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How do the DigiMaster DM232 (RS232) Programming interfaces compare with the competition? Some info on the DigiMaster USB MultiFace info is also included. (see [*] for FT857 and FT897 CAT operation via the mic socket).

Below is Bob Freeth's test results. DON'T FORGET, some of these rigs use different connectors so you may need an adaptor or change the connector (or lead) as required. Note: Some of the competitions interfaces require modifications to work on some rigs, those with (X).

[Where X is a number referring to a note about a modification]

Those interfaces that don't work (or need modifications to work) are shown in RED.

Those interfaces that do are in or BLUE or GREEN.

I have put my interfaces results in BLUE. AND, don't forget, they will also work on a whole range of other radios. My programming interfaces will also work as Icom OR Yaesu CAT interfaces.

They simply out perform the competition at a fraction of the price.

For other products, CAT CIV, Radio Programming Interfaces and DATA Interfaces, see the website: - <http://www.g4zlp.co.uk>

See <http://www.g4zlp.co.uk/Instructions/DM232Wiring.pdf> for info on rewiring the connector for other uses.

ALL the information below was originally published on 4th June 2006 by Bob Freeth: <http://www.g4hfg.co.uk/cables.htm> and is updated as required.

The following is from G4HFG's website.

I have tested a number of 2-wire cables with different radios and discovered that certain radios can be problematic - notably the FT-2800 and FT-1802. The matrix below summarises the results of my experiences:

All the serial port attach cables were tested on a desktop PC fitted with an ASUS A7N8X-E motherboard with an on-board 9-pin serial port.

	AME original	AME R1	Radioarena CT-091 (7)	G3LIV Multi cat	G3VFP YPR02	FTDI TTL-232R (6)	G4TIC DIY	G4ZLP USB MultiFace	G4ZLP Serial Interface	RTS CT29B & CT29F	TTL2USB CT-1	TTL2USB CT-29C
FT-60	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
VX-3	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
VX-6	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
VX-150	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
VX-170	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
VX-177	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
FT-1802	Y (1)	N (2)	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y (4)	N (5)
FT-2800	Y (1)	N (2)	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y (3)	Y
FT-7800	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
FT-8800	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
FT-8900	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

nyt = not yet tested

Note 1: added a 47K resistor across R13 to raise voltage

Note 2: but can be made to work by raising the voltage to 3.8V. Doing this will probably negate its VX-2 compatibility.

Note 3: added a 47K resistor across R12 to raise voltage

Note 4: replaced the 47K resistor added in note 3 with a 100K potentiometer and adjusted o/p voltage to 3.8V

Note 5: Output voltage of the CT-29C of 4.6V is too high for my FT-1802. Working range of my radio is 3.6V to 4.1V

(*) NOTE: When comparing the DigiMaster USB MultiFace for use as a CAT interface.

There are other many other USB CAT interfaces such as the "RigTalker" but these dedicated CAT interfaces and cannot program radios so they simply don't compare. Being simpler devices, they are not "like for like".

The DigiMaster MultiFace is available for CAT use via the mic socket on the FT857 and FT897. This leaves the CAT - LINEAR - TUNER socket free for other use's inc ATU's and Linears etc.

