

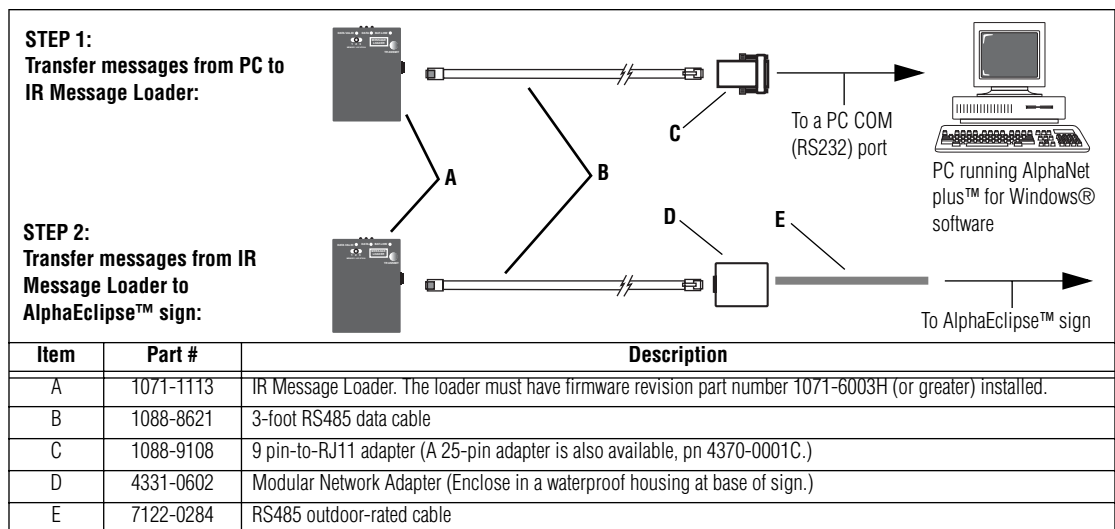
PRIORITY:	Normal
DATE:	November 13, 2001
TITLE:	Using the IR Message Loader with an AlphaEclipse™ outdoor sign
ECO REFERENCE:	N/A
PRODUCT(S) AFFECTED:	AlphaEclipse™ electronic signs
SUMMARY:	Messages created using AlphaNet plus™ for Windows® software can be downloaded to an IR (InfraRed) Message Loader. These messages can then be transferred into an AlphaEclipse™ sign by connecting the IR Message Loader to the AlphaEclipse™ sign itself.

Introduction

One method to display messages on an AlphaEclipse™ sign is to connect the sign directly to a computer that is running AlphaNet plus™ for Windows® messaging software. Messages are then created and sent to the sign using the messaging software. However, it may not always be possible to directly connect an AlphaEclipse™ outdoor sign to a computer.

In this case, an IR Message Loader can be used to transfer messages created on a computer with AlphaNet plus™ for Windows® software to an AlphaEclipse™ sign. In order to do this, a Modular Network Adapter (see below) needs to be added at the base (typically) of an AlphaEclipse™ sign.

Table 1: IR Message Loader operation



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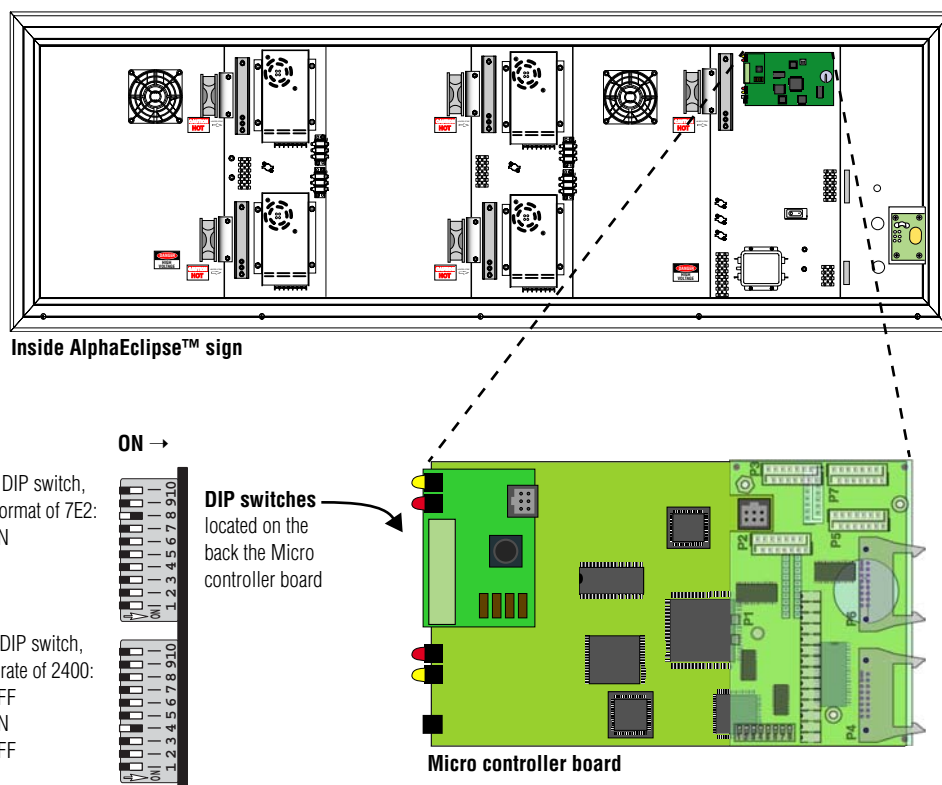
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Related documentation

