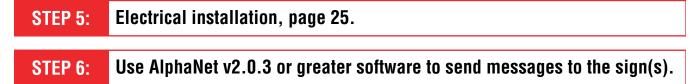


• If not, see page 14. Then go to STEP 4.

# STEP 4: How will messages be sent from a computer to the sign(s)?

Method	Directions
WIRED (RS232)	• Follow directions on page 18. Then go to STEP 5.
WIRED (RS485)	• Follow directions on page 19. Then go to STEP 5.
FIBER OPTIC	• Follow directions on page 20. Then go to STEP 5.
ETHERNET	• Follow directions on page 21. Then go to STEP 5.
MODEM	• Follow directions on page 22. Then go to STEP 5.
WIRELESS	• Follow directions on page 23. Then go to STEP 5.
EXTERNAL CONNECTION BOX	• Follow directions on page 24. Then go to STEP 5.



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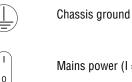
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## Safety

## Equipment symbols



Mains power (I = ON, 0 = OFF)

#### Warnings and cautions



Other warnings and cautions are posted in appropriate locations throughout this manual.

#### **Battery backup**

In the event of a power loss, backup batteries in an AlphaEclipse sign provide short-term power in order to retain information such as messages and time settings.

Backup batteries are soldered to the Controller board and should not be replaced by anyone other than a qualified Adaptive technician.



Danger of explosion if battery is incorrectly replaced. Replace only with the same or equivalent type recommended by the manufacturer. Dispose of used batteries according to the manufacturer's instructions. SM1019A-En



#### 🛦 WARNUNG

Bei einem nicht vorschriftsgemäßen Austausch der Batterie besteht Explosionsgefahr. Nur durch eine Batterie des gleichen oder eines gleichwertigen, vom Hersteller empfohlenen Typs ersetzen. Gebrauchte Batterien gemäß Herstelleranweisung entsorgen. SM1019A-Ge

#### ADVERTENCIA



Existe el peligro de explosión si la batería se reemplaza incorrectamente. Reemplácela sólo con el mismo tipo de batería o uno equivalente recomendado por el fabricante. Deseche las baterías usadas de acuerdo con las instrucciones del fabricante. SM1019A-Sc



This equipment contains components that may be damaged by "static electricity", or electrostatic discharge. To prevent this from happening, be sure to follow the guidelines in Adaptive Tech Memo 00-0005, "*Preventing Electrostatic Discharge* (*ESD*) *Damage*," available on our Web site at http://www.adaptivedisplays.com.

#### Changing from Master/Slave to Master/Master operation

**Master/Slave sign operation** (see page 10 and page 14) — in this mode, a message will be displayed on all the signs at the same time. Also, in this mode, there is just one Master sign, but there can be multiple Slave signs. Messages are sent to the Master sign using a wire, modem, or wireless connection. Then these messages are sent and displayed on all the Slave signs (plus the Master sign) at the same time.

**Master/Master sign operation** (see page 12 and page 16) — in this mode, each sign can display a different message. However, a message cannot be displayed *simultaneously* on all the signs.

Signs are configured for Master/Slave mode by

- 1. wiring a RS485 connection to each sign's SERIAL I/O connector (also called the Serial I/O terminal block, see "Appendix A: Sign description" on page 28),
- 2. wiring a RS485 connection to each sign's TEMP/SYNC PORT connector,
- **3.** setting each sign's Master/Slave DIP switch, depending if the sign is operating as a Master or a Slave. The DIP switches on a sign can be set by either:
  - opening a sign and then physically setting the DIP switches (see "Appendix G: DIP switch settings" on page 47).
  - using AlphaNet v2.0.3 or greater *Diagnostics* software (see the **AlphaNet User Manual**, available on our Web site).

# Signs set up as Master/Slave units as described above can NOT be changed to Master/Master operation by just changing a sign's DIP switches (#3 above). In fact, doing so could damage a sign.

To change Master/Slave signs to Master/Master units, use the directions below:

- "Back-to-back Master/Master sign connection" on page 12 or
- "Multiple Master/Master signs" on page 16.

# **Mechanical installation**

#### Designing the support structure

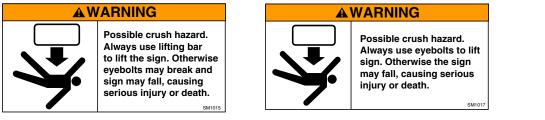


The design of the support structure depends on the mounting methods, sign size, sign weight, and wind loading. Support structure design should only be done by a qualified individual.

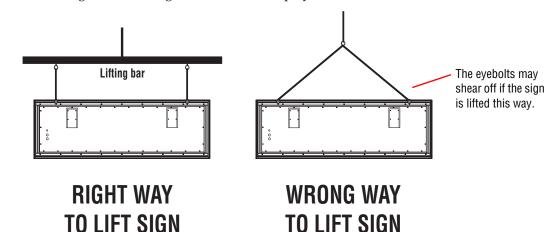
It is the customer's responsibility to ensure that the support structure and sign mounting hardware are capable of supporting the sign and are in compliance with all applicable building codes.

Adaptive Micro Systems is not responsible for installations or the structural integrity of support structures done by others.

#### Lifting the sign



Use the two eyebolts on the sign with a lifting bar to raise the display:



#### Mounting the sign

Because every installation site is unique, there is no single Adaptive-approved procedure for mounting AlphaEclipse signs.

However, follow these guidelines when installing a sign:

- Consult with a professional sign installer to determine the proper mounting system and to comply with all applicable building codes.
- Only use the sign's mounting support bars to mount the sign. *Mounting to any other parts of the sign will void the warranty.*
- *Both* mounting support bars should be used to mount the sign.
- Drill holes as needed in the sign's mounting support bars for fasteners. *Drilling holes in any other place on the sign will void the warranty*. Follow these guidelines when drilling holes in the mounting support bars:
  - Drill the minimum number of holes necessary.
  - The distance from the center line of a mounting bolt to the outside edge of a mounting support bar should NOT be less than two times the diameter of the fasteners.
  - To prevent bi-metal corrosion, dissimilar material should be isolated when mounting the sign.
- Allow fan clearance as shown below.

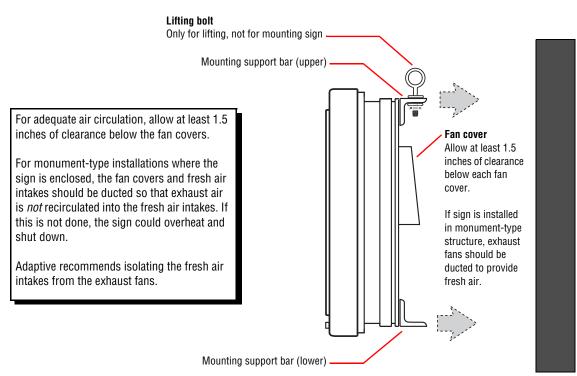


Figure 1: Mounting an AlphaEclipse sign

#### Mounting a temperature probe

See "Appendix E: Sign options" on page 39.

### Installation diagram

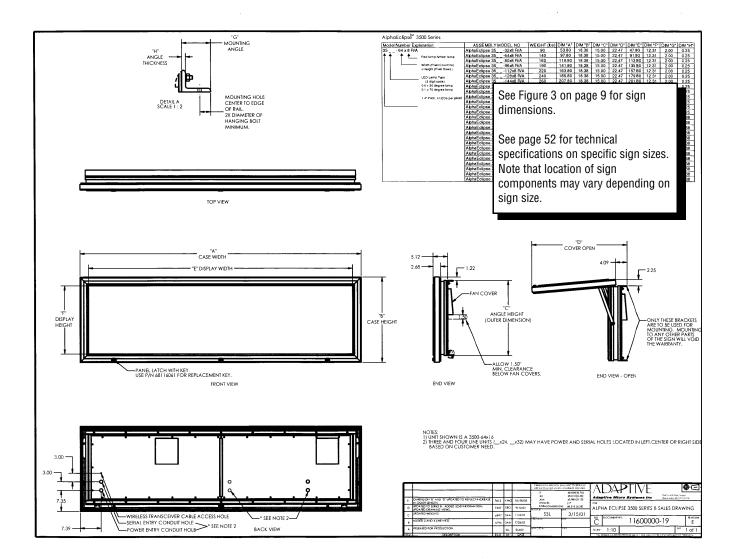


Figure 2: AlphaEclipse installation diagram - Part 1

Model Number Exp	lanation:	ASSEMBLY MODEL NO	WEIGHT (lbs)	DIM 'A'	DIM "B"	DIM "C"	DIM "D"	DIM "E"	DIM 'F'	DIM "G"	DIM 'H'
35 - 64 x 8 R/A		AlphaEclipse 3532x8 R/A	90	53.80	18.38	15.00	22.47	47.80	12.31	2.00	0.25
<b>A A A</b>	Red lamo/Amber lamp	AlphaEclipse 3564x8 R/A	140	97.80	18.38	15.00	22.47	91.80	12.31	2.00	0.25
	nea amprender amp	AlphaEclipse 3580x8 R/A	160	119.80	18.38	15.00	22.47	113.80	12.31	2.00	0.25
	Width (Pixel Columns)	AlphaEclipse 3596x8 R/A	190	141.80	18.38	15.00	22.47	135.80	12.31	2.00	0.25
	x Height (Pixel Rows)	AlphaEclipse 35112x8 R/A	220	163.80	18.38	15.00	22.47	157.80	12.31	2.00	0.25
	LED Lamp Type:	AlphaEclipse 35128x8 R/A	240	185.80	18.38	15.00	22.47	179.80	12.31	2.00	0.25
	(2 digit code)	AlphaEclipse 35144x8 R/A	260	207.80	18.38	15.00	22.47	201.80	12.31	2.00	0.25
	0 0 = 30 degree lamp	AlphaEclipse 35 -64x16 R/A	185	97.80	29.57	26.00	33.62	91.80	23.31	2.00	0.25
	0 1 = 70 degree lamp	AlphaEclipse 35 -80x16 R/A	220	119.80	29.57	26.00	33.62	113.80	23.31	2.00	0.25
	and a state and	AlphaEclipse 35 -96x16 R/A	250	141.80	29.57	26.00	33.62	135.80	23.31	2.00	0.25
	1.4" Pitch, 4 LEDs per pixel	AlphaEclipse 35 -112x16 R/A	285	163.80	29.57	26.00	33.62	157.80	23.31	2.00	0.25
		AlphaEclipse 35128x16 R/A	320	185.80	29.57	26.00	33.62	179.80	23.31	2.00	0.25
		AlphaEclipse 35 -144x16 R/A	355	207.80	29.57	26.00	33.62	201.80	23.31	2.00	0.25
		AlphaEclipse 3548x24 R/A	415	76.50	40.15	37.00	45.22	70.50	34.00	3.00	0.38
		AlphaEclipse 35 -64x24 R/A	440	98.50	40.15	37.00	45.22	92.50	34.00	3.00	0.38
		AlphaEclipse 35 -80x24 R/A	465	120.50	40.15	37.00	45.22	114.50	34.00	3.00	0.38
		AlphaEclipse 35 -96x24 R/A	485	142.50	40.15	37.00	45.22	136.50	34.00	3.00	0.38
		AlphaEclipse 35112x24 R/A	515	164.50	40.15	37.00	45.22	158.50	34.00	3.00	0.38
		AlphaEclipse 35128x24 R/A	535	186.50	40.15	37.00	45.22	180.50	34.00	3.00	0.38
		AlphaEclipse 35 -144x24 R/A	575	208.50	40.15	37.00	45.22	202.50	34.00	3.00	0.38
		AlphaEclipse 35 -64x32 R/A	480	98.50	51.15	48.00	56.18	92.50	45.00	3.00	0.38
		AlphaEclipse 3580x32 R/A	505	120.50	51.15	48.00	56.18	114.50	45.00	3.00	0.38
		AlphaEclipse 3596x32 R/A	535	142.50	51.15	48.00	56.18	136.50	45.00	3.00	0.38
		AlphaEclipse 35112x32 R/A	560	164.50	51.15	48.00	56.18	158.50	45.00	3.00	0.38
		AlphaEclipse 35128x32 R/A	590	186.50	51.15	48.00	56.18	180.50	45.00	3.00	0.38
		AlphaEclipse 35 -144x32 R/A	635	208.50	51.15	48.00	56.18	202.50	45.00	3.00	0.38

