

Media Center Setup

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.mediacenter/2006-05/msg00446.html>

- *From:* Alan Robinson <ahr39@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Mon, 08 May 2006 01:38:24 -0400
-

Hello,

I need some Media Center setup advice.

I have:

An old 27" console TV

1 Coax In

2 antenna screws (for those high-tech "rabbit ears")

An outdoor antenna

Coax OUT

VCR

1 Coax IN

1 Coax OUT

2 A/V IN

1 A/V OUT

DVD player

1 A/V OUT

R/F modulator

4 ports, with 1 S-video and 1 A/V IN for each

1 A/V OUT

1 Coax OUT

Satellite dish

31" Ku-band system

Ku-band Receiver

1 Coax IN

1 Coax out

1 A/V IN

1 A/V OUT

1 S-video OUT

PC:

Media Center Setup

Gateway GT5018E
Pentium D 2.8GHz
Twinhan DTV ATSC D+A TV card
ATI Theater 550 Pro TV card

Not installed:
ATI AIW Radeon 7500 AGP card
(There's no AGP slot on the motherboard)

My previous setup:

Ku-Band Receiver:
Coax IN from Sat. dish
A/V OUT to VCR

VCR
Coax IN from Antenna
A/V IN from Satellite
A/V OUT to RF Modulator

DVD Player
A/V OUT to RF Modulator

RF Modulator
IN from VCR
IN from DVD player
OUT to TV

At the moment, though, my antenna is hooked into the Twinhan ATSC card. It has a good display, but only records from the coax, not from the composite input. It doesn't work with Media Center at all, even after uninstalling/reinstalling the card. Twinhan's website says it's compatible.

Even though I like the digital signal on the Twinhan card, I'm returning it, since it doesn't work the way I want it to. The ATI card that came with the system is only analog, but at least it works with it. I've also looked at digital set-top boxes for antennas, but they're between \$150.00 – \$200.00. Plus, they only have a Coax IN – none of the ones I looked at have an RCA A/V IN.

I'd like to replace my VCR with the Media Center PC. The VCR has 3 inputs and 2 outputs, but both the Twinhan and ATI cards only have inputs.

I looked into getting some kind of an output to my TV at Radio Shack. I was thinking that a VGA output with an S-video and composite splitter would do it, but the clerk told me that that it would be \$94.99. I was hoping it would be \$90.00 less. I spent \$80.00 on the Twinhan card, so I could have bought a new set-top box for the price of both.

How would I:

1. Replace my VCR with the PC
2. Receive a digital signal from the antenna
3. Record both the satellite and the antenna
4. Send the output to the TV

Media Center Setup

5. ...without breaking the bank?

Thanks!

^L^N

.