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Patio DJ Consider that quintessential warm weather hearth, barbecue. What better way to complement the sounds of chat friends and sizzling burgers than with a playlist of hot tunes? Traditionally, outdoor sound systems have fallen into two categories: First, it's boombox. Currently, many of these portable stereo systems have integrated iPod docks, making them easy to use, but no one can qualify as a serious sound system. The second, more laborious way is to constantly wire the weather speakers (see All-Weather Posting, on the next page). But in the age of wireless networks and PC-based music files, wiring outdoor speakers to a receiver that isn't necessarily anywhere near your computer seems like a complicated and probably unnecessary exercise. As it turns out, there are several ways to bypass the AV receiver and throw the music directly from the PC into the patio, and there is one easy way to control it all. Apple's airPort Express is a simple and relatively cheap way to stream music from the outside. This small device costing \$100 connects to any outlet, connects to the Wi-Fi network and has a 3.5 mm audio mjack that can display either analog or digital optical signal. When you use Apple's AirPort Utility software, your computer sets up AirPort Express devices on your network, and then all the speakers attached to them will show up on iTunes. The audio output of AirPort Express is infirm, however, so the speakers you connect should have internal amplifiers. (Most computer speakers qualify.) However, any AirPort Express installation must be temporary, as the device is by no means weather-free. (For that matter, not most computer speakers.) Some wireless speakers, however, are specifically designed to withstand the elements. Acoustic studies have different speakers that can run on a handful of AA batteries and link radio frequency to analogue input up to 150 to 200 feet, depending on the model. But by far the most impressive outdoor sound system I've tried is The Outcast's omnidirectional wireless speaker from SoundCast. The \$700 OutCast battery has a built-in 100-watt amplifier and produces a serious bass with an 8-inch woofer (its smaller, cheaper brother, \$500 OutCast Jr., has a 60-watt amplifier). Instead of Wi-Fi, OutCast uses a proliferation of spectrum ownership 2.4GHz wireless connectivity with either a \$100 iPod dock or a \$100 Universal AudioCast transmitter that attaches to your computer by tapping into a Windows or Mac OS built-in USB speaker interface. To control all of this, try the free Apple Remote app - a program so cool that it single-handedly justifies buying an iPod Touch or iPhone that it works on. Remote use of the Wi-Fi antenna in any connect to iTunes libraries on any computer connected to your network. Used with wireless speaker settings, Remote lets you view all the music on your computer and DJ your ringtones from your portable device without even going inside. Pool Toots Good. Weather Dynamics Will Withstand Rain, but about a dunk in the pool? Call them novelties if you like, but there are wireless speakers designed for swimming on the surface of the water. The Aqua Sounders system, from Grace Audio, will transmit sound from the base station to 10 battery-powered speakers. The sound quality from these sound balls is barely acceptable (underwater, you can hardly hear them), plus they are clearly hard enough to provide a conk on noggin to anyone unwise enough to have a cannonball in them. However, there is something uniquely appealing about the pool-party atmosphere these things instantly create. Much more functional is the fully waterproof WXI2077 series Uniden wireless phone. In the days of data optimized cell phones, conventional wireless phones may seem pass-through, but just try to do laps with a BlackBerry clipped onto your swimsuit. WXI2077 floats, so you don't even have to leave the pool to answer it, plus it uses a relatively undigested bandwidth of 1.9 GHz, so it won't interfere with the Wi-Fi network. Life-Size Wii The same home theater projector that can turn the living room into an at-home cineplex can also turn your backyard into a drive-in. And making film while outdoors is made simple with all-in-one projectors such as the Epson MovieMate series and Optoma DV11. These projectors have built-in DVD players and speakers, so the only connection needed to set up an instant lawn theater is an electric extension cord. If you like your outdoor video entertainment a little more active, any projector with composite video and RCA audio inputs can be easily connected to the Nintendo Wii gaming system, throwing human-sized characters on any available projection surface. For the standard Def Wii, no fancy screens are necessary - the usual white tarp will do. To provide a 6-foot-tall image, you want a tarp measuring at least 11 x 6 feet (for a 16:9 ratio of aspects) or 8 x 6 feet (for the 4:3 aspect). Tie the ends to the trees or use spring clamps to attach the tarp to the fence. Keep in mind that the Wii needs an infrared light sensor bar placed at the bottom or top of the