Figure 3: AlphaEclipse installation diagram - Part 2

## Back-to-back Master/Slave sign connection

1. Open the sign according to "Appendix D: Opening and closing the sign" on page 35.

#### Connect signal wire

- 2. Connect the two signs as shown below:
  - The Master sign will have a modem or wireless transceiver inside, or the Master sign will be connected to a computer by wire, fiber optic cable, or an external connection box.
  - The Slave sign will only be connected to a Master sign.

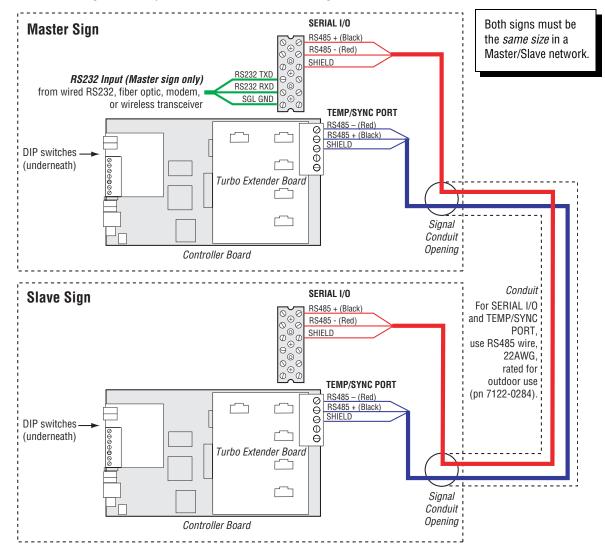
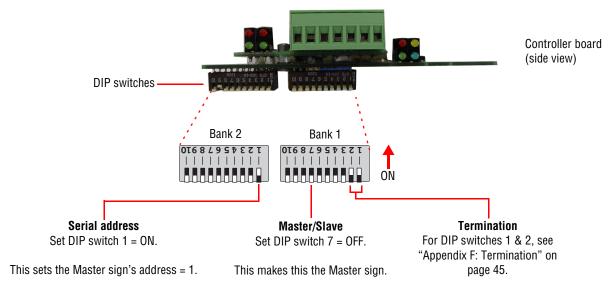


Figure 4: Back-to-back Master/Slave sign connection

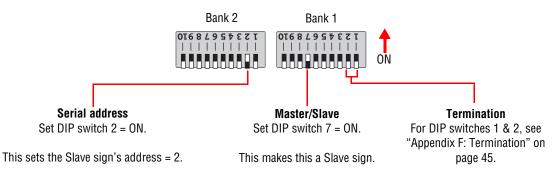
#### Set DIP switches

These are the recommended DIP switch settings for a Master/Slave back-to-back sign connection:

#### Master sign settings:



Slave sign settings:



## Back-to-back Master/Master sign connection

1. Open the sign according to "Appendix D: Opening and closing the sign" on page 35.

#### **Connect signal wire**

- 2. Connect the two signs as shown below:
  - *Each* Master sign will have a modem or wireless transceiver inside, or *one* of the Master signs will be connected to a computer by wire, fiber optic cable, or an external connection box.
  - If *both* Master signs have a modem or a wireless transceiver inside or each sign is connected to an external connection box, then the wire connecting both signs shown below is *not* necessary.

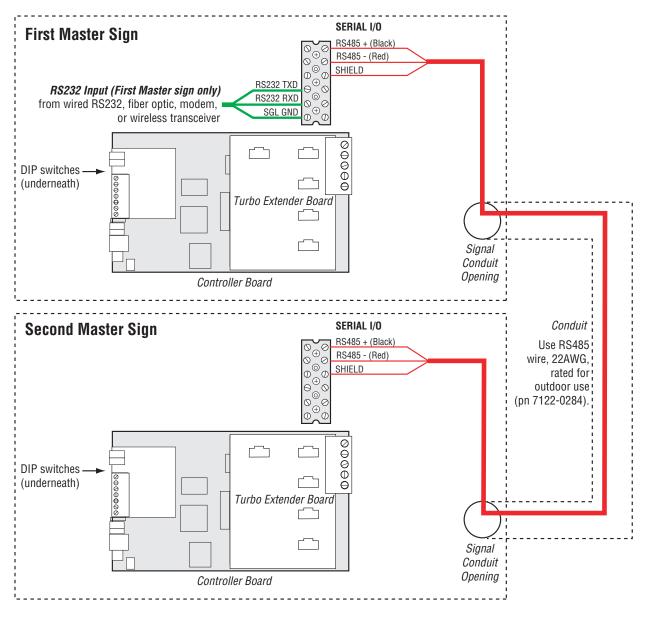
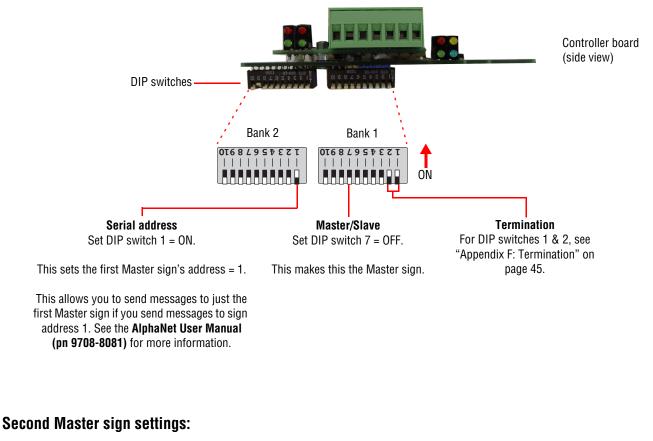


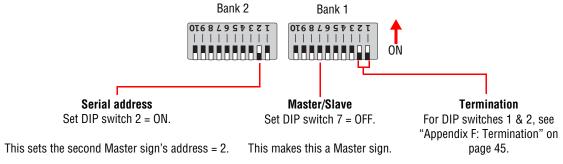
Figure 5: Back-to-back Master/Master sign connection

#### Set DIP switches

These are the recommended DIP switch settings for a Master/Master back-to-back sign connection:

#### First Master sign settings:





This allows you to send messages to just the second Master sign if you send messages to sign address 2. See the **AlphaNet User Manual** (pn 9708-8081) for more information.

# Multiple Master/Slave sign connection

1. Open the sign according to "Appendix D: Opening and closing the sign" on page 35.

#### **Connect signal wire**

- 2. Connect the signs as shown below:
  - The Master sign will have a modem or wireless transceiver inside, or the Master sign will be connected to a computer by wire, fiber optic cable, or an external connection box.

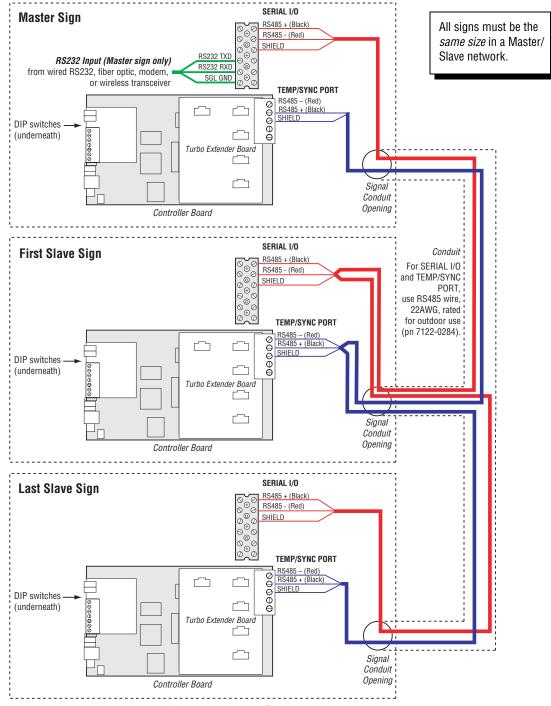
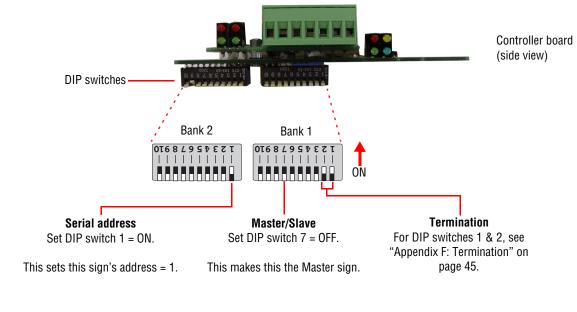


Figure 6: Multiple Master/Slave sign connection

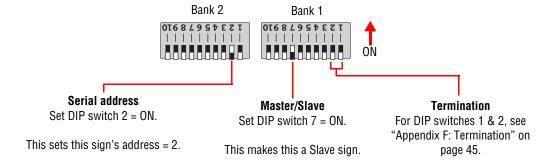
#### Set DIP switches

These are the recommended DIP switch settings for Master/Slave multiple sign connection:

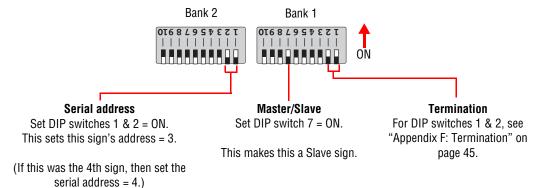
#### Master sign settings:



#### First Slave sign settings:



#### Last Slave sign settings:



# Multiple Master/Master signs

1. Open the sign according to "Appendix D: Opening and closing the sign" on page 35.

#### **Connect signal wire**

- 2. Connect the signs as shown below:
  - *Each* Master sign will have a modem or wireless transceiver inside, or *one* of the Master signs will be connected to a computer by wire, fiber optic cable, or an external connection box.
  - If *all* Master signs have a modem or a wireless transceiver inside or each sign is connected to an external connection box, then the wire connecting the signs shown below is *not* necessary.