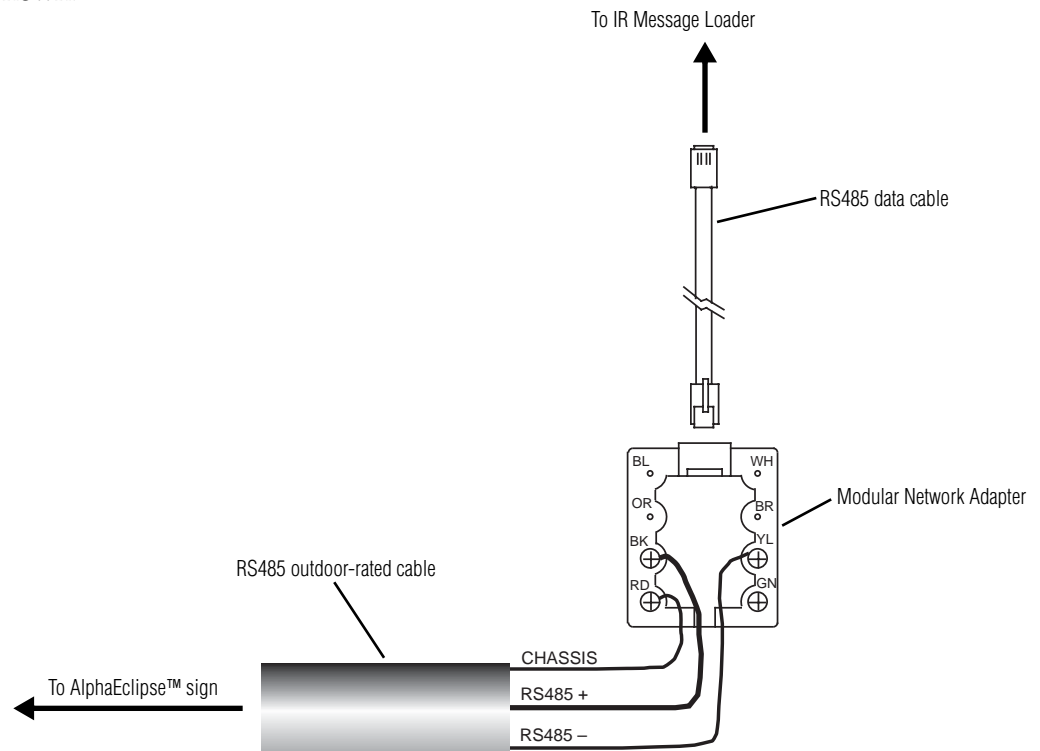
Part #	Manual	Description
9711-6001	AlphaEclipse™ 3500 Sign Installation Instructions	Setup and configuration information on AlphaEclipse™ signs.
9708-8081	AlphaNet plus™ for Windows® User Manual	Explains the software that is used to create and download message to the IR Message Loader.

