Electric Blanket Mod Supply

After reading your column about the 60 hertz radiation, I was concerned. I also enjoy sleeping under an electric blanket. I didn't unplug my blanket, though. Instead, I built a DC power supply to power it.

I run the AC line through the existing thermostat, then through 17 ohms of 50 watt power resistors, then to a 600 PIV, 4 amp rectifier. The output of the rectifier is connected to a 200 volt, 7500 microfarad electrolytic capacitor and also to the blanket. The blanket now sees 115 volts of DC (at 135 watts) with 0.7 volts of ripple. I had to slightly modify the existing thermostat (shorten its heating wire) so it would behave exactly as before. This is due to the "wasted" power dissipated by the current/voltage limiting 17 ohm resistor.

It works flawlessly and I now sleep in "polarized" comfort! I am figurin' that this may even cause some of my dislocated brain cells to straighten out. A friend of mine suggested that perhaps if I were to "float" on a lake, I might even point north.

All joking aside . . . I did indeed build, and am using, the forementioned DC power supply for my electric blanket and at a cost of less than $15, using all new parts. I got the rectifier for a buck and a half and the 75 microfarad cap for $4.50.

I sure do hope you aren't gonna print anything negative about DC electromagnetic fields (I see a pun)! I also want to say that your editorials are at least half the reason I subscribe to *73 Magazine*. I enjoy them.

Gregory R. McIntire KE0UV
Belle Fourche S. Dakota

Gregory . . . Hey, you came up with a simple fix for your blanket. Great idea. I was wondering how the thermostats would adapt to DC operation.

I haven't seen much yet on the effects of DC fields on cell growth and communications . . . except one study which showed a remarkable cell effect when the cells were moved just a few degrees off the earth's magnetic field.

Just in case, I'm making do with blankets and a nice comforter . . . Wayne.