

Over the years I have tried various set ups to suit my listening as well as my living situation. This has ranged from my bedroom at home to my present radio room in the basement of our house. I have never come up with the perfect layout yet but I'm getting there. Now I do not want anyone to think that I am an expert at this or that what I say is written in stone. It is just some ideas that I have come up with over the years.

1- Get a comfortable chair. What ever you find to be comfortable is up to your tastes. I use an old armed tilter chair. One thing I will recommend to you is that you use a padded chair (especially if you are like me and don't have any padding HI!!). Also try to avoid chairs that have leather or vinyl seats and backs as they will make you sweat and get uncomfortable after a while.

2- If you are short on space and long on equipment try purchasing new or used a computer table or desk with a hutch. These are designed to take several pieces of equipment but are set up in such a way as to be user friendly. I am at this time using one that allows me to have my ICOM R-70 and the external speaker on the shelf that was designed for the monitor. To the side there is room for a clock and books and my tape recorder. All of this leaves the desk top clear for log books target sheets and the candy dish. Hey a guy's got to eat.

3- When placing your equipment no matter where try to keep the pieces as close to you as possible. If a piece of equipment gets put up on a high shelf the odds are it will go unused. If you use a table top receiver and it is digital read-out keep it at an angle that makes operating it and reading the numbers easy. I've always kept mine on a slant with the front 2-3 inches higher than the back. Just seems easier to get at those little buttons.

4- Have some decent lighting. In case you haven't noticed you DX during those hours that the sun is down, just going down, or just coming up so you need extra lighting. I prefer a lamp to a ceiling light because I can adjust it to shine where I want it. You don't want a glaring light or Fluorescent lights because the latter will cause noise on your radio. I have been using a lamp with a red light bulb the last while as I found it gives off a soft glow that is not hard on the eyes, but suit your self.

5- Keep a sheet of paper with your targets on it and keep it near your log sheets. You can organize these targets by frequency or by the best time to hear them. I have also gotten into the habit of taking a highlighter pen and marking off the stations I have heard in my NRC logbook. That way I can look at a page in the logbook and know in a flash if I've heard that station before. Also by going through the log you might spot some stations that you thought you had but did not or stations you should have but do not. By the way if you go for the red light in the lamp don't use a yellow highlighter pen as the yellow disappears(This is the voice of experience HI!!).

6- If you have your choice (you should be so lucky) of where to set up a listening post try to place it some place where you can run wires outside with ease. You may or not have a radio that needs grounding or you may at some time wish to set up an antenna outside. It is a lot easier if you are at an outside wall or if in the basement near a ready made hole in the wall. By that I mean a drier vent sump pump line etc, where the house builder has cut a hole that you could use to run wire outside. Drilling through a few inches of concrete is not a great deal of fun. Trust Me!!!!

7- Try for a place where you won't bother or be bothered by others. Now if you have children as I do there is no place they will not bother you!! On the other hand if you are in an apartment it might be better to be in the living room than in the bedroom. This is from personal experience. My wife rather have " That Stuff " in the living room than me in the bedroom with a light on at 3:00 A.M. listening while she and " The Rest Of The NORMAL People " were asleep!!! This is supposed to be a hobby not a way to get out of a marriage HI!!!

Well think about it and try what you feel is appropriate to your situation and I wish you the best of DX in a nice comfortable spot (not the tub you goof, you could ruin the radio!!)