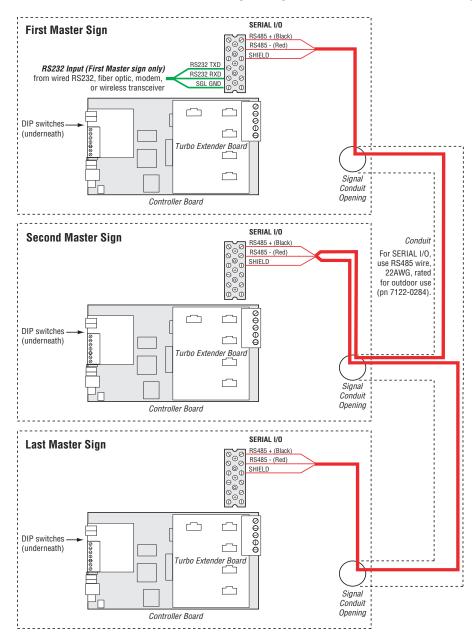
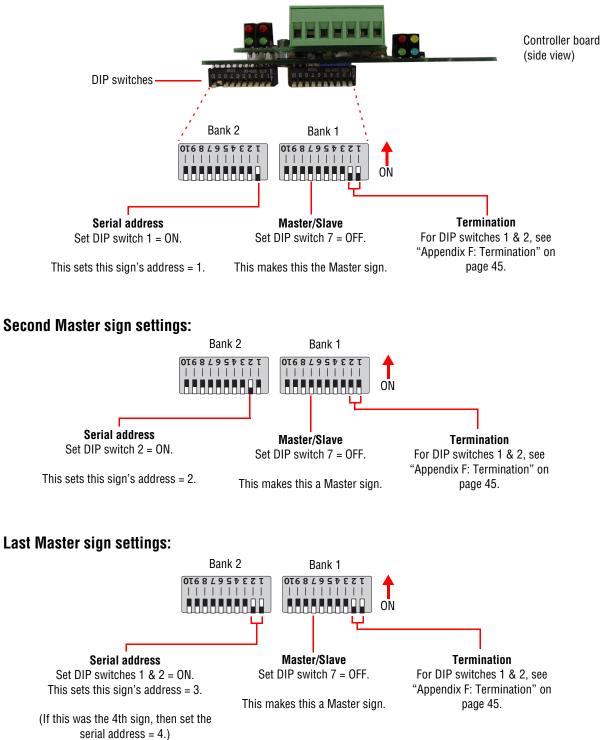


Figure 7: Multiple Master/Master sign connection

### Set DIP switches

These are the recommended DIP switch settings for Master/Master multiple sign connection:

## First Master sign settings:



# Wired (RS232) computer-to-sign connection

- **1.** Open the sign according to "Appendix D: Opening and closing the sign" on page 35.
- 2. Connect the computer to the sign as shown below:

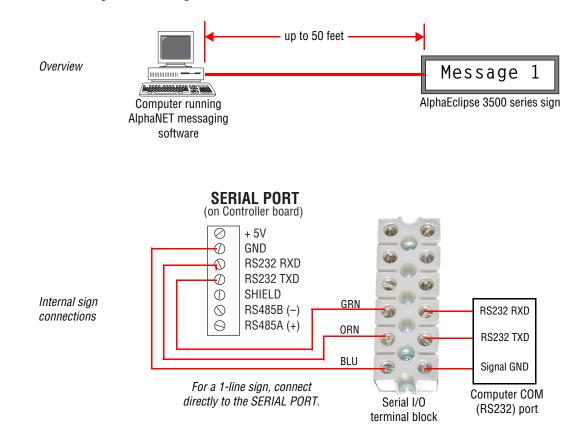


Figure 8: Wired RS232 computer-to-sign connection

## Wired (RS485) computer-to-sign connection

**NOTE:** Wired (RS485) connection can NOT be used with signs that are part of a Master/Slave network.

- 1. Open the sign according to "Appendix D: Opening and closing the sign" on page 35.
- 2. Connect the computer to the sign as shown below:

**NOTE:** AlphaEclipse signs that are connected using RS485 must be properly terminated in order for the signs to operate. See "Appendix F: Termination" on page 45 for more information.

NOTE: The Converter Box III cannot be located outdoors.

**NOTE:** Adaptive standard RS485 outdoor plenum 2 conductor shielded cable (pn 7122-0284) is the *only* RS485 cable that works successfully with outdoor displays. Category 3 cable, Category 5 cable, and other cables do not work reliably and are not approved by Adaptive for use.

Overview

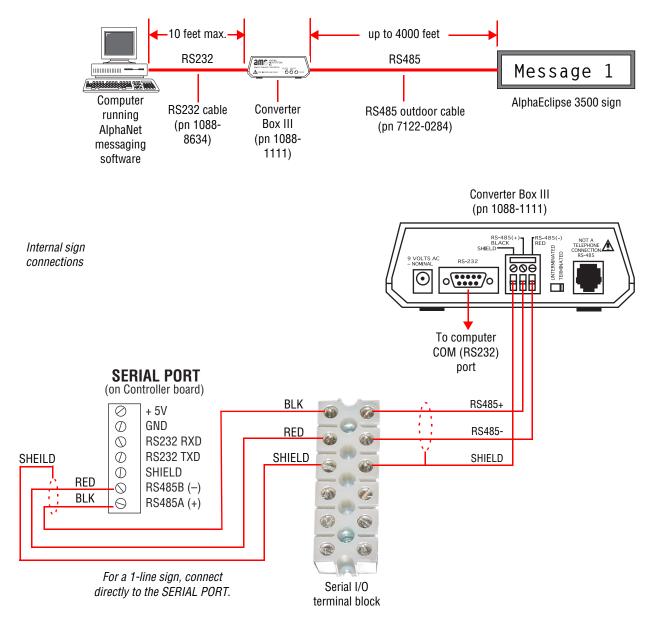


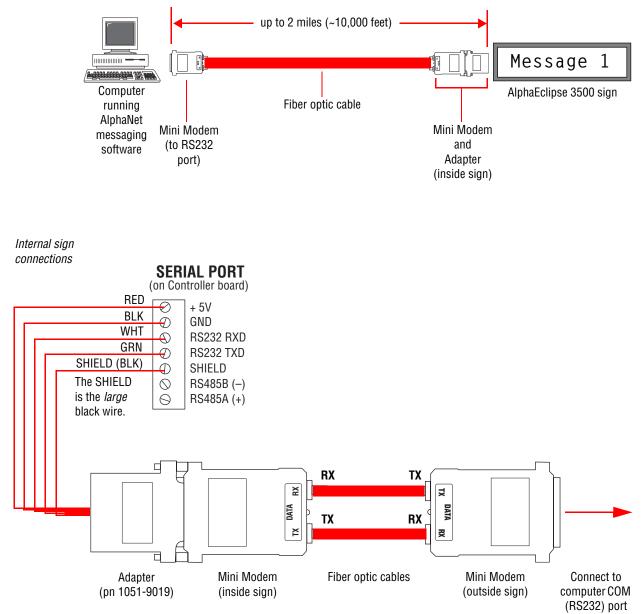
Figure 9: Wired RS485 computer-to-sign connection

#### Fiber optic computer-to-sign connection

See also "Fiber optic modem option" on page 43.

- 1. Open the sign according to "Appendix D: Opening and closing the sign" on page 35.
- 2. Connect the computer to the sign as shown below:
  - **NOTE:** Sign networks that use fiber optic cable should only be installed by a qualified fiber optic technician.

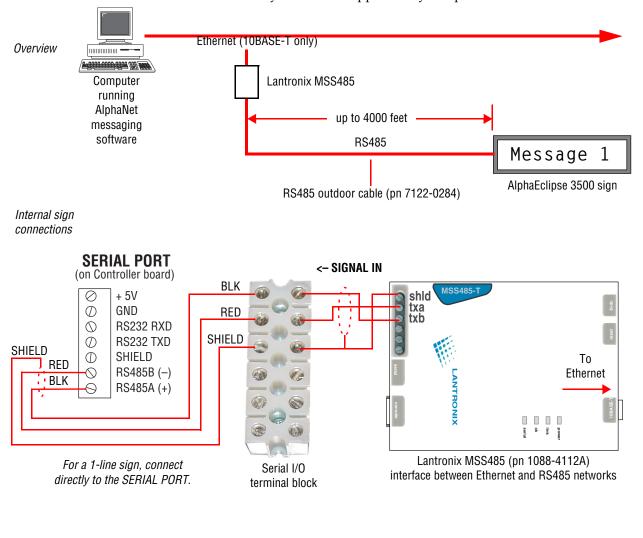
Overview

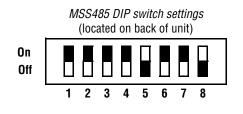




## Ethernet computer-to-sign connection

- 1. Open the sign according to "Appendix D: Opening and closing the sign" on page 35.
- 2. Connect the computer to the sign as shown below:
  - **NOTE:** AlphaEclipse signs that are connected using RS485 must be properly terminated in order for the signs to operate. See "Appendix F: Termination" on page 45 for more information.
  - NOTE: The Lantronix MSS485 cannot be located outdoors.
  - **NOTE:** Adaptive standard RS485 outdoor plenum 2 conductor shielded cable (pn 7122-0284) is the *only* RS485 cable that works successfully with outdoor displays. Category 3 cable, Category 5 cable, and other cables do not work reliably and are not approved by Adaptive for use.





