1961 Linear Corporation is founded by Ted Farrell, who serves as president and CEO. William A. Schanbacher joins the company as a co-principal, serving as chairman of the board. Linear opens as a retail operation in Los Angeles that sells and installs automatic garage door openers (GDOs).

1962 Linear manufactures its first GDO radio controls with transistors and glass tube amplifiers in large metal boxes. The encoding is a simple single audio tone on the RF carrier. The transmitter doesn’t mount on the visor; it mounts under the car’s hood!

1960s Throughout the decade, the company introduces new generations of single-tone radios featuring smaller, portable, visor-mounted, battery-powered transmitters.

1970 Linear manufactures Frequency Shift Keyed (FSK) remote controls. FSK transmitters are encoded by frequency modulating an audio tone on the RF carrier. FSK receivers are more secure than single-tone receivers. To activate, they require detecting the correct RF carrier frequency along with the shifting tone, reducing the chance of false operation.

1976 Linear introduces Delta-3 digitally coded radio controls that use custom proprietary integrated circuits. This allows the remote controls to provide a new level of reliability and security. The Delta-3 equipment can be field coded by simply setting a dipswitch. Nearly 30 years later, Delta-3 radio remote controls are still being manufactured and widely used.

1978 Linear’s “Standard Digital” coding format facilitates the creation of multi-channel transmitters and receivers. Multiple receivers no longer must be “slaved” together, and transmitters feature more than one pushbutton.

1979 Linear acquires GDO manufacturer A.E. Moore Company of Waupaca, Wis., creates the Moore-O-Matic company, and designs a new type of GDO. The injection-molded bulkhead design of the screw-drive Model 838 opener weighs only 24 lbs., compared to previous 60-lb. GDOs. Its digital control board allows the opener to conform to demanding UL safety requirements.

1984 Linear moves its corporate headquarters 100 miles south of Los Angeles to a new 30,000-sq.-ft. building in Carlsbad, Calif.

1985 Linear develops the first million-code radio format. MegaCode radios eliminate the need to field code transmitters. Each transmitter is factory coded to a unique digital code.

1985 Transmitters reduce in size with the incorporation of SAW resonators. This component locks the transmitter on a specific radio frequency, eliminates the need for tuning, and prevents drift. Linear introduces the MiniT, the company’s first miniature GDO transmitter.

1987 The cofounders of Linear sell the company to Nortek, Inc., of Providence, R.I.

1988 Grant Rummell becomes president of Linear.

1994 Linear enters the access control market, introducing its AccessMaster product line.

1996 The company’s first telephone entry product, the AE-1, is introduced.

1998 Linear sells the assets of Moore-O-Matic to the Chamberlain Group.


2001 Linear introduces a newly designed GDO, the company’s first GDO branded with the Linear logo.

2003 Adding swing and slide gate openers to the growing product line, Linear acquires Operator Specialty Company (OSCO) of Casnovia, Mich.