



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUDIOACCESS® NOW SHIPPING ITS CATC/2WSI TWO-WAY INTERFACE, ENABLING CONTROL OF HARD-DISK SERVERS AND HOME ENTERTAINMENT DEVICES IN AUDIOACCESS SYSTEMS

WOODBURY, NY – Audioaccess, a division of JBL® that provides advanced whole-house audio/video solutions, today announced it is now shipping its CATC/2WSI Two-Way Serial Interface. The CATC/2WSI is an “intelligent” two-way interface unit that connects between an Audioaccess PX-700 Multiroom Audio Controller, a CATC (Color Audioaccess Touchscreen Controller) used for system control in a remote room location, and another home device such as a ReQuest Multimedia audio server or Escient® FireBall™ hard-disk music server. Once installed, the CATC/2WSI enables full two-way integrated operation of the connected home device from the Color Audioaccess Touchscreen Controller.

Chris Robinson, Audioaccess director of sales and marketing, pointed out: “With the introduction of the CATC/2WSI, the functionality of an Audioaccess whole-house multiroom audio system is greatly expanded. Thanks to the addition of the CATC/2WSI to our product line, Audioaccess users can now enjoy all the benefits today’s hard-disk servers have to offer, with ready access to their entire music libraries from anywhere in the home.” Robinson concluded: “The CATC/2WSI’s open-ended architecture also enables it to be easily programmed to accommodate other home entertainment components, as well as lighting systems and other devices, and Audioaccess will make interface capability for additional products available on an ongoing basis.”

The CATC/2WSI: Easy to Connect and Use

The Audioaccess CATC/2WSI connects to the CATC via both components’ two-way RS-485 ports, and links to the home device (or subsystem) to be controlled via a two-way RS-232 connection. The CATC/2WSI also links to the Audioaccess PX-700 Multiroom Audio Controller via a two-way RS-232 connection.

The software that enables the communication between the Color Audioaccess Touchscreen Controller and the connected device resides in the CATC/2WSI. The CATC/2WSI is configured to interface with a particular home device by setting the CATC/2WSI’s appropriate internal DIP switches, and connecting it to a PC and using the Audioaccess Windows®-based Easy Touch II programming application to complete the configuration. The EasyTouch II application provides preprogrammed control screens for each home device to simplify programming and user control.

Once configured, the CATC/2WSI translates the operational messages from the home devices and allows them to be displayed on the CATC, enabling the device to be controlled from the CATC from a remote location in the home.

A single CATC/2WSI is used to control any single home device, while control of the device is available from any number of Color Audioaccess Touchscreen Controllers connected to the CATC/2WSI. To control multiple subsystems, additional CATC/2WSIs are connected to each additional home device.

– more –

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As additional subsystem software interfaces become available, such as one being developed for the Apple® iPod® and for Lutron HomeWorks® lighting products, they can be programmed into a CATC/2WSI by connecting the CATC/2WSI to a PC and loading the appropriate programs, which will be posted in a dedicated area on the Audioaccess Web site. This capacity makes the CATC/2WSI easily upgradeable in the field.

The Audioaccess CATC/2WSI Two-Way RS-232 Serial Interface is currently shipping at a suggested retail price of \$260.

The Audioaccess CATC (Color Audioaccess Touchscreen Controller)

The Audioaccess CATC is a versatile, wall-mountable touchscreen controller that provides a rich user interface for advanced control of an Audioaccess PX-700-based multiroom audio system. The CATC offers a wide range of control features combined with ease of programming and operation, and makes even complex multiroom custom installations simple to operate and enjoy.

The Audioaccess PX-700 Multiroom Audio Controller

The Audioaccess PX-700 is an easy to use multiroom audio system that offers superior sound quality along with flexible whole-house music-distribution capabilities. Together with Audioaccess wall-mounted keypads, touchscreens and handheld remotes, the PX-700 allows direct access and control of eight different audio sources in six different zones. Up to six PX-700s can be connected to create a 36-zone system.

The Harman Consumer Group (HCG) is a leading designer, manufacturer and marketer of a wide range of high-fidelity loudspeakers, audio and video components, and multimedia systems for use in homes and automobiles, and with computers. The group's brands include JBL, Infinity, Harman Kardon, Mark Levinson, Revel, Audioaccess and Lexicon.

HCG is a division of Harman International Industries, Incorporated. Harman International (www.harman.com) is a leading manufacturer of high-quality, high-fidelity audio products and electronic systems for the automotive, consumer and professional markets. The company's stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "HAR."

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