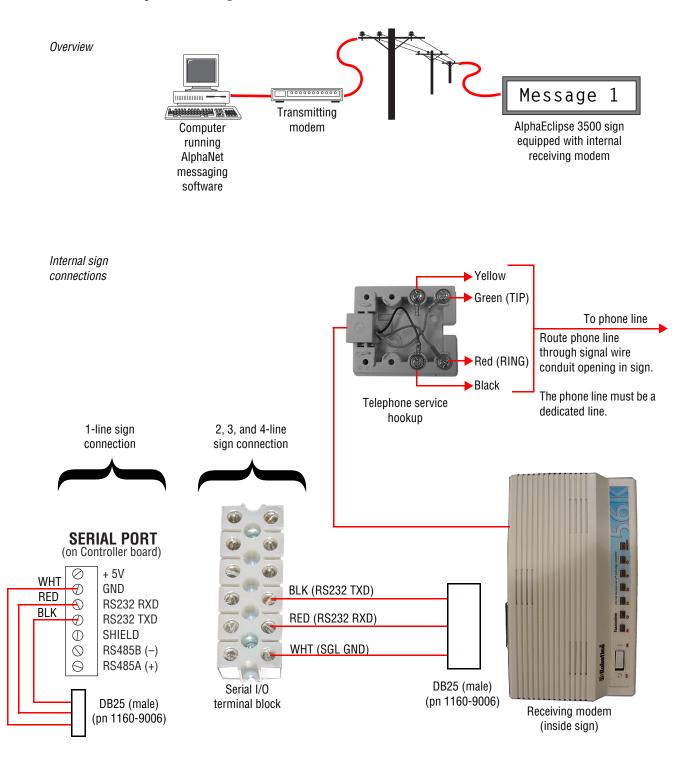
Switch(es)	Setting	Meaning		
1, 2, 3	On / On / On	2-wire RS485		
4, 5	On / Off	2-wire RS485 termination		
6, 7	On / On	RX biasing		
8	Off	Float shield		

Figure 11: Ethernet computer-to-sign connection

#### Modem computer-to-sign connection

See also "Modem option" on page 40.

- 1. Open the sign according to "Appendix D: Opening and closing the sign" on page 35.
- 2. Connect the computer to the sign as shown below:





## Wireless computer-to-sign connection

See also "Wireless transceiver option" on page 41.

- 1. Open the sign according to "Appendix D: Opening and closing the sign" on page 35.
- 2. Connect the computer to the sign as shown below:

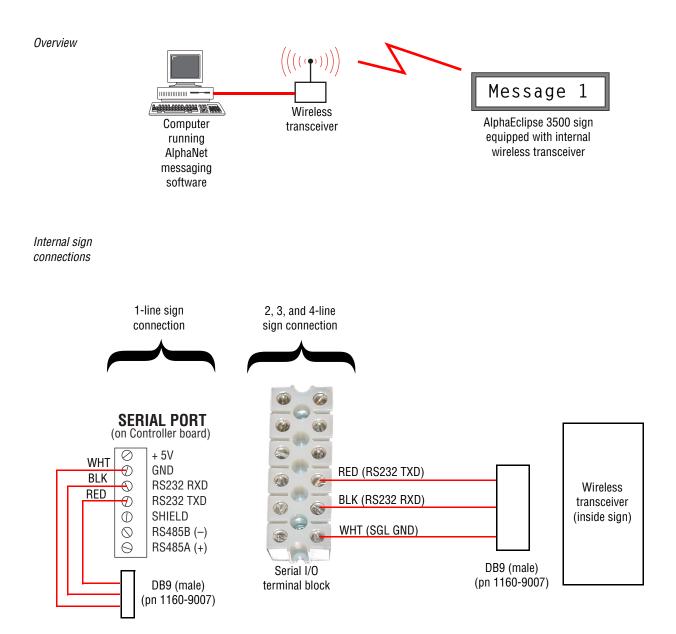


Figure 13: Wireless computer-to-sign connection

# External connection box computer-to-sign connection

When a sign is not permanently connected to a computer, use this option to create a temporary RS485 connection to a computer:

- **1.** Open the sign according to "Appendix D: Opening and closing the sign" on page 35.
- 2. Connect the computer to the sign as shown below:

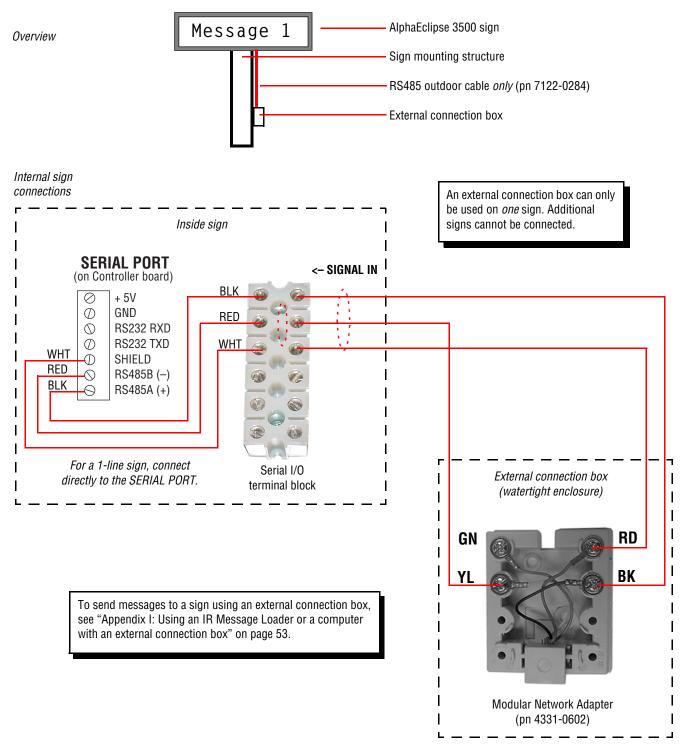


Figure 14: External connection box

# **Electrical installation**

Electrical installation should only be attempted by a qualified electrician. Electrical connection must comply with all applicable national and local codes.



# **A**WARNING

Hazardous voltage. Contact with high voltage may cause death or serious injury. Always disconnect power to unit prior to servicing. <sub>SM1000A</sub>



A WARNING Hazardous voltage. After removing power, wait AT LEAST ONE MINUTE before continuing this procedure. Otherwise, serious injury or death may occur.

#### **Guidelines for electrical installation**

- Inspect all internal sign cabling for proper connection and seating.
- All power wiring must be from circuit breaker-protected lines.
- A two-pole disconnect device must be installed in the building wiring for each branch circuit supplying the sign.
- The sign must be properly earth grounded. The sign's support structure should NOT be used as ground.
- Run separate conduits for signal wires (for example, RS232, RS485) and for power wires.
- All electrical connections must be watertight.
- Use minimum 85° C copper wire only.

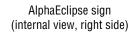
Utiliser uniquement un fil en cuivre pouvant supporter 85° C minimum.

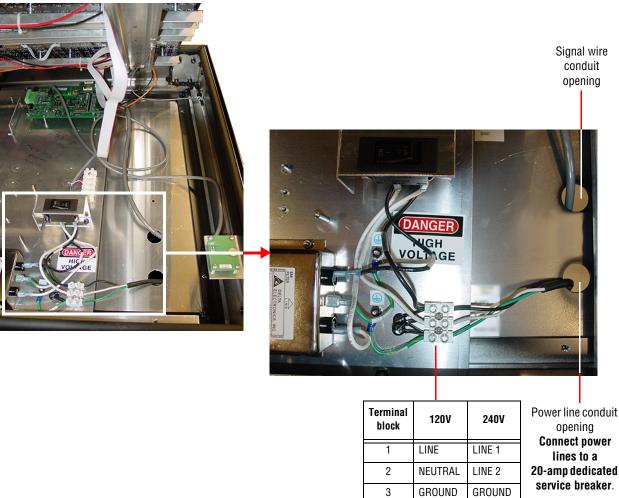
#### Open the sign

**1.** Open the sign according to "Appendix D: Opening and closing the sign" on page 35.

#### Connect power to the sign

2. Connect the sign to an appropriate power source as shown:







#### Ground the sign

3. The sign must be properly earth grounded. *The sign's support structure should NOT be used as ground*.

# Test the exhaust fans

- **4.** Apply power to the sign.
- 5. Push **1** on the sign's internal power switch.
- 6. If the exhaust fans are not already on, press the fan test button which is located on the sign's internal power switch. All the exhaust fans should start up.

