

## Battery Base Lets Amazon Echo Cut The Cable

By Lisa Johnston

Now Amazon Echo owners can use their music-playing/home-controlling/question-answering/pizza-ordering cylinder without plugging it in.

Mission Cables, a manufacturer of Roku, Chromecast and Fire TV accessories, has launched the Battery Base. Consumers can slip the Echo into the Base and receive an additional six hours of playtime from a lithium-ion battery. The Echo will continue to operate uninterrupted as long as it remains within Wi-Fi or Bluetooth-enabled smartphone range, Mission Cables said.

Brian Wengreen, Mission Cables founder, told TWICE the company is currently working with Amazon to get the device officially sanctioned.

The Battery Base features a silicone interior, non-slip grip bottom, on/off button and status indicators. It



takes about 90 minutes to reach a full charge.

It's currently available for \$49.99 on Amazon.

Amazon also sells its own portable versions of the Echo known as the Dot and Tap.



## JLab Getting Even More Epic

JLab's new headphones are getting even more Epic.

The company has updated its Epic 2 sport ear buds, upping the battery life to 12 hours from the previous version's 10. The Bluetooth buds are also now rated as IPX5 waterproof, rather than just IPX4 water resistant, and have improved wireless connectivity, said JLab.

JLab has also updated the button layout on the in-line remote – adding a centered power button and more tactile feedback – and packaged in more tip options, including its first triple-flange.

The headphones have 8mm drivers and use Bluetooth 4.0 with AptX.

The Epic 2 come in black, blue/graphite and teal/graphite for a @99.99 suggested retail. The company has dropped the price of the original Epic down to \$79.99. – Lisa Johnston

## NextVR To Broadcast Live Concerts In 360° VR

By Joseph Palenchar

NextVR will team up with music-venue operator Live Nation to broadcast hundreds of live concerts around the world in 360-degree virtual reality, the companies announced.

The first concerts will be announced shortly and take place this summer, NextVR said. A schedule of live events will be announced later this year and each year during the multiyear partnership.

To view the events in VR, consumers must download the free NextVR app for the Samsung Gear VR, available in the Oculus Home app store. Additional viewing platforms will be available soon, the company said.

NextVR, launched in 2009, has more than 23 patents granted or pending for the capture, compression, transmission and display of VR content. The company claimed to be the only company capable of transmitting live high-definition VR content over the Internet.

NextVR has already streamed multiple live events in 360-degree high-definition video, including this year's 2016 Big East Men's Basketball Tournament quarterfinal, semifinal and championship games at Madison Square Garden in conjunction with Fox Sports. The two also brought the Daytona 500 and a Premier Boxing Champions fight this year to virtual reality, and in 2015, they tested a VR broadcast of the U.S. Open from Chambers Bay.

Also last year, NextVR delivered VR broadcasts of a Democratic presidential debate and the NBA's season-opening game.

## Peerless-AV Rolls Out Its New User-Friendly Website

PeerlessAV has launched a new, improved website at PeerlessAV.com.

The site, created with user experience firmly in mind, the company said, utilizes the latest in responsive technology to deliver a design that is fluidly compatible with all browsers, mobile devices and tablets.

The site enhances ease of use with an updated navigation structure with access to PeerlessAV's extensive range of resources, such as Live Chat, a B-to-B Portal, social media, case studies, the company's PeerSpectives blog and KioskBuilder, among others.

New features on the site include an update of MountFinder, allowing for faster, more refined search results subfiltered by quantities, manufacturer, color, category and brand. MountFinder now displays results with infinite scroll for ease of use.

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