

How do I?

An occasional series

This week: Build it yourself! A HT Charging Station!

Got multiple HTs? Always looking for charging cables or docks? Corral them with this easy to build it yourself HT charging station!



Material List

1 12"x18" by 1/2" plywood.

1 power outlet strip

2 round head Phillips #8 by 1" screws.

Velcro-approximately 2" per radio dock.*

Twist ties.*

HT docking stations and power cords.

*** There are other options. See text.**

This has been on the to-do list for many years. Finally I got around to making a simple charging station for hand held radios.

This was an easy project. The hardest part were finding the materials. Not that materials are rare. But finding a piece of lumber that did not require cutting was harder than I expected. My initial thought was a piece of 1"x10" or 1"x12" approximately 18" long. I couldn't find one in the scrap pile and was unwilling to cut one. A trip to the shed found a piece of slightly weathered plywood that may have been part of a shelf once. Not sure. I wiped it off and debated either putting a coat of spar varnish on it, or painting it. I decided I would rather spend time making than painting. A piece of melamine, perhaps from an old counter top, would work very well.



The next step was to find a power outlet strip. That was fairly easy. Then I needed screws. A little rummaging found some #8 x 1" round head screws. I marked the wood to show where to drill holes to attach the outlet strip. I put the outlet strip along the back so the cord came off one end. Then I drilled the holes and installed the screws.

Once the outlet strip was attached, it was time to round up the chargers. I have three. I wanted a way to fasten them. The chargers I have do not have built in screw holes. So I used Velcro so I can easily remove them if needed. Other options, depending on how often or how badly you want to remove one, could include 3M double sided tape or Liquid Nails. I cut the Velcro to about 1" long and attached two pieces to each charger base. Total cost was maybe two dollars, as the only new materials were the screws and Velcro.

Then I removed the tape over the sticky part of the Velcro and pressed down until it grabbed the wood.

I plugged the chargers in and wrapped the cords with twist ties. Zip ties or Bongo ties would work as well. Total time, including hunting for parts, was perhaps 30 minutes.

What would I do different? Model 2 could be a box, sized to hold the charges, cables, and perhaps radios, as well as the outlet strip when in transit. Need to charge something? Open the box, attach the parts to the outside of the lid and plug it in!

What have you made today?