

Updating your Input Sources for ATV.

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After some time playing with ATV either Analogue or digital we may need to update how we do things. With digital it's a good time to do this.

When I started out in ATV I started to use the clubs coder and circle testcard generator. Added to this was another unit that produced bars or any number of test signals.

The technology used for these are getting a bit long in the tooth so we need to replace them. Since then a number of commercial coders have become available such as the Cox 153. Also SPG's have become very cheap and you can either update these by dedicated chips, PIC's or the commercial units. This now brings most stations up to some form of commercial standard. One of my aims has always been when building repeaters for ATV to have them as



Likewise the EPROM unit from Trevor was put into use as well as many colour Cropredy units.

Since playing around with digital I started to investigate another source to produce such inputs. The first unit used was the SanDisk unit, however these had serious problems with levels. Some were modified but I felt weren't that successful. Also these units were only limited to video images. Jaycar here in Australia also had a unit that worked in a fashion but allowed audio as well. With the advent of digital repeaters another method was required, and around this time WD produced the Mini Media Player. I have used these in



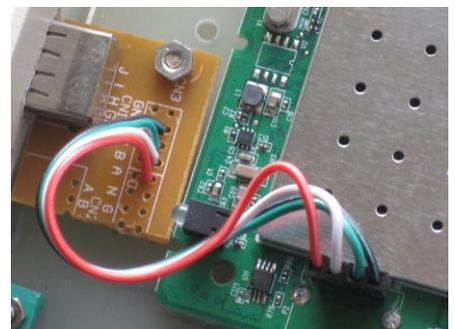
the local church for pre-service music and idents and they work very well indeed. I started using them in my own home ATV system quite a few years ago now when Dick Smith electronics had them on sale for around \$49A.

In both the digital repeater and home system I have removed them from their cases and mounted them on plug in modules. The USB input was modified also to allow the unit to fit into the

transparent as possible. Over the past decade or so computers have been used for generating test-cards and idents such as the Sinclair, BBC Micro, Commodore 64 and Vic20. It's also possible to use the old PC or Mac to do this to.

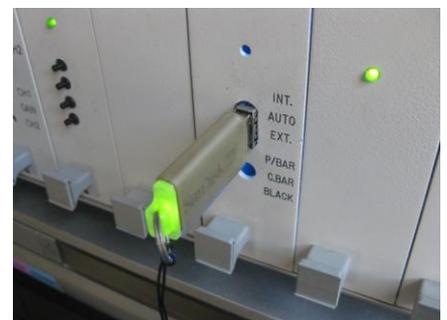


module. A USB stick now holds both the audio (tome etc.) and video idents or test-cards. Some Video photo frames may also be modified to provide the same idea. The mini media play was



limited as to what video format it could play so the newer WD video player can be used to provide almost all video format replays.

To use this system one needs a PC or Mac to produce these jpeg images. I also use photo shop to help in editing and providing text. The rest is up to your imagination.



Another programme that can be used is the Testcard Generator. I have used this to produce the Cropredy test-cards as well as the Eprom style test-cards.

Going this way saves on precious rack space and in the long run more reliable.