

InterActivator™

Interactive Video Disc Controller



The InterActivator is the ideal controller for small shows, kiosks, museum displays, and interactive exhibits. This powerful, yet easy to use unit allows simple components such as pushbuttons to control up to two video disc players or other serial devices.

But the InterActivator can do much more than just control video discs. The power of the InterActivator comes from Alcorn McBride's ScriptOS operating system. ScriptOS supports 256 simultaneous, multi-tasking sequences of show events such as laser disc commands, serial messages, time delays, or branching instructions.

You create your show's Script on any PC compatible computer by entering sequence data in an English-like script language, much the same way data is entered into a spreadsheet. A single step mode allows each sequence event to be exercised during debug. Finally, the Script is downloaded to the InterActivator through a standard RS-232C cable. The show data is stored in non-volatile EEPROM memory, which will retain the information until you decide to change it, with no battery backup required. Once the InterActivator is programmed, the PC is no longer needed.

The InterActivator speaks the native languages of Pioneer, Sony, and other video disc players, video switchers, VTRs, and CD players. It automatically processes handshaking and retries in a manner completely transparent to the user. Custom messages are supported too, so the InterActivator is capable of controlling virtually any serial device in existence!

State variables, flags and conditional branching capabilities permit the implementation of extremely complex interactive control processes. And Composite video sync assures absolute frame synchronization between multiple video disc players.

- Control sophisticated interactive shows
- Multi-task up to 256 sequences
- Control almost any serial device
- 2 RS-232 Serial Ports
- 8 Optically-Isolated Digital Inputs
- 8 Lamp-driver Outputs
- 8 Front Panel Push Buttons
- Video Sync Input

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InterActivator Specifications

Size & Weight: 1.75" H x 8.5" W x 8.5" D, 4 lbs.

Power: 110VAC, 50/60 Hz, 25 watts maximum
UL listed Class 2 power adapter
220 VAC model available upon request

Environment: 0 to 35 C (32 to 100 F) 0 to 90% relative humidity, non-condensing

Front Panel: Power LED
Acknowledge LED
Error LED
2 Serial Activity LEDs
8 Input status LEDs
8 Output status LEDs
8 Pushbuttons

Rear Panel: Program Port DB-9M
2 Serial DB-9M
Discrete I/O DB-37F
Video Sync BNC
Power Barrel connector

Serial Ports: RS-232C
300 baud-38.4 Kbaud
7,8 or 9 Data Bits
1 or 2 Stop Bits
All parity types

Opto Inputs: 24 VDC
20 mA maximum
or contact closures
latency < 1 frame

Outputs: Lamp drivers
150 mA maximum

Show Memory: 8 Kbyte EEPROM, expandable to 24 Kbytes. Nonvolatile, robust memory retains show data permanently with no battery backup required.

Programming: Any PC with Windows and one RS-232C serial port

Documentation: Owner's Manual. Application Notes
Sample Scripts and On-line Help on diskette

The screenshot shows the WinScript - MYSHOW.AMW software interface. It features a menu bar (File, Edit, Configuration, Events, Tools, Window, Help) and a toolbar. The main window displays several tables:

- Sequences of MYSHOW:** A table with columns for Sequence Name and Sequence Comment. It lists sequences 001 through 007, including Startup, LaserDiscs Spunup?, Recycle, Laser, Start, Show, and Nop.
- [StartShow] of MYSHOW:** A detailed table with columns: R, Label, Time, Event, Data1, Data2, Data3, Data4, and Comment. It lists events like Display, IfOff, Off, Start, Reset, and Nop.
- Inputs of MYSHOW:** A table with columns: Input Name and Input Comment. It lists inputs such as FrontPanelStart, OCCStart, OCCPause, OCCStop, OCCMute, RCCReady, and ProjectorReady.
- Outputs of MYSHOW:** A table with columns: Output Name and Output Comment. It lists outputs such as OCCReady, EntryDoors, ExitDoors, and NonWarningInht.

Specifications subject to change without notice

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