

Eth-B4 Link Lens Control

Skaarhoj Eth-B4 Link offer a way to control iris on B4 lens separate from the camera they are connected to. You can find initial device set up in the device manual: [Skaarhoj B4 Links Manual](#)
Firmware versions can be found here: [Standalone Firmware Downloads](#)

Connecting the device inside Blue Pill is simple.

1. Add a generic Blackmagic Design camera as a device. This can be the Camea with Original 0db/18dB Range as only Iris is being controlled.

Discover Devices

Add Device Manually

Manual add devices

origin

Device Name	Device Core	Description	Actions
Unknown	Unknown	Connects to the unknown device	Select
Camera with Original 0db/18dB Range	BMD Cam Control	Camera with original 0db/18dB sensor gain range	Select
Bolin	Visca PTZ	Bolin	Select
Bolin 4K	Visca PTZ	Bolin 4K	Select
PowerCable-EC	NETIO Powersocket	Single Channel Power Cable	Select

2. In the device details:

Add the IP address of the Eth-B4 Link as the IP of the camera.

The Port is 5463.

Set the Camera ID to match the camera number.

The Name is however is easiest for you to identify it.

The Device ID needs to match the Device ID number of the camera you are connecting it to. If you have your set up includes multiple types of cameras using different device cores (example: a Red and an Arri camera), make sure the Device ID for each camera is unique to help tie it to the B4 Link and lens.

Save

Missing IP
Development status: alpha

Active ☒

IP
The IP address of the ETH-SDI converter or 0.0.0.0 for the embedded SDI

Port
The ETH-SDI port. Default: 5463

UDPMODE ☐
Enable UDP mode if your ETH-SDI link firmware doesn't support TCP

CameraID
Camera ID (1..20)

MomentaryOverride ☐
If set will only enable override mode for data sending periods

Name

TallyOverride ☐
If set incoming tally will be blocked

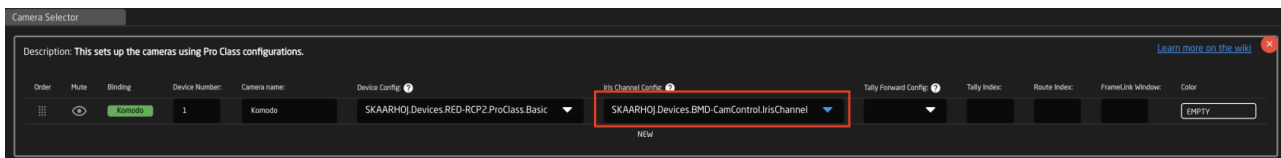
Device Id

Model Id

Description

Delete Discard Save

3. In the Camera Selector constant set for the Skaarhoj Panel, under Iris Channel Config, select: BMD Cam Control Iris.



Please Note: the Device ID number is used here to tie the camera and the B4 Link/lens together. If two cameras had the same Device ID, they would have conflicting lens control.

This set up does not use the core-analog-b4 device core package or the B4 Analog via Blue Pill Extension Iris Channel Config.

Calibration And Setup Of The ETH-B4 Link

Now that we have that out of the way. Let's look at how we can use this new controller. This will work when controlled by either the Unisketch or Blue Pill platform.

Calibration For Use With Unisketch

If you are using the ETH-B4 Link with a Unisketch controller, please download the manual and follow the Calibration steps in there, for how to ensure that your ETH-B4 Link is calibrated.

In short, connect the lens to the unit, move the selection wheel to the "F" or "15" position and wait for it to show a solid Green on the Tally LED. then your unit is fully calibrated. Power cycle the device and it's ready for use.

Calibration For Use with Blue Pill

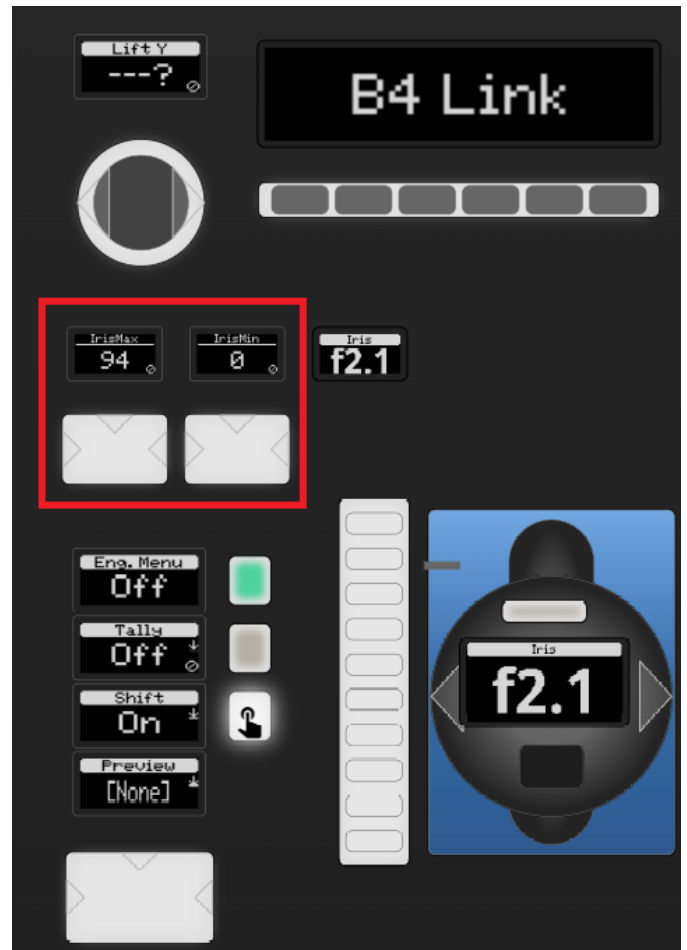
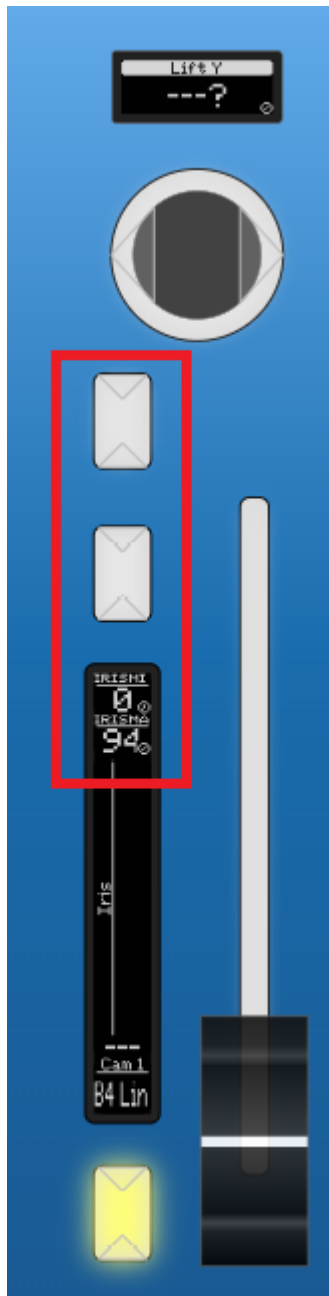
When paired with Blue Pill, please clear the config on the unit, in essence, it's ready to go out of the box. To clear the calibration move the wheel to the "E" or "14" position and wait for the solid "Green" light. Power cycle the device and it's ready for use.

