

# micromagic systems

Animatronic & Puppet control systems for Film & Television

## ***p.Brain-HexEngine*** ***Packet Interface Protocol Guide V1.2***

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## p.Brain-HexEngine - Packet Interface Protocol Guide V1.2

### Description

The hexapod can be controlled using either a simple control interface "SIM CONTROL" as described in the *HexEngine* configuration guide document, or with the Packet Interface Protocol (PIP) which is described in this document. The PIP gives enhanced control features as well as access to the simple control interface commands.

*Note: Examples of packet data in this document are either byte names within square bracket [], or hexadecimal values. For the purpose of clarity each value or bracketed name is separated with a comma, the comma's are not sent as part of the packet.*

### Packet Interface Protocol (PIP)

#### Packet Format

The packet interface commands are sent in packets of data, each packet must conform to the following protocol:

[Header Byte],[Packet Count],[n Bytes of Data.....],[Check Sum]

Header Byte = 0x7e

Packet Count = Data bytes excluding Header Byte, Packet Count & Check Sum

Check Sum = 0xff - (8 bit sum of all data bytes)

#### PIP Modes 0 & 1

There are two PIP modes defined by the "PIP" command in the HexEngine configuration menu:

Mode	Pros	Cons
0 = Simple	Simple Programming, Packet length fixed by data bytes.	More chance of packet corruption in segmented data streams.
1 = Escape	More robust, less chance of packet corruption.	More complex programming, packet length can vary depending on data content.

In mode 0, packets are sent as above, as long as the data is not too segmented, this protocol will usually suffice for most applications, also in mode 1, data packets are a fixed length which makes packet reception coding easier. Mode 1 is a much more robust protocol which uses escape codes, with escape codes, packets can vary in length according to the data transmitted, however, the header byte 0x7e can never be repeated within the data packet, which gives a much better communications protocol. See below for further details on mode 1 protocol.

#### PIP Mode 1 - Illegal Hex Codes (Escape codes)

There are also two illegal codes which have to be checked for within the packet, this is so that the header byte cannot be duplicated within the packet data and be misread as a packet start. To do this each byte in the packet apart from the header byte is checked against the two illegal hexadecimal codes:

0x7e = Packet Header

0x7d = Escape Code

If either of the two illegal codes are found, they must be replaced with the Escape Code (0x7d) followed by the illegal code exclusively ored with 0x20.

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### Illegal code example

If a packet consisted of 3 bytes of data, and for the purpose of this example one of these bytes was the escape code '0x7d' the packet would look like this:

```
0x7e,0x03,0x01,0x7d,0x02,0x7f
```

The second data byte is 0x7d, and must be Escaped as follows:

```
Illegal code: 0x7d
Replaced with: 0x7d,0x5d      ( 0x5d = 0x7d xor 0x20 )
```

So our illegal packet would become:

```
0x7e,0x03,0x01,0x7d,0x5d,0x02,0x7f
```

*Note that even though there is an additional byte in the packet, the packet count and checksum do not change, they are calculated before illegal codes are Escaped.*

### PIP Handshaking, ACK, NACK & BUSY

Upon reception of a PIP packet, a return PIP packet is sent with one byte of data corresponding to an ACK (Acknowledge) or NACK (Not Acknowledged).

```
ACK = 'k'      (PIP = 0x7e,0x01,0x6b,0x94)
NACK = '?'     (PIP = 0x7e,0x01,0x3f,0xc0)
BUSY = 'b'     (PIP = 0x7e,0x01,0x62,0x9d)
```

ACK's and NACK's are only sent for properly formatted PIP packets, if a packet is sent with a bad checksum or incorrect protocol, no reply is sent. If a PIP packet is sent with correct formatting, but the data command is unrecognised, a NACK is sent in reply. The BUSY reply is for commands 'V', 'N', 'v' & 'n'. This response indicates that the packet was received, but the relative command is still busy.

### Using "SIM CONTROL" commands in PIP packets

As previously mentioned, all the "SIM CONTROL" commands can be sent using the PIP. All that is different is that the commands need to be sent within a packet. Example, to send the simple control command to wake the hexapod ('+') using the packet interface the following would be sent

```
0x7e,0x01,0x2b,0xd4
```

To sleep the hexapod using the ('-') command:

```
0x7e,0x01,0x2d,0xd2
```

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### Table of "SIM CONTROL" commands

CHAR	Description	CHAR	Description
+	Power up hexapod	1	Wave gait 1 (slowest)
-	Power down hexapod	2	Wave gait 2
SPACE	Stop hexapod	3	Wave gait 3 (In my opinion, the best!)
!	Emergency stop hexapod ( Shuts off servos instantly )	4	Tripod gait (fastest )
w	Walk forward	5	On Road gait ( fast, fluid )
s	Walk backwards	6	Off Road gait (slower, better ground clearance )
a	Turn Left	7	Decrease leg transfer speed by 0.1 seconds
d	Turn Right	8	Increase leg transfer speed by 0.1 seconds
q	Crab Left	9	Reset leg transfer speed to power on default (DLT)
e	Crab Right	r	Reset legs to neutral position
b	Switch on full 3D balance mode	c	Switch off full 3D balance mode
		ESC	Return to main menu

### Table of "PIP CONTROL" commands

The following commands are only available in PIP mode, some require additional bytes of data following the extended command, some have returned PIP packets.

