

Understanding Pro:Idiom® Signal Delivery When Your Cardio Equipment Lacks a Pro:Idiom Tuner

Overview

Many commercial TV providers use Pro:Idiom® encryption to protect premium content delivered over cable, satellite, or IPTV systems—particularly in fitness centers, hotels, and multi-unit dwellings. This encryption standard is required for legal and secure distribution of bulk video services.

However, most cardio equipment found in gyms and fitness facilities does not include a built-in Pro:Idiom® tuner. Fortunately, there are reliable solutions available to upgrade existing machines without the need for full replacement.

What Happens Without Pro:Idiom® Support?

When a cardio machine lacks Pro:Idiom compatibility, users may experience the following:

- A black or blank screen
- “Unauthorized” or “encryption error” messages
- Inability to change channels or adjust volume

The Solution: External Set-Top Box + Console Adapter Box (CAB)

To enable compatibility, each cardio machine can be connected to a Pro:Idiom-compatible external set-top box (STB). A Console Adapter Box (CAB) is then used to link the STB to the cardio console, allowing users to control the entertainment system directly from the machine—without external remotes.

Compatible Set-Top Boxes That Decrypt Pro:Idiom® Signals

Set-Top Box	Pro:Idiom Decryption	HDMI Output Required	Notes
ATX Visium SBB	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	QAM/IP input, compact design, IR or RS-232 control – HDMI output
Enseo SBB	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Common in hospitality settings; HDMI Output
LG STB-5500	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Designed for non-Pro:Idiom TVs; HDMI-only output

All three devices decrypt the Pro:Idiom signal internally and deliver video to the cardio machine via HDMI.

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Input Type Compatibility Overview

Set-Top Box	IP (Ethernet) Input	Coaxial (RF) Input	Pro:Idiom® Decryption	HDMI Output
ATX Visium SBB	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (QAM)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Enseo SBB	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
LG STB-5500	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (QAM/ATSC)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

What the CAB Does

The Console Adapter Box (CAB) acts as a control bridge between the cardio console and the set-top box. It allows users to:

- Change TV channels
- Adjust volume
- Control the entertainment experience directly from the console interface
- Eliminate the need for handheld remotes

System Setup Example

1. A Pro:Idiom-encrypted signal enters the facility via coax or IP.
2. The external set-top box receives and decrypts the signal.
3. HDMI connects the STB to the cardio machine's display.
4. The CAB connects the STB to the cardio console, enabling user control.

Each piece of cardio equipment requires one set-top box and one CAB for full functionality.

Important Notes

- The CAB does not decrypt content—it functions as a control interface only.
- HDMI is required from each STB to the cardio display.
- This configuration allows facilities to comply with content protection standards while continuing to use non-Pro:Idiom cardio equipment.

For more information:

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