

AM RADIO



<https://radioactivemedia.com/am-radio/>

<https://pngmaker.io/tag/antique-radio>

What is AM Radio?

AM Radio is a type of radio that works by manipulating the electromagnetic radio waves. AM specifically means **amplitude modulation**, so the amplitude (height) of the radio waves are adjusted to be transmitted, and a radio is tuned to pick up these specific frequencies using a receiver.

Where did it come from?

AM Radio dates back to the early 1900s, and was the first type of radio, used mainly for broadcasting shows/music, and communication. AM Radio was able to transmit over large distances, sometimes hundreds or even thousands of miles. This is due to waves ability to bounce off of the ionosphere, a layer of the atmosphere that can reflect radio waves. Because of its simplicity, AM radio became very attainable for the average family, that would often have a large radio in their home for listening to shows as well as news.

Where is it going?

AM Radio is still used today due to its simplicity and ease of broadcasting. With this simplicity comes its greatest issue, that it is very easy to get interference in the channel. Large city areas, mountains, hills, and sometimes even power lines, can cause some interferences in the signal that makes what the listener receives sound fuzzy. Because of how easy it is to interfere with the signal it isn't often used by music broadcasting channels anymore, but it is used for news channels and information broadcasting as its waves can carry farther than its FM alternative. In the future it doesn't seem that it will remain a popular means of listening to music, but for easily conveying important news or information it could remain a viable option.

1836
Morse Code

1921
Short Wave Radio

1954
Transistor Radio

1993
Internet Radio

2007
Radio Apps

1915
AM Radio

1933
FM Radio

1988
XM Radio

1995
Digital Radio

What is FM Radio?

FM Radio is a type of radio that works by manipulating the electromagnetic radio waves. FM means **frequency modulation**, so the frequency (how often the waves complete a cycle) is made smaller or larger so that a radio can pick up these varying waves.

Where is it going?

FM Radio grew very quickly in popularity, and radio stations became a huge and profitable business in the 70s/80s. The 90s and early 2000s saw the growth of digital media and later on even subscription based platforms. A majority of listeners today use these digital and subscriptions platforms, as they are often more convenient and personalized for the listener. Despite this, FM is still a widely used means of listening to music, as well as talk shows. FM does have better clarity, but it has less range than AM so it might not be preferred for new or emergency broadcasts.

Where did it come from?

FM Radio was invented by WWI Army veteran Edwin Armstrong in 1935, he sought to transmit to radios without static/interference. His system was known as wide-band frequency modulation, as it changed the "width" of the band for transmission. This static free solution proved to be better for music as it was more clear, but these wideband (FM) systems are more complicated and can't easily transmit as far. It wasn't until the 1960s that FM caught on, but it grew quickly and became a staple for music and radio show enjoyers alike. FM Radio stations began promoting these systems with their superior sound quality, and moving into the 70s and 80s they began broadcasting more genres like disco, rock, and even punk.

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