

# What's Hot?

## Outfit Your Coach with the Latest Technology

by Sharleen Nelson

*If you'll be traveling near a Marathon facility this summer, now is the perfect time to consider upgrading the technology in your coach with the most popular and up-to-date items on the market today. The items listed below can easily be installed in all newer coaches; however, there may be certain limitations on some older coaches. Likewise, because technology is in constant flux, particular products may or may not be available at this time.*



### Blu-ray Disc Components

Are you ready for the latest in high-definition video? "Blu-ray," the most advanced digital playback recording technology on the market, gets its name from its blue-violet laser. The format was developed to allow recording, rewriting, and playback of high-definition (HD) video, as well as storing large amounts of data. The more data you have, the more data can be read to provide a clearer picture and rich color. The format offers more than 5 times the storage capacity of traditional DVDs and can hold as much as 25 GB on a single-layer disc, and 50 GB on a dual-layer disc. Blu-ray products are compatible with both CDs and DVDs, and they support 1080p, the highest HD TV resolution. This extra capacity, combined with the use of advanced video and audio, offers consumers an unprecedented HD experience.



### Audio iPod Docking Station

Take your entire music library with you wherever you go with the "DLO HomeDock PRO," an easy to use graphical interface that allows seamless integration of your iPod with your coach's TV or stereo sound system.

The dock allows you to display album art and song information directly onto your big-screen TV, navigate through thousands of songs in seconds with the system's turbo-scroll function, choose from multiple screen savers, and customize and enhance your iPod viewing experience using 12 different color themes.



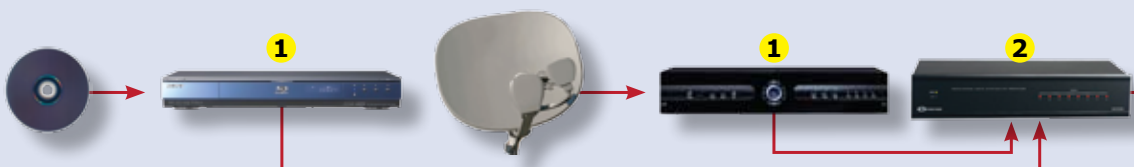
### Analog-to-Digital Conversion

As of June, all analog over-the-air broadcasts were replaced by a digital signal, or digital television (DTV). DTV is an advanced broadcasting technology that allows broadcasters to offer television with better picture and sound quality, as well as multiple programming options and interactive capabilities.

Most Marathon coaches are equipped with a satellite (DirecTV) system, and all coaches come with a cable input, which the DTV transition will not affect. Customers that own

Marathon coach #1080 or higher are already equipped for digital transition. However, if you own coach #1079 or lower, you probably won't be able to receive over-the-air signals through your antenna. How the digital transition will affect individual coach owners depends on the coaches' current setup. Marathon's service technicians can determine a course of action based on the era of the equipment, the location of the equipment within the coach, user preferences, and cost considerations.

## Making the Switch to High-Definition Flat-Screen TVs



Marathon Coach is continually searching for the latest and best technology for our new and pre-owned coaches. High-definition (HD), liquid crystal display (LCD) flat screens offer a crystal clear picture with more colors and more depth.

### What's the Difference?

There are three common digital formats in HD technologies: 720p, 1080i, and 1080P (or full HD) sources and compatible displays. The numbers represent the number of horizontal lines, the "p" refers to progressive scanning, and the "i" refers to interlaced scanning. A visual analogy of pixel representation would be a sheet of graph paper with approximately one million pixels (or squares) on it that would represent a 720p image. A 1080p image would have roughly two million pixels (actually, a total of six million because of individual red, green, and blue pix-

els) in the same space. Each square can turn on or off in any combination of three colors to create the various color images.

The cathode ray tube (CRT) TV that most people grew up with had a display resolution of 480i, meaning it was capable of displaying only 480 interlaced lines of horizontal resolution, whereas progressive scanning displays an entire frame of interlaced signals that are split in two and scanned line by line. Thus, a progressive signal displayed on a compatible TV presents enhanced, fast-moving images better than an interlaced signal does.

So what does it take to see HD quality on your TV screen? It involves more than simply hooking up an HD TV; the specific component(s) will depend on how old your current system is. You may only need to change out your disc player, or you may need everything updated



### High-Definition Flat-Screen LED TVs

Enhance your TV viewing experience by replacing those bulky glass tube TVs with new, high-resolution flat-screen LED televisions. The Aquos flat-screen TV produces breathtaking picture quality that is second to none. The older CRT monitors can only produce a resolution of 480i, whereas Aquos televisions offer the ultimate in HD resolution at 1080p—more resolution equals more colors and superior contrast. Why not complement your flat-screen high-definition TV with stereo surround sound for a true

theater-like experience in your coach? For more about high-definition TVs, see the information box on pages 14 and 15.

For further information about any of the items listed, please contact a Marathon service department and speak with one of our knowledgeable technicians. For the Oregon facility call (800) 365-0156, for Florida (800) 365-0156, for California (800) 765-9918; the phone number of Marathon's independent dealership in Texas is (800) 448-8881. •



right down to your video system's wiring. Marathon Coach technicians can help you determine which of the following components you will need to transition to HD.

**1. An HD Source.** A Blu-ray Disc player provides the highest resolution at 1080p (opposed to a regular DVD with resolution of 480i). A stationary satellite works with DirecTV and the Dish Network to bring in video at 720p HD and 1080i HD (not as high as the Blu-ray Disc, but still very good). Other HD sources, such as an iPod or a hard-drive device such as TiVo, are also available.

**2. A Switching Device.** The signal goes through a switching device such as a Crestron unit. Your coach may have another type of switching system, or none at all. A Marathon Coach technician can determine whether your switching unit can process an HD signal, or if it

will have to be bypassed and wired directly to your TV.

**3. Wiring.** It is possible to have a Blu-ray Disc player and an HD TV and still not get an HD picture as a result of older generation wiring. Let our technicians know what your coach number is, and they can tell you if your coach will need to have its wiring updated.

**4. An HD TV.** If your coach currently has CRT (glass tube) TVs, they will need to be replaced with new, high-definition LCD flat-screen TVs.

**5. HD Sound.** Along with the much improved picture that HD provides is superior sound quality. Take advantage of this by having your coach wired for surround sound.

Of course, every situation is unique. Call one of our expert technicians to find out how you can start enjoying HD in your coach today. •