

SERVOXCITER EF

A precision servo driver/tester with current meter and receiver diagnostics.

DESCRIPTION

The **ServoXciter EF** is a compact precision servo driver/tester that is capable of driving an R/C servo (digital or analog) throughout its useable band in 1024 discrete steps and also features:

- One touch servo centering
- Servo current draw display with 10 milliamp resolution
- Servo dead-band checking
- Servo auto-sweep mode with 32 speeds
- Record and playback custom servo movements (up to 38 seconds)

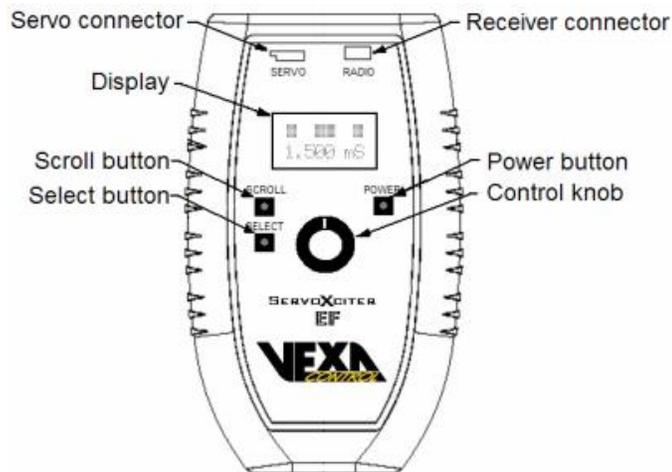
High Frame Rate capability

(with **standard or narrow pulses**).

- Read *your* receiver's output signal with 1 microsecond (μ S) resolution
- Save *your* receiver's center and end points to use when driving a servo
- View receiver glitches (short, long, and missing pulses)
- View *your* receiver battery pack's voltage

DC power jack (for 8 to 12 volt wall transformers).

The **ServoXciter EF** utilizes an easy to read LCD display, three buttons (SCROLL, SELECT, POWER) to activate the different modes and a knob to control a servo.



CONNECTORS

The **ServoXciter EF** has two connectors. The LEFT connector (**SERVO**) is the servo connector and RIGHT connector (**RADIO**) is the receiver connector. Both connectors have a signal, plus, minus (**S + -**) configuration and the label shows the layout.

To plug your receiver into the **ServoXciter EF** you should use an aileron extension cable. (best to leave it attached to the EF) The **ServoXciter EF** has a jack for using an external DC power source. Use a wall transformer rated for 8 to 12 volts, 800 mA+, with a **0.70mm ID and 2.35mm OD plug**; center positive.

!! If you use an external source, REMOVE the 9V internal battery !!

TURNING the ServoXciter EF ON and OFF

Press the POWER button to turn the **ServoXciter EF** ON. The **ServoXciter EF** is turned OFF by pressing and holding the power button until the display shows "Release button".

The **ServoXciter EF** also has an auto off mode which will turn the unit off automatically after a set amount of time of non-use (see **AUTO Shutoff** section). (Extends 9V battery life!)

SET-UP MENU

< SCROLL + POWER >

The set-up menu allows you to customize your ServoXciter EF. You can turn ON or OFF the modes available during operation, change the servo rotation, and adjust the auto-off time.

Press and hold the **SCROLL** button while turning on the power to enter the set-up menu.

Use the **SCROLL** button to cycle through the set-up menu items and the **SELECT** button to modify the menu item.

Mode Config

The top line shows the mode to be modified and the second line shows Mode=On or Mode=Off.

```
Mode
Config
```

Use the **SELECT** button to toggle the mode OFF or ON.

Use the **SCROLL** button to move to the next mode. Press the **SELECT** button when the display shows "Save and Exit" to exit.

Servo Rotation

The top line shows "Rotation" and the bottom line shows either "normal" or "reversed". Use the **SCROLL** button to toggle normal/reversed.

```
Servo
Rotation
```

Use the **SELECT** button to save and exit.

Auto Shutoff

The **ServoXciter EF** features an automatic shut-down function to save battery life when it has been accidentally left on. This feature is enabled/adjusted in the set-up menu. The top line shows "Auto Off" and the bottom line shows either 1 min, 5 min, 10 min, 15 min, 30 min, 60 min, or never.

```
Auto
Shutoff
```

Use the **SCROLL** button to toggle to the desired auto off value.

