



June
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The Arts & Crafts of Theater

Timeister Electronic
Architects Brings
15-Year-Old Former Summer
Cottage into the 21st Century



Epstein Says...

Regulated Growth Plays a
Significant Role in the
Successes of Many Custom
Installation Companies

Rising Star of the Month



Strong Product Demo is Key
Success of Up-and-Coming
Retailer, Sound Concepts of
Fayetteville, Arkansas

The State of the Solidstate

Home Media Server Category
Now Includes Everything
from Remote iPod Docks to
Solidstate Multi-Zone Amps

residential systems

Spring Graduation Issue

- **Earning** Your Next Million Dollars in Sales
- **Making** the Jump to Dedicated Home Theater Design
- **Growing** from Single Homes to Production Builder Contracts
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Higher Learning

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in Your
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PEER PRODUCT REVIEWS

REEL Acoustics' RS Series Theater Speakers • Polk Audio's XRt12 XM Tuner



Polk's XRt12 XM Tuner



How long have you been a dealer for the manufacturer of this product?

We have been selling Polk Audio products for four years.

How do you rate the product's design?

The sound quality of the XRt12 is amazing. This is the only XM Radio tuner on the market I have seen that features digital audio output and delivers much higher clarity than hooking up a SkyFi or Rody to an audio system. Polk even built the tuner 17 inches wide so it fits nicely into A/V racks or stacked with existing components. However, my favorite design element is the slick-looking front panel with a cool blue LED display.

For what types of installations is this product best suited?

The XRt12 works great in a distributed audio system or a media room.

Describe the feature set.

I found the on-screen display to be one of the most useful features on the XRt12. The display provides information like artist, title, and channel, and gives access the system menu without having walk up to the unit. I also like the fact that you can set the video output to migrate around the screen every five seconds to reduce the risk of screen burn-in on plasma and other

television types. Finally, I also found that the XRt12 sounds great using the analog outputs when digital inputs are not available.

Does this product help you solve problems that you often confront in your custom work?

We install a lot of distributed audio systems and sometimes find customers who are not interested in touch-screen displays and digital music servers. This product allows us to offer them a large variety of programming at a reasonable cost.

What features on this model would you like to see changed or added?

The XRt12 has an RS232 input, but it would be nice to also have an IR input to avoid landing an emitter on the front panel. And even though I really like the video display feature, the actual display could use a more attractive design. Also, the remote control functions are not very intuitive for a home installation; it is the same interface control used for the automobile XM tuners. For example, the odd Preset-A/ Preset-B/Direct toggle isn't as intuitive as fewer, dedicated preset buttons, and always having the direct tuning buttons (0-9) available to type in channel numbers. Another option that might be nice is to have a "Favorites" button that lets you scroll through a small subset of favorite channels.

"You can set the video output to migrate around the screen every five seconds to reduce the risk of screen burn-in"

by ken eagle
eMagine Technology Systems
Clarkston, MI
www.emaginebomes.com

PRODUCT SPECS

- Analog and direct digital connections
- Optical and coaxial digital outputs
- Built-in audiophile-grade Burr-Brown digital-to-analog converter
- High-gain audio preamp section built to match the output of typical audio source components
- Includes high-gain XM home antenna with 20-foot cable (optional 50-foot extension cable available)
- Four-line blue XM display shows channel name, channel number, artist name, song title, and signal strength
- Twenty channel presets, in four banks of five each
- Line Out Level lets you match the tuner's output (gain) to that of the other components in your system so the volume remains constant as you switch from source to source (works only with analog outputs, digital output level is fixed)
- RS-232 connector allows connection to whole-house audio distribution systems.
- Visit www.polkaudio.com

