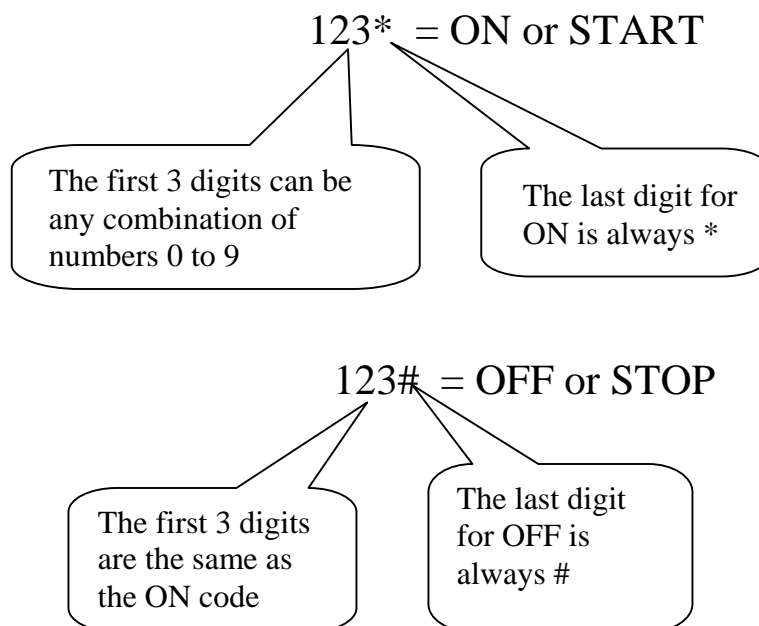


What are Cue Tones?

The Cue Tone system was devised by Monroe Electronics in the mid 1970's as a remote control system for some of the US cable TV program providers to allow them to signal their subs when they were starting programming and when they were shutting down for the day. In those days, most of the program providers were not continuously on-air for 24 hours. They thus needed a reliable system to notify subs when they started and stopped program feed. This automated system would also provide unattended switching capability to alternate program material at the local headend.

The system that Monroe proposed used audio tones in DTMF format. Each provider was assigned a DTMF sequence that consisted of two very similar control codes: one for ON or START and one for OFF or STOP. The control codes were each 4 digits long. The first 3 digits were any of the numbers 0 to 9. The fourth digit in the ON code is always *. The first 3 digits of the OFF code are the same as the first 3 digits of the ON code with the fourth digit always being #.

EXAMPLE



This system was adopted and is still in use today. And while most providers today have service 24/7, the Cue Tone system is more used today for commercial insertion to mark the beginning of the local commercial window with the Cue Tone audio residing on its own audio sub-carrier. A graphical representation of the Cue Tone system follows on the next page.

The Cue Tone System

