

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

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.mediacenter/2005-08/msg02258.html>

- *From:* "AC [MVP MCMS]" <swamplander@xxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Mon, 22 Aug 2005 00:11:48 -0400
-

NOW I get it... the Turtle Beach card is the first one I've seen that has the optical out. I did have it straight in my head, I was all along thinking "how in the heck can a cable take coax and convert it to a fiber cable?" This last reply essentially put that nail in the coffin :)

Thanks for all your input Mike.

--

-AC [MVP MCMS]
www.andrewconnell.com
www.andrewconnell.com/mvp

"MikeM" <MikeM@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:D63DAB97-4E25-4F68-B8E6-9D6DBC78AEA5@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

- > No, I don't think you quite have it yet.
- >
- > Optical cables have fiber optic conductors that conduct light, not
- > electricity. Coax such as RCA or 1/8" phono plugs have wire conductors
- > that
- > connect electricity. The two don't mix. Either you are going to pass the
- > audio signal from computer to receiver via optical signal or electrical
- > signal.
- >
- > The Audigy 2 series cards only have SPDIF via the electrical connection
- > and
- > it is not on an RCA jack, it is a 1/8" phone plug. I described the
- > connection cable in my earlier post.
- >
- > The Turtle Beach Riveria that I use, has an optical SPDIF out that looks
- > like a squarish hole. Inside is a LED that shines light into the end of
- > the
- > fiber optic connection cable. This light then is received into a similar
- > hole in the receiver containing a photodiode to turn the light back into a
- > electrical signal.
- >

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> In either case, the audio card is basically passing the DD 5.1 signal to
> the
> receiver for decoding into the 6 feeds. The card has virtually no impact
> on
> the signal quality assuming it is a reasonable decent card. That is why I
> suggested the Turtle Beach card at < \$30 and not the Audigy at >> \$100.
>
> Mike
>
> "AC [MVP MCMS]" wrote:
>
>> OK... lemme make sure I understand this:
>>
>> Two forms of SPDIF: optical & coax (RCA). My receiver (Onkyo SR600...
>> link
>> below) has optical and RCA. From what I can tell, virtually every sound
>> card has the coax (the single yellow "RCA looking" port). The sound card
>> I
>> was looking @ was the Creative Audigy 2 ZS (link below).
>>
>> Looks like to me it has the SPDIF output I'm looking for as I found this
>> cable which seems to do exactly what I'm looking to do (SPDIF coax on
>> computer -> SPDIF optical on receiver):
>> <http://www.cablestogo.com/product.asp?cat%5Fid=2001&sku=27015>
>>
>> Am I correct, or have I missed something? Mike, owe you a bev of choice
>> if
>> we cross paths :P THANKS!!!
>>
>> <http://www.us.onkyo.com/model.cfm?m=TX-SR600&p=f&class=Receiver>
>> <http://www.creative.com/products/product.asp?category=1&subcategory=204&product=4915&nav=2>
>>
>> --
>> -----
>> -AC [MVP MCMS]
>> www.andrewconnell.com
>> www.andrewconnell.com/mvp
>>
>>
>> "MikeM" <MikeM@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
>> <news:86FFC5EE-B12D-4026-BBFF-ED25CB22A55F@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
>> > 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

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>>> 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@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
>>>> news:300758CD-A577-476C-B8B4-F77DC54D5916@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
>>>>> 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.
>>>>>
>>>>> 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).
>>>>>

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>>>> 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

- **References:**

- ◆ **Case, IR Blaster, audio card, and CPU questions**
 - ◇ From: AC [MVP MCMS]
- ◆ **RE: Case, IR Blaster, audio card, and CPU questions**
 - ◇ From: MikeM
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 - ◇ From: MikeM

- Prev by Date: **RE: IR Transmission Problems**
- Next by Date: **Re: SonicEncoders.msi and DVD Burning**
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