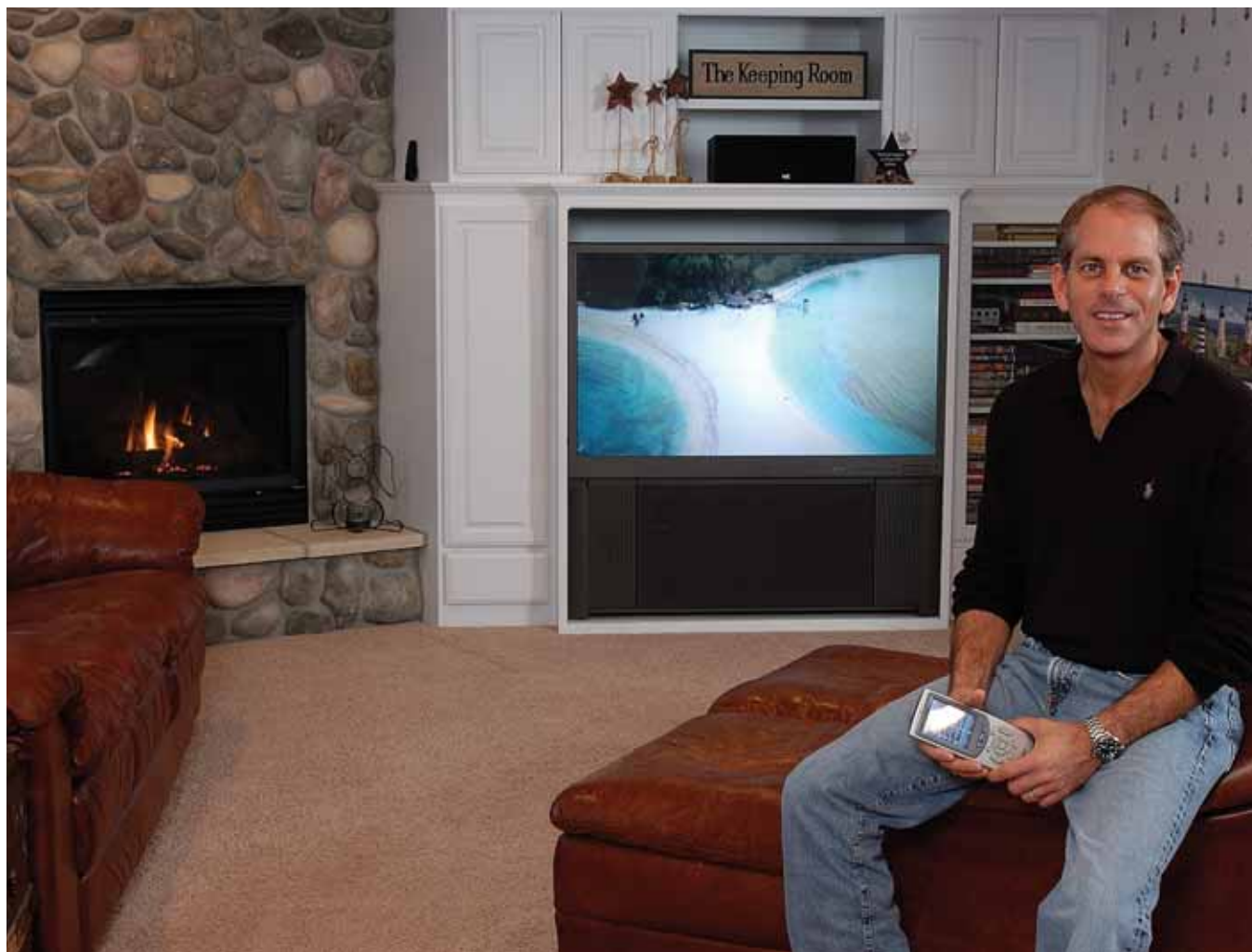


## AT HOME WITH

Pete Baker, Remote Technologies Inc.

# Fun in the Family

This clan is in full control of their home entertainment. by Steven Castle



Pete Baker's home entertainment extends far beyond his home theater system and its 55-inch Mitsubishi TV. They enjoy music throughout the house, accessible through easy-to-use controls.

Visit the Baker residence in Minnesota, and you're apt to see a family enjoying itself. Pete, director of sales at Minneapolis-based Remote Technologies Inc. (RTI), his wife, Anne, and their three kids have only been in their home for about six months, so they haven't had the time to decorate it to their tastes. But that hasn't stopped them from enjoying their favorite music and movies throughout their new digs.

Start with the music. Pete can listen to his standbys—Steely Dan, Sting and Dave Matthews—in the bar area, while Anne cooks to some of her favorite Christian artists in the kitchen and the kids rock out to Avril Levine, Counting Crows, Kidz

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RTI's K4 color wall-mounted touchpanel makes calling up tunes, watching TV or checking the weather a breeze, while the T2+ universal handheld remote operates the home theater system with a combination of an LCD touchscreen and hard buttons.

Bop, Aaron Carter and Hilary Duff. “We all enjoy listening to music, especially my girls and my son,” Pete says. “My girls like to dance in the kitchen and on the slippery floor in the foyer, and my son is very musical and listens more from an artistic perspective, trying to figure out how to play certain songs.”

The whole-house audio comes courtesy of a Vaux Electronics eight-zone audio switcher, Marantz and Parasound radio tuners, DirecTV receiver, a five-disc CD player, Escient FireBall music server, Sonance in-wall and in-ceiling speakers, Sonance multichannel audio amplifier, new Sonance iPort for a whole-house iPod enjoyment, and of course, some RTI remote controls.

There are four RTI K4 in-wall color touchpanels that make calling up the tunes as simple as pressing an icon on the screen. Pete and Anne can also watch TV on the LCD screens—a benefit that comes in handy in the kitchen—and access the local weather. After all, it’s always great to know if it’s below zero outside in the winter or what’s happening on any given day during one of Minnesota’s fickle summers. “We use

[the touchpanels] constantly throughout the day to change radio stations, access the local weather and watch and listen to the news or TV programs while cooking dinner or getting ready in the morning,” Pete says.

Perhaps the best thing about the touchpanels is that they’re so easy to use. “Everyone in my family, and guests, know how to use the electronics systems in our home, from my 5-year-old daughter to my mother-in-law and babysitters,” says Pete. The Bakers even have a touchpanel remote in the master bath, in addition to an RTI U1 waterproof remote they can use to change tunes while they’re in the shower.

Downstairs in the bar area is a media room that features a 55-inch Mitsubishi rear-projection TV, Yamaha surround receiver and a combination of M&K and Sonance speakers. The system can be controlled by either an RTI T2+ or T3 touchscreen handheld remote. “We use our media room for family time, usually watching the latest animated feature. We have a blast, complete with chocolate shakes and a giant bowl of popcorn,” Pete says.

And in the summer? Well, the Bakers are almost always outside. “We installed Sonance Rock speakers in the front yard and Rock speakers and a Rock woofer in the backyard,” Pete explains. Even if you come to the Bakers’ door when there’s snow on the ground, you may hear music. “We love our Rock speakers and use them during the entire holiday season to play music at the front entrance as guests arrive at our home.” It seems that at the Bakers’, the fun starts before you even arrive at the door. **EH**