

# altuS VTR/DDR Controller HT201, HT211, HT212

## Users Manual

Software version: 3.0



### History

Date	Description	Version
Aug 2020	RJ45 adaptors are now optional	2.0a
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## **altuS VTR and Disk controllers**

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# 1 Introduction

The Hi Tech altuS VTR/DDR controller provides a user-friendly remote control interface for professional broadcast videotape and disk recorders.

As of software version 3.00, a new type of wheel has been fitted. This now improves the overall performance of the controller. Jog/Shuttle and Var modes are accessible from the stop button on the controller.

There are the three models:

## *altuS VTR and DDR Controllers*



HT201 – single VTR controller no time code display.

HT211 – single VTR controller with time code display.

HT212 – dual VTR controller with time code display.

# 1 Introduction



This manual describes the operation of the HT212. Where differences in operation occur for the HT201 and HT211 it is noted like this:



Not on  
the  
HT201  
or  
HT211



In this manual altuS VTR and DDR controller is referred to as 'controller'. VTR and disk recorders are referred to as 'VTR'.

Accessories supplied:

- External PSU

# 2 Installation

The Hi Tech Series of VTR Controllers are designed as desk-top units.

### *Unpacking*

The Hi Tech Systems altuS VTR controllers are shipped in a carton which may contain other optional items within the packing. Care should be taken to ensure that these are not thrown away. The contents of the carton are as indicated on the delivery note. Carefully unpack and check for shipping damage and shortages. Report any damage or shortages to Hi Tech Systems Ltd.

### *Desk mounting*

The altuS desk mounting controllers require no special fixings, but can be mounted into a desk as a 'drop through' unit.

Outline dimensions for all models are given in the Addendum at the back of this manual.

## 2 Installation

### Warnings – read before installation or use



Only use the 12V adaptor provided with the controller. The 12V PSU is powered with 110V – 240V AC using an IEC main lead.

Only suitably qualified engineers should carry out maintenance.

Ensure that the power earth connection is correctly made.

**Always check that the supply voltage specified is correct for the local AC power supply voltage.**

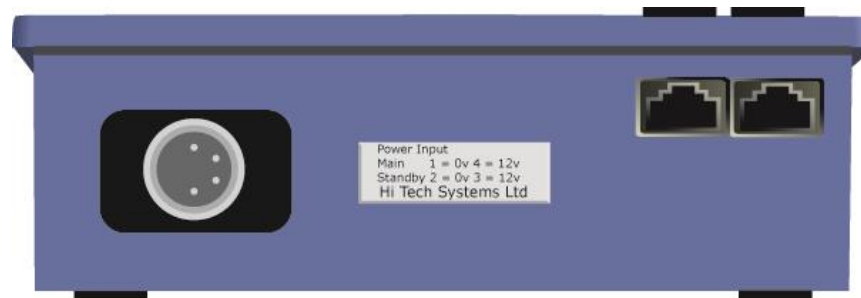
The controller consists of electronic parts. Do not drop the controller or bump it against other objects or place the controller near heat sources such as radiators or air conditioning ducts.

Care should be taken so that solid objects or liquid do not fall into the Controller enclosure.

Clean the case with a soft dry lint free cloth, or a soft cloth lightly moistened with a mild detergent solution. Do not use any type of solvent such as alcohol, which might damage the special finish.



### External connections



*altuS rear view*

### Power requirements

In the UK, the mains plug should be approved to BS1363 and be fitted with a 3 amp fuse approved to BS1362.

All accessible metalwork in the room and the safety earth connections of other electrical circuits must be electrically connected together in accordance with safety regulations BS6204. This can be accomplished either by separate routes to the building earth or by bonding together or a combination of the two.

A suitable double-pole earth leakage protection device, conforming to BS6204, VDE0805 and IEC435 must be used to protect power supplied to the unit.

## 2 Installation

### Connecting a VTR

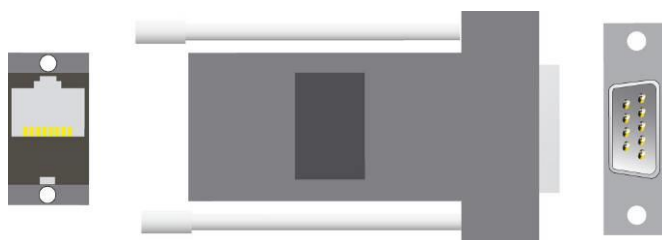
The RS422 VTR control ports are implemented as

RJ45 connectors to make the best use of space at the rear of a desk-top unit.