The iris limiting is done by reactor instead, directly from the controller. This is done by holding down "Shift" on the panel and using the "Max" and "Min" buttons that should now appear on the panel. move the joystick/fader on your panel to the furthest position up where the lens reacts and click "Max" then move the lens to the lowest position where the lens reacts or depending on how dark you wanna be able to go, and click "Min". Then your joystick should now limit you to only being able to control within that range, to clear the calibration just hold down the top edge on the button you want to reset.

"Iris Max" = More light, so lower F-values, or joystick/fader up

"Iris Min" = Less Light, so higher F-values, or joystick/fader down

Here can be seen where to find these min/max calibration buttons on some different controllers, while holding shift:



Setup And Tuning Of the PID controller

Relevant for units on firmware v1.0.3 and forward

On firmware v1.0.3 and forward we have added a PID controller to help with the precision, particularly on older lenses. the default tune that the firmware comes with is based on internal testing for the best all-around performance, but might not give an accurate F-stop reading/position on all lenses, but should be better than on older firmware.

If you want to disable this and get back to how it was on v1.0.2 you can do that via the serial monitor in the SKAARHOJ updaters. Just type "pid-en=0" and you will be back to how it was.

First of we have a set of new serial commands to work with on the unit for controlling and manipulating the PID controller, and those are:

- "pid=?" - Get the current PID settings as well as if it's enabled.
- "pid=<num>,<num>,<num>" - Sets a new set of settings by setting Kp, Ki, and Kd respectively, more info on this later
- "pid-en=1" - Turn on the PID controller (this is the default)
- "pid-en=0" - Disables the PID controller and it's now working as it was on firmware v1.0.2, might be useful for some users.
- "pid=reset" - resets the PID settings to how they came by default in the firmware

PID controllers can be tricky to calibrate and tune but allow a lot of control and customisation. We have done some in-house testing over a handful of B4 lenses, of different ages, including one box-lense. And found what we would call a good starting point, it's not the most precise but it's also not the worst. But it should perform pretty identically on a 20-year-old lens vs a 1-year-old lens. It's recommended to have a play at this if you like to tinker or if you think it's missing something for your specific lens. Maybe it's a little slow for your liking or maybe it stutters a bit on your lens. In any case, playing with it and the PID values is not something to be afraid of, as you would not be able to damage your lenses with it as they are limited internally. And if you get way out, you can always run the PID reset command or manually paste in the default or a known working set of values.

For info on how to tune a PID controller, we would recommend reading up on what a PID controller is and what the values fully mean, there are some great resources out there that will do a better job at it than what we could do. Below are some links to some of these places:

- [Wikipedia: Proportional-integral-derivative controller](#)
- [DigiKey: What is a PID Controller?](#)
- [SiieeFPV: PIDs Simplified](#)

The default PID values that our unit comes with are:

- Kp: 20.0, Ki: 0.16 and Kd: 0.0 running at 50hz
- pid=20.00, 0.16, 0.00

Some of our notes from internal testing of other values that might make good starting points for different uses are:

- pid=20,0,0 - Stutter but accurate, works nicely on old lenses (a bit slow)
 - pid=20,0,20-20,0.01,50 - Less stutter, but still there, loses accuracy in the high f values
 - pid=75.00,0.1,50.00 Kinda works, D can go to 500
 - pid=20.00,0.25,30.00 - Pretty smooth, but overshoot
 - pid=20.00,0.20,30.00 - More smooth, with less overshoot, less accurate
 - pid=20.00,0.18,0.00 - Low-end fits, little overshoot, pretty smooth
 - pid=20.00,0.16,0.00 - Smooth, minor overshoot on quick big jumps, not super F-value correct (The current default setup)
-

Revision #11

Created 11 November 2022 13:30:45 by Heather Pedersen

Updated 25 September 2024 09:07:32 by Andreas Hauge Thomsen