



HDC User Group Newsletter No.6

*If you don't wish to receive this letter, or you know other people who might wish to receive it, please let me know: neil.thompson@eu.sony.com
Ideas or news for future editions also gratefully received.*

IBC News

As the show closes, a quick update on what's new:

HDC-1450

A new camera in the HDC-1500 series will be shown at IBC. It's kind of a de-featured version of the HDC-1550 triax camera. It's aimed at users with a triax infrastructure, looking for a lower cost camera. (Though with the triax –fibre converter that you need at the CCU end, it's not that much less than an HDC-1500.)

It's 50Hz only, in a similar way to the 60Hz only HDC-1400 available in the 60Hz world. Probably not of great interest to UK users, but just so you have the facts:

- Triax only, de-featured HDC-1550
- 1080i / 50 or 720P / 50 only
- Single filter wheel
- No digital extender/ camera genlock input / 2nd prompt channel / 2nd HDSDI o/p
- Available: Jan 08
- Price: HDC-1450 + HDFX-100 ~ £38K

HKC-T3300

T-series CCD blocks for cameras have always been part of the Sony lineup, and now in addition to the HKC-T1500 for the '1500 series camera, there's a T-series for HD Supermotion.

- Remote CCD block for Supermotion
- Max extension from camera is 12.5m
- Available: Jan 08
- Price: ~£17K



You'll still need a 3 channel HD disk recorder and the HDCU...so it may not be ideal for helicopter use!

OLED Display

We have been showing OLED display technology as a pointer to where viewfinder technology might go. Feedback has been very positive, but please remember, it's a long road from this kind of technology display to a finished product.

- Technology display only
- For use in future viewfinders.
- Lag free

No schedule or price yet.

HDLA-1507 Camera cradle

Another one joins the family...though this is a large lens adapter that won't work with large lenses. It's designed to support CRT viewfinders, but work with portable lenses. Shown here with the 9" colour CRT, it looks a bit better proportioned with the 7" monochrome CRT.

It's of the usual sturdy, if rather heavy, construction, and although a bit bulky width wise, it helps keep the length of the camera to a minimum by using the sliding mount for the viewfinder that allows you to move the viewfinder quite far forward. It's available now at a list price of about £10K.



Just to summarise all those HDLA thingummies:

HDLA-1500 Big Lens CRT Viewfinder
 HDLA-1505 Big Lens LCD Viewfinder
 HDLA-1507 Portable Lens CRT Viewfinder

The ones with a /B suffix are the black version rather than the light grey ones.

Supermotion, shutter and viewfinders

Supermotion cameras are often used with a shutter, typically about 1/125 sec. If you're operating the camera, the viewfinder feed is actually generated in the CCU from a mix of the three different phases. The way this viewfinder mix is created affects motion artefacts in the viewfinder.

In the configuration menu of the CCU you can change the CAMERA VF mode to C-LINK. This seems to work best for the operators, particularly on cricket.

C04 I/F SETUP

<I/F SETUP> ?C04 TOP		BOARD	FRONT / REAR	Detects and displays the board attached to front/rear of Slots DPR A or Slots 1 to 3.
BOARD FRONT	REAR	SSM-A	BOARD NAME DISPLAY	
SSM-A: DPR-271A =>	HIF-27	SSM-B	BOARD NAME DISPLAY	
SSM-B: DPR-271A =>	HIF-27	SSM-C	BOARD NAME DISPLAY	
SSM-C: DPR-271A =>	HIF-27	SLOT1	BOARD NAME DISPLAY	
SLOT1: DPR-271B =>	HIF-27	SLOT2	BOARD NAME DISPLAY	
SLOT2: DRX-5 =>	HIF-26	SLOT3	BOARD NAME DISPLAY	
SLOT3: EN-159A =>	VDA-64A			
CAMERA VF :	NORMAL	CAMERA VF	NORMAL /C-LINK	Selects the video to repeat to the camera VF.
REAR PREVIEW :=>	MOMENTARY	REAR PREVIEW	MOMENTARY / TOGGLE	Selects the operation mode of the REAR PREVIEW output.

Supermotion, latest System Software

If you've had HDCU-3300 Supermotion base stations upgraded to V1.10, then I'm afraid to say there was a bug in this version. Very occasionally...maybe once in 24 hours use, a frame of colour bars, or a frame of gray may appear. You probably won't see it on the main camera output, only on the slo-mo replay. We did hope this would be fixed by V1.11 but this appears not to be the case. Please let us know if you see a frame of bars on your Supermotion output.