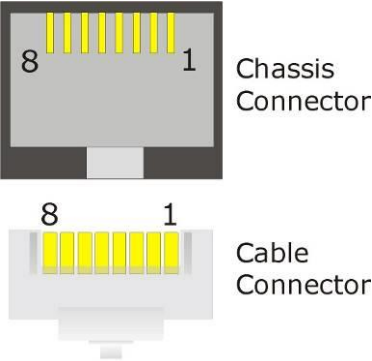
It is recommended not to exceed 100 metres of CAT 5 cable.

To convert RS422 ports on VTRs and other controlled devices to use RJ45 patch cables a converter at the VTRs.



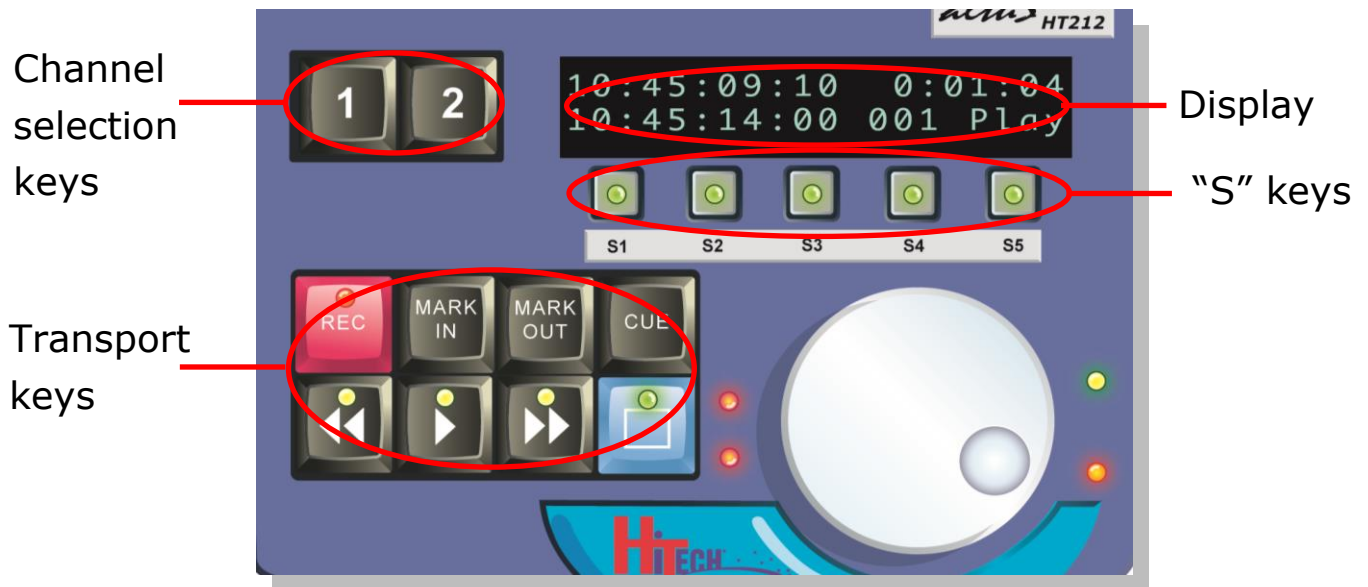
*Converts VTR serial ports to RJ45*

#### *RJ45 connector pin out*

Pin No	Description	RJ45 Connector
<b>1</b>	Chassis Gnd	 <p>Chassis Connector</p> <p>Cable Connector</p> <p>View from front</p>
<b>2</b>	Rx A data	
<b>3</b>	Tx B data	
<b>4</b>	Tx Gnd	
<b>5</b>	N.C	
<b>6</b>	Rx Gnd	
<b>7</b>	Rx B data	
<b>8</b>	Tx A data	

CAT 5 VTR remote cables are connected to the RJ45 sockets

# 3 Operation



## Using the main controller keys

To select a VTR for control, press the desired numbered channel selection key. The display will be updated with the timecode and transport status appropriate for the attached VTR.

The selected VTR **MUST** be enabled for remote control. If the VTR is set to operate locally from its own control panel then the controller will not function, only status will be displayed.

