

Image Management

Image management devices arrange images from multiple sources for storage and/or viewing. Image management devices set up images for viewing and establish parameters for storage and playback. An image management device can be as simple as a switcher, which displays images one at a time, or as complex as a multiplexer, which displays multiple images at the same time and manages how they are recorded.

Switchers

Switchers are the most basic image management device. They accept inputs from multiple cameras and channel them to an output connected to a monitor. Cameras switched to the output can be manually selected, or automatically sequenced.



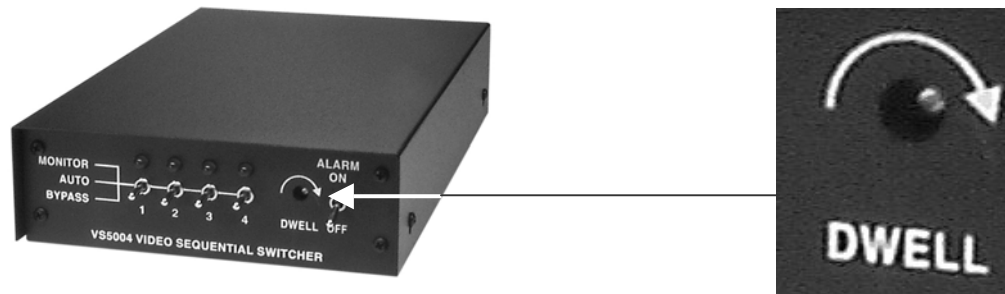
Automatic switcher



Manual switcher

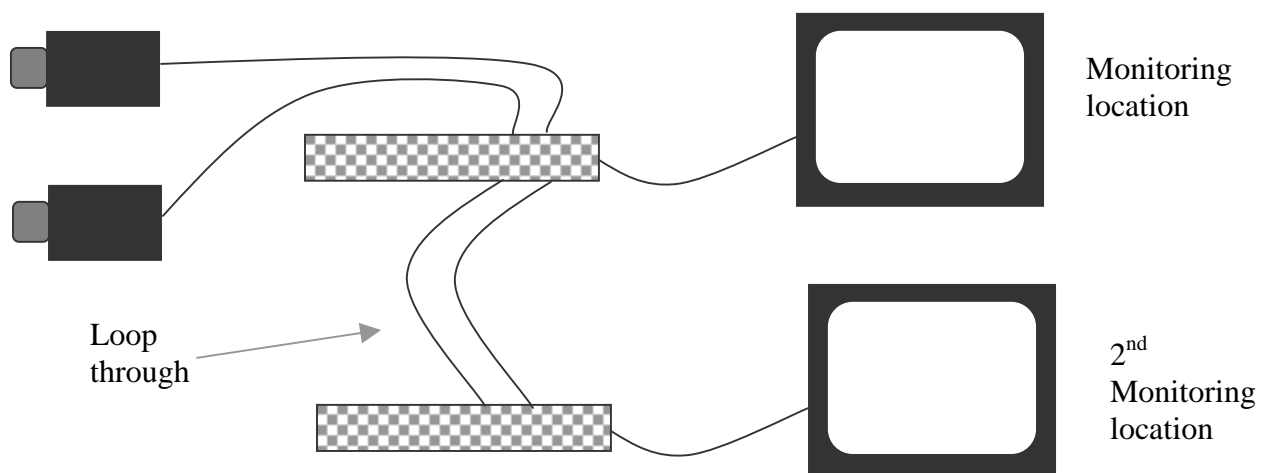
Dwell

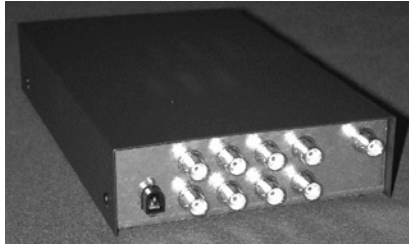
Dwell controls the interval between camera changes on automatic switchers. It may be a trim pot or a knob, or programmed feature. The dwell typically covers all cameras equally, but some more sophisticated switchers it can be set separately for each camera.



