MCS2 HAND CONTROL MODULE

USER MANUAL









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The information given in this document was carefully checked by our team and is constantly updated. Nevertheless, it is not possible to fully exclude the presence of errors. In order to always get the latest information, please contact our technical sales team.

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1 INTRODUCTION

This document is a user manual for the SmarAct MCS2 Hand Control Module, which is either an external module connected to the MCS2 main controller or integrated into the MCS2 main controller.

The MCS2 Hand Control Module offers easy and ready-to-go control without the need of complex installation procedures. After power up the device is ready to use and you may start using your positioning system right away. This manual describes how to control your positioners with the integrated or external Hand Control Module. The device offers two joysticks and three knobs to control the positioners, as well as a display and four buttons to configure the device.

The Hand Control Module supports different driver modules and the available options and controls depend on the connected driver module type. Refer to the *MCS2 Programmers Guide* for the differences between the Stick-Slip Piezo Driver and the Magnetic Driver.

Chapter 2 describes the setup of the display in general, chapter 3 explains how to control your positioners and chapter 4 shows you how to configure the device.

Generally, the Hand Control Module is always in one of two operation modes:

- **Normal Mode** In this mode you may use the joysticks and the control knobs to move the positioners. This is the default mode that is active after a power-up.
- **Menu Mode** This mode is used to configure the device. The control knobs and buttons are used to navigate through the menu and select configuration options.

In case of an external Hand Control Module the interface supports hot-plugging. Therefore, the device may be attached to or detached from the main controller at any time.



NOTICE

Detaching the device from the main controller will stop all movements sent by the device. Movements sent by other sources will remain unaffected.

2 DISPLAY SETUP

Depending on the current operation mode the display has a different setup.

2.1 Normal Mode

In normal operation the display shows information of up to three channels (one channel group, see figure 2.1). Channel groups are shown as tabs on the top of the screen. The active group is highlighted and horizontally centered. Each channel is shown as a row with the channel state on the left side and control parameters on the right side. The header of the channel state shows the name of the channel and it's index in parentheses. Behind the name the current move state of the channel is shown. Below the header most of the space is taken by the current position of the channel. The digits of the position are grouped in blocks of three with the corresponding unit below. On the very left the current calibration and referencing state is shown. If the box is highlighted, the corresponding channel is calibrated or referenced.

The control parameters on the right side show the active control mode and associated parameters. The bottom of the screen features a status bar which will display events received from the main controller and occasionally some hints.

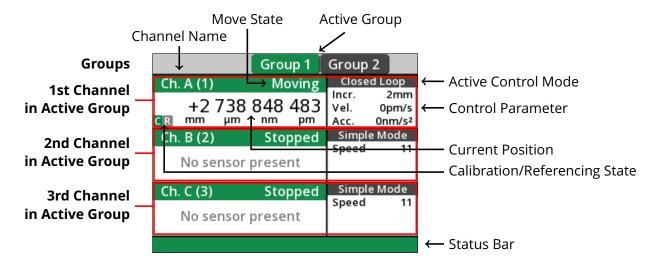


Figure 2.1: Display setup in normal operation

2.2 Menu Mode

The menu mode is used to configure the Hand Control Module and to execute special commands, e.g., finding reference marks of positioners with sensors. To enter the menu mode press the *Menu* button next to the display (top left). To exit the menu mode press this button again or select the *Exit* item of the main menu.

The menu screen (see figure 2.2) shows the name of the current menu at the top. The main part shows the items available in the current menu and the currently selected item is highlighted. The current item selection can be moved by turning any of the knobs. If the current menu contains more items than fit on the screen, the item list is scrolled vertically once the item selection reaches the top/bottom of the screen. The current scroll position is shown in the scroll bar on the left. The status bar at the bottom shows hints for some menu items.

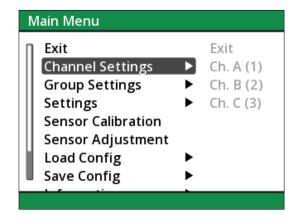


Figure 2.2: Display setup in menu mode

An arrow on the right side of a menu entry indicates a submenu item. Once a submenu item is scrolled to, a preview of the submenu will be displayed in light colors on the right side of the display. The submenu can be entered by pressing any of the knobs. The current submenu may be exited by selecting the *Exit* item on the top or by pressing the *Back* button.