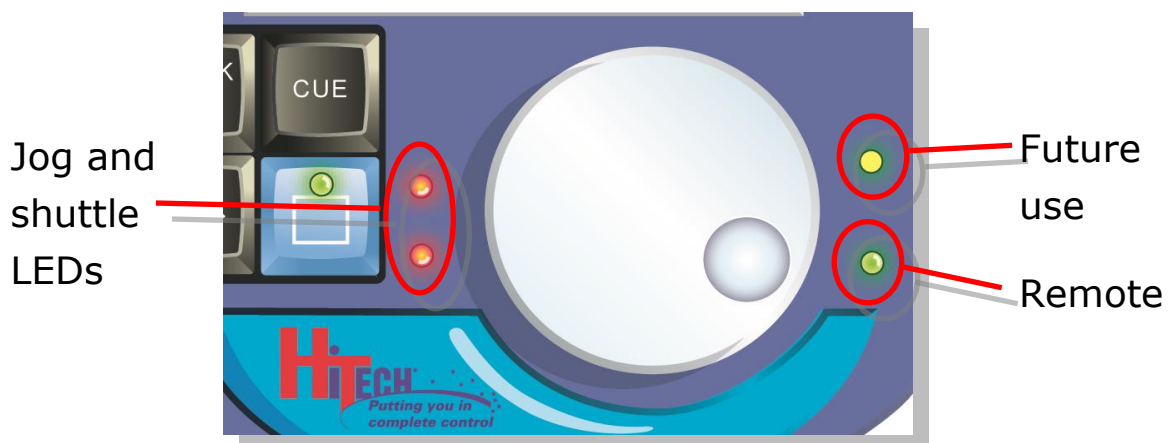
Once the controller has control of the VTR, the REMOTE LED will illuminate. If the VTR is switched into local, or the RS422 communications becomes

### 3 Operation

disconnected, the controller will sound several short warning 'bleeps' (if the bleeper has been turned ON in the menu) and the REMOTE LED will go off.

#### *How to Jog, shuttle and Var*

Press the stop button to enter JOG mode. Press again to go into shuttle. Press and hold the stop (1 second) and press play simultaneously to enter variable playback mode.



#### *How to record*

Press and hold the REC key and the PLAY key, the VTR will do a crash record.

#### *How to stop record or playback*

Press the blue stop key, this puts the VTR into Jog, press and hold the STOP key to go to "standby off" mode.

### *How to select both VTR channels for group control*

To select both VTRs for multiple controls,  
press both selection keys at the same time.  
To ungroup press both keys again.



The device selected first is treated as the Master and its status (e.g. PLAY, STOP etc) is shown in the display. If a different channel is then selected it now becomes the Master.



Not on  
the  
HT201  
or  
HT211

## 3 Operation

### Using Cues'



For successful VTR cue operations the following conditions must be met:  
Continuous time code or tape timer information from tape.  
T/C key must be set for the same time code as on the VTR.

CUE locations are timecode reference points that have been stored in one or more of the controller's cue memory locations. There are 99 cue locations labelled 01 – 99 and an additional 5 "special" cue locations S1 – S5 (at memory locations 100 – 104). Once a cue is stored a VTR can be made to search very quickly to a selected CUE point.



Cue locations are not specific to VTR channels. If a cue is marked on one channel it simply goes into the next available location.

Each cue location is stored as an in point and / or out point. VTRs may be cued to any location. Cues are stored and recalled using the MARK IN, MARK OUT, CUE and S keys.

### *How to enter cue points*



When first used the memory locations will be empty and indicated by --:--:--:-- but after time will become full. These will be overwritten by the new marked timecode.

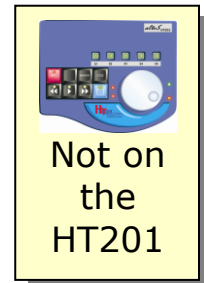
A CUE IN point can be entered 'on the fly' whilst the tape is moving by pressing the MARK IN key, and a CUE OUT point can be similarly entered by pressing the MARK OUT key. The controller will always tell you the contents of the cue memory locations on the bottom line of the display.

The next cue memory location that will be used when you press MARK IN is displayed at the right hand end of the display. Location automatically increments every time a CUE is marked.

Note – Only a single Mark key on HT201 no mark out points can be stored.

Mark In key

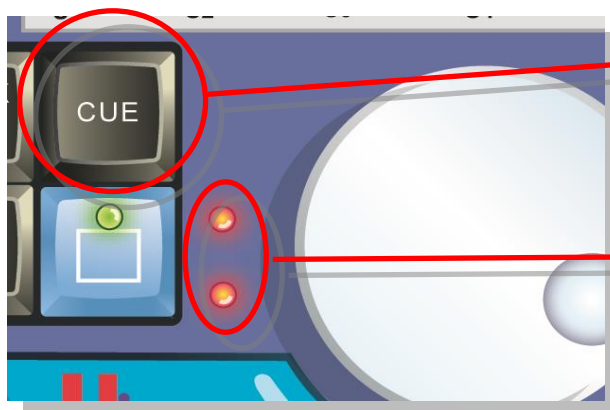
Mark Out key



#### *How to load cues*

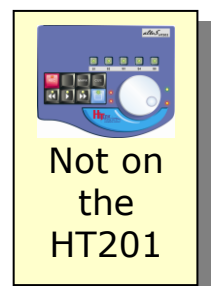
If CUE is pressed after a Mark has been made, then the VTR will cue directly to this mark.

