

Frsky V8HT Bind Board - yet another alternative!

Believe it or not some of us prefer the old V8 one-way modules and receivers to the newer D8 telemetry series. Now obsolete, the V8HT was slightly smaller and much easier to mount compared to all the dangly bits on a D8. Actually the D8's are being phased out now too, in favour of the X series, so stock up!

The standard bind-boards are messy, really messy in the case of the D8HT. I drew up some alternatives to the standard bind boards, detailed on the *S/C Archive* page, but what I always wanted was a red/green illuminated pushbutton. That would have made it so neat - actually Frsky welcomed the suggestion (as they have with previous ideas) but they found it wasn't economical.

Now I realise that as time marches on fewer and fewer people will be interested in this but I've just found another option for the V8HT.

Squirrel Labs (of the coloured header-pins) are listing a small, cheap, tactile microswitch button with an inbuilt LED.

<https://www.squirrel-labs.net/prototyping/buttons-switches/led-tact-buttons/12mm-x-12mm-x-7mm-tactile-switch-with-coloured-led-push-button-x-5.html>

It has only a single colour where the Frsky LED is red and green, but I don't find that a problem at all. During normal operation it still lights, during binding it still flashes - the only difference (I nearly said 'problem' - it isn't) is during low-power range-test mode, instead of lighting green, it stays out until you press to restore full power. This really isn't a problem at all - the led only goes out when you manually put it into range-check, otherwise it's either solid or flashing. If the led isn't on, you don't fly!

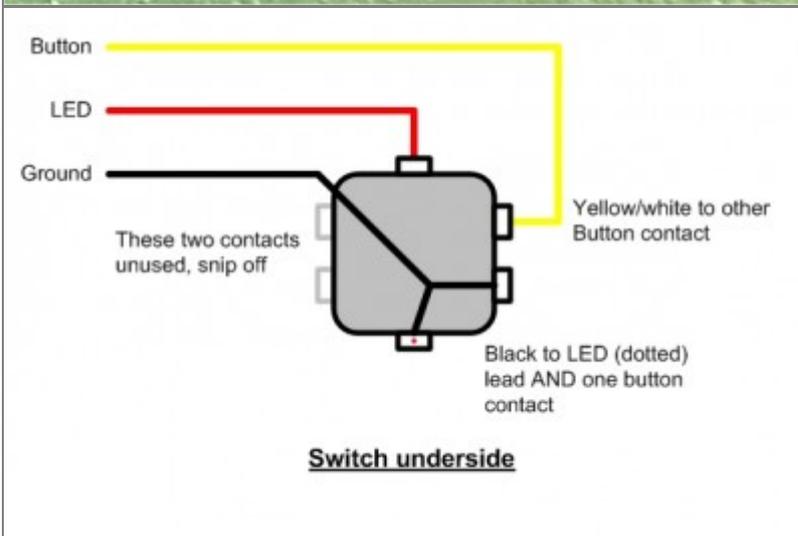
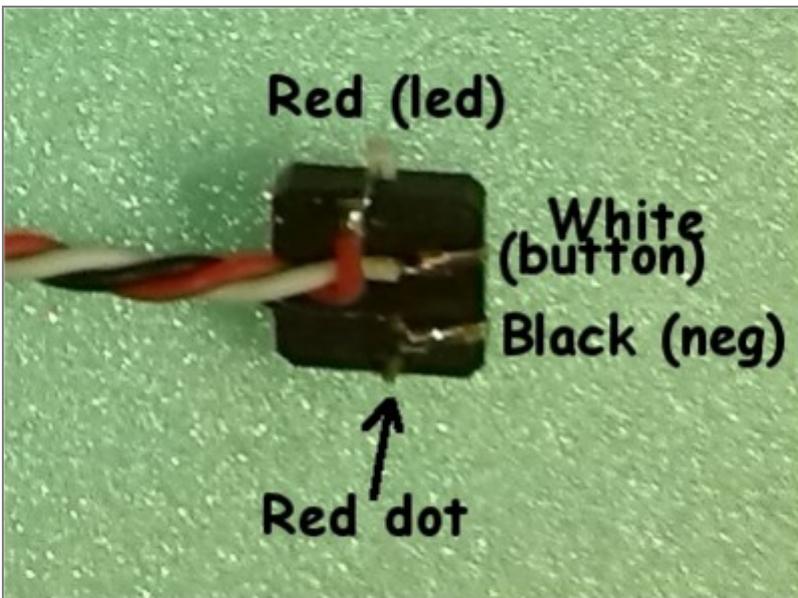
So here are the buttons as supplied by Squirrel. There are red ones, green, amber, blue & white.

I went with red:



As there's only one led rather than the usual two, we only have 3 wires back to the RF module, so lightweight servo cable is ideal.

Red is the LED (the end without the dot), black is the LED dotted end AND one contact of the button (see the joined contacts, bottom right corner of the switch) and white is the other button contact:



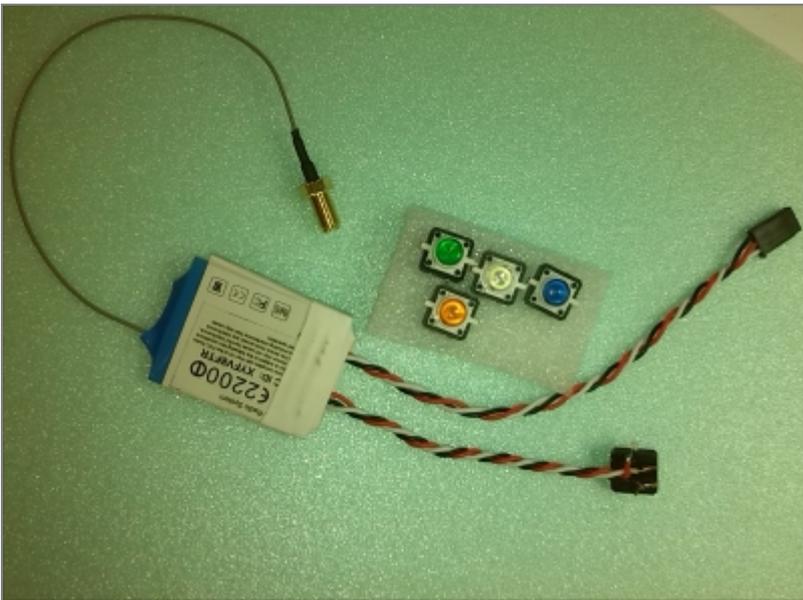
The heatshrink is carefully trimmed back and the Frsky mains wiring removed 😊 and we replace with our new button wires, black (neg) at the top, then red (led) miss a hole, then white (button). Whilst we're there we swap the heavyweight ppm & power cable too, noting that the order (unlike servo wire) is pos, neg ppm:



A cm or so of white heatshrink (I dont have any Frsky-blue!) and heres the finished job:



and from the underside:



The new button is simply mounted with a ring of POR (using contact method) through an 8mm panel hole, making a supremely neat job of what was the Frsky dogs breakfast of a binding arrangement. The button barely extends beyond the case - maybe a mm or so. Actually at 8mm its a tight friction fit and probably wouldn't need any other retention! How neat is this?



Note that this idea for the V8HT doesn't directly translate to the two-way D8HT though - the D8HT module pcb has no current limiting resistors for the LEDs, they're on the bind board itself, so you would have to incorporate the D8 circuitry into any alternative. Or keep the D8 bind board but extend the LED and button as I did on the Kraft Series 71.

Cheers

Phil_G