Other menu item types include value items which show their current value on the right side. By selecting the item and pressing any knob the value is cycled through the possible values or an additional value selection screen is opened for items with many possible values.

2.3 Error Reporting

While using the Hand Control Module you may experience a number of different warnings or errors. This section gives an overview of the most common error cases and gives some troubleshooting hints. Please refer to the MCS2 Programmers Guide for more information on specific errors.

In *Normal Mode* errors and information are reported using the status bar at the bottom of the screen. In *Menu Mode* errors are reported using message boxes. Possible errors reported by the device are:

- **Endstop reached** The positioner reached a mechanical endstop. Check mechanical setup for free movement if this is unexpected.
- **Range limit reached** The positioner reached the configured range limit. Verify range limit settings if this is unexpected.
- **Holding aborted** While holding the current position the positioner was forcefully moved.
- **Movement overridden** The current movement of the Hand Control Module was overridden by a new movement command from the PC.
- **No sensor present** Performing closed-loop movements requires a positioner with a sensor. Verify that the positioner has a sensor and is properly connected.
- **Sensor disabled** The sensor of the positioner is currently disabled. Enabled it by changing the *Sensor Power Mode*.
- **Power supply overload** The power supply is overloaded. Check wiring and positioner for damages.
- **Over temperature** The amplifier temperature is critically high. Check that the fan is not blocked and the device has sufficient air flow for cooling.
- **Invalid parameter** The entered value is not allowed for the current parameter. Try a different value or check the *MCS2 Programmers Guide* for the allowed value range.
- **Sensor type not supported** The positioner sensor type is not supported by the sensor module. Verify that you have selected the correct positioner type and sensor module for your positioner.
- **Busy moving** The current parameter can't be changed while a movement is in progress. Stop the positioner and try changing the parameter again.

Additionally you may see a warning symbol in the lower right corner of your screen. This indicates that at least one module is in an error state. You can get more information about the error by checking the *Information* menu. Modules in an error state are highlighted in red. The module state will indicate the type or error.

3 CONTROL MODES

In normal operation the joysticks and the knobs are used to control positioners. Each of the three knobs correspond to one of the three channels currently displayed. The left knob controls the first channel on the top, and so on. The four joystick axis may be freely mapped to any of the three channels.

Turning a knob or moving a joystick will perform a movement. The type of the movement depends on the control mode that is currently configured for the channel. There are four different modes to control the positioners:

- Simple Control Mode¹
- Advanced Control Mode¹
- Scan Control Mode¹
- Closed-Loop Control Mode

Each channel may be configured with it's own control mode independently. In general, the distance moved per knob turn is given by an increment or number of steps parameter. The joystick performs a smooth movement with a velocity given by the joystick position and a velocity parameter. The direction of the movement depends on the direction you turned the knob or moved the joystick and also on the invert configuration of the knob or joystick.

To change the control mode of a channel press and hold the *Mode* button next to the display (bottom left). In this state, instead of moving the positioners, the knobs are used to change the control modes of the corresponding channels. By turning the knobs you may cycle through the available control modes in both directions. See the following sections for a detailed description of the control modes and their parameter settings.

Each control mode has its own parameters. The parameter change state can be entered by pressing the knob corresponding to the channel. See section 3.1 "Changing Control Mode Parameters" for a detailed description on how to change control mode parameters.



NOTICE

When entering the parameter change state using the knob, the corresponding channel is implicitly stopped. This may be useful to abort a movement. Alternatively, the parameter change state can be entered by touching the screen anywhere on the parameter list, which will not stop the channel.

¹This mode is only applicable for Stick-Slip Piezo Driver.

3.1 Changing Control Mode Parameters

In normal operation mode the right side of each channel shows the current control mode and its associated parameters. These parameters can be changed in multiple different ways.

Pressing the knob of the corresponding channel switches into the parameter change state (see figure 3.1). In this state one of the control mode parameters is highlighted and may be changed by turning the knob. If multiple parameters are available, the active one can be changed by pressing and holding the knob. This will show up/down arrows next to the parameter name. Turning the knob in this state (while pressed) will change the currently selected parameter. Pressing and releasing the knob without having changed the current parameter will exit the parameter change state. The parameter change state can also be entered by touching the screen anywhere on the parameter list and exited by touching the channel state. While this method allows easy and fast changing of parameters, only values of a fixed set may be selected.

