RASPBERRY PI CAMERA MODULE

This document describes the use of the three Raspberry Pi camera applications, as of January 8th 2015.

There are three applications provided: raspistill, raspivid, and raspistillyuv raspistill and raspistillyuv are very similar and are intended for capturing images; raspivid is for capturing video.

All the applications are driven from the command line, and written to take advantage of the MMAL API which runs over OpenMAX. The MMAL API provides an easier to use system than that presented by OpenMAX. Note that MMAL is a Broadcom-specific API used only on Videocore 4 systems.

The applications use up to four OpenMAX (MMAL) components: camera, preview, encoder, and null_sink. All applications use the camera component; raspistill uses the Image Encode component; raspivid uses the Video Encode component; and raspistillyuv doesn't use an encoder, and sends its YUV or RGB output directly from the camera component to file.

The preview display is optional, but can be used full-screen or directed to a specific rectangular area on the display. If preview is disabled, the null_sink component is used to 'absorb' the preview frames. The camera must produce preview frames even if these aren't required for display, as they're used for calculating exposure and white balance settings.

In addition, it's possible to omit the filename option (in which case the preview is displayed but no file is written), or to redirect all output to stdout.

Common command line options

PREVIEW WINDOW

```
--preview, -p Preview window settings <'x,y,w,h'>
```

Allows the user to define the size of the preview window and its location on the screen. Note this will be superimposed over the top of any other windows/graphics.

```
--fullscreen, -f Fullscreen preview mode
```

Forces the preview window to use the whole screen. Note that the aspect ratio of the incoming image will be retained, so there may be bars on some edges.

```
--nopreview, -n Do not display a preview window
```

Disables the preview window completely. Note that even though the preview is disabled, the camera will still be producing frames, so will be using power.

```
--opacity, -op Set preview window opacity
```

Sets the opacity of the preview windows. 0 = invisible, 255 = fully opaque.

CAMERA CONTROL OPTIONS

```
--sharpness,
                         -sh
                                   Set image sharpness (-100 - 100)
Sets the sharpness of the image. 0 is the default.
      --contrast, -co
                              Set image contrast (-100 - 100)
Sets the contrast of the image. 0 is the default.
      --brightness,
                                   Set image brightness (0 - 100)
                         -br
Sets the brightness of the image. 50 is the default. 0 is black, 100 is white.
      --saturation,
                                   Set image saturation (-100 - 100)
                         -sa
Sets the colour saturation of the image. 0 is the default.
      --ISO, -ISO
                              Set capture ISO (100 - 800)
Sets the ISO to be used for captures.
                              Turn on video stabilisation
      --vstab,
                    -vs
In video mode only, turns on video stabilisation.
                         Set EV compensation (-10 - 10)
      --ev,
Sets the EV compensation of the image. Default is 0.
```

Possible options are:

- auto: use automatic exposure mode
- night: select setting for night shooting
- nightpreview:
- backlight: select setting for backlit subject
- spotlight:
- sports: select setting for sports (fast shutter etc.)

--exposure, -ex Set exposure mode

- snow: select setting optimised for snowy scenery
- beach: select setting optimised for beach
- verylong: select setting for long exposures
- fixedfps: constrain fps to a fixed value
- antishake: antishake mode
- fireworks: select setting optimised for fireworks

Note that not all of these settings may be implemented, depending on camera tuning.

--awb, -awb Set Automatic White Balance (AWB) mode

Modes for which colour temperature ranges (K) are available have these settings in brackets.

- off: turn off white balance calculation
- auto: automatic mode (default)
- sun: sunny mode (between 5000K and 6500K)
- cloud: cloudy mode (between 6500K and 12000K)
- shade: shade mode
- tungsten: tungsten lighting mode (between 2500K and 3500K)
- fluorescent: fluorescent lighting mode (between 2500K and 4500K)
- incandescent: incandescent lighting mode
- flash: flash mode
- horizon: horizon mode

Note that not all of these settings may be implemented, depending on camera type.