#### *How to find and recall cue point*



1 Press and hold the CUE key then press then release the wheel.

2 Turn the wheel to browse through the list of cue points. The jog/shuttle led flash.



### 3 Operation

3 Press the CUE key to cue the VTR.

4 Press the wheel again to abort a cue recall.

#### *Description of display*

Timecode at current cue memory location (empty in this example).

Next cue memory location that will be used to store a cue

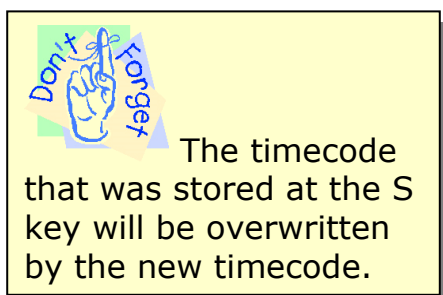
Duration of cue



*What are the S keys?* Current cue memory location

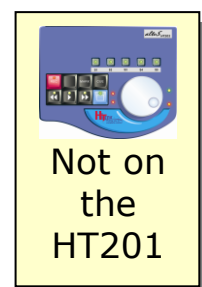
The S keys are shortcut keys to 5 cue memory locations. Any cue point can be stored to any of the S keys.

#### *How to store cue points to the S keys*



There two methods for storing cues to S keys.

Method 1 – storing a cue already created.





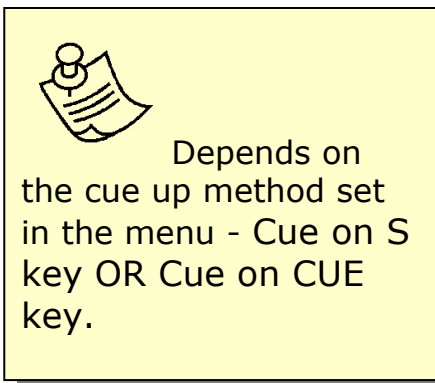
- 1 Recall the cue point by browsing the cue memory locations.

- 2 Press the desired S key to copy and store the timecode to this S key.

Method 2 – storing a new cue

- 1 Press and hold an S key then press the MARK IN key.

### *How to recall a cue point using the S keys*



Pressing any S key on its own will recall and cue the VTR.

## Advanced Operations

### *How to loop a cue*

To Loop a cue, first make sure that the cue has a valid IN and OUT point. Cue to the desired IN point and then press and hold CUE then PLAY.

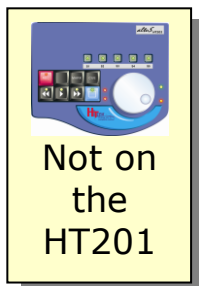
### *How to do an auto cue*

During a live event it is sometimes desirable quickly come out of RECORD or PLAYBACK to cue back to a point of interest. With the auto cue mode turned ON

### 3 Operation

then turning the wheel will drop the VTR into jog, and cue it back by the number of frames set by the "auto cue delay" setting. The VTR is also switched from EE mode into PB mode.

#### *How to clear a single CUE memory location*



There may come a time when you wish to remove an individual CUE from its cue memory location.

- 1 Recall the cue point you wish to remove. Press Cue + Jog/Shuttle knob to enter Cue menu.
- 2 Press and hold the MARK IN button for more than 3 seconds.

#### *How to clear the memory, and restore to factory default?*

There are times when you may want to completely erase all the cue memory locations of the controller and return the menu settings to there factory defaults for example after a software upgrade.

- 1 Turn of the power.
- 2 Press and hold the STOP key.
- 3 Turn the power back on.
- 4 Release the STOP key.



### *How to change the timecode source*

You change the timecode settings in the menu (see the menu section in this manual for entering the menu). The TC setting changes the time code source data (hours, minutes, seconds and frames) that is displayed on the time code display of the controller for the connected VTRs.

The selections are: CTL, LTC, VITC and AUTO. If the display shows [--:--:--:--] then no valid time code can be read.

CTL Tape running time (hours, minutes, seconds and frames) is computed from the recorded control (CTL) signal during playback, or a count of control signal pulses during recording. These counters do not usually keep a highly accurate track of tape position.

LTC or Longitudinal time code in either 24 hour or +/- 12-hour format is usually recorded on an audio track on the tape.

LTC is read by the internal time code reader during playback or longitudinal time code reader during recording.



Time code source is selected globally for both VTRs

VITC - Vertical interval time code. This is recorded on an invisible area in the video track, and during playback read by the internal time code reader or vertical interval time code reader during recording.

### 3 Operation

AUTO Time code is selected automatically by the VTR depending on the speed of the tape. Typically VITC is selected when the tape transport speed is up to half speed and LTC when it is more than half speed.

