



Princeton Instruments

MicroMAX System



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Table of Contents

Chapter 1 Introduction	11
Introduction.....	11
MicroMAX System Components	11
Overview	11
Camera	12
Controller	13
Applications	13
Computer Requirements	13
About this Manual	14
Manual Organization.....	14
Safety Related Symbols Used in This Manual.....	15
Environmental Conditions	15
Grounding and Safety	16
Precautions.....	16
Repairs	16
Cleaning	17
Camera and Controller	17
Optical Surfaces	17
Roper Scientific Customer Service.....	17
Chapter 2 Installation Overview	19
Chapter 3 System Setup	21
Unpacking the System	21
Checking the Equipment and Parts Inventory	21
Power Requirements	22
Verifying Controller Voltage Setting	22
Mounting the Camera	23
General	23
Mounting the Lens	23
Mounting to a Microscope	24
Mounting to a Spectrometer.....	27
Installing the Application Software.....	28
Installing the Interface Card	28
Installing the PCI Card Driver	29
Selecting the Shutter Setting.....	30
Connecting the TAXI [®] (Controller-Computer) Cable	30
Connecting the Detector-Controller Cable or the Camera Power/Camera Signal Cables	31
Chapter 4 Operation	33
Introduction.....	33
EMF and Xenon or Hg Arc Lamps.....	33
Vacuum.....	33

Cooling	33
Setting the Temperature	34
Temperature Stabilization	34
Baseline Signal	34
Imaging Field of View	35
RS-170 or CCIR Video	35
First Light (Imaging)	37
Assumptions	38
Cabling	38
Getting Started	39
Setting the Parameters	39
Focusing	40
Acquiring Data	42
First Light (Spectroscopy)	42
Assumptions	43
Cabling	43
Getting Started	43
Setting the Parameters	43
Focusing	44
Acquiring Data	46
Chapter 5 Timing Modes	47
Full Speed or Safe Mode	47
Standard Timing Modes	48
Free Run	48
External Sync	50
External Sync with Continuous Cleans	52
Frame Transfer Operation	53
Interline Operation	55
Operating Modes	55
Timing Options in Overlapped Readout Mode	56
Chapter 6 Exposure and Readout	59
Exposure	59
Exposure with an Interline Array	60
Exposure with a Mechanical Shutter	60
Exposure with an Image Intensifier	61
Continuous Exposure (no shuttering)	61
Saturation	62
Dark Charge	62
Array Readout	63
Full Frame	63
Frame Transfer	65
Interline	66
Binning	69
Digitization	72
Dual A/D Converters	72
Chapter 7 MicroMAX DIF Camera (Double Image Feature)	75
Introduction	75

Timing Modes.....	76
Free Run.....	76
IEC (Internal Exposure Control).....	78
EEC (External Exposure Control).....	80
ESABI (Electronic Shutter Active Between Images).....	81
Tips and Tricks.....	82
Lab Illumination.....	82
Background Subtraction.....	82
Flatfield Correction.....	83
Mask Bleed-Through Correction.....	83
Chapter 8 TTL Control.....	85
Introduction.....	85
TTL In.....	85
Buffered vs. Latched Inputs.....	86
TTL Out.....	86
TTL Diagnostics Screen.....	87
Hardware Interface.....	87
Example.....	88
Chapter 9 System Component Descriptions.....	89
MicroMAX Camera.....	89
ST-133A Controller.....	92
Cables.....	96
Interface Card.....	97
Application Software.....	97
User Manuals.....	97
Chapter 10 Troubleshooting.....	99
Introduction.....	99
Baseline Signal Suddenly Changes.....	100
Changing the ST-133A's Line Voltage and Fuses.....	100
Controller Is Not Responding.....	101
Cooling Troubleshooting.....	101
Temperature Lock cannot be Achieved or Maintained.....	101
Detector loses Temperature Lock.....	102
Gradual Deterioration of Cooling Capability.....	102
Detector Stops Working.....	102
Error occurs at Computer Powerup.....	103
Removing/Installing a Plug-In Module.....	105
Shutter Malfunctions.....	106
Appendix A Specifications.....	107
CCD Arrays.....	107
Spectral Range.....	107
Types.....	107
Temperature Control.....	108
Cooling.....	108
Mounting.....	108
Shutters.....	108

Inputs	109
Outputs.....	109
Programmable Interface.....	109
A/D Converter	109
Computer Requirements	109
Miscellaneous	110
Appendix B Outline Drawings.....	111
Appendix C Kinetics Mode	119
Introduction.....	119
Kinetic Timing Modes.....	120
Free Run	120
Single Trigger.....	121
Multiple Trigger	121
Appendix D Virtual Chip Mode.....	123
Introduction.....	123
Virtual Chip Setup	124
Introduction	124
Equipment:	124
Software:	124
Assumptions:.....	125
System Connection Diagram:.....	125
Procedure:	125
Experimental Timing.....	128
Virtual Chip dialog box	128
Tips	129
Appendix E Repumping the Vacuum.....	131
Introduction.....	131
Requirements	131
Vacuum Pumpdown Procedure	132
Appendix F Spectrometer Adapters	135
Chromex 250 IS (NTE with or without shutter).....	136
ISA HR 320 (NTE with or without shutter)	137
ISA HR 640 (NTE with or without shutter)	138
JY TRIAX family (NTE without shutter).....	139
SPEX 270M (NTE with or without shutter).....	140
SPEX 500M (NTE with or without shutter).....	141
SPEX TripleMate (NTE with or without shutter)	142
Declarations of Conformity	143
1 MHz Round Head (RTE) Systems.....	144
5 MHz Round Head (RTE) Systems.....	145
1 MHz Rectangular Head (NTE) Systems.....	146
Warranty & Service	147
Limited Warranty: Roper Scientific Analytical Instrumentation.....	147
Basic Limited One (1) Year Warranty	147

Limited One (1) Year Warranty on Refurbished or Discontinued Products	147
Normal Wear Item Disclaimer.....	147
VersArray (XP) Vacuum Chamber Limited Lifetime Warranty.....	148
Sealed Chamber Integrity Limited 24 Month Warranty.....	148
Vacuum Integrity Limited 24 Month Warranty	148
Image Intensifier Detector Limited One Year Warranty.....	148
X-Ray Detector Limited One Year Warranty	148
Software Limited Warranty	148
Owner's Manual and Troubleshooting	149
Your Responsibility.....	149
Contact Information.....	150

Index151

Figures

Figure 1. MicroMAX Cameras and Controller	11
Figure 2. Standard System Diagram.....	20
Figure 3. 5 MHz System Diagram.....	20
Figure 4. Controller Power Input Module	22
Figure 5. Bottom Clamps.....	26
Figure 6. Bottom Clamp secured to Relay Lens.....	27
Figure 7. WinView Installation: Interface Card Driver Selection.....	28
Figure 8. Shutter Setting for 25mm Internal Shutter	30
Figure 9. Imaging Field of View	35
Figure 10. Monitor Display of CCD Image Center Area	36
Figure 11. Standard System Connection Diagram.....	37
Figure 12. 5 MHz System Diagram	38
Figure 13. F-mount Focus Adjustment	42
Figure 14. Chart of Full Speed (Synchronous) and Safe (Asynchronous) Operation	49
Figure 15. Free Run Timing Chart (part of the chart in Figure 14).....	50
Figure 16. Free Run Timing Diagram	50
Figure 17. Chart Showing Two External Sync Timing Options	51
Figure 18. External Sync Timing Diagram.....	51
Figure 19. Continuous Cleans Flowchart	52
Figure 20. Continuous Cleans Timing Diagram.....	53
Figure 21. Frame Transfer where $t_{w1} + t_{exp} + t_c < t_R$	54
Figure 22. Frame Transfer where $t_{w1} + t_{exp} + t_c > t_R$	55
Figure 23. Frame Transfer where Pulse arrives after Readout.....	55
Figure 24. Overlapped Mode where $t_{w1} + t_{exp} + t_c < t_R$	57
Figure 25. Overlapped Mode where $t_{w1} + t_{exp} + t_c > t_R$	57
Figure 26. Overlapped Mode where Pulse arrives after Readout.....	58
Figure 27. Block Diagram of Light Path in System.....	59
Figure 28. CCD Exposure with Shutter Compensation.....	61
Figure 29. Full Frame at Full Resolution	63
Figure 30. Frame Transfer Readout.....	65
Figure 31. Overlapped Mode Exposure and Readout.....	67
Figure 32. Non-Overlapped Mode Exposure and Readout.....	68
Figure 33. 2×2 Binning for Full Frame CCD	70
Figure 34. 2×2 Binning for Interline CCD	71
Figure 35. Free Run Mode Timing Diagram	77

Figure 36. Setup using READY to Trigger an Event.....	77
Figure 37. Timing for Experiment Setup shown in Figure 36.....	77
Figure 38. Timing Diagram for Typical IEC Measurement	79
Figure 39. Setup for IEC Experiment with Two Lasers	79
Figure 40. Timing Diagram for IEC Experiment with Two Lasers.....	79
Figure 41. Another Hardware Setup for an IEC Measurement	80
Figure 42. EEC Timing Example with Exposure Time in Software Set to t_{exp}	81
Figure 43. ESABI Timing Example: Image Exposure time = t_{exp} set in software	82
Figure 44. TTL In/Out Connector	87
Figure 45. Controller Front Panel.....	92
Figure 46. ST-133A Rear Panel.....	93
Figure 47. SCAN and SHUTTER MONITOR Signals.....	96
Figure 48. Power Input Module.....	100
Figure 49. Fuse Holder	100
Figure 50. Module Installation	105
Figure 51. ST-133A Controller Dimensions	111
Figure 52. Rectangular Camera Head: C-Mount	112
Figure 53. Rectangular Camera Head: F-Mount	113
Figure 54. Rectangular Camera Head: Spectroscopy Mount with Shutter.....	114
Figure 55. Rectangular Camera Head: Spectroscopy Mount without Shutter	115
Figure 56. 1 MHz and 100kHz/1MHz Round Head Camera: C-Mount Adapter and Shutter.....	116
Figure 57. 5 MHz Round Head Camera: C-Mount Adapter.....	117
Figure 58. 1 MHz Round Head Camera: F-Mount Adapter	118
Figure 59. Kinetics Readout	119
Figure 60. Hardware Setup dialog box	120
Figure 61. Experiment Setup dialog box	120
Figure 62. Free Run Timing Diagram	121
Figure 63. Single Trigger Timing Diagram.....	121
Figure 64. Multiple Trigger Timing Diagram	122
Figure 65. Virtual Chip Functional Diagram.....	123
Figure 66. System Diagram	125
Figure 67. Virtual Chip dialog box.....	128
Figure 68. Vacuum Connector Required for Pumping.....	132
Figure 69. Removing the Back Panel	132
Figure 70. Attaching the Vacuum Connector	133
Figure 71. Opening the Camera to the Vacuum System.....	133

Tables

Table 1. Bottom Clamps for Different Microscopes	26
Table 2. PCI Driver File Locations.....	29
Table 3. ST-133A Shutter Setting Selection	30
Table 4. Camera Timing Modes	47
Table 5. Approximate Readout Time for the Full-Frame CCD Array	64
Table 6. Approximate Readout Time for the Frame-Transfer CCD Array	65
Table 7. Approximate Readout Time for the Interline CCD Arrays	69
Table 8. Readout Rates for PI 1300 × 1030 Array at 1 MHz	69
Table 9. Well Capacity for some CCD Arrays	72

Table 10. Bit Values with Decimal Equivalents: 1 = High, 0 = Low.....	86
Table 11. TTL In/Out Connector Pinout	87
Table 12. ST-133A Shutter Drive Selection.....	95
Table 13. I/O Address & Interrupt Assignments before Installing Serial Card.....	103
Table 14. I/O Address & Interrupt Assignments after Installing Serial Card	104
Table 15. MicroMAX:512BFT: Virtual Chip Size, Exposure Time, and Frames per Second	124

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Introduction

Introduction

The Princeton Instruments MicroMAX system is a high-speed, low-noise CCD camera system designed for demanding imaging applications and is an optimal system for use in fluorescence microscopy applications such as high-resolution immunofluorescence, FISH or GFP imaging. The MicroMAX system incorporates a compact camera head, cooled CCD, advanced exposure-control timing, video output, and sophisticated readout capabilities.

Among the advantages of the MicroMAX concept are the range of CCD arrays available and the built-in video output mode. The system can be configured either with a variety of interline CCDs to provide true 12-bit images at a readout rate of up to 5 million pixels per second, or with a number of back-illuminated CCDs to provide true 16-bit images. The built-in video output mode simplifies setup and focusing on the microscope. The combination of the MicroMAX system with one of a variety of specialty software packages results in a powerful digital imaging system that can meet most experimental needs.

MicroMAX System Components

Overview

The MicroMAX imaging system consists of a camera (either a round head or a rectangular head depending on application), controller, digital interface card, a computer, cables, manuals, and application software. Together, these components allow you to acquire quantitative digital data under very low light imaging conditions. Each component is optimized for its specific function. In operation, data acquired by the camera is routed to the controller and from there to the computer for processing and display. A composite video output allows immediate viewing of the acquired images on a separate monitor. The application software (for example, Princeton Instruments WinView/32) allows the computer to control both the system configuration and data acquisition.



Figure 1. MicroMAX Cameras and Controller

Camera

Introduction: The function of the camera is to collect very low intensity light and convert the energy into a quantitative, electronic signal (photo-electrons) over a two dimensional space. To do this, light from the subject is focused onto a CCD array, which accumulates photoelectrons for the exposure time. At the end of the exposure time, the image thus formed is read out. The accumulated charge on each cell of the array is transferred out of the CCD array, amplified, and sent to the controller as an analog signal, where it is digitized prior to transfer to the computer.

The camera is highly integrated, containing the shutter (if applicable) and thermoelectric cooler with optional forced-air supplemental cooling in a single, shielded housing. Surface mount electronic technology is used wherever possible, giving a compact package with uncompromising performance.

Depending on your application, the camera included in your MicroMAX system will be either a compact round camera head or a high performance, cooled, rectangular camera head. The round head features interline CCDs; its small size ensures that the camera can be mounted on virtually any microscope port, including those found on inverted microscopes. The rectangular head features back-illuminated CCDs with frame transfer readout.

At the heart of the camera is the CCD array centered on the optic axis. Available formats include the:

- EEV CCD57-10, 512×512, 13×13μm pixels for the MicroMAX:512BFT
- EEV CCD47-10, 1024×1024, 13×13μm pixels for the MicroMAX:1024B
- Sony ICX075, 782×582, 8.3× 8.3μm pixels for the MicroMAX:782Y and the MicroMAX:782YHS systems
- Sony ICX061, 1300×1030, 6.7× 6.7μm pixels for the MicroMAX:1300Y, the MicroMAX:1300YHS, and MicroMAX:1300YHS-DIF systems

A special clocking mode to minimize background signal is supported. *See the Roper Scientific brochures and data sheets for detailed specifications.*

Cooling System: MicroMAX cameras have a multi-stage Peltier type cooler that is thermally coupled to the CCD surface. Heat is sequentially transferred through the Peltier stages and from there to the outer shell of the camera via a heat transfer block. This cooling system allows the camera to maintain CCD temperature of typically -15°C for round cameras head and -45°C for rectangular camera heads. Cameras equipped with a fan assembly can reach lower CCD temperatures for reduced thermal noise and extended exposure times.

Low Noise Readout: In order to achieve a low-noise readout of the CCD, several design features have been implemented. These include cooling the preamplifier on the CCD, isolating circuits to prevent electronic crosstalk and minimizing the path lengths of critical electronic circuits. The net result of these design features is the lowest available readout noise at the highest speed possible for these CCDs.

Controller

Data Conversion: The controller accepts the analog data and converts it to digital data using specially designed, low-noise electronics supporting scientific grade 12- or 16-bit Analog to Digital (A/D) converters.

The standard MicroMAX Controller enables both high-speed and high-precision readout capabilities. It can collect 16-bit images at a readout rate of up to 1 million pixels per second (1 MHz) in the high-speed mode or at 100 thousand pixels per second (100 kHz) in the optional precision mode (16-bit). Switching between the two modes is under software control for total experiment automation.

The 5 MHz MicroMAX Controller provides 12-bit digitization at 5 MHz., resulting in a frame readout time of 0.33 seconds per full frame.

Modular Design: In addition to containing the power supplies, the controller contains the analog and digital electronics, scan control and exposure timing hardware, and system I/O connectors, all mounted on user-accessible plug-in modules. The design is highly modularized for flexibility and convenient servicing.

Flexible Readout: There is provision for extremely flexible readout of the CCD. Readout modes supported include full resolution, simultaneous multiple subimages, and nonuniform binning. Single or multiple software-defined regions of interest can also be tested without having to digitize all the pixels of the array

High Speed Data Transfer: Data is transferred directly to the host computer memory via a high-speed serial link. A proprietary Interface card places the data from the controller directly into the host computer RAM using Direct Memory Access (DMA). The DMA transfer process ensures that the data arrives at sufficiently high speed to prevent data loss from the controller. Since the data transfer rate is much higher than the output rate from the A/D, the latter becomes the data acquisition rate-limiting factor. Once the digital data is in RAM, the image acquisition program can transfer the image into its own working RAM for viewing and further processing.

Note: A frame buffer with standard composite video, either RS-170 (EIA) or CCIR, whichever was ordered, is also provided.

Applications

With its small size, fully integrated design, cooled CCD and temperature control, advanced exposure control timing, and sophisticated readout capabilities, the MicroMAX system is well suited to both general macro imaging and microscopy applications.

Computer Requirements

Note: Computers and operating systems all undergo frequent revision. The following information is only intended to give an approximate indication of the computer requirements. Please contact the factory to determine your specific needs.

Computer Type: Any Pentium® (or better) PC or Macintosh® computer having a free PCI slot.

Memory (RAM): Minimum of 32 Mbytes; possibly more depending on experiment design and size of CCD Array.

Operating System: Windows® 95/ME/2000/XP or Windows NT®

Interface: PCI High-Speed Serial I/O card. *Computers purchased from Roper Scientific as part of the MicroMAX system are shipped with the card installed.*

Computer Monitor: Super VGA monitor with 256 color graphics card and at least 512 kbytes of memory.

Mouse: Two-button Microsoft®-compatible serial mouse or Logitech three-button serial/bus mouse.

About this Manual

Manual Organization

This manual provides the user with all the information needed to install a MicroMAX camera and place it in operation. Topics covered include a detailed description of the camera, installation, cleaning, specifications and more.

Chapter 1, Introduction briefly describes the MicroMAX family of cameras; details the structure of this manual; and documents environmental, storage, and cleaning requirements.

Chapter 2, Installation Overview cross-references system setup actions with relevant manuals and/or manual pages. It also contains system layout diagrams.

Chapter 3, System Setup provides detailed directions for interconnecting the system components.

Chapter 4, Operation discusses number of topics, including temperature control, vacuum degradation, and sensitivity to damage from EMF spikes generated by Xenon or Hg arc lamps. Includes step-by-step directions for verifying system operation.

Chapter 5, Timing Modes discusses the basic Controller timing modes and related topics, including Synchronous vs. Asynchronous, Free Run, External Sync, Continuous, Frame Transfer, and Interline operation.

Chapter 6, Exposure and Readout discusses Exposure and Readout, together with many peripheral topics, including: shuttered and unshuttered exposure; saturation; dark charge; full frame, interline, and frame-transfer readout; and binning.

Chapter 7, MicroMAX DIF Camera (Double Image Feature) describes DIF (Dual Image Feature) camera and its operation.

Chapter 8, TTL Control provides information about how to use the TTL connector on the rear of the controller.

Chapter 9, System Component Descriptions provides descriptions of each system component.

Chapter 10, Troubleshooting provides courses of action to take if you should have problems with your system.

Appendix A, Specifications includes controller and camera specifications.

Appendix B, Outline Drawings includes outline drawings of the MicroMAX cameras and the ST-133A Controller.

Appendix C, Kinetics Mode describes how to set up and acquire data with the Kinetics option, which allows frame transfer CCDs to take time-resolved images/spectra.

Appendix D, Virtual Chip Mode describes how to set up and use the Virtual Chip option, a special fast-acquisition technique.

Appendix E, Repumping the Vacuum explains how to restore the 1 MHz or 100kHz/1MHz round head camera's vacuum if that vacuum has deteriorated over time.

Appendix F, Spectrometer Adapters provides mounting instructions for the spectrometer adapters available for MicroMAX rectangular head (NTE) cameras.

Declarations of Conformity contains the Declarations of Conformity for 1 MHz (includes 100 kHz/1MHz) and 5 MHz MicroMAX systems.

Warranty and Service provides the Roper Scientific warranty and customer support contact information.

Safety Related Symbols Used in This Manual



Caution! The use of this symbol on equipment indicates that one or more nearby items should not be operated without first consulting the manual. The same symbol appears in the manual adjacent to the text that discusses the hardware item(s) in question.



Caution! Risk of electric shock! The use of this symbol on equipment indicates that one or more nearby items pose an electric shock hazard and should be regarded as potentially dangerous. This same symbol appears in the manual adjacent to the text that discusses the hardware item(s) in question.

Environmental Conditions

- Storage temperature: < 55°C
- Operating environment: 0°C to 30°C
- Relative humidity: ≤50%, non-condensing.

Grounding and Safety

The apparatus described in this manual is of the Class I category as defined in IEC Publication 348 (Safety Requirements for Electronic Measuring Apparatus). It is designed for indoor operation only. Before turning on the controller, the ground prong of the power cord plug must be properly connected to the ground connector of the wall outlet. The wall outlet must have a third prong, or must be properly connected to an adapter that complies with these safety requirements.

WARNING

If the equipment is damaged, the protective grounding could be disconnected. Do *not* use damaged equipment until its safety has been verified by authorized personnel. Disconnecting the protective earth terminal, inside or outside the apparatus, or any tampering with its operation is also prohibited.

Inspect the supplied power cord. If it is not compatible with the power socket, replace the cord with one that has suitable connectors on both ends.

WARNING

Replacement power cords or power plugs must have the same polarity as that of the original ones to avoid hazard due to electrical shock.

Precautions

To prevent permanently damaging the system, please observe the following precautions:

- Always switch off and unplug the ST-133A Controller before changing your system configuration in any way.
- Never remove the camera's front window, as it is necessary to maintain vacuum (or to maintain a dry nitrogen environment).
- The CCD array is very sensitive to static electricity. Touching the CCD can destroy it. Operations requiring contact with the device can only be performed at the factory.
- Never operate the camera cooled without proper evacuation or backfill. This could damage the CCD!
- Never connect or disconnect any cable while the MicroMAX system is powered on. Reconnecting a charged cable may damage the CCD.
- Never prevent the free flow of air through the equipment by blocking the air vents.

Repairs

Repairs must be done by Roper Scientific. If your system hardware needs repair, contact Roper Scientific Customer Service. Please save the original packing material so you can safely ship the system to another location or return it for repairs.

Cleaning

WARNING! Turn off all power to the equipment and secure all covers before cleaning the units. Otherwise, damage to the equipment or personal injury could occur.

Camera and Controller

Although there is no periodic maintenance that *must* be performed on the camera or the ST-133A Controller, you may clean these components from time to time by wiping them down with a clean damp cloth. This operation should only be done on the external surfaces and with all covers secured. In dampening the cloth, use clean water only. No soap, solvents or abrasives should be used. Not only are they not required, but they could damage the finish of the surfaces on which they are used.

Optical Surfaces

Optical surfaces may need to be cleaned due to the accumulation of atmospheric dust. We advise that the *drag-wipe* technique be used. This involves dragging a clean cellulose lens tissue dampened with clean anhydrous methanol over the optical surface to be cleaned. Do not allow any other material to touch the optical surfaces.

Roper Scientific Customer Service

Refer to the contact information located on page 150 of this manual.

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Chapter 2

Installation Overview

The list and diagrams below briefly describe the sequence of actions required to hookup your system and prepare to gather data. Refer to the indicated references for more detailed information. This list assumes that the application software is Princeton Instruments WinView/32.

Action	Reference
1. If the system components have not already been unpacked, unpack them and inspect their carton(s) and the system components for in-transit damage. Store the packing materials.	Chapter 3 System Setup, page 21
2. Verify that all system components have been received.	Chapter 3 System Setup, page 21
3. If the components show no signs of damage, verify that the appropriate voltage settings have been selected for the Controller.	Chapter 3 System Setup, page 22
4. If the WinView/32 software is not already installed in the host computer, install it. This will install the appropriate drivers for the interface card.	WinView/32 manual
5. If using a microscope or spectrometer, mount the Camera.	Chapter 3 System Setup, page 24 or 27
6. If the appropriate interface card is not already installed in the host computer, install it.	Chapter 3 System Setup, page 28
7. With the Controller and computer power turned OFF, connect the TAXI® cable to the Controller and the interface card in the host computer. Then tighten down the locking hardware.	Chapter 3 System Setup, page 30
8. With the Controller power turned OFF, make the camera-to-controller connections to the back of the Controller. If making connections for a 5 MHz system, hook up the 15-pin Power cable before the 40-pin Signal cable (<i>the right angle connectors attach to the camera</i>). Secure the latch(es) to lock the cable connection(s).	Chapter 3 System Setup, page 31
9. With the Controller power turned OFF, make the camera-to-controller connections to the back of the Camera. If making connections for a 5 MHz system, hook up the 15-pin Power cable before the 40-pin Signal cable (<i>the right angle connectors attach to the camera</i>). Secure the latch(es) to lock the cable connection(s).	Chapter 3 System Setup, page 31
10. With the Controller power turned OFF, connect the Controller power cable to the rear of the controller and to the power source.	

Action	Reference
11. If using a microscope Xenon or an Hg arc lamp, turn it on before turning on the controller and host computer.	Chapter 4 Operation, page 33
12. Turn the Controller ON.	
13. Turn on the computer and begin running WinView/32.	WinView/32 manual
14. Enter the hardware setup information or load the defaults from the controller.	Chapter 4 Operation, page 39
15. Set the target array temperature.	Chapter 4 Operation, page 33
16. When the system reaches temperature lock, begin acquiring data in focus mode.	Chapter 4 Operation, page 37
17. Adjust the focus for the image.	Chapter 4 Operation, page 40

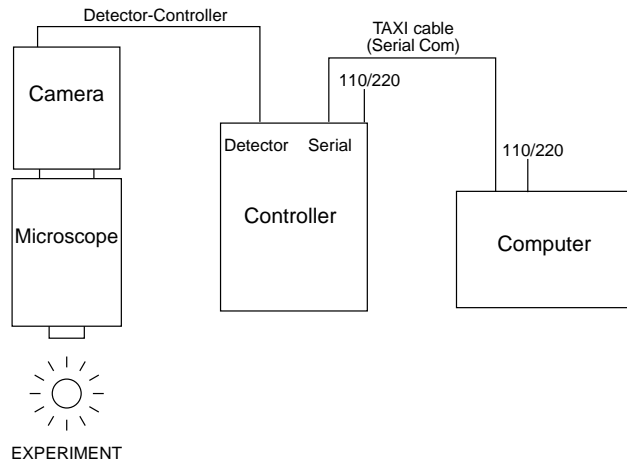


Figure 2. Standard System Diagram

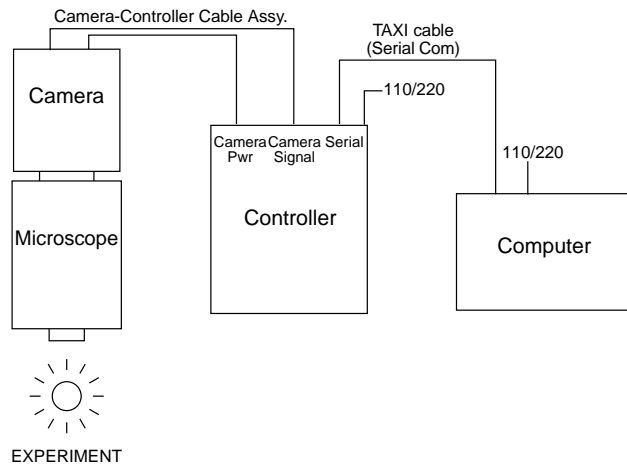


Figure 3. 5 MHz System Diagram

System Setup

Unpacking the System

During the unpacking, check the system components for possible signs of shipping damage. If there are any, notify Roper Scientific and file a claim with the carrier. If damage is not apparent but camera or controller specifications cannot be achieved, internal damage may have occurred in shipment. Please save the original packing materials so you can safely ship the camera system to another location or return it to Roper Scientific for repairs if necessary.

Checking the Equipment and Parts Inventory

Confirm that you have all of the equipment and parts required to set up the system. A complete MicroMAX system consists of a camera, a controller, a computer and other components as follows.

- **Camera to Controller cable:**

Standard MicroMAX: DB25 to DB25, 10 ft (6050-0321). Two versions of this cable are available, one having an external shield and the other not. The shielded version offers superior noise performance and is required by regulation in some countries.

5MHz MicroMAX: DB15 to DB15 and high-density DB40 to DB40 cable set (6050-0313), 16.4 ft (5 m).

- **Controller to Computer cable:** DB9 to DB9 cable. Standard length is 25 ft (6050-0148CE). Lengths up to 165 ft (50 m) are available. Optional fiber-optic transducers can be used to extend this distance to as much as 1000 m.
- **High Speed PCI Interface Board (PC or Macintosh):** This board must be installed in the computer. Computers purchased from Roper Scientific will be shipped with the board already installed.
- **Vacuum Pumpdown connector (2550-0181):** This item is required if it becomes necessary to refresh the vacuum for round camera heads. *Contact the factory Technical Support Dept. for information on refreshing the vacuum. See page 147 for contact information.*
- **WinView/32 CD-ROM**
- **User Manual**

Power Requirements

The MicroMAX system can operate from any one of four different nominal line voltages, 100, 120, 220, or 240 V AC. The power consumption is nominally 200 watts and the line frequency can range from 47 to 63 Hz.

The MicroMAX camera receives its power from the controller, which in turn plugs into a source of AC power. The plug on the line cord supplied with the system should be compatible with the line-voltage outlets in common use in the region to which the system is shipped. If the line cord plug is incompatible, a compatible plug should be installed, taking care to maintain the proper polarity to protect the equipment and assure user safety.

Verifying Controller Voltage Setting

The Power Input Module on the rear of the Controller contains the voltage selector drum, fuses and the powercord connector. The appropriate voltage setting is set at the factory and can be seen on the power input module.

Each setting actually defines a range and the setting that is closest to the actual line voltage should have been selected. The fuse and power requirements are printed on the panel above the power input module. The correct fuses for the country where the ST-133A is to be shipped are installed at the factory.

To Check the Controller's Voltage Setting:

1. Look at the lower righthand corner on the rear of the Controller. The current voltage setting (100, 120, 220, or 240 VAC) is displayed on the Power Input Module.
2. If the setting is correct, continue with the installation. If it is not correct, follow the instructions on page 100 for changing the ST-133A Controller's voltage setting and fuses.



Figure 4. Controller Power Input Module

Mounting the Camera

General

The MicroMAX camera can be mounted either horizontally or vertically (nose up or nose down). The camera can rest on any secure surface. For mounting flexibility, the round head camera is equipped with four standard 1/4" x 20 UNC threaded 3/8" deep holes spaced at 90° intervals around the body; in some situations it may prove convenient to secure the camera with a suitable mounting bracket. An optional tripod mount is available for the rectangular head camera.

WARNING

In the case of cameras equipped with F-mount, do not mount the camera in the *nose-up* operation where the lens mount would be required to hold the camera's weight. The F-mount is not designed to sustain the weight of the camera in this orientation and the camera could pull free. *Contact the factory for special mounting options that enable operation in this orientation.*

Should the camera be mounted in the nose-up position beneath a table, take care to protect the mounting components from lateral stresses, such as might occur should someone accidentally bump the camera with a knee while working at the table. Two possible approaches to this problem would be to install a securely mounted bracket to the camera or to install a barrier between the camera and operator so as to prevent any accidental contact.

There are no special constraints on nose-down operation. Again, however, good operating practice might make it advisable to use a securing bracket to prevent accidental contact from unduly stressing the mounting components.

If the camera is going to be mounted to a microscope, the lens mounting instructions that follow will not apply. Where this is the case, users are advised to skip the following discussion and instead review *Mounting to a Microscope*, beginning on page 24.

Mounting the Lens

The MicroMAX camera is supplied with the lens mount specified when the system was ordered, normally either a screw-type C-mount lens or a bayonet type F-mount lens, allowing a lens of the corresponding type to be mounted quickly and easily.

C-mount lenses simply screw clockwise into the threaded lens mount at the front of the camera. In mounting a C-mount lens, tighten it securely by hand (*no tools*).

Note: C-mount cameras are shipped with a dust cover lens installed (identifiable by its red rim). Although this lens is capable of providing images, its throughput is low and the image quality is not as good as can be obtained with a high quality camera lens. You should replace the dust cover lens with your own high quality laboratory lens before making measurements.

To mount an F-mount lens on the camera, locate the large indicator dot on the side of the lens. There is a corresponding dot on the front side of the camera lens mount. Line up the dots and slide the lens into the mount. Then turn the lens counterclockwise until a click is heard. The click means that the lens is now locked in place.

Removing either type lens is equally simple. In the case of a C-mount lens, simply rotate the lens counterclockwise until it is free of the mount. In the case of an F-mount lens,

press the locking lever on the mount while rotating the lens clockwise until it comes free and can be pulled straight out.

Both types of lenses typically have provision for focusing and aperture adjustment, with the details varying according to the make and model of the lens. In addition, in the case of the F-mount, there is provision for adjusting the focus of the lens mount itself, if necessary, to bring the focus within range of the lens focus. See the discussion on page 41 for more detailed information.

Mounting procedures are more complex when mounting to a microscope and vary according to the make and model of the microscope as discussed in *Mounting to a Microscope*, which follows.

Mounting to a Microscope

This section discusses the setup and optimization of your digital imaging system as applied to microscopy. Since scientific grade cooled CCD imaging systems are usually employed for low light level microscopy, the major goal is to maximize the light throughput to the camera. In order to do this, the highest Numerical Aperture (NA) objectives of the desired magnification should be used. In addition, you should carefully consider the transmission efficiency of the objective for the excitation and emission wavelengths of the fluorescent probe employed. Another way to maximize the transmission of light is to choose the camera port that uses the fewest optical surfaces in the pathway, since each surface results in a small loss in light throughput. Often the trinocular mount on the upright microscope and the bottom port on the inverted microscope provide the highest light throughput. Check with the manufacturer of your microscope to determine the optimal path for your experiment type.

A rule of thumb employed in live cell fluorescence microscopy is “if you can see the fluorescence by eye, then the illumination intensity is too high”. While this may not be universally applicable, it is a reasonable goal to aim for. In doing this, the properties of the CCD in your camera should also be considered in the design of your experiments. For instance, if you have flexibility in choosing fluorescent probes, then you should take advantage of the higher Quantum Efficiency (QE) of the CCD at longer wavelengths (contact factory for current CCD specifications). Another feature to exploit is the high resolution offered by cameras with exceptionally small pixel sizes (6.7 μm for MicroMAX:1300Y, 1300YHS, and 1300YHS-DIF or 8.3 μm for MicroMAX:782Y and 782YHS). Given that sufficient detail is preserved, you can use 2x2 binning (or higher) to increase the light collected at each “super-pixel” by a factor of 4 (or higher). This will allow the user to reduce exposure times, increasing temporal resolution and reducing photodamage to the living specimen.

Another method to minimize photodamage to biological preparations is to synchronize a shutter on the excitation pathway to the exposure period of the camera. This will limit exposure of the sample to the potentially damaging effects of the excitation light. Timing and synchronization are explained in Chapter 5.

The camera is connected to the microscope via a standard type mount coupled to a microscope specific adapter piece. There are two basic camera mounting designs, the C-mount and the F-mount. The C-mount employs a standard size thread to connect to the camera to the adapter while the F-mount uses a tongue and groove type mechanism to make the connection.

C-Mount

For a camera equipped with a C-mount thread, use the standard C-mount adapter supplied by the microscope manufacturer to attach the camera to the microscope. The adapter can be screwed into the camera and then the assembly can be secured to the microscope using the standard setscrews on the microscope. The camera can be mounted on the trinocular output port, the side port, or the bottom port of the inverted microscope. When mounting the larger cameras perpendicular to the microscope on the side port, it is ADVISED that you provide some additional support for your camera to reduce the possibility of vibrations or excessive stress on the C-mount nose. For the bottom port of the inverted microscope, the C-mount is designed to support the full weight of the camera, however, IT IS ADVISED that you provide some additional support for the larger cameras since the camera is in a position where it could be deflected by the operator's knee or foot. This kind of lateral force could damage the alignment of the nose and result in sub-optimal imaging conditions.

Most output ports of the microscope do not require additional optical elements to collect an image, however please check with your microscope manual to determine if the chosen output port requires a relay lens. In addition, all optical surfaces should be free from dust and fingerprints, since these will appear as blurry regions or spots and hence degrade the image quality.

F-Mount

For a camera with the F-mount type design, you will need two elements to mount the camera on your microscope. The first element is a Diagnostic Instruments Relay Lens. This lens is usually a 1X relay lens that performs no magnification. Alternatively, you may use a 0.6X relay lens to partially demagnify the image and to increase the field of view. There is also a 2X relay lens available for additional magnification. The second element is a microscope specific Diagnostic Instruments Bottom Clamp. Table 1 shows which bottom clamps are routinely used with each of the microscope types. They are illustrated in Figure 5. If you feel that you have received the wrong type of clamp, or if you need a clamp for a microscope other than those listed, please contact the factory.

To assemble the pieces, first pick up the camera and look for the black dot on the front surface. Match this dot with the red dot on the side of the relay lens. Then engage the two surfaces and rotate them until the F-mount is secured as evidenced by a soft clicking sound. Next place the long tube of the relay lens into the bottom clamp for your microscope, securing it to the relay lens with the three setscrews at the top of the clamp as shown in Figure 6. This whole assembly can now be placed on the microscope, using the appropriate setscrews on the microscope to secure the bottom clamp to the output port of the microscope.

Microscope Type	Diagnostic Instruments Bottom Clamp Type
Leica DMR	L-clamp
Leitz All types	NLW-clamp
Nikon Optiphot, Diaphot, Eclipse	O-clamp
Olympus BH-2, B-MAX, IMT-2	V-clamp
Zeiss Axioscope, Axioplan, Axioplan 2, Axiophot	Z-clamp
Zeiss Axiovert	ZN-clamp

Table 1. Bottom Clamps for Different Microscopes

The F-mount is appropriate for any trinocular output port or any side port. When mounting the camera perpendicular to the microscope on the side port, it is ADVISED that you provide some additional support for your camera to reduce the possibility of vibrations or excessive stress on the F-mount nose. Roper Scientific DOES NOT advise using an F-mount to secure the camera to a bottom port of an inverted microscope due to possible failure of the locking mechanism of the F-mount. *Contact the factory for information about a special adapter for operating in this configuration.*

Focusing information for a camera and a camera lens mount is included in the *First Light* section of Chapter 4 (page 41). Although it is unlikely that you would ever need to use the lens mount adjustment in operation with a microscope (the relay-lens focus adjustment would normally suffice), it could be used if necessary. The procedure for using the adjustment is provided in Chapter 4 and illustrated in Figure 13.

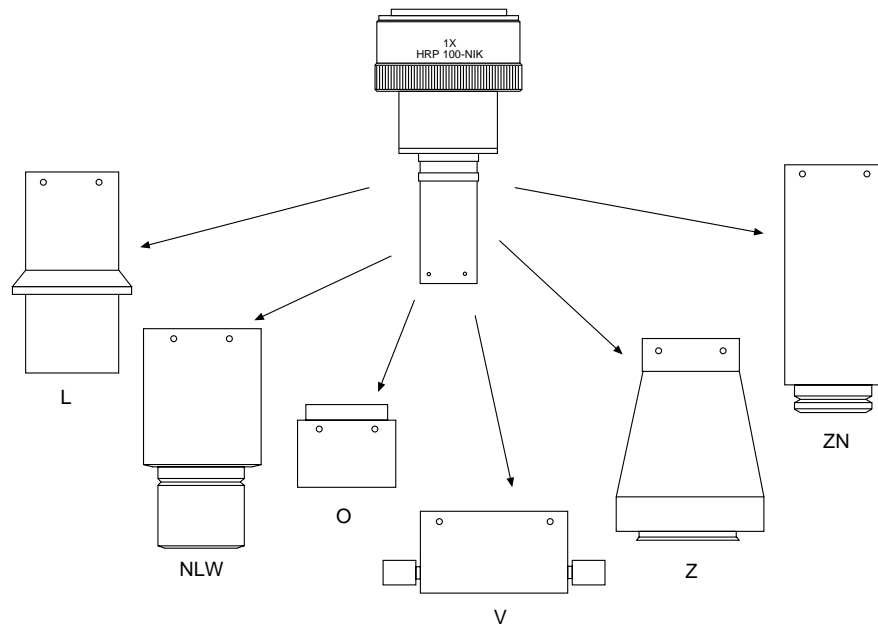


Figure 5. Bottom Clamps

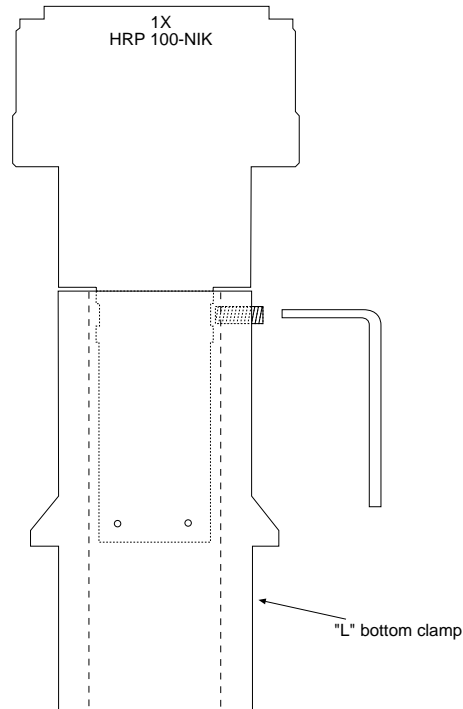


Figure 6. Bottom Clamp secured to Relay Lens

Caution

Microscope optics have very high transmission efficiencies in the infrared region of the spectrum. Since typical microscope light sources are very good emitters in the infrared, some microscopes are equipped with IR blockers or heat filters to prevent heating of optical elements or the sample. For those microscopes that do not have the better IR blockers, the throughput of infrared light to the CCD can be fairly high. In addition, while the eye is unable to see the light, CCD cameras are particularly efficient in detecting infrared wavelengths. As a result, the contaminating infrared light will cause a degradation of the image quality due to a high background signal that will be invisible to the eye. Therefore, it is recommended that you add an IR blocker in the light path if you encounter this problem with the microscope.

Mounting to a Spectrometer

The camera must be properly mounted to the spectrometer to achieve maximum spectral resolution across the array. Depending on the spectrometer and camera type, special adapters may be required to mount the camera to the spectrometer. The appropriate adapters should have been included with your system if the spectrometer type was indicated when the system was ordered.



Because of the many possible camera and spectrometer combinations, all of the adapter mounting instructions are located in Appendix F. Refer to the table at the beginning of that appendix to find the instruction set appropriate to your system.

The distance to the focal plane from the front of the mechanical assembly depends on the specific configuration. Refer to the outline drawings in Appendix B for the focal plane distance information

Installing the Application Software

Installation is performed via the WinView/32 installation process, which should be done before the interface card is installed in the host computer. On the **Select Components** dialog box (see Figure 7), click on the button appropriate for the interface card. For a PCI card, select the **AUTO PCI** component to install the required PCI card driver and the most commonly installed program files. If you do not want to install the PCI driver or would like to choose among the available program files, select the **Custom** component. If the interface card was installed at the factory, the appropriate driver was installed at that time.