Use the **SELECT** button to save and exit.

The auto-off option can also be disabled by setting the time to "never".

The **ServoXciter EF** will turn itself off if the knob or buttons haven't been touched for the auto-off time.

Auto-OFF has no affect when the ServoXciter EF is in **RECORD** mode.

Exit Set-up

Press the **SELECT** button to exit the set-up menu and return to normal operation.

```
Exit
Set-up
```

RESETTING DEFAULTS SELECT + POWER

The **ServoXciter EF** can be reset to the factory defaults by pressing and holding the **SELECT** button while powering the ServoXciter EF. The default restore feature will set 1.500 milliseconds as the center position, 1.000 and 2.000 milliseconds as the end points, auto-off will be set to "never", servo rotation will be normal, and all modes will be available.

OPERATING MODES

The **ServoXciter EF** has ten modes for testing servos and radios. Press the **SCROLL** button to cycle through the modes. You can disable any mode (except **→DRIVE**) so that it is not visible during operation.

(See *SET-UP MENU* section).

This is useful if you find that you never use some of the modes and don't want to scroll through them.

The modes can easily be turned back on when desired.

Servo test modes



Receiver test modes



HIGH FRAME RATE ENABLE (SCROLL+SELECT+ POWER)

The **ServoXciter EF** can drive digital servos that require the High Frame Rate (4mS) instead of the standard frame rate (20mS).

Press and hold the **SCROLL** and **SELECT** buttons while powering the ServoXciter EF.

The display will show "HFR >ACTIVE<" for 2 seconds and then ask "narrow pulses?".

Press the **SCROLL** button for narrow pulses (0.50 ms to 1.00 ms, 0.75 ms center).

Press the **SELECT** button for standard pulses (1.00 ms to 2.00 ms, 1.50 ms center).

The ServoXciter EF will only operate with the High Frame Rate when turned ON while holding the **SCROLL** and **SELECT** buttons, otherwise it operates with the standard frame rate.

SERVO TEST MODES

DRIVE mode.

The bars at the top of the display show the relative position of the servo while the bottom line shows the output pulse to the servo in milliseconds (with .001 millisecond resolution).

The servo is within center range when the two center bars and two outer bars are on.

Centering a servo is as easy as pressing the **SELECT** button while in the **→DRIVE** mode. The display will show the centered indication (two outer and two center bars on) with the addition of the two markers to indicate that the unit is in one-button-center mode. The mS display will show the saved center pulse.

Press the **SELECT** button again to give servo control back to the control knob.

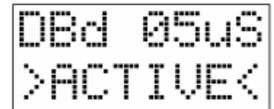
CURRENT mode.

The top line display will show the average amount of current that the servo is drawing and the bottom line will show the maximum current draw with a resolution of 10 milliamps.

Press the **SELECT** button to reset the maximum current back to 0 amps.

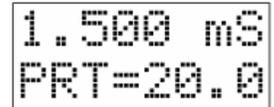
DEADBND mode.

Use the control knob to vary the dead-band value from 0 to 31 microseconds. Start with a dead-band value of 0 and slowly increase until >ACTIVE< is displayed or flashing. This point is the minimum pulse difference required to cause movement in the servo.



SWEEP mode.

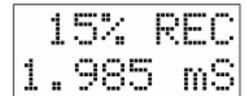
Press the **SELECT** button to turn auto-sweep on and off. Use the control knob to vary the speed of auto-sweep from 1 – 16 (16 is the fastest).



Auto-sweep is only active while in SWEEP mode.

RECORD mode.

Press the **SELECT** button to PLAY (ON) or STOP (OFF) the playback of your recorded servo movements. Press and HOLD the **SELECT** button to record the servo movements you perform with the control knob (the display will show REC).



Up to 39 seconds of recording is possible.

Automatic EndPoint detection "Auto EP" mode.

Auto EP drives the servo until a rise in current is detected.

If no current rise is detected (No Servo or "soft stops" in the servo), the EF will use .251 mS to 2.999 mS as the EndPoints indicating the minimum and maximum output pulses used in detection.

Caution!

This function can drive the servo beyond its normal range and result in damage to the servo.