#### *Setting TCG and CTL*



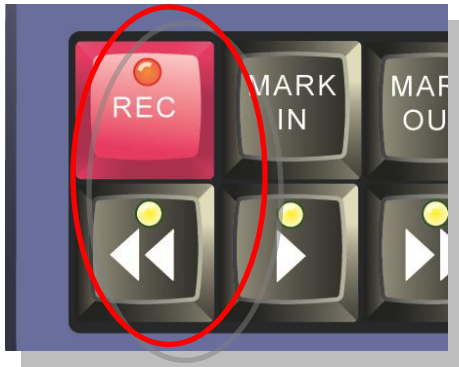
To set TCG the VTR must be set to TC generator pre-set mode.

Specific times for the VTR timecode generator and CTL counter may be set from within the menu.

It is also possible to recall the last time code or control track time set. For example to store and recall 09:58:00:00,

enter the menu select TCG and use the wheel to change the time to 09:58:00:00

#### *How to enter and exit the altuS SETUP menu.*

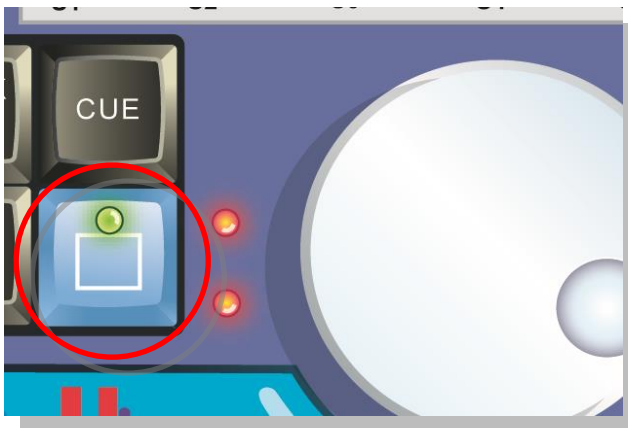


There are times when you may want to change certain altuS operational parameters. This is accomplished via its SETUP menu. It is here where you will be offered setup parameters to choose from. To enter and exit SETUP:

Press and hold the REC key and the REW key.

#### *How to change operational parameters in the SETUP menu*

Turn the WHEEL to "point" the display chevron to the line item you wish to change, a chevron > indicates the active display line.



Press and hold down the STOP key to change the parameter of interest.

Change the parameter by turning the WHEEL.

### Menu Operational settings

#### 1. Eject

**YES or NO**

**NO** <sup>DEF</sup>

Description: Ejects tape from VTR.

When tape is ejected the MENU mode is exited, the bleeper will sound and a 'Cassette out' message will be displayed.

#### 2. TC Mode

Cue controller only

**CTL, LTC, VITC, AUTO**

**AUTO** <sup>DEF</sup>

Description: Set the timecode standard.

#### 3. Set CTL

**hh:mm:ss:ff**

Description: Allows the tape timer numbers inside the VTR to be set. Some VTRs will not allow the tape timer to be set, so this item may have no effect. To move between hh:mm:ss:ff turn the wheel. Press and hold down the || key, and turn the wheel to alter the numbers.

To recall the last setting stored, enter the menu mode and select CTL, press the TC button to load the new CTL and exit the menu mode.

#### 4. Set CTL mode

**12Hr / 24Hr**

**24** <sup>DEF</sup>

Description: Changes the CTL display to display timecode in +/-12 hours mode or 24 hours mode.

## 5. Set TCG

**hh:mm:ss:ff**                      **00:00:00:00** <sup>DEF</sup>

Description: Allows VTR T/C generator numbers to be preset. Useful to force an edit or hard record to start with tape time code at a particular number. To move between hh:mm:ss:ff turn the wheel. Some VTRs do not support this command. Press and hold down the || key, and turn the wheel to alter numbers. To recall the last setting stored, enter the menu mode select TCG. Press the T/C button to load the new TCG and exit the menu mode.

## 6. Mark Preroll

**nn secs**                              **0 secs** <sup>DEF</sup>

Description: Offset the MARK IN time. The timecode stored will be the time at the point the MARK IN key was pressed less the mark preroll time

## 7. Cue up method

**Cue on S key, Cue on CUE key**      **Cue on S key** <sup>DEF</sup>

Description: Effects the cueing of the connected VTRs.

**Cue on S key** Pressing an S key cues any stored cue immediately.

**Cue on CUE key** Pressing an S key displays stored cue, now have to press CUE.

## 8. Cue mode

**Stop, Play**                              **Stop** <sup>DEF</sup>

Description: Effects the cueing of the connected VTRs.

