



TASCAM US-428 Control Surface Messaging

Revision 1.01
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Purpose

Provide simple, effective integration between the US-428 and host software applications.

Introduction

The US-428 provides digital audio I/O, MIDI, and control surface functions in a single affordable USB-based product. While the audio and MIDI I/O follow established which are easily interfaced with host applications, full integration of the control surface aspects of the US-428 requires a set of messages to be defined which permits two-way communication of control information between the host application and US-428.

Functional Groups

The US-428's control surface are divided into several major functional groups:

- a) Transport and Locate switches and status LED's
- b) Per-channel controls (faders, switches, and LED's)
- c) Bank switching buttons and LED's
- d) EQ switches, continuous EQ and pan knobs, and associated status LED's
- e) Function switches, LED's and continuous "data wheel"

Communication model

Standard MIDI controller and sysex messages will be used to communicate between the host and US-428. In many cases, the commands transmitted by the US-428 are identical to those generated by the JL Cooper CS-10 controller. In general, it is desired that overall system "state information" be maintained by the host application, rather than in the US-428. As an example, here is how a change in transport state from STOP to PLAY might be communicated:

1. User presses PLAY button on US-428.
2. Play-button command is sent via USB to host application as MIDI .
3. Application receives Play message from the "US-428 Control" Midi input device.
4. Application switches to PLAY mode, just as if user had performed the operation with a mouse-click.
5. Application sends Transport Update message to "US-428 Control" Midi output device, which is sent via USB to the US-428.
6. US-428 interprets transport-update command, and responds by activating the PLAY LED.

In this example, the US-428 doesn't "know" the state of the transport. It has simply sent command indicating the button-press, and responded to the transport-update command from the host by lighting the appropriate transport LED.

Transport/Locate command set

The US-428 contains a set of standard transport switches: REW, FFWD, STOP, PLAY, and REC. In addition, dedicated status LED's are used to communicate the current transport state to the user. The LED's indicate REW, FFWD, PLAY, and REC. (Note that there is no LED to indicate STOP.) Additionally, there are three locate switches, which can be used to set and locate to markers established on the host application's timeline. SET is intended to be used as a SHIFT key, along with either the < or > button to drop a marker at the application's current time.

US-428 to Host Messages (transmitted at button-down):

- TRANSPORT_REWIND
 - Button-down: BF 13 7F
 - Button-up: BF 13 00
- TRANSPORT_FFWD
 - Button-down: BF 14 7F
 - Button-up: BF 14 00
- TRANSPORT_STOP
 - Button-down: BF 15 7F
 - Button-up: BF 15 00
- TRANSPORT_PLAY
 - Button-down: BF 16 7F
 - Button-up: BF 16 00
- TRANSPORT_REC
 - Button-down: BF 17 7F
 - Button-up: BF 17 00
- LOCATE_LEFT (non CS-10)
 - Button-down: BF 18 7F
 - Button-up: BF 18 00 7.
- LOCATE_RIGHT (non CS-10)
 - Button-down: BF 19 7F
 - Button-up: BF 19 00
- SET_LOCATE (non CS-10)
 - Button-down: BF 1A 7F
 - Button-up: BF 1A 00

Host to US-428 Messages (transmitted when host transport-state changes):

- UPDATE_TRANSPORT_LED:
 - State is REWIND: F0 4E <UNIT> 12 01 13 <STATE> F7
 - State is FFWD: F0 4E <UNIT> 12 01 14 <STATE> F7
 - State is STOP: F0 4E <UNIT> 12 01 15 <STATE> F7
(Note: US-428 has no STOP LED: message is defined for future devices)
 - State is PLAY: F0 4E <UNIT> 12 01 16 <STATE> F7
 - State is REC: F0 4E <UNIT> 12 01 17 <STATE> F7

Where:

- <UNIT> is device ID. Should be transmitted as 0 for now.
- <STATE> == 0 turns LED OFF
- <STATE> == 7F turns LED ON

Per-channel Control command set

The US-428 includes a set of 8 channel-strip controls and LED's. Each channel-strip includes the following controls:

