

URBI R/C CAMERA INTERFACE

R/C Aircraft Control - UAV Control - Stand Alone Intervalometer

A product of Blip It Pty Ltd
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These instructions apply to URBI R/C Interface ROM Version 1.59

This interface will control most Canon and Nikon cameras. NOT ALL CAMERAS are suitable. Almost all current Nikon cameras will work and a range of Canons. Feel free to try others - you cannot damage a camera this way.

NIKON: Go to the SETUP menu on the camera, and set the USB interface mode to PTP if it is set to "Mass Storage". See the camera manual regarding PTP mode.

CANON: Most canon cameras must be in "play-back" mode ie the switch must be in the position you use to view photographs. If the camera has the option, it must be switched to PTP mode, but most Canons are automatic.

CONNECTION TO R/C RECEIVER

1. Connect the interface to your R/C receiver, noting that one channel controls the shutter, and the other controls the zoom (optional). If not using zoom, don't connect it. The connector will suit both JR and Futaba style receivers. The voltage can be in the normal range of 4.8 to 6 volts.
2. Connect the interface to your camera using a suitable USB cable (not supplied).
3. Turn the camera on, followed by your transmitter and finally the receiver and URBI. Some Canon cameras will automatically turn on when the URBI interface receives power.
4. The LED on the interface will light solid green to indicate the camera is ready to be triggered. A red LED indicates the camera is not connected or ready.

You may test the interface by pressing the small test button next to the silver USB connector. This will cause one picture to be taken.

CONFIGURATION.

Four settings can be configured on the interface. These settings are saved in memory and re-loaded every time you power on the interface.

Setting 1 Canon AE Mode (Does not apply to Nikon)

1 = Auto, 2 = P, 3=Tv, 4=Av, 5=M (same order as camera dial)

Setting 2 Shot count. Set to the number of photographs to shoot each time the camera is triggered (1 - 9)

Setting 3 TTL trigger. 0=OFF, 1=ON. Use this if connecting an external controller to PIN 6 on the interface. **Must be OFF** if not connected.

Setting 4 & 5 Intervalometer delay. eg Set to 1 and 5 respectively for 15 second delay between shots. Set both to 0 to disable intervalometer.

To alter the configuration, power up the interface, then HOLD the small push button on the interface for 1 second until the LED lights YELLOW, then release.

The LEDs will show a blinking pattern. RED blinks indicate setting number, and GREEN indicates the value for that setting. eg RED-GREEN-GREEN-GREEN means setting number one is set to value three.

To increment the setting value, push the button briefly (less than 1 second). The LED will light green when you push it. Then the flashing sequence will indicate the new setting value.

To cycle through the different settings, HOLD the button for 1 second until the LED is yellow, then release immediately. The flashing sequence will then indicate the next setting.

Configuration is ended by HOLDING the button for 2 seconds until the LED shows no color, OR when you have stepped through all settings. The LED should light solid green to indicate the interface is ready to operate.

INTERVALOMETER

To use the intervalometer, set a value in setting 4&5, then power up the interface and camera. No R/C is required. To start shooting, push the button on the interface. The LED will flash green to indicate the timer is running. Another push will pause the timer. Clear settings 4&5 to disable. When using the intervalometer, R/C connection is not required, only power,

however the R/C control still functions if desired.

MOUNTING

Mount the interface somewhere safe. Don't put it too near the receiver or speed controller in case of radio interference.

This is a sensitive electronic device. Avoid contact with metallic objects or fluid of any sort. Try to avoid touching the circuitry with your fingers, and avoid static electricity. Scratching the circuit will damage it beyond repair.

BEWARE The URBI is connected directly to the electronics controlling an aircraft. If the circuit gets damaged or shorted out during flight, it has the potential to cause an aircraft to loose control.

TROUBLESHOOTING.

Be sure to check the website <http://www.blip.com.au> In the SUPPORT section there is information for different kinds of cameras. If there are any special requirements for a camera it may be recorded here.

If something is not working as it should, turn the camera off and turn the interface off before powering everything up again starting with the camera.

Always re-start the interface when connecting and disconnecting cameras. This is required to re-start the camera detection process properly on some cameras.

PROBLEM CHECKLIST

Is the camera supported? Not all cameras work! See the website for detailed compatibility lists (continually being updated).

Is enough memory left on memory card or stick?

Is the camera in auto mode (Nikon)..

Are the camera and aircraft batteries charged?

If the interface is showing RED, it means the interface cannot see the camera. If so, check the USB cable.

Is the servo lead from the interface connected to the receiver the right way around? If you have a Futaba radio the Brown wire is the GROUND wire and goes at the same end as the BLACK wire.

Some cameras must be switched to PTP mode. This is usually in the USB Menu options (Nikon). Refer to your camera's manual.

If the camera won't trigger or the zoom won't operate, check the endpoint settings and trim settings on your radio transmitter. Trim should be centred and endpoints should be at the normal 100% travel. 80% stick movement is the trigger point.

TIPS

If the camera just refuses to connect or locks up, open the battery holder, remove the battery and then re-insert before attempting connection to the interface.

Do not disconnect the camera or power down the interface during the image capture sequence. This can cause the camera to lock up and will require removing the battery as above.

When using a Canon, Tv mode is usually the best choice to minimize blur. Use a fast shutter speed and a higher ISO if required.

CANON CAMERAS

When using AE modes besides Auto, the camera recalls the last user settings, so you must make sure the exposure & flash settings are correct before connecting. You can do this by operating the camera normally (not connected to URBI) and adjusting the settings before powering down and connecting to the interface.

If you are experiencing problems, please email support@blip.com.au

SOFTWARE UPDATES

The URBI interface can be upgraded by downloading software from our website. <http://blip.com.au/URBIupdates>

The installation instructions are on the website, and you'll need the USB cable which came with your interface, as well as a Windows XP computer. You must remove the R/C connector and place the supplied clip as shown on the back of this sheet.

If you have any suggestions for inclusion in the next software update, feel free to email your ideas to us: support@blip.com.au