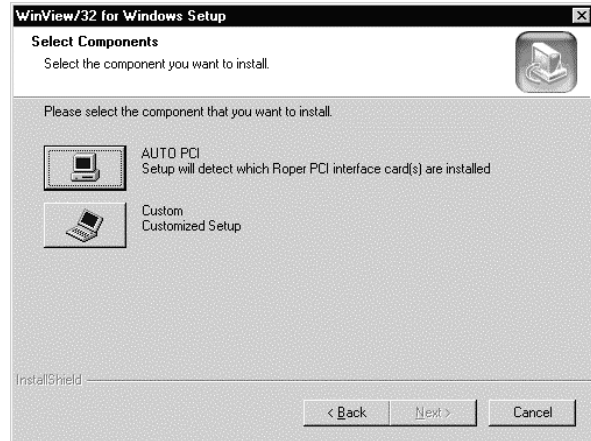


Figure 7. WinView Installation: Interface Card Driver Selection

Note: WinView/32 (versions 2.6.0 and higher) do not support the ISA interface.

Installing the Interface Card

If the computer is purchased from Roper Scientific, it will be shipped with the Serial Buffer card already installed. PCI Interface boards are standard. In the past, ISA had been supported but with WinView/32 versions 2.6.0 and higher, this support is no longer available.

Caution

If using WinView/32 software, either **High Speed PCI** or **PCI(Timer)** can be the selected Interface type. This selection is accessed on the **Hardware Setup|Interface** tab page. **High Speed PCI** allows data transfer to be interrupt-driven and gives the highest performance in some situations. **PCI(Timer)** allows data transfer to be controlled by a polling timer. This selection is recommended when there are multiple devices sharing the same interrupt.

To Install a PCI Serial Buffer Card:

1. Review the documentation for your computer and PCI card before continuing with this installation.
2. To avoid risk of dangerous electrical shock and damage to the computer, verify that the computer power is OFF.
3. Remove the computer cover and verify that there is an available PCI slot.
4. Install the PCI card in the slot.
5. Make sure that the card is firmly seated and secure it.
6. Replace and secure the computer cover and turn on the computer only. If an error occurs at bootup, either the PCI card was not installed properly or there is an address or interrupt conflict. Go to Chapter 10, "Troubleshooting", page 102 for instructions.

To Install an ISA Serial Card:

Support for ISA Serial boards has been discontinued as of the release of WinView/32 version 2.6.0. Earlier versions of the software still support this board. If you are using an earlier version of the WinView software and want to install an ISA card, contact the factory for instructions.

Note: An ISA serial interface card operated in an ISA slot can support data transfer rates as high as 1 MHz (WinView software ver. 1.4.3 - 2.4.8).

Installing the PCI Card Driver

Administrator privileges are required under Windows NT®, Windows® 2000, and Windows® XP to install software and hardware.

The following information assumes that you have already installed the WinView/32 software. After you have secured the PCI card in the computer and replaced the cover, turn the computer on. At bootup, Windows will try to install the new hardware. If it cannot locate the driver, you will be prompted to enter the directory path, either by keyboard entry or by using the browse function.

If you selected **AUTO PCI** during the application software installation, WinView/32 automatically put the required INF file into the Windows/INF directory and put the PCI card driver file in the Windows/System32/ Drivers directory.

Windows Version	PCI INF Filename Located in "Windows"/INF directory*	PCI Device Driver Name Located in "Windows"/System32/Drivers directory
Windows® 2000 and XP	rspci.inf (in WINNT/INF, for example)	rspipci.sys (in WINNT/System32/Drivers, for example)
Windows NT®	N/A	pi_pci.sys
Windows® 95, 98, and Windows ME	pri.inf	pivxdpci.vxd

* The INF directory may be hidden.

Table 2. PCI Driver File Locations

Selecting the Shutter Setting

Caution



The Shutter Setting push switch on the rear of the Controller sets the shutter hold voltage. Each shutter type, internal or external, requires a different setting. Consult the table below for the proper setting for your shutter. *The Shutter Setting is correctly set at the factory for the camera's internal shutter if one is present.*

Shutter Setting*	Shutter Type
1	25 mm Roper Scientific supplied External shutter (typically an Entrance slit shutter)
2	25 mm Roper Scientific Internal shutter
4	35 mm Roper Scientific Internal shutter (requires 70 V Shutter option)
5	40 mm Roper Scientific Internal shutter (supplied with LN camera having a 1340 × 1300 or larger CCD)
* Shutter settings 0, 3, and 6-9 are unused and are reserved for future use.	

Table 3. ST-133A Shutter Setting Selection

To Select the Shutter Setting:

1. Verify that the Controller power is OFF.
2. Refer to Table 3 when looking at the rear of the Controller.
3. If the setting is not correct, press the "-" or the "+" button until the correct setting is displayed in the window.

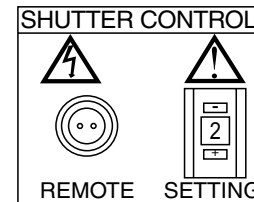


Figure 8. Shutter Setting for 25mm Internal Shutter

Connecting the TAXI® (Controller-Computer) Cable

Turn the Controller power OFF (OFF = 0, ON = |) and the Computer power OFF before connecting or disconnecting the Controller-Computer (TAXI) cable.

To Connect the TAXI Cable:

1. Verify that the Controller power is OFF.
2. Verify that the Computer power is OFF.
3. Connect one end of the TAXI cable to the 9-pin port on the Interface card.
4. Tighten down the screws to lock the connector in place.
5. Connect the other end of the cable to the "Serial Com" port on the rear of the Controller.
6. Tighten down the screws to lock the connector in place.

Connecting the Detector-Controller Cable or the Camera Power/Camera Signal Cables

Caution

Turn the Controller power OFF (OFF = 0, ON = |) before connecting or disconnecting the Detector-Controller cable or the Camera Power/Camera Signal Cables.

To Connect the Detector-Controller Cable:

1. Verify that the Controller power is OFF.
2. Connect male end of the Detector-Controller cable to the “Detector” port on the back of the Controller.
3. Move the slide latch over to lock the connector in place.
4. Connect the female end of the cable to the Camera.
5. Move the slide latch over to lock the connector in place.

To Connect the Camera Power/Camera Signal Cables (5 MHz only):

1. Verify that the Controller power is OFF.

Note: When installing the cable assembly at the Controller, the 15-pin Camera Power connector must be installed before the 40-pin Camera Signal connector. If removing the cable assembly, this sequence is reversed.

2. Connect male end of the Camera Power cable to the “Camera Power” port on the back of the Controller and move the slide latch over to lock the connector in place.
3. Connect male end of the Camera Signal cable to the “Camera Signal” port on the back of the Controller and make sure that the spring-loaded latch is locking the connector in place.
4. Connect the female end of the Camera Power cable to the Camera and move the slide latch over to lock the connector in place.
5. Connect the female end of the Camera Signal cable to the Camera and make sure that the spring-loaded latch is locking the connector in place.

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Operation

Introduction

This chapter begins with sections regarding a number of operating considerations such as EMF, vacuum, cooling, baseline signal, and imaging field of view. The final section provides a step-by-step procedure for placing the system in operation the first time. At this point a lens should be mounted on the camera (or, if necessary, the camera mounted on a microscope) and you should be ready to operate the system and proceed to viewing your first MicroMAX images.

EMF and Xenon or Hg Arc Lamps

WARNING

Before You Start, if your imaging system includes a microscope Xenon or Hg arc lamp, it is **CRITICAL** to turn off all electronics adjacent to the arc lamp, especially your digital camera system and your computer hardware (monitors included) before turning on the lamp power.

Powering up a microscope Xenon or Hg arc lamp causes a large EMF spike to be produced that can cause damage to electronics that are running in the vicinity of the lamp. We advise that you place a clear warning sign on the power button of your arc lamp reminding all workers to follow this procedure. While Roper Scientific has taken great care to isolate its sensitive circuitry from EMF sources, we cannot guarantee that this protection will be sufficient for all EMF bursts. *Therefore, in order to fully guarantee the performance of your system, you must follow this startup sequence.*

Vacuum

The camera's CCD chamber is pumped to a vacuum level of ~10 mTorr or better at the factory. This level of vacuum is necessary to be assured of achieving temperature lock and to prevent condensation from damaging the CCD array. Because outgassing continues for some time in new units, the vacuum could degrade, which would make it increasingly difficult to achieve temperature lock. Temperature lock can be restored by repumping the vacuum. *Contact the factory Technical Support Dept. for information on refreshing the vacuum. See page 147 for contact information.*

Cooling

Most MicroMAX cameras must be cooled during operation. A Peltier-effect thermoelectric cooler, driven by closed-loop proportional-control circuitry, cools the CCD. A thermal sensing diode attached to the cooling block of the camera monitors its temperature. Heat generated at the exhaust plate of the cooler is conducted to the

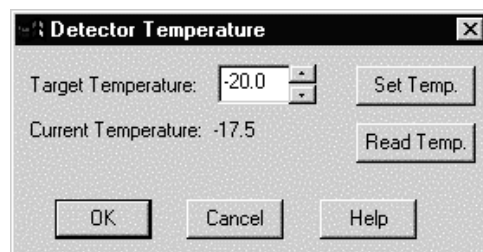
enclosure of the camera. Fins on the round head camera shell radiate the heat outward to the surrounding atmosphere. The fan inside the rectangular head camera draws air through the vents in the camera shell, blows it through the internal fins, and exhausts it back into the atmosphere through the vents.

MicroMAX CCDs typically have the following temperature ranges:

- Better than -15°C with passive cooling and under vacuum
- Better than -30°C with the optional forced air accessory and under vacuum

Setting the Temperature

The temperature of the CCD array is set through software. With WinView/32, you enter and set the target temperature after selecting **Detector Temperature** from the **Setup** menu.



Temperature Stabilization

After the system begins cooling, it takes from 10-20 minutes for the CCD to reach its preset temperature. Because the control loop is designed to achieve temperature lock as quickly as possible, overshoot may occur. If this happens, temperature lock will be briefly indicated and then discontinued during the overshoot. However, the lock indication will be quickly restored as stable control is re-established. This is normal behavior and should not be a cause for concern. Once temperature lock is established, the temperature is thermostated to within $\pm 0.050^{\circ}\text{C}$. The controller is equipped with an LED that indicates temperature lock: this indicator may simply light or it may change color from orange to green to indicate lock.

Note: The time to reach temperature lock is affected by CCD array size and the ambient temperature. Typically, the larger the array or the warmer the ambient temperature, the longer the time to reach lock. Temperature regulation does not reach its ultimate stability for at least 30 minutes after lock is established.

Baseline Signal

With the camera completely blocked, the CCD will collect a dark charge pattern, dependent on the exposure time and camera temperature. The longer the exposure time and the warmer the camera, the larger and less uniform this background will appear.

Note: Do not be concerned about either the DC level of this background or its shape unless it is very high (i.e., 400 counts). What you see is not noise. It is a fully subtractable readout pattern. Each CCD has its own dark charge pattern, unique to that particular device. Every device has been thoroughly tested to ensure its compliance with Roper Scientific's demanding specifications.

Caution

If you observe a sudden change in the baseline signal you may have excessive humidity in the vacuum enclosure of the camera. Turn off the controller and have the camera repumped before resuming normal operation. *Contact the factory Technical Support Dept. for information on how to refresh the vacuum. See page 150 for contact information.*

Imaging Field of View

When used for two-dimensional imaging applications, the MicroMAX camera closely imitates a standard 35 mm camera. Since the CCD is not the same size as the film plane of a 35 mm camera, the field of view at a given distance is somewhat different. The imaging field of view is indicated in Figure 9.



Figure 9. Imaging Field of View

D = distance between the object and the CCD

B = 46.5 mm for F-mount; 17.5 mm for C-mount

F = focal length of lens

S = CCD horizontal or vertical dimension

O = horizontal or vertical field of view covered at a distance D

M = magnification

The field of view is:

$$O = \frac{S}{M}, \text{ where } M = \frac{FD}{(D - B)^2}$$

RS-170 or CCIR Video

One of the limitations of scientific non-video rate cameras has been their difficulty in focusing and locating fields of view. The MicroMAX solves this problem by its combination of high speed operation with the implementation of true video output. The high-speed image update on the video monitor (via the **VIDEO** BNC connector on the rear of the Controller) makes focusing and field location as simple as with a video camera. This video output also makes possible archiving an experiment on a VCR, producing hardcopy data on a video printer, or even implementing autofocus stages.

Note: If more than one device is connected to the video output, the *last* device is the one that should be terminated in 75Ω . For example, to connect the video output to a VCR as well as to a monitor, the cable from the controller video output should be connected to the video input connector of the VCR, and another 75Ω cable should extend from the video output connector of the VCR to the 75Ω input of the monitor. Do *not* use a BNC TEE to connect the controller video output to multiple devices.

The video output is selected by the Application software. In the case of WinView/32, this is done by selecting **Video** from the Acquisition menu. There is also provision in WinView/32 for intensity-scaling the video output, that is, selecting the specific gray levels to be displayed on the 8-bit video output.

In addition to intensity-scaling, you also need to be concerned about how the array pixels map to the video display. The 756×486 resolution of a typical video monitor corresponds well with the array size of a MicroMAX:782Y, MicroMAX:782YHS or MicroMAX:512BFT

In the case of a MicroMAX:1300YHS or a MicroMAX:1300YHS-DIF, the number of array pixels far exceeds the number of monitor pixels and mapping must be considered more carefully. WinView/32 software's **Video Focus** mode (accessed from the Acquisition Menu) provides a Pan function that allows any one of nine different subsets of the array image to be selected for viewing on the video monitor with only a single-frame delay. An associated zoom function provides 1x, 2x, or 4x viewing. At 1x, the entire array image is displayed, but at reduced resolution (pixels are discarded and fine detail could be lost). At 2x, the mapping is 1:1 and the image portion selected by the Pan function is provided. The regions overlap, allowing the entire array image to be examined with no loss of resolution. At 4x, array pixels are enlarged so that a smaller part of the array image is displayed as selected by the Pan function.

Once proper focus has been achieved, the user can transfer to normal data-acquisition operation. The video output remains operative, but with a more limited and fixed view because of the resolution limitation of RS-170 video. Although this view is sufficient to cover the image from a small CCD array in its entirety, it will not cover all the pixels from a large array. Instead, a subset from the center of the image will be shown. For example, in the case of the MicroMAX:1300YHS, the monitor would display the 756×486 area from the center of the CCD image as shown in Figure 10.

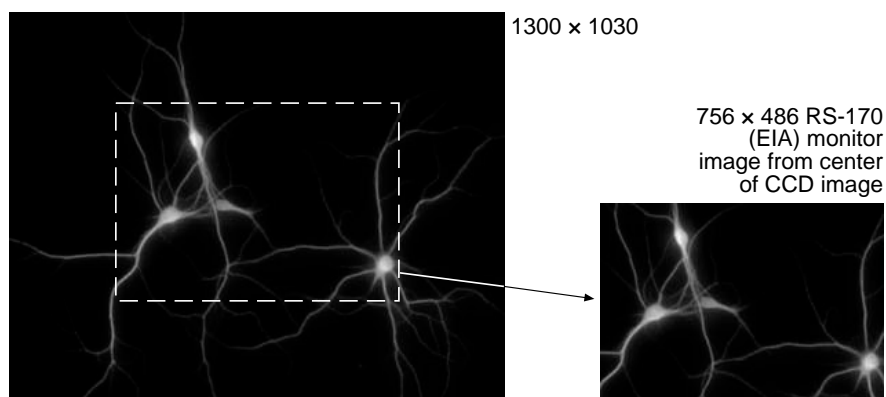


Figure 10. Monitor Display of CCD Image Center Area

Note: With a 16-bit A/D converter (*not* a standard option), the composite video output is disabled during data acquisition.

In post-acquisition processing the WinView/32 ROI (Region of Interest) capability allows any portion of an acquired image to be displayed on the computer monitor.

Again, note that the described video output behavior applies specifically for the WinView/32 software only. Other application software may provide different video output capabilities.

First Light (Imaging)

The following paragraphs provide step-by-step instructions for placing your MicroMAX system in operation the first time. The intent of this simple procedure is to help you gain basic familiarity with the operation of your system and to show that it is functioning properly. Once basic familiarity has been established, then operation with other operating configurations, ones with more complex timing modes, can be performed. An underlying assumption for the procedure is that the camera is to be operated with a microscope on which it has been properly installed (see *Mounting to a Microscope*, page 24, for mounting instructions) and that a video monitor is available. Although it is possible to dispense with the monitor and simply view the images on the computer monitor's screen, operations such as focusing may be easier with a video monitor because the displayed data is updated much more quickly and will be as close to current as possible.

Once the MicroMAX camera has been installed and its optics adjusted, operation of the camera is basically straightforward. In most applications you simply establish optimum performance using the **Focus** mode (WinView/32), set the target camera temperature, wait until the temperature has stabilized, and then do actual data acquisition in the **Acquire** mode. Additional considerations regarding experiment setup and equipment configuration are addressed in the software manual.

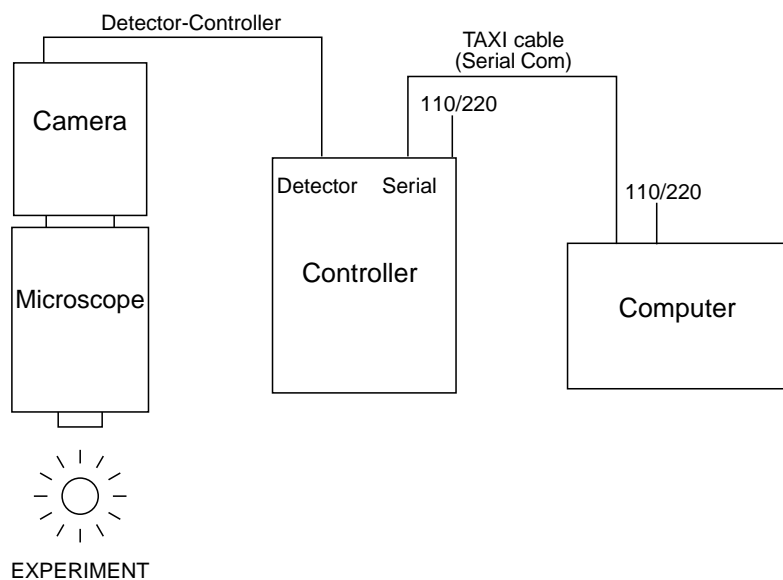


Figure 11. Standard System Connection Diagram

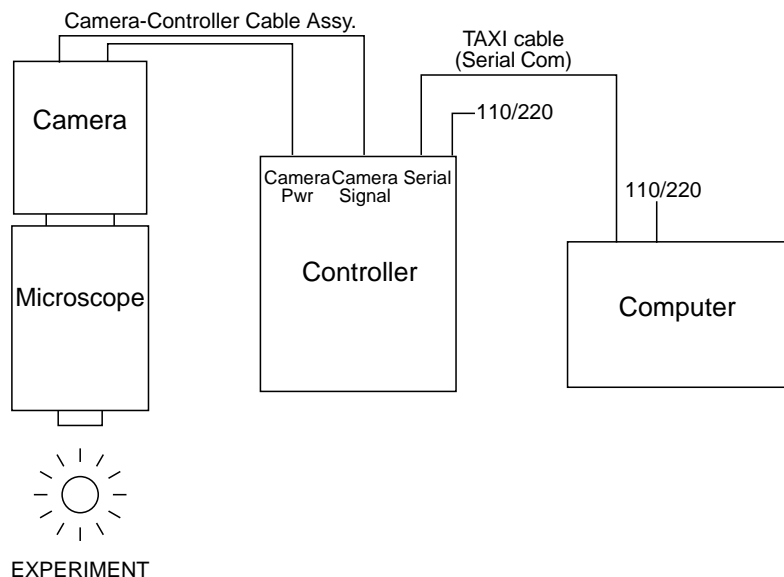


Figure 12. 5 MHz System Diagram

Assumptions

The following procedure assumes that

1. You have already set up your system in accordance with the instructions in Chapter 3.
2. You have read the previous sections of this chapter.
3. You are familiar with the application software.
4. The system is air-cooled.
5. The system is being operated in imaging mode.

Cabling

If the system cables haven't as yet been installed, make sure that the ST-133A and the host computer are turned off and then make the cable connections as follows: See Figure 11 or Figure 12.

1. Connect the camera-to-controller cable(s):

Standard System: Connect the 25-pin cable from the **DETECTOR** connector on the Analog/Control module panel to the mating connector at the back of the camera. Secure the cable at both ends with the slide-lock latch.

5 MHz System: Connection sequence is important. Connect the 15-pin Power connector to the connector on the Analog/Control panel and to the mating connector on the back of the camera. Then, connect the 40-pin Signal connector to the connector on the Analog/Control panel and the mating connector on the back of the camera. Secure the 15-pin connectors at both ends with the slide-lock latch and the 40-pin connectors with the spring-loaded latch. When removing the cable assembly, this sequence is reversed.

2. Connect one end of the 9-pin serial cable to the **SERIAL COM** connector on the Interface Control module panel. Connect the other end to the computer interface as

described in Chapter 3. Be sure to secure both ends of the cable with the cable-connector screws.

- Connect a 75 Ω BNC cable from the **VIDEO** connector on the back of the camera to the video monitor's 75 Ω input. This cable must be terminated in 75 Ω . Many monitors have a switch for selecting the 75 Ω termination.
- Connect the line cord from the Power Input assembly on the back of the controller to a suitable source of AC power.

Getting Started

1. If you haven't already done so, install a lens on the camera. The initial lens settings aren't important but it may prove convenient to set the focus to approximately the anticipated distance and to begin with a small aperture setting. In the case of operation with a microscope, review *Mounting to a Microscope*, beginning on page 24, and mount the camera on the microscope.
2. Turn on the system power. *The Power On/Off switch is located on the front of the controller.*

Note: The camera overload alarm may sound briefly and then stop. This is normal and is not a cause for concern. However, if the alarm sounds continuously, even with no light entering the camera, something is wrong. Turn off the power and contact the factory for guidance.

3. Turn on the power at the computer and start the application software (WinView/32, for example).

Setting the Parameters

Note: The following procedure is based on WinView/32: you will need to modify it if you are using a different application. Basic familiarity with the WinView/32 software is assumed. If this is not the case, you may want to review the software manual or have it available while performing this procedure.

Set the software parameters as follows:

Controller|Camera tab page (Setup|Hardware)

- **Controller type:** ST-133A
- **Controller version:** 4 or higher
- **Camera type:** Select array installed in your camera.
 - MicroMAX:512BFT = EEV 512 \times 512 FT CCD57
 - MicroMAX:782Y = PID 582 \times 782
 - MicroMAX:782YHS = PID 582 \times 782
 - MicroMAX:1024B = EEV 1024 \times 1024 CCD47_10
 - MicroMAX:1300Y = PID 1030 \times 1300
 - MicroMAX:1300YHS = PID 1030 \times 1300
 - MicroMAX:1300YHS-DIF = PID 1030 \times 1300
- **Shutter type:** None or Remote.
- **Readout mode:** Full frame, Interline or DIF depending on array type.

Detector Temperature (Setup|Detector Temperature...): -15°C for round camera heads or -45°C for rectangular camera heads. The temperature should drop steadily, reaching the set temperature in about ten minutes (typical). At that point the green **Temp Lock** LED on the rear of the ST-133A will light and there will be a **locked** indication at the computer monitor, indicating that temperature lock has been established. Note that some overshoot may occur. This could cause temperature lock to be briefly lost and then quickly re-established. If you are reading the actual temperature reported by the application software, there may be a small difference between the set and reported temperature when lock is established. This is normal and does not indicate a system malfunction. Once lock is established, the temperature will be stable to within $\pm 0.05^\circ\text{C}$.

Interface tab page (Setup|Hardware): High Speed PCI (or PCI(Timer))

Cleans and Skips tab page (Setup|Hardware): Default

Experiment Setup Main tab page (Acquisition|Experiment Setup...):

- **Exposure Time:** 100 ms
- **Accumulations & Number of Images:** 1

Easy Bin dialog box (Acquisition|Easy Bin...): Use this function to quickly set up change binning.

Experiment Setup ROI tab page (Acquisition|Experiment Setup...):
Use this function to define the region of interest (ROI).

- **Image Mode:** Selected
- Clicking on **Full** loads the full size of the chip into the edit boxes.
- Clicking on **Store** will store the Pattern so it can be reused at another time.

Experiment Setup Timing tab page (Acquisition|Experiment Setup...):

- **Timing Mode:** Free Run
- **Shutter Control:** Normal
- **Safe Mode vs. Full Speed:** Safe (Asynchronous)

Acquisition Menu: Select **Video** if you have connected an RS-170 (or a CCIR) video monitor to the system and plan to use it for focusing or other operations. There will be a check next to “**Video**” to indicate that it is selected

Focusing

1. If you are using WinView/32 and the computer monitor for focusing, select **Focus** from the **Acquisition** menu. The shutter, if present, will open and successive images will be sent to the monitor as quickly as they are acquired. Because the time to acquire and read out an image varies directly with the size of the CCD, the observed frame rate will vary greatly depending on the CCD installed. With a short exposure time, it is not uncommon for the frame readout time to be significantly longer than the exposure time.

Note: If you are using WinView/32 and a video monitor for focusing, select the **Video Focus...** mode from the **Acquisition** menu. Then select a short exposure time (0.1 s), an Intensity Scaling setting of 4096, and 2x Zoom. With an MicroMAX:1300Y camera (1030×1300 pixels), set the Pan selector as required for the 756×486 subset of the array image you wish to use for focusing purposes. Select the center pan position if the camera is a MicroMAX:782Y (782×582 pixels) or a MicroMAX:512BFT (512×512 pixels). Begin data collection by selecting RUN on the **Interactive Camera Operation** dialog box. The shutter, if present, will open and successive images will be sent to the monitor as quickly as they are acquired, giving as close to continuous video as possible.

2. Adjust the lens aperture, intensity scaling, and focus for the best image as viewed on the monitor. Some imaging tips follow.
 - a. Begin with the lens blocked off. Set the lens at the smallest possible aperture (largest f-stop number).
 - b. Place a suitable target in front of the lens. An object with text or graphics works best. If working with a microscope, use any easily viewed specimen. It is generally not advisable to attempt fluorescence imaging during this *Getting Started* phase of operation.
 - c. Adjust the intensity scaling and lens aperture until a suitable setting is found. The initial intensity scaling setting of 4096 assures that the image won't be missed altogether but could be dim. Once you've determined that the image is present, select a lower setting for better contrast. Check the brightest regions of the image to determine if the A/D converter is at full-scale. *The A/D converter is at full-scale when any part of the image is as bright as it can be.* Adjust the aperture to where it is just slightly smaller (higher f stop) than the setting where maximum brightness on any part of the image occurs.
 - d. Set the focus adjustment of the lens for maximum sharpness in the viewed image.
 - e. If the camera is mounted to a microscope, first be sure to have a clear, focused image through the eyepiece. Then divert the light to the camera and lower the illuminating light intensity.
 - To adjust the parfocality on an F-mount system, begin collecting images with a short exposure time and focus the light on the camera by rotating the ring on the Diagnostic Instruments relay lens without touching the main focusing knobs on the microscope.
 - In the case of a camera with an F-mount lens adapter, focusing is normally done by means a focus adjustment on the relay-lens adapter.
 - On a C-mount system, the camera should be very close to parfocal, although some C-mounts will be adjustable using setscrews on the microscope to secure the adapter slightly higher or lower in position.
 - f. In the case of a camera with an F-mount, the adapter itself also has a focus adjustment. If necessary, this focus can be changed to bring the image into range of the lens focus adjustment. The lens-mount adjustment is secured by four

setscrews as shown in Figure 13. To change the focus setting, proceed as follows.

- Loosen the setscrews with a 0.050" Allen wrench. Do not remove the screws; loosen them just enough to allow the lens mount to be adjusted.
- Rotate the lens mount as required to bring the focus within range of the lens focus adjustment.
- Tighten the setscrews loosened above.

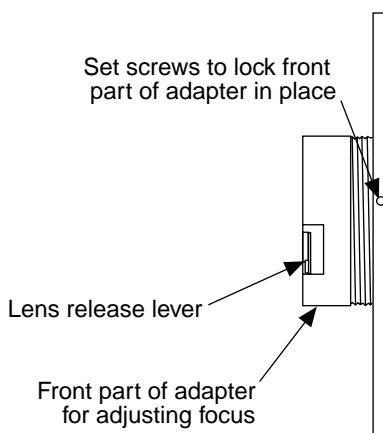


Figure 13. F-mount Focus Adjustment

Acquiring Data

Once optimum focus and aperture have been achieved, you can switch from **Focus** (or **Video Focus**) mode to standard data-acquisition operation as determined via the **Experiment Setup** dialog box. (In WinView/32, you might want to begin with Free Run Asynchronous (Safe Mode) operation while gaining basic system familiarity.)

This completes *First Light* for imaging applications. If the MicroMAX system functioned as described, you can be reasonably sure it has arrived in good working order. In addition, you should have a basic understanding of how the system hardware is used. Other topics, which could be quite important in certain situations, are discussed in the following chapters. See the appropriate application software manual for information on using the software to control the system.

First Light (Spectroscopy)

The following paragraphs provide step-by-step instructions for placing your spectroscopy system in operation the first time. The intent of this simple procedure is to help you gain basic familiarity with the operation of your system and to show that it is functioning properly. Once basic familiarity has been established, then operation with other operating configurations, ones with more complex timing modes, can be performed. An underlying assumption for the procedure is that the detector is to be operated with a spectrograph such as the Acton SpectraPro™ 300i (SP300i) on which it has been properly installed. A suitable light source, such as a mercury pen-ray lamp, should be mounted in front of the entrance slit of the spectrograph. Any light source with line output can be used. *Standard fluorescent overhead lamps have good calibration lines as well.* If there are no “line” sources available,

it is possible to use a broadband source such as tungsten for the alignment. If this is the case, use a wavelength setting of 0.0 nm for alignment purposes.

Assumptions

The following procedure assumes that

1. You have already set up your system in accordance with the instructions in Chapter 3.
2. You have read the previous sections of this chapter.
3. You are familiar with the application software.
4. The system is air-cooled.
5. The system is being operated in spectroscopy mode.
6. An entrance slit shutter is not being controlled by the ST-133A.

Cabling

If the system cables haven't as yet been installed, make sure that the ST-133A and the host computer are turned off and then follow the cabling instructions on page 38. Then, return to this page.

Getting Started

1. Set the spectrometer entrance slit width to minimum (10 μm if possible).
2. Turn on the controller power.

Note: A detector overload alarm may sound briefly and then stop. This is normal and is not a cause for concern. However, if the alarm sounds continuously, even with no light entering the detector, something is wrong. Turn off the power and contact the factory for guidance.

3. Turn on the computer power.
4. Start the application software.

Setting the Parameters

Note: The following procedure is based on WinSpec/32: you will need to modify it if you are using a different application. Basic familiarity with the WinSpec/32 software is assumed. If this is not the case, you may want to review the software manual or have it available while performing this procedure.

Set the software parameters as follows:

Environment dialog (Setup|Environment): Verify that the DMA Buffer size is 8 Mbytes (min.). Large arrays may require a larger buffer size. If you change the buffer size, you will have to *reboot the computer* for this memory allocation to be activated, and then restart WinSpec.

Controller|Camera tab page (Setup|Hardware): Controller and Detector parameters should be set automatically to the proper values for your system. However, you can click on the **Load Defaults From Controller** button on this tab page to load the default settings.

- **Controller type:** ST-133
- **Controller version:** 3 or higher
- **Camera type:** Select the array installed in your detector.
 - MicroMAX:512BFT = EEV 512×512 FT CCD57
 - MicroMAX:782Y = PID 582×782
 - MicroMAX:782YHS = PID 582×782
 - MicroMAX:1024B = EEV 1024×1024 CCD47_10
 - MicroMAX:1300Y = PID 1030×1300
 - MicroMAX:1300YHS = PID 1030×1300
 - MicroMAX:1300YHS-DIF = PID 1030×1300
- **Shutter type:** None or Remote.
- **Readout mode:** Full frame.

Detector Temperature (Setup|Detector Temperature...): -15°C for round camera heads or -45°C for rectangular camera heads. When the array temperature reaches the set temperature, the green **Temp Lock** LED on the rear of the ST-133A will light and there will be a **locked** indication at the computer monitor. Note that some overshoot may occur. This could cause temperature lock to be briefly lost and then quickly re-established. If you are reading the actual temperature reported by the application software, there may be a small difference between the set and reported temperature when lock is established. This is normal and does not indicate a system malfunction. Once lock is established, the temperature will be stable to within $\pm 0.05^\circ\text{C}$.

Interface tab page (Setup|Hardware): High Speed PCI (or PCI(Timer))

Cleans and Skips tab page (Setup|Hardware): Default

Experiment Setup Main tab page (Acquisition|Experiment Setup...):

- **Exposure Time:** 100 ms
- **Accumulations & Number of Images:** 1

Experiment Setup ROI tab page (Acquisition|Experiment Setup...):

Use this function to define the region of interest (ROI).

- **Spectroscopy Mode:** Selected
- Clicking on **Full** loads the full size of the chip into the edit boxes.

Experiment Setup Timing tab page (Acquisition|Experiment Setup...):

- **Timing Mode:** Free Run
- **Shutter Control:** Normal
- **Safe Mode vs. Full Speed:** Safe (Asynchronous)

Focusing

The mounting hardware provides two degrees of freedom, focus and rotation. In this context, focus means to physically move the detector back and forth through the focal plane of the spectrograph. The approach taken is to slowly move the detector in and out

of focus and adjust for optimum while watching a live display on the monitor, followed by rotating the detector and again adjusting for optimum. The following procedure, which describes the focusing operation with an Acton 300I spectrograph, can be easily adapted to other spectrographs.

1. Mount a light source such as a mercury pen-ray type in front of the entrance slit of the spectrograph. Any light source with line output can be used. *Standard fluorescent overhead lamps have good calibration lines as well.* If there are no “line” sources available, it is possible to use a broadband source such as tungsten for the alignment. If this is the case, use a wavelength setting of 0.0 nm for alignment purposes.
2. With the spectrograph properly connected to the controller, turn the power on, wait for the spectrograph to initialize. Then set it to 435.8 nm if using a mercury lamp or to 0.0 nm if using a broadband source.

Hint: Overhead fluorescent lights produce a mercury spectrum. Use a white card tilted at 45 degrees in front of the entrance slit to reflect overhead light into the spectrograph. Select 435.833 as the spectral line.

3. Set the slit to 25 μm . *If necessary, adjust the Exposure Time to maintain optimum (near full-scale) signal intensity.*
4. Slowly move the detector in and out of focus. You should see the spectral line go from broad to narrow and back to broad. Leave the detector set for the narrowest achievable line. You may want to use the **Focus Helper** function (**Process|Focus Helper...**) to determine the narrowest line width: it can automatically locate peaks and generate a report on peak characteristics during live data acquisition (see the WinSpec/32 on-line help for more information).

Note that the way focusing is accomplished depends on the spectrograph, as follows:

- **Long focal-length spectrographs such as the Acton 300i:** The mounting adapter includes a tube that slides inside another tube to move the detector in or out as required to achieve optimum focus.
 - **Short focal-length spectrographs:** There is generally a focusing mechanism on the spectrograph itself which, when adjusted, will move the optics as required to achieve proper focus.
 - **No focusing adjustment:** If there is no focusing adjustment, either provided by the spectrograph or by the mounting hardware, then the only recourse will be to adjust the spectrograph’s focusing mirror.
5. Next adjust the rotation. You can do this by rotating the detector while watching a live display of the line. The line will go from broad to narrow and back to broad. Leave the detector rotation set for the narrowest achievable line.

Alternatively, take an image, display the horizontal and vertical cursor bars, and compare the vertical bar to the line shape on the screen. Rotate the detector until the line shape on the screen is parallel with the vertical bar.

Note: When aligning other accessories, such as fibers, lenses, optical fiber adapters, first align the spectrograph to the slit. Then align the accessory without disturbing the detector position. The procedure is identical to that used to focus the spectrograph (i.e., do the focus and alignment operations while watching a live image).

Acquiring Data

Once optimum focus and aperture have been achieved, you can switch from **Focus** (or **Video Focus**) mode to standard data-acquisition operation as determined via the **Experiment Setup** dialog box. (In WinSpec/32, you might want to begin with Free Run Asynchronous (Safe Mode) operation while gaining basic system familiarity.)

This completes *First Light* for spectroscopy applications. If the MicroMAX system functioned as described, you can be reasonably sure it has arrived in good working order. In addition, you should have a basic understanding of how the system hardware is used. Other topics, which could be quite important in certain situations, are discussed in the following chapters. See the appropriate application software manual for information on using the software to control the system.

Timing Modes

The Princeton Instruments MicroMAX system has been designed to allow the greatest possible flexibility when synchronizing data collection with an experiment.

The chart below lists the timing mode combinations. Use this chart in combination with the detailed descriptions in this chapter to determine the optimal timing configuration.

Mode	Shutter
Free Run	Normal
External Sync	Normal
External Sync	PreOpen
Continuous Cleans	Normal
Continuous Cleans	PreOpen

Table 4. Camera Timing Modes

Full Speed or Safe Mode

The WinView/32 Experiment Setup **Timing** tab page allows the user to choose **Full Speed** (Synchronous) or **Safe Mode** (Asynchronous). Figure 14 is a flowchart comparing the two modes. In Full Speed (Synchronous) operation, the MicroMAX runs according to the timing of the experiment, with no interruptions from the computer. In Safe Mode operation, the computer processes each frame as it is received. The MicroMAX cannot collect the next frame until the previous frame has been completely processed.

Full Speed operation is primarily for collecting “real-time” sequences of experimental data, where timing is critical and events cannot be missed. Once the MicroMAX is sent the Start Acquisition command (STARTACQ) by the computer, all frames are collected without further intervention from the computer. The advantage of this timing mode is that timing is controlled completely through hardware. A drawback to this mode is that the computer will only display frames when it is not performing other tasks. Image display has a lower priority, so the image on the screen may lag several images behind. *A video monitor connected to the VIDEO output will always display the current image.* A second drawback is that a data overrun may occur if the number of images collected exceeds the amount of allocated RAM or if the computer cannot keep up with the data rate.

Safe Mode operation is primarily useful for experiment setup, including alignment and focusing, when it is necessary to have the most current image displayed on the screen. It is also useful when data collection must be coordinated with external devices such as external shutters and filter wheels. As seen in Figure 14, in Safe Mode operation, the computer controls when each frame is taken. After each frame is received, the camera

sends the Stop Acquisition command to the camera, instructing it to stop acquisition. Once that frame is completely processed and displayed, another Start Acquisition command is sent from the computer to the camera, allowing it to take the next frame. Display is therefore, at most, only one frame behind the actual data collection.

One disadvantage of the Safe (Asynchronous) mode is that events may be missed during the experiment, since the MicroMAX is disabled for a short time after each frame.

Standard Timing Modes

The basic MicroMAX timing modes are Free Run, External Sync, and External Sync with Continuous Cleans. These timing modes are combined with the Shutter options to provide the widest variety of timing modes for precision experiment synchronization.

The shutter options available include Normal, PreOpen, Disable Opened or Disable Closed. Disable simply means that the shutter will not operate during the experiment. Disable closed is useful for making dark charge measurements, or when no shutter is present in the system. PreOpen, available in the External Sync mode, opens the shutter as soon as the MicroMAX is ready to receive an External Sync pulse. This is required if the time between the External Sync pulse and the event is less than a few milliseconds, the time it takes the shutter to open.

The shutter timing is shown in the timing diagrams that follow. Except for Free Run, where the modes of shutter operation are identical, both Normal and PreOpen lines are shown in the timing diagrams and flowchart.

The timing diagrams are labeled indicating the exposure time (t_{exp}), shutter compensation time (t_c), and readout time (t_R). See Chapter 6 for additional information.

Free Run

In the Free Run mode the controller does not synchronize with the experiment in any way. The shutter opens as soon as the previous readout is complete, and remains open for the exposure time, t_{exp} . Any External Sync signals are ignored. This mode is useful for experiments with a constant light source, such as a CW laser or a DC lamp. Other experiments that can utilize this mode are high repetition studies, where the number of shots that occur during a single shutter cycle is so large that it appears to be continuous illumination.

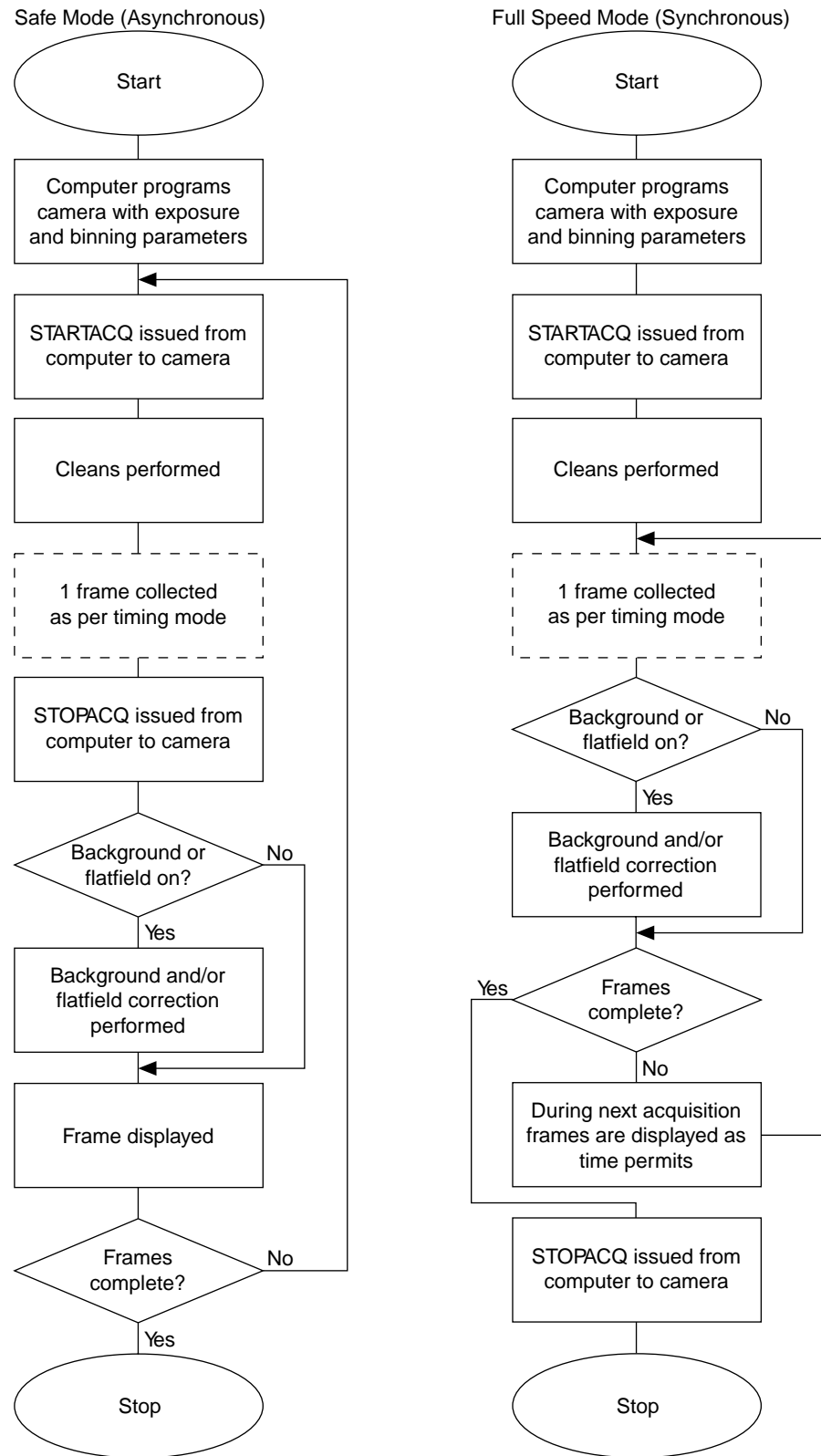


Figure 14. Chart of Full Speed (Synchronous) and Safe (Asynchronous) Operation

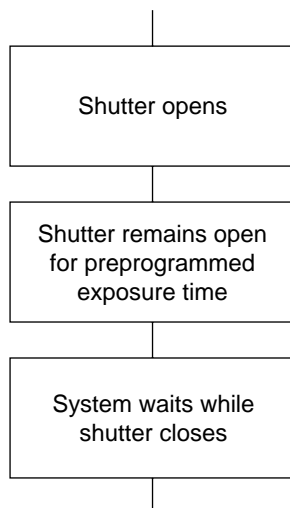


Figure 15. Free Run Timing Chart (part of the chart in Figure 14)

Other experimental equipment can be synchronized to the MicroMAX system by using the **SCAN** (NOTSCAN) signal. This TTL output for synchronous operation is shown in Figure 16.