OPERATION:

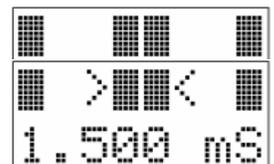
Select Auto EP in the menu

Press the **SELECT** switch to start (the control knob must be fully counterclockwise (CCW))

A message will appear if the knob is not fully CCW

"Set Knob Full CCW"

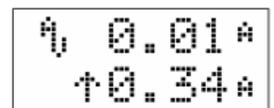
The EF will drive the servo to its lower extent and display direction arrows (→→→) (←←←) and output pulses on the top line and the observed current along with the average current on the lower line
When Auto EP detection is complete, the lowest pulse in mS is displayed on the top line and the highest pulse on the lower line.



To repeat the detection, press the **SCROLL** switch

To save, use or discard the EndPoints, turn the control knob slowly clockwise (CW) until the desired operation is displayed, then press the **SELECT** switch.

Save and Exit --- This will store the detected EndPoints in memory for use until changed.



The Defaults (1.0 to 2.0)

mS can be restored by holding the **SELECT** switch at Power On.

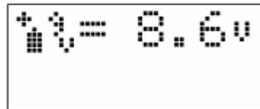
Use but **Not** Save --- The detected EndPoints will be used for the current power cycle but will revert to the "saved" endpoints at the next power cycle.

Exit and **Not** Save --- This discards the detected EndPoints and reverts to normal operation with the default or previously stored EndPoints.

NOTE: When using other than the default EndPoints (1000 μ S to 2000 μ S), the indicator bars on the DRIVE screen may not display linearly and the center indicator will be 1500 μ S not 50% of the detected range

9V BATT mode.

The voltage of the 9 volt battery is displayed here (\pm 0.1VDC).



RECEIVER TEST MODES

RX SIG mode.

This mode shows the pulse coming from your receiver to drive a servo and its pulse recurring time frame (usually around 20 milliseconds for standard frame rate and 3 to 4 milliseconds for high frame rate). This requires a servo extension cable (typical of aileron extensions) to be plugged into your receiver and into the RADIO connector of the **ServoXciter EF**.

It is highly recommended to leave the extension in place.

Save your custom center pulse

Center your trims and stick and then press the **SELECT** button. The display will show "S-Center" to indicate that the center pulse was saved if your receiver's pulse was between 1.350 ms and 1.650 ms (0.675 and 0.825 for narrow pulse mode).

Save your custom endpoint pulses

Deflect your stick in one direction then press the **SELECT** button. The display will show "S-End pt" to indicate that the endpoint was saved. Deflect your stick in the opposite direction and the press the **SELECT** button. The display will show "S-End pt" to indicate that the endpoint was saved.

The ServoXciter EF has memory for three sets of center and endpoints (normal frame rate, high frame rate/standard pulses, and high frame rate/narrow pulses).

GLITCH mode.

This mode shows the number of glitches recorded. The bottom left part of the screen (with down arrow) show the number of missing pulses. The upper right part of the screen shows the number of pulses longer than 2.500 milliseconds (1.300 ms narrow pulse mode), and the bottom right part of the screen show the number of pulses shorter than 0.500 milliseconds (0.250 ms narrow pulse mode). Press the **SELECT** button to clear the pulse counts.

RX BATT mode.

This mode shows your receiver pack battery voltage on the top line and the minimum voltage detected on the second line.



Press the **SELECT** button to reset the minimum voltage.

TESTING SERVOS

Connect the servo to be tested.

Hold the servo in your hand while sweeping the servo back and forth (manually or auto-sweep).

Listen and feel for clicking that may indicate stripped gears (repeat while applying slight pressure to the servo horn).

Put the **ServoXciter EF** into **CURRENT** mode and watch the current. Typical idle current draw on a standard S3003 servo will be approximately 0.1 amps with no load. If the current is excessively high there may be binding internal to the servo or in the linkages. A servo that pulls too much current will drain the receiver batteries faster and can lead to a crash.

Put the **ServoXciter EF** into **SWEEP** mode and watch the smoothness of the sweep during differing speeds. Jerky operation (especially near center) could indicate a bad servo pot. Jittering at the ends of the range could indicate a problem with the servo electronics.

Put the **ServoXciter EF** into **DEADBND** mode and check the deadband of the servo.

Standard ranges are from approximately 4 – 20 μ S. The higher this value the less precise the servo will be. If this value is very low the servo may hunt (jitter).

Use the deadband feature to check compatibility between servos for ganging operation, compare servos for resolution, and diagnose electronic problems.