AlphaEclipse™ sign modification

1. Remove power from the sign.
2. Open the sign's door and raise the LED boards as shown in the "AlphaEclipse™ 3500 Sign Installation Instructions".
3. Run the RS485 outdoor-rated cable through a protective conduit from the base of the sign into the back of the sign as shown in the "AlphaEclipse™ 3500 Sign Installation Instructions".
4. Connect the RS485 outdoor-rated cable to the RS485 serial block (RS485+, RS485-, Chassis) as shown the "AlphaEclipse™ 3500 Sign Installation Instructions".
5. Make sure that the sign's baud rate is 2400 and that the data format is set to 7E2. To do this, set the DIP switches on the *back* of the sign's Micro controller board as shown below:



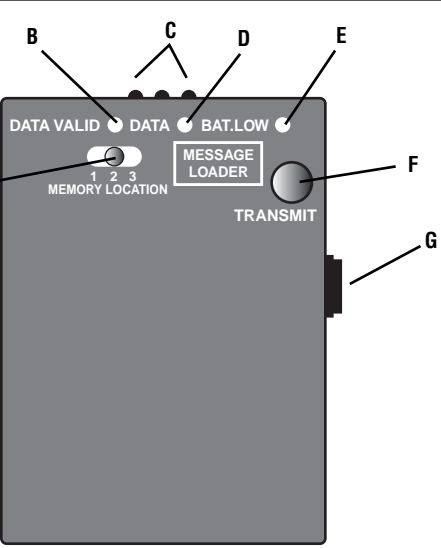
6. Close the sign as shown in the "AlphaEclipse™ 3500 Sign Installation Instructions".
7. At the base of the sign, place a Modular Network Adapter in a waterproof case that can be locked. Connect the Modular Network Adapter to the RS485 outdoor-rated cable as shown:



8. Restore power to the sign.

Using the IR Message Loader

Table 2: IR Message Loader



The diagram shows the IR Message Loader device with the following components labeled:

- A:** MEMORY LOCATION switch (1, 2, 3)
- B:** DATA VALID indicator
- C:** infrared transmitters
- D:** DATA indicator
- E:** BAT. LOW indicator
- F:** TRANSMIT button
- G:** Serial port

Item	Name	Description
A	MEMORY LOCATION switch	Allows selection of one of the three 10,000-byte memory partitions.
B	DATA VALID indicator	Indicates valid data in the memory location currently selected.
C	infrared transmitters	Used to transmit messages stored in the MEMORY LOCATIONS to signs.
D	DATA indicator	This indicator comes on whenever data is being sent or received via the serial port or the infrared transmitters.
E	BAT. LOW indicator	When lit, indicates that the battery should be replaced.
F	TRANSMIT button	When transferring a message from a PC into the IR Message Loader, pressing this button stores the message in the selected MEMORY LOCATION. When transferring a message from the IR Message Loader into a sign, pressing this button sends the message in the currently selected MESSAGE LOCATION to a sign.
G	Serial port	Connects to AlphaEclipse™ sign.

Transferring messages from a PC to the IR Message Loader

1. Connect the IR Message Loader to a PC running AlphaNet plus™ for Windows® software as shown in “STEP 1” in Table 1 on page 1.
2. In the AlphaNet plus™ for Windows® software, use the *Message Editor* to create one or more test messages.
3. In the AlphaNet plus™ for Windows® software, use the *Site Manager* to create a special site for the IR Message Loader.

NOTE: The *Connect Device* used should be set to *Local Wired Com 1* (or Com 2, etc.) and have its *Data Format* set to 7E2.

4. On the IR Message Loader, set the MEMORY LOCATION switch to the location (1, 2, or 3) that the messages will be downloaded into.
5. On the IR Message Loader, press and then release the TRANSMIT button.
6. Wait at least 2 seconds. Then use AlphaNet plus™ for Windows® software to send your message to the IR Message Loader site that you created.

7. The DATA indicator on the IR Message Loader should go on while a message is being downloaded. When the DATA VALID light indicator goes on, the message download is complete.
8. If the message download fails, repeat from step 5.

Transferring messages from the IR Message Loader to an AlphaEclipse™ sign

1. Connect the IR Message Loader to an AlphaEclipse™ sign as shown in “STEP 2” in Table 1 on page 1.
2. On the IR Message Loader, set the *MEMORY LOCATION* switch to the location (1, 2, or 3) that you used in “Transferring messages from a PC to the IR Message Loader”.
3. Press and hold the TRANSMIT button on the IR Message Loader. The DATA indicator should light up.
4. When the DATA indicator goes off, the messages have been transferred to the sign.