**Stop** Cues the VTR and goes into still.

**Play** Enters the play mode automatically once an operator has initiated the CUE command.

## 3 Operation

### 9. Stop at

**Off, End, Out**

**Off** <sup>DEF</sup>

Description: End, stores the T/C at the point the recorded channel was stopped (less 6 frames), when replayed in PLAY or VAR mode the controller will stop the VTR at this T/C before the playback overruns into unwanted black. Out stops the playback on the out point of a cue in playback mode.

### 10. Fast Cue

**NO or Yes**

**NO** <sup>DEF</sup>

Description: Some VTRs cue tape very slowly using the standard cue command. Fast cue mode allows fast forward and rewind commands in CUE mode. These commands are used for cueing until the tape position is within a few seconds of the cue point, and then the cue command is issued.

### 11. Mark Increment

**IN, OUT**

**IN** <sup>DEF</sup>

Description: Describes the action of the mark keys.

### 12. Rec Inhibit VTRx

**NO or Yes**

**NO** <sup>DEF</sup>

Description: Inhibits recording on selected channel.

### 13. Lock VTR

Cue controller only

**NO or YES**

**NO** <sup>DEF</sup>

Description: Locks the PLAY and RECORD transport controls only. Note: the controller must be in PLAY or RECORD first before turning this mode on. Enter menu again to turn OFF lock.



## 14. Auto Cue Delay

**nn frms**

**5 frames** <sup>DEF</sup>

Description: Sets the amount of time the VTR will cue back after an auto cue.

## 15, 16 & 17 Jog Rate, Var Rate and Sht (Shuttle)Rate

**Min, Slow, Norm, Fast, Max**

**Normal** <sup>DEF</sup>

Description: Changes the reaction time of the wheel input to the tape being replayed to compensate for tape, disk and operator preference. For example if the Jog speed is set to Min, then more than one complete turn of the wheel is required to advance a frame.

Setting	Jog reaction time	Shuttle range	Var range
Min	Minimum	+/- 1.0	+/- 0.25
Slow	Slow	+/- 2.0	+/- 0.33
Norm	Norm <sup>DEF</sup>	+/- 15 <sup>DEF</sup>	+/- 0.5
Fast	Fast	+/- 24	+/- 1.0 <sup>DEF</sup>
Max	Maximum	+/- 50	+/- 2.0

## 18. Clear Cues

**NO, YES**

Description: Clears all the cues from the memory of the controller.

## 19. Clear Config

**NO, YES**

Description: Restores the factory default conditions. See all items marked as <sup>DEF</sup>.

## 3 Operation

### 20. Auto cue

**Off, Wheel**

**Off** <sup>DEF</sup>

Description:

Turning the wheel will drop the VTR into jog, regardless of the state, ie record, play, etc.

### 21. Bleeper

**Off, On, Error**

**Off** <sup>DEF</sup>

Description:

Turn the beeper function on/off.

### 22. Video Std

**PAL, NTSC**

**PAL** <sup>DEF</sup>

Description:

Sets the T/C to run on either PAL or NTSC standard

### 23. Duration Format

**HH:MM / SS:FF**

**MM:SS** <sup>DEF</sup>

**MM:SS**

Description:

Changes the format of the duration displayed on the screen.

### 24. EE mode auto or full

**AUTO OFF/ON**

**AUTO - ON** <sup>DEF</sup>

**FULL OFF/ON**

Description:

Change the EE function from automatic to manual.

### 25. Stop command

**STIL/STOP**

**STIL** <sup>DEF</sup>

Description:

Change the behaviour of the Stop button.

# 4 Trouble Shooting

The following section lists commonly asked questions and their solution:


## **Why do labels appear as | | | | when powering the controller for the first time?**

This indicates the default settings of the controller need to be stored in the non-volatile memory (see Chapter 3 – Engineering menu - Clear Config).

## **The controller has emitted several short 'beeps' and the remote LED has gone off. What's the problem?**

Check that the VTR is not switched into local or that the RS422 communications link is not disconnected.

## **How do you change settings in the Menu?**

The  (**Stop**) key MUST be held down to allow the wheel to change assigned parameter values on the bottom display line.

## **Where is the tape eject button?**

This is menu option 1.

## **There is no communications to or from the VTR?**

Check that the cable adaptors have been made correctly.

