Sound Control Technologies

RC-SDA+™ Camera Bridge
Frequently Asked Questions
Tech Support: 203-854-5701

Q: What does the RC-SDA+™ do?

A: This module converts HDMI video and analog audio to USB for soft-codec applications. It also converts computer PTZ camera commands to RS232 signals recognized by Poly and VISCA cameras. Dual video output paths from the HDMI source are provided, as well as 2 independent RS232 control inputs to the attached camera. The system is optimized for use with Poly camera output and camera input requirements.

Q: Does the RC-SDA+™ actually translate between protocols?

A: It does! The RC-SDA+™ can translate VISCA PTZ commands from serial joystick controllers into Poly PTZ camera protocol. It also allows the translation of 3rd party control systems (e.g., Extron, Crestron, AMX) that have been coded with VISCA protocol to control Poly PTZ cameras.

Q: Why does the RC-SDA+™ have 2 HDMI outputs?

A: The RC-SDA™ makes 2 "copies" of the camera video signal input and sends those copies to the HDMI outputs. The Poly codec should always be connected to Output 1 to ensure compatibility. Output 2 can be connected to any 3rd party HDMI device.

Q: What are the RS232 inputs and outputs?

A: Via the SCT RCC-H030-1.0M cable, the RC-SDA+™ provides an RS232 port within the 60-pin Multi-Function connector to connect to an RC4-HE™ (Head-End Receiver) or RC7-HE™ (Head-End Receiver) allowing serial control of an attached camera or camera system. There is a "pass-through" RS232 input intended to come from a host codec camera control path.

There is also a 3-pin terminal block RS232 input intended to come from a VISCA camera controller or 3rd party control system to control the attached camera directly (camera control-code provided by others). When using a 3rd party control system make sure that the 3-pin terminal block mode is set to the same mode as the 3rd party protocol (Poly or VISCA).

Q: Does the RC-SDA™ support far-end camera-control (FECC)?

A: Yes, when used with a Poly codec as the primary host, the FECC is supported as a "pass-through" RS232 control channel to the camera. In this way, a control-system (specifically, Extron, Crestron, and AMX) may be used to directly control the camera, yet the control path from the codec to camera is not compromised.

Q: I'm not using a Poly codec and my EagleEye Director 2 (EED2) goes to sleep after 3 minutes. What can I do?

A: RC-SDA+™ has an intrinsic "keep awake" mode (called Director-II mode) for the EED2. It allows for a soft-codec environment or using the EED2 with a video switcher front-end to a video processor. Switch 5 should be in the ON (UP) position and switch 6 in the ON (UP) position to enable this mode.

Q: My control system doesn't act upon the attached Poly camera. What's wrong?

A: The control system communicating with the Poly camera must use the appropriate control codes for that camera. Poly uses a special communication language that is embedded in locked modules provided by AMX, Crestron, and Extron respectively. Also, make sure the control system's RS232 port is set to 9600 8/E/1, or there will be no communications to the Poly camera.

Q: What is the microSD slot for?

A: The microSD slot on the RC-SDA+™ allows for advanced configuration settings, field upgradable firmware, and diagnostics.

Q: What do the DIP switches do?

A: The following chart shows the functions of the 8 position DIP switch:

Switch	Function	OFF	ON
1	Audio OUT	USB Audio Port	USB Unified Port
2	3-Pin (RS232) Mode	9600, 8/N/1 (VISCA Protocol)	9600, 8/E/1 (POLY Protocol)
3	3-Pin (RS232) Listen Mode	RS232 responses from the camera are Disabled	RS232 responses from the camera are Enabled
4	Codec DB9 (RS232) Mode	9600, 8/N/1 (VISCA Protocol)	9600, 8/E/1 (POLY Protocol)
5	Multi-Function Connector (MFC) (RS232) Mode	9600, 8/N/1 (VISCA Protocol)	9600, 8/E/1 (POLY Protocol)
6	Poly Director-II Mode	Disabled	"Keep Alive" Enabled
7	Audio In	Multi-Function Connector (MFC)	3-Pin Terminal Block
8	Setting Mode	DIP Switches 1-7	Configuration File

Q: What exactly is "Setting Mode" (DIP switch 8)?

A: When DIP switch 8 is OFF (DOWN), the RC-SDA+™ settings are determined by DIP switches 1-7. When DIP switch 8 is ON (UP), the RC-SDA+™ settings are determined by a configuration file loaded by the installer. DIP switches 1-7 are ignored in this mode. The configuration file allows for more advanced settings. Refer to the "RC-SDA+ Config File Formatting Guide" at www.soundcontrol.net for details.

Q: What does the Camera button do?

A: When the Camera button is held, power is disconnected from the 60-pin Multi-Function Connector (MFC). This allows the user to remotely restart an HDCI powered camera, such as the Poly EagleEye IV.

Q: What does the Program button do?

A: The Program button is used to load configuration files, initiate firmware upgrades and write log files to the microSD card. Refer to the "RC-SDA+ microSD Function Guide" at www.soundcontrol.net for details.

Q: I'm installing in a secure environment. Are there any options to be in compliance?

A: Some secure environments don't allow memory card slots on devices. In the Tech Support Downloads section of www.soundcontrol.net there is a special version of Secure firmware that will completely and permanently disable the microSD slot. Note: This is not reversible.