

Porter



Code Activated Switch

- Four or eight port
- Serial or parallel
- Configuration menu
- Broadcast mode
- Up to 64K buffer

Features and Benefits

- Available in serial RS232 or parallel Centronics, RS422 is optional
- LEDs on the front display indicators who buffer capacity, data flow, and busy status
- Advance and select switches control port selection, LED display and access diagnostics
- Broadcast mode with buffering sends data simultaneously to all ports
- Data collection command tells if buffers have data
- Null destination command allows disconnect from all ports
- Format command allows a port's protocol to be re-configured by command, useful for modem communication
- Wait/go command pauses/resumes data flow on a port, also controls port's DTR signal
- Copy command sends multiple copies of buffer to selected output
- Read DSR command tells if port's DSR line is high or low

The Porter™ Advantage...

The Porter™ versatile, code activated switch allows one computer to send a code to select one of several devices. The Porter can be configured to match the type of equipment that you have. You do not have to have a PC to use the switch or to configure it.

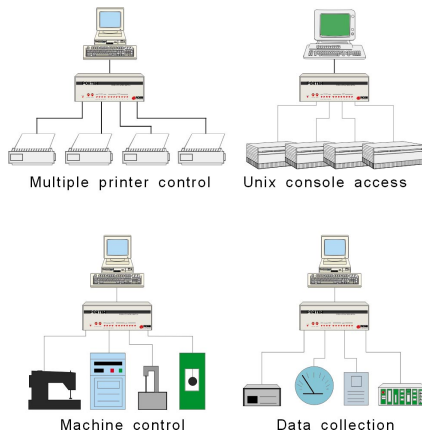
Easy to install, the Porter uses commonly available cables and works with any device with serial or parallel ports. The Porter's serial ports are DB25 and its parallel ports are Centronics.

Receive buffers accept data on all ports simultaneously. This data can then be read from the master port one at a time. The Porter transmits from buffers on all ports simultaneously. The Porter's buffer is expandable to 256K bytes. The "clear buffer" command purges all data in a port's buffer. The broadcast feature allows you to send data simultaneously on all ports.

These are a few of the features that make the Porter one of the best code activated switches on the market. Call us today about your code-activated switch application.



Typical Application



Introduction Porter™ is a versatile, full-featured code activated switch. Here are some of the features that make it the best-buffered code activated switches on the market.

Basic Concepts Porter accepts data from one computer and sends the data to a selected port. The port is selected by sending a code to the switch. The code or command is not sent to the destination port. Porter also accepts other commands to control the flow of data. The commands consist of an attention code (prefix) and command characters.

Buffer Memory The buffer is divided into a receive and transmit buffer for each port. The amount of buffer available for each port is the total buffer divided by the number of ports. For example, a unit with 8 ports and a 256K buffer would have a 16K receive buffer and a 16K transmit buffer for each port.

Cables For serial ports you need a null modem cable for most computers and printers, and a straight through cable for modems and communications devices. Parallel units use Centronics connectors. Serial cabling lengths are not recommended to exceed 100 feet. Parallel cables are not recommended to exceed 25 feet. Porter has very strong driving capability and can usually exceed these distances. The limitation is not in the Porter, but is limited by the driving capability of your equipment.

Configuration The serial model has a configuration menu. The parallel model accepts configuration commands. The definition for the prefix (default of escape @) can be changed to be up to 6 characters long. Each port on a serial Porter can be independently configured for any baud rate, DTR or XON/XOFF flow control, or DTR passed through or as a buffer flow control. The settings are saved in non-volatile memory and become the power up settings.

Connecting Upon power-up, Porter connects to the port previously configured. To connect to another port, send the proper command. For example, to connect to port 5 using the default prefix, send the three characters: escape @ 5. Porter's broadcast mode sends data to multiple ports simultaneously. Which ports are in the broadcast group is programmable. The data is buffered and flow control is activated individually on each port. There is a command to inquire if data is present in any of Porter's receive buffers. The computer can then skip those ports with no data and read data from those ports that have data available.

Other Features Porter can be operated manually with its front panel switches. Prefix purge allows Porter to purge a partial command that is in its buffer. This is useful in sending binary data where the last byte of the

block sent may contain a command character. The null destination allows the main port to not be connected to any port. The format command changes a port's communication characteristics by command. With the ready commands, you can read the state of any DSR signal. A copy command sends multiple copies of Porter's buffers. The zero command clears the selected buffer. The wait and go command inhibit or release the flow of data.

Front Panel and Diagnostics The front panel displays selected ports, busy and data signals, and errors. Porter has a full set of diagnostics executed upon power up and other diagnostics that can be run such as port loopbacks and memory pattern tests. Front switches can be programmed to be disabled in environments where tampering is discouraged.

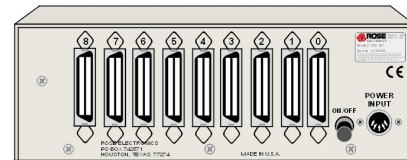
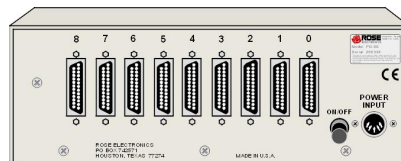
Part Numbers

PO-4S	4 to 1 serial code activated switch
PO-4P	4 to 1 parallel code activated switch
PO-8S	8 to 1 serial code activated switch
PO-8P	8 to 1 parallel code activated switch

Specifications

Size	10.5" W x 3.5" H x 5.0" D (26.7 x 12.7 x 8.9 cm.)
Weight	4 Ports: 6 lb.; 8 Ports: 7 lb.
Power	110VAC, 10VA wall adapter, 220 VAC optional
Connectors	Power: DIN5 Serial: DB25 Female Parallel: 36 pin Female Centronics
Memory	Field ungradable to 64K or 256K
Chassis	Electro-galvanized steel, painted
Control	Advance and Select switches Mode, Data, Busy, Error, Port 1-8 LEDs
Serial protocol*	EIA asynchronous RS232D
Parallel protocol	TTL Centronics
Serial flow control	DTR/DSR or XON/XOFF to buffer; DSR/DTR sent through for modem
Parallel flow control	STB/ACK/BUSY
Serial baud rate	50 - 19,200 BAUD*
Serial word size	5, 6, 7 or 8
Serial parity	None, odd, even, mark, space
Serial stop bits	1 or 2*
Environmental	0-55° C, 0-80% non-condensing rel. humidity

* Each port is individually programmable



Rear View of Porter, model PO-9S and PO-9P

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