# Addendum

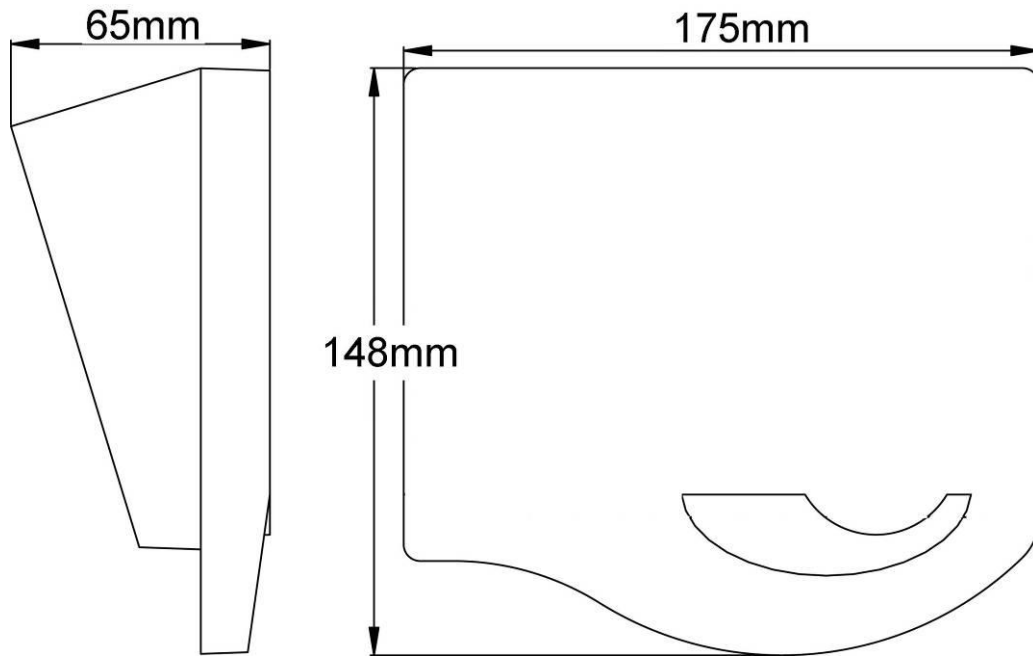
## Summary of functions

Function	Keys	Description
Play	[▶]	The VTR will play
Still / Stop	[■]	First press the VTR will be in jog mode, second press the VTR will be in shuttle mode.
Standby Off	[■] for > 1 second	The VTR will "spool down" – head drum will stop and tape unthread
Record	[REC]+[▶]	Puts the selected VTR into Record, press play and record together
Jog	Press STOP	Puts the selected VTR into jog mode
Shuttle	Press STOP again	Puts the selected VTR into shuttle mode
Vari Speed	Press/Hold STOP and press PLAY	Puts the selected VTR into variable mode the range depends on the menu setting
Loop Play	[CUE] + [PLAY]	Sets the current cue into loop playback mode.
Timecode mode	Menu setting	The timecode can be set to LTC, CTL, VITC and AUTO
Make a Mark In point	[MARK IN]	Creates a Cue in point.

Function	Keys	Description
Make a Mark Out point	[MARK OUT]	Creates a Cue out point. Cue No. displayed briefly, when button pressed
Browsed saved Cues	[CUE] + press wheel	This will allow all saved cues to be viewed. Scroll through using the jog/shuttle wheel. Press wheel to exit.
Group Channels	[1]+[2]	Hold down the channel buttons, they are grouped together
Go to a Cue	[CUE]	Will cue the controller to the entered cue point
Eject the tape	[MENU]	Eject must be selected from the menu using the jog wheel
Delete a CUE	[MARK IN] for > 3 seconds	Empties the current cue memory location.

## Outline dimensions

The altuS has the following outline dimensions:



