

## FEATURES OF THE STAR-8 EAS DISPLAY SYSTEM

Eight character generator channels are packaged in a standard one rack unit package.



Input to the unit is by means of a serial data line directly connected to a Sage ENDEC EAS decoder. A second serial port on the STAR-8 then allows one STAR-8 unit to be connected to one or more STAR-8s. *Thus any number of channels can be controlled by a single ENDEC device.*

In this configuration each channel will receive and display the EAS message(s) from the ENDEC. All channels will always display the same data.

**One of the serial input lines to the STAR-8 can be connected to a control computer** which pre-processes the ENDEC data and can then provide additional display and control capabilities for the STAR-8.

When managed by the computer each channel in the system has a unique address and therefore the data on each channel can be different. Each channel can display a single page of fixed information. The remote computer will manage and prioritize the ENDEC message. Software for this option will be available in 4Q 2000. Individual channels in any Star-8 are addressable and can be configured for which services they respond to, e.g. EAS mandatory, EAS discretionary, NOAA.

Even in an ENDEC only configuration each channels crawl position and speed can be set differently. This configuration must be performed by temporarily connecting a terminal, or PC running a terminal emulator, to the STAR-8 and supplying the proper information. Once configured the Star-8 units retain their configuration code in non-volatile memory.

**Each channel of the STAR-8 operates as a down stream keyer** using the video input (BNC connector) supplied. Input video is terminated internally in 75 ohms when relay is not in the bypass mode.

### Video characteristics:

Diff phase < 0.5 degree

Diff gain < 0.5 percent

Freq response +/-0.5db

Video gain (output/input) = 1 (internal adjustment at factory)

Back porch is clamped to 0 vdc.

75 ohm source terminated video output on BNC connector.

**Power fail safe relay bypass of video input** to video output. When a control computer is provided, this relay can be controlled via the RS232 input port.

Gen lock to any standard NTSC source, including VHS

**Font:** 12x18 dot matrix. Characters are a fixed height of 36 scan lines. The character set contains 62 alpha numeric characters, and a limited set of punctuation symbols. Characters are always white with a

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black border.

The maximum capability of the display is 11 rows (including crawl) of 28 characters.

**The memory of the STAR-8** is battery protected in the event of a power failure. Crawl message memory is 1000 characters per channel.

**The EAS crawl message may be positioned anywhere on the screen** (4 scan line position resolution). One of three crawl speeds available can be specified. Position and speed can only be changed from the computer interface port.

### **Audio:**

A card can be installed (at the factory) in each STAR-8 chassis, to provide balanced **stereo base band** audio with relay controlled switching. Screw terminal connectors are available at the rear panel for audio connection. Relays are in the by-pass (non EAS) mode when power fails. Each STAR-8 unit contains a stereo audio distribution amplifier so that each stereo channel of the STAR-8 presents a single high impedance load to the audio source.

The audio relays can be controlled in two ways:

- 1) *When an EAS contact closure* control signal is supplied, all relays will switch over to the externally supplied EAS audio source. The contact closure supplied to the STAR-8 chassis for EAS switch-over is relay buffered to provide an isolated dry contact output (both NO and NC). In this way additional STAR-8 chassis may be daisy chained without overloading the ENDEC control relay.
- 2) If a control computer is connected to the STAR-8 then in addition to the input contact closure (always active) each channel's audio switch over may be controlled by software permitting selected channels to perform the EAS audio switch as command be the control computer.

**Data input:** DB9P connector for connection to data source, either ENDEC or master STAR-8,  
DB9P connector for connection to slave unit(s).

**Package:** Each 8 channel system is supplied in a standard 19" rack mount chassis, and occupies 1RU (1.75" high). Power is 115VAC 60Hz, standard IEC power cord, approximately 25 watts for each 8 channel unit.

All specifications subject to change without notice.

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