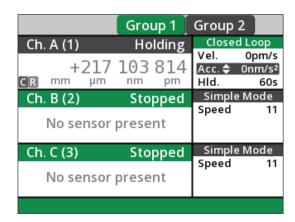


Figure 3.1: Channel A (1) is in parameter change state



NOTICE

Note that only up to 3 parameters may be visible at the same time, but some control modes may contain more parameters. Scrolling past the end of the displayed parameters will scroll the parameter list and show the remaining parameters. The visibility of the up/down arrows will indicate whether scrolling in a direction is possible. Also note that parameters may be read only and therefore cannot be selected.

The second method is more flexible and allows arbitrary values (within a certain valid range) to be set. Touching the screen anywhere on the parameter list, while in parameter change state, will bring up the parameter edit screen for the chosen channel (see figure 3.2). The top of the screen shows tabs for each parameter that can be set for the current control mode. The active parameter tab is highlighted and horizontally centered. It can be changed by touching the tab of the parameter or by using the *Group Up/Down* buttons (next to the display on the right side). For the selected parameter the current value is shown inside a text box. The value may be edited by using the displayed number pad and the touch screen. Some parameters allow specifying an

additional unit for the value entered into the text box. This is visualized by a number of buttons next to the number pad, with the currently selected unit highlighted in a darker color. The unit can be changed by touching the corresponding button. Touching the OK button accepts the values for all parameters and closes the parameter edit screen. Parameters that are out of range are modified automatically, so that they are just within the valid range. The parameter edit screen can also be exited without accepting the new parameters by touching the red \times in the top right corner or using the Back button (bottom left next to the display).

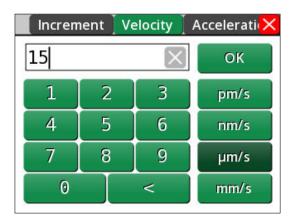


Figure 3.2: Parameter edit screen

The last method allows quick changing of the increment parameter (Simple Control Mode and Closed-Loop Control Mode only). Holding the Mode button (bottom left) and using the Group Up-/Down buttons changes the increment parameter of all channels in the current group.

3.2 Simple Control Mode

The Simple Control Mode offers an easy way to move a positioner using a generic speed level. This mode performs step movements without sensor feedback (open-loop). This mode is only applicable for Stick-Slip Piezo Driver. Only a single parameter may be configured:

Parameter	Description
Speed (Spd.)	Generic speed level for open-loop movements. Higher values result in a faster
	movement. This also configures the maximum step frequency for joystick
	moves.

3.3 Advanced Control Mode

The *Advanced Control Mode* performs the same stepping movements as the *Simple Control Mode* and is only applicable for Stick-Slip Piezo Driver. Instead of a generic speed level, which is internally mapped to a set of movement parameters, the following parameters may be set individually:

Parameter	Description
Steps (Stp.)	Number of steps performed when turning a knob by one notch. This value is ignored for joystick movements.
Amplitude (Amp.)	Voltage amplitude for each step. Higher amplitude values result in a larger step width. The step amplitude is a 16bit value from 1 \dots 65 535, where 65 535 corresponds to 100V.
Frequency (Frq.)	Frequency in Hz that steps are performed with. This also configures the maximum frequency for joystick movements.

3.4 Scan Control Mode

In *Scan Control Mode* the positioner doesn't perform any steps. Only the elongation of the piezo element, which depends on the applied voltage, is controlled through this mode. This mode is only applicable for Stick-Slip Piezo Driver. When reaching the minimum or maximum voltage the positioner will stop. In this state a scan movement instruction in the direction of the boundary will have no effect. If you wish to move the positioner further in this direction you must switch to one of the other control modes. The following movement parameters are available for this mode:

Parameter	Description
Increment (Incr.)	Voltage increment that is performed when turning a knob by one notch. The increment is a 16bit value from 1 65 535, where 65 535 corresponds to 100V. This value is ignored for joystick movements.
Speed (Spd.)	Generic speed level for scan movements. Higher values result in a faster scan velocity. This also configures the maximum scan velocity for joystick moves.
DAC	Read only value showing the current output voltage of the digital-to-analog converter as a 16bit value.

3.5 Closed-Loop Control Mode

With the *Closed-Loop Control Mode* the positioner is controlled using sensor feedback. In this mode the positioner can be moved by a certain relative distance.