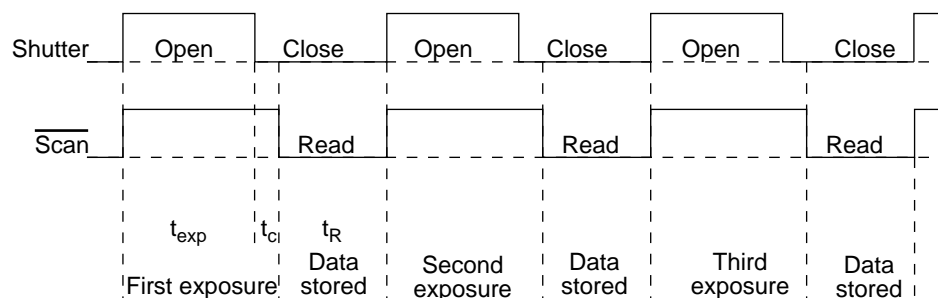


Figure 16. Free Run Timing Diagram

External Sync

In this mode all exposures are synchronized to an external source. As shown in the flowchart, Figure 17, this mode can be used in combination with Normal or PreOpen Shutter operation. In Normal Shutter mode, the controller waits for an External Sync pulse, then opens the shutter for the programmed exposure period. As soon as the exposure is complete, the shutter closes and the CCD array is read out. The shutter requires 5-10 msec to open completely, depending on the model of shutter. (Shutter compensation time is discussed in Chapter 6.)

Since the shutter requires up to 10 msec to fully open, the External Sync pulse provided by the experiment must precede the actual signal by at least that much time. If not, the shutter will not be open for the duration of the entire signal, or the signal may be missed completely.

Also, since the amount of time from initialization of the experiment to the first External Sync pulse is not fixed, an accurate background subtraction may not be possible for the first readout. In multiple-shot experiments this is easily overcome by simply discarding the first frame.

In the PreOpen Shutter mode, on the other hand, shutter operation is only partially synchronized to the experiment. As soon as the controller is ready to collect data the shutter opens. Upon arrival of the first External Sync pulse at the MicroMAX, the shutter remains open for the specified exposure period, closes, and the CCD is read out. As soon as readout is complete the shutter reopens and waits for the next frame.

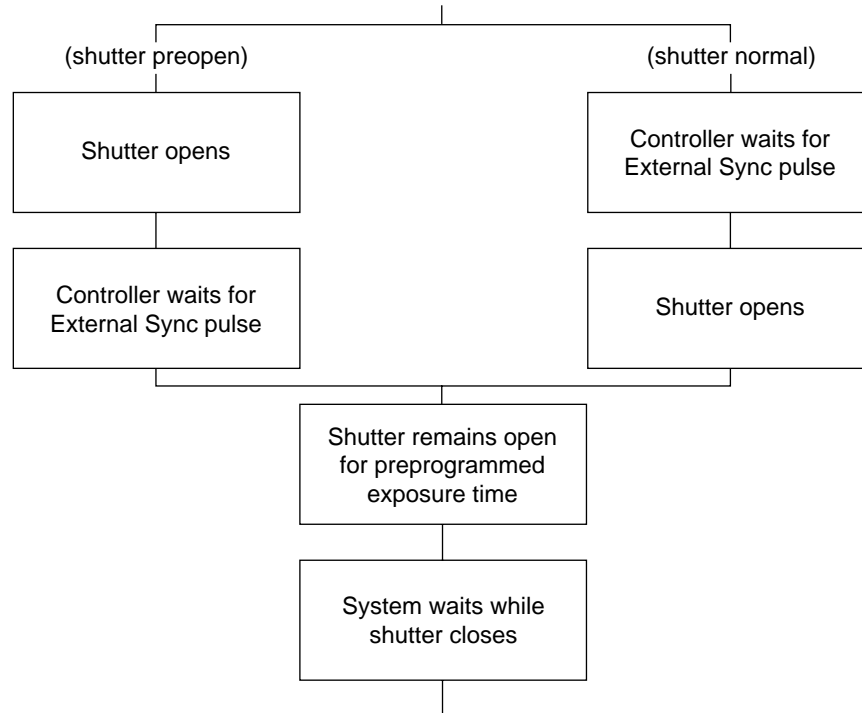


Figure 17. Chart Showing Two External Sync Timing Options

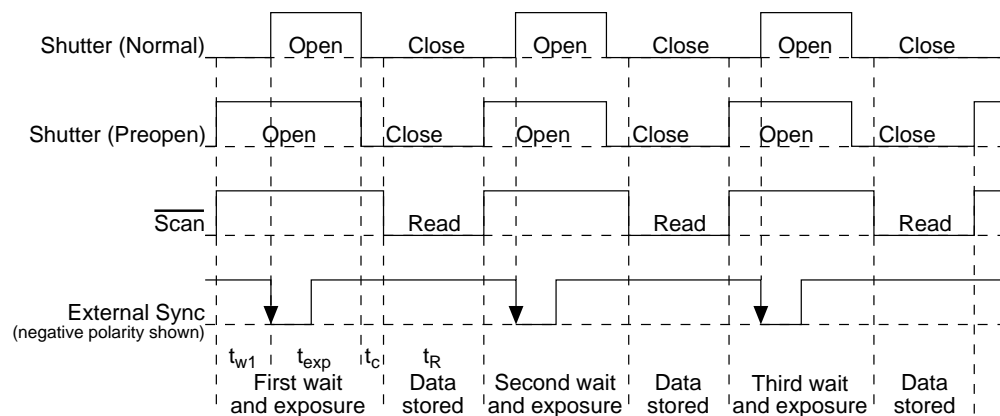


Figure 18. External Sync Timing Diagram

The PreOpen mode is useful in cases where an External Sync pulse cannot be provided 5-10 msec before the actual signal occurs. Its main drawback is that the CCD is exposed to any ambient light while the shutter is open between frames. If this ambient light is constant, and the triggers occur at regular intervals, this background can also be subtracted, providing that it does not saturate the CCD. As with the Normal Shutter mode, accurate background subtraction may not be possible for the first frame.

Note: If EXT SYNC is still active at the end of the readout, the hardware will interpret this as a second sync pulse, and so on.

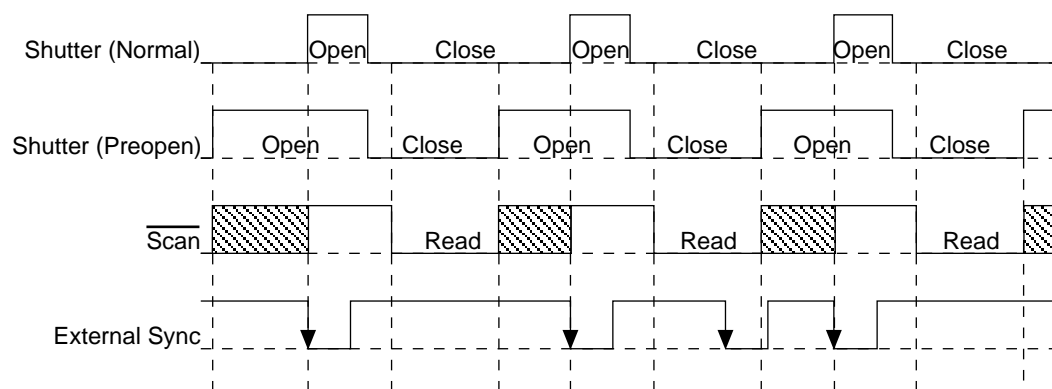


Figure 20. Continuous Cleans Timing Diagram

Frame Transfer Operation

In frame transfer operation, half the CCD is used for sensing light and the other half for storage and readout. Not all CCD arrays are capable of readout in this mode, as it requires that charge be shifted independently in the two halves of the array. *See Chapter 6 for a detailed discussion of readout in the frame-transfer mode operation; the primary focus of this section is frame-transfer timing.*

There are two timing options available in frame transfer mode, Free Run and External Sync. Both are similar to their counterparts in full frame (standard) operation, except that in frame transfer operation a shutter is not generally used. Because there is no shutter (or the shutter is only closed after the camera has collected a series of frames), shutter Normal, PreOpen, or Disable have no physical meaning here. The exposure half of the array sees light continuously. The *actual exposure time* is the time between data transfers from the exposure half of the array to the storage half of the array, and may be longer than the programmed exposure, t_{exp} . Data transfer from the exposure half of the array to the storage half occurs very quickly at the start of each read. During the read, the stored data is shifted to the array's output port, the same as in standard operation.

In Free Run frame-transfer mode operation, half of the array is exposed for the set exposure time (t_{exp}). Then the data transfer to the storage half of the array takes place, marking the start of the read and the beginning of a new exposure.

In External Sync frame-transfer mode operation, the camera reads out one frame for every External Sync pulse received, providing the frequency of the External Sync pulse doesn't exceed the maximum rate possible with the system. Other than for the first readout, initiated by starting acquisition, a Sync Pulse must be detected before the subsequent readout can occur.

Note: If EXT SYNC is still active at the end of the readout, the hardware will interpret this as a second sync pulse, and so on.

If operating without a shutter, the actual exposure time is set by the period of the sync signal. There is one exception, if the programmed exposure time is less than the readout time, then the actual exposure time is simply equal to t_R , the readout time (marked by

SCAN low). More specifically, if the readout time, t_R , is greater than the sum of t_{w1} , the time the controller waits for the first External Sync pulse, plus t_{exp} , the programmed exposure time, plus t_c , the shutter compensation time, then the actual exposure time will equal t_R . If an External Sync pulse is detected during each read, frames will follow one another as rapidly as possible as shown in Figure 21. *In these figures, Shutter Monitor indicates the programmed exposure time. If a shutter were present and active, it would also be the actual exposure time.*

Prior to the first readout, clean cycles are performed on the array. When the software issues a Start Acquisition command, the first readout is generated in hardware and the rapid data transfer from the exposure half of the array to the storage half of the array occurs (marking the beginning of the first exposure). The initial data read are discarded because they are not meaningful. The first exposure continues until the next data transfer, which occurs at the beginning of the next readout, 50 ns after the first readout ends. The data acquired during the first exposure is then read out. This pattern continues for the duration of the experiment so that, during each frame, the data acquired during the previous frame is read out.

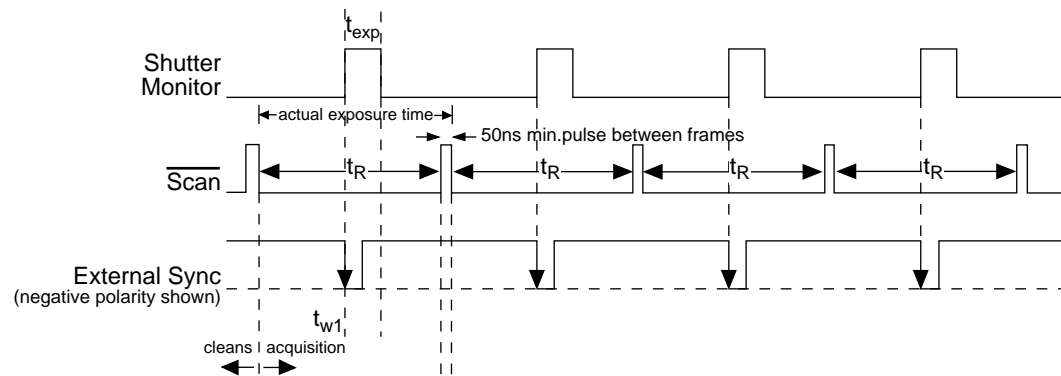


Figure 21. Frame Transfer where $t_{w1} + t_{exp} + t_c < t_R$

Figure 22 shows the case where the programmed storage time is greater than the time required to read out the storage half of the array, that is, where $t_{w1} + t_{exp} + t_c > t_R$. In this case, the programmed exposure time will dominate in determining the actual exposure time. In the situation depicted in Figure 22, the External Sync pulse arrives during the readout. As always, the External Sync pulse must be detected before the next readout can occur. However, there is no requirement as to when it must be applied or even that it be periodic. The timing of the External Sync pulse is entirely at the user's discretion. In Figure 23, the External Sync pulse is shown arriving after the read. Detection of the External Sync pulse enables a new readout to occur on completion $t_{exp} + t_c$.

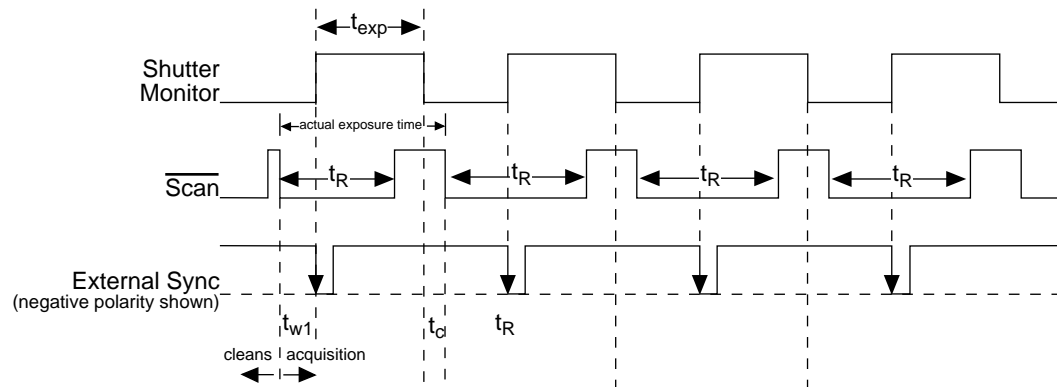


Figure 22. Frame Transfer where $t_{w1} + t_{exp} + t_c > t_R$

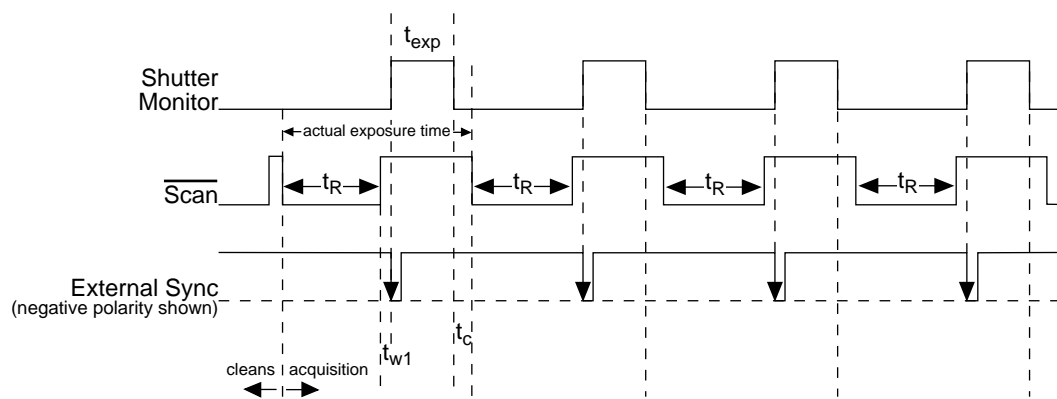


Figure 23. Frame Transfer where Pulse arrives after Readout

Interline Operation

Operating Modes

It is important to note that an interline chip can operate in either of two operating modes, overlapped or non-overlapped. The operating mode is always overlapped unless the exposure time is shorter than the readout time, in which case non-overlapped operation is automatically selected by the controlling software. Because overlapped operation is faster, to achieve the fastest possible operation, it is generally preferable to operate overlapped if possible. Thus there may be situations where *increasing the exposure time* slightly will cause the camera to switch from non-overlapped to overlapped operation. When this happens, the video may blank for a moment as the unit is reprogrammed, and then reappear with approximately double the frame rate that was available when it was operating non-overlapped. Detailed discussions of how the interline camera works and the implications for operation follow.

As stated before, there are two basic operating modes, overlapped and non-overlapped:

- **Overlapped:** When the camera is operated in the overlapped mode, readout begins at the end of the exposure time and a new exposure is initiated immediately. This mode allows the fastest possible speed. And, because the charge only has to transfer to the adjacent row, there is no smearing.

- **Non-overlapped:** This operation mode is automatically selected by the controlling software when the exposure time is less than the readout time. In non-overlapped operation, the image is transferred to the storage cells at the end of the exposure time and no further accumulation occurs (the imaging cells are switched off). The accumulated charge on each storage cell is transferred out of the CCD array, amplified, and sent to the controller as an analog signal, where it is digitized prior to transfer to the computer.

Timing Options in Overlapped Readout Mode

Interline CCD arrays have columns of imaging cells alternating with columns of storage cells. During readout, the charge stored in the photo-sensitive imaging cells move only one row to the adjacent storage cells. From there they move downwards to the readout register and from there to the output node. This scheme serves to allow high speeds, no smearing and shutterless operation, a distinct advantage over frame-transfer sensors where the cell contents can be contaminated by the charge in other cells as data is moved across the CCD and under the mask.

There are two timing options available in the overlapped mode, Free Run and External Sync. (**None** should be the Shutter Type selection if using WinView/32 software and operating without a shutter.) In both Free Run and External Sync operation, the array photosensors see light continuously. The *actual exposure time* is the time between data transfers from a photo-sensitive imaging cell to the adjacent storage cell, and may be longer than the programmed exposure, t_{exp} . Data transfer from the photo-sensitive imaging cells to the storage cells occurs very quickly at the start of each readout. During the read, the stored data is shifted to the array's readout register and from there to the output node.

- In Free Run overlapped mode operation, the imaging cells are exposed for the set exposure time (t_{exp}). Then the data transfer to the storage cells takes place, marking the start of the read and the beginning of a new exposure.
- In the External Sync mode, *overlapped operation only is provided*. The camera reads out one frame for every External Sync pulse received, providing the frequency of the External Sync pulse does not exceed the maximum rate possible with the system. A sync pulse must be detected before the subsequent readout can occur. If operating without a shutter, the actual exposure time is set by the period of the sync signal. There is one exception.

If the programmed exposure time is less than the readout time in the External Sync mode, then the actual exposure time is simply equal to t_R , the readout time (marked by **SCAN** low). More specifically, if the readout time, t_R , is greater than the sum of t_{w1} , the time the controller waits for the first External Sync pulse, plus t_{exp} , the programmed exposure time, plus t_c , the shutter compensation time (zero with **None** selected as the Shutter type), then the actual exposure time will equal t_R . If an External Sync pulse is detected during each read, frames will follow one another as rapidly as possible as shown in Figure 24. In these figures, Shutter Monitor indicates the *programmed* exposure time. If a shutter were present and active, it would also be the *actual* exposure time.

Before the first readout, clean cycles are performed on the array. When the software issues a Start Acquisition command, the first exposure begins. Time

counting of the programmed Exposure Time begins when the sync pulse arrives at the Ext Sync connector. The exposure ends on completion of the programmed Exposure Time. Then the data acquired during the first exposure is read out while the next frame of data is being acquired. This pattern continues for the duration of the experiment so that, during each frame, the data acquired during the previous frame is read out.

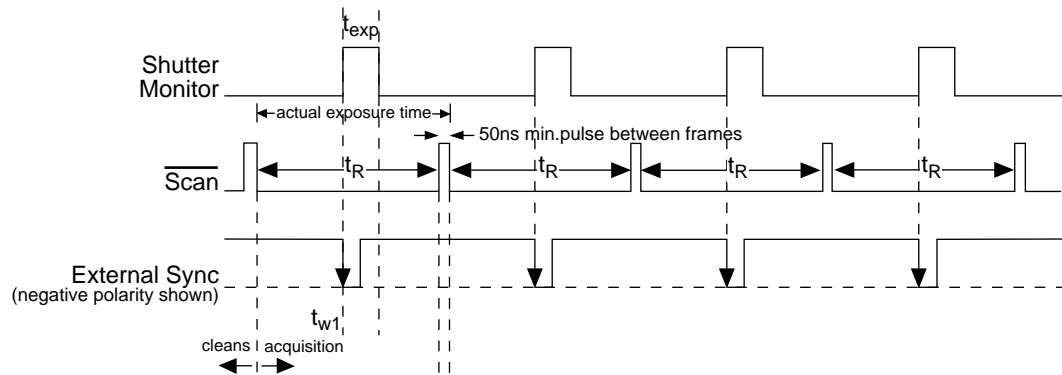


Figure 24. Overlapped Mode where $t_{w1} + t_{exp} + t_c < t_R$

Figure 25 shows the case where the programmed exposure time is greater than the time required to read out the storage half of the array, that is, where $t_{w1} + t_{exp} + t_c > t_R$. In this case, the programmed exposure time will dominate in determining the actual exposure time. In the situation depicted in Figure 25, the External Sync pulse arrives during the readout. As always, the External Sync pulse must be detected before the next readout can occur. However, there is no requirement as to when it must be applied or even that it be periodic. The timing of the External Sync pulse is entirely at the user's discretion. In Figure 26, the External Sync pulse is shown arriving after the read. Detection of the External Sync pulse enables a new readout to occur on completion $t_{exp} + t_c$.

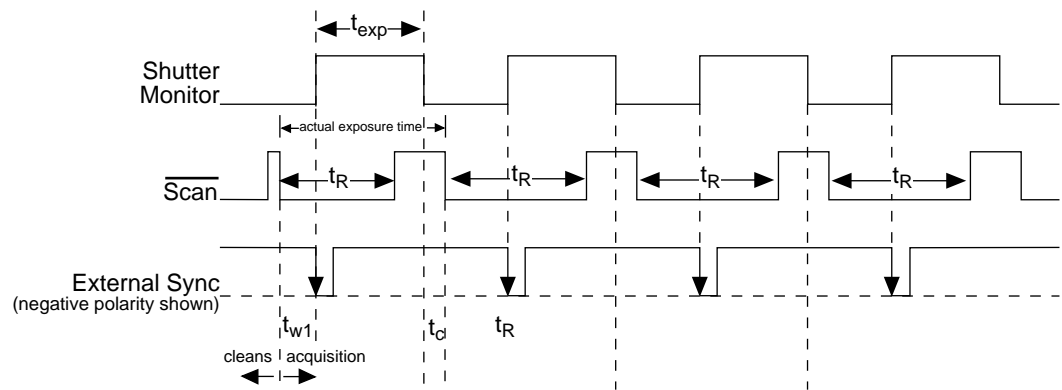


Figure 25. Overlapped Mode where $t_{w1} + t_{exp} + t_c > t_R$

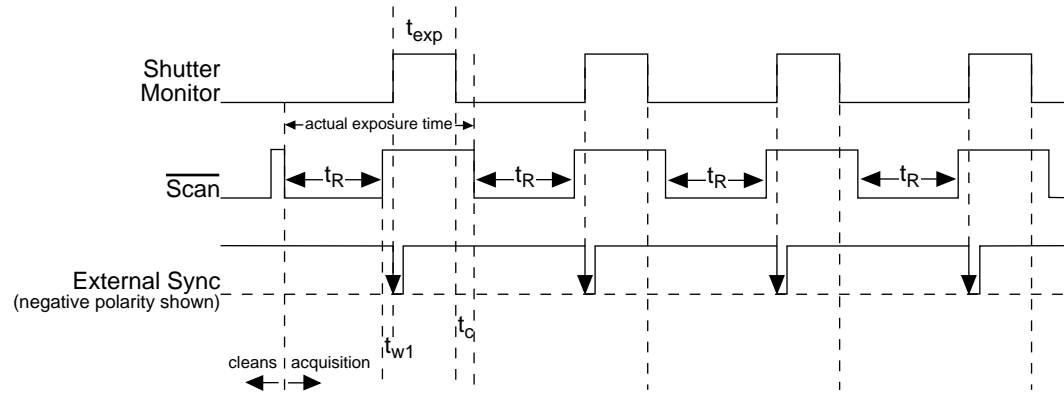


Figure 26. Overlapped Mode where Pulse arrives after Readout

Chapter 6

Exposure and Readout

Before each image from the CCD array appears on the computer screen, it must first be read, digitized, and transferred to the computer. Figure 27 is a block diagram of the image-signal path.

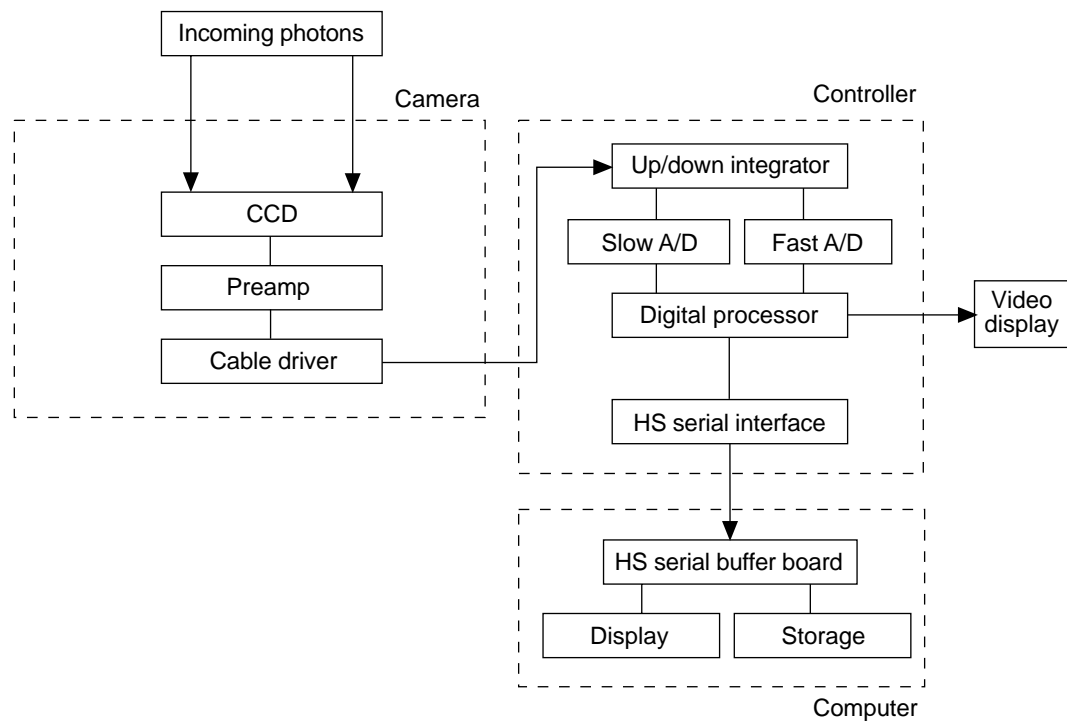


Figure 27. Block Diagram of Light Path in System

The remainder of this chapter describes the exposure, readout, and digitization of the image. Included are descriptions of binning for imaging applications and the specialized MicroMAX timing modes.

Exposure

Charge coupled devices can be roughly thought of as a two-dimensional grid of individual photodiodes (called pixels), each connected to its own charge storage “well.” Each pixel senses the intensity of light falling on its collection area, and stores a proportional amount of charge in its associated “well”. Once charge accumulates for the specified exposure time, the charge in the image pixels are moved to a different location. Depending on the CCD array type, the pixels are read out to a serial register or shifted under a masked area or into storage cells and then read out to a serial register.

CCD arrays perform three essential functions: photons are transduced to electrons, integrated and stored, and finally read out. CCDs are very compact and rugged. Unintensified, uncoated CCDs can withstand direct exposure to relatively high light levels, magnetic fields and RF radiation. They are easily cooled and can be precisely temperature controlled to within a few tens of millidegrees.

Because CCD arrays, like film and other media, are always sensitive to light, light must not be allowed to fall on the array during readout. Unintensified full-frame CCD cameras like the MicroMAX use a mechanical shutter to prevent light from reaching the CCD during readout. ICCD (intensified) cameras use an image intensifier to gate the light on and off.

The software allows the user to set the length of time the camera is allowed to integrate the incoming light. This is called the exposure time. During each scan, the shutter or intensifier is enabled for the duration of the exposure period, allowing the pixels to register light.

Exposure with an Interline Array

Interline transfer CCDs contain alternate columns of imaging and storage cells that work in pairs. Light impinging on the imaging cells cause a charge buildup. As previously explained, the operating mode is always overlapped unless the exposure time is shorter than the readout time, in which case non-overlapped operation is automatically selected.

Note: The storage cells of an interline array are quite light-insensitive (the ratio of the light sensitivity of the storage cells, which are masked, to the light sensitivity of the imaging cells is ~4000:1). However, even with a rejection ratio of ~4000:1, there may be situations where this may not be sufficient to prevent light leakage from significantly affecting the data. That this is so becomes apparent when the on/off time factors are considered. In an experiment with a very short exposure compared to the readout rate, the ratio of the readout time to the exposure time may easily be of the same order as the rejection ratio of the interline array storage cells. Where this is the case, the signal buildup in the storage cells during the readout time may equal the signal transferred from the imaging cells to the storage cells at the end of the exposure time. The effect of this signal will be to cause data smearing. The only solutions to this problem at this time are to increase the exposure time to where the effect is insignificant, use a shutter, or to use a gated light source.

Exposure with a Mechanical Shutter

For some CCD arrays, the MicroMAX uses a mechanical shutter to control exposure of the CCD. The diagram in Figure 28 shows how the exposure period is measured. The **SCAN** output provided at the ST-133A Analog/Control panel can be used to monitor the exposure and readout cycle (t_R). This signal is also shown in Figure 28. The value of t_c is shutter type dependent, and will be configured automatically for MicroMAX systems shipped with an internal shutter.

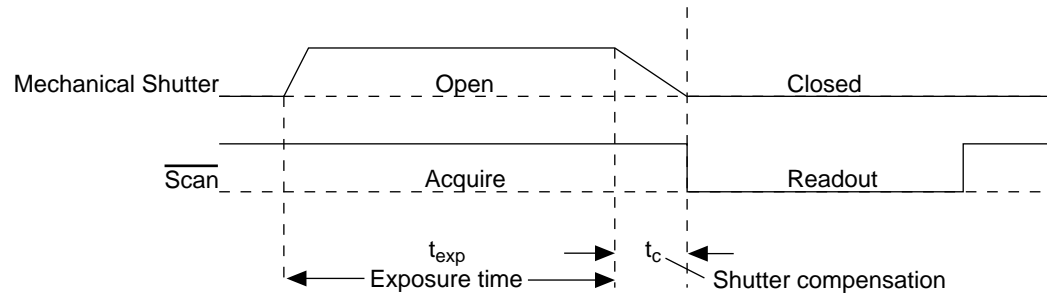


Figure 28. CCD Exposure with Shutter Compensation

SCAN is low during readout, high during exposure, and high during shutter compensation time.

Since most shutters behave like an iris, the opening and closing of the shutter will cause the center of the CCD to be exposed slightly longer than the edges. It is important to realize this physical limitation, particularly when using short exposures.

Exposure with an Image Intensifier

Although the standard MicroMAX camera is not intensified, it is possible to connect it to a lens-coupled intensifier. Contact the factory if you are interested in more information about operating an intensified version of the MicroMAX system.

Continuous Exposure (no shuttering)

Unlike video rate CCD cameras, slow scan scientific cameras require a shutter to prevent “smearing” of features during readout or transfer to a masked area or storage cells. Smearing occurs during readout because charge is moved horizontally or vertically across the surface of the CCD while charge continues to accumulate on the array. As the result, the image will be blurred along one direction only.

The fraction of total signal due to smearing is the ratio of the amount of time spent shifting divided by the exposure time between frames. Faster shifting and/or longer exposure times will minimize this effect. Note that while 1% smear is insignificant in an 8-bit camera (256 gray levels), in a 12-bit camera (over 4,000 gray levels) 1% smearing is over 40 counts, enough to obscure faint features in a high dynamic range image.

Full-Frame

For full-frame CCDs, the MicroMAX camera is usually equipped with an integral shutter. If a full-frame MicroMAX is being operated without a shutter, smearing can be avoided by ensuring that no light falls on the CCD during readout. If the light source can be controlled electronically via the **SCAN** or SHUTTER Monitor output, the CCD can be read out in darkness.

Frame Transfer

For frame transfer CCDs, image smearing may occur, depending on the exact nature of the experiment. Smearing occurs only if the CCD is illuminated during shifting. In the case of lens-coupled intensified cameras (ICCDs), this effect can be eliminated by using a fast phosphor and gating the intensifier at the same frame rate as the CCD.

Interline

For interline CCDs, image smearing may occur due to a small amount of light leaking through to the storage cells during the readout time. In the case of lens-coupled intensified cameras (ICCDs), this effect can be eliminated by using a fast phosphor and gating the intensifier at the same frame rate as the CCD.

Saturation

When signal levels in some part of the image are very high, charge generated in one pixel may exceed the “well capacity” of the pixel, spilling over into adjacent pixels in a process called “blooming.” In this case a more frequent readout is advisable, with signal averaging to enhance S/N (Signal-to-Noise ratio) accomplished through the software.

For signal levels low enough to be readout-noise limited, longer exposure times, and therefore longer signal accumulation in the CCD, will improve the S/N ratio approximately linearly with the length of exposure time. There is, however, a maximum time limit for on-chip averaging, determined by either the saturation of the CCD by the signal or the loss of dynamic range due to the buildup of dark charge in the pixels (see below).

Dark Charge

Dark charge (or dark current) is the thermally induced buildup of charge in the CCD over time. The statistical noise associated with this charge is known as dark noise. Dark charge values vary widely from one CCD array to another and are exponentially temperature dependent. At the typical operating temperature of a round head camera, for example, dark charge is reduced by a factor of ~2 for every 6° reduction in temperature.

With the light into the camera completely blocked, the CCD will collect a dark charge pattern, dependent on the exposure time and camera temperature. The longer the exposure time and the warmer the camera, the larger and less uniform this background will appear. Thus, to minimize dark-charge effects, you should operate with the lowest CCD temperature possible.

Note: Do not be concerned about either the DC level of this background or its shape unless it is very high, i.e., > 1000 counts. What you see is not noise. It is a fully subtractable readout pattern. Each CCD has its own dark charge pattern, unique to that particular device. Simply acquire and save a dark charge “background image” under conditions identical to those used to acquire the “actual” image. Subtracting the background image from the actual image will significantly reduce dark-charge effects.

Array Readout

In this section, a simple 6×4 pixel CCD is used to demonstrate how charge is shifted and digitized. As described below, two different types of readout are available. Full frame readout, for full frame CCDs, reads out the entire CCD surface at the same time. Frame transfer operation assumes half of the CCD is for data collection and half of the array is a temporary storage area.

Full Frame

The upper left drawing in Figure 29 represents a CCD after exposure but before the beginning of readout. The capital letters represent different amounts of charge, including both signal and dark charge. This section explains readout at full resolution, where every pixel is digitized separately.

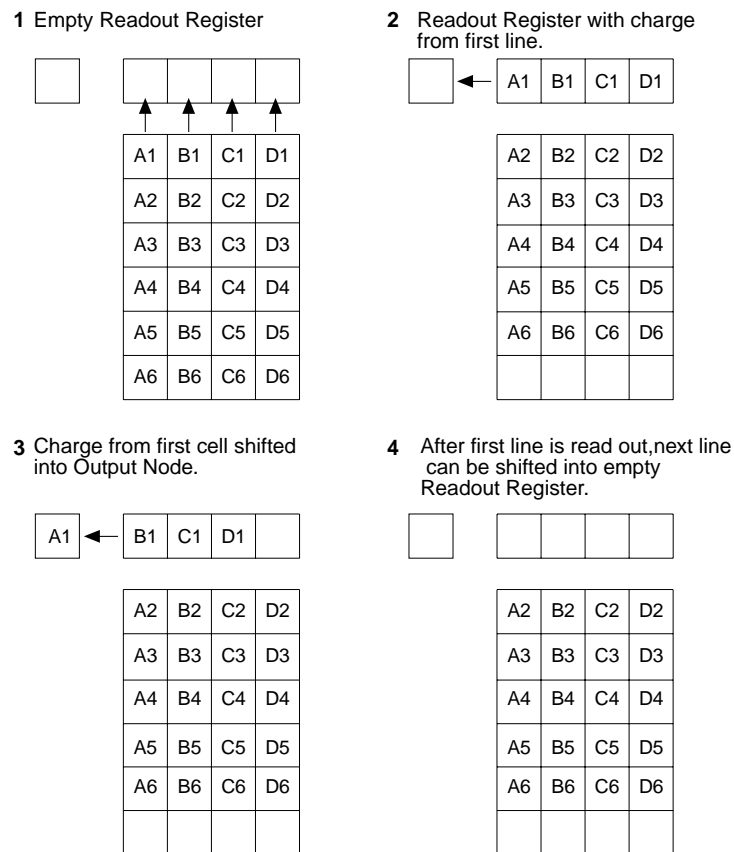


Figure 29. Full Frame at Full Resolution

Readout of the CCD begins with the simultaneous shifting of all pixels one column toward the “shift register,” in this case the column on the far right. The shift register is a single line of pixels along one side of the CCD, not sensitive to light and used for readout only. Typically the shift register pixels hold twice as much charge as the pixels in the imaging area of the CCD.

After the first column is moved into the shift register, the charge now in the shift register is shifted toward the output node, located at one end of the shift register. As each value is “emptied” into this node it is digitized. Only after all pixels in the first column are

digitized is the second column moved into the shift register. The order of shifting in our example is therefore D6, C6, B6, A6, D5, C5, B5, A5, D4....

After charge is shifted out of each pixel the remaining charge is zero, meaning that the array is immediately ready for the next exposure.

Below are the equations that determine the rate at which the CCD is read out. Tables of values for CCDs supported at the time of the printing of this manual also appear below.

The time needed to take a full frame at full resolution is:

$$t_R + t_{exp} + t_c \quad (1)$$

where

t_R is the CCD readout time,

t_{exp} is the exposure time, and

t_c is the shutter compensation time.

The readout time is approximately given by:

$$t_R = [N_x \cdot N_y \cdot (t_{sr} + t_v)] + (N_x \cdot t_i) \quad (2)$$

where

N_x is the smaller dimension of the CCD

N_y is the larger dimension of the CCD

t_{sr} is the time needed to shift one pixel out of the shift register

t_v is the time needed to digitize a pixel

t_i is the time needed to shift one line into the shift register

(t_s , the time needed to discard a pixel, appears below and in later equations)

The readout time for a 1024x1024 full-frame CCD array is provided in Table 5 below.

CCD Array	1 MHz Readout Time
MicroMAX:1024B EEV CCD47-10 1024x1024	1.1 sec. for full frame

Table 5. Approximate Readout Time for the Full-Frame CCD Array

A subsection of the CCD can be read out at full resolution, sometimes dramatically increasing the readout rate while retaining the highest resolution in the region of interest (ROI). To approximate the readout rate of an ROI, in Equation 2 substitute the x and y dimensions of the ROI in place of the dimensions of the full CCD. Some overhead time, however, is required to read out and discard the unwanted pixels.

Frame Transfer

The MicroMAX fully supports frame transfer readout. Operation in this mode is very similar to the operation of video rate cameras. Half of the CCD is exposed continuously, raising the exposure duty cycle to nearly 100%. The other half of the CCD is masked to prevent exposure, and it is here that the image is “stored” until it can be read out. Figure 30 shows the readout of a masked version of our sample 4×6 CCD. The shading represents the masked area (masking is on the array).

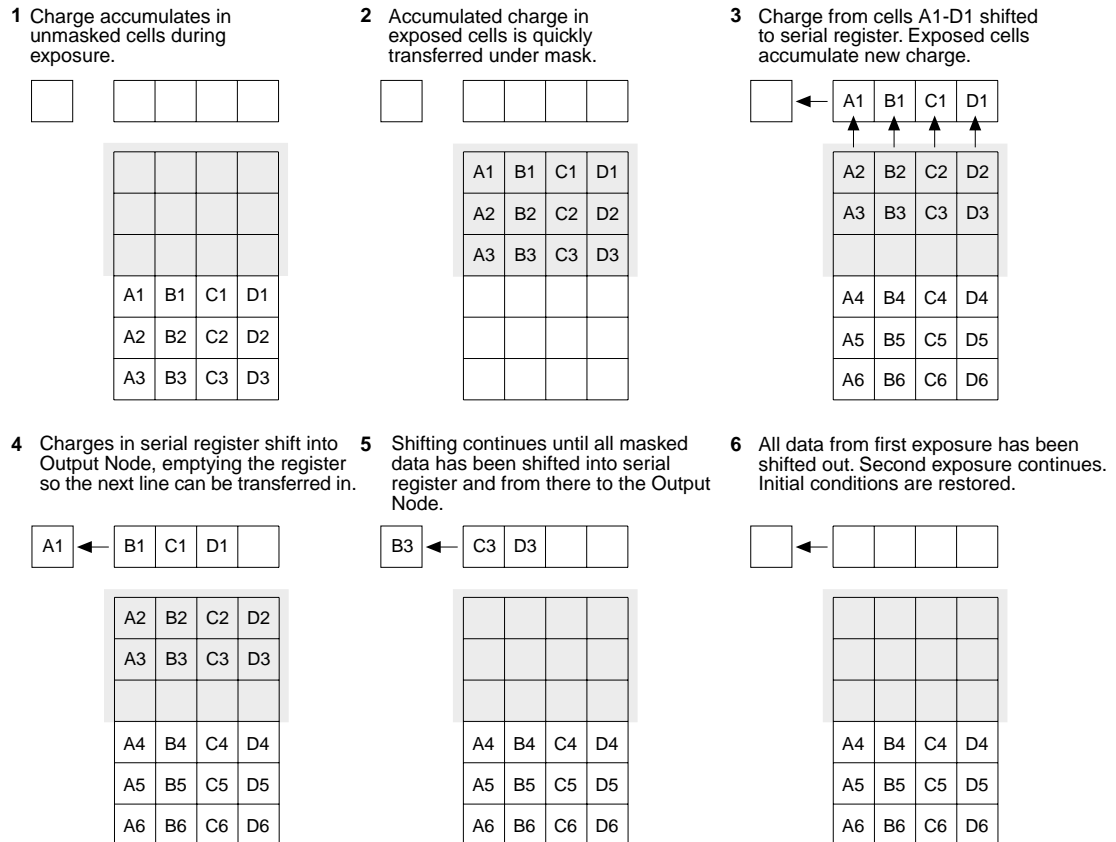


Figure 30. Frame Transfer Readout

Only the exposed region collects charge. At the end of the exposure, the charge is quickly shifted into the masked region. Since the shifting is accomplished in a short time, i.e., a few milliseconds, the incident light causes only minimal “smearing” of the signal. While the exposed region continues collecting data, the masked region is read out and digitized. The percentage of smearing can be determined by dividing the time needed to shift all rows from the imaging area by the exposure time. See the equation below.

$$\frac{N_x t_i}{t_{\text{exp}}}$$

CCD Array	1 MHz Readout Time
MicroMAX:512BFT EEV CCD57-10 512 x 512	0.35 sec. for full frame

Table 6. Approximate Readout Time for the Frame-Transfer CCD Array

Interline

In this section, a simple 6×3 pixel interline CCD is used to demonstrate how charge is shifted and digitized. As described below, two different types of readout, overlapped and non-overlapped can occur. In overlapped operation, each exposure begins while the readout of the previous one is still in progress. In non-overlapped operation (selected automatically if the exposure time is shorter than the readout time) each readout goes to completion before the next exposure begins.