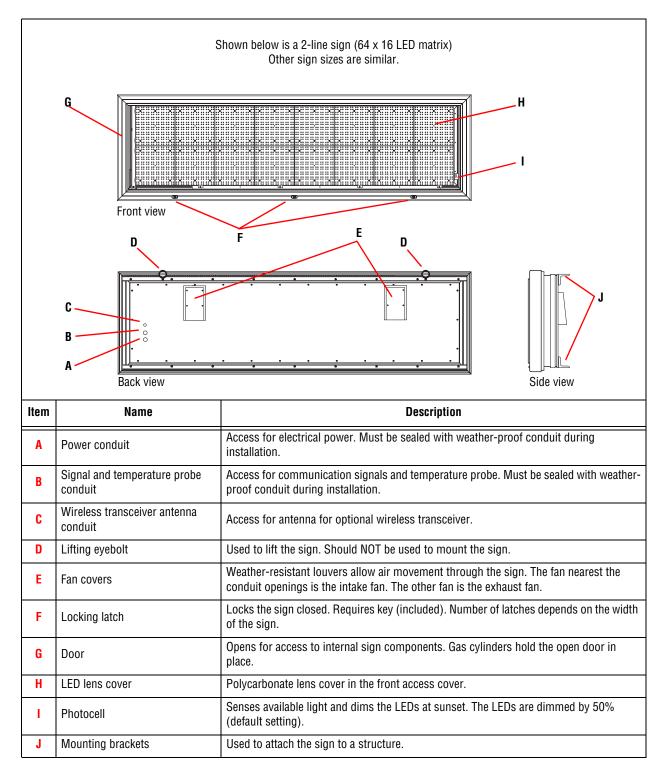
# Close the sign

7. See "Appendix D: Opening and closing the sign" on page 35.

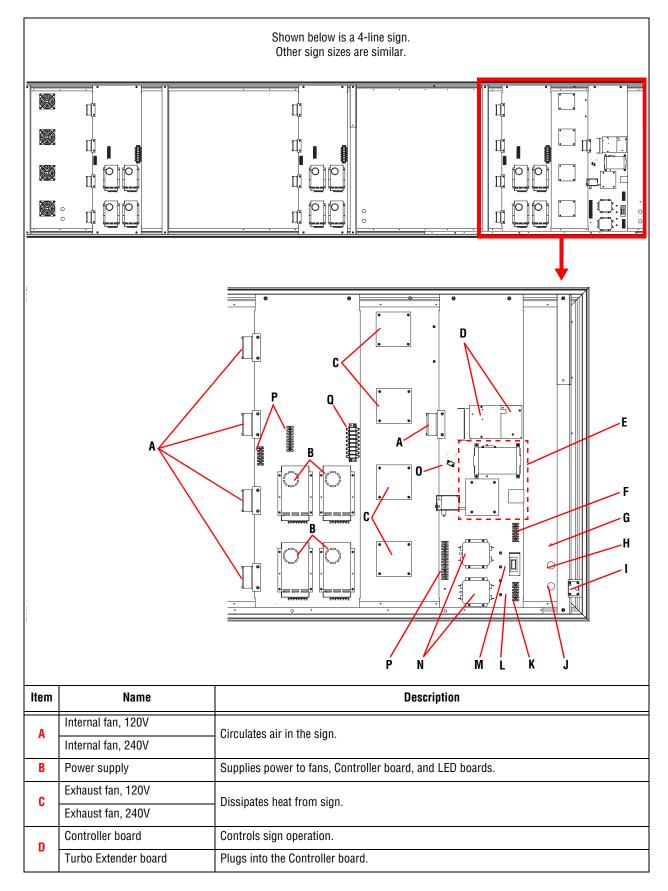
# **Appendix**

## Appendix A: Sign description

#### **Outside view**



# Inside view



	Modem kit, 120V	Allows conding measures to sign via a modern (optional)				
E	Modem kit, 240V	Allows sending messages to sign via a modem (optional).				
E	Transceiver kit, 120V	Allows conding mesosage to sign via wireless transmitter (antional)				
	Transceiver kit, 240V	Allows sending messages to sign via wireless transmitter (optional).				
F	Signal I/O terminal block	Used for RS232 or RS485 communication with sign: RS485 + RS485 - SHIELD RS232 TXD RS232 RXD SGL GND				
G	Wireless transceiver antenna conduit opening	Used to connect antenna to the optional wireless transceiver.				
Н	Signal wire conduit opening	Used to run a RS232 or RS485 signal wire or fiber optic cable to sign				
- I	Photocell	Contains light-sensitive photocell used to dim the sign's LEDs.				
J	Power line conduit opening	Wires from power supply terminal block are run though this opening to a suitable power source.				
K	Power supply terminal block	Used to connect the sign to an appropriate power supply.				
L	Surge suppressors	Protects the sign from electrical surges. Two surge suppressors (circled below) are used per sign. Surge suppressors Power supply terminal block				
М	Power switch	Used to disconnect sign from power source.				
N	Line filter	Removes electrical noise (EMI) from power supply connection.				
0	Exhaust fan thermostat	Turns on exhaust fans when inside of unit gets too hot.				
Р	5V connection terminal	Provides power to LED boards.				
Q	120/240V connection terminal	An all-plastic terminal strip that provides power to the power supplies and fans.				

# Appendix B: Equipment identification

This Cla Canadia Cet appo exigence	MODEL NO::       MODEL NUMBER       A         MODEL NO::       MODEL NUMBER       B         Series Device may not cause manifold metres encodes       B       B         Of mos device may not cause manifold metres encodes       B       B         Model No::       Model No::       B         Model No::       B       B       B       B         Model No::       B       B       B       B       B       B       B       B       B       B       B       B       B							
ltem	Name	Description						
A	Model number	<ul> <li>3500 - 64X16A</li> <li>LED lamp color: <ul> <li>A = Amber</li> <li>R = Red</li> <li>Width (pixel columns)</li> <li>Height (pixel rows)</li> </ul> </li> <li>LED lamp viewing angle: <ul> <li>00 = 30 degree</li> <li>01 = 70 degree</li> </ul> </li> <li>LED pitch: <ul> <li>35 = 1.4-inch pitch</li> </ul> </li> </ul>						
В	Series letter	Used to differentiate sign versions.						
C	Electrical information	Input voltage, frequency, and amperage.						
D	Date of manufacture	Month, day, and year the sign was made.						
E	Serial number	Consecutive, unique identification number.						

NOTE: Sign networks that use fiber optic cable should only be installed by a qualified fiber optic technician.

**NOTE:** In order to display messages on an AlphaEclipse sign, a sign must be connected to a computer that has sign messaging software, like AlphaNet software, installed.

#### **Computer-to-sign communication methods**

There are a number of ways to connect an AlphaEclipse sign to a computer:

- Wired (RS232, RS485)
- Fiber optic
- Modem
- Wireless
- External connection box

	Indoor use					Outdoor use				
Distance from	Networking method									
computer to sign (feet)	Wired					Wired				
(1001)	R\$232	R\$485	Fiber optic	Modem <sup>1</sup>	Wireless <sup>1,2</sup>	R\$232	R\$485	Fiber optic	Modem <sup>1</sup>	Wireless <sup>1,3</sup>
up to 50	Yes	Yes	Yes <sup>4</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes <sup>4</sup>	Yes	Yes
50 to 1000	No	Yes	Yes <sup>4</sup>	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes <sup>4</sup>	Yes	Yes
1000 - 4000	No	Yes	Yes <sup>4</sup>	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes <sup>4</sup>	Yes	Yes
4000+	No	No	Yes <sup>4</sup>	Yes	No	No	No	Yes <sup>4</sup>	Yes	Yes

NOTES:

<sup>1</sup> Installed and configured at the factory.

<sup>2</sup> *Maximum indoor* range of a Locus OS2400-232 wireless transceiver is about 1500 feet. Actual operating range depends on local environment, including obstructions and electrical interference.

<sup>3</sup> *Maximum* range of a Locus OS2400-232 wireless transceiver is about 10,000 feet (about 2 miles). Actual operating range depends on local environment, including obstructions and electrical interference.

<sup>4</sup>For a fiber optic data connection, the maximum distance between the sign and computer is 2 miles (~10,000 feet).

# Sign-to-sign communication methods

**NOTE:** *Each sign in a network should have its own unique serial address.* To set a sign address, see "Sign operation settings (Bank 1 and Bank 2 DIP switches)" on page 48.

Also, there are several ways to *interconnect* two or more AlphaEclipse signs together:

- Wired (RS485)
- Modem
- Wireless

Networking method		Description					
		Signs connected this way can each display a unique message. One of the signs must be connected to a computer which is used to create and send messages.					
	Master/Master	<ul> <li>Messaging — a message can be displayed on all the signs in a Master/Master network by sending the message to sign address "00". Also, if each sign in a Master/Master network has a unique serial address (for example, "01", "02", and so on), then a different message can be sent to and displayed on each sign.</li> </ul>					
		• Temperature — to display the temperature on the signs in a Master/Master network, a temperature probe must be connected to <i>each</i> sign. If a sign attempts to display the temperature and does not have a temperature probe attached, the sign will display "ERR" in place of the temperature.					
Wired		• Time — in Master/Master mode, the time is synchronized whenever a message is sent using the AlphaNet software.					
	Master/Slave	Signs connected this way display the same message at the same time. This is called <i>simultaneous messaging</i> and is often used when signs are mounted back-to-back. The Master sign must be connected to a computer. The computer is used to create and send messages.					
		<ul> <li>NOTES:</li> <li>Messaging — a message will be displayed <i>simultaneously</i> on all the signs in a Master/Slave network by sending the message to sign address "00" or to all the sign addresses (01, 02, and so on).</li> </ul>					
		<ul> <li>Temperature — to display the temperature on the signs in a Master/Slave network, a temperature probe must be connected to the Master sign.</li> </ul>					
		• Time — in Master/Slave mode, the time is synchronized at the top of every hour and also whenever a message is sent using the AlphaNet software.					
Ma	dem (option)	Each sign must be equipped with the internal receiving modem which requires a dedicated telephone line per sign. Messages are sent to the sign from a computer that is connected to a transmitting modem.					
Wir	reless (option)	Each sign must be equipped with an internal wireless transceiver. Messages are sent to the sign from a computer that is connected to a wireless transceiver.					

#### Sign network design

• Signs that are networked using RS485 should be "daisy chained" or connected one sign after the other. "Star" type network connections should not be used.



• In multi-sign networks, set a unique serial address for each sign. *However*, *don't use serial address 0*. For example, set the serial address = 1 for the first sign, set the serial address = 2 for the second sign, and so on. See "Sign operation settings (Bank 1 and Bank 2 DIP switches)" on page 48.

# Appendix D: Opening and closing the sign

**NOTE:** Do *not* attempt to open the door on a sign in windy conditions because if winds are sufficiently strong, the door could be damaged or blown off the sign.



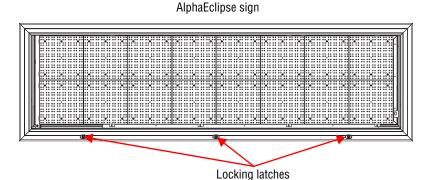


**1.** Disconnect power from the sign.

#### Unlock and open the door

2. Use a latch key to unlock and open the locking latches along the lower edge of the sign's front door:





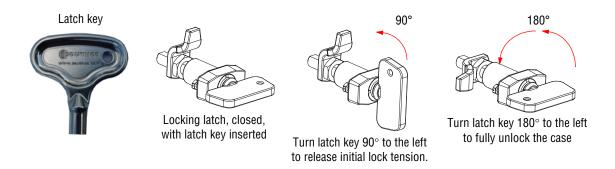


Figure 16: Opening/closing sign door

**3.** Stand away from the front of the unit. Then lift the door upward. Swing each safety bar up and attach it to the bolt inside the sign using the supplied wing nut. (See Figure 17 on page 36.)