Magnetic Driver

To perform movements on the Magnetic Driver the amplifier needs to be enabled first. Trying to start a movement with the amplifier disabled will open a prompt with the option to enable the amplifier now. Without the closed-loop control active the positioners have no holding force so stop commands will result in the positioner entering the holding state. To release the holding force, disable the amplifier again in the channel settings.

The following parameters can be configured in this mode:

Parameter	Description
Increment (Incr.)	Position increment that is performed when turning a knob by one notch. If velocity control is disabled (see velocity parameter below) the maximum joystick velocity is set to 10 times the position increment per second.
Velocity (Vel.)	Velocity of the movement. A value of zero disables velocity control and results in a movement with maximum velocity (only allowed for Stick-Slip Piezo Driver). If this value is not zero, this also configures the maximum movement velocity for joystick moves.
Acceleration (Acc.)	Acceleration of the movement. A value of zero disables acceleration control (only allowed for Stick-Slip Piezo Driver). For this parameter to take effect, velocity control must be enabled. Joystick movements are always performed without acceleration control.
Hold Time (Hld.) ¹	Defines the time the position is held, once the target position is reached.



NOTICE

The closed-loop control mode may be configured for channels without a sensor, but performing movements requires a sensor to be attached.

¹This parameter is only applicable for Stick-Slip Piezo Driver.

4 MENU MODE

To enter the menu mode press the Menu button next to the display (top left). To return to the normal mode press this button again or select the Exit item of the main menu.

Before using the device for the first time, you should configure it to fit your needs. In particular, a reasonable channel mapping depends on the mechanical setup of your positioners. Positioners that are equipped with sensors should also be configured before using them.

There are several memory slots that you may use to save and load different configurations (see section 4.7). The first slot is the default slot and will automatically be loaded when the device is powered up.



NOTICE

Changes made to the configuration of the device take effect immediately, but will not be saved to a memory slot automatically. If you power down the device before saving the new configuration to a slot, the changes will be lost.

4.1 Channel settings

The *Channel Settings* menu allows configuration of channel specific properties. The number of channels is fixed and equal to the number of channels of the connected MCS2. Channels may be given individual names which is the only property that is stored on the Hand Control Module. All other properties exposed through this menu only modify the values stored on the main controller. The following options are available for each channel:

Set Channel Name Opens a text edit screen which is controlled through the touch screen. The displayed keyboard allows entering lower and uppercase letters by using the shift key (†). Numbers and special characters are available by pressing the button labeled "?123". Channel names may be up to 8 characters long. The channel names displayed throughout the menus are suffixed with the channel index (one-based) in parenthesis.

Positioner Type For positioners with sensors the correct positioner type must be selected. The type affects the position calculation and closed-loop control. After changing the positioner type the sensor should be calibrated (see next item). Please refer to the *MCS2 Positioner Types* document for a list of available positioner types.

Safe Direction Set the safe direction used for calibration and referencing of positioner types that are referenced via a mechanical end stop.

Referencing direction Set initial the direction for referencing sequence.

Find Reference This will move the positioner to its reference mark and update the current position according to the logical scale offset. After finding the reference mark the physical position is known.



NOTICE

As a safety precaution, make sure that the positioner has enough freedom to move without damaging other equipment.

- **Set Zero Position** Defines the current position as the new zero position. If the physical position is known (see Find Reference above), this also updates the logical scale offset.
- **Range Limit Min./Max.** Defines the range for the software range limit. Once the limits are set the positioner will not move beyond the boundaries of the range limit. The maximum limit must be higher than the minimum limit for this feature to be active.
- **Max Closed-Loop Freq.**¹ Sets the maximum frequency for closed-loop movements. This value should be set to a frequency which doesn't overheat the piezo in the targeted operation environment.
- **Sensor Power Mode** Sets the power mode of the sensor. The default value is *Enabled* which keeps the sensor enabled permanently. In some circumstances it may be desirable to temporarily disable the sensor. This can be achieved by setting the power mode to *Disabled*. In *Power Save* mode¹ the sensor is permanently enabled during movements and only occasionally when the positioner is not moving.
- **Amplifier** Enable or disable the output amplifier. On the Magnetic Driver this parameter also triggers the phasing and enables the closed-loop control. Disabling the amplifier removes any holding force from the positioner.
- **Actuator Mode**¹ Sets the actuator driving signal generation. In addition to the normal mode, several special purpose modes are available. The quiet mode reduces the noise that is emitted from the positioners while moving, but results in higher heat-dissipation of the controller. For this reason the quiet mode is not recommended for continuous operation.
- **Sensor Input/Ctrl. Loop Input** When used with an optional analog I/O Module or SmarAct PicoScale as a sensor module, the control loop input can be set to something different than the default position sensor. See section "Auxiliary Inputs and Outputs" of the MCS2 Programmers Guide for more information.