Overlapped Operation Exposure and Readout

Figure 31 illustrates exposure and readout when operating in the overlapped mode. Figure 31 contains four parts, each depicting a later stage in the exposure-readout cycle. Eight columns of cells are shown. Columns 1, 3, and 5 contain imaging cells while columns 2, 4, and 6 contain storage cells. The readout register is shown above the array.

Part 1 of the figure shows the array early in the exposure. The imaging cells contain charge proportional to the amount of light integrated on each of them. The storage cells are empty because no charge has been transferred to them. The arrows between adjacent imaging and storage cells indicate the direction the charge will be shifted when the transfer occurs.

Part 2 of Figure 31 shows the situation early in the readout. The charge in the imaging cells has been transferred to the adjacent storage cells and up-shifting to the readout register has started. Note that a new exposure begins immediately.

Part 3 of Figure 31 shows the transfer to the output node. The lowermost cell in each column is shown empty. Each row of charges is moved in turn into the readout register, and from there to the output node and off of the array for further processing. The process continues until all charges have been completely transferred out of the array. The imaging cells continue accumulating charge throughout the readout process. Integrating in this way while the readout takes place achieves the maximum possible time efficiency.

Part 4 of Figure 31 illustrates the situation at the end of the readout. The storage cells and readout register are empty, but the ongoing accumulation of charge in the imaging cells continues until the end of the programmed exposure.

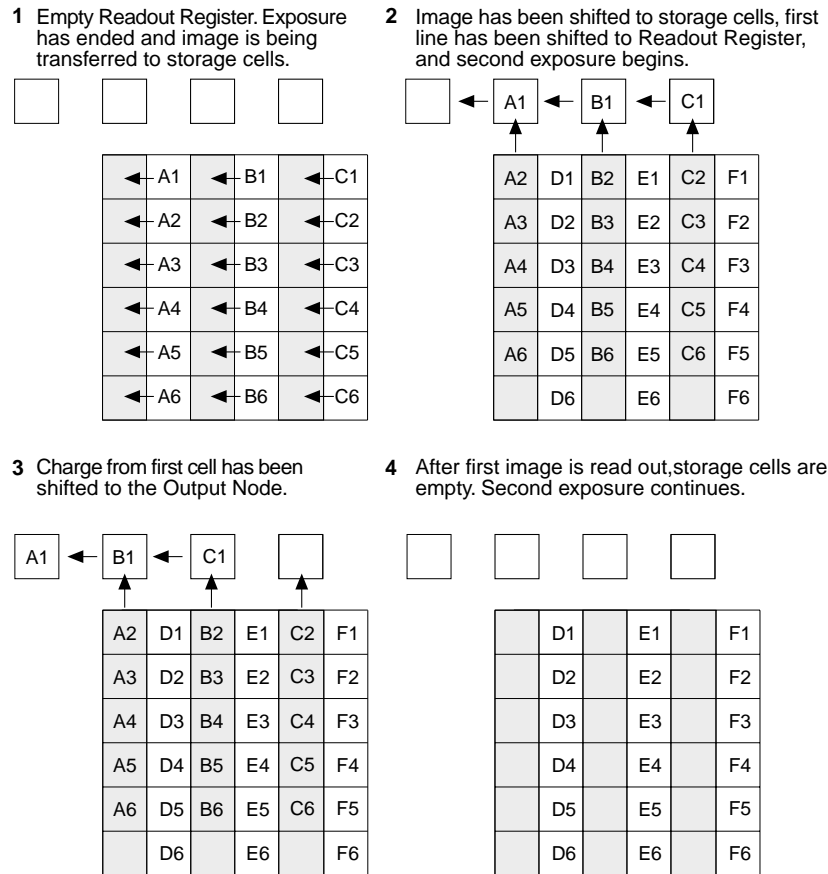


Figure 31. Overlapped Mode Exposure and Readout

Non-Overlapped Operation Exposure and Readout

Figure 32 illustrates exposure and readout when operating in the non-overlapped mode. Non-overlapped operation occurs automatically any time the exposure time is shorter than the readout time. Figure 32 contains four parts, each depicting a later stage in the exposure-readout cycle.

Part 1 of the figure shows the array early in the exposure. The imaging cells contain charge proportional to the amount of light integrated on each of them. The storage cells are empty because no charge has been transferred to them. The arrows between adjacent imaging and storage cells indicate the direction the charge will be shifted when the transfer occurs.

Part 2 of Figure 32 shows the situation early in the readout cycle. The charge in the imaging cells has been transferred to the adjacent storage cells and up-shifting to the readout register has started. Note that a second exposure doesn't begin while the readout is in progress.

Part 3 of Figure 32 shows the transfer to the output node. The lowermost cell in each column is shown empty. Each row of charges is moved in turn into the readout register, and from there to the output node and off of the array for further processing. The process continues until all charges have been completely transferred out of the array. The imaging cells are electronically switched off and do not accumulate any charge as the readout takes place. Because this scheme is less time efficient than that used in the overlapped mode, the frame rate may be lower in non-overlapped operation than it is in overlapped operation with the same exposure time settings.

Part 4 of Figure 32 illustrates the situation at the end of the readout. Both the imaging and storage cells are empty. In Free Run operation, the imaging cells will be switched back on immediately, allowing charge accumulation to begin. In Ext Sync operation with no PreOpen, they are not switched back on until after the External Sync pulse is detected.

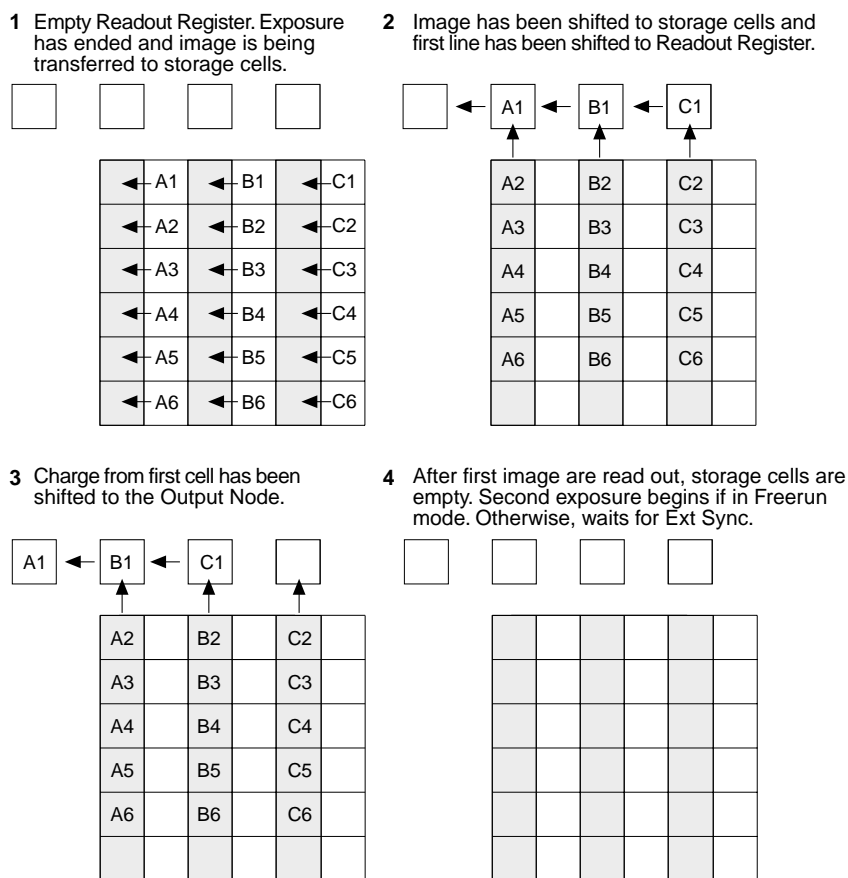


Figure 32. Non-Overlapped Mode Exposure and Readout

A subsection of the CCD can be read out at full resolution, sometimes increasing the readout rate while retaining the highest resolution in the region of interest (ROI).

Readout Rate for Interline

Below are the equations that determine the rate at which the CCD is read out. Tables of values for CCDs supported at the time of the printing of this manual also appear below.

Assuming the shutter selection is **None**, the time needed to take a full frame at full resolution in non-overlapped timing mode is:

$$t_R + t_{\text{exp}} \quad (1)$$

where

t_R is the CCD readout time,
 t_{exp} is the exposure time, and

The readout time is approximately given by:

$$t_R = [N_x \cdot N_y \cdot (t_{\text{sr}} + t_v)] + (N_x \cdot t_i) \quad (2)$$

where

N_x is the smaller dimension of the CCD

N_y is the larger dimension of the CCD.

t_{sr} is the time needed to shift one pixel out of the shift register

t_v is the time needed to digitize a pixel

t_l is the time needed to shift one line into the shift register

CCD Array	1 MHz Readout	5 MHz Readout
MicroMAX:782Y Sony ICX075 782 x 582	0.5 sec. for full frame	N/A
MicroMAX:782YHS Sony ICX075 782 x 582	N/A	0.11 sec. for full frame
MicroMAX:1300Y Sony ICX061 1300x1030	1.43 sec. for full frame	N/A
MicroMAX:1300YHS Sony ICX061 1300x1030	N/A	0.33 sec. for full frame

Table 7. Approximate Readout Time for the Interline CCD Arrays

The readout rate in frames per second for the PI 1300×1030 interline array running at 1 MHz is shown in Table 8.

Binning	Region of Interest Size			
	1300 x 1030	400 x 400	200 x 200	100 x 100
1 x 1	0.7	2.6	5.4	9
2 x 2	1.9	5.4	9	14
3 x 3	3.2	7.5	12	17
4 x 4	4.3	9	14	19

Table 8. Readout Rates for PI 1300×1030 Array at 1 MHz

A subsection of the CCD can be read out at full resolution, sometimes increasing the readout rate while retaining the highest resolution in the region of interest (ROI).

Binning

On-Chip Binning

Binning is the process of adding the data from adjacent pixels together to form a single pixel (sometimes called a super-pixel), and it can be accomplished in either hardware or software. Rectangular groups of pixels of any size may be binned together, subject to some hardware and software limitations.

Hardware binning is performed *before* the signal is read out by the preamplifier. For signal levels that are readout noise limited this method improves S/N ratio linearly with the number of pixels grouped together. For signals large enough to

render the camera photon shot noise limited, the S/N ratio improvement is roughly proportional to the square-root of the number of pixels binned.

Figure 33 shows an example of 2×2 binning for a full frame CCD array. Each pixel of the image displayed by the software represents 4 pixels of the array. Rectangular bins of any size are possible.

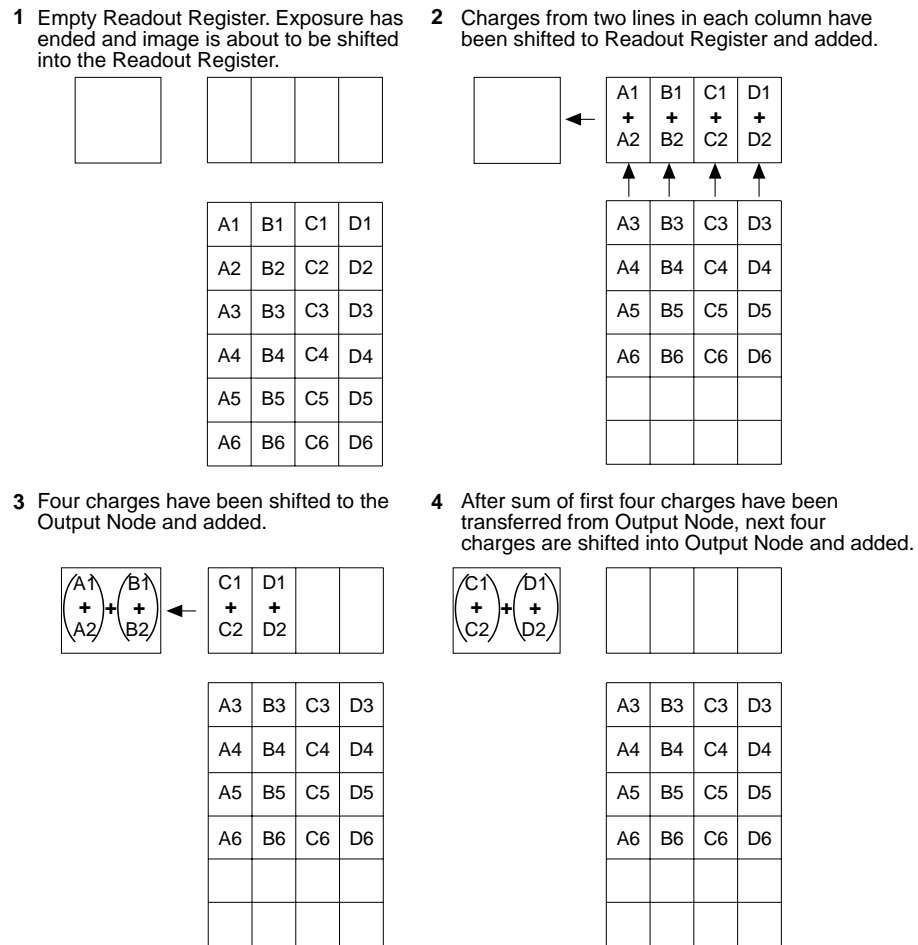


Figure 33. 2×2 Binning for Full Frame CCD

Binning also reduces readout time and the burden on computer memory, but at the expense of resolution. Since shift register pixels typically hold only twice as much charge as image pixels, the binning of large sections may result in saturation and “blooming”, or spilling of charge back into the image area.

The readout rate for $n \times n$ binning is approximated using a more general version of the full resolution equation. The modified equation is:

$$t_R = \left[N_x \cdot N_y \cdot \left(\frac{t_{sr}}{n} + \frac{t_v}{n^2} \right) \right] + (N_x \cdot t_i) \quad (3)$$

On-Chip Binning for Interline

Binning is the process of adding the data from adjacent cells together), and it can be accomplished in either hardware or software. Rectangular groups of cells of any size may be binned together, subject to some hardware and software limitations.

Hardware binning is performed *before* the signal is read out by the preamplifier. For signal levels that are readout noise limited this method improves S/N ratio linearly with the number of cells grouped together. For signals large enough to render the camera photon shot noise limited, the S/N ratio improvement is roughly proportional to the square-root of the number of pixels binned.

Figure 34 shows an example of 2×2 binning. Each cell of the image displayed by the software represents 4 cells of the CCD array. Rectangular bins of any size are possible.

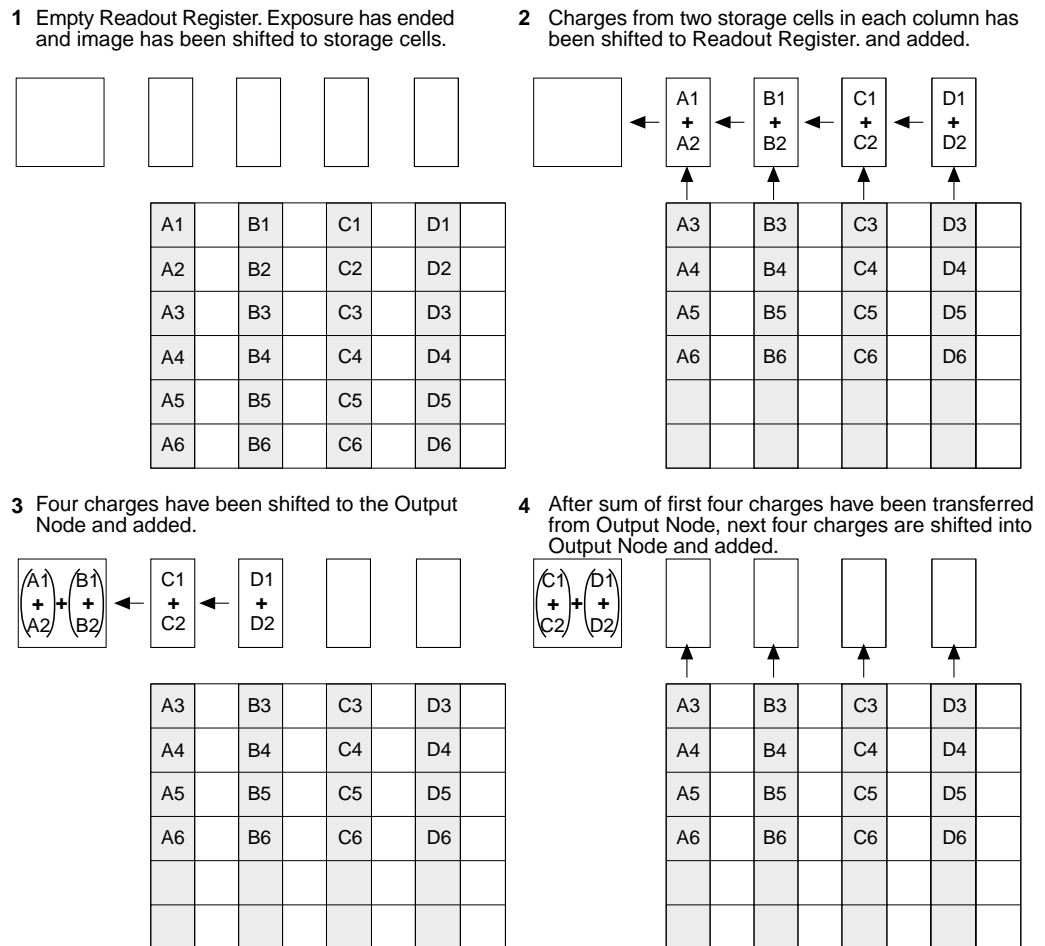


Figure 34. 2×2 Binning for Interline CCD

Software Binning

One limitation of hardware binning is that the shift register pixels and the output node are typically only 2-3 times the size of imaging pixels as shown in Table 9. Consequently, if the total charge binned together exceeds the capacity of the shift register or output node, the data will be corrupted.

This restriction strongly limits the number of pixels that may be binned in cases where there is a small signal superimposed on a large background, such as signals with a large fluorescence. Ideally, one would like to bin many pixels to increase the S/N ratio of the weak peaks but this cannot be done because the fluorescence would quickly saturate the CCD.

CCD Array	Imaging/Storage Cells Well Capacity	Readout Register Well Capacity	Output Node Well Capacity
EEV CCD-37 512 x 512	100 x 10 ³ electrons	200 x 10 ³ electrons	400 x 10 ³ electrons
PID 582 x 782	18 x 10 ³ electrons	40 x 10 ³ electrons	40 x 10 ³ electrons
PID 1030 x 1300	34 x 10 ³ electrons	34 x 10 ³ electrons	65 x 10 ³ electrons

Table 9. Well Capacity for some CCD Arrays

The solution is to perform the binning in software. Limited hardware binning may be used when reading out the CCD. Additional binning is accomplished in software, producing a result that represents many more photons than was possible using hardware binning.

Software averaging can improve the S/N ratio by as much as the square root of the number of scans. Unfortunately, with a high number of scans, i.e., above 100, camera 1/f noise may reduce the actual S/N ratio to slightly below this theoretical value. Also, if the light source used is photon-flicker limited rather than photon shot-noise limited, this theoretical signal improvement cannot be fully realized. Again, background subtraction from the raw data is necessary.

This technique is also useful in high light level experiments, where the camera is again photon shot-noise limited. Summing multiple pixels in software corresponds to collecting more photons, and results in a better S/N ratio in the measurement.

Digitization

During readout, an analog signal representing the charge of each pixel (or binned group of pixels) is digitized. The number of bits per pixel is based on both the hardware and the settings programmed into the camera through the software. The MicroMAX can contain up to two A/D converters with different readout rates selectable through software.

Dual A/D Converters

There is provision in the MicroMAX Camera for two A/D converters to provide optimum signal-to-noise ratios at both readout speeds. Because the readout noise of CCD arrays increases with the readout rate, it is sometimes necessary to trade off readout speed for high dynamic range. Although slowing the readout speed of a high-speed A/D converter gives some improvement in signal-to-noise ratio, a fast A/D converter will

always be noisier than one designed for optimum noise performance. The MicroMAX camera can be provided with two analog converters, one optimized for high speed, the other for high precision, as a solution to this problem. For the most common system configurations, there will be a 1 MHz converter for the fastest possible data collection, and a 100 kHz converter for use where noise performance is the paramount concern. Switching between the channels is completely under software control for total experiment automation.

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MicroMAX DIF Camera (Double Image Feature)

Introduction

This Appendix describes operation of the MicroMAX DIF system. Both the Controller and a MicroMAX Interline camera must have factory modifications installed for DIF operation. In addition to the internal changes, a camera modified for DIF operation would ordinarily include a mechanical shutter. Execution of the DIF functions is done via the WinView/32 software (v2.2 or higher), which, when controlling a DIF system, provides three timing modes unique to DIF systems.

Basically, a DIF system is one that has been factory modified to allow images to be taken in pairs with very short exposure times (as small as 1 μ s). This capability makes it ideal for use in experiments where the goal is to obtain two fast successive images for the purpose of characterizing a time-differentiated laser-strobed process. LIF and velocity measurements are specific measurements that can be easily performed using the DIF system.

The ability of the interline chip to quickly transfer an image under the masked columns and hold it there makes this method of acquiring images possible. As soon as the first image is acquired, it is shifted under the masked area and held. The second exposure begins and is continuously held in the photodiode region until the mechanical shutter closes. Light entering the camera while waiting for the shutter to close is small compared to that captured during the strobed event and has little effect on the acquired data.

In addition to the Free Run mode, which allows single image acquisitions, three DIF timing modes, IEC (Internal Exposure Control), EEC (External Exposure Control) and ESABI (Electronic Shutter Active Between Images) are provided. Each works basically as follows.

IEC: Allows two *successive fast images of equal duration* to be acquired, with the second image acquisition taking place immediately after the first. Acquisition is initiated by applying a single externally derived trigger to the controller's **Ext. Sync** connector.

EEC: Allows two *successive fast images of differing duration* to be acquired, with the second image acquisition taking place immediately after the first. Acquisition is initiated by applying a single externally derived trigger to the controller's **Ext. Sync** connector, the same as in IEC operation.

ESABI: Allows two fast images *of equal duration* to be acquired. Unlike the IEC and EEC modes, in the ESABI mode, two pulses are applied to the **Ext. Sync.** connector. Each initiates a separate acquisition, allowing the user to set the time between acquisitions by externally adjusting the time between the two applied pulses.

When the data is saved, both images are saved in a single *.spe file. The header is followed by frame 1 and then immediately afterwards by frame 2. This system makes it convenient to later load the images from the file for post-processing analysis.

Notes:

For most of the MicroMAX DIF cameras, the **ESABI** timing mode is activated and deactivated via the application software. If a MicroMAX DIF camera has a switch on its back panel, this switch must be set to the **ACTIVE** position for operation in the **ESABI** timing mode. At all other times it must be set to **INACTIVE**.

The Readout Mode set on the Controller/Camera Hardware Setup page *must* be set to **Full Frame** for DIF operation. Do *not* select the **Interline** Readout mode, even though, intuitively, **Interline** may seem to be the logical choice.

In the IEC, EEC or ESABI timing mode, set the **Number of Images** to 2 and **Accumulations** to 1.

On the Setup Hardware **Cleans/Skips** tab page, click the **Load Factory Values** button. This step is necessary for proper operation of the interline camera.

Timing Modes

The timing mode selections provided on the Acquisition Experiment Setup **Timing** page are different from those in standard systems. The provided timing modes are:

FREERUN (single shot)

IEC: Internal Exposure Control (two shot)

EEC: External Exposure Control (two shot)

ESABI: Electronic Shutter Active Between Images (two shot)

A discussion of each mode follows.

Free Run

The Free Run mode allows the user to capture single images. The exposure time is set on the Experiment Setup **Main** tab page, the same as in non-DIF systems, with the difference that the exposure time can be as short as one $1\ \mu\text{s}$ (maximum exposure time is 14.3 minutes). It often proves convenient to simply disable the mechanical shutter open in Free Run operation. The shutter requires $\sim 8\ \text{ms}$ to open and $8\ \text{ms}$ to close. The camera waits until the shutter is completely open before acquiring the image, and in a typical experiment, the second image acquisition will be over long before the shutter closes. Readout doesn't occur until the shutter closes.

The **READY** signal output of the controller can be used to trigger external equipment, such as the laser. As soon as the shutter is completely opened and all of the cleans have been performed, **READY** goes low to indicate that the camera is ready to capture an

image. As soon as the first exposure actually begins, **READY** returns high, as shown in Figure 35. Thus the positive going edge of the **READY** output marks the start of the first exposure. In Free Run operation, the time that **READY** remains low will typically be in the range of 400 to 600 ns.

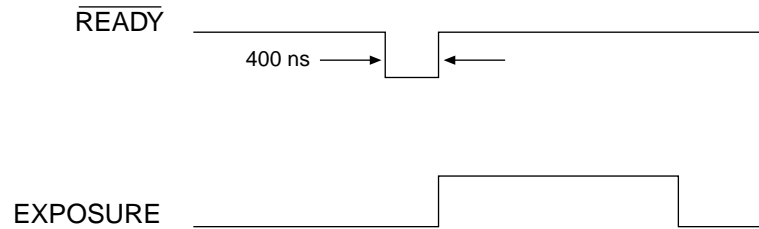


Figure 35. Free Run Mode Timing Diagram

Example: Figure 36 shows an experiment where the rising edge of the **READY** signal is used to trigger a DG-535 Delay Generator, which provides the required delay and triggers a laser source, Q switch, or other device.

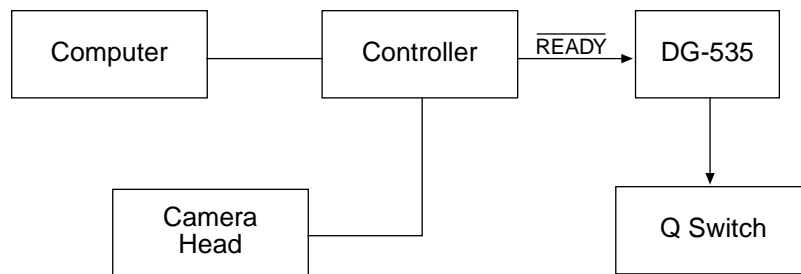


Figure 36. Setup using **READY** to Trigger an Event

Figure 37 illustrates the timing for a typical experiment like that shown in Figure 36.

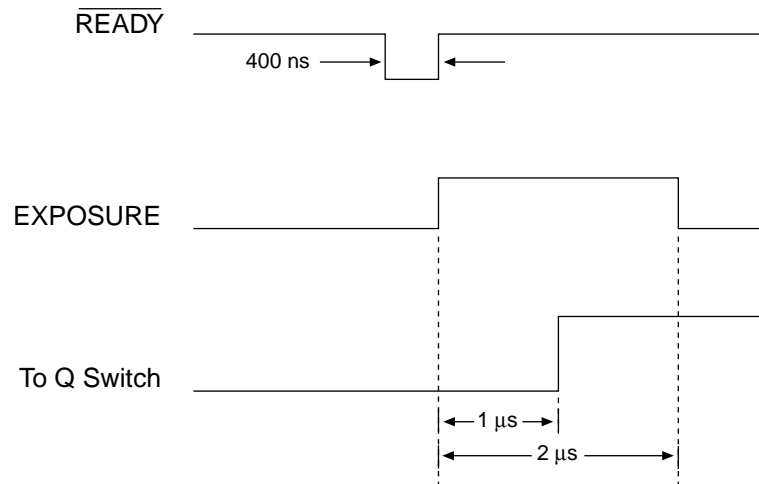


Figure 37. Timing for Experiment Setup shown in Figure 36

Summary of Free Run Timing mode

- Allows user to capture single images.
- Requires that the switch, if present on the back of the camera, be set to **INACTIVE**.
- Uses Exposure Time set via software Experiment Setup.
- Exposure time range is $1 \mu\text{s} < \text{Exp. Time} < 14.3 \text{ minutes}$
- Exposure does not occur until the mechanical shutter is completely open and readout does not begin until the mechanical shutter is completely closed.
- The mechanical shutter may, however, be disabled open.
- The **READY** signal on the back of the controller may be used as a trigger to other external hardware. **READY** goes low when the system is ready to capture an image, then is reset high once exposure begins. In the **FREERUN** timing mode, this will be a short (400 ns to 600 ns) TTL 0 pulse.

IEC (Internal Exposure Control)

In this mode, a single external trigger applied to **Ext Sync** initiates two successive image acquisitions of equal duration. The Exposure Time is set in software (Experiment Setup **Main** tab page and elsewhere) the same as in a standard system and can be as short as $1 \mu\text{s}$. On initiating the acquisition (**ACQ** button or **Acquire** on the Acquisition menu), the initialization routine runs and the shutter opens. When the shutter is completely open, **READY** drops low and remains in that state until an external trigger is applied to **Ext Sync**. Continuous cleaning takes place until the trigger is applied. When the trigger is sensed, the first exposure begins and the first image is captured (shifted under the masked columns and held there). The exposure for capture of the second image begins. This sequence is illustrated in Figure 38.

If an external trigger is applied before **READY** goes low, it will be ignored. Thus the trigger source could be running continuously at some repetition rate (as long as that rep rate is fairly slow), but capture wouldn't occur until **READY** goes low. Once that trigger comes in, it begins exposure of the first image. The exposure time is that set on the Experiment Setup **Main** tab page. For example, if the exposure time is set to $5 \mu\text{s}$, the first image will be $5 \mu\text{s}$. After an additional $5 \mu\text{s}$ (second exposure), the shutter will begin to close. Even though the shutter takes $\sim 8 \text{ ms}$ to close, the presumption is that the strobe will be timed to occur during the $5 \mu\text{s}$ second exposure time. It would also be possible to strobe and capture while the shutter is in the act of closing. However, that would generally not be advisable because it would introduce non-linearity effects from the closing shutter. It is better to have capture occur during the time allotted for it. Once the shutter is closed, the readout begins. The first image captured is the first one read out.

Example 1: An external trigger initiates the imaging process. **READY** goes low when the system is ready. Once **READY** is low, an external trigger applied to **Ext Sync** initiates the double image capture. Figure 38 illustrates the timing for a typical IEC experiment with an exposure time of $5 \mu\text{s}$.

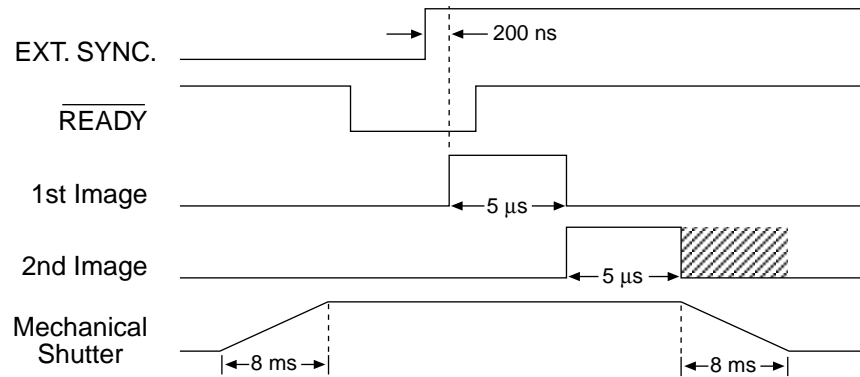


Figure 38. Timing Diagram for Typical IEC Measurement

Figure 39 illustrates the interconnections that might be used for such an experiment with two lasers. Figure 40 shows the timing for the two-laser experiment.

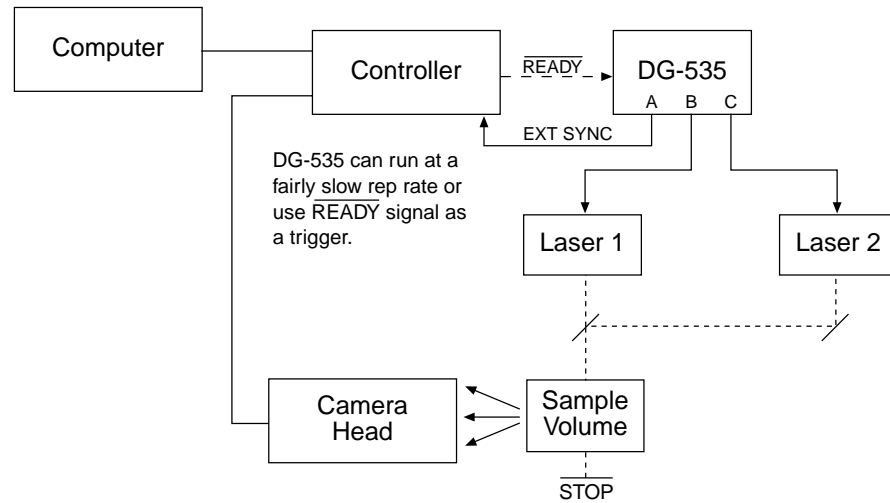


Figure 39. Setup for IEC Experiment with Two Lasers

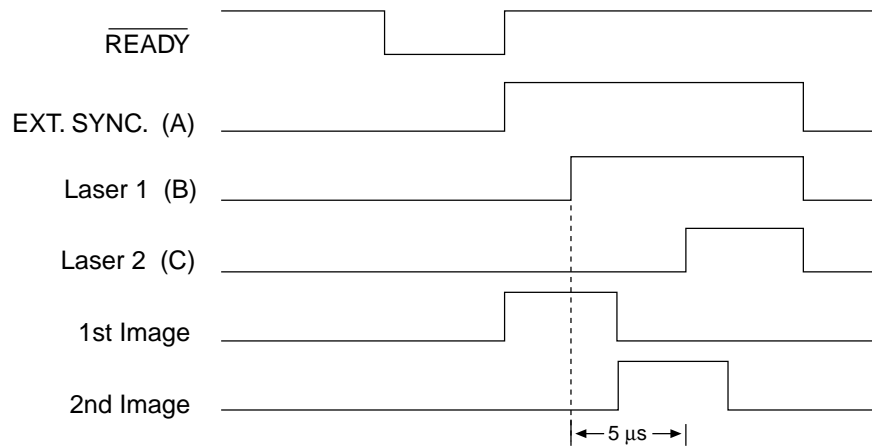


Figure 40. Timing Diagram for IEC Experiment with Two Lasers

Example 2: As shown in Figure 41, the **READY** signal from the controller can be used to trigger the controller by connecting it back into the **EXT SYNC** connector. At the same time, it can be used to trigger a DG-535.

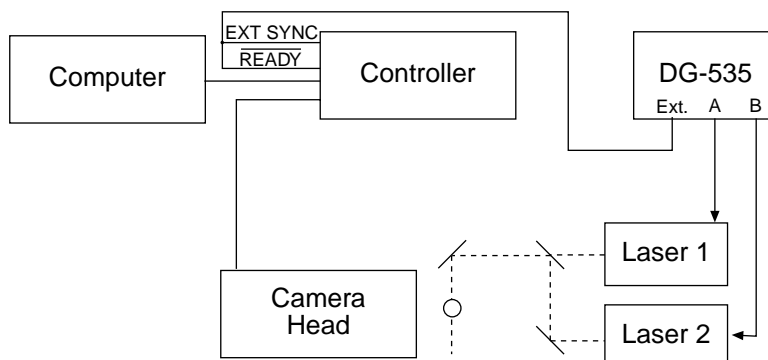


Figure 41. Another Hardware Setup for an IEC Measurement

Note: This setup will *not* work in the **EEC** mode or the **ESABI** mode.

Summary of IEC Timing mode

- Gives the user the ability to capture two images before readout.
- Requires that the switch, if present on the back of the camera, be set to **INACTIVE**.
- The Exposure Time set in software on the Experiment Setup **Main** tab page becomes the exposure time of the first image and also the wait before closing the mechanical shutter.
- An external trigger is required to initiate the imaging process. The **READY** goes low when the system is ready. Once **READY** is low, an external trigger applied to the **EXT SYNC** connector initiates the double image capture.

EEC (External Exposure Control)

Gives the user the ability to capture two images before readout with a different exposure time for each. EEC uses the external trigger to control the exposure time of the first image and the exposure time set in software to control the exposure time of the second image. When the external trigger applied to **Ext Sync** is detected, the first exposure begins. The end of the trigger marks the end of the first image and the start of the second. After an interval equal to the exposure time set on the Experiment Setup **Main** page, the shutter closes. As in the IEC mode, the system is receptive to an applied trigger when **READY** goes low. Note that the shutter can be disabled open. With the shutter disabled open, if reading out a full array, the second exposure time would actually last ~1.4 s. If reading out a single strip, the readout time (and hence the second exposure) would be much shorter, on the order of a few hundred microseconds. Generally though, the experiment timing would be set up so that the second strobed event would occur during the second image time as set by the Exposure Time parameter on the Experiment Setup **Main** page.

Example: The exposure time for the first image is controlled with the signal applied to the **EXT. SYNC** connector. The exposure time for the second image is the exposure time set in software under Experiment Setup. An external trigger

supplied by the user is required to initiate the imaging process and control the first image exposure time. The controller **READY** signal goes low when the camera is ready to begin imaging. Figure 42 illustrates an EEC timing example.

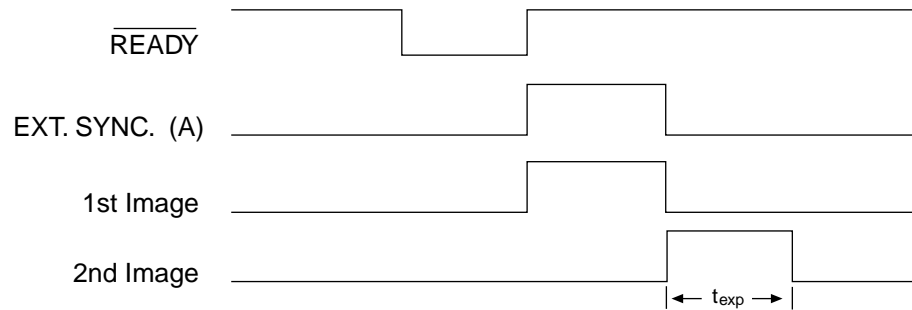


Figure 42. EEC Timing Example with Exposure Time in Software Set to t_{exp}

Summary of EEC Timing mode

- Enables double image capture under external control.
- Requires that the switch, if present on the back of the camera, be set to **INACTIVE**.
- The width of the pulse applied to **Ext Sync** sets the exposure time of the first image. The Exposure Time set in software on the Experiment Setup **Main** tab page sets the second image time, at the end of which the shutter begins to close.
- An external trigger is required to initiate the imaging process. The **READY** goes low when the system is ready. Once **READY** is low, an external trigger applied to the **Ext Sync** connector initiates the double image capture.

ESABI (Electronic Shutter Active Between Images)

The last timing mode, ESABI, allows separation time between the two images. This mode gives the user the ability to capture two images and use the interline chip's electronic shutter feature between images so that no signal is integrated in the time between. The exposure time for both images is the same but they can be separated in time. Each time the camera is ready to receive a trigger, **READY** goes low. Thus **READY** goes low twice during each ESABI cycle and the controller can be triggered once by a sync pulse applied to **Ext Sync** each time. Thus two sync pulses are required, one for each image, during each double capture. The programmed Exposure Time as set on the Experiment Setup **Main** tab page sets the first image time and the time after the start of the second image time when the shutter begins to close. Figure 43 illustrates ESABI mode timing.

Note that charge produced by light impinging on the photosensors during the interval between the two images is discarded and does not affect the second image. The time between the first and second image can be as long as required according to the experimental requirements. This can be particularly useful in fluorescence measurements. By doing captures with different intervals between the two images, the fluorescence decay characteristics can be easily measured.

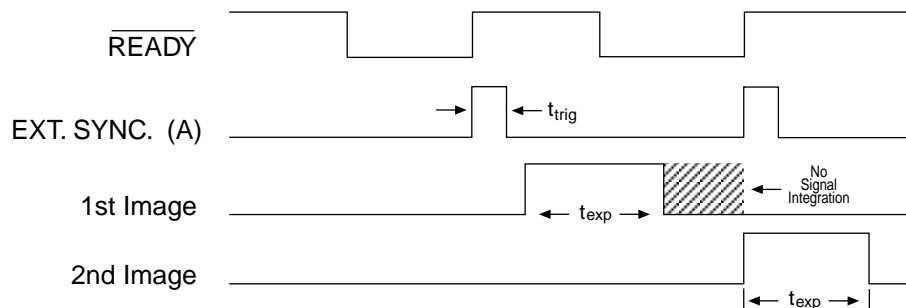


Figure 43. ESABI Timing Example: Image Exposure time = t_{exp} set in software

Note: The input trigger pulse, t_{trig} , must be shorter than the exposure time t_{exp} . Otherwise the second image will occur immediately after the first.

Summary of ESABI Timing mode

- The exposure time selected in Experiment Setup sets the exposure time of both the first and second image.
- Requires that the switch, if present on the back of the camera, be set to **INACTIVE**.
- An externally derived trigger edge applied to **Ext Sync** is required to begin each image exposure period.
- **READY** goes low when the system is ready to capture *each* image.

Tips and Tricks

Lab Illumination

In DIF measurements, it is necessary to remain mindful of the possibility of laboratory light affecting the images. Because the first image can be timed with precision, laboratory light that reaches the camera would generally not be a problem in the first image, particularly if the capture time is short (few microseconds). The second image, on the other hand, is much more susceptible to degradation from laboratory illumination because, even though the second image time may be set to just a few microseconds, the time to close the shutter, ~ 8 ms, must be added to that value. Light impinging on the photosensors during that time will be integrated with the second image. Unless the experiment is arranged so that background light can't reach the camera, or unless the signal is quite bright, the possibility of the second image becoming degraded must be considered. Where this is source of degradation is a problem, the solution may be to sharply reduce the laboratory illumination. It should be noted though, that the signal from many strobed measurements will be sufficiently bright to allow normal laboratory illumination to be maintained.

Background Subtraction

In any of the double imaging modes, a good idea would be to block both of your light sources and go ahead and take two images in the same DIF mode and with the same settings as will be used for the real measurements. That result will be two background images that can later be subtracted from the experimental data images.

Background subtraction allows you to automatically subtract any constant background in your signal. This includes both constant offsets caused by the amplifier system in the

controller as well as time-dependent (but constant for a fixed integration time) buildup of dark charge. The background subtract equation is:

$$(\text{Raw image data} - \text{Background}) = \text{Corrected image data.}$$

When background and flatfield operations are both performed, background subtraction is always performed first.

Flatfield Correction

Flatfield correction allows the user to divide out small nonuniformities in gain from pixel to pixel. Flatfield correction is done before the images are saved to RAM or disk. Directions for doing Flatfield correction are provided in the WinView/32 software manual.

Mask Bleed-Through Correction

As described previously, the first image is stored under the mask while the second image is being acquired. Although the mask is basically opaque (light attenuation is on the order of 4000:1), a small amount of illumination does get through and could influence some measurements. One solution would be to establish a correction file by taking the first image with the light source dark, and the second image with the light source on. Any bleed through the mask during the second image will appear in the first image. This data could then be stored and used later to correct “real” first images in a post-processing math operation.

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TTL Control

Introduction

This connector provides 8 TTL lines in, 8 TTL lines out and an input control line. Figure 44 illustrates the connector and Table 11 lists the signal/pin assignments.

Princeton Instruments WinView/32 software packages incorporate WinX32 Automation, a programming language that can be used to automate performing a variety of data acquisition and data processing functions, including use of the TTL IN/OUT functions. WinX32 Automation can be implemented in programs written in Vision Basic or Visual C++. See the WinX32 documentation for more detailed information.

