

Installing the CRI VariSpec RGB or the CRI MicroColor

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Abstract

The VariSpec RGB is also known as the MicroColor. The following caution applies to the small control unit used with the VariSpec RGB. All units shipped as of 2000 ought to use this control unit; check with the company that sold you the unit if you have any questions regarding this.

Instructions

Universal Imaging recommends that you check the settings of the jumpers in your unit before attaching it to your computer. Jumpers inside the control unit must be set to choose between control via serial port and control via parallel port. CRI cautions that you can damage a unit that is jumpered for parallel by trying to control it via serial port. To change the setting, follow CRI's instructions for finding and setting the jumpers on their site at <http://www.cri-inc.com/>.

On configuring the MetaDevice: The VariSpec RGB's electronic shutter is not required when the VariSpec RGB is used as an emission filter. For that application, one can configure an illumination MetaDevice that uses the VariSpec RGB as its *Wavelength* component and has *NULL Intensity* and *Shutter* components. MetaMorph leaves the electronic shutter open until explicitly told to close it; when using a MetaDevice with a *NULL Shutter* component, MetaMorph never issues the commands to do that. If you wish to use the VariSpec RGB's electronic shutter, use it as the MetaDevice's *Shutter* component.

If MetaMorph can not control the shutter: check whether you are connecting the VariSpec RGB to a parallel port without changing the settings of the jumpers. Following is a description of the behavior of an incorrectly installed VariSpec RGB. It was jumpered for use with a serial port and connected to a parallel port. MetaMorph was configured with the VariSpec RGB driver correctly installed -- in other words, MetaMorph was used to control the VariSpec RGB, then exited normally. The computer was shut down, and then the VariSpec RGB shut off.

Start-up conditions can make it seem to misbehave. When one powers it up before booting the computer, the VariSpec's indicator light comes on as Red. As soon as one applies power to the computer, the indicator light goes out. In other words, the VariSpec is closing its shutter to keep from flooding the specimen with light.

When one waits until the computer boots before powering up the VariSpec RGB, the VariSpec's indicator light comes on as Red. As soon as one starts MetaMorph, the indicator light goes out. MetaMorph is again closing the shutter to save the specimen.

If one then opens the Illumination dialog, one can tell it to switch the VariSpec RGB between settings, but there's no effect. One must close the Illumination dialog, turn off the VariSpec RGB for five seconds, then turn it back on. Then, one can operate the controller, but when one tell it to close the shutter, the controller won't re-open it.

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