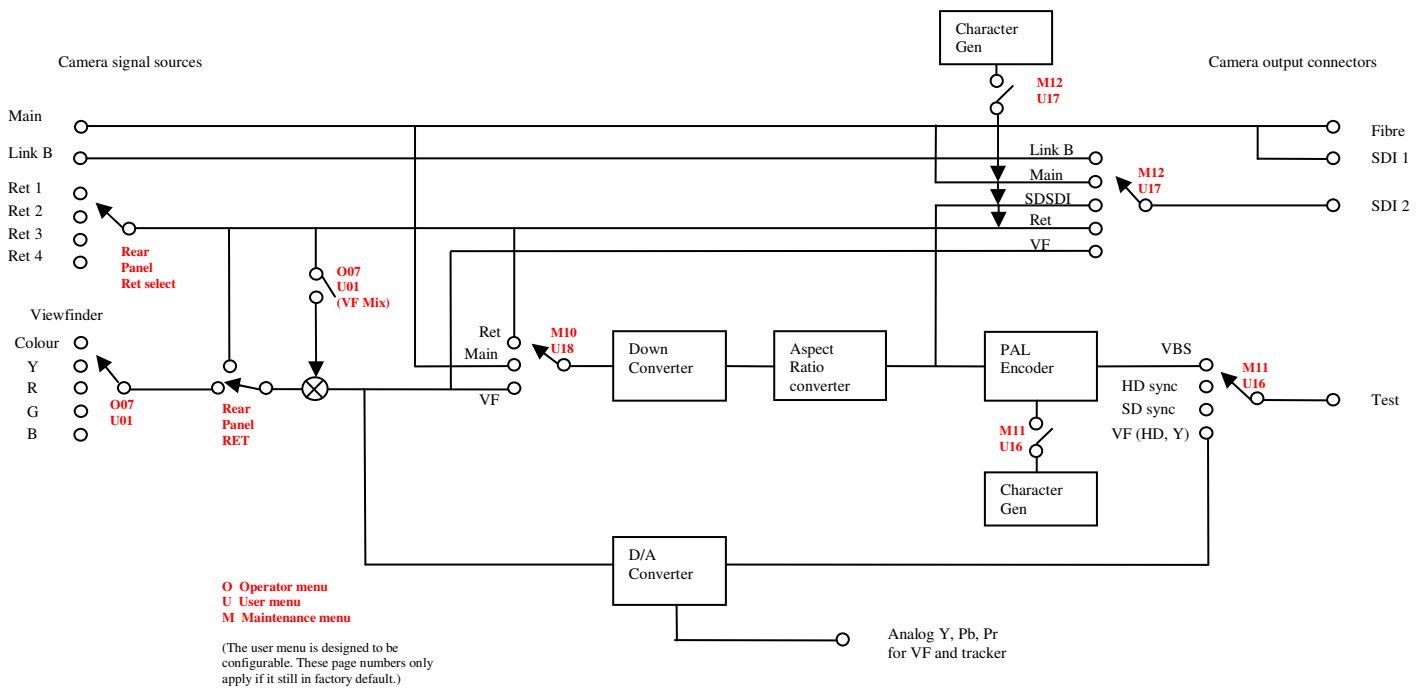
Fibre Cables

During the recent slightly damp Summer, we've had some reports of cables showing a short circuit warning, which goes away if it's possible to dry the cables out. Kevin in our service team has been gathering information on this, and we will be talking to cable and connector manufacturers to see how best to address this. In the meantime, if you have comments or even advice please let Kevin.Holt@eu.sony.com know.

Camera head outputs

I can never work out from the menus what it is possible to see from each of the video outputs from the camera head, and how to switch these outputs. I've drawn a diagram that shows you what signals are available, and how to switch them. Reach for your laminator.