--imxfx, -ifx Set image effect

Set an effect to be applied to the image:

- none: no effect (default)
- negative: invert the image colours
- solarise: solarise the image
- posterise: posterise the image
- whiteboard: whiteboard effect
- blackboard: blackboard effect
- sketch: sketch effect
- denoise: denoise the image
- emboss: emboss the image
- oilpaint: oil paint effect
- hatch: hatch sketch effect
- gpen: graphite sketch effect
- pastel: pastel effect
- watercolour: watercolour effect
- film: film grain effect
- blur: blur the image
- saturation: colour saturate the image
- colourswap: not fully implemented

- washedout: not fully implemented
- colourpoint: not fully implemented
- colourbalance: not fully implemented
- cartoon: not fully implemented

Note that not all of these settings may be available in all circumstances.

```
--colfx, -cfx Set colour effect <U:V>
```

The supplied U and V parameters (range 0 - 255) are applied to the U and Y channels of the image. For example, --colfx 128:128 should result in a monochrome image.

```
--metering, -mm Set metering mode
```

Specify the metering mode used for the preview and capture:

- average: average the whole frame for metering
- spot: spot metering
- backlit: assume a backlit image
- matrix: matrix metering

```
--rotation, -rot Set image rotation (0 - 359)
```

Sets the rotation of the image in the viewfinder and resulting image. This can take any value from 0 upwards, but due to hardware constraints only 0, 90, 180, and 270 degree rotations are supported.

```
--hflip, -hf Set horizontal flip
```

Flips the preview and saved image horizontally.

Flips the preview and saved image vertically.

```
--roi, -roi Set sensor region of interest
```

Allows the specification of the area of the sensor to be used as the source for the preview and capture. This is defined as x,y for the top-left corner, and a width and height, with all values in normalised coordinates (0.0 - 1.0). So, to set a ROI at halfway across and down the sensor, and a width and height of a quarter of the sensor, use:

Sets the shutter speed to the specified value (in microseconds). There's currently an upper limit of approximately 6000000us (6000ms, 6s), past which operation is undefined.

--drc, -drc Enable/disable dynamic range compression

DRC changes the images by increasing the range of dark areas, and decreasing the brighter areas. This can improve the image in low light areas.

- off
- low
- med
- high

By default, DRC is off.

Displays the exposure, analogue and digital gains, and AWB settings used.

Sets blue and red gains (as floating point numbers) to be applied when -awb -off is set e.g. -awbg 1.5,1.2

Sets a specified sensor mode, disabling the automatic selection. Possible values depend on the version of the Camera Module being used:

0.1-30fps

Partial

None

Version 1.x (OV5647)

0

1

automatic selection

1920x1080

Mode	Size	Aspect Ratio	Frame rates	FOV	Binning
0	automatic selection				
1	1920x1080	16:9	1-30fps	Partial	None
2	2592x1944	4:3	1-15fps	Full	None
3	2592x1944	4:3	0.1666-1fps	Full	None
4	1296x972	4:3	1-42fps	Full	2x2
5	1296x730	16:9	1-49fps	Full	2x2
6	640x480	4:3	42.1-60fps	Full	2x2 plus skip
7	640x480	4:3	60.1-90fps	Full	2x2 plus skip
Version 2.	x (IMX219)				
Mode	Size	Aspect Ratio	Frame rates	FOV	Binning

16:9

Mod	e Size	Aspect Ratio	Frame rates	FOV	Binning
2	3280x2464	4:3	0.1-15fps	Full	None
3	3280x2464	4:3	0.1-15fps	Full	None
4	1640x1232	4:3	0.1-40fps	Full	2x2
5	1640x922	16:9	0.1-40fps	Full	2x2
6	1280x720	16:9	40-90fps	Partial	2x2
7	640x480	4:3	40-90fps	Partial	2x2
	camselect,	-cs			

Selects which camera to use on a multi-camera system. Use 0 or 1.

--annotate, -a Enable/set annotate flags or text

Adds some text and/or metadata to the picture.

Metadata is indicated using a bitmask notation, so add them together to show multiple parameters. For example, 12 will show time(4) and date(8), since 4+8=12.

Text may include date/time placeholders by using the '%' character, as used by strftime.