- a. linear fader for gain control
- b. Mute/Solo switch and LED
- c. Record-enable LED
- d. Select switch and LED

Three modifier switches affect the channel strip indicators:

- a. A momentary NULL switch and LED (to aid the user in matching the fader sliders with the "virtual" value maintained by the application software). When the application receives a NULL button-down message, it compares its internal fader values with the most recently-received physical fader positions for the currently- active bank of eight channels, and sends out messages which light the REC and SELECT LED's to indicate the direction the user needs to move each of the faders to agree with the application's virtual fader levels. When the user releases NULL, the application sends REC and SELECT LED update messages which will cause them to revert to their "native" function (indicating record and channel-select status).
- b. A REC (record) button which acts as a "shift" key, enabling the track select switches to affect the record-enable status of the corresponding track in the application software.
- c. A MUTE/SOLO mode button, which toggles the function of the mute buttons and indicators, making them activate a SOLO function on their associated track.

US-428 to Host Commands:

1. FADER_POSITION: BF 4x vv x = [0..7], vv = [0..7F]
2. MUTE_SWITCH:
 - a. Button-down: BF 0x 7F
 - b. Button-up: BF 0x 0 x=[0..7]
3. SELECT_SWITCH:
 - a. Button-down: BF 2x 7F
 - b. Button-up: BF 2x 00 x=[0..7]
4. NULL_SWITCH:
 - a. Button-down: BF 28 7F
 - b. Button-up: BF 28 00
5. REC_EN_SWITCH:
 - a. Button-down: BF 29 7F
 - b. Button-up: BF 29 00
6. SOLO_SWITCH:
 - a. Button-down: BF 2A 7F
 - b. Button-up: BF 2A 00

Host to US-428 Messages:

Note: In these messages, <STRIP #>is a number in the range [0..7], corresponding to the channel-strip #, and <STATE>is either 0x00 (LED OFF) or 0x7F (LED ON) . Transmit<UNIT> as 0 for now.

1. UPDATE_MUTE_LED: F0 4E<UNIT>12 02<STRIP #> <STATE> F7
2. UPDATE_SEL_LED: F0 4E<UNIT> 12 03<STRIP #> <STATE> F7
3. UPDATE_REC_LED: F0 4E<UNIT> 12 04<STRIP #> <STATE>F7

4. UPDATE_NULL_LED: F0 4E<UNIT> 12 05 <STATE> F7
5. UPDATE_SOLOMODE_LED: F0 4E<UNIT> 12 06 <STATE> F7

Note: following message forces US-428 to send current fader position messages to host via the Us-428 Control Port

6. DUMP_FADER_POS: F0 4E<UNIT>12 10 <STRIP #> <STATE>F7

Bank-Switching Command Set

The US-428 has two switches that allow the user to select the bank of application channels that is addressed by the eight channel-strips. For example, an application with 32 virtual tracks would define 4 banks of eight channel strips each. The Bank-L and Bank-R switches let the user quickly shift the control surface to address any bank of eight channels. There are two LED's adjacent to the Bank-L and Bank-R switches, which indicate that pressing the button will cause the application software to switch to the next lower or higher bank, respectively. It is OFF when there are no further virtual fader banks available in that direction.

US-428 to Host Commands

- BANK_LEFT:
 - Button-down: BF 10 7F
 - Button-up: BF 10 00
- BANK_RIGHT:
 - Button-down: BF 11 7F
 - Button-up: BF 11 00

Host to US-428 Messages:

1. UPDATE_BANK_LEFT_LED: F0 4E<UNIT> 12 07<STATE> F7
2. UPDATE_BANK_RIGHT_LED: F0 4E<UNIT> 12 08<STATE> F7

where<STATE> is either 0x00 (LED OFF) or 0x7F (LED ON) <UNIT>is device ID. Should be transmitted as 0 for now.