**4.** Unscrew and remove the wing nut on each safety bar. Then swing each safety bar down and attach it to the bolt *outside* the sign using the wing nut:

**NOTE:** If there is a plastic sleeve on the bolt, remove and save it.

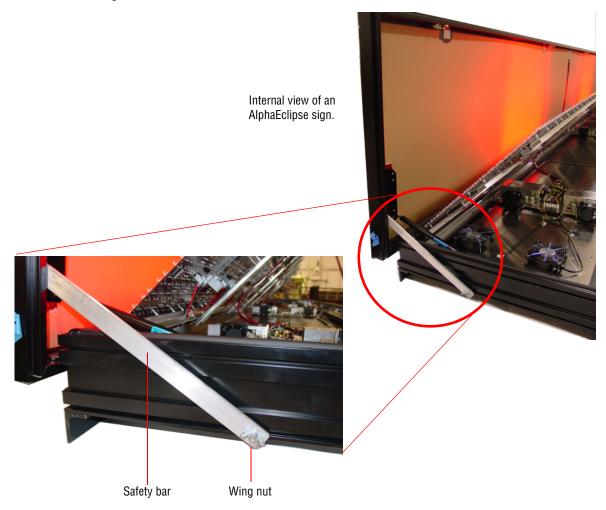
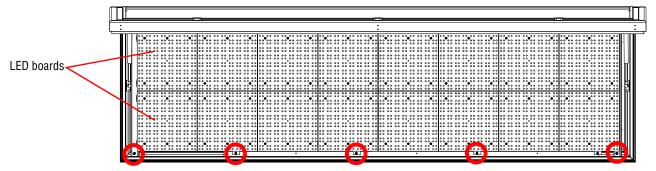


Figure 17: Safety bar location

## **Raise the LED boards**

5. Remove the rail screws (circled below) at the bottom of each internal vertical rail. The number of rail screws varies with the size of the sign:



6. Carefully lift the LED boards up by placing your hands underneath the *mounting rails* — not an LED board — as shown below:



Figure 18: Correct way to lift LED boards

7. Lower and fasten each prop rod to support the LED boards:

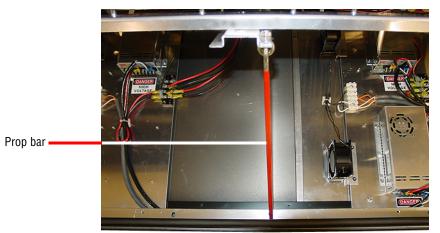


Figure 19: Installing prop bar under LED boards

8. After the LED boards are raised and all the prop rods are fastened, turn off the sign's internal power switch by pressing **0** on the internal power switch.

## **Closing the sign**

- **1.** Push **1** on the sign's internal power switch.
- **2.** Raise each red prop rod and fasten each rod to a clip underneath the LED boards.

NOTE: If a prop rod is not fastened, it could swing free and damage internal sign components.

- **3.** Lower the LED boards.
- **4.** Refasten the rail screws to the internal vertical rails.
- 5. Unfasten each safety bar and place inside the sign.
- **6.** Lower the sign's door.
- 7. Use the locking latch to lock the door shut.
- 8. Apply power to the sign.

### Temperature probe option

In a Master/Master sign network, each sign must have its own temperature probe.

In a Master/Slave sign network, just the Master sign needs a probe. For more information, see "Sign-to-sign communication methods" on page 33.

#### Mounting guidelines

- A good place to locate the temperature probe is underneath the eaves of a protected overhang. Choose a location where air movement is not restricted by nearby walls or other obstructions. Mount the temperature probe housing so that convection currents, or rising hot air flows, are not blocked by the mounting plates.
- A location on the north side of a building, at least 6 feet off the ground, or other large structure will afford protection from the afternoon sun. Shield the probe from the effect of the direct sun, reflected heat, or any nearby sources of heat, such as chimneys, vents, or HVAC ducts.
- A light-colored background is preferable to a dark-colored mounting background. A location above vegetation is preferable to a location above asphalt or blacktop.

#### Installation

- **1.** Mount the temperature probe vertically using the mounting plate on each side of the probe. The temperature probe can be mounted on either a flat or a curved surface.
- 2. Run the temperature probe cable into the sign through the signal wire conduit opening. Connect the temperature probe cable to the TEMP/SYNC PORT on the Turbo Extender board (see "Appendix J: Controller board" on page 54):

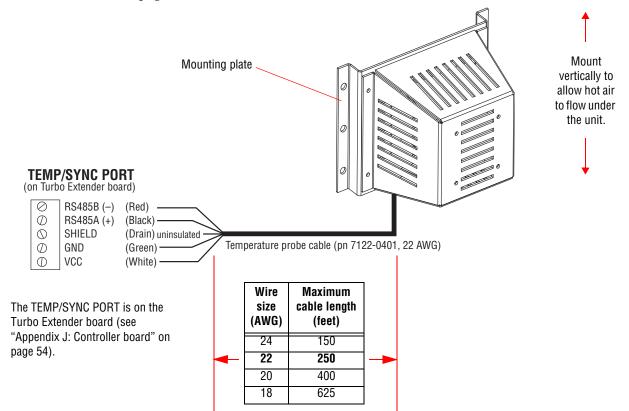


Figure 20: Temperature probe installation

### Modem option

This option allows messages to be sent from a computer that has a transmitting modem to a sign that has a receiving modem installed. Each modem must be attached to its own phone line.

**NOTE:** The modem option only includes the installation of a receiving modem in a sign. The purchase and installation of the transmitting modem, which is attached to a computer, is the responsibility of the sign buyer.

The US Robotics 56K modem is used as the receiving modem. This brand is also recommended as the transmitting modem.



Figure 21: US Robotics 56K modem

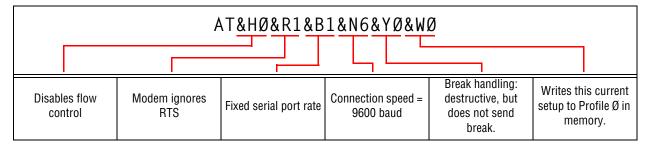
#### **Receiving modem**

The receiving modem is installed inside a sign at the factory. For more information, see "Modem option" on page 40.

• Receiving modem DIP switch settings — The eight DIP switches on the US Robotics receiving modem are set as follows:

ON V ON V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8				
On	Off	On	On	Off	Off	Off	On				
Modem ignores DTR	Verbal (word) result codes	Display result codes	Do not Echo offline commands	Auto answer on	Carrier detect on	Load user- defined configuration from memory.	Smart mode (recognize AT command set)				

• Receiving modem internal configuration — The following AT command is sent to the modem with a program like HyperTerminal:



#### **Transmitting modem**

The US Robotics 56K modem is recommended for use as the transmitting modem. This modem does not require any special setup for sending messages to a sign.

### Wireless transceiver option

For this option, one wireless transceiver (the "master") is connected to a computer and sends messages to another transceiver (the "remote") inside a sign. Both transceivers require antennas and both are programmed at the factory.



Figure 22: Locus OS2400-232 wireless transceiver

#### **Transceiver setup**

NOTE: This information is based on Adaptive document number OTI00313A.

**NOTE:** For more information about the Locus OS2400-232, see the product manual **OS2400 Radio Modem User's Manual** or visit the company's web site: http://www.overairsolutions.com.

Using the OverAir Solutions software from Locus, the following parameters were set for the master and the remote transceivers:

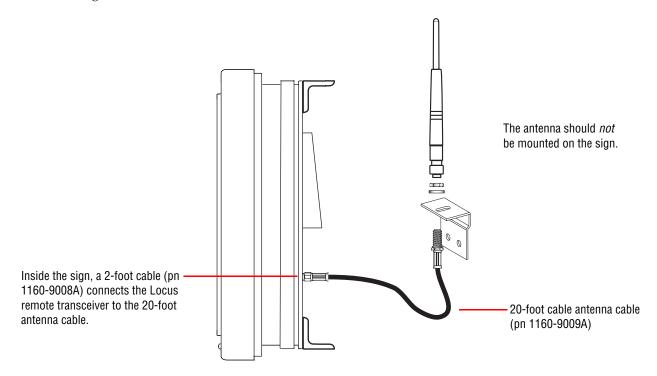
Parameter	Master transceiver (connected to computer)	Remote transceiver (installed inside sign)		
Network Name	Netw	ork 1		
Network Type	Point t	o point		
Network Channel		1		
Radio Name	Master	Receive		
Baud Rate	9600	9600		
Parity	None	None		
Data Bits	8	8		
Stop Bits	1	1		
Handshaking	None	None		
Transmit Power	Max	Мах		

#### Antenna installation

Follow these guidelines for mounting the remote transceiver antenna:

- Install the antenna and bracket on a support structure other than the sign or the sign's mounting brackets. Do *not* drill a hole in the sign enclosure.
- Install the antenna in a location that will allow optimum line-of-sight transmission and reception of signals between the sending transceiver and the antenna. Do not install the antenna so that the sign is between the sending transceiver and the receiving antenna.
- Install the antenna in an unobstructed area, keeping adequate clearance from any objects that could block the signal.
- Install the antenna in a more elevated location than the sign, and, if possible, keep it vertical.

Mount the sign as shown:



### Fiber optic modem option

#### Description

The fiber optic modem option allows messages to be sent from a computer to a sign at distances up to 2 miles. Fiber optic transmissions are not subject to electrical noise, ensure data security because eavesdropping is virtually impossible, and electrically isolate a computer from a sign so there is no spark hazard.

Two mini modems are necessary:

- a mini modem inside the sign connected with the 1051-9019 adapter, and
- a mini modem connected to the computer which will be used to send messages to the sign. The 1051-9019 adapter is not used. However, a RS232 cable (DB25-to-DB9 or DB25-to-DB25) is needed to connect this mini modem to a computer COM (RS232) port.