TTL In

The user controls the 8 TTL Input lines, setting them high (+5 V; TTL 1) or low (0 V; TTL 0). When the lines are read, the combination of highs and lows read defines a decimal number which the computer can use to make a decision and initiate actions as specified in the user's program. If a TTL IN line is low, its numeric value is 0. If a TTL IN line is high, its numeric value is as follows.

TTL IN 1	1
TTL IN 2	2
TTL IN 3	4
TTL IN 4	8
TTL IN 5	16
TTL IN 6	32
TTL IN 7	64
TTL IN 8	128

This coding allows any decimal value from 0 to 255 to be defined. Thus as many as 256 different sets of conditions can be specified, at the user's discretion, using the TTL IN lines. For example, to define the number three, the user would simply set the lines TTL IN 1 and TTL IN 2 both high (+5 V). Because unused lines default to TTL high, it will be necessary to connect TTL logic low (0) to them as shown below.

TTL IN 1	high (1)
TTL IN 2	high (2)
TTL IN 3	low (0)
TTL IN 4	low (0)
TTL IN 5	low (0)
TTL IN 6	low (0)
TTL IN 7	low (0)

Table 10 illustrates this coding for decimal values 0 through 7. Obviously this table could easily be extended to show the coding for values all the way to 255.

Decimal Equiv.	TTL IN/OUT 8 1= dec 128	TTL IN/OUT 7 1=dec 64	TTL IN/OUT 6 1=dec 32	TTL IN/OUT 5 1=dec 16	TTL IN/OUT 4 1=dec 8	TTL IN/OUT 3 1=dec 4	TTL IN/OUT 2 1=dec 2	TTL IN/OUT 1 1=dec 1
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
4	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
5	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
6	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
7	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1

Table 10. Bit Values with Decimal Equivalents:

1 = High,

0 = Low

Buffered vs. Latched Inputs

In controlling the TTL IN lines, users also have the choice of two input-line states, *buffered* or *latched*. In the buffered state, the line levels must remain at the intended levels until they are read. With reference to the preceding example, the high level at TTL IN 1 and TTL IN 2 would have to be maintained until the lines are read. In the latched state, the applied levels continue to be available until read, even if they should change at the TTL In/Out connector.

This control is accomplished using the EN/CLK TTL input (pin 6). If EN/CLK is open or high, *buffered* operation is established and the levels reported to the macro will be those in effect when the READ is made. With reference to our example, if pin 6 were left unconnected or a TTL high applied, TTL IN 1 and TTL IN 2 would have to be held high until read. If, on the other hand, EN/CLK were made to go low while TTL IN 1 and TTL IN 2 were high, those values would be *latched for as long as EN/CLK remained low*. The levels actually present at TTL IN 1 and TTL IN 2 could then change without changing the value that would be read by software.

TTL Out

The state of the TTL OUT lines is set from WinView/32. Typically, a program monitoring the experiment sets one or more of the TTL Outputs. Apparatus external to the MicroMAX system interrogates the lines and, on detecting the specified logic levels, takes the action appropriate to the detected condition. The coding is the same as for the input lines. There are eight output lines, each of which can be set low (0) or high (1). The combination of states defines a decimal number as previously described for the TTL IN lines.

Pin #	Assignment	Pin #	Assignment
1	IN 1	14	IN 2
2	IN 3	15	IN 4
3	IN 5	16	IN 6
4	IN 7	17	IN 8
5	GND	18	GND
6	EN/CLK	19	Reserved
7	(future use)	20	GND
8	GND	21	OUT 2
9	OUT 1	22	OUT 4
10	OUT 3	23	OUT 6
11	OUT 5	24	OUT 8
12	OUT 7	25	GND
13	Reserved		

Table 11. TTL In/Out Connector Pinout

TTL IN/OUT

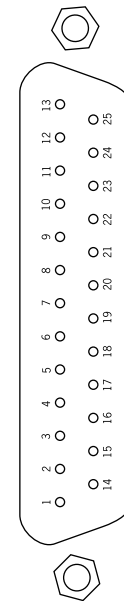


Figure 44. TTL In/Out Connector

TTL Diagnostics Screen

WinView/32 provides a TTL Diagnostics screen (located in WinView/32 under **Hardware Setup|Diagnostics**) that can be used to test and analyze the TTL In/Out lines.

Note: In WinView software versions prior to 1.6, Output Lines 5, 6, 7, and 8 are shown checked in the default state, incorrectly indicating that their default state is logic 1 in the MicroMAX.

Hardware Interface

A cable will be needed to connect the TTL In/Out connector to the experiment. The design will vary widely according to each user's needs, but a standard 25-pin female type D-subminiature connector will be needed to mate with the TTL In/Out connector at the ST-133A. The hardware at the other end of the cable will depend entirely on the user's requirements. If the individual connections are made using coaxial cable for maximum noise immunity (recommended), the center conductor of the coax should connect to the proper signal pin and the cable shield should connect to the nearest available ground (grounds are conveniently provided at pins 5, 8, 18 and 20). Connector hardware and cables of many different types are widely available and can often be obtained locally, such as at a nearby Radio Shack® store. A list of possibly useful items follows. Note that, although the items listed may be appropriate in many situations, they might not meet your specific needs.

- 25-pin female type D-subminiature solder type connector (Radio Shack part no 276-1548B).

- RG/58U coaxial cable.
- Shielded Metalized hood (Radio Shack part no 276-1536A).
- BNC connector(s) type UG-88 Male BNC connector (Radio Shack part no 278-103).

Example

Suppose you needed to build a cable to monitor the line TTL OUT 1. One approach would be to build a cable assembly as described in the following paragraphs. This procedure could easily be adapted to other situations.

1. Begin with a 25-pin female type D-subminiature solder type connector (Radio Shack part no 276-1548B). This connector has 25 solder points open on the back.
2. Referring to Figure 44, note that pin 8 = GND and pin 9 = TTL OUT 1.
3. Using coaxial cable type RG/58U (6 feet length), strip out the end and solder the outer sheath to pin 8 (GND) and the inner line to pin 9 (TTL OUT 1). Then apply shielding to the lines to insulate them.
4. Mount the connector in a Shielded Metalized hood (Radio Shack part no 276-1536A).
5. Build up the cable (you can use electrical tape) to where the strain relief clamp holds.
6. Connect a BNC connector (UG-88 Male BNC connector) to the free end of the cable following the instructions supplied by Radio Shack on the box (Radio Shack part no 278-103).
7. To use this cable, connect the DB-25 to the TTL In/Out connector on the back of the Controller.
8. To check the cable, start WinView/32 and open the TTL Diagnostics screen (located in WinView under **Hardware Setup|Diagnostics**). Click the **Write** radio button. Then click the **Output Line 1** box. Next click the **OK** button to actually set TTL OUT 1 high. Once you set the voltage, it stays until you send a new command.
9. Measure the voltage at the BNC connector with a standard voltmeter (red on the central pin, black on the surrounding shielding). Before clicking **OK** at the TTL Diagnostics screen you should read 0 V. After clicking **OK** you should read +5 V.

Note that adding a second length of coaxial cable and another BNC connector would be straightforward. However, as you increase the number of lines to be monitored, it becomes more convenient to consider using a multiple conductor shielded cable rather than individual coaxial cables.

System Component Descriptions

MicroMAX Camera



CCD Array: MicroMAX offers a choice of CCD technologies to improve quantum efficiency (QE) and blue/green sensitivity. Arrays are available in full-frame, interline, and frame-transfer formats. Thinned, back-illuminated devices have a higher QE across the entire visible spectrum and far superior sensitivity in the blue/green region than front-illuminated CCDs. The MicroMAX combines back-illumination technology with frame-transfer readout to provide high sensitivity with nonshuttered operation. Interline-transfer CCDs contain alternate columns of imaging and storage cells.

Because the charge on each image pixel never has to transfer more than one row, the transfer can be made very quickly without smearing. By attaching microlenses to an interline-transfer CCD, incident light is directed to the photosensitive areas of the sensor. As a result, lens-on-chip formats dramatically improve the QE in the blue/green region of the spectrum while still allowing fast imaging. Since no shutter is required, high-speed gating and faster focus are possible.

CCD Chamber: The vacuum-sealed CCD chamber protects the CCD from contamination as well as insulates it from the warmer air in the camera body. The inherent low humidity prevents condensation on the cooled surface of the array. The thermal barrier provided by the vacuum isolates the window from the cooled CCD, keeps the window from cooling below the dewpoint, and thereby prevents condensation on the outside of the window.

MicroMAX cameras are normally shipped with a vacuum level of ~ 10 mTorr or better. Because this vacuum may deteriorate over time due to outgassing of electrical components, round head MicroMAX cameras are designed with a built-in vacuum port that can be used to restore the vacuum to its original level. Instructions for repumping the vacuum are provided in Appendix E.

Window: The camera has one window in the optical path. The high-quality optical quartz window is integral to the vacuum chamber. By having only one window, the MicroMAX camera reduces the chance of image degradation due to multiple reflections, stray light, and interference patterns that may occur with a multiple-window design.

Thermoelectric Cooler: While the CCD accumulates charge, thermal activity releases electrons, generating dark current. Cooling the CCD enhances the low-light sensitivity by reducing thermally generated charge. With forced-air assistance the MicroMAX camera's thermoelectric cooler is capable of cooling the CCD to -35°C with $\pm 0.04^{\circ}\text{C}$ stability at temperature lock.

Cooling is accomplished by mounting the CCD on a cold finger, which in turn is seated on a thermoelectric (Peltier-effect) cooler, and then transferring heat through the Peltier stages to the camera body where the heat is then radiated via a fins and removed by

forced air. CCD temperature is controlled and monitored by via the host computer and the ST-133A Controller.

Shutter: Rectangular head cameras are available with an internal 25 mm shutter.

A shutter drive signal is available at the Remote shutter connector on the rear of the ST-133A Controller or on the rear of the camera.

Electronics: The camera electronics enclosure contains the preamplifier and array driver board. This design keeps all signal leads to the preamplifier as short as possible and also provides complete RF shielding.

Speed of data acquisition and dynamic range is determined primarily by the A/D converter used (binning on the array is also a factor). MicroMAX cameras are available with 100 kHz (16-bit A/D), 100 kHz / 1 MHz (16-bit A/D), 1 MHz (12-bit A/D), 1 MHz (16-bit A/D), or 5 MHz (12-bit A/D). The dual 16-bit digitizers give you the choice of the 100 kHz A/D for the better signal-to-noise ratio or the 1 MHz, 16-bit A/D for increased data acquisition speed.

Connectors: Power, control signals, and data are transmitted between the ST-133A and the MicroMAX camera via the 25-pin D connector located on the rear of the 1 MHz or 100kHz/1 MHz camera. For the 5 MHz camera, these are provided via the 15-pin and 40-pin connectors on the rear of the camera. The cables and connectors are keyed so that they cannot be connected incorrectly.

Lens Mount Housing: At the front of the camera is the lens mount housing, either C-mount or F-mount. The C-mount employs a standard size thread to make the connection while an F-mount uses a tongue and groove type mechanism to secure the lens or microscope adapter to the camera. The details of the housing will vary depending on the type of mount.

Note: C-mount cameras are shipped with a dust cover lens installed. Although this lens is capable of providing surprisingly good images, its throughput is low and the image quality is not as good as can be obtained with a high-quality camera lens. Users should replace the dust-cover lens with their own high-quality laboratory lens before making measurements.

Caution

If you have a camera with a UV scintillator coated CCD, protect it from excessive exposure to UV radiation. This radiation slowly bleaches the scintillator, reducing sensitivity.

Mounting Holes: The round head camera has four ¼" x 20 UNC threaded holes on the camera body at 90° intervals. These holes are provided for flexibility in mounting the camera to your system optics. The rectangular head camera can be ordered with an optional tripod mount kit.

Fan: Depending on the camera, there may be an internal fan located inside or on the camera's back panel. Its purpose is:

- to remove heat from the Peltier device that cools the CCD array
- to cool the electronics.

An internal Peltier device directly cools the cold finger on which the CCD is mounted. The heat produced by the Peltier device is then removed by the air

drawn into the camera by the internal fan and exhausted through the back panel. The fan is always in operation and air cooling of both the Peltier and the internal electronics takes place continuously. The fan is designed for low-vibration and does not adversely affect the image. For the fan to function properly, free circulation must be maintained between the rear of the camera and the laboratory atmosphere.

Shutter: In imaging applications an adapter is mounted to the camera and then the lens, either C-mount or F-mount, is mounted to the adapter. An F-mount adapter and a C-mount adapter differ not only in their lens-mounting provisions, but also in depth because the focal plane of F-mount lenses is deeper than that of C-mount lenses. Nevertheless, rectangular head cameras can be ordered with an internal 25 mm shutter and the appropriate lens mount adapter already installed.

Shutter Life: Note that shutters are mechanical devices with a finite lifetime, typically on the order of a million cycles, although some individual shutters may last a good deal longer. How long a shutter lasts in terms of experimental time will, of course, be strongly dependent on the operating parameters. High repetition rates and short exposure times will rapidly increase the number of shutter cycles and decrease the time when the shutter will have to be replaced. Possible shutter problems include complete failure, in which the shutter no longer operates at all, or the shutter may stick open or closed causing overexposed or smeared images. It may even happen that one leaf of the shutter will break and no longer actuate.

Shutter replacement is usually done at the factory. If you find that the shutter on your camera is malfunctioning, contact the factory to arrange for a shutter-replacement repair.

WARNING

Disconnecting or connecting the shutter cable to the camera while the controller is on can destroy the shutter or the shutter drive circuitry. *Always power off the controller before adjusting the shutter cable.*

ST-133A Controller



Electronics: The Model ST-133A is a compact, high performance CCD Camera Controller for operation with Princeton Instruments cameras. Designed for high speed and high performance image acquisition, the ST-133A offers data transfer at speeds up to 5 megapixel per second, standard video output for focusing and alignment. A variety of A/D converters are available to meet different speed and resolution requirements.

In addition to containing the power supply, the controller contains the analog and digital electronics, scan control and exposure timing hardware, and controller I/O connectors, all mounted on user-accessible plug-in modules. This highly modularized design gives flexibility and allows for convenient servicing.

POWER Switch and Indicator: The power switch, located on the front panel as shown in Figure 45, interrupts both sides of the controller's AC power input. The switch's integral indicator LED lights whenever the ST-133A Controller is powered. Note that, when the power switch is actuated, there may be a few seconds delay before the indicator lights. This is normal and in no way indicative of a malfunction.

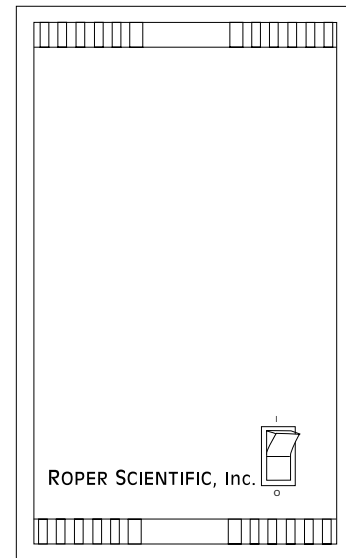


Figure 45. Controller Front Panel

Rear Panel Connectors: There are three controller board slots. Two are occupied by the plug-in cards that provide various controller functions. The third, covered with a blank panel, is reserved for future development. The left-most plug-in card is the Analog/Control module. Adjacent to it is the Interface Control module. Both modules align with top and bottom tracks and mate with a passive back-plane via a 64-pin DIN connector. For proper operation, the location of the modules should not be changed. Each board is secured by two screws that also ground each module's front panel. Removing and inserting boards is described in Chapter 10, pages 105-106.

WARNING

To minimize the risk of equipment damage, a module should *never* be removed or installed when the system is powered.

The **Analog/Control Module**, which should always be located in the left-most slot, provides the following functions.

- Pixel A/D conversion
- Timing and synchronization of readouts
- CCD scan control
- Temperature control
- Exposure control
- Video output control

The **Interface Control Module**, which should always be located in the center slot, provides the following functions.

- TTL In/Out Programmable Interface
- High speed serial communications control

WARNING

Always turn the power off at the Controller before connecting or disconnecting any cable that interconnects the camera and controller or serious damage to the CCD may result. This damage is **NOT** covered by the manufacturer's warranty.

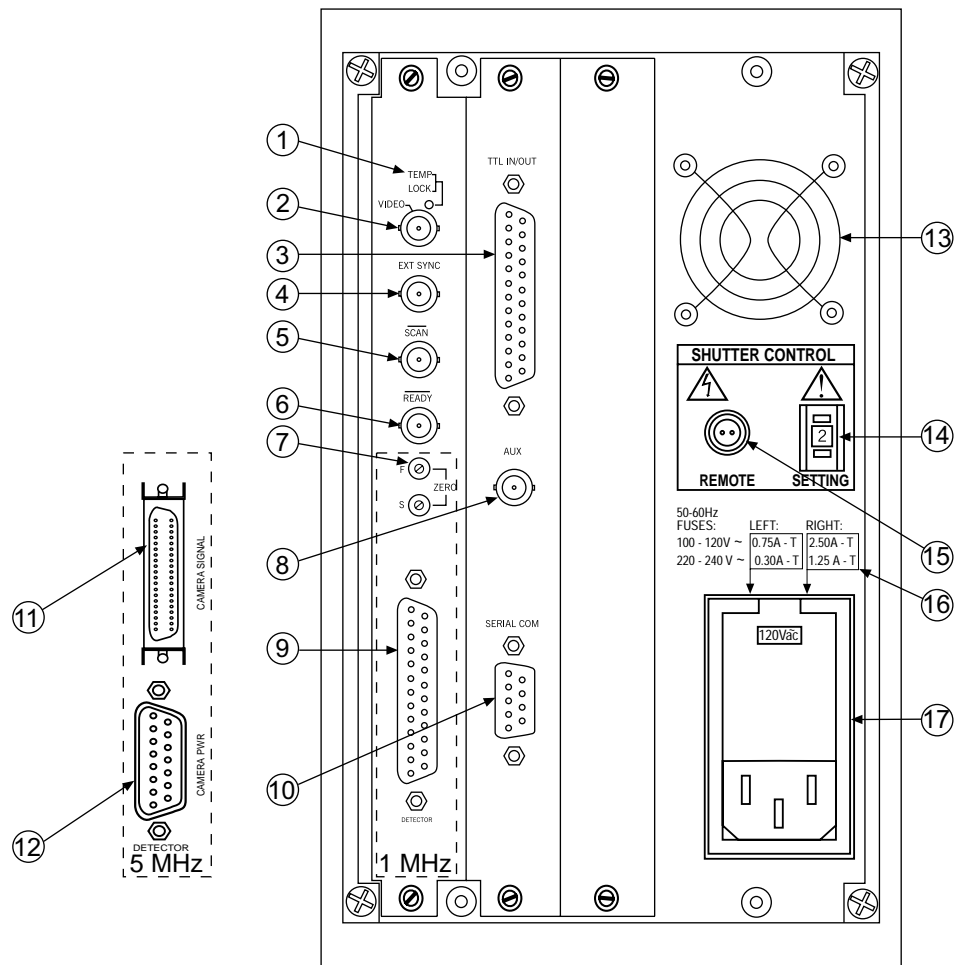


Figure 46. ST-133A Rear Panel

The descriptions of the rear panel connectors that follow are keyed to Figure 46.

#	Feature
1.	Temperature Lock LED: Indicates that the temperature control loop has locked and that the temperature of the CCD array will be stable to within $\pm 0.05^{\circ}\text{C}$.
2.	Video Output: Composite video output is provided at this connector. The amplitude is 1 V pk-pk and the source impedance is $75\ \Omega$. Either RS-170 (EIA) or CCIR standard video can be provided and must be specified when the system is ordered. The video should be connected to the monitor via $75\ \Omega$ coaxial cable and it must be terminated into $75\ \Omega$.
3.	TTL In/Out: User-programmable interface with eight input bits and eight output bits that can be written to or polled for additional control or functionality. See Chapter 8.
4.	External Sync Input: TTL input that has a $10\ \text{k}\Omega$ pullup resistor. Allows data acquisition and readout to be synchronized with external events. Through software, positive or negative (default) triggering can be selected.
5.	SCAN Output WinView/32 (ver. 2.4 and higher) software selectable NOTSCAN or SHUTTER MONITOR signal. Default is SHUTTER MONITOR. SCAN , reports when the controller is finished reading out the CCD array. SCAN is high when the CCD array is not being scanned, then drops low when readout begins, returning to high when the process is finished. The second signal, SHUTTER MONITOR, reports when the shutter is opened and can be used to synchronize external shutters. SHUTTER MONITOR is low when the shutter is closed and goes high when the shutter is activated, dropping low again after the shutter closes. See Figure 47 for timing diagram.
6.	READY Output: Initially HIGH. After a Start Acquisition command, this output changes state on completion of the array cleaning cycles that precede the <i>first</i> exposure. Initially high, it goes low to mark the beginning of the <i>first</i> exposure. In free run operation it remains low until the system is halted. If a specific number of frames have been programmed, it remains low until all have been taken, then returns high.
7.	Zero Adjustment: (1 MHz and 100kHz/1 MHz systems) Control the offset values of the Fast (F) and Slow (S) A/D converters. Preadjusted at factory. The offset is a voltage that is added to the signal to bring the A/D output to a non-zero value, typically 50-100 counts. This offset value ensures that all the true variation in the signal can really be seen and not lost below the A/D "0" value. Since the offset is added to the signal, these counts only minimally reduce the range of the signal from 4095 to a value in the range of 50-100 counts lower. Adjusting a potentiometer clockwise increases the counts while rotating it counterclockwise decreases the counts. CAUTION: Do not adjust the offset values to zero, or some low-level data will be missed.
8.	AUX Output: Reserved for future use.
9.	Detector Connector: (1MHz and 1 MHz/100kHz systems) Transmits control information to the camera and receives data back from the camera via the Detector-Controller cable.
10.	Serial COM Connector: Provides two-way serial communication between the controller and the host computer. Contact the factory if an application requires use of the optional fiber-optic data link to increase the maximum allowable distance between the Camera and the computer.
11.	Camera Signal: (5 MHz system) Transmits control information to the camera and receives data back from the camera. The signal cable must be connected after the Camera Power cable is connected.

#	Feature
12.	Camera Pwr: (5 MHz system) Provides the power to operate the camera. The power cable must be connected before the Camera Signal cable is connected.
13.	Fan: Cools the controller electronics. Runs continuously when the controller is turned on. Do not block the side vents or the fan exhaust port.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shutter Setting Selector: Sets the shutter hold voltage. Dial is correctly set at the factory for the camera's internal shutter if one is present. Refer to Table 12 for setting selection. Note that this selector may not be available on the 5 MHz controller.
14.	<p>Remote Shutter Connector: Provides shutter-hold pulses for a 25 mm Roper Scientific-supplied external shutter (typically an entrance slit shutter). Note that this selector may not be available on the 5 MHz controller.</p> <p>WARNING: Dangerous live potentials are present at the Remote Shutter Power connector. To avoid shock hazard, the Controller power should be OFF when connecting or disconnecting a remote shutter.</p> <p>WARNING: If the camera has an internal shutter, then the Shutter Power connector should not be used to drive a second <i>external</i> shutter. This configuration will result in under-powering both shutters and may cause damage to the system <i>In a system which requires both an internal and an external shutter, use the TTL Shutter Monitor signal (provided at the SCAN connector when selected by an internal jumper) to control the external shutter. Suitable driver electronics will additionally be required. Contact the factory Technical Support Dept. for information.</i></p>
15.	Fuse/Voltage Label: Displays the controller's power and fuse requirements.
16.	Power Input Module: Contains the powercord socket and two fuses. For more detailed information, see <i>Power Requirements</i> on page 22.



WARNING: Dangerous live potentials are present at the **Remote** Shutter Power connector. To avoid shock hazard, the Controller power should be OFF when connecting or disconnecting a remote shutter.

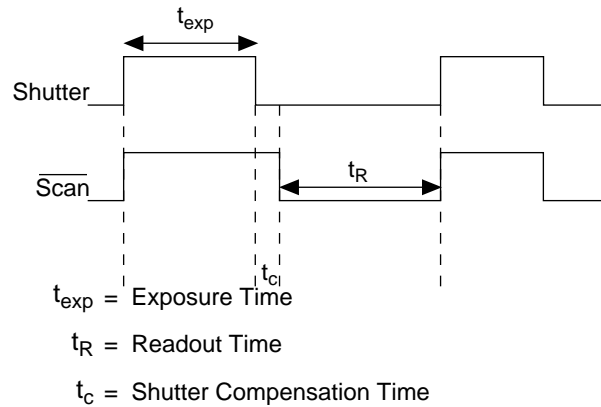


Shutter Setting*	Shutter Type
1	25 mm Roper Scientific supplied External shutter (typically an Entrance slit shutter)
2	25 mm Roper Scientific Internal shutter
4	35 mm Roper Scientific Internal shutter (requires 70 V Shutter option), supplied with rectangular head camera having 1300 × 1340 CCD
5	40 mm Roper Scientific Internal shutter
* Shutter settings 0, 3, and 6-9 are unused and are reserved for future use.	

Table 12. ST-133A Shutter Drive Selection

WARNING

Selecting the wrong shutter setting will result in improper functioning of the shutter and may cause premature shutter failure.



Shutter Type	Compensation Time
NONE	200 nsec
Electronic	6.0 msec
Remote (Prontor 23)	8.0 msec
Small (Vincent 25 mm)	8.0 msec
Large (Vincent 35 mm)	28.0 msec

Figure 47. **SCAN** and SHUTTER MONITOR Signals

Cables



Detector-Controller: 1 MHz or 100kHz/1MHz systems. The standard 10' cable (6050-0321) has DB-25 Male connectors with slide-latch locking hardware. This cable interconnects the Detector connector on the rear of the ST-133A with the Detector connector on the back of the MicroMAX camera. The Detector-Controller cable is also available in 6', 15', 20', and 30' lengths.



Camera Power & Signal: 5 MHz systems only. This cable assembly (6050-0313) consists of two cables that interconnect the Camera Power and Camera Signal connectors on the back of the ST-133A with the mating connectors on the back of the camera. The Camera Power cable has DB-15 Male connectors with sliding-latch locking mechanisms at both ends. The Camera Signal cable has DB-40 Male connectors with spring-latch locking mechanisms at both ends.



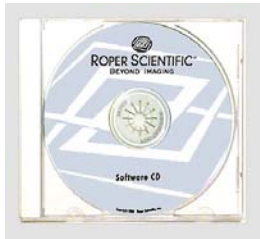
TAXI: The standard 25' cable (6050-0148CE) has DB-9 Male connectors with screw-down locking hardware. The TAXI (Serial communication) cable interconnects the "Serial Com" connector on the rear of the ST-133A with the PCI card installed in the host computer. This cable is also available in 10', 50', 100', and 165' lengths.

Interface Card



PCI Card: The standard interface card plugs-into the host computer's motherboard and provides the serial communication interface between the host computer and the ST-133A. Through WinView/32, the card can be used in either **High Speed PCI** or **PCI(Timer)** mode. **High Speed PCI** allows data transfer to be interrupt-driven and can give higher performance in some situations. **PCI(Timer)** allows data transfer to be controlled by a polling timer.

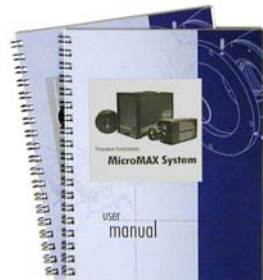
Application Software



The Princeton Instruments WinView/32 software package provides comprehensive image acquisition, display, processing, and archiving functions so you can perform complete data acquisition and analysis without having to rely upon third-party software. WinView/32 provides reliable control over all Roper Scientific detectors, regardless of array format and architecture, via an exclusive universal programming interface (PVCAM®). WinView/32 also features snap-ins and macro record functions to permit easy user customization of any function or sequence.

PVCAM is the standard software interface for cooled CCD cameras from Roper Scientific. It is a library of functions that can be used to control and acquire data from the camera when a custom application is being written. For example, in the case of Windows, PVCAM is a dynamic link library (DLL). Also, it should be understood that PVCAM is solely for camera control and image acquisition, not for image processing. PVCAM places acquired images into a buffer, where they can then be manipulated using either custom written code or by extensions to other commercially available image processing packages.

User Manuals



MicroMAX System User Manual: This manual describes how to install and use the MicroMAX system components.

WinView/32 User Manual: This manual describes how to install and use the WinView/32 application program. A PDF version of this manual is provided on the installation CD. Additional information is available in the program's on-line help.

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Chapter 10

Troubleshooting

WARNING! Do not attach or remove any cables while the MicroMAX system is powered on.

Introduction

The following issues have corresponding troubleshooting sections in this chapter.

Baseline Signal Suddenly Changes	Page 100
Changing the ST-133A's Line Voltage and Fuses	Page 100
Controller is Not Responding	Page 101
Cooling Troubleshooting	Page 101
Detector Stops Working	Page 102
Error occurs at Computer Powerup	Page 103
Removing/Installing a Plug-In Module	Page 105
Shutter Malfunctions	Page 106

Baseline Signal Suddenly Changes

If you observe a sudden change in the baseline signal, you may have excessive humidity in the vacuum enclosure of the camera. Turn off the controller and have the camera repumped before resuming normal operation. *Contact the factory Technical Support Dept. for information on how to refresh the vacuum. See page 150 for contact information.*

Changing the ST-133A's Line Voltage and Fuses

The appropriate voltage setting for your country is set at the factory and can be seen on the power input module. If your voltage source changes, you will need to change the voltage setting and you may need to change the fuse configuration.

WARNING Use proper fuse values and types for the controller and camera to be properly protected.

To Change Voltage and Fuse Configuration:

WARNING Before opening the power input module, turn the Controller OFF and unplug the line cord.

1. As shown in Figure 48, place the flat side of a flat bladed screwdriver parallel to the rear of the Controller and behind the small tab at the top of the power input module, and twist the screwdriver slowly but firmly to pop the module open.
2. To change the voltage setting, roll the selector drum until the setting that is closest to the actual line voltage is facing outwards.
3. Confirm the fuse ratings by removing the two white fuse holders. To do so, simply insert the flat blade of the screwdriver behind the front tab of each fuse holder and gently pry the assembly out.

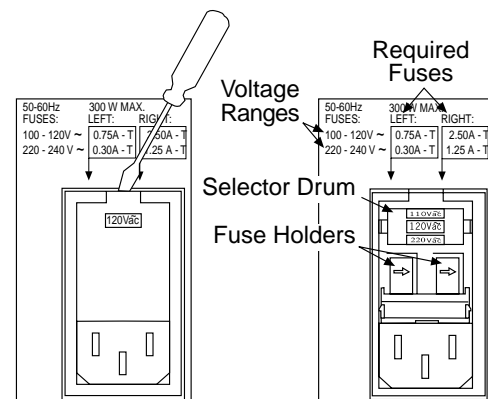


Figure 48. Power Input Module

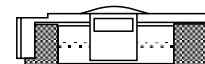


Figure 49. Fuse Holder

4. After inspecting and if necessary, changing the fuses to those required by the selected voltage, reinstall the holders with the arrow facing to the right.
5. Close the power input module and verify that the correct voltage setting is displayed.
6. Verify that the Controller power switch is in the OFF position and then plug the powercord back into the power input module.

Controller Is Not Responding

If this message pops up when you click on **OK** after selecting the "Interface Type" during **Hardware Setup** (under the WinView/32 **Setup** menu), the system has not been able to communicate with the Controller. Check to see if Controller has been turned ON and if the interface card, its driver, and the interface cable have been installed.

- If the Controller is ON, the problem may be with the interface card, its driver, interrupt or address conflicts, or the cable connections.
- If the interface card is not installed, close WinView/32 and turn the Controller OFF. Follow the interface card installation instructions in provided with your interface card and cable the card to the SERIAL COM port on the rear of the Controller. Then do a "Custom" installation of WinView/32 with the appropriate interface component selected: "PCI Interface" or "ISA Interface", depending on the interface card type. Be sure to deselect the interface component that does not apply to your system.

Note: WinView/32 (versions 2.6.0 and higher) do not support the ISA interface.

- If the interface card is installed in the computer and is cabled to the SERIAL COM port on the rear of the Controller, close WinView/32 and turn the Controller OFF. Check the cable connections and tighten the locking screws if the connections are loose.
- If the interface card was installed after WinView/32 has been installed, close WinView/32 and do a "Custom" installation of WinView/32 with the appropriate interface component selected: "PCI Interface" or "ISA Interface", depending on the interface card type. Be sure to deselect the interface component that does not apply to your system.

Note: WinView/32 (versions 2.6.0 and higher) do not support the ISA interface.

Cooling Troubleshooting

Temperature Lock cannot be Achieved or Maintained.

Possible causes could include:

- The vacuum has deteriorated and needs to be refreshed.
- The connectors of the cable that interconnects the controller and the camera need to be secured.
- The target array temperature is not appropriate for your particular camera and CCD array.
- For a TE-cooled camera, the camera's internal temperature may be too high, such as might occur if the operating environment is particularly warm or if you are attempting to operate at a temperature colder than the specified limit. TE-cooled detectors are equipped with a thermal-protection switch that shuts the cooler circuits down if the internal temperature exceeds a preset limit. Typically, camera operation is restored automatically in about ten minutes. Although the thermo-protection switch will protect the camera, you are nevertheless advised to power down and correct the operating conditions that caused the thermal-overload to occur.

Detector loses Temperature Lock

The internal temperature of the camera is too high. This might occur if the operating environment is particularly warm or if you are trying to operate at a temperature colder than the specified limit. If this happens, an internal thermal overload switch will disable the cooler circuits to protect them. Typically, camera operation is restored in about ten minutes. Although the thermal overload switch will protect the camera, users are advised to power down and correct the operating conditions that caused the thermal overload to occur. *With some versions of the software, the **indicated** temperature when the camera is in thermal overload (thermal switch is in the cut-out state) is -120° C.*

Gradual Deterioration of Cooling Capability

With time, there will be a gradual deterioration of the camera's vacuum. This, in turn, will eventually affect temperature performance and it may no longer be possible to achieve temperature lock at the lowest temperatures. In the kind of low-light applications for which cooled CCD detectors are so well suited, it is highly desirable to maintain the system's temperature performance because lower temperatures provide less thermal noise and better signal-to-noise ratio.

Vacuum deterioration occurs primarily as a result of outgassing of components in the vacuum chamber. Because outgassing normally diminishes with time, the rate of vacuum deterioration in new detectors will be faster than in old ones. When the camera no longer maintains an acceptable cold temperature, *contact the factory Technical Support Dept. to make arrangements for returning the camera to have the vacuum restored. See page 150 for contact information.*

WARNING! Do not open the vacuum valve under any circumstances. Opening the vacuum valve will void your warranty.

Detector Stops Working

Problems with the host computer system or software may have side effects that appear to be hardware problems. If you are sure the problem is in the MicroMAX system hardware, begin with these simple checks:

- Turn off all AC power.
- Verify that all cables are securely fastened and that all locking screws are in place.
- Check for a burned-out fuse in the Controller power input module. For information about changing a fuse, see " Changing the ST-133A's Line Voltage and Fuses" on page 100.
- Correct any apparent problems and turn the system on.

If the system still does not respond, contact Technical Support.

Error occurs at Computer Powerup

If an error occurs at boot up, either the interface card is not installed properly or there is an address or interrupt conflict. Turn off the computer, reinstall the interface card (make sure it is firmly seated), and reboot the system.

If an error occurs while you are using the WinView/32 program, check the interface selection on the **Hardware Setup|Interface** tab page (WinView/32). If the current choice is "High Speed PCI", change the selection to "PCI(Timer)". If the problem goes away, you can either correct the interrupt conflict or you can continue using PCI(Timer) for data transfer (data transfer is controlled by a polling timer rather than interrupts). Note that data transfer can be slower in PCI(Timer) mode on slower computers.

Conflicts

One of the many advantages that PCI offers over ISA is that the whole issue of address and interrupt assignments is user transparent and under BIOS control. As a result, users typically do not have to be concerned about jumpers or switches when installing a PCI card. Nothing more should be required than to plug in the card, make the connections, and operate the system. As it turns out, however, in certain situations conflicts may nevertheless occur and user intervention will be required to resolve them.

Typical PCI motherboards have both ISA and PCI slots and will have both PCI and ISA cards installed. In the case of the ISA cards, the I/O address and Interrupt assignments will have been made by the user and the BIOS will not know which addresses and interrupts have been user assigned. When a PCI card is installed, the BIOS checks for available addresses and interrupt levels and automatically assigns them so that there are no *PCI* address or interrupt conflicts. However, because the BIOS doesn't know about the user-assigned ISA I/O address and interrupt level assignments, it is possible that a PCI card will be assigned an address or interrupt that is already assigned to an ISA card. If this happens, improper operation will result. Specifically, the problems could range from erratic operation under specific conditions to complete system failure. If such a conflict occurs, because the user has no control over the PCI address and interrupt assignments, there will be no recourse but to examine the ISA assignments and change them to values which do not conflict. Most (but by no means all) ISA cards make provision for selecting alternative I/O addresses and interrupt levels so that conflicts can be resolved. Software is available to help identify specific conflicts.

The following example may serve to illustrate the problem. Suppose you had a system with an ISA network card, a PCI video card and an ISA sound card. Further suppose that you were then going to install a PCI Serial Buffer card. Before installing the PCI Serial card, the I/O address and interrupt assignments for the installed cards might be as follows.

Slot Type	Status	I/O Address	Interrupt
1 (ISA)	ISA Network Card	200-210	11
2 (PCI)	PCI Video Card	FF00-FFFF	15
3 (ISA)	ISA Sound Card	300-304	9
4 (PCI)	Empty	N/A	N/A

*Table 13. I/O Address & Interrupt Assignments
before Installing Serial Card*

As shown, there are no conflicts, allowing the three peripheral cards to operate properly. If the PCI Serial card were then installed, the BIOS would interrogate the PCI cards and may reassign them new address and interrupt values as follows.

Slot Type	Status	I/O Address(s)	Interrupt
1 (ISA)	ISA Network Card	200-210	11
2 (PCI)	PCI Video Card	FE00-FEFF	11
3 (ISA)	ISA Sound Card	300-304	9
4 (PCI)	Princeton Instruments PCI Serial Card	FF80-FFFF	15

Table 14. I/O Address & Interrupt Assignments after Installing Serial Card

As indicated, there is now an interrupt conflict between the ISA Network Card and the PCI Video card (both cards have been assigned Interrupt 11), causing the computer to no longer function normally. This doesn't mean that the PCI Serial card is defective because the computer stops functioning properly when the Serial card is installed. What it does mean is that there is an interrupt conflict that can be resolved by changing the interrupt level on the conflicting Network card in this example. It is up to the user to consult the documentation for any ISA cards to determine how to make the necessary change.

Note: Changing the order of the PCI cards, that is, plugging them into different slots, could change the address and interrupt assignments and possibly resolve the conflict. However, this would be a trial and error process with no guarantee of success.

Diagnostics Software

Many diagnostics programs, both shareware and commercial, are available to help resolve conflicts. Most often, all that's required is a program that will read and report the address and interrupt assignments for each PCI device in the computer. One such program available from Roper Scientific's Technical Support department is called PCICHECK. When the program is run, it reports the address and interrupt assignments for the first PCI device it finds. Each time the spacebar is pressed, it moves on to the next one and reports the address and interrupt assignments for that one as well. In a few moments this information can be obtained for every PCI device in the computer. Note that, even though there are generally only three PCI slots, the number of PCI devices reported may be larger because some PCI devices may be built onto the motherboard. A good strategy for using the program would be to run it before installing the PCI Serial card. Then run it again after installing the card and note any address or interrupt assignments that may have changed. This will allow you to easily focus on the ones that may be in conflict with address or interrupt assignments on ISA cards. It might be noted that there are many programs, such as the MSD program supplied by Microsoft, that are designed to read and report address and interrupt assignments, including those on ISA cards. Many users have had mixed results at best using these programs.

Operation

There are no operating considerations that are unique to the PCI Serial card. The card can easily accept data as fast as any Princeton Instruments system now available can send it. The incoming data is temporarily stored in the card's memory, and then transferred to the main computer memory when the card gains access to the bus. The PCI

bus arbitration scheme assures that, as long as every PCI card conforms to the PCI guidelines, the on-board memory will never overflow.

Unfortunately, there are some PCI peripheral cards that do *not* fully conform to the PCI guidelines and that take control of the bus for longer periods than the PCI specification allows. Certain video cards (particularly those that use the S3 video chip) are notorious in this respect. Usually you will be able to recognize when memory overflow occurs because the displayed video will assume a split-screen appearance and/or the message **Hardware Conflict** will be displayed (WinView/32). At the same time, the LED on the upper edge of the PCI Serial card will light.

Users are thus advised not to take any actions that would worsen the possibility of memory overflow occurring when taking data. In that regard, avoid multitasking while taking data. Specific operations to avoid include multitasking (pressing ALT TAB or ALT ESC to start another program), or running a screensaver program.

Removing/Installing a Plug-In Module

The ST-133A Controller has three plug-in slots. The Analog/Control module (leftmost slot when the controller is viewed from the rear) and the Interface Control module (middle slot) are always provided. The third slot, however, is always covered with a blank panel.

If a module is ever removed for any reason, internal settings should *not* be disturbed. Changing a setting could radically alter the controller's performance. Restoring normal operation again without proper equipment and guidance would be very difficult, and it might be necessary to return the unit to the factory for recalibration.

WARNING

Always turn the Controller OFF before removing or installing a module. If a module is removed or installed when the controller is powered, permanent equipment damage could occur which would not be covered by the warranty.

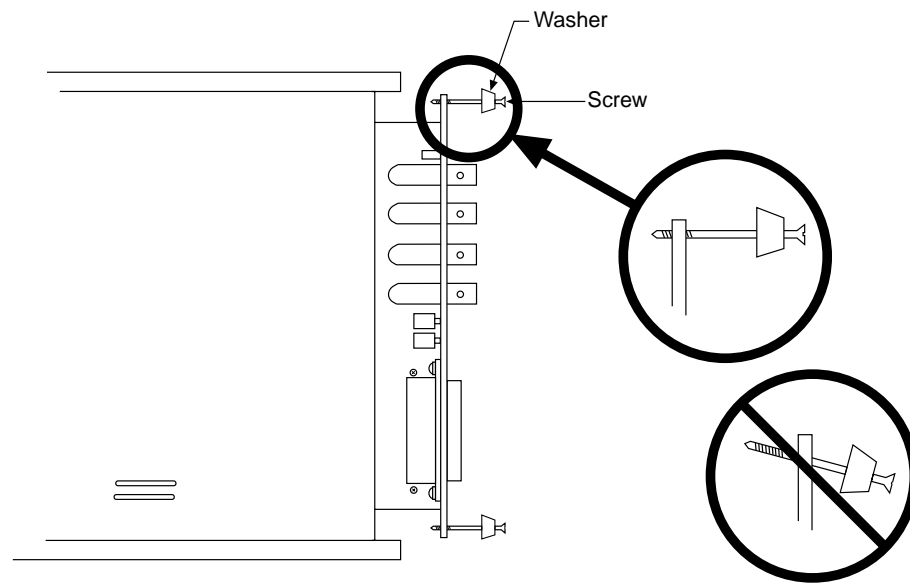


Figure 50. Module Installation

To Remove a Module:

1. Verify that the Controller has been turned OFF.
2. Rotate the two locking screws (one at the top of the module and one at the bottom) counterclockwise until they release from the chassis.
3. Then, grasp the module and pull it straight out.

To Install a Module:

Installing a module is a bit more complex because you first have to be sure the locking screws are aligned correctly. The following procedure is suggested.