screen to work properly, and the wire for the Wii IR bar is 11 feet long, which can limit the placement of the Wii and therefore the projector. In my experience, you want your projector back a good 10 to 15 feet to provide a large enough image. It's possible with an existing wire, but you can avoid a lot of potential rides and tangles with a wireless IR bar accessory from Nyko (\$20). Also, you want to compensate the projector to get it out of your way and avoid playing against your shadow. Most projectors have dials that allow you to fix the key effect you get when projecting at an angle. Once you've all you and your friends can swing your Wiimotes to the content of your hearts while racking the strikes in virtual open-air bowling. All-weather wiring Despite all the new-fashioned wireless speakers on the market, most outdoor speakers get a get signal and power the old-fashioned way -- through the speaker of the wire. Weather-resistant patio and garden speakers are available from many major manufacturers, including Bose (Free Space 51 pictured above), Polk Audio and JBL. If you power only two outdoor speakers and have available speaker outlets, you can connect them directly to your home theater receiver. Otherwise, a separate amplifier is needed. To get a beep from the inside outside, you need to either lay the wires under a closed window or drill a hole in your home. If you do the latter, make sure you seal it properly with silicone on the outside. Use an outdoor-rated speaker wire for all external speaker wiring. For garden speakers with long rope runs, consider dumping the PVC pipeline and then attaching wires with direct-burial wire connectors. (Wire and accessories are available through online stores such as outdoorspeakerdepot.com and ticcorp.com.) Patio speakers are likely to be connected through open terminals. To prevent water from getting into the open wire speaker, it helps to smear a little silicone around the compound to seal it. Be sure to unwind the speakers in your backyard with the same care you would be when positioning them in your living room. Leave enough between the space for a proper separation of the stereo, and face the speakers inside to the desired sweet spot. This content is created and supported by a third party and is imported to this page to help users provide their email addresses. You may be able to find more information about this and similar content on piano.io Displaying All Articles Labeled: Upper Playground Shop opens in the East Village We have snapshots of the store and its exclusive promotions. Fashion Report Cards: Critics love Jacobs, De La Renta, Herrera, DVF New York's biggest show kicked off, and reviews are pouring in. Did Oscar overdo it with the Astrakhans? Is Carolina a sharp new direction too much? What about all this fur? New York City fugging 2/6/2007 Celebrity Presented by Betsy Johnson As soon as we saw the Rev. Al Sharpton on the show Baby Phat on Friday, we figured we'd hit our man out of the fabric quota. We thought a lot of things these mid days, but never did we guess that the Reverend Run of Run DMC would slide into our lives during tonight's Betsy Johnson show. Joan Olden star Amber Tamblyn seemed just as surprised and excited, sidling up to Reverend Run for a photo - a request he granted by wrapping his most holy arm around her. Then, looking particularly, well, reverend, in solemn black clothing and this hat, he settled in his seat at the end of the runway next to his brother, Russell Simmons, to great applause and cheers from pen photographers, started smiling so enthusiastically on the models that one even giggled and made a few extra shimmys. Who can blame her? Paris and Kimora to form two women Wrecking Crew-Could anyone will be more excited for tonight evening show than Paris Hilton and Kimora Lee Simmons? Apparently not. We hear the couple demanded that the W Lounge - the area behind the Bryant Park tent where everyone goes unpack - be completely cleaned up within an hour of Showtime in order to allow them the space and privacy they need to change into their outfits. Will they be partying together in Roseland later? If so, we recommend you run to the shelter - and take pictures. And send them to us. Update: Britney Spears is confirmed for Heatherette. If only Lindsay Lohan wasn't in rehab. . Video: Kate Schhelton running puritanical LookKate Scheulter is a fashion consultant who spoke with Amy Larkka of New York about the fun of dressing up for fashion shows. Although she says she looks like a kaleidoscope sometimes, what Schetter really likes is Fashion Week Energy: You just tossed in one big bowl and you create this great fashion salad. Watch the video. After the Leopard-Print Thongs to Marc Jacobs PartyThe Marc Jacobs after party apparently began long before a giant crowd made its way to Eugene. During our half-hour mosey of the Armory, Seth Meyers pulled his elbow and pointed down. What is a pair of underwear doing on the ground? We never found out. But if you lost a leopard print thong last night, you know where to look. Take a look.

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