

AVE - *Multiview*



Sentinel

Operation guide

Overview

The Multiview Sentinel is a video-text generation unit that can either superimpose text onto a standard video signal or it can generate it's own plain background to display the text on. The Sentinel can be used in conjunction with a Multiview cash register interface, monitor and optional camera to provide a simple cash register monitoring system or customer display setup.

The unit allows the user to position the on-screen text within a 28 (width) by 11 (height) character grid and also incorporates an on-screen clock and title.

It will accept RS232 data at a number of different baud rates and also has an 'AUTO' baud rate setting that will attempt to detect the speed of the data automatically.

The Sentinel will display the RS232 ASCII data it receives line by line on the connected monitor, scrolling from bottom to top. Any line of text that exceeds the preset display width will be compressed by having any repeated 'space characters' removed. If the data will not fit on the one line after being compressed, then it will be 'wrapped' onto the next line. To improve the appearance of the display, whole words will not be split between lines.

Display modes

The Sentinel operates in two different screen modes, *video* mode and *display* mode.

In *video* mode, the generated text is overlaid on top of an existing video signal. In *display* mode, the text is displayed on a blank background.

To toggle the display mode between *video* and *display*, hold down the 'SET' and 'RESET' keys together for approximately five seconds.

Note:- If you connect the Sentinel to a monitor without a camera, and you just see a blank screen, then the unit is probably in '*video*' mode. To be able to see the display, you will need to change to *display* mode.

Connections

VIDEO IN

This is a terminated (75 Ohm) video input connector. If you want to superimpose the generated text onto an existing source, connect a standard (1V peak to peak) video signal to this input.

VIDEO OUT

This is the Video output that should be connected to your monitor or VCR.

POWER

Connect a suitable 9 - 12VDC power supply unit to the 2.1mm jack socket.

DATA

This is a female DB-9 connector that should be connected to your RS232 data source.

The pin configuration is:-

- Pin 2 - RX
- Pin 3 - TX
- Pin 5 - Signal Ground

Operation

Menu function

All programming of the unit is performed via a series of on-screen menus, therefore when the unit is in programming mode, it will not display any of the data it receives through the RS232 port.

To access the Sentinel setup menu, hold down the UP, DOWN and RESET keys together until the menu appears on the screen. Use the UP / DOWN keys to move the cursor to different menu options, then press the 'SET' key to select an option. When you select an option you will then either be able to change the relevant setting or you will be shown another sub-menu. Generally the UP / DOWN keys are used to alter a chosen setting and the SET key will lock the chosen setting into the units memory. Pressing the 'RESET' key whilst in a menu will take you back to the previous menu, if you are at the initial menu screen, pressing 'RESET' will exit from the programming menu and the unit will resume normal operation.

Setup

Text display

This option allows you to set the boundaries of the text window. No text other than the clock and title will be displayed outside of these limits.

Setting the text display area

You can set the position of all four edges of the window that you want the text to be displayed in, within the 11 by 28 character grid.

- Select the 'Text display' option from the main menu.
- Use the UP / DOWN keys to set the position of the left edge of the window. Press the 'SET' key when done.
- You will then be prompted to do exactly the same for the top, right & bottom edges.

Clock

The clock display can be turned on or off, and can be positioned at either the top or the bottom of the screen.

Select the 'Clock' option from the main menu to get into the clock sub-menu.

Setting the clock

- Select 'Set clock' from the clock sub-menu.
- Use the UP / DOWN keys to adjust the hours, minutes, seconds, day, month & year, pressing 'SET' to move from each one to the next.

Setting clock on / off

- Select 'Clock display' from the clock sub-menu.
- Use the UP / DOWN keys to toggle the display between ON and OFF. Press 'SET' when done.

Setting the clock position

- Select 'Clock position' from the clock sub-menu.
- Use the UP / Down keys to toggle the position between TOP and BOTTOM. Press 'SET' when done.

Title

The on-screen title function allows a one line text string to be displayed at either the top or the bottom of the screen.

Select the 'Title' option from the main menu to get into the title sub-menu.

Setting the title text

- Select 'Set title' from the title sub-menu.
- Use the UP / DOWN keys to change each character of the title text, pressing 'SET' to move from one character to the next. Press the 'RESET' key when done.

Setting the title on / off

- Select 'Title display' from the title sub-menu.
- Use the UP / DOWN keys to toggle the title display between ON and OFF. Press 'SET' when done.

Setting the title position

- Select 'Title position' from the title sub-menu.
- Use the UP / DOWN keys to toggle the title position between TOP and BOTTOM. Press 'SET' when done.

Communications

The communications menu is used to set the baud rate that the Sentinel will operate at.

Select the 'Communications' option from the main menu to get into the communications sub-menu.

Selecting the baud rate

- Select 'Baud rate' from the communications sub-menu.
- Use the UP / DOWN keys to select the desired setting. Press 'SET' when done.

The baud rates that can be chosen are 1200, 2400, 4800, 9600, 19200 & 'Auto'. The other RS232 parameters are fixed at: - '8 data bits', 'no parity' & '1 stop bit'.

Software ID

Select the 'Software ID' option from the main menu to display the software version number. You may be asked for this information if you contact our technical support department for assistance at any time.

Specifications

Operating voltage	9 – 12Vdc
Current consumption	160mA (approx.) @ 12Vdc
Video input format	PAL - 1V peak to peak
Video output format	PAL - 1V peak to peak
Accepted RS232 baud rates	1200, 2400, 4800, 9600, 19200
Other RS232 parameters	No parity, 8 data bits, 1 stop bit.
Data buffer size	2K Bytes
Text display	
Max number of rows	11
Max number of columns	28
Time format	HH:MM:SS (24 hour)
Date format	DD/MM/YY

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