

Les Paul's Radio Station, 1940

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75 years ago, 25-year-old [Les Paul](#) had his own radio station in the basement of his New York apartment building, as shown here in the July 1940 issue of [Popular Science](#). Paul had moved to New York in 1938, performing with [Chet Atkins](#)' older brother on [Fred Waring](#) and the Pennsylvanians radio program.

The building was equipped with an antenna and ground wire that had never been used, and Paul took advantage of it by installing his station's studio in a soundproof room near the furnace. A control room was located in his second-floor apartment. On Friday and Sunday evenings, they transmitted to the other tenants in the building. Occasionally, big-name guest musicians and announcers would drop by to take their turn at the mike.

The next year, Paul nearly electrocuted himself while experimenting in his apartment. He relocated to California where he recuperated. In 1943, he was drafted and served as a performer on the Armed Forces Radio Network.