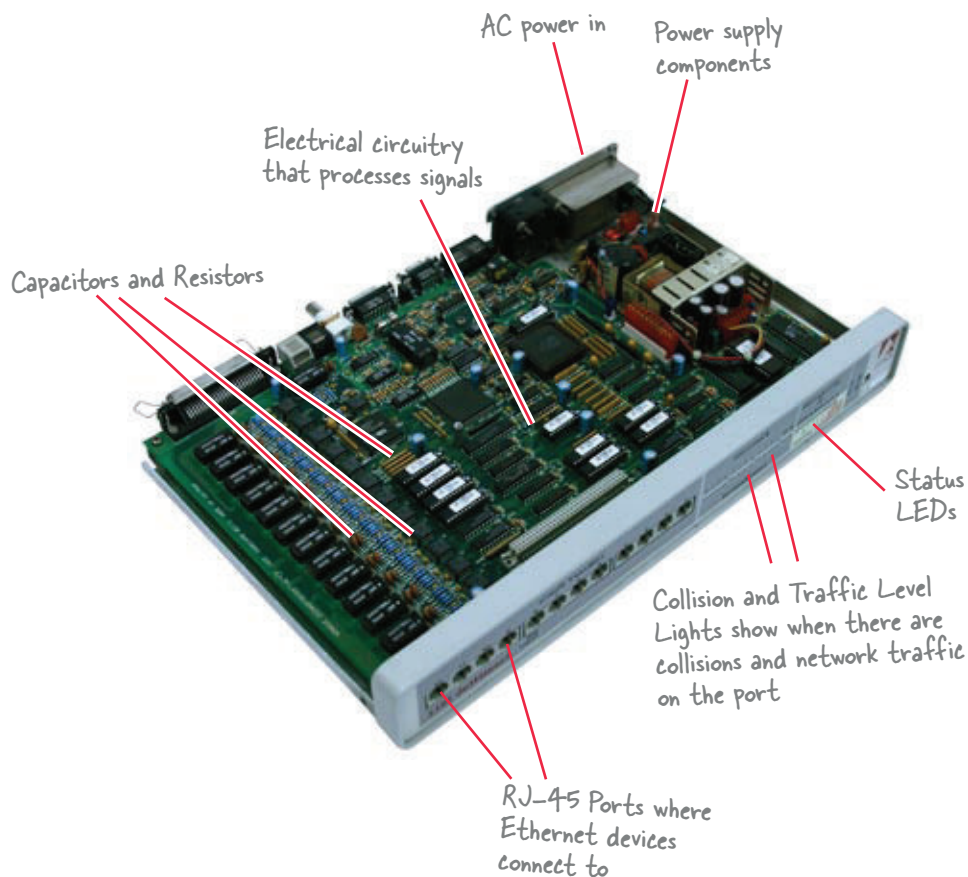# Hubs Up Close

As we've said before, hubs allow us to connect the different machines we want on our network, like computers and printers, for example. It simply takes an incoming signal, copies it to all its other ports, and broadcasts it. A hub is sometimes called a repeater because it repeats the incoming signal using no digital intelligence such as memory or a processor.

Here's what a hub looks like inside:

AC power in

Power supply components

Electrical circuitry that processes signals

Capacitors and Resistors

Status LEDs

Collision and Traffic Level Lights show when there are collisions and network traffic on the port

RJ-45 Ports where Ethernet devices connect to

Hubs are dumb

A hub is a dumb device because it doesn't understand network data, and it doesn't know about or store MAC addresses. It simply repeats incoming signals on all ports, without making any changes to the signal before broadcasting it.