

Chapter Eleven: External Control



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External Control

The External Control panel gives you a software interface with deck controls so that you can send instructions to equipment attached to Video Toaster [2]. You use the controls in the External Control as a remote control to tell a VTR or a camera to play, stop, fast forward, rewinds and pause.



Figure 11.1. The External Control Panel using a DV camera

The External Control helps you bring in material from different sources so that you can use it in Video Toaster. You can run a VTR so that you can capture video to a file, which you can then use in an ToasterEdit project or in the DDR. You can use the External Control to run a DV camera, and then capture the input in the Capture panel.

You can bring almost any External Control into Video Toaster [2]. The External Control panel works with web-cams, DV cams, and so on. This chapter gives you a tour of the controls available on the External Control and how they relate to working with an external device.

INTERFACE

You choose the source device from the Deck menu or the External Camera menu. The Deck menu lists devices that you attached to the SX-8 breakout box on the VTR RS-422 ports. The Ext Camera menu lists cameras that accept signals from a remote source, such as cameras attached to a FireWire port.

When you control a machine like a Betadeck, you attach the deck to one of the serial ports on the computer or on the SX-8 Breakout Box. When you attach the deck, you can then send messages from the External Control to play, stop, rewind, and so on. However, to receive the video signal from the deck, you must attach the deck's video out cable to a video in connection.

When a particular source cannot be opened, a warning message appears: "Cannot connect to External Control." You may get this warning, for example, if you try to connect to a DV camera, but a panel is already connected to that camera.



NOTE

When you want to control a DV source, remember that you must have a third-party FireWire card for the device, you cannot attach it to the SX-8 breakout box or Video Toaster card.



NOTE

When you use an external DV source, that source will appear at full resolution regardless of the current WindowsMedia DV default settings.

DECK CONTROLS

The deck controls let you control the external equipment using standard options.



Figure 11.2. The deck controls for the External Control

The top row of controls lets you send messages to Stop, Pause and jump to the beginning or end of a tape:

Rew: Rewind quickly rewinds the device to beginning.

Stop: Stop tells the external device to stop its current action.

Fast Forward: FFwd quickly forwards the device to the end.

Pause: Pause will pause the device on the current frame.

The bottom row of controls lets you send a message to Play, search and record:

Rew (Search): Slowly rewind device so that you can view frames.

Play: Play begins playing video from your external device.

Fast Forward (Search): Slowly forward device so that you can view frames.

When you use Rewind and Fast Forward on the bottom row, you have three options for searching:

Fast-search: Fast-search lets you quickly forward through material and you can see frames as they pass. It is similar to a Shuttle control.

Slow-search: Slow-search lets you slowly forward through material and you can see frames as they pass. It is similar to a Jog control.

Single-frame Fwd: Single-frame Fwd lets you advance through video on the device one frame at a time.

TIMECODE

The timecode display above the deck controls shows you the duration of the video. You receive the timecode from the external device, so timecode plays when you play the device and it stops when you stop the device. Because you get the device timecode, you can use it as a reference for specific scenes at a known time.

EXTERNAL CONTROL CONTEXT MENU

When you right-click on an empty area of the External Control panel, a menu appears. The options in the menu let you save and load panel configurations and exit the module. For more information on saving configurations, see Chapter Three: Video Toaster Interface.

The menu that appears when you right-click over the panel label lets you choose options for placing the External Control on the switcher. See Chapter Seven: Switcher for more information.

TASK: EXTERNAL CONTROL

The External control lets you send messages to a device so that you can play, pause and otherwise control it from Video Toaster.

CAPTURE FROM THE EXTERNAL CONTROL

For this task, you will use a VTR with the External Control to capture material from a tape. (You can also use a DV camera attached to a FireWire card.)

- 1 Add the VTR to the SX-8 breakout box. (VTR input is a 9-pin serial cable that connects to the RS-422 port). Also add the VTR video out cables to video in on the SX-8; add the VTR video in cables to video out on the SX-8.
- 2 On the Video Toaster main menu, click on the **External Control** and choose the VTR in the **Deck** menu. Use the deck controls to fast forward or rewind the tape to a section of the tape.
- 3 Open the Capture panel, the Switcher, and ToasterVision to launch their respective panels.
- 4 Add the VTR to the Switcher if it is not already there. Place the VTR on the Main bus.
- 5 On the Capture panel, go to the Options tab. For **Input**, choose **Main In**. Make any other settings that you want (for more info, see Chapter Four.) Then click the **Rec** button
- 6 On the External Control, click on the **Play** button.
- 7 Record the footage that you want, then return to the Capture panel and click the **Stop** button. Also stop the VTR from the External Control.

RECORD WITH THE EXTERNAL CONTROL

For this task, you'll use the VTR and the External Control to record your switching.

- 1 Add a few video inputs to the SX-B breakout box and place those inputs on the switcher. (Or, you can use CG, BG and video files on the DDR and add these to the Switcher).
- 2 Add the VTR to the SX-8 breakout box. Attach machine control for the VTR to an RS-422 port. Add the VTR video out cables to video in on the SX-8; add the VTR video in cables to video out on the SX-8.
- 3 Open the External Control and select your VTR from the **Deck** menu.

- 4 When you are ready to start switching on the switcher, click on the **Rec** button on the External Control. The External Control records the events that occur on the Video Toaster Program Out, so what you see in ToasterVision, you record to tape on your VTR.
- 5 Click on the **Stop** button on the External Control to stop recording.