1. Rotate the two locking screws counterclockwise until the threads on the screws engage those of the module panel. *See Figure 50.* By doing this, the screws will be perfectly perpendicular to the module panel and will align perfectly when the module is inserted.
2. Insert the module so that the top and bottom edges of the board are riding in the proper guides.
3. Gently but firmly push the module in until the 64-pin DIN connector at the rear of the module mates with the corresponding connector on the backplane, leaving the module panel resting against the controller back panel.
4. Rotate the two locking screws clockwise. As the screws are rotated, they will first disengage from the module panel threads, and then begin to engage those of the bracket behind the controller panel.

WARNING

Tighten the screws to where they are just snug. Do *not* tighten them any further because you could easily bend the mating bracket.

Shutter Malfunctions

- Verify that the correct shutter setting has been selected on the rear of the Controller. Refer to Table 12 on page 95.
- If you are using a 25 mm remote-mounted shutter and it suddenly stops running, its built-in thermal interlock may have been triggered. Stop the experiment and wait. The shutter should resume functioning when it has cooled down sufficiently, typically within an hour. Avoid repeating the conditions (such as high repetition rate) that lead to the shutter overheating, or take breaks between data collections.
- If the shutter no longer operates at all, sticks open or closed causing overexposed or smeared images, or a shutter leaf has broken and no longer actuates, contact the factory to arrange for a shutter-replacement repair.

Appendix A

Specifications

CCD Arrays

Spectral Range

Typically: 370-900 for MicroMAX:512BFT and 1024B

400-1000 for MicroMAX:782Y, 782YHS

300-1080 for MicroMAX:1300Y, 1300YHS, and 1300YHS-DIF

Types

The following list is not necessarily current. Other chips may also be available. Contact the factory for up-to-date information.

Model	CCD (WinView/32 Name)	Pixel Format	Pixel Size	CCD Type
512BFT	EEV CCD57-10 (EEV 512×512 FT CCD57)	512 × 512	13 × 13 μm	100 kHz/1 MHz, Back-illuminated, Frame transfer
782Y	Sony ICX075 (PID 582×782)	782 × 582	8.3 × 8.3 μm	1 MHz, Interline
782YHS	Sony ICX075 (PID 582×782)	782 × 582	8.3 × 8.3 μm	5 MHz, Interline
1024B	EEV 47-10 (EEV 1024×1024 CCD47_10)	1024 × 1024	13 × 13 μm	100 kHz/1 MHz, Back-illuminated, Full-frame
1300Y	Sony ICX061 (PID 1030×1300)	1300 × 1030	6.7 × 6.7 μm	1 MHz, Interline
1300YHS	Sony ICX061 (PID 1030×1300)	1300 × 1030	6.7 × 6.7 μm	5 MHz, Interline
1300YHS-DIF	Sony ICX061 (PID 1030×1300)	1300 × 1030	6.7 × 6.7 μm	5 MHz, Interline, DIF

Temperature Control

Setting Mechanism: Temperature is set by the application software.

Display: The actual temperature can be displayed at the computer by the application software.

Range: At 25° ambient, the MicroMAX camera will typically lock to:

- -15°C with passive cooling and with the camera under vacuum.
- -30°C with the accessory fan installed and under vacuum.

Time to Lock: At 25° ambient, <10 minutes (typical) to temperature lock at -15° C

Control Precision: ±0.050°C over entire temperature range

Cooling

Passive: CCD array cooled by Peltier device. Heat is radiated away by cooling fins on body of the round head camera.

Supplemental Air Cooling: The rectangular head camera has an internal fan that draws air in from the vents in the camera shell, circulates it past the internal cooling fins, and then exhausting the warmed air back into the atmosphere.

Mounting

Camera: There are four ¼" x 20 UNC 3/8" deep threaded holes on the body of the camera to facilitate mounting.

Lens: Camera will accept either "C-mount" (threaded) or "F-mount" (bayonet) lenses, according to the mount specified at time of order.

Microscope: Adapters are available for mounting to most research microscopes. See Chapter 3 for more information.

Shutters

The round head camera does not have an internal shutter. The rectangular head camera is supplied with either a 25 mm internal shutter (C-mount) or a 35 mm internal shutter (F-mount).* The Shutter Compensation times listed below are based on the values used by the WinView/32 program.

Shutter	Shutter Compensation Time
None	200 nsec
Electronic	6.0 msec
Remote (Roper Scientific supplied 23 mm)	8.0 msec
Small (Roper Scientific supplied 25 mm)	8.0 msec
Large (Roper Scientific supplied 35 mm)	28.0 msec

* The 35 mm shutter requires a controller having the 70 V shutter drive modification. Controllers having this option cannot be used with cameras with the 25 mm shutter.

Inputs

EXT SYNC: TTL input (BNC) to allow data acquisition to be synchronized with external events. Sense can be positive or negative going as set in software. Synchronization and Trigger Modes are discussed in Chapter 5.

Outputs

VIDEO: 1 V pk-pk from 75 Ω , BNC connector. Either RS-170 (EIA) or CCIR standard video as specified when system was ordered. Requires connection via 75 Ω cable that must be terminated into 75 Ω .

SCAN: TTL output (BNC) for monitoring camera status. TTL low when CCD is being read; otherwise high. *An internal jumper allows selection of alternative SHUTTER MONITOR signal.* Default selection is SHUTTER MONITOR. *Contact the factory Technical Support Dept. for information on changing the jumper setting. See page 147 for contact information.*

SHUTTER MONITOR: Alternative signal to **SCAN** as selected by internal jumper. Precisely brackets shutter-open time (exclusive of shutter compensation) and can be used to control an external shutter.

READY: TTL output (BNC); marks start of *first* exposure. When run is initiated, remains high until completion of cleaning cycles preceding *first* exposure, then goes low and remains low for duration of run.

SERIAL COMM: Data link to computer via proprietary cable connected to this 9-pin "D" connector. Cable lengths to 165 feet (50 m) available.

Programmable Interface

TTL I/O at DB25 connector. There are eight input bits and eight output bits as described in Appendix B.

A/D Converter

Converter range: 12 bits

Readout Rate: Fast, 1 MHz (alternatively 500 kHz); Slow, 100 kHz. Contact factory for information on other A/D converters.

Linearity: better than 1%.

Readout noise: 1-1.3 counts RMS on standard systems

Exposure (integration time): 5 msec to 23 hours (full frame or frame transfer)

Computer Requirements

The MicroMAX is most commonly used with a Pentium computer configured as follows.

Type: Any Pentium (or better) PC having a free slot for the Serial Buffer card (PCI is standard; other types may be available).

Memory (RAM): Minimum of 32 Mbytes; possibly more depending on experiment design and size of CCD Array.

Operating System: Windows 95/ME/2000/XP or Windows NT for WinView/32. *Windows 3.1 required for 16-bit versions of WinView.*

Interface: PCI High-Speed Serial I/O card is standard. Other types may be available. Contact factory for information.

Note: Macintosh II support may be available. Contact factory for details.

Miscellaneous

Dimensions: See Appendix A.

Camera Weight:

Round Head: 3 lb max (1.58 kg) for C-mount; 3.5 lb (1.35 kg) max for F-mount,

Rectangular Head: 7 lb (3.2 kg) max for C-mount; 7 lb (3.2 kg) max for F-mount,

Controller Weight: 12 lb (5.4 kg) max

Power Requirements: Nominally 100,120, 220 or 240 V AC , 47-63 Hz, 200 watts; required DC voltages are generated in the controller. Power to camera is applied via controller cable.

Environmental Requirements: Storage temperature $\leq 50^{\circ}$ C; Operating temperature range over which specifications can be met is 18° C to 23° C; Relative humidity $\leq 50\%$ noncondensing.

TTL Requirements: Rise time ≤ 40 nsec, Duration ≥ 100 nsec.

Appendix B

Outline Drawings

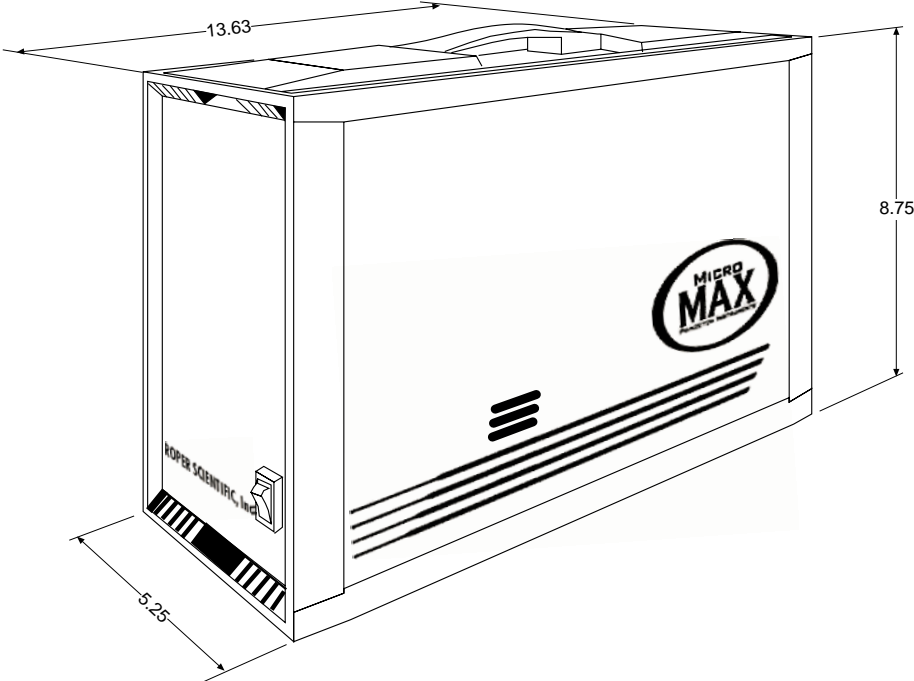


Figure 51. ST-133A Controller Dimensions

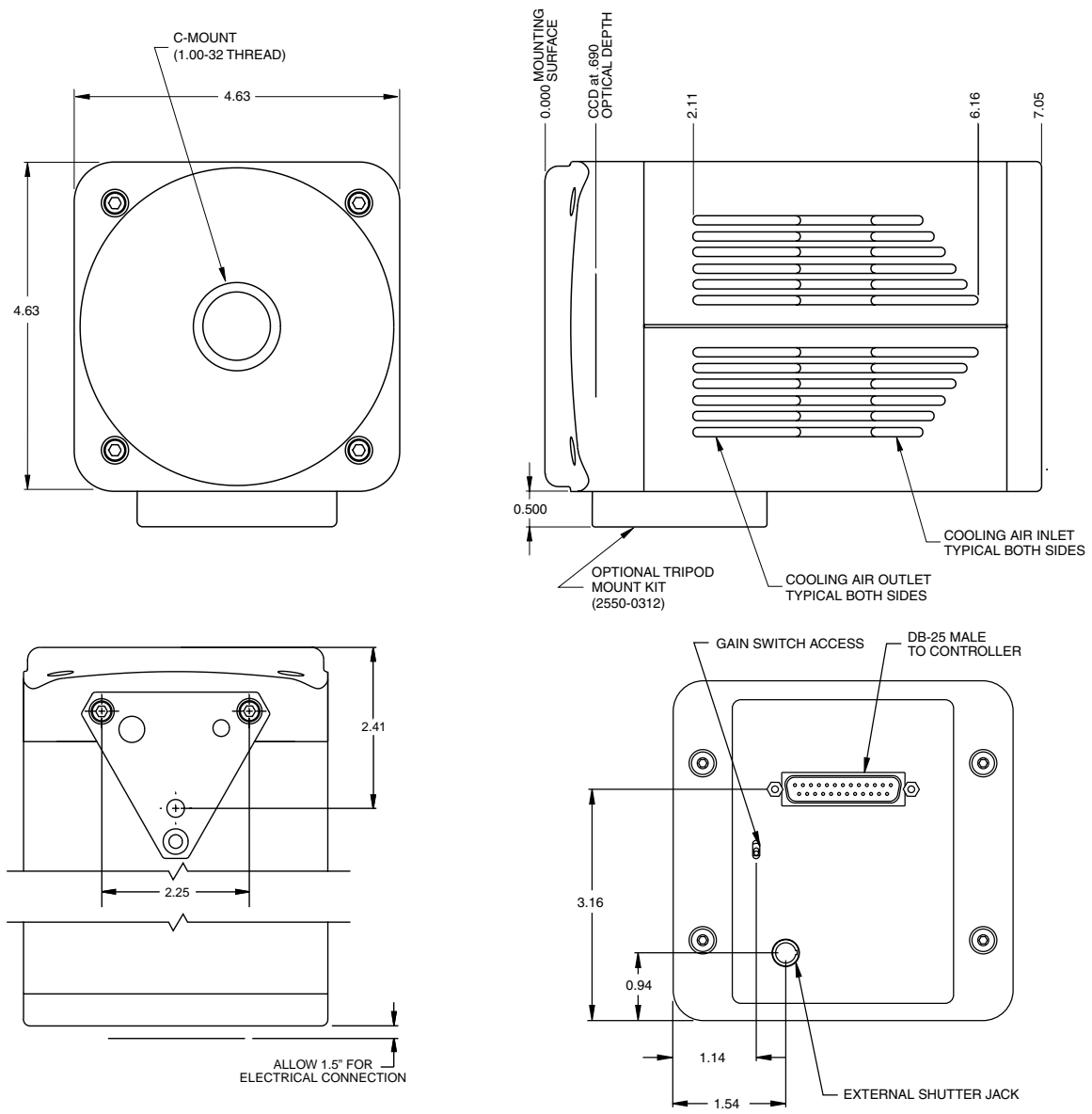


Figure 52. Rectangular Camera Head: C-Mount

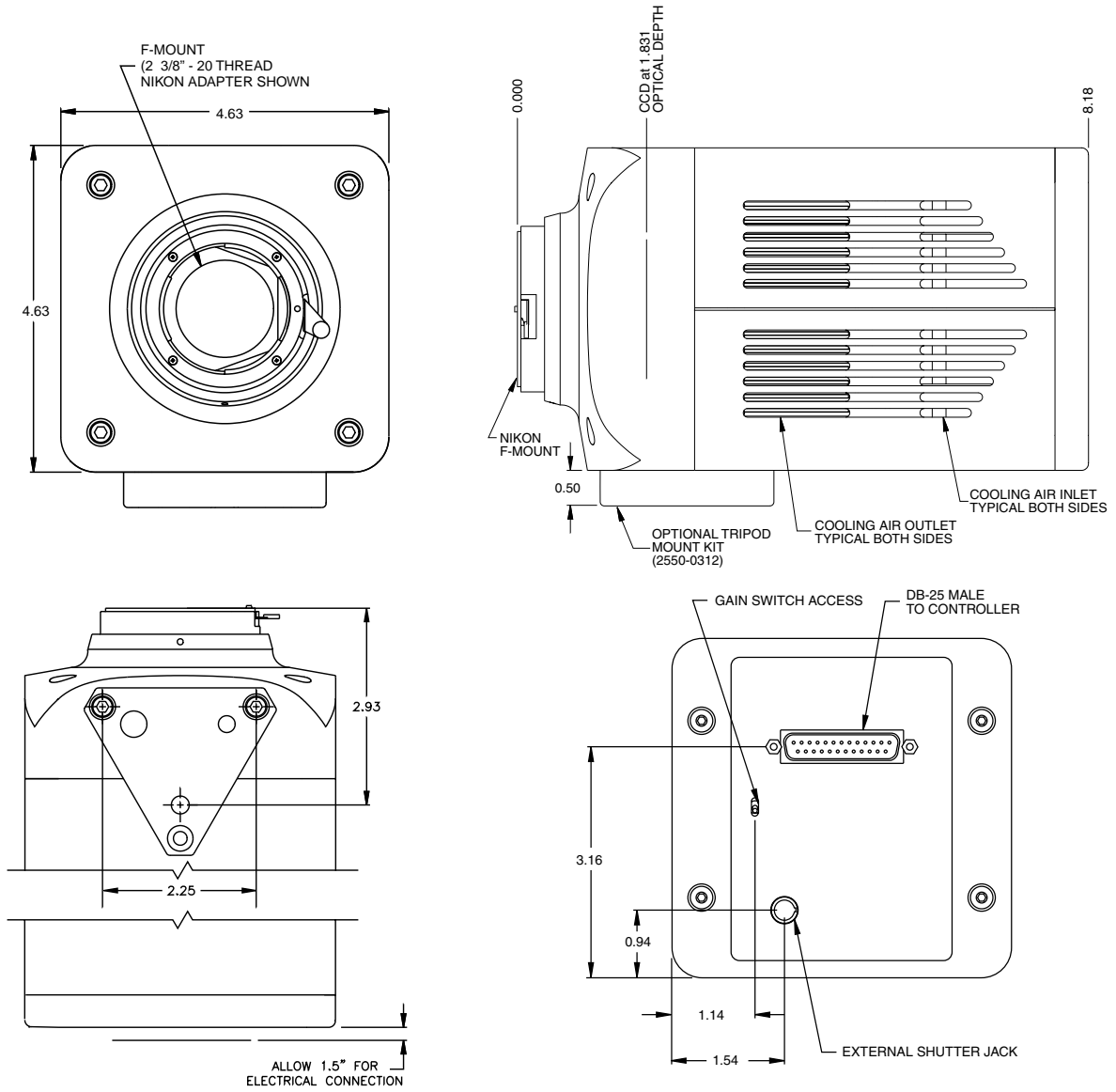


Figure 53. Rectangular Camera Head: F-Mount

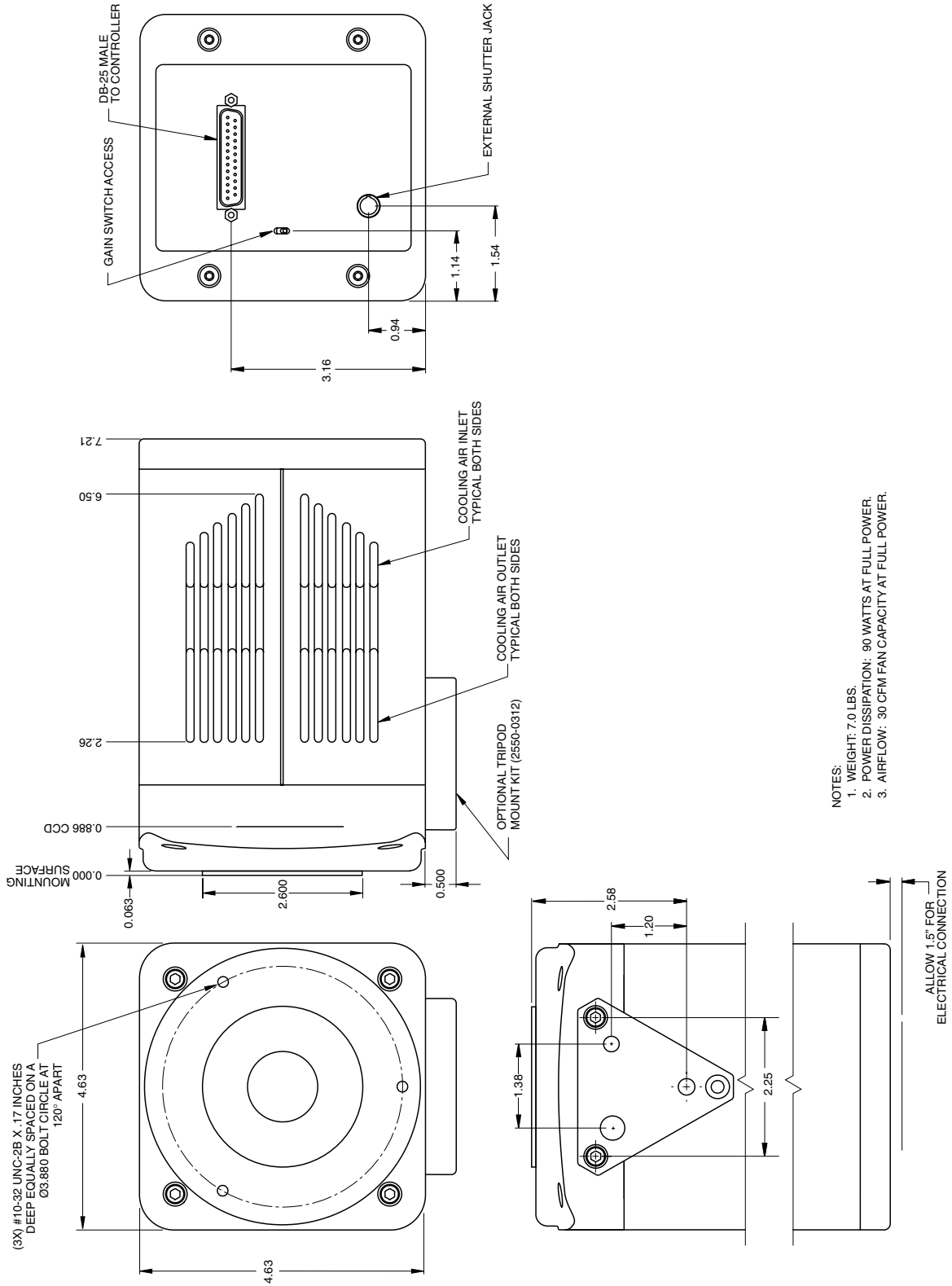


Figure 54. Rectangular Camera Head: Spectroscopy Mount with Shutter

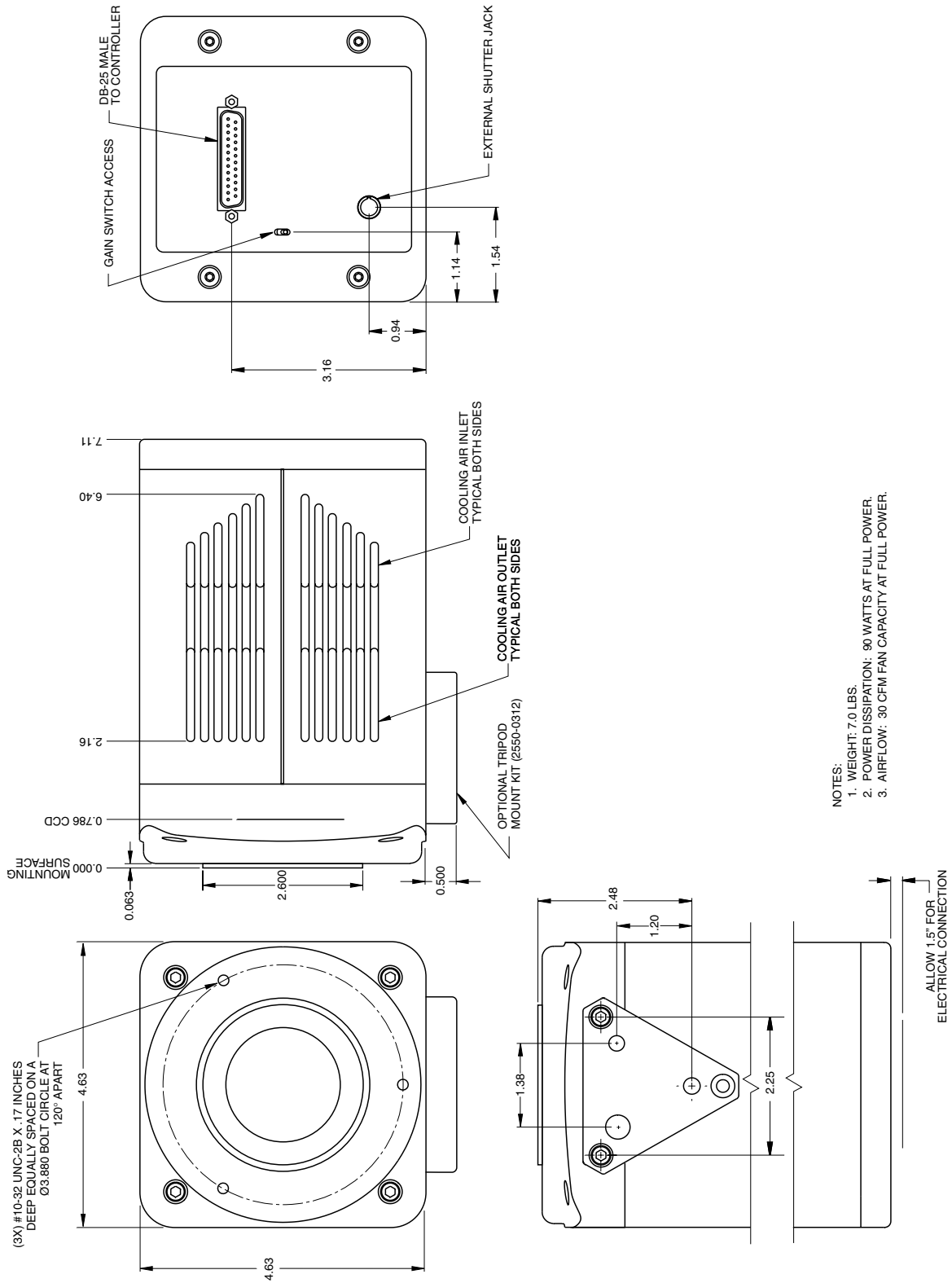
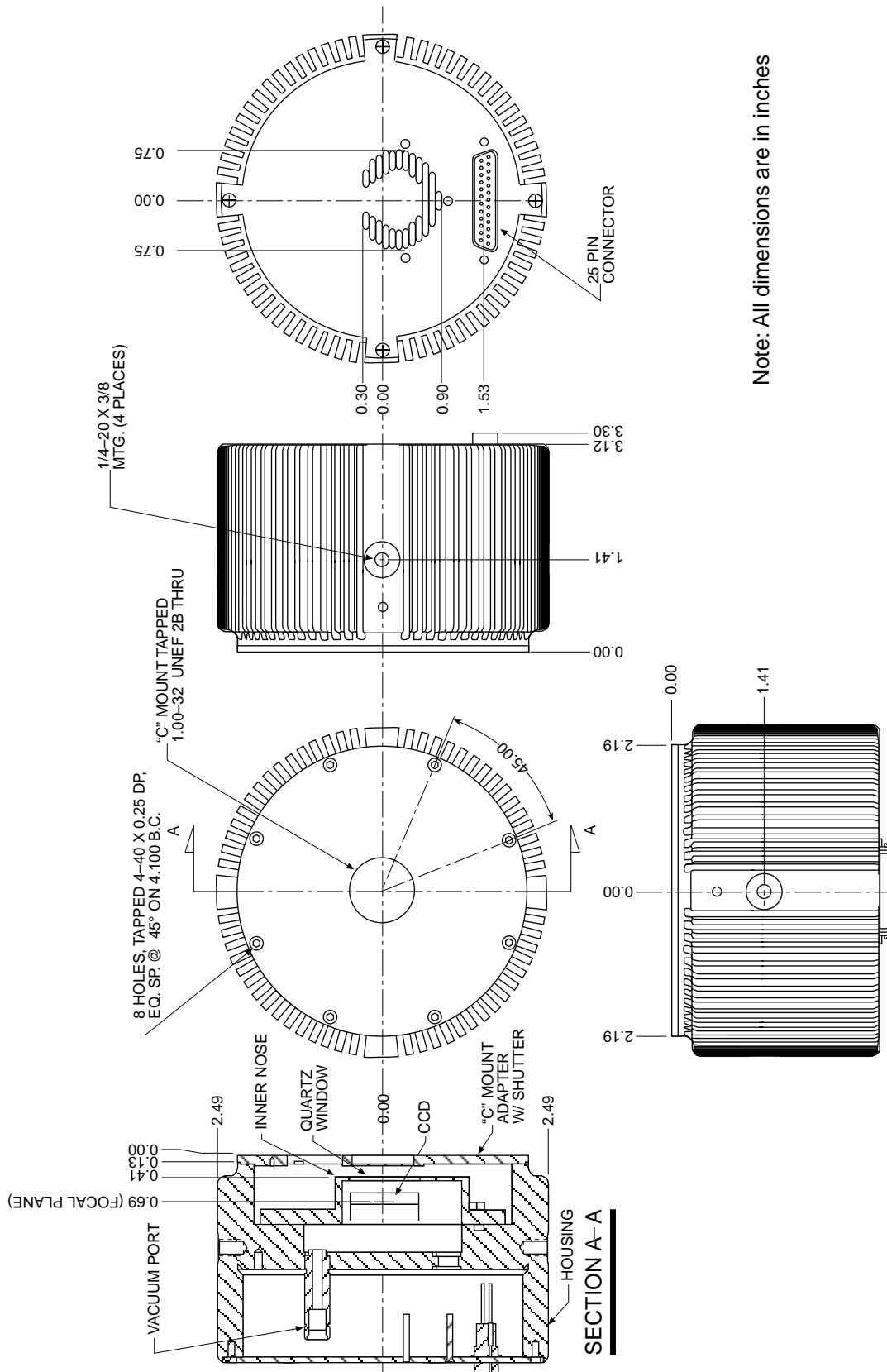


Figure 55. Rectangular Camera Head: Spectroscopy Mount without Shutter



Note: All dimensions are in inches

Figure 56. 1 MHz and 100kHz/1MHz Round Head Camera: C-Mount Adapter and Shutter

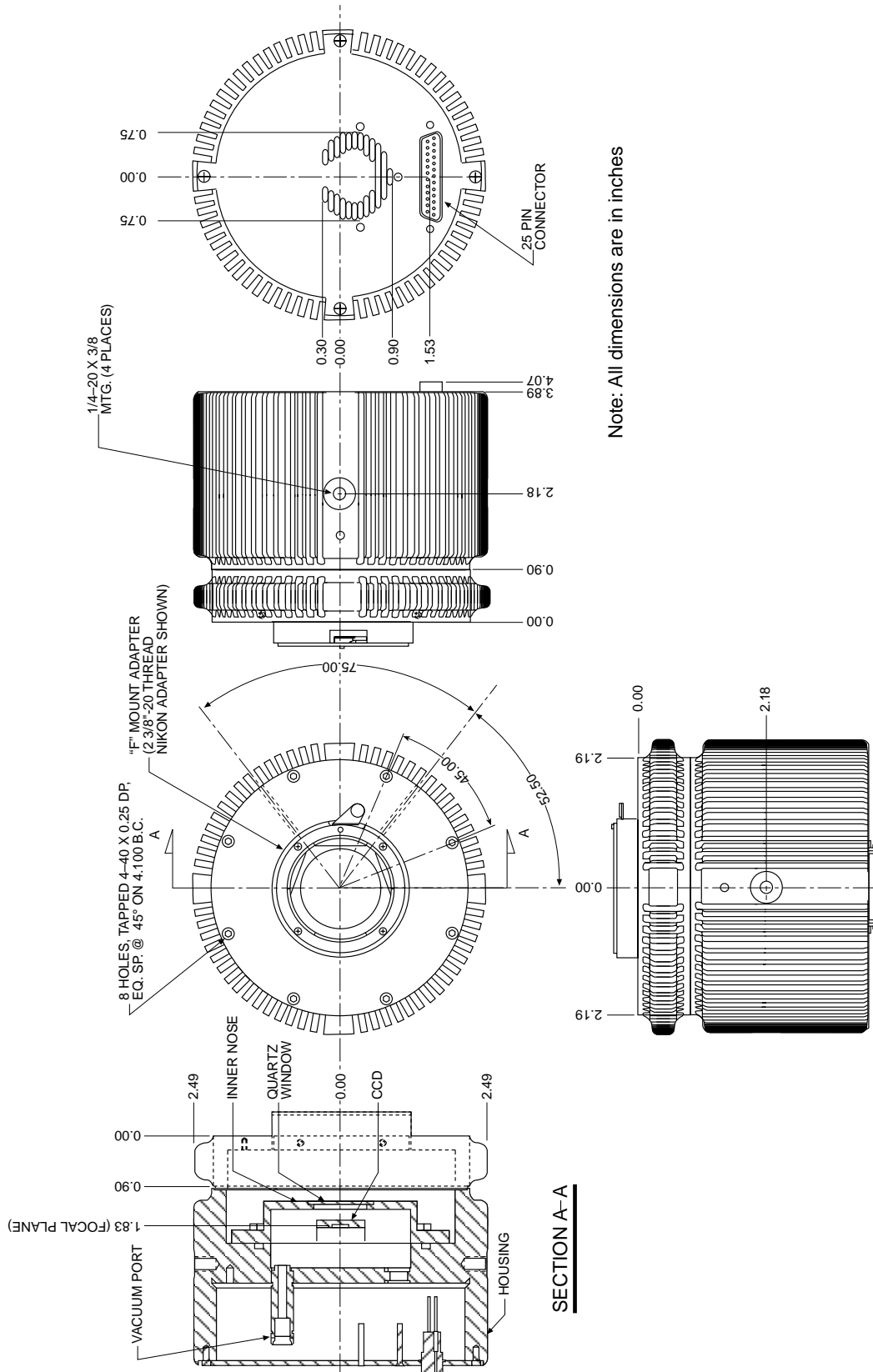


Figure 58. 1 MHz Round Head Camera: F-Mount Adapter

Kinetics Mode

Introduction

Kinetics mode uses the CCD to expose and store a limited number of images in rapid succession. The time it takes to shift each line (or row) on the CCD is as short as a few hundred nanoseconds to few microseconds, depending on the CCD. Therefore the time between images can be as short as a few microseconds. Kinetics mode allows frame transfer CCDs to take time-resolved images/spectra.

Note: Kinetics mode is an option, so the controller must be programmed before your order is shipped. If the Kinetics option has been installed in the ST-133A, this readout mode will be made available when you select the appropriate camera type on the **Hardware Setup** dialog box.

Below is a simplified illustration of kinetics mode. Returning to our 4×6 CCD example, in this case $2/3$ of the array is masked, either mechanically or optically. The shutter opens to expose a 4×2 region. While the shutter remains open, charge is quickly shifted just under the mask, and the exposure is repeated. After a third image is collected the shutter is closed and the CCD is read out. Since the CCD can be read out slowly, very high dynamic range is achieved. Shifting and readout are shown in Figure 59.

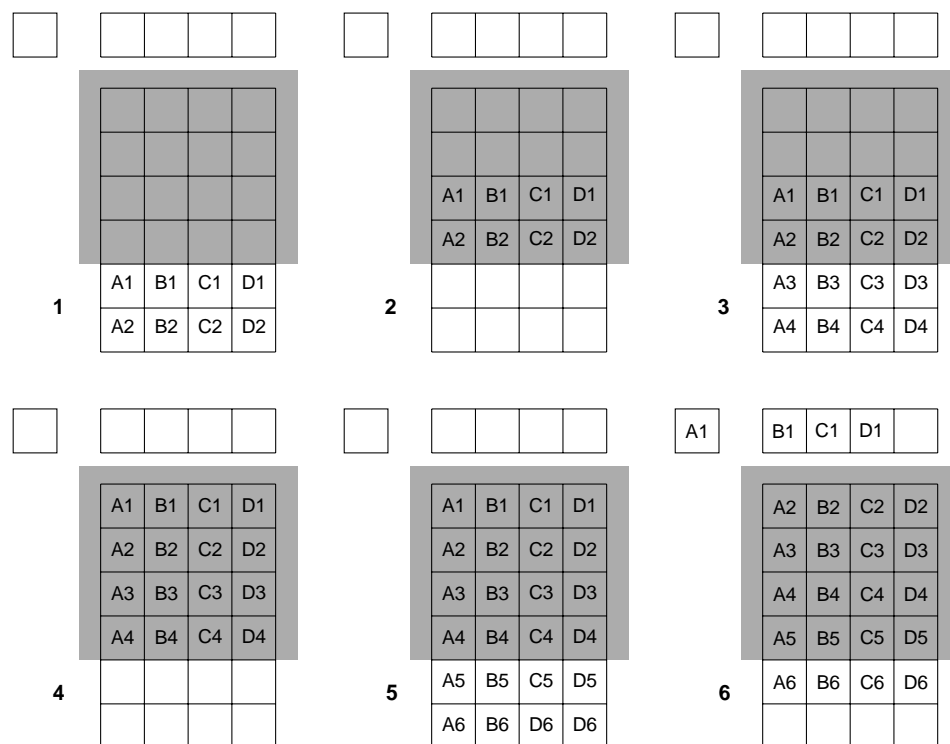


Figure 59. Kinetics Readout

Kinetic Timing Modes

Kinetics mode operates with three timing modes: Free Run, Single Trigger, and Multiple Trigger.

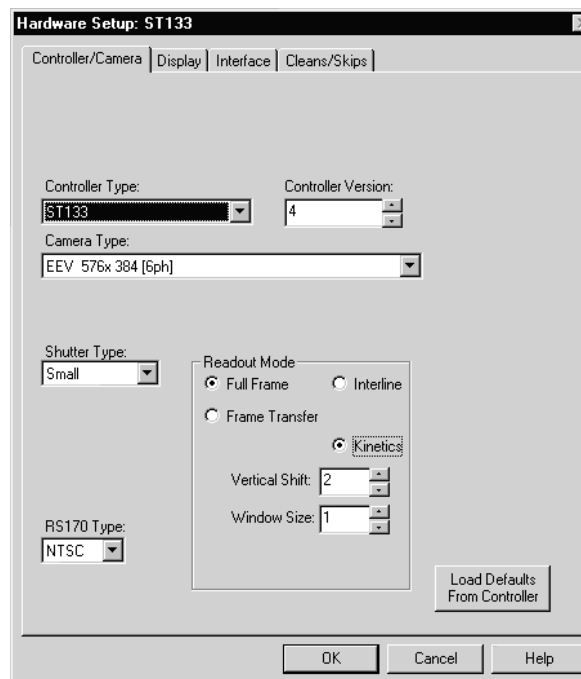


Figure 60. Hardware Setup dialog box

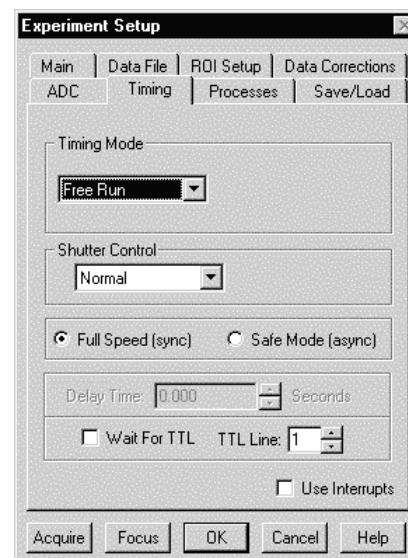


Figure 61. Experiment Setup dialog box

Free Run

In the Free Run Kinetics mode, the controller takes a series of images, each with the Exposure time set through the software (in WinView32, the exposure time is set on the **Experiment Setup|Main** tab page). The time between image frames, which may be as short as a few microseconds, is limited by the time required to shift an image under the mask: this interimage time equals the Vertical Shift rate (specified in $\mu\text{sec}/\text{row}$) multiplied by the Window Size (the number of rows allocated for an image frame). The exact number of frames depends on the selected Window Size and is equal to the number of pixels perpendicular to the shift register divided by the Window Size.

Example: Referring to the readout shown in Figure 59, there are 6 pixels perpendicular to the shift register and the Window Size is 2 pixels high. The number of frames is 3. If the Vertical Shift Rate for the CCD is $1.6 \mu\text{sec}/\text{row}$, the Shift time will be $3.2 \mu\text{sec}$ per frame.

Integrate signals (Shutter Monitor) or Readout signals (NOT SCAN) are provided at the **SCAN** BNC for timing measurements

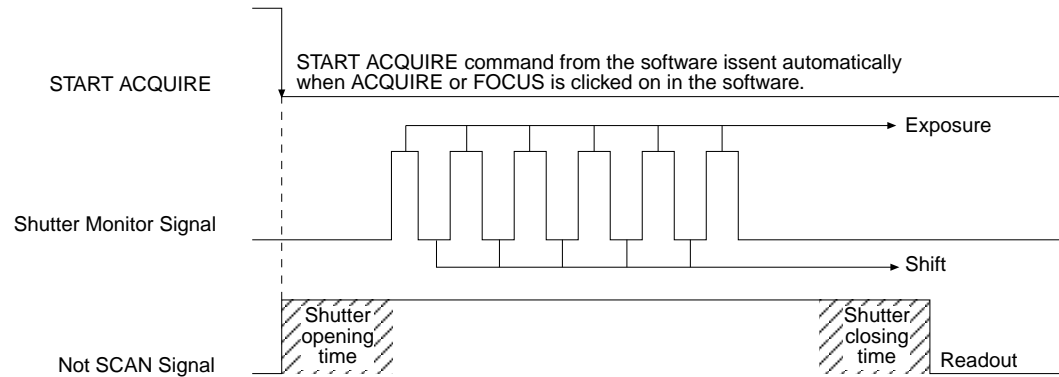


Figure 62. Free Run Timing Diagram

Single Trigger

Single Trigger Kinetics mode takes an entire series of images with each External Trigger Pulse (applied at the Ext. Sync BNC on the control board of ST133). After the series is complete the shutter closes and the CCD is read out at normal speeds. Once the readout is complete the camera is ready for the next series of exposures. This timing is shown in Figure 63, where a single External trigger pulse is used to collect a burst of 6 frames.

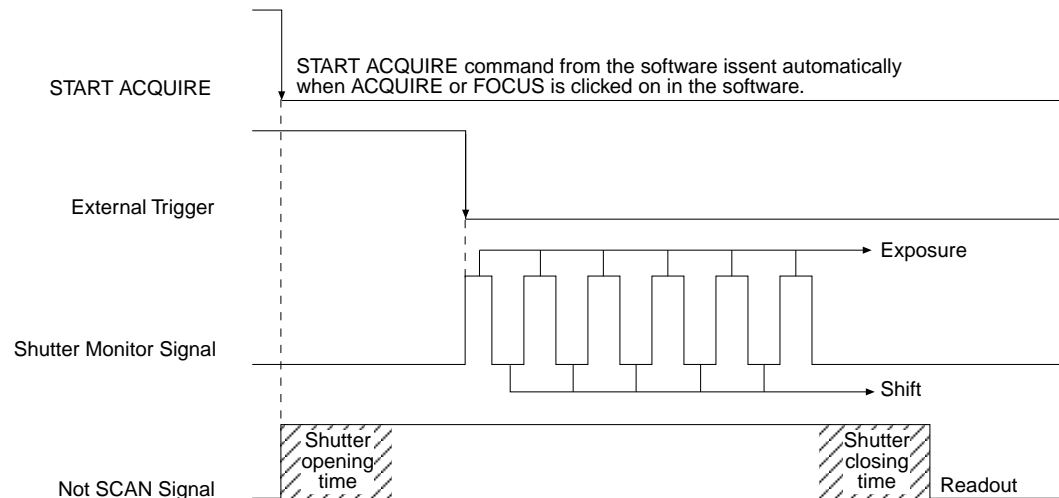


Figure 63. Single Trigger Timing Diagram

Multiple Trigger

Multiple Trigger Kinetics mode takes a single image in the series for each External Sync pulse received by the controller. Once the series is complete the shutter closes and readout begins. Since the shutter is open during the entire series of images, if the External Sync pulses are irregularly spaced then the exposures will be of different lengths. Once the series has been read out the camera is ready for the next series. This timing is shown in Figure 64, where a series of 6 frames is collected with 6 External Sync pulses.