	Value	Meaning	Example Output
	-a 4	Time	20:09:33
	-a 8	Date	10/28/15
	-a 12	4+8=12 Show the date(4) and time(8)	20:09:33 10/28/15
	-a 16	Shutter Settings	
	-a 32	CAF Settings	
	-a 64	Gain Settings	
	-a 128	Lens Settings	
	-a 256	Motion Settings	
	-a 512	Frame Number	
	-a 1024	Black Background	
	-a "ABC %Y-%m-%d %X"	Show some text	ABC %Y-%m-%d %X
	-a 4 -a "ABC %Y-%m-%d %X"	Show custom formatted date/time	ABC 2015-10-28 20:09:33
	-a 8 -a "ABC %Y-%m-%d %X"	Show custom formatted date/time	ABC 2015-10-28 20:09:33
I	annotateex, -ae	Set extra annotation paramet	cers

Specifies annotation size, text colour, and background colour. Colours are in hex YUV format.

Size ranges from 6 - 160; default is 32. Asking for an invalid size should give you the default.

Example-ae 32,0xff,0x808000 -a "Annotation text" gives size 32 white text on black background -ae 10,0x00,0x8080FF -a "Annotation text" gives size 10 black text on white background

Application-specific settings

RASPISTILL

```
--width, -w Set image width <size>
--height, -h Set image height <size>
--quality, -q Set JPEG quality <0 to 100>
```

Quality 100 is almost completely uncompressed. 75 is a good all-round value.

```
--raw, -r Add raw Bayer data to JPEG metadata
```

This option inserts the raw Bayer data from the camera into the JPEG metadata.

```
--output, -o Output filename <filename>
```

Specifies the output filename. If not specified, no file is saved. If the filename is '-', then all output is sent to stdout.

```
--latest, -l Link latest frame to filename <filename>
```

Makes a file system link under this name to the latest frame.

```
--verbose, -v Output verbose information during run
```

Outputs debugging/information messages during the program run.

```
--timeout, -t Time before the camera takes picture and shuts down
```

The program will run for this length of time, then take the capture (if output is specified). If not specified, this is set to 5 seconds.

```
--timelapse, -tl time-lapse mode
```

The specific value is the time between shots in milliseconds. Note that you should specify <code>%04d</code> at the point in the filename where you want a frame count number to appear. So, for example, the code below will produce a capture every 2 seconds, over a total period of 30s, named <code>image0001.jpg</code>, <code>image0002.jpg</code> and so on, through to

image0015.jpg

```
-t 30000 -tl 2000 -o image%04d.jpg
```

If a time-lapse value of 0 is entered, the application will take pictures as fast as possible. Note that there's an minimum enforced pause of 30ms between captures to ensure that exposure calculations can be made.

```
--thumb, -th Set thumbnail parameters (x:y:quality)
```

Allows specification of the thumbnail image inserted into the JPEG file. If not specified, defaults are a size of 64x48 at quality 35.

This options cycles through the range of camera options. No capture is taken, and the demo will end at the end of the timeout period, irrespective of whether all the options have been cycled. The time between cycles should be specified as a millisecond value.

```
--encoding, -e Encoding to use for output file
```

Valid options are <code>jpg</code>, <code>bmp</code>, <code>gif</code>, and <code>png</code>. Note that unaccelerated image types (GIF, PNG, BMP) will take much longer to save than jpg, which is hardware accelerated. Also note that the filename suffix is completely ignored when deciding the encoding of a file.

```
--exif, -x EXIF tag to apply to captures (format as 'key=value')
```

Allows the insertion of specific EXIF tags into the JPEG image. You can have up to 32 EXIF tag entries. This is useful for tasks like adding GPS metadata. For example, to set the longitude:

```
--exif GPS.GPSLongitude=5/1,10/1,15/1
```

would set the longitude to 5 degs, 10 minutes, 15 seconds. See EXIF documentation for more details on the range of tags available; the supported tags are as follows:

```
IFD0.< or
IFD1.<
ImageWidth, ImageLength, BitsPerSample, Compression, PhotometricInterpretation,
ImageDescription, Make, Model, StripOffsets, Orientation, SamplesPerPixel, RowsPerString,
StripByteCounts, XResolution, YResolution, PlanarConfiguration, ResolutionUnit,
TransferFunction, Software, DateTime, Artist, WhitePoint, PrimaryChromaticities,
JPEGInterchangeFormat, JPEGInterchangeFormatLength, YCbCrCoefficients, YCbCrSubSampling,
YCbCrPositioning, ReferenceBlackWhite, Copyright>
```