NOTICE

By touching the channel state in normal mode a channel quick config menu is opened. This menu shows the combined options of the channel settings 4.1 and group specific channel settings 4.3.

¹This option is only applicable for Stick-Slip Piezo Driver.

4.2 Group settings

For display and control purposes channels are organized in groups. New groups can be created by selecting the *Create Group* item. This will create a new empty group, to which you can add channels. Often used channels may be added to multiple groups at the same time. For each created group the *Group Settings* menu shows a submenu with the same name as the group. In this submenu the following group settings may be specified:

Set Group Name Opens a text edit screen which is controlled through the touch screen. The displayed keyboard allows entering lower and uppercase letters by using the shift key (介). Numbers and special characters are available by pressing the button labeled "?123". Group names may be up to 8 characters long.

Add/Remove Channels Opens a group edit screen which allows assigning channels to groups (see figure 4.1). The left column displays the channels currently in the group. The right column shows available channels not assigned to the group. By turning a knob the selected channel in the active column can be changed. The selected channel may be moved to the opposite column by pressing a knob. The active column can be changed by pressing and holding a knob and turning it while the knob is still pressed. The screen can be exited by pressing the *Back* button.

Channel Config This submenu allows configuring channel properties that are specific to channels in this group. See section 4.3 "Group specific channel settings" for a list of available properties.

Delete Group Delete the current group and all associated settings.

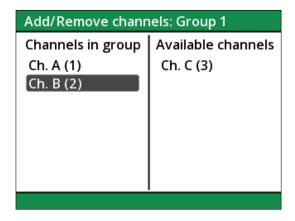


Figure 4.1: Group edit screen

4.3 Group specific channel settings

Each channel, which is assigned to a group, carries some group specific parameters. These include control mode parameter, which can be changed as described in section 3.1 "Changing Control Mode Parameters". Additional parameters that can be specified via the menu are:

- **Joystick Axis** Selects the joystick axis that controls this channel. Possible values are *X*1, *Y*1, *X*2, *Y*2 and *None*. The X-axis correspond to a left/right movement of the joystick and the Y-axis to an up/down movement. The joystick on the left is identified by the suffix 1 and the right joystick by the suffix 2. Setting the property to *None* disables joystick control for this channel.
- **Joystick Inversion** Invert all joystick movements for this channel. Per default a joystick movement to the right or up increases the current position.
- **Joystick Move in Menu** Allows controlling positioners using the joysticks in menu mode. This way positioners can be moved, e.g., during the PicoScale sensor adjustment. The move mode and settings correspond to the currently active values in normal mode.
- **Knob** Assign the knob that controls this channel. The knobs are numbered from 1 (leftmost) to 3 (rightmost). It is possible to select the same knob for multiple channels, allowing synchronous movements of multiple positioners.
- **Knob Inversion** Invert all knob movements for this channel. Per default a clockwise movement increases the current position.

4.4 General Settings

- **Network Config** (Only for devices with network interface) Opens a screen to view and configure the network interface. This may be especially useful, if the current configuration doesn't work in the target network environment.
- **Cycle Tabs** If enabled, the selected tab will wrap around once the leftmost/rightmost tab is reached and the user tries to select the next tab. With this option disabled the selected tab will remain unchanged.
- **Cycle Menu Item** If enabled, the item selection will wrap around after scrolling past the end of the item list.
- **Joystick Calibration** The joystick calibration screen offers two tabs to configure different settings for the joystick. To exit this screen, press the *Back* button.

First the *Deadzone Width* tab allows configuration of the joystick deadzones (see figure 4.2). The deadzone is the region in which movements of the joystick are ignored by the software. A deadzone is required because of the analog nature of a joystick. The values on the bottom of the screen show the joystick position after correcting for the deadzone. The numbers in parenthesis show the current width of the deadzone. The active deadzone is highlighted and the width can be changed by turning a knob. Pressing a knob will cycle through all four axis.

