Modern Video for Old Apples

Or, how do I use this !@#$ machine on an LCD?

Hardware I'll Cover

- Leadstar 10" LCD monitor
- Retrotink 2x Pro
- Apple IIc RGB-to-composite adapter
- Nishida Radio IIc VGA Adapter
- VidHD

Changes in Video

- As of 2020, many new LCD monitors and TVs lack composite video
- In addition, many lack traditional VGA connectors, as well!
- Since it’s been a few years since any new CRT monitors were sold, we will need to adapt our faithful Apples to work with modern monitors, to be able to keep using them!

What are we to do?

- There are a number of solutions to adapt composite video to HDMI
  - You can get them very cheaply, but quality is often poor
  - Input lag, interference and color shifting are common
  - 80 column text often looks very poor

Solution #1 - Get a New TV!

- A few years ago, folks found a new security monitor that worked reasonably well, the 8” Night Owl Portable LCD

Solution #1 - continued

- There are a couple drawbacks to the Night Owl, however
  - It’s no longer available!
  - There are only a couple inputs, and those are composite only
  - 8 inches is a bit small, even for an Apple IIc

Solution #1 - specifications

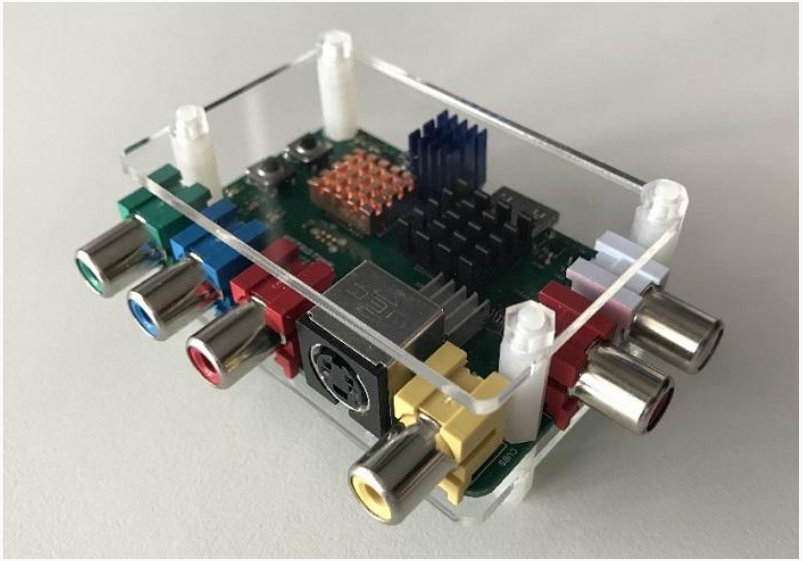
- There’s a new portable LCD monitor that solves many of the drawbacks to the Night Owl...the Leadstar 10” portable LCD

Solution #1: Specs

- The Leadstar LCD has a number of great features that make it a good choice for Apple II use
  - The composite input is very good quality, and reproduces 80 column text well
  - It is very similar in width to the Apple IIc/IIc Plus
  - There are other useful inputs, including VGA and HDMI ports
  - It has a 1024x600 resolution, which is good for the size
  - It's fairly inexpensive
    - https://smile.amazon.com/gp/product/B07FD47QG5
  - There is an internal battery, which makes it really handy for field IIc use, and it lasts a long time
- All of the (rather poor!) photographs are of this LCD monitor

Solution #2: HDMI Video Converter

- Another solution to the problem is to use a composite-to-HDMI adapter
- An excellent adapter, that has become very popular with retro gamers, is the RetroTINK
  - https://www.retrotink.com/



What is the first name of the wagon leader?

Solution #2: Details

- I have used both the RetroTINK 2x and the RetroTINK 2x Pro and love them both
- They have composite, s-video and component inputs, making them suitable for a variety of video output formats, from the original II to the IIgs
- The scaling quality is very good, and there is virtually zero lag
- Compared to other high-quality scalers, the price is quite low
  - https://www.retrotink.com/product-page/retrotink-2x-pro
- There is an upcoming version, with only s-video and composite, for less money
  - https://www.retrotink.com/post/introducing-the-retrotink-2x-mini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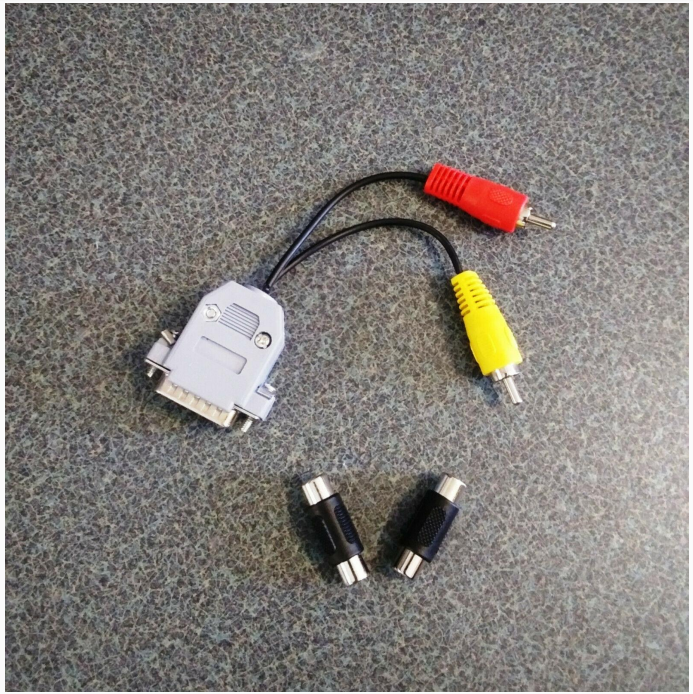
Solution #3: IIc RGB Adapter

- I recently discovered an Apple IIc/IIc+ adapter that produces high quality composite output, from the RGB port, for only about $20
  - https://www.ebay.com/itm/193393714278
- The quality improvement is significant, and it provides audio out, to boot!

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Solution #4: VidHD

- The last, and highest quality, solution that I'll cover is the VidHD, by Blue Shift
- VidHD is an add-in card for the Apple II/II+/IIe/IIgs, which uses an ARM single-board computer to produce fantastic quality HDMI output
- The price is very reasonable, at $135 plus shipping
  - https://www.callapple.org/vidhd/

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Questions?

Thank you!

- Thanks to everyone for your attention
- All the photographs (they’re not fantastic, beware!) are available, freely
  - https://share.icloud.com/photos/07ZLotuvGJZO2wYTEOyb4SRvA