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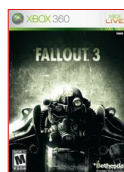
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» ATEN VS481A HDMI SWITCH REVIEW



A HDMI solution for the gamers

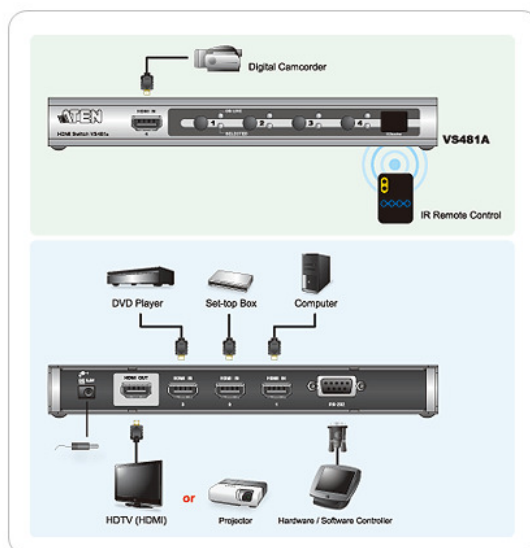
We the gamers, are often the first to be confronted to the rapid changes that affect electronic gears in term of standards. In only a few years, we faced three types of connection for our gaming consoles, RCA, component and finally HDMI. Today, both next-gen consoles, the PLAYSTATION 3 and the Xbox 360 offer the possibility of using the HDMI solution.

Why using HDMI exactly?

First, for simplicity. The goal is to avoid having several cables to connect, the HDMI carrying audio and video at the same time. Then, you must know that manufacturers offer, unfortunately, their best resolution usually via the HDMI output. In the case of the PS3 for example, the optimum resolution of the console will be achieved only in HDMI configuration. But, very often television sets and home theater receivers possess a very limited HDMI inputs, on their entry models. If this is dying tendency and you should now expect 3 to 4 HMDI inputs in electronic products, still you do not want to renew your equipment if you miss HDMI ports, and the reason is to keep your money to buy several games...of course. This is exactly my situation, with four electronic devices to plug-in and only one HDMI port available in my Yamaha A/V receiver.

But you know what, GameFocus found an interesting solution for you, if you are in this situation. The company Aten, presents the brand new VS481A HDMI switch that could very well be what you need. The Aten VS481A switch offers the support of several types of HDTV resolutions from 480p, 720p, 1080i, 1080p to PC monitor resolutions such as VGA, SVGA, SXGA, UXGA and even WUXGA. It has three HDMI inputs on the back and one at the front. The PC RS-232 is at the rear.

What separates the VS481A from its competitors is its strong metal conception that inspires confidence to the product. Then it's very small of only 8 cm deep by 20 cm wide. This, will allow the product to take place very easily among your equipment already in place without having to buy a new cabinet. Equipped with a remote control, it is not necessary to use the buttons in front, to select a port when using the Aten VS481A HDMI switch.

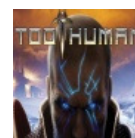


We tested the VS481A on a high performance Mitsubishi 1080p HDMI home theater DLP projector and the guinea pig was the movie Spider-Man 3. We then switched between the HDMI and component ports of the projector to compare the results in gaming situation and movies. Supporting the new HDMI 1.3a standard, the results on screen were very satisfactory in terms of colors and black levels. You could think that there is a risk of data loss associated with the use of a switch, but in this case, the VS481A comes with signal

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

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