EQ Knobs and Band Selection Command Set

Three continuous-turn rotary encoders allow the user to set the Gain, Frequency, and Bandwidth of a band of parametric EQ. The controller numbers used are the same as the JL Cooper CS-10, however instead of an absolute 0..7F value, the increment/decrement of the encoder is transmitted. The application must understand when the logical limit of the EQ control has been reached, and provide on-screen feedback to let the user know that he is at the minimum or maximum setting for the control. This prevents "wrapping" and discontinuous changes in the values of the parameters being sent. A pan encoder knob is also defined; its operation is similar to the EQ encoders.

US-428 To Host Commands:

1. SELECT_EQ_HI
 - a. Button-down: BF 2C 7F
 - b. Button-up: BF 2C 00
2. SELECT_EQ_HIMID
 - a. Button-down: BF 2D 7F
 - b. Button-up: BF 2D 00
3. SELECT_EQ_LOMID
 - a. Button-down: BF 2E 7F
 - b. Button-up: BF 2E 00

4. SELECT_EQ_LO
 - a. Button-down: BF 2F 7F
 - b. Button-up: BF 2F 00
5. EQ_GAIN_CHANGE:
 - a. BF 48 vv, vv = 2's complement using 7 data bits
6. EQ_FREQ_CHANGE
 - a. BF 49 vv, vv = 2's complement using 7 data bits
7. EQ_BW_CHANGE
 - a. BF 4A vv, vv = 2's complement using 7 data bits
8. MASTER_FADER
 - a. BF 4B vv, vv=2's complement using 7 data bits
9. PAN_CHANGE
 - a. BF 4D vv, vv = 2's complement using 7 data bits

Host to US-428 Messages:

1. UPDATE_EQ_HI_LED: F0 4E<UNIT> 12 09<STATE> F7
2. UPDATE_EQ_HIMID_LED: F0 4E<UNIT> 12 0A<STATE> F7
3. UPDATE_EQ_LOMID_LED: F0 4E<UNIT> 12 0B<STATE> F7
4. UPDATE_EQ_LO_LED: F0 4E<UNIT> 12 0C<STATE> F7

where <STATE>is either 0x00 (LED OFF) or 0x7F (LED ON)<UNIT> is device ID. Should be transmitted as 0 for now.

Function switches, LED's, and continuous data wheel

A row of four AUX buttons is used to select an effect (aux-send) level for the selected channel(s). When the user selects and AUX1-4 button, this fact is transmitted to the host, indicating that future movements of the data wheel will affect that parameter.

Another row of four switches includes an ASN (track-source assign) button, and three application-definable function buttons. A typical use of the function buttons would be to enable/disable effects, or to mimic the function of the computer's arrow keys, to allow the user to switch from track to track, switch between controls in a dialog, etc. The ASN button is intended to allow the user to quickly determine the input-source for a track, by selecting this button and then using the data wheel to cycle through the possible input-sources for the selected track.

A data wheel is provided for general-purpose parameter modification. In addition to the aux-send level setting described above, the data could be used for scrubbing, locating, or any other purpose the application programmer desires.

US-428 to Host Commands:

1. AUX_SWITCH
 - a. Button-down: BF 3x 7F
 - b. Button-up: BF 3x 00, where x=[0..3] (for AUX1, AUX2, AUX3, AUX4)
2. ASN_SWITCH
 - a. Button-down: BF 34 7F
 - b. Button-up: BF 34 00
3. FN_SWITCH
 - a. Button-down: BF 3x 7F
 - b. Button-up: BF 3x 7F, where x=[5..7] (for FN1, FN2, FN3)
4. DATA_WHEEL (identical to JL Cooper CS-10)
 - a. BF 60 vv, vv = 2's complement using 7 data bits

Host to US-428 Messages:

1. UPDATE_AUX_FN_LED: F0 4E<UNIT> 12 0D<AUX#> <STATE> F7
2. UPDATE_FN_LED: F0 4E<UNIT> 12 0E <FN#> <STATE>F7
3. UPDATE_ASN_LED: F0 4E<UNIT> 12 0F<STATE> F7

where

<AUX> is in the range [0...3] corresponding to LED's [AUX1-AUX4]

<FN#> is in the range [0...2] corresponding to LED's [FN1-FN3]

<UNIT> Transmit as 0 for now.

<STATE> is either 0x00 (LED OFF) or 0x7F (LED ON)