Sound Control Technologies

RC-SDA Gen3™ Distribution Amplifier
Frequently Asked Questions
Tech Support: 203-854-5701

Q: What does the RC-SDA Gen3™ do?

A: This module provides dual output paths from the digital video source, plus provides 2 independent RS232 control inputs to the attached camera. The system is optimized for use with Poly camera output and camera input requirements.

Q: How does the Gen3 version differ from previous RC-SDA™ models?

A: There are several product enhancements in the RC-SDA Gen3™. One major improvement is support for 4K@60 HDMI video. Also, when using a Poly codec combined with multiple cameras and an HDMI switcher, we now support fast-resyncing of the video signal for a more seamless experience. We've also added additional SCT and VISCA/Poly translation commands for image flip, camera tracking, and power control.

Q: Why does the RC-SDA Gen3™ have 2 HDMI outputs?

A: The RC-SDA Gen3™ makes 2 "copies" of the digital 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 an external monitor or HDMI to USB video converter for soft codec applications.

Q: Can the RC-SDA Gen3™ translate between RS232 protocols?

A: Yes! The RC-SDA Gen3™ can translate from VISCA to Poly or Poly to VISCA. If you have a Poly codec and want to use a Sony camera, for example, set DIP switch 4 On and switch 5 Off per the DIP Switch chart on the following page.

Q: What VISCA commands can the RC-SDA Gen3™ translate to Poly?

A: The following table identifies which commands are translated:

Command Set	Command	VISCA Packet	Comments
Pan/Tilt	Left	81 01 06 01 vv ww 01 03 FF	vv: Pan Speed 01 (Slow) to 18 (Fast) ww: Tilt Speed 01 (Slow) to 14 (Fast)
	Right	81 01 06 01 vv ww 02 03 FF	
	Up	81 01 06 01 vv ww 03 01 FF	
	Down	81 01 06 01 vv ww 03 02 FF	
	Stop	81 01 06 01 vv ww 03 03 FF	
Zoom	Tele	81 01 04 07 2p FF	p: Zoom Speed. 0=Low, 7=High
	Wide	81 01 04 07 3p FF	
	Stop	81 01 04 07 00 FF	
Preset	Set	81 01 04 3F 01 0p FF	p: Preset number (=0 to 4)
	Recall	81 01 04 3F 02 0p FF	
Image Flip	On/Off	81 01 04 66 0p FF	p: 2=On, 3=Off
Power	On/Standby	81 01 04 00 0p FF	p: 2=On, 3=Standby

Q: What is the 3-pin RS232 terminal block used for?

A: This port is intended to connect to 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). Additionally, there are commands specific to the RC-SDA Gen3™ that can be found in the "SCT Programming Guide" in the Support section of www.soundcontrol.net.

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 Gen3™ has an intrinsic "keep awake" mode (called Director-II mode) for the EED2. It allows for a dual-use application of the camera system, such as transitioning to 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: I have changed the DIP switch settings, but nothing changes in the RC-SDA Gen3™. What's wrong?

A: The RC-SDA Gen3™ "reads" the DIP switch setting during the power-up initialization and at no other time. To change the RC-SDA Gen3™ mode of operation, one should remove power, change the switch setting, and then re-apply power.

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 and DIP switch 2 is ON (UP), or there will be no native communication to the Poly camera.

Q: What is the microSD slot for?

A: The microSD slot on the RC-SDA Gen3™ allows for 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	Reserved for future use		
2	3-Pin (RS232) Mode	9600, 8/N/1 (VISCA)	9600, 8/E/1 (POLY)
3	3-Pin 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)	9600, 8/E/1 (POLY)
5	Camera DB9 (RS232) Mode	9600, 8/N/1 (VISCA)	9600, 8/E/1 (POLY)
6	Poly Director-II Mode	Disabled	"Keep Alive" Enabled
7	Camera Supports Auto-Tracking	No	Yes
8	Reserved for future use – Keep in the OFF position		

Q: What do the S1 and S2 buttons do?

A: S1 and S2 are momentary pushbuttons on the front of the RC-SDA Gen3™. S1 triggers a camera reset and re-initializes the tracking mode of the EED2 when the RC-SDA Gen3™ is in Director-II mode.

S1 is also used to initiate firmware upgrades and write log files to the microSD card. Refer to the "RC-SDA Gen3 Firmware/Log Guide" at www.soundcontrol.net for details.

S2 is reserved for future use.

Q: I'm sharing the EED2 with a Poly codec and a soft codec PC application. Why does my EED2 camera keep shutting off and turning around backwards?

A: Your Poly codec may have a sleep timer set which causes the EED2 to sleep as well. You should turn off the sleep time in the codec web interface.

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

A: Some secure environments don't allow active 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.