

REMOTE CONTROL REM 77 (TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN)

During the market launch of the QUAD 77 System in 1995~96, this remote control was promoted as an outstanding technological characteristic of the system. Why? For the first time - say the inventors - important data for the user on the remote control could be seen through the technology of the bidirectional link—the remote control does not only send data, like any conventional remote control, but also receives feedback, which can be represented in the display. The further advantage of such a remote control is in the fact that they can "re-learn" the equipment composition and thus adjust to new configurations, without the user intervening.

Now - and that is undecided to the discussion - the question raises itself, which serious music lovers such a feature really uses? What uses it that e.g. the title running time of the CD Players is represented not only on the equipment own display, but also on the remote control? Who please please uses the feature to read off on the quite small display of the remote control Tuner RDS data, radio text etc.? And which has that everything with high-quality music reproduction to do? In addition the "bi-directional remote control" is not new. Its use is well established by Bang & Olufsen and Japanese manufacturers such as Kenwood now use this technology in "low price" products.



But - we do not want to accuse the marketing department too much - finally it acts during the remote control "QUAD 77", as already during the description of various components of this series suggested, in order an important instrument, in order to call partly useful auxiliary functions, which cannot be affected at the equipment.

Appearance

This remote control comes along in two different versions: one in grey, for the Nextel-coated devices, and in anthracite, for the devices in "Carbon". The remote control has LCD panel over a large turning wheel. On the left and right of LC display are 10 keys. A firm function is assigned to 4 of these keys. Top left and right are, respectively "STANDBY" for shutdown and/or audio muting of the system and "SOURCE", choosing input and relevant "Top level menu". The bottom left and right buttons navigate within the menus, being "EXPAND" down the present menu and "SWAP" menu level or page

The remaining keys, so-called "soft keys"; do not have a fixed function. Their function changes according to the connected equipment and SOURCE selected, with respective functions displayed. For example, the same buttons serve in the CD player menu to select previous or next tracks; with the tuner, they move up or down the station memories. Similarly, the large knob is primarily responsible for the audio gain control, but this knob serves other

functions such as balance adjustment, depending on menu options chosen.

Usage

The remote control was always sold separately and was delivered with a "Charging Cradle". The small plug, on a cable from the Charging Cradle, must be attached thereby to "MASTER" equipment with appropriate socket.

There can be remote control problems whenever fluorescent tubes or energy saving lights are used in the same area. This leads to unpredictable malfunctioning. To be fair, every remote control system can be irritated by these sources of light, but a bi-directional system like the QUAD 77 can be affected substantially more by the emissions.

Many remote control functions in all applications cannot be discussed here. The system is dynamic and behaves differently depending on attached equipment. Here are some general characteristics.

Caution: In no case should two "MASTER" devices be operated with a remote control in the same area - for example a full amplifier and a "MASTER" CD player. In this case the remote control tries to interact to both "MASTER" devices at the same time. Even if these devices are connected by QUADLINK cables, such a configuration cannot be managed with the remote control.

RESET Command

As already mentions in the context of the technical manuals, it is necessary to RESET the remote control on first use or if you add new QUADLINK devices (CD player, tuner, etc) to the system. Initializing the remote control looks for and integrates the attached devices into the control system.

To RESET, put the remote control into the Charging Cradle with "SOURCE" key pressed. When you release the SOURCE key, "RESETS" appears in the display beside a key. The remote control can now be removed from the Charging Cradle.

After you briefly press the SOURCE key, the display shows "press any key". After pressing a key, the initialization process starts and, after a short time, all attached devices should be represented in the remote control display, on the "top level menu".

As indication that the equipment is now running through remote control, each changes the display in the buttons of the devices from **red** to **green**. If equipment is not recognized, displays remain **red**. If the communication between remote control and "MASTER" equipment was disturbed, the remote control shows "Help" and the equipment does nothing at all. In this case the whole procedure must be repeated.

Battery Replacement

The remote control uses four 1.5V NiCad AA cells in its power supply. Since the cells are soldered, it is not easy for the user to make an exchange. The supply from the cells should be disconnected at the jumper first. Cells cannot be replaced when the remote control is being used.



The remote control will not function if the cells are flat. The equipment will retain previous settings, but the remote control must be used in the cradle until the cells are recharged and the display of the remote control shows system information. NiCad cells suffer from a "memory" effect, which means they charge less fully as they age. Discharging them completely helps their ability to take up a full charge on the next "refill", but this is only possible by leaving the remote control on and out of its charging cradle.

Software Versions

The trade faced this remote control very sceptically, with the situation made more difficult because the remote control's internal software was volatile. The first software version, v1.35, had many problems, in particular with load management, which were fixed in v1.37. With v 2.03, the system became able to operate complex equipment such as the integrated tuner.

To identify the software version, put the remote control into the Charging Cradle with "SOURCE" key pressed. The display indicates software version on the left, with the "RESET" function nearby on the appropriate soft key. There was also a Windows 3.1 Basic program called "REMSIM" which used a PC to demonstrate various remote control routines.