



Exploding The Phone

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Abstract Letter in response to recent article with info on free phone service. Author describes two additional methods for obtaining free service. Both methods involve wiring directly into the phone lines.

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Phones

Dear FE:

I want to add to the information listed in the last issue regarding free phone service. It is sometimes possible to wire in your own phone using an unused phone number in your neighborhood.

There are two basic approaches to this. The first is to check to see if any old wiring in your house or apartment is still connected. This is done by hooking up a phone to the wall jack or main terminal posts in your basement. It sometimes happens that when the last tenant with phone service moves, the phone company neglects to disconnect the wiring, and therefore, you are still connected.

The other way is harder and not as reliable. Find the main terminal on your block. If it's on a telephone pole, forget it unless you're exceptionally brave.

If, however, you live in an area with underground wiring, there will be a gray plastic post in your yard or next door.

Also, in many old areas, especially where houses are duplexes, the wiring terminal is on the back of somebody's house.

Apartment buildings often have a main terminal board in the basement, usually near the gas and electric meters.

If you can locate the box, and can work on it undetected, take your phone out to it and experiment hooking your phone's wires across different combinations of empty terminals. If you can get a dial tone, you win. Simply run some

wires from those posts to your house and dial away in the luxury of your living room.

The main advantage of this method is your unlimited long-distance dialing. Chances are good that when you dial, you will bypass the billing computer, which means that an operator will ask your number for billing purposes. Simply recite the first three numbers of your local dialing area (if you don't know it, ask a neighbor what their number is) and any other four numbers that you're fond of.

The only disadvantage to this is your lack of calls coming in. If you can obtain one of the special directories issued listing phone numbers by addresses simply look up your house and try it. Otherwise, wait until the phone rings with a wrong number (about 4½ hours after installation on an average). Ask them what number they dialed and try that and close variations that they may have fucked up on.

Hope this information is useful, and remember: Ma Bell is unkind to her kids!

Krackerjaz
Detroit