HDC-1500 Monitoring



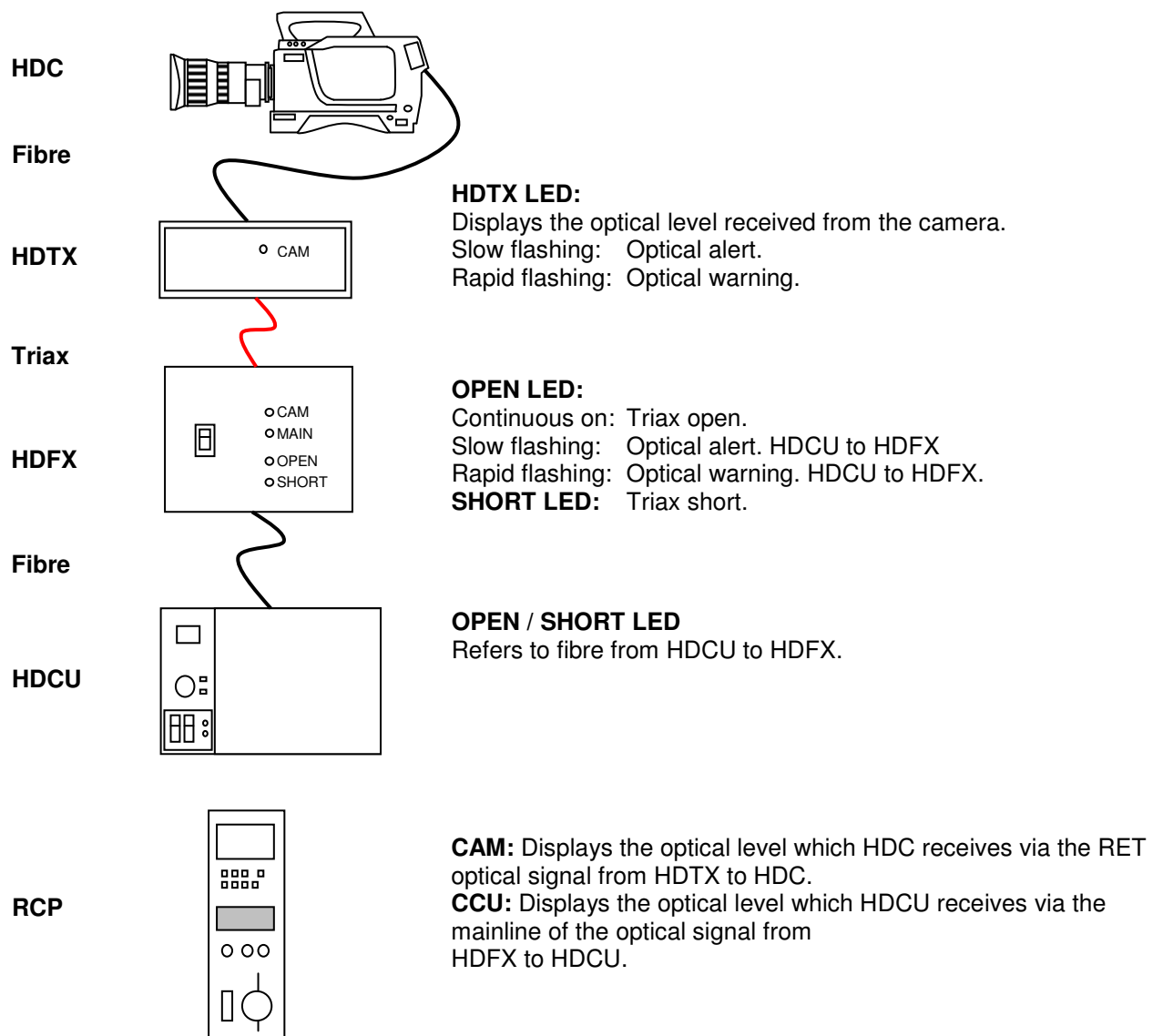
This diagram is also attached with the newsletter as a separate file. Please let me know if you find any errors.

Optical Condition displays when using Triax / Fibre converters

When using fibre / triax converters it's not easy to work out what the various warning systems are telling you if there's a cable fault.

You might assume that the optical condition meters that are available on the RCP and MSU are just telling you about the condition of the first fibre cable from the HDCU to the HDFX...not terribly helpful, as this is usually a 10m short end. In fact the CAM: level is measuring the optical level over the cable from HDTX to camera, which is a lot more useful. Warning lamps on the converters themselves also give information about optical level on their attached cables.

Please let me know if your experience differs from the information below!



Optical level meters

Just a reminder where to find this display on the MSU.

Press the FUNCTION button, at the top of the row of buttons to the left of the touch screen, and the optical meters are in the OPERATION page.

SD Matrix

On the subject of hard to find functions on the MSU...the SD matrix switch is also accessed via the FUNCTION button, and then by the second page of SW (itches). If you change this switch, you'll also see one of the unlabelled function switches light up on the MSU. You can also turn the SD matrix on and off with this switch.

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Sony UK Technical Services Group Helpdesk: 01256 828828
The helpdesk is the central point for contacting the Technical Services Group.

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