ExposureTime, FNumber, ExposureProgram, SpectralSensitivity, ISOSpeedRatings, OECF,

ExifVersion, DateTimeOriginal, DateTimeDigitized, ComponentsConfiguration,
CompressedBitsPerPixel, ShutterSpeedValue, ApertureValue, BrightnessValue,
ExposureBiasValue, MaxApertureValue, SubjectDistance, MeteringMode, LightSource, Flash,
FocalLength, SubjectArea, MakerNote, UserComment, SubSecTime, SubSecTimeOriginal,
SubSecTimeDigitized, FlashpixVersion, ColorSpace, PixelXDimension, PixelYDimension,
RelatedSoundFile, FlashEnergy, SpatialFrequencyResponse, FocalPlaneXResolution,
FocalPlaneYResolution, FocalPlaneResolutionUnit, SubjectLocation, ExposureIndex,
SensingMethod, FileSource, SceneType, CFAPattern, CustomRendered, ExposureMode,
WhiteBalance, DigitalZoomRatio, FocalLengthIn35mmFilm, SceneCaptureType, GainControl,
Contrast, Saturation, Sharpness, DeviceSettingDescription, SubjectDistanceRange,
ImageUniqueID>

GPS.<

GPSVersionID, GPSLatitudeRef, GPSLatitude, GPSLongitudeRef, GPSLongitude, GPSAltitudeRef, GPSAltitude, GPSTimeStamp, GPSSatellites, GPSStatus, GPSMeasureMode, GPSDOP, GPSSpeedRef, GPSSpeed, GPSTrackRef, GPSTrack, GPSImgDirectionRef, GPSImgDirection, GPSMapDatum, GPSDestLatitudeRef, GPSDestLatitude, GPSDestLongitudeRef, GPSDestLongitude, GPSDestBearingRef, GPSDestBearing, GPSDestDistanceRef, GPSDestDistance, GPSProcessingMethod, GPSAreaInformation, GPSDateStamp, GPSDifferential>

EINT. <

InteroperabilityIndex, InteroperabilityVersion, RelatedImageFileFormat,
RelatedImageWidth, RelatedImageLength>

Note that a small subset of these tags will be set automatically by the camera system, but will be overridden by any EXIF options on the command line.

Setting --exif none will prevent any EXIF information being stored in the file. This reduces the file size slightly.

--fullpreview, -fp Full preview mode

This runs the preview window using the full resolution capture mode. Maximum frames per second in this mode is 15fps, and the preview will have the same field of view as the capture. Captures should happen more quickly, as no mode change should be required. This feature is currently under development.

--keypress, -k Keypress mode

The camera is run for the requested time (-t), and a capture can be initiated throughout that time by pressing the Enter key. Pressing X then Enter will exit the application before the timeout is reached. If the timeout is set to 0, the camera will run indefinitely until the user presses X then Enter. Using the verbose option (-v) will display a prompt asking for user input, otherwise no prompt is displayed.

--signal, -s Signal mode

The camera is run for the requested time (-t), and a capture can be initiated throughout that time by sending a usr1 signal to the camera process. This can be done using the kill command. You can find the camera process ID using the pgrep raspistill command.

```
kill -USR1 cess id of raspistill>
```

RASPISTILLYUV

Many of the options for raspistillyuv are the same as those for raspistill. This section shows the differences.

Unsupported options:

Extra options:

This option forces the image to be saved as RGB data with 8 bits per channel, rather than YUV420.

Note that the image buffers saved in raspistillyuv are padded to a horizontal size divisible by 32, so there may be unused bytes at the end of each line. Buffers are also padded vertically to be divisible by 16, and in the YUV mode, each plane of Y,U,V is padded in this way.