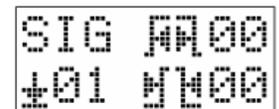
RECORD mode

Put the **ServoXciter EF** into **RECORD** mode and record a custom servo movement. This is useful when breaking -in servos with a custom sweep (slow sweep followed by fast sweep, with wait periods at the extremes). Use this mode to record a custom servo movement for breaking in gas engines or electric motors on the bench. Start at idle, ramp up to mid RPM and hold, ramp to max RPM and back to three-quarters RPM and hold, drop back to one quarter RPM, etc.

TESTING RECEIVERS

Connect the receiver to be tested.

Put the **ServoXciter EF** into the **RX SIG** mode. Use your transmitter to vary the output pulse. Watch the display for a smooth pulse transition. Leave the pulse in one spot and observe the displayed pulse. Any large changes could indicate a receiver problem or interference. Use this mode to check for transmitter stick centering repeatability. Watch the PRT (Pulse Recurrent Time) display for any rapid changes. A normal PRT will be approximately 19 – 21 milliseconds. If the PRT is very long (eg. 40mS) then the servo reaction time will be slow. If the PRT is very short (eg. 5mS) then it may cause a jittery servo condition (unless the servo is designed for High Frame Rate).



Put the **ServoXciter EF** into the **GLITCH** mode. The numbers should remain at zero. If a number is incrementing then the receiver is sending short pulses, long pulses, or no pulses at all. This could cause a loss of an airplane because the servo will react slowly or not at all.

You can use the Glitch mode to do a radio range check!

SPECIFICATIONS

Power requirement: *one 9 volt rechargeable (or alkaline) battery.*

- DC power jack (for 8 to 12 volt wall transformers).

The plug size for the DC power jack is 0.7mm inner diameter, 2.35mm outer diameter with center positive.

You can use a transformer with a voltage range from 8 to 12 volts - with a desired current capability of 800mA or more.

!! The 9-volt battery should be removed when using the wall transformer !!

Current: *can source 1A to a servo.*

Temp range: *0C to 70C*

Environment: *dry only.*

Output Signal: Default range - *1.000mS – 2.000mS*
(*1.500mS center*).

(*Maximum range 0.501mS – 2.499mS*).

Resolution: *1024 steps*

Servo Voltage: *regulated 5 VDC*

Current resolution: *10 milliamps*

WARRANTY

Limited 1 year warranty

For 1 year from date of purchase, Vexa Control, Inc. will repair or replace the ServoXciter EF free of charge if defective in material or workmanship. This warranty gives you specific legal rights. You may also have other rights which may vary from state to state.

CONTACT INFO

The Vexa Control website

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Mailing address

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PROBLEM SOLVING

Won't power on – Verify proper battery polarity and voltage. Verify proper servo and/or receiver connection (signal, plus, minus).

Won't power off – Replace the 9V battery. When the battery power drops below 6.2 volts the **ServoXciter EF** will not be able to be turned off with the **POWER** button.

Won't read receiver pulse – Verify that receiver is powered and functioning. Check connection from receiver to **ServoXciter EF**. Verify extension cable is good.

Display is black – Take unit out of direct sunlight and the display should return to normal. Never leave the **ServoXciter EF** in direct sunlight for extended periods of time.

Display shows black bars and does not operate – This may happen if the **ServoXciter EF** is turned on while plugged into an operating receiver. Remove the receiver plug, power up the **ServoXciter EF** and then plug into the receiver. If there is still a problem, reload the default parameters – press and hold the **SELECT** button while powering the unit.

Display shows strange numbers – Reload the default parameters – press and hold the **SELECT** button while powering the unit.

Servo control is inoperative or erratic – Verify servo is connected properly. Verify servo works. Reload the default parameters – press and hold the **SELECT** button while powering the unit.

One or more of the modes are missing – Turn the mode(s) back on by using "Mode Config" in the SET-UP MENU (*see SET-UP MENU section*).

The servo doesn't turn in the same direction as the control knob – Some servos have reversed control (which is normal). You can force the **ServoXciter EF** to reverse its output pulse by changing the "Servo Rotation" in the SET-UP MENU (*see SET-UP MENU section*).

Any time the **ServoXciter EF** doesn't appear to be functioning properly, try a fresh battery and reload the default parameters:

– Press and hold the **SELECT** button while powering the unit –