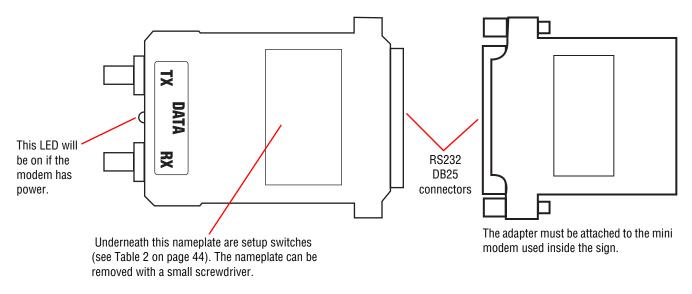


Figure 23: Black Box ME605A async fiber optic mini modem (left) and 1051-9019 adapter (right)

#### **Specifications**

Table 1: Fibe	r optic min	i modem	specifications
---------------	-------------	---------	----------------

Data rate:	Up to 19.2 Kbps
Pulse width distortion:	Less than 25%
Transmission line:	Duplex optical cable
Transmission mode:	Asynchronous, full- or half-duplex
Transmission controls:	Carrier constantly on or controlled by RTS
Optical output levels:	-28 dBm into 100/140 fiber -32 dBm into 62.5/125 fiber -36 dBm into 50/125 fiber
Receiver sensitivity:	-45 dBm
Operating wavelength:	850 nm

Operating range:	<ul> <li>Maximum range is 2 miles (3 km) of continuous fiber with the following fibers:</li> <li>100/140 fiber with attenuation of 4 dB/km</li> <li>62.5/125 fiber with attenuation of 3.5 dB/km</li> <li>50/125 fiber with attenuation of 3 dB/km</li> </ul>
Indicators:	One power LED
Terminal interface:	One ITU V.24/EIA RS232C integral DB25 connector
Fiber optic interface:	Two ST connectors
Operating conditions:	<ul> <li>Temperature — 32 to 122°F (0 to 50°C)</li> <li>Humidity — up to 90%, non condensing</li> </ul>
Size:	0.7 x 2.1 x 3.1 in (1.8 x 5.3 x 7.8 cm)
Weight:	1.3 oz (36 g)

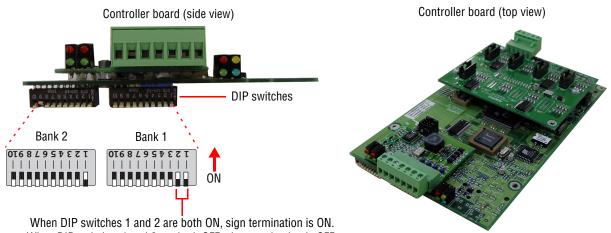
### Table 1: Fiber optic mini modem specifications

Table 2: Fiber optic modem setup switches	Table 2:	Fiber	optic	modem	setup	switches
---	----------	-------	-------	-------	-------	----------

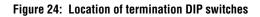
Switch	Function	Position	Factory setting
CARR	Selects carrier constantly on or controlled by RTS.	<ul> <li>ON — carrier constantly on</li> <li>CL — carrier controlled by RTS</li> </ul>	ON
DLY	Selects RTS/CTS delay	<ul><li> 2 msec</li><li> 15 msec</li></ul>	2 msec
DCE/DTE	Selects DCE or DTE	<ul> <li>DTE</li> <li>DCE position</li> <li>TD 2</li> <li>DI</li> <li>RD 3</li> <li>D0</li> <li>RTS 4</li> <li>CD</li> <li>N.C.</li> <li>DSR 6</li> <li>N.C.</li> <li>DCE position</li> <li>N.C.</li> <li>DCE and the second secon</li></ul>	DCE

## Location of termination DIP switches

A sign must be correctly terminated in order to work properly. Termination is either ON or OFF. A pair of DIP switches on the sign's Controller board are used to terminate a sign:



When DIP switches 1 and 2 are both OFF, sign termination is OFF.



### How to set the termination DIP switches

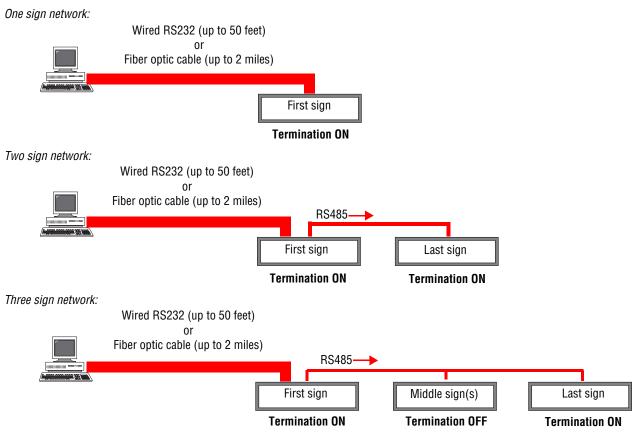
#### When the sign receives messages from a computer connected to the sign using RS485 wiring

In this case, a Converter Box III is used to connect a computer to a sign. To terminate a Converter Box III, set the switch on the back of this unit to "Terminated".

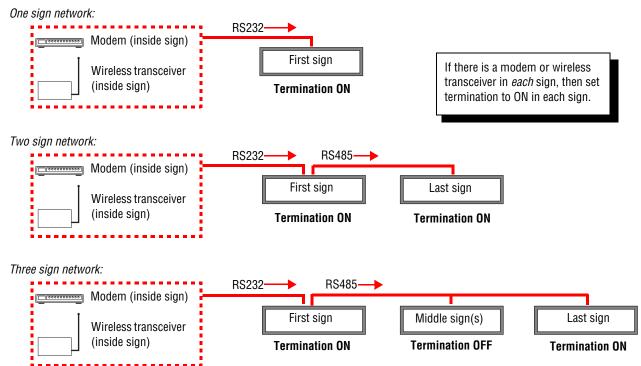
**NOTE:** When a Converter Box III is used, only *one* sign can be connected to the Converter Box.

One sign network:		
	American Society Society	485
	Converter Box III	First sign
	Termination ON	
	(Termination switch is on the back.)	Termination ON

#### When the sign receives messages from a computer connected to the sign using RS232 or fiber optic cable



#### When the sign receives messages from an internal modem or wireless transceiver



## **DIP switch locations**

DIP switches are used to set various sign parameters. DIP switches are located on the Controller board: Bank 1, Bank 2, and Bank 3:

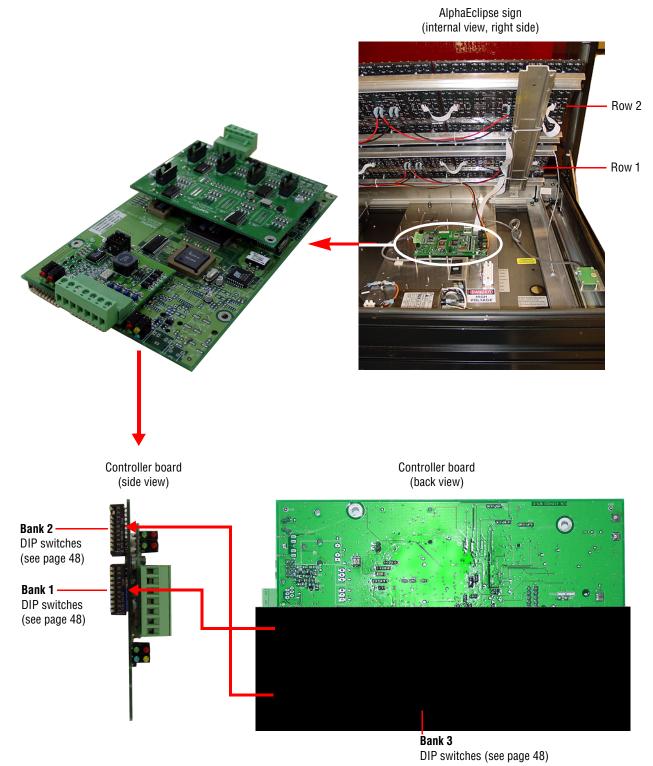
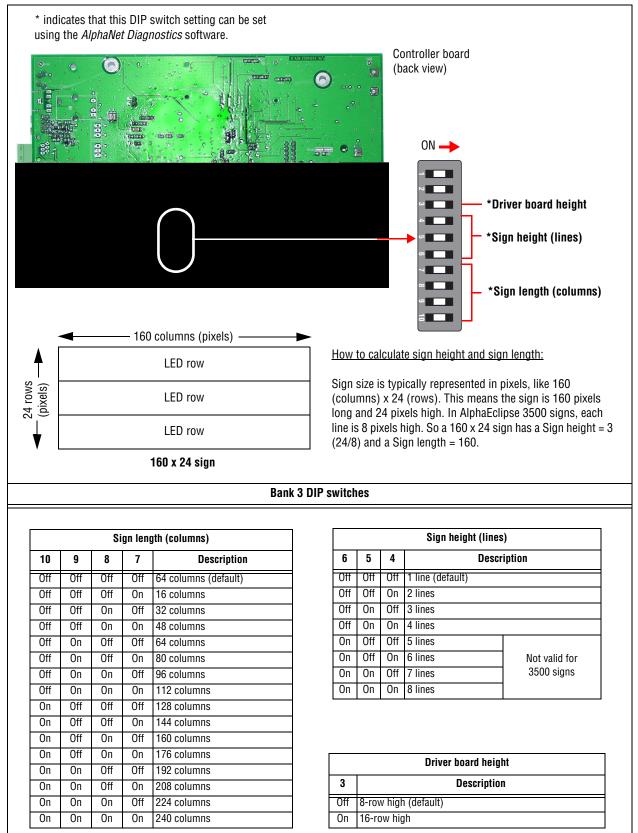


Figure 25: DIP switch locations

# Sign operation settings (Bank 1 and Bank 2 DIP switches)

	ites th ig the							aa	Wal, oper to N 8 2 9 5 V 6 2 1						Controller board (side view)
Diagn	ostics	. *0	ata fo	ormat	*\$(	erial a	OT 6		2 <b>7 8 7 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1</b>		Ba		5 3 <del>6</del>       		ON Slave Switch 6 *Baud rate RS48
2.49.		· -		k 2 DI				-	clear		node				is not Termina used Bank 1 DIP switches
			Balli	( Z DI	P SWI	lunes									Balik I DIP Switches
	10	9				escrip						_	10		Description
-	Off		Norma Goes t				,	ns to te	st for		Memory Clear	-	Off On		NOT clear memory (default))
S	Off	Un	unlit L	EDs ar	nd oth	er irreç	jularitie	es			ž O		On		r memory on powerup
Diagnostics	On							n LED ( pled, pr		[			9	8	Description
Dia	On		setting DIP switches from software, and the sign will operate using the current DIP switch								Off	0f			
	011		setting	js. <i>Åls</i>	o, <u>Ban</u>			hes 9 a					Off On	On Of	
must both be on.									Test Mode		-	-	Software override — When enabled,		
								- 5		On	On				
	8					criptio									current DIP switch settings. <i>Also, <u>Bank 2</u></i> DIP switches 10 and 9 must both be on.
Data format	Off On						1 stop y, 2 sto	bit (dei n bits	ault)						
- 5	on	, 22	7 0		0, LV0	ii puin	y, 2 010	0 010							
													7	0.4	Description
	<b>B</b>						ŝ	Addrace			Master/ Slave	-	Off On		ter mode (default) re mode
	(MSB)	9	2	4	°	2	I (LSB)				Ξ "		•	olui	
								Dec	Нех			5	4	4	3 Description
	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	0	00			Off			Off Autobaud (see NOTE below)
fault	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	On	1	01		-	Off Off			On 1200 Off 2400
= de	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	On	Off	2	02		-	Off	0	)n	On 4800
ess 0	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	On	On	3	03		ate	On On			Off 9600
addri		.		· -			•				Baud rate	On On			On 19200 Off 38400
ess (	•					•	•				ä	On			On Autobaud (see NOTE below)
addr	On	On	On	On	On	Off	On	125	7D						Autobaud is on, the sign will automatically to
Serial address (address 0 = default)	On	On	On	On	On	On	Off	126	7E			the 1	trans	smitti	the baud rate and data format (8N1 or 7E2) ng device (for example, a modem). Also, ma
S	On	On	On	On	On	On	On	127	7F			sure	e tha	t Dat	a format (Bank 2, switch 8) is set to Off.
		1		1	1			ı	I				2	1	Description (see page 45)
											Termination	(	Off	Off	Termination off (default)