RASPIVID

```
--width, -w Set image width <size>
```

Width of resulting video. This should be between 64 and 1920.

```
--height, -h Set image height <size>
```

Height of resulting video. This should be between 64 and 1080.

```
--bitrate, -b Set bitrate
```

Use bits per second, so 10Mbits/s would be _-b 10000000 . For H264, 1080p30 a high quality bitrate would be 15Mbits/s or more. Maximum bitrate is 25Mbits/s (_-b 25000000), but much over 17Mbits/s won't show noticeable improvement at 1080p30.

```
--output, -o Output filename <filename>
```

Specify the output filename. If not specified, no file is saved. If the filename is '-', then all output is sent to stdout.

```
--verbose, -v Output verbose information during run
```

Outputs debugging/information messages during the program run.

```
--timeout, -t Time before the camera takes picture and shuts down
```

The program will run for this length of time, then take the capture (if output is specified). If not specified, this is set to 5 seconds. Setting 0 will mean the application will run continuously until stopped with Ctrl-C.

```
--demo, -d Run a demo mode <milliseconds>
```

This options cycles through the range of camera options. No capture is done, and the demo will end at the end of the timeout period, irrespective of whether all the options have been cycled. The time between cycles should be specified as a millisecond value.

```
--framerate, -fps Specify the frames per second to record
```

At present, the minimum frame rate allowed is 2fps, and the maximum is 30fps. This is likely to change in the future.

```
--penc, -e Display preview image after encoding
```

Switch on an option to display the preview after compression. This will show any compression artefacts in the preview window. In normal operation, the preview will show the camera output prior to being compressed. This option is not guaranteed to work in future releases.

```
--intra, -g Specify the intra refresh period (key frame rate/GoP)
```

Sets the intra refresh period (GoP) rate for the recorded video. H264 video uses a complete frame (I-frame) every intra refresh period, from which subsequent frames are based. This option specifies the number of frames between each I-frame. Larger numbers here will reduce the size of the resulting video, and smaller numbers make the stream less error-prone.

```
--qp, -qp Set quantisation parameter
```

Sets the initial quantisation parameter for the stream. Varies from approximately 10 to 40, and will greatly affect the quality of the recording. Higher values reduce quality and decrease file size. Combine this setting with a bitrate of 0 to set a completely variable bitrate.

```
--profile, -pf Specify H264 profile to use for encoding
```

Sets the H264 profile to be used for the encoding. Options are:

- baseline
- main
- high

```
--inline, -ih Insert PPS, SPS headers
```

Forces the stream to include PPS and SPS headers on every I-frame. Needed for certain streaming cases e.g. Apple HLS. These headers are small, so don't greatly increase the file size.

```
--timed, -td Do timed switches between capture and pause
```

This options allows the video capture to be paused and restarted at particular time intervals. Two values are required: the on time and the off time. On time is the amount of time the video is captured, and off time is the amount it is paused. The total

time of the recording is defined by the timeout option. Note that the recording may take slightly over the timeout setting depending on the on and off times.

For example:

```
raspivid -o test.h264 -t 25000 -timed 2500,5000
```

will record for a period of 25 seconds. The recording will be over a timeframe consisting of 2500ms (2.5s) segments with 5000ms (5s) gaps, repeating over the 20s. So the entire recording will actually be only 10s long, since 4 segments of 2.5s = 10s separated by 5s gaps. So:

2.5 record - 5 pause - 2.5 record - 5 pause - 2.5 record - 5 pause - 2.5 record

gives a total recording period of 25s, but only 10s of actual recorded footage.

```
--keypress, -k Toggle between record and pause on Enter keypress
```

On each press of the Enter key, the recording will be paused or restarted. Pressing X then Enter will stop recording and close the application. Note that the timeout value will be used to signal the end of recording, but is only checked after each Enter keypress; so if the system is waiting for a keypress, even if the timeout has expired, it will still wait for the keypress before exiting.

```
--signal, -s Toggle between record and pause according to SIGUSR1
```

Sending a USR1 signal to the raspivid process will toggle between recording and paused. This can be done using the kill command, as below. You can find the raspivid process ID using pgrep raspivid.

```
kill -USR1 cess id of raspivid>
```

Note that the timeout value will be used to indicate the end of recording, but is only checked after each receipt of the SIGUSR1 signal; so if the system is waiting for a signal, even if the timeout has expired, it will still wait for the signal before exiting.

```
--initial, -i Define initial state on startup
```

Define whether the camera will start paused or will immediately start recording. Options are record or pause. Note that if you are using a simple timeout, and initial is set to pause, no output will be recorded.

```
--segment, -sg Segment the stream into multiple files
```

