

The New WiFi Option for SPAROS Signal Analyzer

Powerful Analyzer Becomes Even More Functional

The excellent SPAROS 609 satellite meter of high-quality manufacturer SPAUN has been already presented in TELE-satellite 08-09/2009. It is a very universal and powerful TV signal analyzer suitable for satellite, cable and terrestrial signals. It measures practically everything you could ever want to measure. In meantime, SPAUN has expanded its range of SPAROS signal analyzers and even added an additional measurement mode for its SPAROS series. Because everything related to basic digital TV broadcasts has been already covered by their regular device, they turned to WiFi. As IPTV gains in importance, WiFi signals play also an ever larger role in receiving TV via the Internet.

■ WiFi receiver connected to a SPAROS 609



Of course, WiFi is not only used for IPTV but for regular access to the Internet too. A SPAROS signal analyzer with a WiFi extension can measure all 14 WiFi channels ranging from 2412 MHz to 2484 MHz. Each channel is 22 MHz wide. The channels overlap one another.

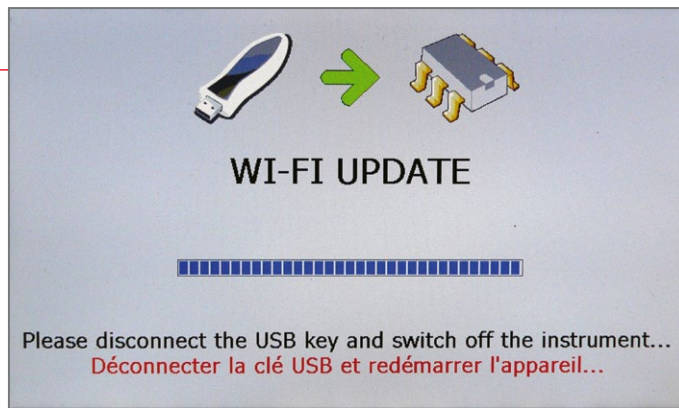
When in WiFi mode, we can make the SPAROS either show a map (table) with all detected WiFi networks, or make it measure only a selected one. Except for signal strength, we have the following information: ID of the network, channel number, channel center frequency and channel bit rates. Based on the listed bit rates, one can figure out which IEEE 802.11 protocol versions are supported by the network under test. In the attached screenshot, these are: 802.11 a, b and g. Other functions of SPAROS we know from digital TV modes, like frequency spectrum view, are inactive in WiFi mode.

When you add the WiFi extension to a SPAROS signal analyzer, the first thing you should do is upgrade of the SPAROS firmware. This is very simple indeed. You insert the USB stick that comes with the WiFi receiver to the USB port in your SPAROS and the upgrade process starts automatically. It lasts just a minute or so and

after that you are supposed to remove the stick and restart the meter. From that moment on, you will be able to see the WiFi option ticked in the meter welcome screen and the meter is ready for the extension.

The next step is naturally connecting the WiFi receiver itself. To make it operational we have to go to the menu and select a map which we want to use for the WiFi measurements. Then we switch it to WiFi mode. A single press of the "measure a map" button will start detecting the WLAN's in your location. The meter button switches the meter to single network mode in which more data about a network is displayed.

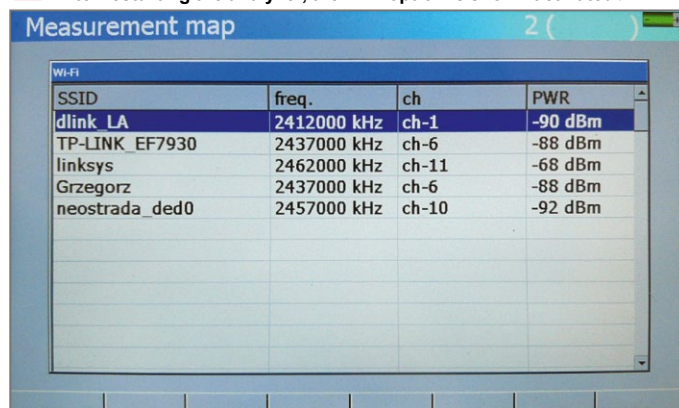
The WiFi extension for SPAROS signal analyzers is a nice addition to this powerful device. It shows us not only what networks are available in the 2.5 GHz band but also what the signal levels are. In this way we can immediately say which networks are really usable in a given location and most importantly can make a decision if signal level is sufficient for mobile IPTV. The meter also comes handy in case of installing a WiFi network in a building. Locations of the transmitter sites can be determined and checked with the WiFi extension to the SPAROS.



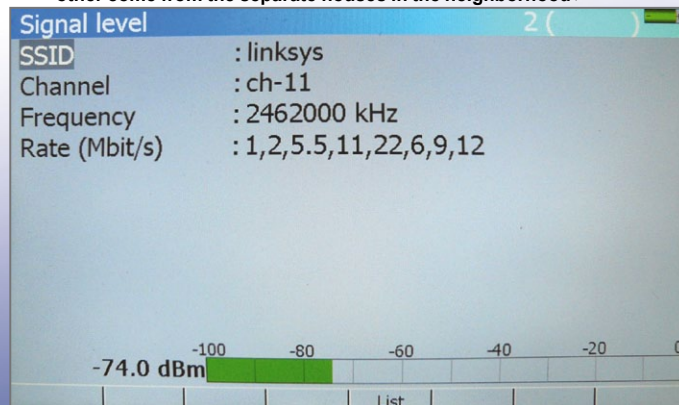
A SPAROS signal analyzer has just been upgraded to handle the WiFi measurement receiver!



After restarting the analyzer, the WiFi option is shown activated!



Five WiFi signals have been detected. Except for the local "linksys", all other come from the separate houses in the neighborhood!



Only the "linksys" network is strong enough for our notebook to link up

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Available online starting from 30 July 2010

Expert Opinion

+ Simple installation and usage. High sensitivity of the WiFi receiver.



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TELE-satellite
Test Center
Poland

- You cannot store the results in a log to monitor longer periods.