Looping

Looping allows signals from cameras to pass through the switcher so they can be used by another device. The signals are still processed by the switcher, as normal, and the loop through signals are completely independent of the switching.

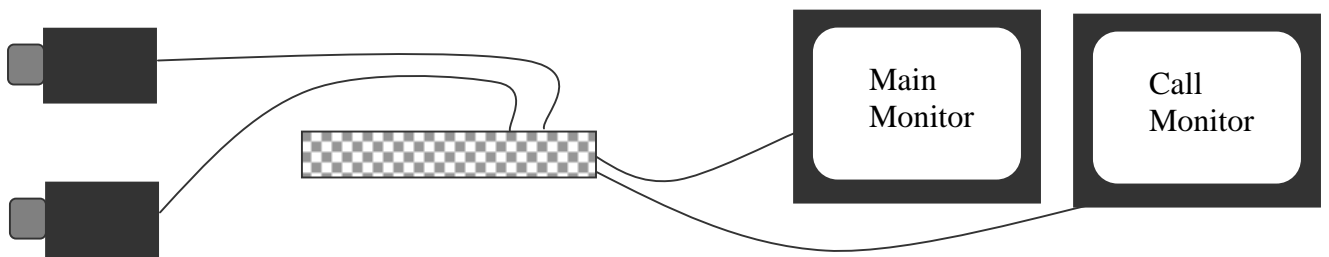




Rear View – Switcher With Looping Inputs

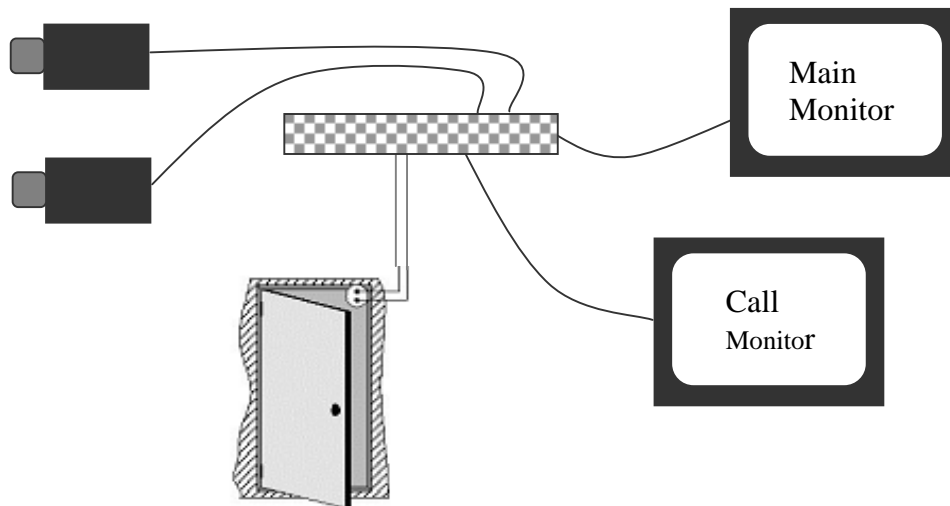
Bridging

Bridging allows a single camera to be switched separately to a second output on the switcher without interfering with the sequencing of cameras on the main output. The bridging output is sometimes referred to as the “call” output.



Alarming

Alarming allows external alarm inputs to control the sequencing of the switcher. The alarming inputs usually control cameras called up on the bridging output. The inputs are dry contact closures from external devices like door contacts or motion detectors. Some alarming switchers have built in sounders or alarm relay outputs to help alert the viewer that the alarm input is active. The duration of the alarm event may be limited by time, by the duration of the alarm event, or require the alarm to be acknowledged and reset.



This document is part of a complete book entitled:
CCTV System Design & Installation

By Charles Aulner and Bryan McLane
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