

Digital Radio

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: When did digital radio become available in Australia?

All commercial and public service broadcasters are now broadcasting in high power in the 5 launch cities. Australian commercial digital radio services switched-on progressively in May and June 2009 in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth and Adelaide. In the first 10-14 days of roll-out, and as required by the regulator, stations broadcast in interference test mode to make sure any interference issues are dealt with. The public service broadcasters switched on 1 July 2009.

Q: Will I be able to receive digital radio?

Type your postcode into the search function on digitalradioplus.com.au or sms your postcode to 0409377587.

Q: Will digital radio cost listeners anything?

No. Listeners simply have to buy a new digital radio to listen to digital radio with products priced from around \$150. There are no other costs – no subscription fees, no messing about with signing up, just tune in.

Q: What extra features will digital radio provide?

Digital radio will provide new stations – like Austereo's Radar, Pink Radio and DMG's Koffee and NovaNation and ARN's The EDGE with further stations being developed. Digital radio also means you can listen to your existing favourite radio stations but with digital sound quality. There are many advantages to digital radio – it will provide better reception, more details about advertised products, discussion topics, news items, sports and racing via text, graphics, pictures and animation. Features like pause and rewind will be available on some digital receivers, and, you can tune by station name, not frequency, making it easy to find your favourite stations.

Q: What radio receivers are available?

To listen to digital radio, consumers need a new receiver. Digital radios come in all shapes and sizes, including MP3 devices, hi fi systems, portable players and clock radios. PC adaptors, which plug into a computer and allow receiver functions to be controlled from the computer screen, will also be available. In-car adaptors are available and going forward there are likely to be adaptor kits for mobile phones and maybe even iPods.

Q: When I first turned on my digital radio I couldn't hear all my favourite stations.

When you first switch on your digital radio and when a new digital radio station is launched, listeners need to simply press the "full scan" or "auto tune" button on your new digital radio so that all the stations in your area can be stored in the memory of the radio. For more information refer to your radio user guide or check the www.digitalradioplus.com.au website.

Q: Where can I buy a new DAB+ radio?

Over 600 stores throughout Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth are stocking digital radios including; Harvey Norman, Dick Smith, The Good Guys, Myer, David Jones, Clive Peeters, Big W, Retravision, JB Hi-Fi and specialist retailers.

Q: How much will a DAB+ radio cost?

Like any product range, digital radio prices vary depending on the features and capabilities. Entry-level receivers (with scrolling text) start from around \$150 and receivers with all capabilities start at around \$299.

Q: Who makes DAB+ digital radios?

Pure, Roberts, Sangean, Bush, Revo, Grundig, Teac, Yamaha and iRiver are just some of the manufacturers making DAB+ digital radios. Other manufacturers are developing further products. Check the website for a list of digital radios available.

Q: Will AM and FM radio be switched off?

There are no plans at this stage to switch off AM and FM radio services. As there is an estimated five radio devices per home, listeners must be given time to change over all of their radio devices before any discussion of switch off of analogue services. In addition, planning needs to continue for the switch on of digital services to the rest of Australia outside of the five launch cities.

Q: Can I receive AM and FM on my new digital radio?

Digital radios will come in a range of different models. To ensure your radio receives digital radio services in Australia it must be DAB+ enabled. Some DAB+ radios will also receive FM. However you'll be able to hear your favourite AM and FM stations simulcast on DAB+. Look for the DAB+ enabled logo on the product pack or in store.

Q: I sometimes get crackling on my AM signal will this happen with digital radio?

Digital radio provides interference free, digital quality sound and your radio will find the best signal in your area rather than you messing around with tuning the dial.

Q: When will I be able to receive digital radio in other areas outside Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth?

Commercial Radio Australia (CRA) has already started planning the digital radio rollout in other areas throughout Australia. A regional trial of digital radio will commence later this year and CRA is calling on the Federal Government to allocate VHF Band III spectrum in regional areas for the rollout of digital radio services across Australia so regional broadcasters can start real planning.

Q: Is digital radio the same as internet radio?

No, digital radio is broadcast free to air over the airwaves via DAB+ technology. Internet-only radio services are streamed over the telecommunications networks and incur a download cost which varies depending on the internet service provider package. Free to air broadcast radio stations will also stream their current radio stations plus any new digital services on the internet as well as broadcasting, so the content can be accessed on both platforms.

Q: Can I receive digital radio through my digital TV set top box?

Currently we are unaware of a digital TV set top box that will receive DAB+. However, we have been advised that a number of manufacturers are currently working on integrating DAB+ into a digital TV set top box. As new DAB+ products become available they will be featured on the www.digitalradioplus.com.au website.

Q: How do I receive digital radio in my car?

You can buy a digital radio adaptor for your car that is simply placed in the vehicle like a satellite navigation device and receives all your favourite stations plus the new DAB+ only stations. Plus you may also be able to link your portable DAB+ receiver via Bluetooth in your car or through a car navigation system.

Commercial Radio Australia (CRA) is continuing to work with the car industry to have DAB+ digital radios in cars. CRA is working with manufacturers to encourage them to include a DAB+ solution standard into car navigation systems. Other receiver manufacturers CRA has spoken with are working on after-car market options.

Q: How are you telling listeners about digital radio?

A three phase digital radio advertising campaign, promoting the switch on of digital radio services to listeners commenced on all commercial radio stations in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth. The first phase of the \$10 million dollar on-air campaign raised listeners' awareness that radio was going digital. It also promoted the website: www.digitalradioplus.com.au which contains extensive information about digital radio for consumers. Phase two of the ad campaign outlines the new capabilities and benefits of digital radio and is designed to generate heightened listener interest to actively engage with digital radio and seek out retail outlets for digital radio receivers. Phase three will promote the simultaneous five state capital listener event Radio United planned for 6 August, which will include all commercial networks as well as the public broadcasters.

Q: What should I look for when purchasing a digital radio to ensure it will work in Australia?

Only DAB+ radios will receive digital radio in Australia. When buying a new digital radio look for the DAB+ enabled logo.

Commercial and Public Broadcaster Stations on Digital in 2009

Sydney – 2GB, 2CH, 2UE, 2DAY, TRIPLE M, 2KY, WS-FM, MIX 106.5, 2SM, NOVA, VEGA, ABC & SBS stations – including ABC Radio National, Triple J, Classic FM, News Radio, Local Radio. Radar, Pink Radio, NovaNation, Koffee and The EDGE.

Melbourne – MIX, GOLD, SEN, 3AW, 3MP, FOX, MAGIC, TRIPLE M, NOVA, VEGA, Sport 927, ABC & SBS stations – including ABC Radio National, Triple J, Classic FM, News Radio, Local Radio. Radar, Pink Radio, NovaNation, Koffee and The EDGE.

Brisbane – 4BC, 4BH, 4KQ, B105, TRIPLE M, NOVA, RADIO TAB, 97.3 FM, ABC & SBS stations – including ABC Radio National, Triple J, Classic FM, News Radio, Local Radio. Radar, Pink Radio, NovaNation and The EDGE.

Adelaide – 5AA, MIX, SA-FM, TRIPLE M, NOVA, CRUISE, ABC & SBS stations – including ABC Radio National, Triple J, Classic FM, News Radio, Local Radio. Radar, Pink Radio, NovaNation, Koffee and The EDGE.

Perth – 6IX, 6PR, 96 FM, MIX, 92.9FM, NOVA, ABC & SBS stations – including ABC Radio National, Triple J, Classic FM, News Radio, Local Radio. Radar, Pink Radio and NovaNation.



Information about any of these topics can be found at **digitalradioplus.com.au**