

Ceravolo Thermal Focus Controller Release Notes

V1.2.3

08-Oct-09

This release of the TFC software includes the following components:

1. The Focuser GUI – TFC.exe
2. Firmware to be downloaded to the focus controller – Controller.hex
3. A download utility to upgrade the controller firmware.

Installation

1. Create a new directory and unpack the zip file into a directory.
2. Install the focuser control panel *COSTFC.exe* and the focuser controller firmware download utility *TFCLoader.exe* by executing Setup.exe.

All files are installed in C:\Program Files\Ceravolo Optical Systems\Ceravolo TFC and a program group is created under Start->All Programs->Ceravolo TFC containing shortcuts to the focuser control panel and the controller firmware download utility.

Upgrading Controller Firmware

1. Ensure the focuser GUI is not running, or is disconnected from the serial port.
2. Power on the focus controller.
3. Run the **TFC Loader** utility (Start->All Programs->Ceravolo TFC->COS TFC Loader).
4. Click **Open** and browse to the **Controller.hex** file. The default location (C:\Program Files\Ceravolo Optical Systems\Ceravolo TFC\COS_TFC_Firmware.hex), should already be visible in the file field.
5. Select the COM port connected to the focus controller.
6. Set the baud rate to 9600bps.
7. Click **Open Port** if not already open.
8. Click **Download** and wait for download to complete.
9. Click **Exit** when finished.

USB Driver Installation

Some Windows XP systems may require a USB-Serial Port driver to be installed in order to communicate with the focuser. Vista normally includes an up-to-date driver.

If the driver is required, execute the setup program **CDM 2.04.16.exe** from the **USB Serial Port Drivers** directory.

V1.0.3

New Features

Manual override for Primary and Secondary heaters and Vent Fans. The check boxes located next to the lights on the GUI default to unchecked (Auto control). Clicking once will select FORCED ON mode (displays a checkmark in the checkbox). Clicking again will select FORCE OFF mode (displays a solid color in the checkbox). Clicking again will return to AUTO mode (cleared checkbox).

Bug fixes

Fixed GUI crash when receiving corrupt responses from controller.

Fixed GUI crash when unable to access log file on network drive.

V1.2.2

New Features

- More torque is available when focus motor starts up.
Added vent fan speed control.
- Focus control now remembers last position when powered off.
- Added a button force the focuser to reposition itself. The focuser will move back to the home position and then return to the last saved position.
- Added a checkbox to enable Auto Reposition on startup. This option (unchecked by default) will cause the reposition to happen automatically every time the controller is powered on.

Bug Fixes

Changes maximum speed to better match focus motor characteristics.

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New Features

- Added a new discovery function to help in finding which COM port the focuser controller is connected to. The new button can be found on the Configuration screen. When pressed, each available COM port on the computer will be searched in sequence until the focuser controller is found (or all COM ports have been searched). When found, the control panel will be automatically connected to the controller. That COM port will be remembered so, as long as the controller is not moved to a new port, the Connect button can simply be pressed to reconnect at a later time.

- Installer has been improved. The focuser control panel (COSTFC.exe), controller firmware download utility (TFTLoader.exe) and the firmware file (COS_TFC_Firmware.hex) are all now installed.
- The Optec Inc. 2-button remote keypad is now supported to control the focuser. Position information is tracked and stored as it is when controlled from the focuser control panel and is visible in the control panel.
- List of available COM ports now updates when the Configuration window is opened and when the Discover button is pressed as well as when the program loads.