Newcomers and Elmers Net: Sound Hardware   03.20.16   Robert AK3Q

The West Mountain Radio **RIGblaster Advantage** provides the flexibility and functionality that West Mountain Radio RIGblasters are known for *without* relying on a computer's sound card for digital mode communication.

Capabilities include:
 ✓ Internal sound card generates audio completely independently from PC's sound card
 ✓ Single plug and play USB cable connection to PC - no separate rig control cable or power supply needed
 ✓ Mic input with PTT override and interrupt for automatic switching between voice and digital modes
 ✓ Includes Instant Setup Connectors and cables for microphone configuration with over 2500 radios
 ✓ Front panel mounted transmit and receive audio controls with VOX delay control
 ✓ Rig control interfaces for CAT, CIV or DB9 on radio
 ✓ CW keying output for keyboard CW and RTTY software

Adding the completely integrated sound card eliminates the need to reconfigure a computer's internal sound card for digital mode operation and frees the computer's existing sound card to generate system sounds, music etc. The RIGblaster Advantage also offers compatibility with over 2500 radios, built-in Rig control, true keyed CW and Mic/keying/audio flexibility.

The West Mountain Radio **RIGblaster Blue** is a completely integrated Bluetooth wireless interface.
➤ Pairs with a PC, Tablet or Smartphone to provide a sound device and a rig control serial port.
➤ Pairs with a Bluetooth headset for operating phone - receive and transmit.
➤ High gain Bluetooth antenna provides up to 33 feet range.
➤ Uses bi-directional audio Bluetooth protocol (HSP and HFP).
➤ Supplied with PC configuration software for maximum flexibility.
➤ Provides more isolation, less noise and less interference.

There are many applications:
➤ Use a Bluetooth Headset with your Radio - Convenient hands-free headset mode with VOX PTT for headset mode.
➤ Untethered Rig Control - Pair any compatible laptop or tablet for portable operation.
➤ Go Digital with Smartphones & Tablets - Pair your radio to any compatible smartphone or tablet for portable operation.
➤ RIGblaster Blue for Digital Modes - Perfect for mixed mode nets, plus PSK31, RTTY, WinMOR, Packet & more. Operates with over 100 popular ham radio soundcard programs.

The RIGblaster Blue comes with: 8pin screw on custom 3 foot mic cable, 1/8" 6 foot audio cable, setup connectors, accessory kit, 9VDC adapter, DVD, antenna and Owner's Manual. If your PC does not have BlueTooth, you will need to buy a BlueTooth adapter for it (under $20 at most computer stores).

The *Pro* model incorporates the time proven operation of the M8 and *Plus* model RIGblasters with the addition of many new features, while providing simplified operation and greater flexibility. The full functionality, radio and computer compatibility, of the other RIGblasters remains. This includes PTT override and PTT interrupt, with completely automatic transmit switching between your mic. and your computer. Plus there are many **new features:**

➤Easier to set up and operate than ever before. Full front panel LED status displays of PTT, CW, FSK, audio source, and transmit audio level. An audio level indicator shows the presence of adequate computer transmit audio, the other LED's show the status of the software's serial control activity and indicate the automatic switching between computer and microphone audio sources.

➤Built in computer rig control interface for Yaesu CAT or Icom CI-V or Ten Tec TTL. This built in interface will facilitate computer control of your rig and operate sound card and CW modes using only ONE serial port with programs such as Hamscope or MixW. For running two separate software programs, one for sound card PTT switching, CW and RTTY and another program for rig control you may opt to use two serial ports instead of one.

➤Transmit speech processing. Running sound card based DSP software will turn the pro in to a high performance transmit mic. equalizer, speech processor and/or noise gate. Performance and flexibility will be far better than with expensive stand-alone hardware processors. You will be able to optimize your transmit audio exactly the way it should be for DX, rag chewing or even Hi-Fi SSB. Downloadable real time audio processing programs are available and we are currently developing a custom high performance amateur radio software that will only be available to RIGblaster pro registered owners.

➤Receive audio muting. When running the pro in the transmit speech processing mode the computer speakers will be muted whenever PTT is activated via the mic. or the foot switch jacks.

➤With the new program that we are developing the pro will automatically switch between DSP transmit speech processing and receive DSP filtering using circuitry in the pro that "tells" software that the mic. is in use. This will also allow for optimization of the switching times between transmit and receive.

➤Isolated mic. audio output continuously supplies mic. audio to the computer's mic. input for contest DVK (digital voice keyer) message recording on the fly. This feature will also be used to process mic. audio and to provide for digital recording of both sides of a QSO at any time.

