Alexa, Harmony Project

Control which speakers are used when streaming music from my Amazon Echo Dot

Components

- Amazon Echo Dot (Alexa)

- Logitech Harmony Companion (Harmony)

- OSD Audio ATM7 Automatic 7-Zone Speaker Selector w/ IR Remote Control IR Code

- Sherwood AV Receiver and Speakers

- Nyrius Wireless HDMI Video Transmitter & Receiver System

Discussion

The goal of this project is to use my Echo Dot to control which speakers play the music I am streaming.

The big problem with this project, is trying to keep all the wires identified and determine what I am going to call everything. The speakers are labeled A, B, C, D, E, F, G. Now there are a number of combinations you can use. This is an example but you will get the idea. A = Bedroom 1, B = Bedroom 2, C = Kitchen, D = Front Room, E = Movie Room etc.

Now you can just play to one of these rooms or a combination of rooms like. AB = Bedroom Speakers, ABCDE = House Speakers etc. You can name these anything you want in the activities with the Harmony App.

The AOD Speaker Switch see's the IR from the Harmony and changes it's settings to play the speakers you choose to use.

The Sherwood Reciever/Amplifier I am using does not come with Bluetooth so I had to use a Unify Bluetooth Reciever plugged into the Aux Port. This allows the Echo Dot to stream the music to the speaker switch/speakers.

More Discussion

If you place the Harmony Hub in front of your Reciever and Audio Switch then you will not need a IR Blaster, the Harmony Hub is a IR Blaster itself.

In my case it took me 3 or 4 times programming the Harmony App before, I got what I wanted. This is not completely clear and I strongly suggest you have some patients in doing this project.

Configuration Steps

- Install the Alexa app on my computer and smart phone.

- Install the Harmony app on my computer and smart phone. Connect the Harmony Hub to my computer via usb so the computer can talk directly to the Hub. (required if you want to use your computer to do the configuration, otherwise you must use your smart phone to do the configuration).

- Connected the Echo Dot to my Wi-Fi Network (used the Alexa app on my computer).

- Connected the Harmony Hub to my Wi-Fi Network.

- Enable the Harmony Skill in the Alexa app.

- Program the Harmony Hub via the Harmony app.

Commands

- "Alexa, ask harmony to turn on all speakers"
- "Alexa, ask harmony to turn on Kitchen"
- "Alexa, ask harmony to turn on Bedroom 1"
- "Alexa, ask harmony to play music"
- "Alexa, play Niel Diamond"

Additional Information

- I am not going to go step by step on this projects configuration. It is too complex and too many steps.

- If you have a specific question, then you can contact us and we will be happy to give some advise.

- As the commands are issued the proper equipment starts up and selects the proper channel or rooms etc. What was running will stop if it is not needed for the current command.

- The names of activities is all up to the programmer. You can create any names that make sense to you.