

ADS IR Blaster Driver Installation Notes and Instructions

Introduction

In order to use the ADS IR Blaster with IRCommand2 it is necessary to install a special driver for the dongle. The driver distributed with the ADS IR Blaster dongle is often just a 32-bit driver that will not work on 64-bit Windows. The driver described here is the latest FTDI driver as of the date of this document and will work on both 32-bit and 64-bit Windows from XP through Win 7.

This document explains how to obtain and install the required device driver.

How to Obtain the Driver

The required driver files are located on the WDPS Software website here:

http://www.wdpsoftware.com/downloads/ADS_IR_Blaster_Driver_WinXP-Win7.zip

After downloading the file, unzip it to a temporary directory on your hard drive.

Credits

The USB driver used here is an unmodified version of the FTDI chipset driver configured to link it to the ADS hardware, which uses an FTDI chipset.

Driver Installation Procedure

Windows may automatically install a default driver for the ADS IR Blaster dongle when it is plugged in. If so, then the default driver should work with IRCommand2. Otherwise, use the following installation procedure to install the driver.

1. Download the driver package zip file from the WDPS Software web site (see above) and then unzip it to a temporary directory location. You will reference a file in this directory later in the procedure.
2. Plug the ADS IR Blaster dongle into the computer and allow Windows to install its default driver, if any. If Windows does NOT install a driver and is prompting for a driver then proceed to step 5. Otherwise, if Windows either installed a driver or reported that driver installation failed (Windows 7) then proceed to the next step.
3. Open Device Manager -- right-click on "**My Computer**" icon either on desktop, Start menu, or in Windows Explorer and select "Properties". Select the "Hardware" tab and then click the **Device Manager** button. In Windows 7, just

- type in “**device manager**” in the search window at the bottom of the Start menu and hit Enter.
4. Search for the **ADS IR Blaster** device in Device Manager. It will be under the **Universal Serial Bus Controllers** section if a device driver was installed by Windows. Otherwise, it should be visible under the **Other Devices** section. Click on the device to select it.
 5. Right-click on the **ADS IR Blaster** device entry and select “**Update Driver...**”.
 6. If running Windows 7, choose “**Browse my computer for driver software**” then skip to step 14, below, to continue with a Win7 install....
 7. If Windows asks if it can connect to Windows Update then select “**No, not at this time**” and then click the **Next** button.
 8. Select “**Install from a list or specific location (Advanced)**” and click the **Next** button.
 9. Select “**Don’t search. I will choose the driver to install**” and click the **Next** button.
 10. Click the **Have Disk** button.
 11. Click the **Browse** button and navigate to the location of the driver files, select the “**ftdibus.inf**” file, and then click the **Open** button.
 12. Click the **OK** button to direct the installer to use the selected file. You should then see a single driver entry in the driver list called “**ADS IR Blaster**”. There will be a message warning that the driver is not digitally signed -- this is OK.
 13. Click the **Next** button to install the driver and then click the **Finish** button to complete the installation process.
 14. In Windows 7, select the directory where you unzipped the driver files, make sure “**Include subfolders**” is checked then click **Next**. You will receive a warning that the driver is not digitally signed – respond that it is OK to proceed¹. Windows 7 should confirm the installation process was successful.
 15. In Device Manager you should now see an **ADS IR Blaster** device under the **Universal Serial Bus Controllers** section. If you do not see this entry and the entry remains under the **Other Devices** section then the driver installation failed. Unplug the dongle and repeat from step 2 to try again.

¹ The driver executable files ARE digitally signed, but the overall driver package is not signed. For Windows 7, this will cause a warning during initial installation, but the driver will load ok on subsequent boot-ups without further warnings.