➤Not one, but two, independent, keying outputs, one for true FSK, and another for keyboard CW keying.

➤Electret microphone bias circuit allows you to use an electret condenser mic. with radios that have no provision for using this modern type of mic.

➤Second mic. operation. Quick plug in automatic switch over between the main station mic. and a headset mic. Special radio mic. adaptors will no longer be needed for the headset connections. You may leave your main station mic. connected when using a headset microphone.

➤Dual headphone outputs with 1/8" and 1/4" jacks. Both may be used to monitor receive and/or transmit audio and to monitor with currently available ham radio DSP receive software. Just like our other RIGblasters your computer speakers will be available for normal use and may be turned down or off while using headphones. Computer speakers are automatically muted when in the transmit processing mode, the headphones are left on.

➤Dual RCA type, PTT input and output jacks that may be used with a foot switch or for external control. These may also be separated to provide a transmit sequencer loop for high power amplifier switching.

➤Radio speaker loop through. This allows you to re-connect an external radio speaker when using a radio's speaker output instead of a fixed level audio output.

➤Radio line level receive mic. jack connection. This provides a line level receive connection for radio's that have receive audio on their mic. jack, simplifying the connections.

➤Power ON/OFF switch. Even though our standard RIGblasters draw almost no power and have fully automatic bypass operation, we have added a power switch that disables and bypasses the pros operation.

The **Timewave NAV-9** *Navigator* is a full featured digital multi-mode interface connecting a amateur radio transceiver to a personal computer via a single USB cable. The Navigator provides all audio and control functions required as well as power through this single USB cable. All USB devices are controlled through an internal 4 channel USB hub controller. Full duplex, dual channel audio is provided by the USB Audio Codec. Three dual USB UART devices provide six COM ports.

All Navigator options are Software Defined there are NO jumpers or switches to connect or change. You will never need to open the Navigator to reconfigure it for different transceivers since all the configuration is done via the NavOptions software.

An audio monitor with volume control is provided within the interface so that you can hear the side tone of all audio generated modes such as PSK. Side tone monitoring of the WinKey CW controller as well as the FSK Controller are also provided.

The Navigator is designed for use with a PC using the Microsoft 2000, XP and Vista, Win7 and Win 8 operating systems. MAC OS-X (Snow Leopard and Lion) and Linux as also supported. A special cable (not included), based on your radio model, will be required to connect the NAV-9.
This cable must be ordered directly from Timewave and sells for about $55.

The **Tigertronics SignaLink USB™** radio interface delivers optimum performance while eliminating the need to attach to your computer's existing sound card. Virtually all sound card digital and voice modes are supported by the SignaLink™ USB. This includes traditional modes such as RTTY, SSTV and CW (to name a few), as well as today's hottest new modes like PSK31, WSPR, WINMOR, MT-63 and EchoLink. Performance on all modes has been optimized by the use of special low-noise parts and careful design techniques, while ease of operation is provided by front panel controls that let you adjust your transmit audio, receive audio and transmit delay "on the fly".

The SignaLink™ USB works with virtually all radios and can be attached to the Mic jack, Data Port or Accessory Port. Most customers will want to attach the unit to the back of the radio (Data or Accy Port), as this will allow the microphone to stay plugged in. A wide selection of extra assembled radio cables are available for common base and mobile radios. A special un-terminated radio cable is also available for radios that use a non-standard connector, or for use with hand-held radios.

The MFJ-1275 provides fully automatic operation with audio and push-to-talk control. It matches sound card audio, eliminates ground loops and provides microphone override. Works with all transceivers with 8-pin round. Operate PSK-31, packet, APRS, AMTOR, RTTY, SSTV, CW, high speed CW Meteor Scatter and many others. Also use as Contest Voice Keyer and CW Contest Memory Keyer.

Digital Modes or Normal Operation
Choose digital modes or normal transceiver/computer operation with the push of a switch. Selecting the ON digital mode, all connections are made between your rig and computer for instant digital operation.
In the BYPASS normal mode, your transceiver and computer connections are restored for their normal operation.

Audio Isolation Transformers
Audio isolation transformers and relay eliminate ground loops, audio hum, noise and distortion.

RFI Proof
Extensive RF suppression and line isolation eliminates RF feedback problems.

Automatic Microphone Override
You can override any digital mode and transmit microphone audio at any time by pressing mic PTT -- great for SSTV and Contest Voice Keyer operation.

These descriptions are from Manufacturer's ads.