## Sign size settings (Bank 3 DIP switches)



### Using AlphaNet software to set DIP switches

AlphaNet software version 2.0.3 and greater can be used to set the Bank 1, 2, or 3 DIP switches explained previously. AlphaNet version 2.0.3 is documented here.

**1.** To do this, select the AlphaNet *Diagnostics* software:

Diagnostics - versio	n 1.1.63	
Communications	Actions	
Serial/Wireless	C Connect to Modem	C Broadcast Message
	C Disconnect Modem	Clear Memory
C Modem	Read Information from Sign	C Reset Sign
O TCP/IP	🔿 Configure Sign	C Network Query
0.1011	Configure Sign (Advanced)	O Beep
Change Settings	C Continuous Read Temperature	🔿 Lamp Test
	Disconnected	<u>S</u> elect
C Results		

2. Select Configure Sign (Advanced) > Select Address:

	Select Addresses
	C All Addresses
	Selected Addresses       Address to Add to List:       Address:       0       2
Select the serial address(es) of the signs you want to configure.	Address List:

3. Select one or more of the available options (Set Sign Size, Set Serial Address, and so on) and click on Send:

	Configure Sign (Advanced)		×
	🥅 Set Sign Size	Set Other Options	
	Column Size:	Clear Memory on Power Up?	No
	Row Size:	Master/Slave:	Master 💌
	🔲 Set Serial Address	Demo Message:	Off
	Address: 0 🔽 0 💌	Color:	Mono
	Currently Selected: 00	IR:	Off
	Initiate Test Mode	RS485 Echo:	Off
	Test Mode: Run Normally	Driver Height:	8 High 💌
To set the sign to its ——	Set Sign Serial Data Format	Reset to DIP Con (Re-enables DIP :	figuration Switches)
DIP switch settings,	Sign Baud Rate/Data Autobaud 💌		,
check this box.		elect <u>A</u> ddress <u>S</u> end	<u>C</u> lose

The sign will reset after Send is pressed.

Τo

### **EMI compliance**

This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class A digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference when the equipment is operated in a commercial environment.

This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with installation guidelines, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. Operation of this equipment in a residential area is likely to cause harmful interference, in which case the user will be required to correct the interference at his own expense.

## **Temperature protection**

In order to protect itself from damage, a sign will automatically turn on its exhaust fans and dim or turn off its LEDs when the sign reaches a predetermined internal temperature.

Internal sign temperature:	< 30°C (85°F)	30° - 49°C (85° - 120°F)	50° - 70°C (122° - 158°F)	71° - 81°C (160° - 178°F)	82°C or greater (180°F)						
LEDs:	Normal b	orightness	Dim <sup>1</sup>	Off <sup>2</sup>							
Controller board:	On Off <sup>3</sup>										
Power supplies:	On										
Exhaust fans: <sup>4</sup>	Off										
<ul> <li>NOTES:</li> <li><sup>1</sup> Between 50° - 60°C (122° - 140°F), LED brightness can decrease between 62.5% - 100% of normal, depending on display load. Between 60° - 65°C (140° - 149°F), LED brightness can decrease between 50% - 87.5% of normal, depending on display load. Between 65° - 70°C (149° - 158°F), LED brightness can decrease between 37.5% - 75% of normal, depending on display load. (<i>Display load</i> means the number of LEDs that are on. For example, a graphic that lights up most of a sign's LEDs will have more of a display load than a simple text message that lights up only some LEDs.)</li> <li><sup>2</sup> When the LEDs are turned off because the sign is too hot, two LEDs in the left most corner will remain on to indicate a thermal</li> </ul>											

<sup>2</sup> When the LEDs are turned off because the sign is too hot, two LEDs in the left most corner will remain on to indicate a thern shutdown.

<sup>3</sup> All LEDs will be off.

<sup>4</sup> At or above 30° C (85° F), the exhaust fans are switched on by the exhaust fan thermostat. If the temperature drops to 20° C (67° F), then the exhaust fans are turned off.

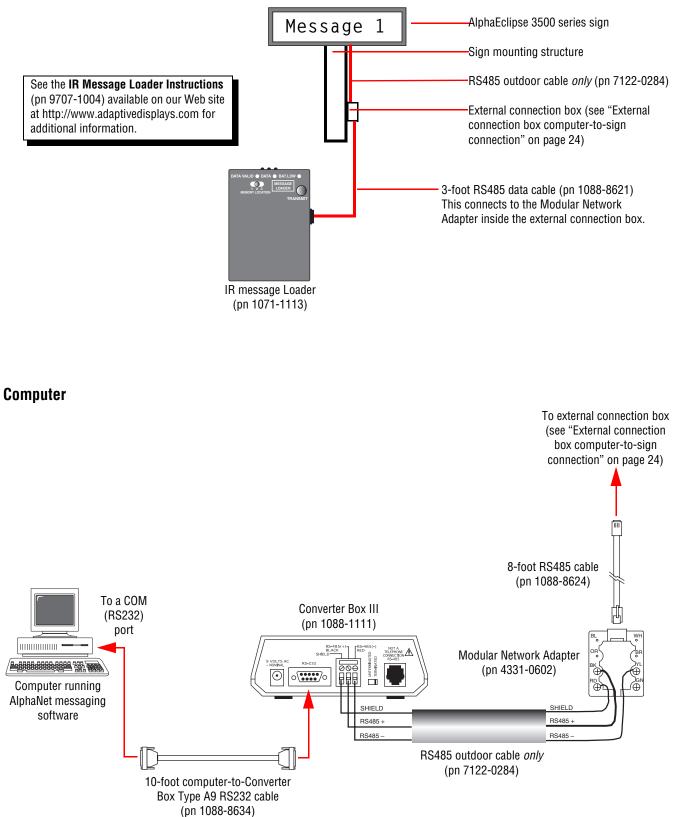
# **Technical specifications**

Lines	Rows (pixels)	Columns (pixels)	Rated Current (amperes)		LED	Power	Power	Main	Fans	
			at 120 VAC	at 240 VAC	boards	supplies	panels	panels	Exhaust (120 mm)	Internal (80 mm)
1	8	32	1.42	.71	4	1	1	1	1	1
	8	64	2.33	1.07	8	2	2	1	2	2
	8	80	2.71	1.36	10	2	2	1	2	2
	8	96	3.10	1.55	12	2	2	1	2	2
	8	112	3.63	1.81	14	3	3	1	2	3
	8	128	4.01	2.00	16	3	3	1	2	3
	8	144	4.39	2.19	18	3	3	1	2	3
2	16	64	4.16	2.08	16	3	2	1	2	4
	16	80	5.22	2.61	20	4	2	1	4	4
	16	96	5.98	2.99	24	4	2	1	4	4
	16	112	7.04	3.52	28	5	3	1	4	6
	16	128	7.80	3.90	32	6	3	1	4	6
	16	144	8.57	4.28	36	6	3	1	4	6
3	24	64	6.28	3.14	24	4	2	1	4	6
	24	80	7.42	3.71	30	5	2	1	4	6
	24	96	8.57	4.28	36	6	2	1	4	6
	24	112	10.46	5.23	42	7	3	1	6	9
	24	128	11.60	5.80	48	8	3	1	6	9
	24	144	12.75	6.37	54	9	3	1	6	9
4	32	64	8.10	4.05	32	6	2	1	4	8
	32	80	9.93	4.96	40	7	2	1	6	8
	32	96	11.45	5.73	48	8	3	1	6	8
	32	112	13.88	6.94	56	10	3	1	8	12
	32	128	15.40	7.70	64	11	3	1	8	12
	32	144	16.92	8.46	72	12	3	1	8	12

 Table 3: AlphaEclipse 3500 sign technical specifications

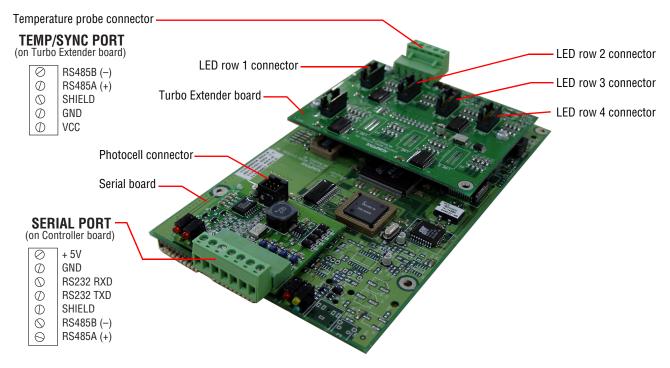
## Appendix I: Using an IR Message Loader or a computer with an external connection box

## **IR Message Loader**



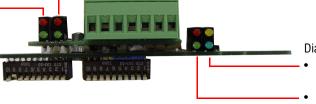
## Appendix J: Controller board

### Description



Communication LEDs: Transmitting Data - TXD (red), Receiving data - RXD (green):

- RS232-
- RS485 \_\_\_\_\_



Diagnostic LEDs: (top two LEDs not used)
Controller status (blue): ok = blinks once per second. Error = steady or off
FLASH memory (green): solid green during a FLASH memory upload

## LED row numbering

