TECHNICAL BULLETIN
MAXNET II 1.2GHZ AMPLIFIER ATTENUATION CONTROL CHANGE AND FIRMWARE UPDATE

Overview

ATX is pleased to announce an improvement to the MAXNET II, 1.2GHz RF Amplifier product line. Based on customer feedback that push button switches on the front of these units may be accidentally pressed and change RF gain levels, ATX has implemented a change to auto-lock the front push button control to avoid this. This will not affect the ability to control the attenuation via web GUI and will have no impact on price or part number.

Affected Products

All QMP* series all-digital amplifier products manufactured from Jan 2021 and later (Date Code 0121 or later), including QMP1218-35GPF, QMP1218-35PF, QMP1218-40PF, QMP1218-44PF, QMP1000-35GPF, QMP1000-35PF and QMP1000-40PF, with firmware revision 6.4 or later.

Detailed Description of Change

QMP* series amplifiers with firmware version 6.4 or later will have the ability to lock or unlock the front attenuation push buttons. This can be done manually using the front push buttons (see Fig 01 below) by simply pressing and holding ANY two push buttons on the front until the RED alarm LED changes state (~3s). When the RED LED is fast-flashing (twice the rate of a normal RF alarm condition), the buttons are unlocked and RF attenuators can be adjusted as they always have been in previous models. Each press changes attenuation 0.5dB. When RF levels are set as desired, you can press and hold any two buttons until the LED stops blinking and the control is locked. Alternatively, if you do nothing, then 15 minutes later, the control will auto-lock and the RED LED will stop flashing.

Also note that if you have a MAXNET II chassis with a GEN2 communication module installed then you also have the option to lock/unlock the front push buttons via web GUI, as shown in Fig 02 below, provided that the GUI firmware is 1.9.7 or higher.
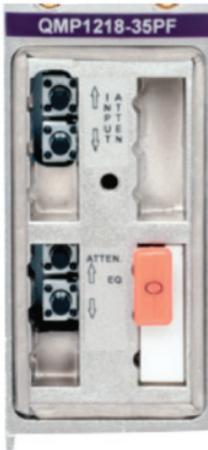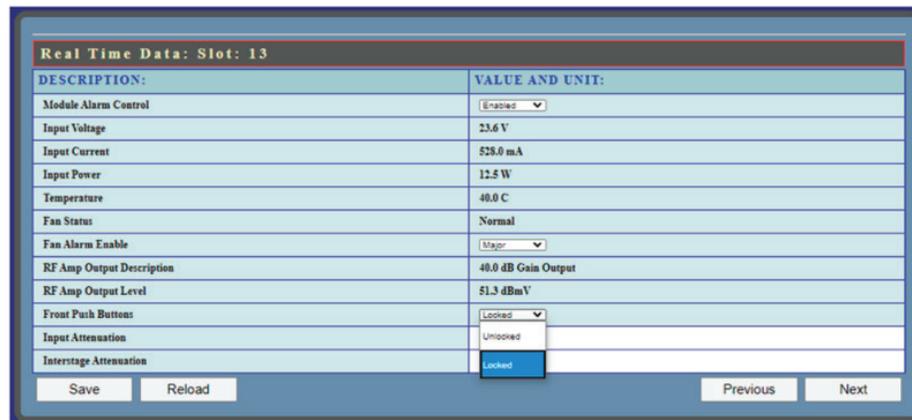

Figure 1

Figure 2

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Identifying GEN1 vs GEN2 Communication Module

Identifying a chassis as a GEN1 or GEN2 can be done by a physical check of the chassis, or through the chassis login screen.

Identifying Firmware Rev of Amplifier and GEN2 Communication Module

To identify the current firmware rev of an amplifier, locate and click the image of the amplifier in the GUI. The following page should appear showing details of that amplifier, including Hardware and Software versions:

To identify the version of a GEN2 communication module, click on the "Configuration" tab on the GUI. The following page with the current version listed should appear:

Attenuation Control and Upgrade Procedure

Please refer to the MAXNET II 1.2GHz Digital Forward Amplifiers user manual for full attenuation control and upgrade instructions. The ANW0757_MNII_ChassisManual_MP3-1.pdf is located at www.atx.com.

Contact ATX Networks

Please contact ATX Technical Support for assistance with any ATX products.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

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