

Re: Case, IR Blaster, audio card, and CPU questions

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.mediacenter/2005-08/msg02217.html>

- *From:* "MikeM" <MikeM@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 21 Aug 2005 08:52:04 -0700
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There are two forms of SPDIF – optical and coax (RCA). Your receiver has both (as does mine). If you use optical, just get an optical cable and plug the ends into your computer and receiver. If you use coax, many of the audio cards have a mini jack output. You will need to get a cable with one end having a mono 1/8" plug and the other an RCA plug. My local radio shack didn't have such a cable so I bought a 1/8" male to RCA female adapter and used an RCA cable. I used it with an Audigy 2 board that I happen to have. I wouldn't pay the bucks for this board if I was intending to use my receiver to decode the DD.

"AC [MVP MCMS]" wrote:

- > My issue with the sound is going to be that every computer output I see uses
- > SPDIF, but my home theatre receiver will take either RCA or optical... I'll
- > have to get a converter or a single cable that has optical on one end and
- > SPDIF on the other (found one that has a mini SPDIF plug on one end, but
- > none with a regular plug).
- >
- > -AC
- >
- > ---
- > -----
- > -AC [MVP MCMS]
- > www.andrewconnell.com
- > www.andrewconnell.com/mvp
- >
- >
- > "MikeM" <MikeM@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
- > news:300758CD-A577-476C-B8B4-F77DC54D5916@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
- >> As far as the audio is concerned, I use a Turtle Beach Riveria card. It
- >> has
- >> 5.1 DD as well as an optical SPDIF output. Best of all, it cost < \$30 at
- >> Newegg. Also, many of the higher end MoBos have an optical out. If you
- >> are
- >> using optical out, it is a bypass situation, so the quality (cost) of the
- >> audio card is not a factor.

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>>
>> I use the uSoft remote. I have a Harmony 680 in the drawer, but haven't
>> been motivated to reprogram it to the new setup (8 months).
>>
>> I built my machine with an AMD 3200+ and it carries the load easily. If
>> you
>> are planning to do other tasks while watching TV, you might want to
>> consider
>> the AMD 3800+ X2 dual core. ZipZoomFly is selling it for about \$360.
>>
>> The other factor you might want to consider is noise. I selected a video
>> card (Gigabyte 9550) and MoBo (Asus A8V Deluxe) that do not have extra
>> cooling fans. Typically, these are little, high rpm fans that scream. A
>> quite power supply and letting the mobo control the cpu cooler and chassis
>> fans also help. Here too, AMS cpus generate less heat than equivalent
>> pentiums so the cpu cooler fan can run slower and still keep things cool.
>>
>> Good luck,
>>
>> Mike
>>
>>
>>
>> "AC [MVP MCMS]" wrote:
>>
>>> I'm finally biting the bullet and building out a WMCE box... but a few
>>> questions (you can see I'm a noob with respect to WMCE):
>>>
>>> Looking at getting the Silverstonetek LC16M
>>> (<http://www.silverstonetek.com/products-lc16m.htm>)... I can't think of
>>> why
>>> there would be issues with this... but any "flags" I haven't seen others
>>> are
>>> aware of?
>>>
>>> Planned to get the Logitech Harmony 880 remote... any flags with this
>>> case,
>>> remove/WMCE?
>>>
>>> I am currently on DirecTV so I'd need to use some sort of IR Blaster. Is
>>> there a specific one everyone has the most success with?
>>>
>>> How does one go about dealing with the DirecTV guide and WMCE? WMCE
>>> "smart"
>>> enough to know get the guide?
>>>
>>> As for the audio, I'd like to get a card that includes an optical output
>>> for
>>> my HT receiver...however even the top of the line Creative ones don't
>>> look
>>> (visually) like they have the optical output... am I just missing

