

## I guess size doesn't matter after all

I'll be the first to admit the fact that I'm a gadget freak from hell. I just love almost any gadget that'll do neat things.

On the top of my list of things that I find neat is stereo equipment. I've carried on a love affair of flashing lights, pulsating meters and high performance sound for more than two decades.

To top it off, I'm a self-proclaimed packrat as well, so the entertainment unit at home has been, well, a bit intense.

A wa-a-a-y back, about three years B.K. ('Before Kids') I had a personal quest to outfit the family room with THE highest-tech, most powerful stereo system known to mankind.

And after acquiring a huge Marantz receiver, (purposely purchased cuz it would accommodate several add-ons,) I added the two tape decks, the high-end turntable, and the Dolby stereo VCR and television monitor.

It was great.

Of course, the VCR was the last item hooked into the system, that was in 1982, so all the components are getting a long in the tooth.

As the years have gone by, I've had the various components serviced, simply because my marriage probably wouldn't survive replacing them with comparable present day equivalents.

And the VCR was no exception.

The tuner in it worked, and we had another VCR to use for playback of rented movies, (I got it cheap cuz it'd been struck by lightning.)

Anyway, this VCR situation has been a sore point around my house for the past little while (like two years) and I've received a few hints that it was not acceptable.

But since I don't watch much TV, it wasn't a priority with me—until this week.

Monday night, my wife came in the door, with her arms full of things like most women carry in the door after a day at work.

You know—a box of cereal, a loaf of bread,

A  
TED  
BIT



Ted Brown

a new VCR, some milk—the stuff they always drop on the kitchen table.

"You got a new VCR!" squealed my youngest. "Dad, she bought a new VCR!"

"Ted, I couldn't stand the old one any longer," she explained. "So I replaced it."

After supper, I had the task of hooking up the new VCR, and unhooking the other two.

"It's awfully small," I commented.

"It will do everything the old one will do, and probably more," she said defensively. (She's a proponent of the old 'size doesn't matter thing..')

On screen menus? When did they invent that? Auto setup? You mean I don't have to tune each station individually? The remote control looks like it could run the space shuttle.

Although the first night was spent getting it set up, the next was spent rearranging the rest of the entertainment unit.

That translated into the painstaking job of sorting out and wading through about 143 yards of audio cables and speaker wire, not to mention the dust bunnies under the old components.

But I'm pleased to say it's up and running, and the family's tickled pink with the new VCR, in spite of its minuscule size.

But now I have another problem: What do I do with the two old VCRs?

After all, like, they still work.....



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