Rather than creating a single file, the file is split into segments of approximately the numer of milliseconds specified. In order to provide different filenames, you should add <code>%04d</code> or similar at the point in the filename where you want a segment count number to appear e.g:

```
--segment 3000 -o video%04d.h264
```

will produce video clips of approximately 3000ms (3s) long, named video0001.h264, video0002.h264 etc. The clips should be seamless (no frame drops between clips), but the accuracy of each clip length will depend on the intraframe period, as the segments will always start on an I-frame. They will therefore always be equal or longer to the specified period.

```
--wrap, -wr Set the maximum value for segment number
```

When outputting segments, this is the maximum the segment number can reach before it's reset to 1, giving the ability to keep recording segments, but overwriting the oldest one. So if set to 4, in the segment example above, the files produced will be video0001.h264 video0002.h264 video0003.h264 and video0004.h264. Once video0004.h264 is recorded, the count will reset to 1, and video0001.h264 will be overwritten.

```
--start, -sn Set the initial segment number
```

When outputting segments, this is the initial segment number, giving the ability to resume a previous recording from a given segment. The default value is 1.

Examples

STILL CAPTURES

By default, captures are done at the highest resolution supported by the sensor. This can be changed using the _w and _-h command line options.

Take a default capture after 2s (times are specified in milliseconds) on the viewfinder, saving in image.jpg

```
raspistill -t 2000 -o image.jpg
```

Take a capture at a different resolution:

```
raspistill -t 2000 -o image.jpg -w 640 -h 480
```

Reduce the quality considerably to reduce file size:

```
raspistill -t 2000 -o image.jpg -q 5
```

Force the preview to appear at coordinate 100,100, with width 300 pixels and height 200 pixels:

```
raspistill -t 2000 -o image.jpg -p 100,100,300,200
```

Disable preview entirely:

```
raspistill -t 2000 -o image.jpg -n
```

Save the image as a PNG file (lossless compression, but slower than JPEG). Note that the filename suffix is ignored when choosing the image encoding:

```
raspistill -t 2000 -o image.png -e png
```

Add some EXIF information to the JPEG. This sets the Artist tag name to Boris, and the GPS altitude to 123.5m. Note that if setting GPS tags you should set as a minimum GPSLatitude, GPSLatitudeRef, GPSLongitude, GPSLongitudeRef, GPSLongitudeRef

```
and GPSAltitudeRef:
```

```
raspistill -t 2000 -o image.jpg -x IFDO.Artist=Boris -x GPS.GPSAltitude=1235/10
```

Set an emboss image effect:

```
raspistill -t 2000 -o image.jpg -ifx emboss
```

Set the U and V channels of the YUV image to specific values (128:128 produces a greyscale image):

```
raspistill -t 2000 -o image.jpg -cfx 128:128
```

Run preview for 2s, with no saved image:

```
raspistill -t 2000
```

Take a time-lapse picture, every 10 seconds for 10 minutes (10 minutes = 600000ms), naming the files

```
raspistill -t 600000 -tl 10000 -o image_num_%03d_today.jpg -l latest.jpg
```

Take a picture and send the image data to stdout:

```
raspistill -t 2000 -o -
```

Take a picture and send the image data to a file:

```
raspistill -t 2000 -o - > my_file.jpg
```

Run the camera forever, taking a picture when Enter is pressed:

```
raspistill -t 0 -k -o my_pics%02d.jpg
```

VIDEO CAPTURES

Image size and preview settings are the same as for stills capture. Default size for video recording is 1080p (1920x1080).

Record a 5s clip with default settings (1080p30):

```
raspivid -t 5000 -o video.h264
```

Record a 5s clip at a specified bitrate (3.5Mbits/s):

```
raspivid -t 5000 -o video.h264 -b 3500000
```

Record a 5s clip at a specified framerate (5fps):

```
raspivid -t 5000 -o video.h264 -f 5
```

Encode a 5s camera stream and send the image data to stdout:

```
raspivid -t 5000 -o -
```

Encode a 5s camera stream and send the image data to a file:

```
raspivid -t 5000 -o - > my_file.h264
```

Shell error codes

The applications described here will return a standard error code to the shell on completion. Possible error codes are:

C Define	Code	Description
EX_OK	0	Application ran successfully
EX_USAGE	64	Bad command line parameter
EX_SOFTWARE	70	Software or camera error
	130	Application terminated by Ctrl-C