In the second *Zero Offset* tab the zero offset of the joystick can be set. The numbers on the bottom show the current position of the joystick after compensating for the position of the joystick in it's default position. If these values are not close to zero, press any of the knobs, while both joysticks are in the zero position. The values in parenthesis are the raw analog values of the joystick.

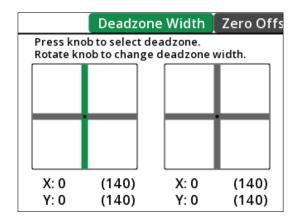


Figure 4.2: Joystick deadzone configuration



NOTICE

Note that a firmware update resets the **joystick calibration**. If uncalibrated the joysticks may trigger a movement in some cases even if in neutral position. Make sure to run the calibration sequence after a firmware update of the HCM.

Touch Calibration This item will start the touch screen calibration sequence. Usually it's not necessary to calibrate the touch screen, but if you notice a discrepancy between the touched position on the screen and the position registered by the software, a calibration should be performed. After starting this function the screen will show 3 circles one after the other. You have to touch each of the circles to finish the calibration sequence. Note that you cannot cancel the calibration, so you have to touch the screen at least 3 times. After the calibration you will be asked if you want to save the new calibration data.

Screen brightness Adjust the brightness of the screen backlight.

Screensaver Set the timeout value for the screensaver. After no user input has occurred for the duration of the timeout the screen backlight is disabled. Once the next user input event occurs, the backlight is enabled again.

Disable Screen Turn off the backlight of the screen. This option may be useful for applications where the light from the screen may with other equipment, e.g. for optical experiments. Once the next user input event occurs, the backlight is enabled again.

4.5 Sensor Calibration

After changing the positioner type or the mechanical setup (different positioners connected to different channels) the sensor needs to be calibrated. The *sensor calibration* screen shows an overview of all connected sensors, as seen in figure 4.3. Connected sensors can be checked by selecting them using the knob and then pressing the knob. After all channels that should be calibrated are checked the calibration routine can be started by selecting the *Start calibration* item.

The channel overview will show the status of calibration for each channel and display an error in case the calibration failed.

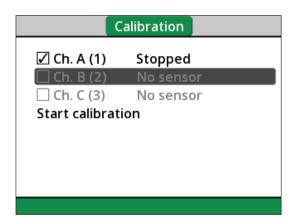


Figure 4.3: Sensor calibration screen

4.6 Sensor Adjustment

The MCS2 also supports the SmarAct PicoScale as a sensor. The setup of the PicoScale requires a mirror adjustment before position data is available. Similar to the PicoScale Control GUI the MCS2 Hand Control Module can also be used to perform a mirror adjustment, but doesn't require a PC. For details of this procedure refer to the *PicoScale User Manual*.

The Sensor Adjustment screen consists of 3 tabs. The first tab shows an overview of all modules and their connected sensors. Selecting a module with an attached PicoScale starts the manual adjustment and switches to the second tab. This tab allows configuration of the working range. After setting the working range the last tab shows the Lissajous graph for one channel, as shown in figure 4.4. Once the mirrors are adjusted the auto adjustment can be started. This switches back to the first tab and shows the progress of the adjustment. It's not necessary to wait until the auto adjustment is finished before leaving this screen or starting the next adjustment of a different PicoScale.

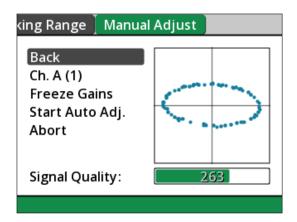


Figure 4.4: PicoScale mirror adjustment

4.7 Load/Save Configurations

The Hand Control Module can store multiple device configurations in non-volatile memory slots. A memory slot contains the full channel and group configuration and also the control mode parameters.

The *Load Config* menu shows an item for each available memory slot. Slots without a valid configuration are grayed out and cannot be loaded. The *Load Default Config* item will restore a default configuration. This procedure will create just enough groups to contain all the available channels and assigns default values for all parameters. Note that slot 1 is the default slot which will be loaded on a device power-up. If this slot is invalid a default configuration is created.

The current device configuration can be saved using the *Save Config* menu. Saving to an already used slot overwrites the old configuration.



NOTICE

Don't turn off the MCS2 or unplug the Hand Control Module while a configuration is being saved.

4.8 Information

The *Information* menu shows information about the Hand Control Module and the MCS2 it's connected to. The information is grouped by module and device global values. The information consists mostly of firmware versions, types of connected modules.

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