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AES42-2019
Revision of AES42-2010



AES standard for acoustics - Digital interface for microphones

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AES standard for acoustics — Digital interface for microphones

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Abstract

This standard describes an extension of the existing digital audio interface AES3 to provide a digital interface for microphones.

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Foreword

[This foreword is not a part of *AES standard for acoustics — Digital interface for microphones*, AES42-2001.]

This standard has been produced under project AES-X42, Digital Interfacing of Microphones, following the rules of the AES Standards Committee by the SC-04-04 Working Group on Microphone Measurement and Characterization, of the SC-04 Subcommittee on Acoustics.

At the 102nd AES Convention in Munich, Germany, in 1997, Task Group SC-04-04-D, headed by S. Harris, discussed the concept of a digital microphone interface. Two fundamental possibilities of data transmission based on AES3 were considered, an asynchronous mode (mode 1 operation) and a synchronous mode (mode 2 operation). In 1998 a writing body within the task group was set up, headed by K. Konrath to draft a proposal for mode 1. The writing body included J. Binder, D. Flackus, M. Goodman, A. Haupt, H. Jahne, O. Kern, Konrath, J. Kühnast, C. Langen, M. Lienert, W. Niehoff, S. Peus, and H. Wollherr. During three meetings in 1999 the body drafted the proposed standard and presented it during the 106th AES Convention in Munich.

In 1999 and 2000, mode 2 was designed and tested, and has been incorporated into the standard.

D. Josephson, chair
J. Green, vice-chair
SC-04-04

Foreword to second edition, 2006

After the initial release of AES42, some refinements to the normative part of the standard continued to be discussed, principally on the topic of allocating bits in the command stream for control and reporting of gain and limiter/compressor settings. Accordingly, the principal changes in this document define additional operating features in the command structure so that processing internal to the microphone may be controlled from a mixing console, for example.

The draft was prepared by Task Group SC-04-04-D, which was led by C. Langen.

Foreword to third edition, 2010

After the second edition of AES42, the main addition to this standard is the AES42 system-command set to enable storage and recall of user settings in the microphone itself.

Additionally a new feature has been introduced: Since the upload times were not acceptable for a firmware update using the AES42 interface the bit rate can be changed. This higher bit rate, called Fast-DPP mode, can be used to transmit DPP commands or firmware update data. It is introduced as an option.

Furthermore an optional periodic transmission control feature is introduced to allow manufacturer specific command sets for remote control of microphone features.

The draft was prepared by Task Group SC-04-04-D, led by C. Langen.

Foreword to fourth edition, 2019

This version corrects some minor errors in the previous texts, clarifies language and allows for digitally controlled oscillators.

D. Josephson, chair
SC-04-04

Note on normative language

In AES standards documents, sentences containing the word “shall” are requirements for compliance with the document. Sentences containing the verb “should” are strong suggestions (recommendations). Sentences giving permission use the verb “may”. Sentences expressing a possibility use the verb “can”.

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0 Introduction

0.1 Patents

The Audio Engineering Society draws attention to the fact that it is claimed that compliance with this AES standard may involve the use of the US patent 5 051 799 dated 1991-09-24. It may also involve the use of the European Application EP 0766494A1 dated 1995-09-29. This application includes a priority for a US application: 05886656. It may also involve the use of the German patent DE 19606261 dated from 1996-02-06. This application includes a priority for the European Application EP 0794686 and the US patent 6028946.

The AES holds no position concerning the evidence, validity, and scope of these patent rights.

The holder of the US patent right has assured the AES that it is willing to negotiate licenses under reasonable and non-discriminatory terms and conditions with applicants throughout the world. In this respect, the statement of the holder of this patent right is archived with the AES.

The holder of the German patent right has assured the AES that it is willing to negotiate licenses under reasonable and non-discriminatory terms and conditions with applicants throughout the world. In this respect, the statement of the holder of this patent right is archived with the AES.

Information on the European application may be obtained from SGS-Thompson. Information on the US patent 5 051 799 may be obtained from Digital Technology Licensing LLC, C/O General Patent Corporation International, 75 Montebello Road, Suffern, NY 10901 – 3740 USA. Information on the German patent may be obtained from Stage Tec Entwicklungsgesellschaft für professionelle Audiotechnik mbH, Tabbertstrasse 10, 12459 Berlin, Germany.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this AES standard may be the subject of patent rights other than those identified herein. The AES shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

0.2 Conventions used in this standard

0.2.1 Decimal points

According to International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) directives, the comma is used in all text to indicate the decimal point. However, in the specified coding, including the examples shown, the full stop is used, as in IEC programming language standards.

0.2.2 Data representation

In this standard, all coding and data representations are printed in an equally spaced font.