340878);
- Sony XDR-S10HDiP – a \$30 discount is being offered on this tabletop HD Radio receiver from Sony which also includes the popular iTunes tagging feature. Available at Amazon.com at www.amazon.com/Sony-XDR-S10HDiP-Radio-Dock-iPhone/dp/B0014T4S86;
- *Gift alerts* – consumers with cell phones that support text messaging can text the word “SANTA” to 58011 to receive text message announcements about HD Radio receiver specials.



Microsoft Zune – while not an HD Radio product, the Microsoft Zune is a gift item that incorporates the latest in song tagging technology, using the FM subcarrier-based Radio Data System (RDS). The Zune is an MP3 player that has a built-in FM radio receiver and supports “RDS tagging” which is similar to the “iTunes tagging” feature supported by a variety of HD Radio products. As shown in the photo, there are a number of Zune models available. For additional information on RDS tagging see the [October 20, 2008 issue](#) of *Radio TechCheck*.



Total Traffic Network-enabled navigation – a number of GPS navigation devices have built-in FM receivers which use the RDS subcarrier to receive traffic information from Clear Channel Radio’s “Total Traffic Network.” One example of such a device is the Navigon 2200T which is available on Amazon.com for \$150

(www.amazon.com/dp/B001EJN2GA/?tag=googhydr-20&hvadid=2531331291&ref=pd_sl_13kauyw61t_e). The Navigon device has free real-time traffic updates for the life of the device, with no subscriptions or additional hardware needed. Total Traffic Network now serves more than 125 metropolitan markets in four countries, including the United States, Canada, Mexico and New Zealand. Total Traffic Network delivers real-time traffic data via in-car or portable

navigation systems, broadcast media, wireless and Internet-based services. For more information visit the Total Traffic Network Web site at www.realtimetraffic.net.



