



Newsletter - Issue No. 1, March, 2008

Welcome to the first quarterly newsletter from Model Solutions of Canada Ltd. We hope to keep our valued customers and dealers up to-date on developments in our products, our company and our growing dealer network.

SFX4 Sound Modules Improved

Although our SFX4 series of sound modules are mature products, we are still making minor improvements to them. Since approximately end of December 2007, they have included reverse polarity protection on the battery inputs. Modules shipped starting early April 2008 will also have :

- Jumperless operation – the USB/Playback mode jumper has been replaced with a small DIP switch – no more fiddly jumpers to lose in the bowels of your boat or plane!
- Screen printed legends at the battery and speaker terminals.
- Mechanical support to provide strain relief at the two servo leads to prevent them breaking off at the board.
- A fourth mounting hole.

In order to accommodate these improvements, the board is slightly larger at 3.225 x 2.90 inches.

SFX4 Sound Modules are Taking Off!

We are beginning to promote our sound modules to model aircraft enthusiasts. Guns, multiple engine sounds, even receiving taxiing and take-off clearance orders from “the tower” could all be on-board the sound module. We have added many aircraft sounds to our sound clip list and will be growing this list frequently.

SFX4/5 Sound Modules in Tanks

Our sound effects systems are equally at home in all kinds of models. We now have some customers installing SFX4 sound modules in model tanks. In addition to the sounds, the built in switch decoder is ideal for controlling the many add-on functions in tanks such as guns firing etc. We do not yet have a library of tank sounds, but intend to grow one. If any readers have tank sounds that they would contribute to our library, please email them to info@modelsolutions.ca. Thank you.

New 2.5” 15Watt Loudspeakers

We now offer very high quality German made Visaton FRS7S 2.5” 15Watt loudspeakers. They are ideal for smaller models where our 4” units would be too large. Despite their small size, they have an excellent low frequency response and sound terrific!

New 4” 20Watt Loudspeakers

We will be replacing our current 4” 20Watt speakers from Taiwan with the R10S model from the Visaton range. These will be higher quality, shallower, much lighter in weight, and less expensive. Our current 4” 20Watt speakers are on clearance sale at only \$12.95



RCMUX16 Switching Solutions

We also offer 16 channel standalone switching units. These are 16 channel decoders using similar firmware to that used in our SFX4-4 sound modules. They use the same 16 button keypad in place of one of your transmitter proportional channels. The RCMUX16-16 offers 16 straight on/off channels. The RCMUX16-12 offers 12 on/off plus one reversing channel.

SFX5 Series Sound Modules

We know many of you are waiting for our next generation sound modules, designated SFX5. We have been hard at work completely re-engineering our hardware platform to make the sound modules smaller, lighter, smarter, simpler to use and less expensive. Part of this re-engineering involves moving to 100% SMT (Surface Mount Technology). We are hoping for mid-end July 2008 availability.

They will play two sounds simultaneously from one unit, will have a master/slave architecture and will be backward compatible with JJC Electronics slave units. An optional connector cable allows JJC slaves to feed into our master. Every master and slave will have both audio out and audio in. This enables “daisy chaining” – connecting one slave to another slave so theoretically, a very large number of sounds could be played simultaneously. Master and slave modules have a genuine audio mixer on-board to allow this.

There will be 3 different units in this series. The **SFX5.2** will have four fixed sounds + engine, no USB port, no switched outputs, but will be very small (44mm x 68mm) – almost 1/2 size of the SFX4 units, and much less expensive.

Despite this small size, the maximum output power capability is almost quadrupled!! – **45Watts into 8 Ohms on a 26V supply.** If you choose to add batteries to get the supply up to this level, these units will be extremely loud!! This very high power is well suited to model aircraft applications using a 6 cell Li-Po flight pack (nominally 22.2V, max. 25.2V).

It will have built in 4 and 2 channel switch decoders. No transmitter keypad is required – you can use any proportional transmitter channel or two on-off channels. The mode is selectable using a small DIP switch. Two LEDs, green and red, make the throttle setup much easier and foolproof. No other calibration is needed. Expected retail price will be in the range of CAD\$95 - CAD\$99.

Their advanced, no-compromise, dual processor design has one processor dedicated to playback and throttle control and another dedicated to channel control. This makes way for some very advanced modules based on a common hardware platform. The 4 layer PCB has separate analogue and digital ground planes for very low noise and low EMI performance. They will sound very clean!!

The **SFX5.3** will be USB downloadable, planned to have an 8 channel decoder, 4 sounds and 4 switched outputs, and a slim 8 button keypad. The transmitter calibration can be done using the setup button and does not require a PC to calibrate it. Two lamp flasher outputs are included. Expected retail price will be in the range of CAD\$110 – CAD\$119.



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WORLD FIRST!!!

Never before seen on any sound effects module, anywhere - the SFX5.3 module will also have a **3-axis XYZ accelerometer** that can be configured to switch on up to **4 sounds PER AXIS** based on the acceleration (“G” level) experienced by the module. This will be of immense interest to our airplane or helicopter modellers who could cause different sounds to play automatically depending on tilt, attitude, diving, banking etc. Even our model car customers could have tire squealing sounds play as the car accelerates or goes round tight corners!

The applications for this truly unique feature are limited only by your imagination!

New SFX5.4 Flagship Model!

The SFX5.4 will be our new flagship model and will contain even more features never before seen on model sound effects modules. For now, these additional features are being kept under wraps, due to competitive pressures, but we’ll let you know as soon as we have these new features fully developed and “in the bag”.

It will support the 16 channel switch decoder with 8 sounds and 8 switched outputs. The board will be a little larger than the other SFX5 units to accommodate the additional switched outputs, but still smaller than the SFX4’s. Expected retail price is unknown at this point, but will be less than the SFX4-4. The SFX5.4 will not be available until much later in the year, probably December 2008.

SFXPC2.0.0

Our next major release of the SFXPC software has major improvements in ease of use with full drag/drop functionality. There will no longer be a separate Sound Clip section on the right of the window. All you need to do is drag (or copy/paste) one or more sound clip (.WAV) files from Windows Explorer over to the Sound Clip List and they will automatically be added to the list and converted to the correct format at the same time. Then, once in the list, if you want to re-order them, you drag them to their desired positions in the list. Deleting is just as simple, click on a sound clip and press the delete key. The menus and control panel have also been simplified.

The SFXPC2.0.0 release will be included with our new SFX5.3/4 sound modules.

We hope this newsletter has been informative and helpful. If there are any topics you would like us to discuss in future newsletters, please send us an email to newsletter@modelsolutions.ca.

This is an opt-in newsletter, i.e. this will not be sent to anyone who has not specifically requested to be added to the distribution list. You can always request to be removed by emailing newsletter@modelsolutions.ca with the subject line – “unsubscribe”.

Regards,
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