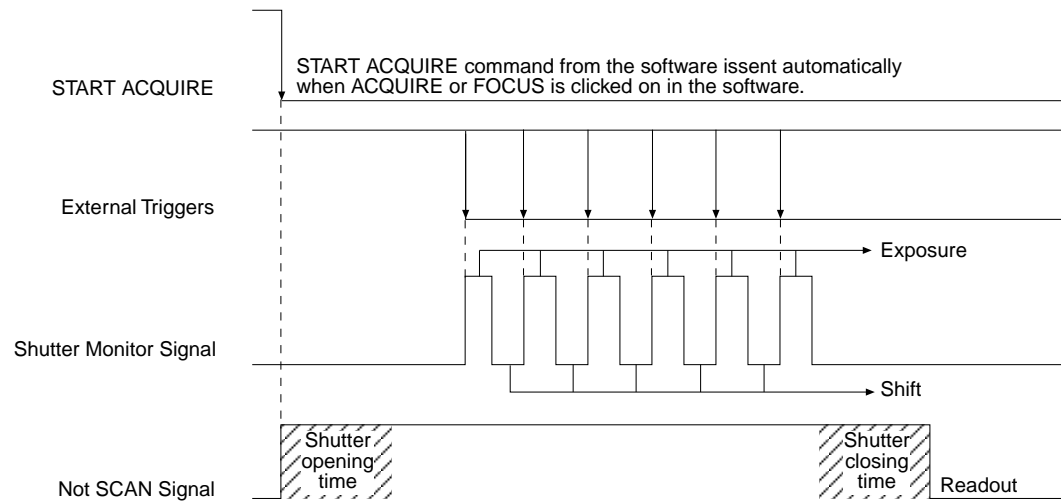


Figure 64. Multiple Trigger Timing Diagram

Virtual Chip Mode

Introduction

Virtual Chip mode (a WinView/32 option) is a special fast-acquisition technique that allows frame rates in excess of 100 fps to be obtained. For the Virtual Chip selection to be present, it is necessary that:

- the system be a 1 MHz MicroMAX,
- that the camera have a frame transfer chip (MicroMAX:512BFT) and,
- that the file Wxvchip.opt be present in the same directory as the executable WinView/32 program. *Contact Technical Support for information regarding the availability of Wxvchip.opt.*

This method of data acquisition requires that the chip be masked as shown in Figure 65. Masking can be achieved by applying a mechanical or optical mask or by positioning a bright image at the ROI against a dark background on the remainder of the array.

In operation, images are continually piped down the CCD at extraordinarily high frames per second (FPS). The mini-frame transfer region is defined by an ROI as illustrated in Figure 65. The charge from this ROI is shifted under the frame-transfer mask, followed by a readout cycle of an ROI-sized region under the mask. Since the ROI is far from the serial register, the stored image is just shifted repeatedly with the readout and the first few images collected will not contain useful data. After the readout period, the next frame is shifted under the mask and another ROI sized frame is read out. The net result is a series of images, separated by spacer regions, streaming up the CCD under the mask.

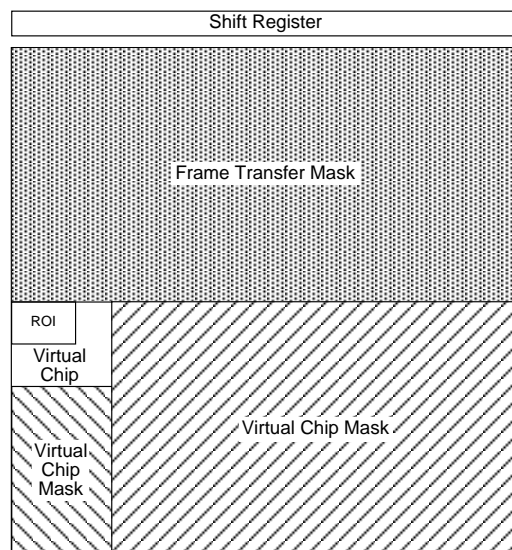


Figure 65. Virtual Chip Functional Diagram

The table below shows the minimum exposure time per frame (msec/Frame) and the number of frames per second (FPS) for several ROIs. Note that these numbers are provided for the 1 MHz and the 100 kHz readout rates.

ROI	1 MHz		100 kHz	
	(msec/Frame)	(FPS)	(msec/Frame)	(FPS)
164 x 164	29.8	33.6	287	3.5
96 x 96	10.9	91.7	102	9.8
84 x 84	8.65	115	79.8	12.5
64 x 64	5.26	190	47.6	21.0
56 x 56	4.22	237	37.4	36.7
47 x 47	3.08	324	26.9	37.2
36 x 36	1.97	507	16.6	60.2
30 x 30	1.51	662	12.2	82.0

Table 15. MicroMAX:512BFT: Virtual Chip Size, Exposure Time, and Frames per Second

Virtual Chip Setup

Introduction

If the Virtual Chip mode option has been installed, both WinView/32 and WinSpec/32 will support this technique. The following procedure covers the basic hardware and software setup for Virtual Chip operation.

Note: The Virtual Chip dialog box is discussed in detail in the next section.

Equipment:

- MicroMAX with 512x512FT CCD array
- Suitable ST-133A
- PCI Interface Card and High Speed Serial (TAXI) cable
- Suitable Host Computer

Software:

- WinView/32, version 2.4 or higher
- WXvchip.opt installed in the same directory as the executable WinView/32 program

Assumptions:

- You are familiar with the WinView/32 software and have read the hardware manuals.
- Masking is for a 47x47 pixel Virtual Chip with its origin at 1,1.

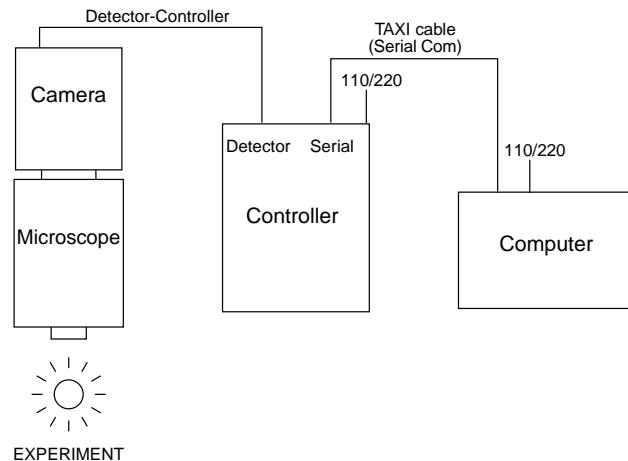
System Connection Diagram:

Figure 66. System Diagram

Procedure:

1. Verify that the power is **OFF** for **ALL** system components (including the host computer).
2. Verify that the correct line voltages have been selected and that the correct fuses have been installed in the ST-133A.
3. Connect the TAXI cable to the interface card at the host computer and to the **Serial Com** connector at the rear of the Controller. Tighten down the locking screws.
4. Connect the **Camera-Controller** cable to the **Detector** connector on the rear of the Controller and to the **Detector** connector at the rear of the camera. Tighten down the locking screws.
5. If it has not been installed already, connect a line cord from the Power Input module on the back of the Controller to a suitable AC power source.
6. Turn on the Controller.
7. Turn on the host computer and select the WinView/32 icon.
8. From the **Setup** menu, select **Hardware**, and enter the following settings:

Controller/CCD tab card

- **Controller:** MicroMAX
- **Controller Version:** 5
- **CCD Type:** appropriate frame transfer array (EEV 512x512FT, for this procedure)

- **Shutter Type:** None
- **LOGIC OUT Output:** Shutter
- **Readout Mode:** Frame Transfer

Interface tab card

- **Type:** the appropriate interface card. For this procedure, the selection is High Speed PCI.

Cleans/Skips tab card

- **Number of Cleans:** 1
- **Number of Strips per Clean:** 512
- **Minimum Block Size:** 2
- **Number of Blocks:** 5

9. From the **Acquisition** menu, select **Experiment Setup** and enter the following settings:

Main tab card

- **Exposure Time:** Enter a value. The exposure time can either be greater than the readout time or it can be equal to the readout time. If you want an exposure time > readout time, enter a value larger than the readout time calculated when the virtual chip definition was downloaded. If you want an exposure time = readout time, enter 000 sec.
- **Number of Images:** Enter the desired number of images.
- **Use Region of Interest**
- **Accumulations:** 1

ADC tab card

- **Type:** FAST

ROI Setup tab card: Make no changes to the settings on this tab card unless you have re-enabled Normal Operating Mode. ROI setup for Virtual Chip (High Speed Mode) is performed through the Virtual Chip dialog box.

10. From the **Setup** menu, select **Virtual Chip**, and enter the following settings:

- **High Speed Mode Enabled**
- **Virtual Chip Definition:** The settings below assume a 47x47 pixel virtual chip. The X and Y dimensions are established by the external mask. The virtual chip is fully flexible in the X direction. However, the set of choices for the Y-dimension has been pre-selected for optimal performance. Note that the origin point that Roper Scientific uses for a CCD array is 1,1.
 - **Chip Y Dimension:** 47. Select this dimension from the drop down list.
 - **Chip X Dimension:** 47. Enter this dimension manually.

11. Click on the **Load Default Values** button. This enters the default ROI values. These values are: Start pixels of 1,1; End pixels based on the Chip Y and Chip X dimensions; and Groups of 1.
 - **Region of Interest:** The settings below assume a 47x47 pixel ROI (i.e., the entire virtual chip). An ROI that is a subset of the virtual chip can be defined.

X Start: 1	Y Start: 1
X End: 47	Y End: 47
X Group: 1	Y Group: 1
 - Click on the **Download Virtual Chip Definition** button. This will download the definition, set up the ROI, and calculate the readout time.
 - Observe the calculated readout time. If you need a shorter period, change the settings (for example, enter a smaller Y-dimension or use binning in the Y-direction) and click on the **Download Virtual Chip Definition** button again.
 - Click on **Close**.
12. From the **Setup** menu, select **Environment**.

Note: When setting up for focusing, the number of **Frames/Interrupt** should be left at 1.

 - **DMA Buffer (Mb):** By default, the buffer size is 8 Mb. Using the following formula, calculate the amount of DMA memory required:
$$\mathbf{X \times Y \times \#Frames \times (2 \text{ bytes/pixel}).}$$
For example, the buffer size required for a 47x47 virtual array acquiring 1000 frames would be $47 \times 47 \times 1000 \text{ frames} \times (2 \text{ bytes/pixel}) = 4.4 \text{ Mb}$. If the calculated value is greater than 8 Mb, enter the appropriate size.

Note: This value is not enabled until you restart your computer.
 - **Frames/Interrupt:** If the number of frames is greater than 256 (the pre-programmed slot limit for a PCI card), increase the number of **Frames/Interrupt** value. Use the formula $\#Frames/256$ and round the result to the next highest integer to calculate that value. For example, 1000 frames/256 will result in 3.9, so enter 4.

Note: This value should be 1 for **Focus** mode.
13. Click on **OK** after you have finished entering the Environment settings.
14. Place a suitable target in front of the camera and click on **Focus** to verify that the camera is seeing the target.
15. Make any focusing, gain, or other adjustments necessary to fine-tune the image.
16. Stop running in **Focus** mode.
17. Now click on **Acquire**.

Experimental Timing

Triggering can be achieved through the software via the **Software Trigger** timing mode (selectable on the **Experiment Setup** dialog box, **Timing Mode** tab page) or it can be achieved via the **Ext Sync** input on the rear of the camera. Triggering from the **Ext Sync** input allows you to acquire a single image per TTL pulse. If **Software Trigger** has been selected, back-to-back collection of the requested number of images will be initiated when **Acquire** is selected: no further TTL trigger input is required.

Virtual Chip dialog box

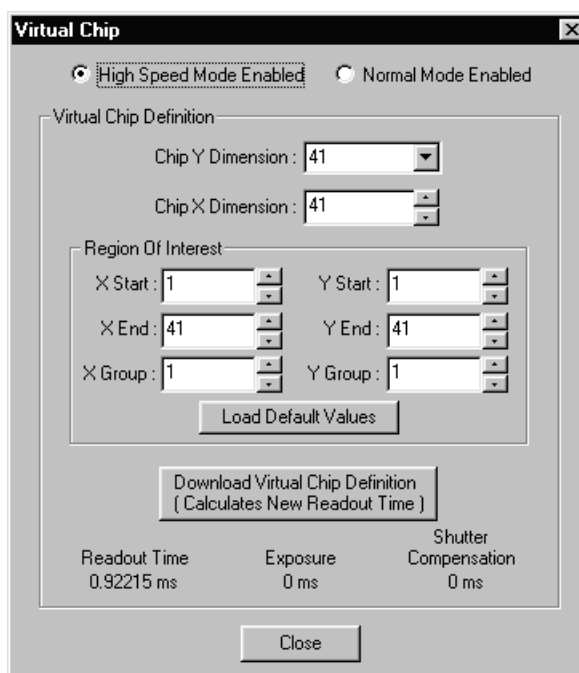


Figure 67. Virtual Chip dialog box.

Clicking **Virtual Chip** on the **Setup** menu displays the **Virtual Chip** dialog box. When the **High Speed Mode Enabled** radio button is selected, all of the fields and buttons on the box will be activated as shown in Figure 67.

Mode: Radio buttons allow the choice of **High Speed Mode Enabled** and **Normal Mode Enabled**. In the normal mode, the external masks would ordinarily be withdrawn, allowing normal frame-transfer operation. All of the parameter settings on the screen are grayed out if **Normal Mode Enabled** is selected. When **High Speed Mode Enabled** is selected, high speed frame rates using the virtual chip can be obtained as described above.

Chip Y Dimension: This is the Y range established by the external mask.

Chip X Dimension: This is the X range established by the external mask.

ROI: The X and Y Start, End and Binning (Group) values can be entered. The ROI can be as large as the virtual chip area established by the external mask or a subregion.

Load Default Values: Fills in the region of interest X and Y End values based on the Chip X and Y Dimension entries. By default, the ROI origin is at 1,1 and the Group values are both 1.

Download Virtual Chip Definition: Sends the virtual chip parameter values to the controller's non-volatile memory. If a virtual chip definition is already stored there, you will be given an overwrite warning.

Readout Time: Reported readout time that will result with the current virtual-chip parameter values.

Exposure Time: Reported current exposure time that will result with the value entered in the **Experiment Setup** dialog box.

Shutter Compensation Time: Reported value; depends on selected shutter type.

Close: Closes Virtual Chip dialog box.

Tips

- ◆ If mechanical masking is used, the mask can be a static one (fixed dimensions) in which case, multiple masks should be made to accommodate a variety of imaging conditions. Alternatively, a more flexible mask can be manufactured by taking two thin metal sheets with a square hole the size of the exposed region of the CCD cut in the center. This would be 512×512 pixels at 15 microns per pixel = $7.68 \text{ mm} \times 7.68 \text{ mm}$ for the MicroMAX. These masks should be anodized black to prevent reflections in the optical system and they should be very flat. These two sheets can then be slid relative to one another to achieve any rectangular shape required. The sheets should be placed flat in the optical plane and their openings should be centered on the optical axis. Ideally they should be able to move with an accuracy of 2-3 pixels per step (30-45 microns) in the X and Y directions.

Consult the factory for off-the-shelf optical masking accessories

- ◆ Running the camera in Free Run mode with 0.0 msec exposure time will result in the fastest acquisition time. Under these conditions, the acquisition time is limited by the readout time of the ROI (exposure time \equiv readout time).
- ◆ When you return the system to "Normal" chip mode (radio button on **Virtual Chip** dialog box), you should also open the **Experiment Setup** dialog box at the ROI Setup tab card and click on the **ClearAll** button to clear the ROI setup downloaded for Virtual Chip operation.
- ◆ If frame acquisition appears to be slow in Focus mode, check the **Frames/Interrupt** value on the **Environment** dialog box and reset the value to 1 if it is greater than 1.
- ◆ When processing large stacks of data, you may want to use a third-party scientific image processing package.
- ◆ Due to CCD design, you may see some edge artifacts when acquiring data from the entire virtual chip. Crop these artifacts by defining an ROI that is slightly smaller than the virtual chip dimensions.

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Repumping the Vacuum

Introduction

Round head cameras are normally shipped with a vacuum level of ~10 mTorr or better to assure proper cooling performance and to prevent condensation from collecting on the CCD. This condensation obscures or interferes with optical signals, and can leave behind harmful contaminants. In time, the vacuum level could deteriorate to where achieving temperature lock will no longer be possible. If this happens, it will be necessary to repump the vacuum to restore normal cooling performance. Instructions for repumping the vacuum for a 1 MHz or 100kHz/1MHz round head camera are included in this appendix. Contact the factory for instructions if you have a 5 MHz camera that you believe may need to be repumped.

Caution

Do not repump the vacuum until system operation has been verified. The system must be functioning properly before you can determine that repumping is necessary. Causes other than vacuum loss could make it impossible to achieve temperature lock (*see Cooling Troubleshooting on page 101*).

Notes:

1. To minimize outgassing, all Roper Scientific detectors are vacuum baked at the factory. Nevertheless, new detectors will experience a higher outgassing rate than detectors that have been in operation for several months, and are more likely to require repumping.
2. Users can request a nitrogen back-filled camera, which prevents condensation without the need for pumping. If your camera was prepared this way at the factory, no attempts at pumping should be made.

WARNING

Operating the camera without proper evacuation may result in serious or irreversible damage from condensation. Do not operate the camera unless the vacuum chamber is either evacuated or filled with a dry, non-corrosive gas (e.g. dry nitrogen).

Requirements

- A laboratory-type vacuum pump capable of achieving 10 mTorr or lower.

Caution

Your vacuum system *must* have a trap (ideally cryogenic) placed between the camera and the pump to prevent contamination due to backstreaming from the pump.

- Special vacuum pumpdown connector, as shown in Figure 68.

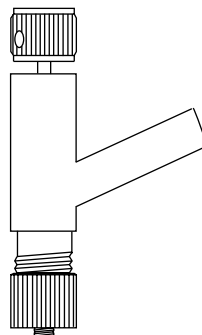


Figure 68. Vacuum Connector Required for Pumping

- Phillips screwdriver and a 3/16" nut driver, required to remove the back plate from the camera.

Vacuum Pumpdown Procedure

The instructions that follow are for a 1 MHz or 100kHz/1 MHz round head camera only. Contact the factory if you have a 5 MHz round head camera that you think may need to be repumped

1. Remove the back cover of the camera (see Figure 69). It is secured by four Phillips-head screws and by the two connector slide-latch posts, which can be removed using a 3/16" nut driver.

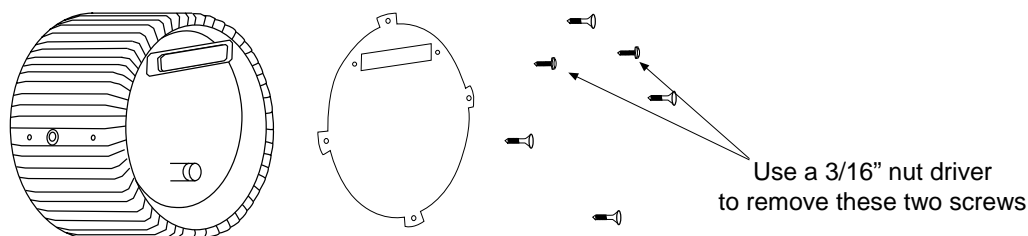


Figure 69. Removing the Back Panel

2. Push the Vacuum Connector onto the vacuum port on the back of the camera (see Figure 70). Tighten the bottom knurled ring (the one closest to the camera body).
3. Connect the vacuum system to the open tube and begin pumping. The vacuum equipment should first be pumped down to a reasonable level before the camera vacuum is opened.
4. After a reasonable vacuum level is reached (~20 mTorr), turn the top knob of the Vacuum Connector clockwise a few turns. While holding the body of the connector, pull up on the top knurled knob until it stops (see Figure 71). This opens the camera to the vacuum system, and a change in vacuum pressure in the system should be observed.
5. Pump down to 10 mTorr or as close as possible. Overnight pumping may be required.
6. When this level has been achieved, push the top knob all the way in until it stops. The vacuum block is now sealed. Turn the same knob counterclockwise several turns, to free the plug from the Vacuum Connector.

7. Remove the vacuum system from the Vacuum Connector. While turning the top knob counterclockwise, remove the Vacuum Connector from the camera. Replace the back cover.

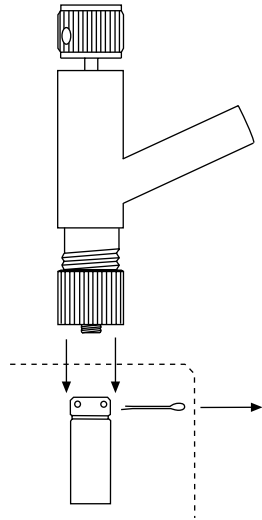


Figure 70. Attaching the Vacuum Connector

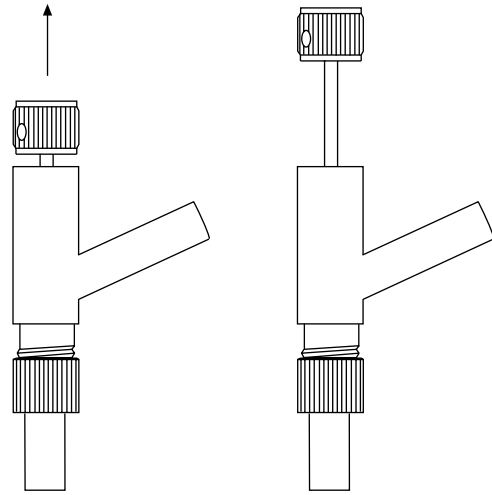


Figure 71. Opening the Camera to the Vacuum System

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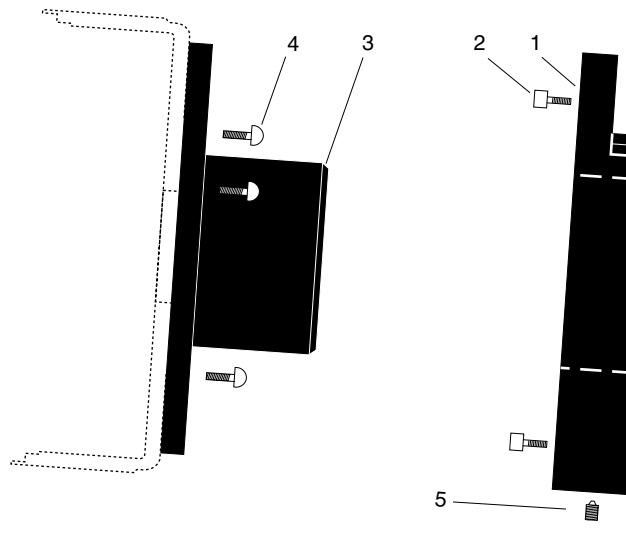
Appendix F

Spectrometer Adapters

Roper Scientific offers a variety of spectrometer adapters for rectangular head (NTE) MicroMAX systems. The mounting instructions for these adapters are organized by spectrometer model, camera type, and adapter kit number. The table below cross-references these items with the page number for the appropriate instruction set.

Spectrometer	Camera Type	Adapter Kit No.	Page
Chromex 250 IS	NTE with/without shutter	7050-0089	136
ISA HR 320	NTE with/without shutter	7050-0002	137
ISA HR 640	NTE with/without shutter	7050-0014	138
JY TRIAX	NTE without shutter	7384-0072	139
SPEX 270M	NTE with/without shutter	7050-0042	140
SPEX 500M	NTE with/without shutter	7050-0018	141
SPEX TripleMate	NTE with/without shutter	7050-0006	142

Chromex 250 IS (NTE with or without shutter)



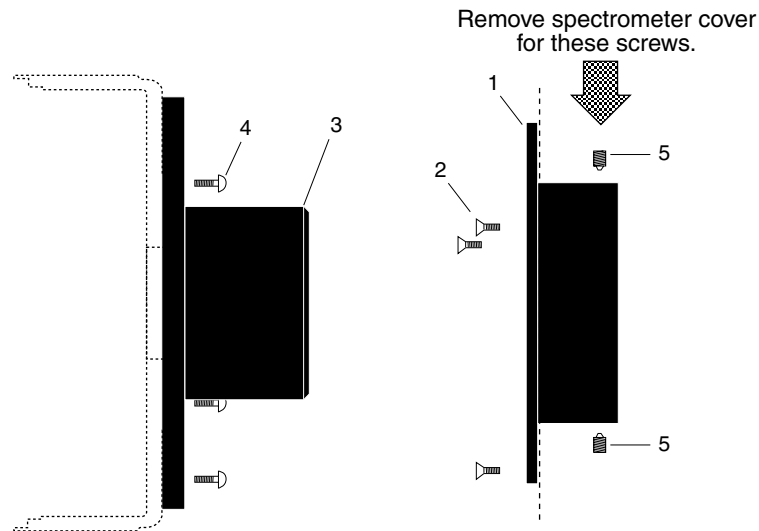
Qty	P/N	Description
1.	1	2517-0901 Plate, Adapter-Female
2.	4	2826-0283 Screw, 10-32 × 3/4, Socket head, Stainless Steel, Hex, Black
3.	1	2518-0107 Adapter-Male, HR320
4.	3	2826-0127 Screw, 10-32 × 1/4, Button Head Allen Hex, Stainless Steel
5.	1	2826-0082 Set Screw, 10-32 × 1/4, Stainless Steel, Allen Hex, Nylon Tip

Assembly Instructions

1. Attach part 1 to the spectrometer (dashed line in illustration) with the socket head screws provided.
2. Attach part 3 to the camera with the three (3) 1/4" long button head screws provided.
3. Gently insert part 3 into part 1 and fasten with the setscrew.

Note: Adapter parts are machined to provide a tight fit. It is necessary to rotate the camera back and forth when inserting into the spectrometer adapter. Do not force the two parts of the adapter together, as they can be permanently damaged by excessive force.

ISA HR 320 (NTE with or without shutter)



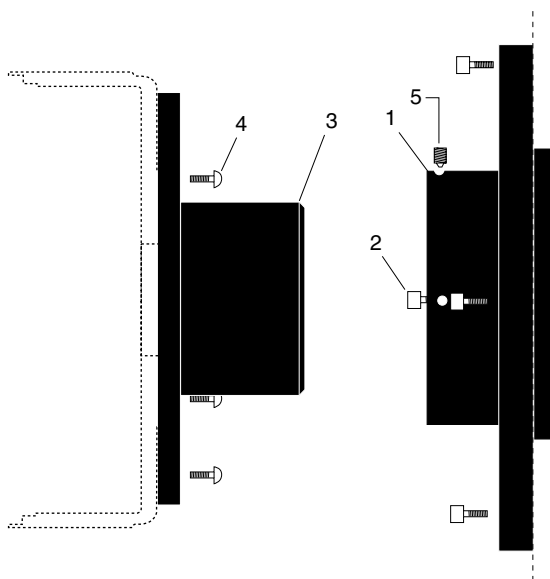
Qty	P/N	Description
1.	1	2518-0106 Adapter-Female, HR320
2.	3	2826-0087 Screw, M5-10, Flat Head, Socket, Stainless Steel
3.	1	2518-0107 Adapter-Male, HR320
4.	3	2826-0127 Screw, 10-32 × 1/4, Button Head Allen Hex, Stainless Steel
5.	2	2826-0082 Set Screw, 10-32 × 1/4, Stainless Steel, Allen Hex, Nylon Tip

Assembly Instructions

1. Remove the spectrometer cover.
2. Insert part 1 into the spectrometer (dashed line in illustration), fasten with the flathead screws provided, and replace spectrometer cover.
3. Attach part 3 to the camera with the three (3) 1/4" long button head screws provided.
4. Gently insert part 3 into part 1 and fasten with the setscrews.
3. Replace the spectrometer cover.

Note: Adapter parts are machined to provide a tight fit. It is necessary to rotate the camera back and forth when inserting into the spectrometer adapter. Do not force the two parts of the adapter together, as they can be permanently damaged by excessive force.

ISA HR 640 (NTE with or without shutter)



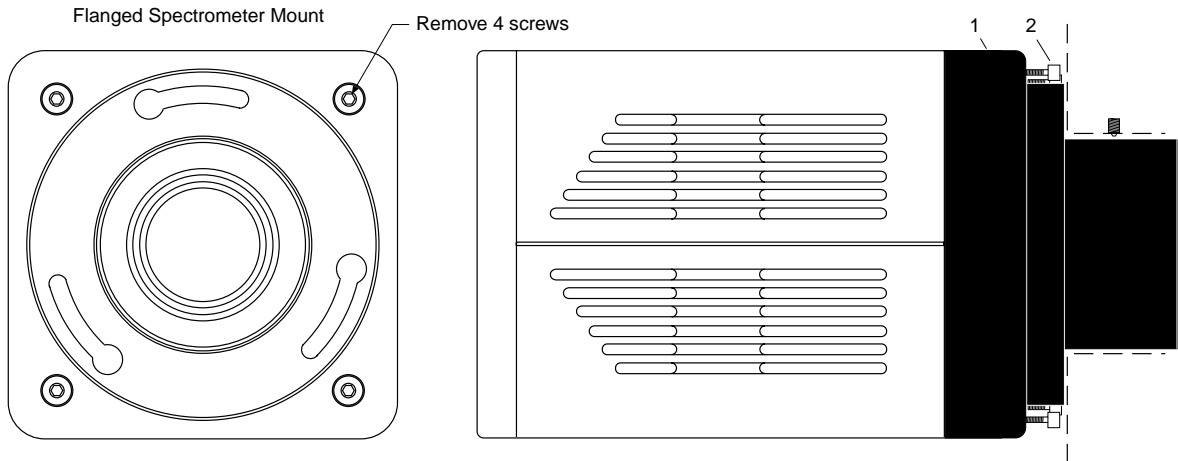
Qty	P/N	Description
1.	1	2518-0203 Adapter-Female, HR640
2.	4	2826-0144 Screw, M4-.7 × 14, Socket Head Cap, Stainless Steel
3.	1	2518-0107 Adapter-Male, HR320
4.	3	2826-0127 Screw, 10-32 × 1/4, Button Head Allen Hex, Stainless Steel
5.	2	2826-0082 Set Screw, 10-32 × 1/4, Stainless Steel, Allen Hex, Nylon Tip

Assembly Instructions

1. Insert part 1 into the spectrometer (dashed line in illustration) and fasten with the socket head screws provided.
2. Attach part 3 to the camera with the three (3) 1/4" long button head screws provided.
3. Gently insert part 3 into part 1 and fasten with the setscrews.

Note: Adapter parts are machined to provide a tight fit. It is necessary to rotate the camera back and forth when inserting into the spectrometer adapter. Do not force the two parts of the adapter together, as they can be permanently damaged by excessive force.

JY TRIAX family (NTE without shutter)



	Qty	P/N	Description
1.	1	2518-1000	Adapter, TRIAX, NTE, 7377, 7376, 7413
2.	4	2826-0191	Screw, 10-32 × 5/8, Socket Head, Stainless Steel, Hex, Black

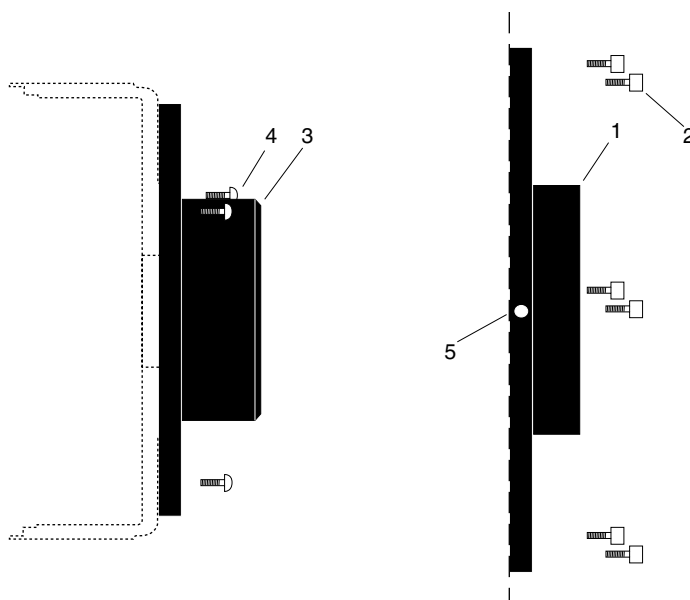
Typically, the adapter is shipped already mounted to the camera. The following procedure is provided in case you have ordered a JY TRIAX adapter for a shutterless MicroMAX rectangular head (NTE) camera that you already own.

Assembly Instructions

1. While supporting the flange, remove the four (4) of the socket head screws from the front of the camera (see illustration above) and store these screws.
2. Using the four (4) screws provided with the adapter kit, mount part 1 to the front of the camera.
3. Remove the spectrometer cover.
4. Insert part 1 into the spectrometer and fasten it in place with the spectrometer setscrew.
5. Replace the spectrometer cover.

Note: Adapter parts are machined to provide a tight fit. It may be necessary to rotate the camera back and forth when inserting into the spectrometer adapter. Do not force the two parts of the adapter together, as they can be permanently damaged by excessive force

SPEX 270M (NTE with or without shutter)



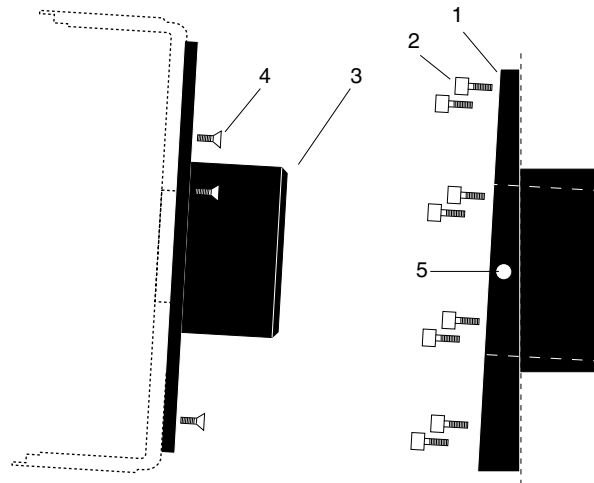
Qty	P/N	Description
1.	1	2518-0691 Female Adapter Plate, 2.400 ID
2.	6	2826-0068 Screw, 6-32 × 3/8, Socket Head, Cap, Stainless Steel
3.	1	2518-0690 Adapter, Focusing, Male, Spec 270
4.	3	2826-0127 Screw, 10-32 × 1/4, Button Head Allen Hex, Stainless Steel
5.	2	2826-0073 Screw 6-32 × 1/8, Set, Allen Hex, Brass Tip

Assembly Instructions

1. Remove the cover of the spectrometer.
2. Attach part 1 to the inner wall of the spectrometer (dashed line in illustration) with the socket head screws provided.
3. Attach part 3 to the camera with the three (3) 1/4" long button head screws provided.
4. Gently insert part 3 into part 1 and fasten with the setscrews.
5. Replace the spectrometer cover.

Note: Adapter parts are machined to provide a tight fit. It is necessary to rotate the camera back and forth when inserting into the spectrometer adapter. Do not force the two parts of the adapter together, as they can be permanently damaged by excessive force.

SPEX 500M (NTE with or without shutter)



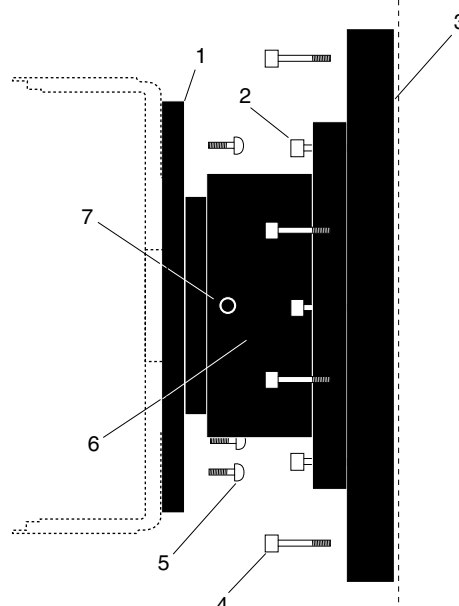
Qty	P/N	Description
1.	1	2517-0214 Adapter-Female, Spex 500m
2.	8	2826-0170 Screw, 1/4-20 × 0.51, Low Socket Head Cap, Black
3.	1	2518-0223 Adapter-Male, Spex 500m
4.	3	2826-0134 Screw, 10-32 × 1/4, Flat Head Slot, Stainless Steel
5.	2	2826-0055 Screw, 8-32 × 14, Set Allen Hex, Nylon

Assembly Instructions

1. Insert part 1 into the spectrometer wall (dashed line in illustration) and fasten with the socket head screws provided.
2. Attach part 3 to the camera with the three (3) 1/4" long button head screws provided.
3. Gently insert part 3 into part 1 and fasten with the setscrews.

Note: Adapter parts are machined to provide a tight fit. It is necessary to rotate the camera back and forth when inserting into the spectrometer adapter. Do not force the two parts of the adapter together, as they can be permanently damaged by excessive force.

SPEX TripleMate (NTE with or without shutter)



Qty	P/N	Description
1.	1	2518-0184 Adapter-Male, LN/TE, CCD/For Spex TripleMate
2.	4	2826-0128 Screw, 10-32 × 5/8, Socket Head Cap, Stainless Steel,
3.	1	2517-0163 Slit Mount, Spex
4.	4	2826-0129 Screw, 1/4-20 × 3/4, Socket Head Cap, Stainless Steel
5.	3	2826-0127 Screw, 10-32 × 1/4, Button Head, Hex, Stainless Steel
6.	1	2518-0185 Adapter-Female, Flange Spex
7.	2	2826-0082 Set Screw, 10-32 × 1/4, Stainless Steel, Allen Hex, Nylon Tip
	1	2500-0025 O-ring, 2.359x.139, Viton (installed)
	1	2500-0026 O-ring, 2.484x.139, Viton (installed)

Assembly Instructions

1. Mount the whole assembly onto the spectrometer.
2. Loosen setscrews and pull out part 1 far enough to enable access to screws with Allen wrench. Do not pull part 1 past the O-ring (If you do pull out part 1 completely, reinsert before attaching the camera).
3. Attach part 3 to the camera with the three (3) 1/4" long button head screws provided.
4. Tighten the setscrews.

Note: Adapter parts are machined to provide a tight fit. It is necessary to rotate the camera back and forth when inserting into the spectrometer adapter. Do not force the two parts of the adapter together, as they can be permanently damaged by excessive force.

Declarations of Conformity

This section of the MicroMAX manual contains the declarations of conformity for MicroMAX systems. MicroMAX systems encompass RTE (round thermoelectrically-cooled) and NTE (rectangular thermoelectrically-cooled) camera heads and their associated controllers.

DECLARATION OF CONFORMITY

We,

ROPER SCIENTIFIC
(PRINCETON INSTRUMENTS)
3660 QUAKERBRIDGE ROAD
TRENTON, NJ 08619

Declare under our sole responsibility, that the product

MicroMAX SYSTEM
With
RTE/CCD CAMERA,

To which this declaration relates, is in conformity with general safety requirement for electrical equipment standards:

IEC 1010-1:1990, EN 61010-1:1993/A2:1995
EN 50082-1:1992,
(EN 61000-4-2, EN 61000-4-3, EN 61000-4-4, 1995)
EN 55011 for GROUP 1, CLASS A, 1991,
EN 61000-3-2, 1994


Which follow the provisions of the

CE LOW VOLTAGE DIRECTIVE 73/23/EEC

And

EMC DIRECTIVE 89/336/EEC.

Date: August 20, 2002 _____
TRENTON, NJ



(PAUL HEAVENER)
Engineering Manager

DECLARATION OF CONFORMITY

We,

ROPER SCIENTIFIC
(PRINCETON INSTRUMENTS)
3660 QUAKERBRIDGE ROAD
TRENTON, NJ 08619

Declare under our sole responsibility, that the product

ST-133A 5MHz CONTROLLER
With
RTE CAMERA HEAD,

To which this declaration relates, is in conformity with general safety requirement for electrical equipment standards:

IEC 1010-1:1990, EN 61010-1:1993/A2:1995
EN 55011 for Group 1, Class A, 1991,
EN50082-1, 1991 (EN 61000-4-2, EN 61000-4-3, EN 61000-4-4)

Which follow the provisions of the

CE LOW VOLTAGE DIRECTIVE 73/23/EEC

And

EMC DIRECTIVE 89/336/EEC.

Date: August 20, 2002
TRENTON, NJ



(PAUL HEAVENER)
Engineering Manager

DECLARATION OF CONFORMITY

We, ,

ROPER SCIENTIFIC
(PRINCETON INSTRUMENTS)
3660 QUAKERBRIDGE ROAD
TRENTON, NJ 08619,

Declare under our sole responsibility that the product

ST-133A 1 MHz HIGH POWER CONTROLLER
w/NTE CAMERA HEAD,


To which this declaration relates, is in conformity with general safety requirement for electrical equipment standards:

IEC 1010-1:1990, EN 61010-1:1993/A2:1995
EN 55011 for Group 1, Class A, 1991,
EN 50082-1, 1991 (EN 61000-4-2, EN 61000-4-3, EN 61000-4-4),

Which follow the provisions of the

CE LOW VOLTAGE DIRECTIVE 73/23/EEC
And
EMC DIRECTIVE 89/336/EEC.

Date: August 20, 2002
TRENTON, NJ



(PAUL HEAVENER)
Engineering Manager

Warranty & Service

Limited Warranty: Roper Scientific Analytical Instrumentation

Roper Scientific, Inc. (“Roper Scientific,” us,” “we,” “our”) makes the following limited warranties. These limited warranties extend to the original purchaser (“You”, “you”) only and no other purchaser or transferee. We have complete control over all warranties and may alter or terminate any or all warranties at any time we deem necessary.

Basic Limited One (1) Year Warranty

Roper Scientific warrants this product against substantial defects in materials and / or workmanship for a period of up to one (1) year after shipment. During this period, Roper Scientific will repair the product or, at its sole option, repair or replace any defective part without charge to you. You must deliver the entire product to the Roper Scientific factory or, at our option, to a factory-authorized service center. You are responsible for the shipping costs to return the product. International customers should contact their local Roper Scientific authorized representative/distributor for repair information and assistance, or visit our technical support page at www.roperscientific.com.

Limited One (1) Year Warranty on Refurbished or Discontinued Products

Roper Scientific warrants, with the exception of the CCD imaging device (which carries NO WARRANTIES EXPRESS OR IMPLIED), this product against defects in materials or workmanship for a period of up to one (1) year after shipment. During this period, Roper Scientific will repair or replace, at its sole option, any defective parts, without charge to you. You must deliver the entire product to the Roper Scientific factory or, at our option, a factory-authorized service center. You are responsible for the shipping costs to return the product to Roper Scientific. International customers should contact their local Roper Scientific representative/distributor for repair information and assistance or visit our technical support page at www.roperscientific.com.

Normal Wear Item Disclaimer

Roper Scientific does not warrant certain items against defect due to normal wear and tear. These items include internal and external shutters, cables, and connectors. *These items carry no warranty, expressed or implied.*

VersArray (XP) Vacuum Chamber Limited Lifetime Warranty

Roper Scientific warrants that the cooling performance of the system will meet our specifications over the lifetime of the VersArray (XP) detector or Roper Scientific will, at its sole option, repair or replace any vacuum chamber components necessary to restore the cooling performance back to the original specifications at no cost to the original purchaser. *Any failure to “cool to spec” beyond our Basic (1) year limited warranty from date of shipment, due to a non-vacuum-related component failure (e.g., any components that are electrical/electronic) is NOT covered and carries NO WARRANTIES EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED.* Responsibility for shipping charges is as described above under our Basic Limited One (1) Year Warranty.

Sealed Chamber Integrity Limited 24 Month Warranty

Roper Scientific warrants the sealed chamber integrity of all our products for a period of twenty-four (24) months after shipment. If, at anytime within twenty-four (24) months from the date of delivery, the detector should experience a sealed chamber failure, all parts and labor needed to restore the chamber seal will be covered by us. *Open chamber products carry NO WARRANTY TO THE CCD IMAGING DEVICE, EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED.* Responsibility for shipping charges is as described above under our Basic Limited One (1) Year Warranty.

Vacuum Integrity Limited 24 Month Warranty

Roper Scientific warrants the vacuum integrity of all our products for a period of up to twenty-four (24) months from the date of shipment. We warrant that the detector head will maintain the factory-set operating temperature without the requirement for customer pumping. Should the detector experience a Vacuum Integrity failure at anytime within twenty-four (24) months from the date of delivery all parts and labor needed to restore the vacuum integrity will be covered by us. Responsibility for shipping charges is as described above under our Basic Limited One (1) Year Warranty.

