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Available in:
✔Production Quantities

Modular Controllers and Software

Melles Griot has an extensive range of one-, two-, and three-axis controllers for stepper motor and piezoelectric actuator control. Increasingly, production of optoelectronic components requires fully automated or semiautomated control of a large number of mechanical stages. In such applications, it is often more convenient to use a modular system of controllers to drive a modular system of mechanical actuators. The line of modular control electronics and software introduced here has been designed to meet the challenges of the modern optoelectronic production environment.

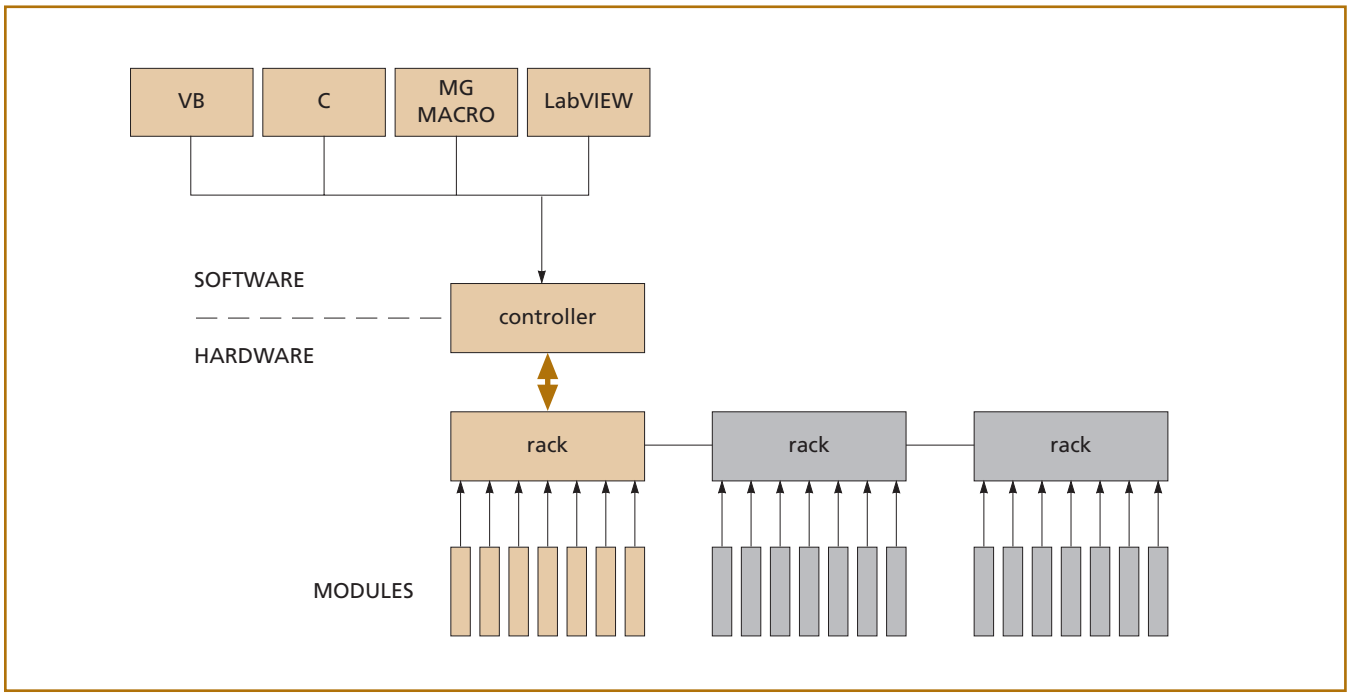
HARDWARE

The basic modular system comprises a rack 19 inches wide with single-height Eurocard modules. The rack contains a reconfigurable power supply and a back plane which provides power and communications to individual modules. The diagram below illustrates the architecture of a typical system with hardware and software modules. Expansion options are shown in grey.

The rack power supply and communications are controlled by a rack controller with a high-speed controller area network (CAN) interface. One controller can drive up to 16 racks, making the whole system expandable to large and complex applications. If an even larger system is required, additional CAN interfaces may be fitted to the controller, enabling control of up to 64 racks, which can contain as many as 448 individual modules.

Individual modules consist of a fully screened set of electronic printed circuit boards with front-panel information and connections to individual driver modules. The modules' rear panel carries a socket that mates with the rack's back plane to provide all power and communications. Each module can be easily slotted into the front of the rack, in any location and in any sequence.

The modular electronic control system provides unsurpassed ease of use and installation, reconfiguration, flexibility, upgradability, and serviceability.



Typical modular control and actuator system

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SOFTWARE

Like the controllers themselves, the control and interface software of the modular electronics system is modular, flexible, and upgradable.

The control software resides on the hardware controller, with the CAN interface installed. Internally, the software operates via an ActiveX server to the CAN interface. This method allows the full functionality of the rack hardware and modules to be easily accessed from top level software. The ActiveX server allows many client applications to reside above it.

There are three methods for controlling the ActiveX server: 'C', Visual Basic®, and LabVIEW™ A toolbox of functions and routines is supplied with each of these options, enabling full interface control of all modules.

Main Rack

The main rack that houses the individual modules contains a reconfigurable power supply capable of driving any combination of modules that can be plugged into it, without any restrictions. The rack also contains a CAN interface module and a back plane, which provides all power and communications functions to all modules. The main rack is available in both bench-top and rack-mounting versions.

SPECIFICATIONS: MAIN RACK

Input Voltage: 85–264 Vac

Frequency: 47–440 Hz

Power consumption: 750 W (maximum)

Dimensions (W × H × D):
483 mm × 133 mm × 500 mm (19.0 in. × 5.2 in. × 19.7 in.)

Visual Basic is a registered trademark of Microsoft Corporation.
LabVIEW is a trademark of National Instruments

Rack Controller

The rack controller, an industrial grade, PC with CAN interface, provides the control and interface functions needed to operate as a stand-alone system. The controller comes with all necessary software preinstalled and ready to go. Both bench-top and rack-mounting versions are available.

SPECIFICATIONS: RACK CONTROLLER

Input Voltage: 220 or 110 V

Frequency: 50 Hz to 60 Hz

Power Consumption: 250 W (maximum)

Dimensions (W × H × D):
483 mm × 500 mm × 177 mm (19.0 in. × 19.7 in. × 7.0 in.)

Modular Controllers and Software

	PRODUCT NUMBER
Main Rack, Benchtop or Frame Style	17 MMR 001
Rack Controller and Software, Benchtop Style	17 MRC 001
Rack Controller and Software, 19-Inch Frame Mounting	17 MRC 002



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