## Software Updates

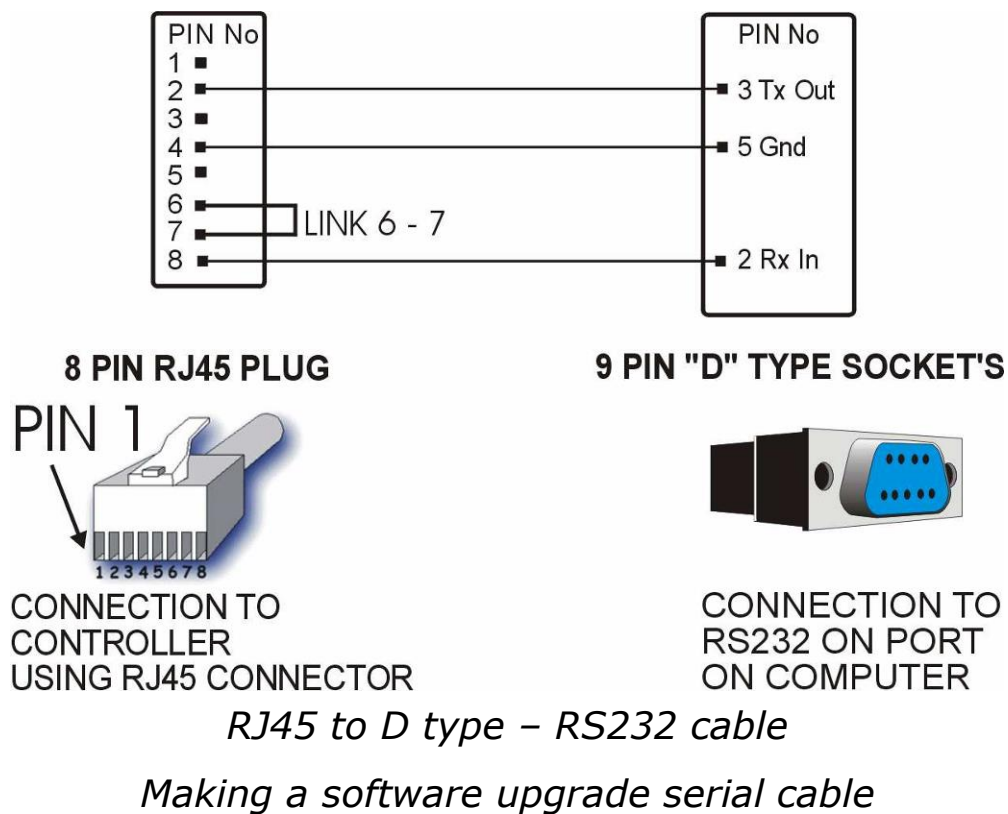
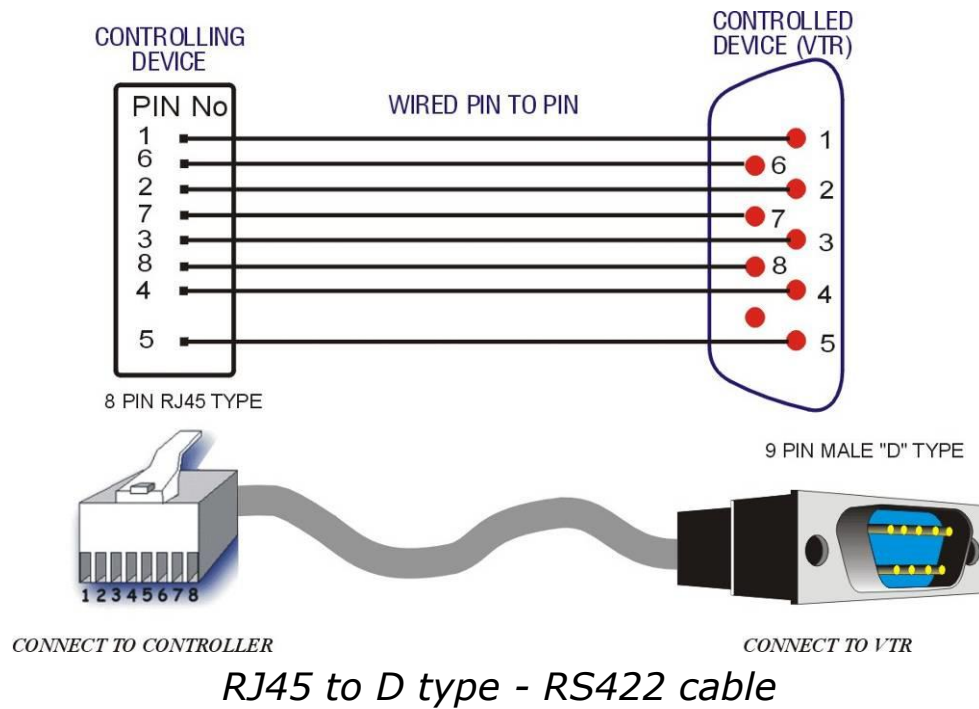
Download the software update wizard actiV8 from the Hi Tech Systems support web site at:

<https://support.hitechsys.com>

and contact Hi Tech Systems for the latest software version.

## Cable pin out reference

The following diagrams are provided for those wishing to make their own cables.



### Notes on PC serial connectors

Some computers, particularly laptops have odd earth arrangements on the RS232 connector, making the download problematic. If possible, use a desktop PC for performing s/w updates.



# 6 Specification

## Control ports

Communication Format: RS-422-A

Communication Channel: Full Duplex

Data Signalling Rate: 38.4 Kb/s (K bits per second)

Communication Protocol: SONY 9 pin RS422

Serial connectors: 2 x RJ45 – 8 pin sockets

VTRs controlled: VTRs that support the Sony RS422 9 pin protocol

## Power

Mains input: 110 – 240V AC IEC to Female XLR DC Mains Adaptor

Voltage: 12V DC

Power consumption: Less than 5 watts

## General

Operating Temp: 0 - 35 Deg C