Image Intensifier Detector Limited One Year Warranty

All image intensifier products are inherently susceptible to Phosphor and/or Photocathode burn (physical damage) when exposed to high intensity light. Roper Scientific warrants, with the exception of image intensifier products that are found to have Phosphor and/or Photocathode burn damage (which carry NO WARRANTIES EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED), all image intensifier products for a period of one (1) year after shipment. *See additional Limited One (1) year Warranty terms and conditions above, which apply to this warranty.* Responsibility for shipping charges is as described above under our Basic Limited One (1) Year Warranty.

X-Ray Detector Limited One Year Warranty

Roper Scientific warrants, with the exception of CCD imaging device and fiber optic assembly damage due to X-rays (which carry NO WARRANTIES EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED), all X-ray products for one (1) year after shipment. *See additional Basic Limited One (1) year Warranty terms and conditions above, which apply to this warranty.* Responsibility for shipping charges is as described above under our Basic Limited One (1) Year Warranty.

Software Limited Warranty

Roper Scientific warrants all of our manufactured software discs to be free from substantial defects in materials and / or workmanship under normal use for a period of one (1) year from shipment. Roper Scientific does not warrant that the function of the software will meet your requirements or that operation will be uninterrupted or error free. You assume responsibility for selecting the software to achieve your intended results and for the use and results obtained from the software. In addition, during the one (1) year limited warranty. The original purchaser is entitled to receive free version upgrades. Version upgrades supplied free of charge will be in the form of a download from the Internet. Those customers who do not have access to the Internet may obtain the version upgrades on a CD-ROM from our factory for an incidental shipping and handling charge. *See Item 12 in the following section of this warranty ("Your Responsibility") for more information.*

Owner's Manual and Troubleshooting

You should read the owner's manual thoroughly before operating this product. In the unlikely event that you should encounter difficulty operating this product, the owner's manual should be consulted before contacting the Roper Scientific technical support staff or authorized service representative for assistance. If you have consulted the owner's manual and the problem still persists, please contact the Roper Scientific technical support staff or our authorized service representative. *See Item 12 in the following section of this warranty ("Your Responsibility") for more information.*

Your Responsibility

The above Limited Warranties are subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. You must retain your bill of sale (invoice) and present it upon request for service and repairs or provide other proof of purchase satisfactory to Roper Scientific.
2. You must notify the Roper Scientific factory service center within (30) days after you have taken delivery of a product or part that you believe to be defective. With the exception of customers who claim a "technical issue" with the operation of the product or part, all invoices must be paid in full in accordance with the terms of sale. Failure to pay invoices when due may result in the interruption and/or cancellation of your one (1) year limited warranty and/or any other warranty, expressed or implied.
3. All warranty service must be made by the Roper Scientific factory or, at our option, an authorized service center.
4. Before products or parts can be returned for service you must contact the Roper Scientific factory and receive a return authorization number (RMA). Products or parts returned for service without a return authorization evidenced by an RMA will be sent back freight collect.
5. These warranties are effective only if purchased from the Roper Scientific factory or one of our authorized manufacturer's representatives or distributors.
6. Unless specified in the original purchase agreement, Roper Scientific is not responsible for installation, setup, or disassembly at the customer's location.
7. Warranties extend only to defects in materials or workmanship as limited above and do not extend to any product or part which has:
 - been lost or discarded by you;
 - been damaged as a result of misuse, improper installation, faulty or inadequate maintenance or failure to follow instructions furnished by us;
 - had serial numbers removed, altered, defaced, or rendered illegible;
 - been subjected to improper or unauthorized repair; or
 - been damaged due to fire, flood, radiation, or other "acts of God" or other contingencies beyond the control of Roper Scientific.
8. After the warranty period has expired, you may contact the Roper Scientific factory or a Roper Scientific-authorized representative for repair information and/or extended warranty plans.
9. Physically damaged units or units that have been modified are not acceptable for repair in or out of warranty and will be returned as received.
10. All warranties implied by state law or non-U.S. laws, including the implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose, are expressly limited to the duration of the limited warranties set forth above. With the exception of

any warranties implied by state law or non-U.S. laws, as hereby limited, the forgoing warranty is exclusive and in lieu of all other warranties, guarantees, agreements, and similar obligations of manufacturer or seller with respect to the repair or replacement of any parts. In no event shall Roper Scientific's liability exceed the cost of the repair or replacement of the defective product or part.

11. This limited warranty gives you specific legal rights and you may also have other rights that may vary from state to state and from country to country. Some states and countries do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts, when an action may be brought, or the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above provisions may not apply to you.
12. When contacting us for technical support or service assistance, please refer to the Roper Scientific factory of purchase, contact your authorized Roper Scientific representative or reseller, or visit our technical support page at www.roperscientific.com.

Contact Information

Roper Scientific's manufacturing facility for this product is located at the following address:

Roper Scientific
3660 Quakerbridge Road
Trenton, NJ 08619 (USA)

Tel: 800-874-9789 / 609-587-9797
Fax: 609-587-1970

Technical Support E-mail: techsupport@roperscientific.com

For technical support and service outside the United States, see our web page at www.roperscientific.com. An up-to-date list of addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses of Roper Scientific's overseas offices and representatives is maintained on the web page.

Index

#-B

64-pin DIN connector	92, 106
A/D converters	
dual	72
specifications	109
AC power requirements	22
Accessories, alignment of	45
Actual exposure time	53, 56
Adapter instructions	
Chromex 250 IS	136
ISA HR 320	137
ISA HR 640	138
JY TRIAX	139
SPEX 270M	140
SPEX 500M	141
SPEX TripleMate	142
Air-circulation requirement	91
Analog channels	72
Analog/Control module	92, 93
Applications	13
Back-filled	131
Background DC level	62
Background subtraction	50
Back-plane	92
Baseline signal	34, 62
ST-133A zero adjustment	94
Binning	
computer memory burden	70
hardware	69, 71
restrictions due to well capacity	72
readout time	70
resolution loss	70
software	72
effect on S/N ratio	72
high light level measurements	72
shot-noise limited measurements	72
Blooming	62
Bottom clamps, table of	26

C

Cables	21
Calibration, spectrometer	
suitable light sources	45
Camera	
back panel	90
connector	90

Camera (cont.)

fan	90
introduction to	12
mounting considerations	
1/4" x 20 UNC threaded holes	23
orientation constraints	23
use of mounting bracket for security	23
Cautions	
baseline signal shift	34, 100
IR contamination	27
need for trap in vacuum system	131
system verification	131
zero adjustments	94
CCD arrays	
blooming	62
dark charge effects	62
functions performed	60
maximum on-chip integration	62
readout of	63, 66
readout theory	63
shift register	63
shutter function	60
signal-to-noise ratio vs on chip integration	
time	62
theory of operation	59
well capacity	62
table of	72
CCIR	94
Chromex 250 IS adapter instructions	136
Cleaning	
controller and camera	17
optics	17
C-mount	25
assembly	25
lens installation and removal	23
support recommendations	25
Cold finger	89
Collection area	59
Compensation time, shutter	60
Composite video output	94
Connectors	
ST-133A, AUX Output	94
ST-133A, Detector	94
ST-133A, External Sync	94
ST-133A, READY	94
ST-133A, SCAN	94

Connectors (cont.)		Exposure (cont.)	
ST-133A, Serial COM	94	shutter	60
ST-133A, TTL In/Out	87, 94	Exposure and Readout	59
ST-133A, Video Output	94	Exposure time	48
Contact information	150	actual	53, 56
Continuous Cleans.	52	programmed	53, 56
Cooling	90	External shutter	95
Cooling and vacuum	102	External Sync	
C-type lens mount	23	background subtraction	50
D-E		dark charge accumulation	52
Dark charge	52	frame-transfer	53
definition of	62	input pulse	50
dynamic range	62	overlapped mode	56
pattern	62	shutter synchronization	50
temperature dependence	62	timing	50
typical values	62	External synchronization	50
Dark current	62	F	
Data smearing	60	Fan	
Declaration of Conformity		camera	90
1MHz Rectangular Head (NTE) systems	146	ST-133A controller	95
1MHz Round Head (RTE) systems	144	Field of view, formula for	35
5MHz Round Head (RTE) systems	145	First image procedure	37
Detector		First light procedure	
cooling	34	imaging	38
rotation of	45	spectroscopy	42
Detector connector (ST-133A)	94	First spectra procedure	42
Diagnostic Instruments Bottom Clamp	25	Fluorescence microscopy	24
Diagnostic Instruments Relay Lens	25, 41	F-mount	
DIF camera	75	assembly of in microscopy	26
background subtraction	82	lens installation and removal	23
EEC timing mode	80	nose-up operation	23
ESABI timing mode	81	port selection	26
Flatfield correction	83	suitability for microscopy	26
Free Run timing mode	76	support recommendations	26
IEC timing mode	78	Focusing	41
laboratory illumination	82	alignment	44
Mask Throughput correction	83	aperture adjustment	24
timing modes	76	composite video output	35
Tips and Tricks	82	Frame transfer	
Digitization	72	CCD requirements	53
DMA buffer	127	external sync	53
DMA buffer size	43	Freerun	53
Dual A/D converters	72	mode	53
Dual Image Feature camera <i>See</i> DIF camera		readout	65
Dynamic range	62	smearing	61
EEC timing mode	80	timing	53
EIA	94	Frames/Interrupt	127
Electronics enclosure	90	Free Run	
EMF spike	33	DIF camera	76
Environmental conditions	15	experiments best suited for	48
ESABI timing mode	81	Frame transfer	53
Exposure	60	Overlapped mode	56
image intensifier	61	timing	48

Free Run (cont.)		MicroMAX system	
timing diagram	50	applications	13
timing flow-chart	50	camera	12
Full frame readout	63	camera cooling system	12
Full Speed (Asynchronous) mode	47	CCD array	12
Full Speed (Synchronous) mode	47	components of	21
data acquisition	47	controller	
image update lag	47	data conversion	13
Fuse replacement, ST-133A	100	data transfer	13
		modular design	13
G-L		readout flexibility	13
Grounding and safety	16	overview	11
Hardware binning	69, 71	MicroMAX:1300YHS	12
Humidity, in vacuum enclosure	34, 100	MicroMAX:1300YHS-DIF	12
I/O Address conflicts	103	MicroMAX:782YHS	12
IEC timing mode	78	Microscope	
Image intensifier	61	mounting	24
Imaging	37	C-mount	25
Imaging field of view	35	F-mount	25
Installation, PCI card driver	29	Microscopy	24
Interface card		arc lamp EMF spike damage warning	33
driver installation	28	focusing	41
PCI	28	IR blockers	27
High Speed PCI	28	light throughput	24
PCI(Timer)	28	Light throughput	24
troubleshooting	103	Magnification	24
Interface Control module	92, 93	Numerical Aperture (NA)	24
Interline CCDs	56	parfocality	41
smearing	60, 62	Transmission efficiency	24
Interrupt conflicts	103	Xenon or Hg lamp EMF spike	33
IR blockers	27	Monitor requirement	14
IR, CCD sensitivity to	27	Mounting to a microscope	
ISA HR 320 adapter instructions	137	C-mount	25
ISA HR 640 adapter instructions	138	F-mount	25
ISA interface card		Mouse requirement	14
driver installation	101		
I/O address, DMA channel, and interrupt		N-O	
level	103	Noise, low-noise readout	12
installation	29	Non-Overlapped operation	55
JY TRIAX adapter instructions	139	example	67
Latency	52	NOT READY connector	94
LCI	61	NOTSCAN	
Lens Coupled Intensifier (LCI)	61	signal	94
Lens mount housing	90	timing	61
Lens mounting	23	Outgassing	131
Lenses, installation and removal	23	Outline drawing	
Line voltage selection (ST-133A)		rectangular head camera	112-115
procedure	100	round head camera	116-118
selector drum	22	ST-133A Controller	111
M		Overlapped operation	55
Macintosh II support	110	example	66
Memory allocation	43	External Sync	56
Memory requirement	13	Freerun	56
Mercury spectrum, fluorescent lights	45	readout mode	56

P-R

Pan function	36
Parfocality	41
PCI card driver installation	29
PCI serial interface card	21
diagnostics software	104
driver installation	28
non-conforming peripheral cards	105
Peltier effect thermoelectric cooler	33
Peltier-effect cooler	89
Photodamage	24
Photodiodes	59
Plug-in modules, installation and removal	106
Power cord	22
Power input module (ST-133A)	95
Power requirements	22
Power switch and indicator	92
Pre Open Shutter mode	51
Procedures	
adapter installation	135
familiarization and checkout	38, 42
First images	38
First spectra	42
line voltage selection and line fuse	100
plug-in module installation/removal	106
vacuum pumpdown	132
Programmable Interface connector	85
Programmable TTL interface connector	94
Quantum efficiency	24
Readout	
binning	69, 71
digitization	72
frame transfer	65
rate	72
subsection of array	64, 68, 69
Readout rate	
control of	72
precision vs speed tradeoff	72
Readout time	48
Readout times (full frame) for several CCD types	
table of	64, 69
Rectangular Head Camera	
dimensioned outline drawings	112-115
Relative humidity	15
Relay Lens	25
Resolution	
loss of with binning	70
Response latency	52
ROI (Region of Interest)	37
Round Head Camera	
dimensioned outline drawings	116-118
RS-170 (EIA)	94

S

S/N ratio	62, 72
Safe (Asynchronous) mode	
as used for setting up	47
fast image update	47
missed events	48
Saturation	62
Serial COM connector, ST-133A	94
Shift register	63
Shutter	
compensation time	48, 60
drive selector	30
effect of physical limitations on exposure	61
exposure	60
external	95
SHUTTER MONITOR signal	95
synchronization	94
lifetime	91
replacement of	91, 106
shutter setting selector (ST-133A)	95
shutter setting selector (ST-133A)	30
signs of failure	106
signs of failure	91
ST-133A connector	95
Shutter modes	
Disable	48
Normal	48
Preopen	48, 51
SHUTTER MONITOR signal	94
Shutter Power connector	95
Signal-to-noise ratio, on-chip integration	62
Smearing	60
frame transfer cameras	61
interline CCDs	62
Software binning	72
Software Trigger	128
Specifications	
A/D converter	109
cooling	108
inputs and outputs	109
miscellaneous	110
mounting	108
temperature control	108
Spectrometer	
adapter instructions	135
mounting to camera	27
SPEX 270M adapter instructions	140
SPEX 500M adapter instructions	141
SPEX TripleMate adapter instructions	142
ST-133A Controller	
dimensioned outline drawing	111
fuse/voltage label	95
modules	92
power input module	95

ST-133A Controller (cont.)		Virtual Chip mode	
zero adjustment	94	setup	124
Synchronous vs Asynchronous flow chart	49	software option	123
T		WXvchip.opt file	123
Technical support	150	W-Z	
Temperature		Warnings	
control		cleaning	17
problems	101	Controller/Camera cable	93
specifications	108	fuse type	100
effect of vacuum deterioration	102	module installation/removal under power	92, 105
lock	34	opening the power input module	100
LOCK indicator LED	34	operation without evacuation or backfill	16
operating environment	15	operation without proper evacuation	131
stabilization	34	overtightening the module screws	106
storage	15	power cord polarity	16
thermal cutout switch	102	protective grounding	16
thermostated range	34	shutter connect or disconnect under power	91
typical time to achieve lock	34	shutter drive setting	96
Temperature Lock LED (ST-133A)	94	touching the CCD array	16
Termination of video output	36	UV scintillator	90
Thermal cutout switch	102	window removal	16
Timing control	47	Xenon and Hg arc lamps	33
Timing modes	47, 48	Warranties	
Continuous Cleans	52	image intensifier detector	148
DIF camera	76	one year	147
table of	47	one year on refurbished or discontinued	
Trap, vacuum	131	products	147
Trinocular mount microscopes	24	owner's manual and troubleshooting	149
TTL In/Out		sealed chamber integrity	148
connector	87, 94	shutter	147
pin assignments	87	software	149
U-V		vacuum integrity	148
UV scintillator	90	VersArray (XP) vacuum chamber	148
Vacuum	33	x-ray detector	148
deterioration	102	your responsibility	149
level required	131	Website	150
pumpdown connector	21	Well	59
Vacuum repumping		Well capacity	62
required equipment		restrictions on hardware binning	72
lab-type vacuum pump	131	table of	72
trap to prevent contaminant		WinView	
backstreaming	131	ROI	37
VCR	36	Video Focus mode	36
Video Focus mode	36	Wxvchip.opt file	123
Video output		Zoom function	36
constraints on during data acquisition	36		
focusing	35		

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Introduction

Either a TAXI® or a USB 2.0 protocol can be used to interface a host computer with an ST-133A Controller that supports digitization rates up to and including 1 MHz. The Interface card installed in the ST-133A determines the protocol used. The advantages to the USB 2.0 interface are that it uses a much higher data transfer rate than many common serial data formats (such as the TAXI protocol) and it simplifies the connection to external devices. USB supports "plug and play" -- you do not need to be heavily involved in the setup process. With the convenience of the USB 2.0 interface, there are also a number of limitations: see the USB 2.0 Limitations section for more information.

Note: If you have a PI-MAX system with a Programmable Timing Generator (PTG) module installed in the ST-133A and are changing from one interface type to another (TAXI to USB 2.0 or USB 2.0 to TAXI), contact Roper Scientific Technical Support for specific installation instructions. See page 13 for contact information

Host Computer Requirements

Requirements for the host computer depend on the type of interface used for communication between the ST-133A and the host computer. The host computer requirements for USB 2.0 communication are a listed below.

- AT-compatible computer with Pentium 3 or better processor and runs at 1 GHz or better.
- Windows 2000 (with Service Pack 3), Windows XP (with Service Pack 1) or later operating system.
- Native USB 2.0 support on the motherboard or USB Interface Card (Orange Micro 70USB90011 USB2.0 PCI is recommended for desktop computers and the SIIG, Inc. USB 2.0 PC Card, Model US2246 is recommended for laptop computers).
- Minimum of 256 Mb of RAM.
- CD-ROM drive.
- Hard disk with a minimum of 80 Mbytes available. A complete installation of the program files takes about 17 Mbytes and the remainder is required for data storage, depending on the number and size of spectra collected. Disk level compression programs are not recommended.
- Super VGA monitor and graphics card supporting at least 256 colors with at least 1 Mbyte of memory. Memory requirement is dependent on desired display resolution.
- Two-button Microsoft compatible serial mouse or Logitech three-button serial/bus mouse.



USB 2.0 Limitations

- Maximum cable length is 5 meters (16.4 feet)
- 1 MHz is currently the upper digitization rate limit for the ST-133A Controller.
- Large data sets and/or long acquisition times may be subject to data overrun because of host computer interrupts during data acquisition.
- The Roper Scientific PC Interface Library (EasyDLLS) does not support USB 2.0.
- Some WinX (WinView and WinSpec) 2.5.X features are not fully supported with USB 2.0. See the table below.

Feature	Supported with USB 2.0 in WinX 2.5.X	Remarks
Demo Port Capability	NO	
DIF/Kinetics	NO	
Reset Camera to NVRAM Defaults	NO	
Temperature Lock Status	YES	WinX 2.5.x doesn't utilize hardware lock status
PTG	YES	
Virtual Chip	NO	
Custom Timing	NO	
Custom Chip	NO	
Frames per Interrupt	NO	
RS170 (Video Output)	NO	
Online Exposure	NO	
File Information	YES	Not all header info is currently available in WinX 2.5.x through PVCAM
Overlapping ROIs	NO	
Macro Record	YES	Macros recorded for non-PVCAM cameras may have to be re-recorded to function under USB 2.0
TTL I/O	NO	



Installing the Application Software

Installation is performed via the WinView/32 or WinSpec/32 installation process. If you are installing WinView or WinSpec for the first time and have a TAXI interface, you should run the installation before the PCI interface card is installed in the host computer. On the **Select Components** dialog box (see Figure 1), click on the **AUTO PCI** button to install the interface card drivers (PCI and the Roper Scientific USB drivers) and the most commonly installed program files. Select the **Custom** button if you would like to choose among the available program files or do not want to install the PCI driver.

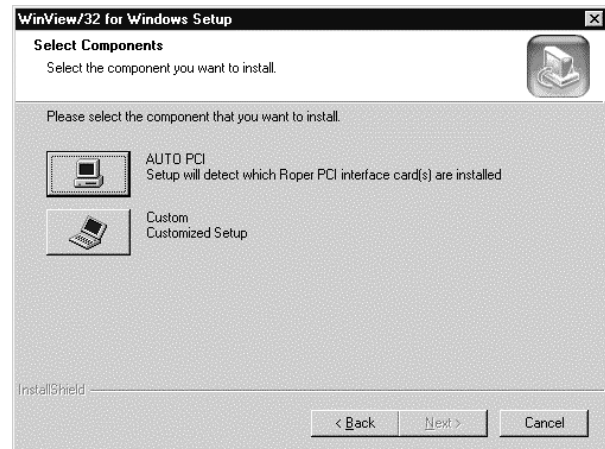


Figure 1. WinView Installation: Interface Card Driver Selection

Note: WinView/32 and WinSpec/32 (versions 2.6.0 and higher) do not support the ISA interface.

Setting up the USB 2.0 Interface

Administrator privileges are required under Windows® 2000 and Windows® XP to install software and hardware.

Your system has been configured to use the USB communication protocol if the **Interface Control Module** installed in the ST-133A has a **USB 2.0** connector as shown in the figure at right). The advantages to the USB 2.0 interface are that it uses a much higher data transfer rate than many common serial data formats (such as the TAXI protocol) and it simplifies the connection to external devices. USB supports "plug and play" -- you do not need to be heavily involved in the setup process.

Note: If you are installing the USB 2.0 interface on a laptop, you will need to perform all of the operations described in this section. In addition, if you are the recommended USB Interface Card (SIIG, Inc. USB 2.0 PC Card, Model US2246), you must replace the OrangeUSB USB 2.0 Host Controller driver installed for that card with the appropriate Microsoft driver. Instructions for making the replacement are included in "To Update the OrangeUSB USB 2.0 Driver".





To Update the OrangeUSB USB 2.0 Driver:

This procedure is highly recommended when a laptop computer will be used to communicate with the ST-133A. As stated before, we recommend the SIIG, Inc. USB 2.0 PC Card, Model US2246 if USB 2.0 is not native to the laptop's motherboard. To reduce the instances of data overruns and serial violations, the OrangeUSB USB 2.0 Host Controller installed for the SIIG card, should be replaced by the appropriate Microsoft driver (Windows 2000 or Windows XP, depending on the laptop's operating system.)

Note: This procedure may also be performed for desktop computers that use the Orange Micro 70USB90011 USB2.0 PCI.

1. Go to <http://www.devedriver.com/usb2drivers.htm>.
2. Follow the instructions there and download the correct Microsoft USB Driver to your computer (Window 2000 or Windows XP). Note where the downloaded file was saved.
3. Go to the download directory and unzip the .CAB file.
4. From the Windows **Start** menu, select **Settings|Control Panel**.
5. Select **System** and then **System Properties**.
6. Select the **Hardware** tab and click on **Device Manager** button.
7. Expand **Universal Serial Bus Controllers**.
8. Right-mouse click on **OrangeUSB USB 2.0 Host Controller** and select **Properties**.
9. On the **Driver** tab, click on the **Update Driver...** button. You may have to wait a minute or so before you will be allowed to click on the button.
10. When the **Upgrade Device Driver Wizard** appears, click on **Next**. Select the **Search for a suitable driver ...** radio button.
11. On the next screen select the **Specify a location** checkbox.
12. Browse and select the location. Click on **OK**.
13. In the **Driver Files Search Results** window, check the **Install one of the other drivers** check box.
14. Select the **NEC PCI to USB Enhanced Host Controller B1** driver. Click on **Next** and the installation will take place. When the **Completing the Upgrade Device Driver Wizard** window appears, click on **Finish**. You will then be given the choice of restarting the computer now or later. According to the window text, the hardware associated with the driver will not work until you restart the computer.



To Install the Roper Scientific USB2 Interface:

The following information assumes that:

- You have verified that the host computer meets the required specifications for USB 2.0 communication with the camera system (see page 1).
- A USB 2.0 board and its driver are installed in the host computer.
- The ST-133A has an installed USB 2.0 Interface Control module.
- You have already installed the WinView/32 or WinSpec/32 software (versions 2.5.15 and higher). Versions 2.5.15 and higher automatically install the driver and INF files required to support the USB 2.0 Interface Control module.

1. Before installing the Roper Scientific USB2 Interface, we recommend that you defragment the host computer's hard disk. This operation reduces the time the computer spends locating files. Typically, the "defrag" utility "Disk Defragmenter" can be accessed from the Windows® Start menu and can usually accessed from the Programs/Accessories/System Tools subdirectory.
2. After defragmenting the hard disk, turn off the computer and make the USB cable connections between the host computer and the ST-133A. Then, turn the ST-133A on before turning on the host computer.
3. At bootup, Windows will detect the Roper Scientific USB2 Interface hardware (i.e., the USB 2.0 Interface Control module). You may be prompted to enter the directory path(s) for the apausbprop.dll and/or the apausb.sys file(s), either by keyboard entry or by using the browse function.

If you selected **AUTO PCI** during the application software installation, WinView/32 automatically put the required INF, DLL, and USB driver file in the "Windows" directories shown below. Refer to the Table 1 below for the file locations.

Windows Version	USB INF Filename Located in "Windows"/INF directory*	USB Properties DLL Located in "Windows"/System32 directory	USB Device Driver Name Located in "Windows"/System32/Drivers directory
Windows® 2000 and XP	rsusb2k.inf (in WINNT/INF, for example)	apausbprop.dll (in WINNT/System32, for example)	apausb.sys (in WINNT/System32/Drivers, for example)

* The INF directory may be hidden.

Table 1. USB Driver Files and Locations

To Create the PVCAM.INI file:

1. Make sure the ST-133A is connected to the host computer and that it is turned on.
2. Run RSConfig from the **Windows|Start|Programs|Roper Scientific** menu or from the directory where you installed WinView or WinSpec.
3. When the RSConfig dialog box (Figure 2) appears, you can change the camera name to one that is more specific or you can keep the default name "Camera1". When you have finished, click on the **Done** button.

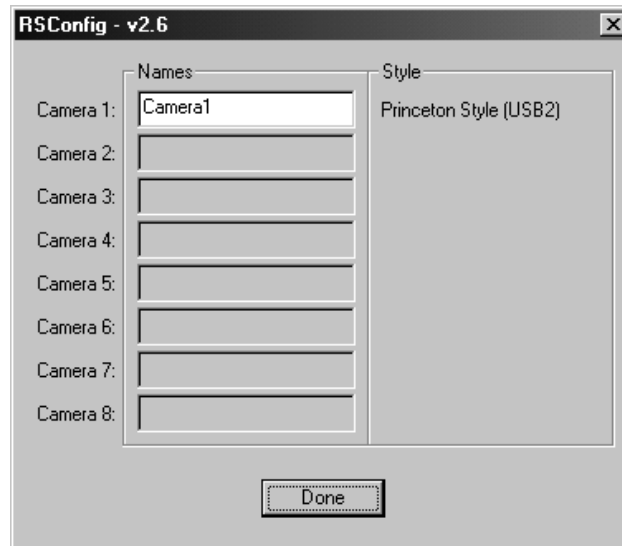


Figure 2. RSConfig dialog box

4. Open WinView or WinSpec and, from **Setup|Hardware...**, run the Hardware Wizard.
5. When the PVCAM dialog box (Figure 6) is displayed, click in the **Yes** radio button, click on **Next** and continue through the Wizard. After the Wizard is finished, the **Controller/Camera** tab card will be displayed with the **Use PVCAM** checkbox selected. You should now be able to set up experiments and acquire data.



Figure 3. Hardware Wizard: PVCAM dialog box

To Run the Application Program:

1. Verify that the ST-133A is turned on.
2. Start the application software (WinView/32 or WinSpec/32).
3. Select **Hardware...** from the **Setup** menu and on the **Controller/CCD** (this page may be labeled Controller/Detector or Controller/Camera) tab page, check the **Use PVCAM** checkbox Use PVCAM. Data transfer will be disabled if this box is left unchecked Use PVCAM.
4. Run the software in focus mode to verify communication between the ST-133A and the host computer.



USB 2.0 and System On/Off Sequences

The following on/off sequences are specific to the USB 2.0 interface:

1. The ST-133A must be turned on before WinView/32 or WinSpec/32 is opened to ensure communication between the controller and the computer. If WinView or WinSpec is opened and the ST-133A is off, many of the functions will be disabled and you will only be able to retrieve and examine previously acquired and stored data. You must close WinView or WinSpec, turn on the ST-133A, and reopen WinView or WinSpec before you can set up experiments and acquire new data.
2. WinView/32 or WinSpec/32 must be closed before turning off the ST-133A. If you turn off the ST-133A before closing WinView or WinSpec, the communication link with the controller will be broken. You can operate the program in a playback mode (i.e., examine previously acquired data) but will be unable to acquire new data until you have closed WinView or WinSpec, turned on the ST-133A, and then re-opened WinView or WinSpec.

Troubleshooting

Data Loss or Serial Violation

You may experience either or both of these conditions if the host computer has been set up with Power Saving features enabled. This is particularly true for power saving with regard to the hard drive. Make sure that Power Saving features are disabled while you are running WinView/32 or WinSpec/32.

Data Overrun message

Because of memory constraints and the way that USB transfers data, a "Data overrun has occurred" message may be displayed during data acquisition. If this message is displayed, take one or more of the following actions:

- Minimize the number of programs running in the background while you are acquiring data with WinView/32 or WinSpec/32.
- Run data acquisition in Safe Mode.
- Add memory.
- Use binning.
- Increase the exposure time.
- Close the Detector Temperature dialog box during data acquisition.
- Defragment the hard disk.
- Update the Orange Micro USB2 driver. See "To Update the OrangeUSB USB 2.0 Driver", page 4.

If the problem persists, your application may be USB 2.0 bus limited. Since the host computer controls the USB 2.0 bus, there may be situations where the host computer interrupts the USB 2.0 port. In most cases, the interrupt will go unnoticed by the user. However, there are some instances when the data overrun cannot be overcome because USB 2.0 bus limitations combined with long data acquisition times and/or large data sets increase the possibility of an interrupt while data is being acquired. If your experiment requirements include long data acquisition times and/or large data sets, your application may not be suitable for the USB 2.0 interface. Therefore, we recommend replacement of the USB 2.0 interface module with our



TAXI interface module and Roper Scientific PCI card. If this is not the case and data overruns continue to occur, contact Technical Support (see page 13 for contact information).

Demo is only Choice on Hardware Wizard:Interface dialog

If RSConfig.exe has not been run and there is not an installed Roper Scientific high speed PCI card, the Hardware Wizard will only present the choice "Demo" in the Interface dialog box (Figure 4). Clicking on **Next** presents an "Error Creating Controller. Error=129." message, clicking on **OK** presents "The Wizard Can Not Continue Without a Valid Selection!" message, clicking on **OK** presents the Interface dialog box again.

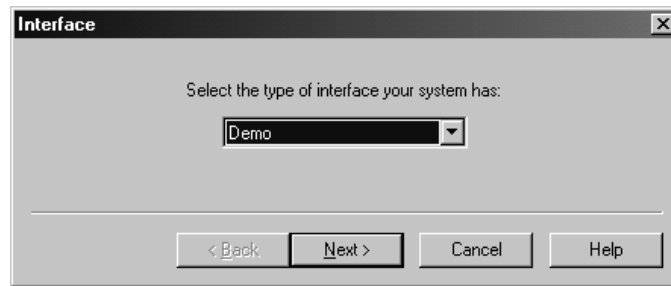


Figure 4. Hardware Wizard: Interface dialog box

At this point, you will need to exit WinView/32 or WinSpec/32 and run the RSConfig.exe program, which creates a file called PVCAM.INI. This file contains information required to identify the interface/camera and is referenced by the Hardware Wizard when you are setting up WinView/32 or WinSpec/32 with USB for the first time:

1. If you have not already done so, close WinView or WinSpec.
2. Make sure the ST-133A is connected to the host computer and that it is turned on.
3. Run RSConfig from the **Windows|Start|Programs|Roper Scientific** menu or from the directory where you installed WinView or WinSpec.
4. When the RSConfig dialog box (Figure 5) appears, you can change the camera name to one that is more specific or you can keep the default name "Camera1". When you have finished, click on the **Done** button.

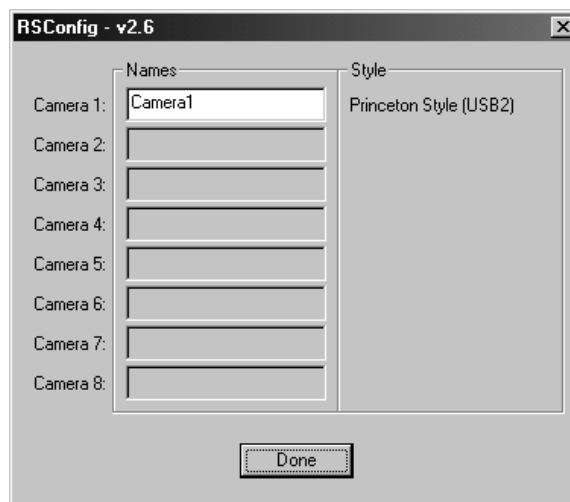


Figure 5. RSConfig dialog box



5. You should now be able to open WinView or WinSpec and, from **Setup|Hardware....**, run the Hardware Wizard.
6. When the PVCAM dialog box (Figure 6) is displayed, click in the **Yes** radio button, click on **Next** and continue through the Wizard. After the Wizard is finished, the **Controller/Camera** tab card will be displayed with the **Use PVCAM** checkbox selected. You should now be able to set up experiments and acquire data.



Figure 6. Hardware Wizard: PVCAM dialog box

Demo, High Speed PCI, and PCI(Timer) are Choices on Hardware Wizard:Interface dialog

If there is an installed Roper Scientific high speed card in the host computer and you want to operate a camera using the USB 2.0 interface, the PVCAM.INI file (created by RSConfig.exe) must exist and the USB 2.0 supported camera must be [Camera_1]. PVCAM.INI, which contains information required to identify the interface/camera, is referenced by the Hardware Wizard when you are setting up WinView/32 or WinSpec/32 with USB for the first time. If the Wizard did not find a PVCAM.INI file or if RSConfig.exe was run but the USB 2.0 camera is [Camera_2] in the PVCAM.INI file, "Demo", "High Speed PCI", and "PCI(Timer)" will be selectable from the Wizard's Interface dialog box.

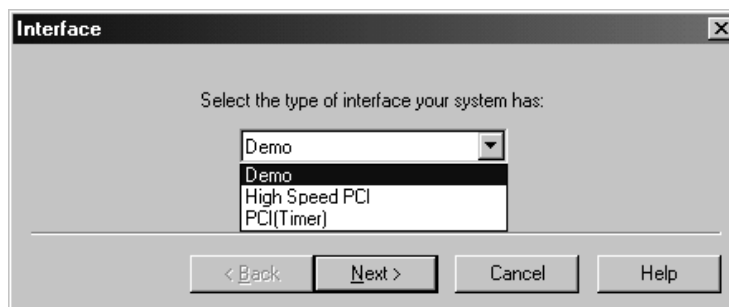


Figure 7. Hardware Wizard: Interface dialog box

At this point, you will need to run the RSConfig.exe program:

1. If you have not already done so, close WinView/32 or WinSpec/32.
2. Make sure the ST-133A is connected to the host computer and that it is turned on.
3. Run RSConfig from the **Windows|Start|Programs|Roper Scientific** menu or from the directory where you installed WinView or WinSpec.



- When the RSConfig dialog box (Figure 5) appears, you can change the camera name to one that is more specific or you can keep the default name "Camera2". When you have finished, click on the **Done** button.

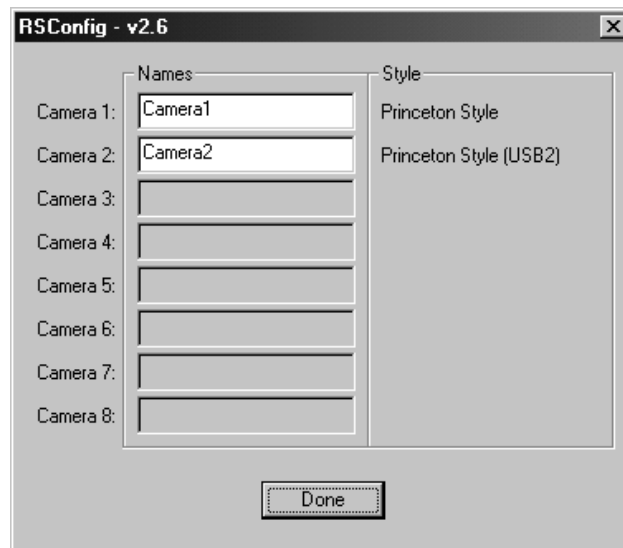


Figure 8. RSConfig dialog box: Two Camera Styles

- Using **Notepad** or a similar text editor, open PVCAM.INI, which is located in the Windows directory (C:\WINNT, for example).

If the contents of the file look like: Change the headings so the contents now look like:

[Camera_1]	[Camera_2]
Type=1	Type=1
Name=Camera1	Name=Camera1
Driver=rspipci.sys	Driver=rspipci.sys
Port=0	Port=0
[Camera_2]	[Camera_1]
Type=1	Type=1
Name=Camera2	Name=Camera2
Driver=apausb.sys	Driver=apausb.sys
Port=0	Port=0

Note: The [Camera_#] must be changed so the camera supported by the USB interface will be recognized (the USB driver is "apausb.sys"). For consistency, you may also want to change the camera names.

- Save the file. With the ST-133A connected and on, open WinView or WinSpec.
- Run the Hardware Wizard.
- When the PVCAM dialog box (Figure 6) is displayed, click in the **Yes** radio button, click on **Next** and continue through the Wizard. After the Wizard is finished, the **Controller/Camera** tab card will be displayed with the **Use PVCAM** checkbox selected. You should now be able to acquire data.



Figure 9. Hardware Wizard: PVCAM dialog box

Detector Temperature, Acquire, and Focus are Grayed Out

These functions and others will be deactivated if you have installed a camera being run under USB 2.0 and have opened WinView/32 or WinSpec/32 without having first turned on the ST-133A. They will also be deactivated if you have installed a camera being run under USB 2.0 and a Princeton Instruments high speed PCI card was also detected when RSConfig.exe was run.

1. Check to see if the ST-133A is connected to the host computer and is turned on. If it is not connected or is connected but not turned on, go to Step 2. If it is connected and on, go to Step 3.
2. Close WinView or WinSpec, verify that the ST-133A is connected to the host computer, turn on the ST-133A, and reopen WinView or WinSpec. The formerly grayed out functions should now be available.
3. If the ST-133A is connected and on, the USB 2.0 camera may not be listed as Camera 1 in the PVCAM.INI file.
4. Run RSConfig.exe (accessible from the **Windows|Start|Programs|Roper Scientific** menu). If the USB 2.0 camera is listed as Camera 2 (Princeton Style (USB2) in Figure 10), you will have to edit the PVCAM.INI file.

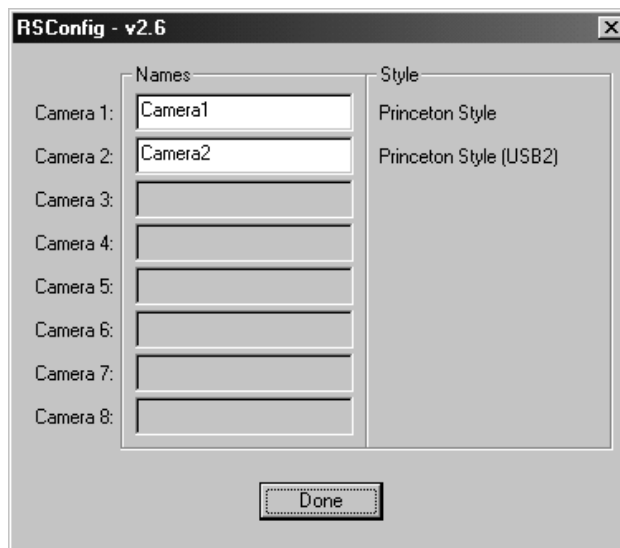


Figure 10. RSConfig dialog box: Two Camera Styles



- Using **Notepad** or a similar text editor, open PVCAM.INI, which is located in the Windows directory (C:\WINNT, for example).

If the contents of the file look like: Change the headings so the contents now look like:

[Camera_1]	[Camera_2]
Type=1	Type=1
Name=Camera1	Name=Camera1
Driver=rspipci.sys	Driver=rspipci.sys
Port=0	Port=0
[Camera_2]	[Camera_1]
Type=1	Type=1
Name=Camera2	Name=Camera2
Driver=apausb.sys	Driver=apausb.sys
Port=0	Port=0

Note: The [Camera_#] must be changed so the camera supported by the USB interface will be recognized (the USB driver is "apausb.sys"). For consistency, you may also want to change the camera names.

- Save the file. With the ST-133A connected and on, open WinView or WinSpec. The formerly grayed out functions should now be available.

Error Creating Controller message

This message may be displayed if you are using the USB 2.0 interface and have not run the RSConfig.exe program (see previous topic), if the PVCAM.INI file has been corrupted, or if the ST-133A was not turned on before you started WinView/32 or WinSpec/32 and began running the Hardware Wizard.

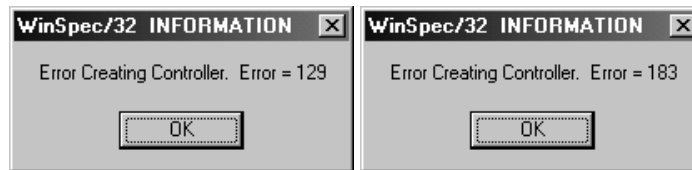


Figure 11. Error Creating Controller dialog box

Error 129: Indicates that the problem is with the PVCAM.INI file. Close WinView/32 or WinSpec/32, run RSConfig, make sure the ST-133A is on, reopen WinView or WinSpec, and begin running the Hardware Wizard.

Error 183: Indicates that the ST-133A is off. If you are running the Hardware Wizard when this message appears, click on **OK**, turn on the ST-133A, and, on the PVCAM dialog box, make sure **Yes** is selected and then click on **Next**. The Hardware Wizard should continue to the Controller Type dialog box.



No CCD Named in the Hardware Wizard: CCD dialog

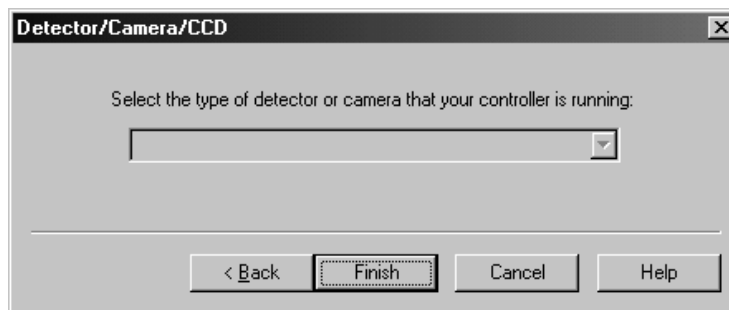


Figure 12. Hardware Wizard: Detector/Camera/CCD dialog box

If you have installed a USB 2.0 Interface Module in your ST-133A, a blank field may be displayed in the Detector/Camera/CCD dialog box (Figure 12) if the ST-133 controller was made before January 2001. Earlier versions of the ST-133 did not contain non-volatile RAM (NVRAM), which is programmed with information about the controller and the camera. PVCAM, the program under which the Roper Scientific USB works, retrieves the information stored in NVRAM so it can enter specific camera characteristics into WinView/32 or WinSpec/32.

Check the serial label on underside of your controller. If the first five characters are D1200 (December 2000) or earlier (J0797 or July 1997, for example), contact Customer Support to find out about an NVRAM controller upgrade.

Contact Information

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