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HD SIGNAL SOURCE

Doremi HDG-20 HD Test Generator

by Joey Gill

As most modern television facilities adapt to emerging technologies for productivity and quality enhancements, one area that must not be neglected is that of reliable and consistent test equipment.

With the advent of digital television, most of us find that we are using our analog test generators less and less. It's no longer enough for a test generator to just provide "bars and tone" along with a pulsating right channel audio for channel identification, or even a multiburst pattern.

Adding an A/D converter to an existing generator is not a satisfactory solution either, and as digital video test generator prices have fallen, it makes a lot of sense to start shopping for a new SDI unit. The Doremi Labs HDG-20 portable HD video test generator is a perfect example of the quality of affordable test generators on the market today.

FEATURES

The HDG-20 arrived complete with a power supply, AC cord, RS-422 cable (mini DIN-8 to DB-9) and a CD manual with release notes and remote PC application included.

The generator is just about palm size and has a nice compact feel. It weighs in at about 11 ounces, with the power adapter and cables adding another 15 ounces. It's powered by the aforementioned supplied external DC power adapter which is rated at 5 volts and 2 amps. (Specified operating range for the HDG-20 is from five to 18 VDC.)

The HDG-20 sports three BNCs, an RS-422 and a power connector. One of the BNCs is for a genlock option, and the other

are outputs. They can provide identical signals, or be configured for dual link YPbPr or RGB signals. The power connector accepts either the power adapter or a battery feed. The RS-422 port allows for either firmware upgrades or remote control with the provided PC application "HDG-20 Control Panel." PC requirements are listed as either Windows XP or Vista.

The HDG-20 has a two-line LCD screen measuring about 16 mm from top to bottom and four operator buttons: up and down arrows and "Menu" and "Enter."

Six basic selections are provided from the menu mode: format, video, audio, motion, genlock, ancillary data, and system. It really couldn't be simpler, and the buttons are large with just the right spacing.



The Doremi HDG-20

For remote operation, the HDG-20 Control Panel application has four basic tabs displayed on the PC screen: format, genlock, video, and audio/ancillary data. Again, the configuration is very straightforward.

The unit provides a very complete set of video patterns, which include color bars;

black-to-white gradient, crosshatch; full-field white, red, green, and blue; circle effect/zone plate; random noise; target; multiburst and

FAST FACTS

Application

Anywhere a source of SD/HD SDI video and audio signals are needed

Key Features

Small size, SD and HD, still and moving patterns, timecode and audio

Price

As tested, \$2,500 MSRP; optional genlock, \$500; optional 708 captioning, \$1,000

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more.

Moving patterns can be combined with still patterns for hundreds of variations.

Drop- or nondrop-frame timecode is available in the ancillary data portion of the video stream. In addition, timecode can be displayed in the test pattern itself. Up to four packets of VANC data can be embedded, and 608 closed captioning is included. However, 708 closed captioning is an option, as is the genlock feature. The unit I tested did not include these options.

Embedded audio sources include a one kHz sine wave, four channels on four groups, eight values of audio level settings, along with an audio synchronization mode.

