Placed towards the display end of the HDMI path, the 121 Extender allows HDMI cable runs of up to about 50 metres (150+ feet)*. This is particularly useful when a digital video display device such as a projector is a considerable distance from the video source driving it. The unit is typically placed near the projector or other display device. Proprietary active termination, automatic cable equalization, buffering and de-jittering technology visibly improve image quality, reduce noise and stabilize the video – even on short cable runs. The automatic signal correction allows signals between –20dB and +6dB to be restored to perfect level, edges and eye pattern, making the Extender an ideal HDMI or DVI problem-solver.

The 121 Extender is a small box designed to bolt into position unobtrusively near the display unit; it may also be positioned part-way down the signal path. The unit has one input and one output: the output is connected via a short HDMI cable to the display while the input is connected via a long cable to the video source component. DVI/HDMI cables can be used with DVI sources and destinations.

The 121 Extender is powered by an external universal voltage supply or may be operated by any DC supply from 6 to 15V at under 2W consumption. It can also be powered from the HDMI cable itself in some circumstances. An indicator LED illuminates when lock is established; a power indicator LED is also included.

The High-Density Multimedia Interface, or HDMI, is ideal for connecting High Definition digital video sources to digital displays such as projectors and flat panels. HDMI also allows high-quality digital audio to be carried along the same cable.

In addition, HDMI carries digital video with definitions up to 1080p, the highest definition currently available on display equipment and significantly in advance of the capabilities of existing HD broadcasters (which are generally 720p or 1080i).

The latest release of the specification allows up to six channels of high-resolution 24-bit digital audio to be carried at sampling rates up to 96 kHz, in addition to bitstream data. This corresponds to the multichannel specification for high-resolution audio disc formats such as DVD-Audio and DualDisc, and emerging high-density audio/video disc formats.

The HDMAX121 Extender uses active termination, automatic cable equalization, buffering and de-jittering to achieve extended HDMI/DVI cable runs, while the HDMAX421 Switcher offers four-into-one HDMI switching with both local and multiple remote control capability.

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The 421 Switch is a four input, one output HDMI switching unit with extremely wide bandwidth and employing proprietary technology to switch high-resolution digital HDMI video and audio. Each input also includes Meridian’s HDMI Extender technology to improve image quality and stability and reduce noise and jitter on both short and long cable runs.
The 421 Switch can be controlled in several ways. For direct use, a front-panel button allows the user to step through the inputs. LEDs indicate which input is selected.

For serial control, a 9600 baud serial port is provided, allowing interfacing via RS232 command. In addition, sources may be assigned to different inputs, eg Cable = input 1, etc. This allows the unit to be controlled via Meridian Comms (DIN or BNC) so as to select the correct input automatically when a source is selected in a Meridian system. A G12 infrared sensor may be automatically when a source is selected in a Meridian configuration application.

Switcher Input 4 automatically senses the presence of a Meridian DVD-Audio/Video player, making a range of additional options available in the player’s on-screen display allowing video sources to be assigned to the other Switcher inputs. (Player firmware revision 1.93 or later required.) The 421 front panel button is automatically locked out when controlled by a player, to avoid inadvertent operation.

The 421 Switch includes indicators corresponding to each input to show which is currently selected. The selected input indicator comes on solidly when an HDMI input is valid, and flashes when invalid. The unit is powered by a separate universal voltage supply or any DC supply from 6 to 15V, at under 3W. The rubber feet may be removed to reveal holes for permanent installation – mounting plates and screws provided.

Both the 121 Extender and 421 Switch pass both HDMI audio and video and are completely transparent to handshaking, control and data signals, with extremely high bandwidth and virtually zero latency.

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