Command	Description	PIP Data Bytes	Engine Version
'M'	Proportional walking control	3	1.0
'B'	Body proportional Rotation & Translation	6	1.0
'A'	Auxiliary servo position	12	1.0
'V'	Body Translate & Rotate to position (timed motion move)	8	1.0
'N'	Auxiliary Servo move to position (timed motion move)	14	1.0
'E'	Stop 'V' & 'N' Motion moves immediately	0	1.0
'v'	Poll body translate & rotate motion	0	1.0
'n'	Poll servo move motion	0	1.0
'I'	External I2C Data Write	4 to 36	1.0
'i'	External I2C Data Read	3	1.0
'O'	External Digital I/O Write	1	1.0
'o'	External Digital I/O Read	0	1.0
'p'	External 12bit Analogue Capture	0	1.0
'H'	Head PAN & TILT position	2	1.0
&	Query PIP mode	0	1.2
{	Set PIP mode = 0:SIMPLE	0	1.2
}	Set PIP mode = 1:ESCAPED	0	1.2
J	Set the body rotation offset X,Y,Z	3	1.2

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### “PIP Control” commands explained

#### 'M'

This command is ideal for joystick like control of the hexapod and is designed to be repeatedly sent to the HexEngine at around 10hz to 20hz. The three data bytes of this command are:

byte 0: Left/Right crab stride ( X Translate )  
 byte 1: Forward/Backward stride ( Y Translate )  
 byte 2: Left/Right Turning Stride ( Z Rotate )

Each byte is a 8 bit signed, -128 to 127.

byte 1 example: 0 = stop, -128 = full reverse, 127 = full forward.

#### 'B'

This command is ideal for joystick like control of the hexapod and is designed to be repeatedly sent to the HexEngine at around 10hz to 20hz. The 6 data bytes of this command are:

byte 0: Body Rotate X  
 byte 1: Body Rotate Y  
 byte 2: Body Rotate Z  
 byte 3: Body Translate X  
 byte 4: Body Translate Y  
 byte 5: Body Translate Z

Each byte is a 8 bit signed, -128 to 127.

byte 0 example: -128 = full -X rotate, 127 = full +X rotate

#### 'A'

This command is ideal for joystick like control of the hexapod and is designed to be repeatedly sent to the HexEngine at around 10hz to 20hz. The twelve data bytes are arranged as 6 unsigned word values with the high byte of each word first. Each word can be between 500 and 2500 which corresponds to micro seconds of PWM (pulse width modulation). PWM values out side the HexEngine range will be clamped.

byte 0,1: Auxiliary Servo 1 (MSB, LSB )  
 byte 2,3: Auxiliary Servo 2  
 byte 4,5: Auxiliary Servo 3  
 byte 6,7: Auxiliary Servo 4  
 byte 8,9: Auxiliary Servo 5  
 byte 10,11: Auxiliary Servo 6

#### 'V'

This command is used to move the body rotation & translation from its current position, to a new position in a defined amount of time. The move will ease in at the start and ease out at the end. The 8 data bytes of this command are:

byte 0: Body Rotate X  
 byte 1: Body Rotate Y  
 byte 2: Body Rotate Z  
 byte 3: Body Translate X  
 byte 4: Body Translate Y  
 byte 5: Body Translate Z  
 byte 6,7: Frame Count ( MSB, LSB )

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The Frame Count defines how long the move will take in frames, each frame is 20 milliseconds. The minimum frame count is 10 (200 mS), and the maximum 500 ( 10 S ). If a move is already in progress, the command will be ignored and a busy ACK is returned.

### 'N'

This command is used to move the auxiliary servos from their current position, to a new position in a defined amount of time. The move will ease in at the start and ease out at the end. The first twelve data bytes are arranged as 6 unsigned word values with the high byte of each word first. Each word can be between 500 and 2500 which corresponds to micro seconds of PWM (pulse width modulation). PWM values out side the HexEngine range will be clamped. The 14 data bytes of this command are:

byte 0,1: Auxiliary Servo 1 (MSB, LSB )  
 byte 2,3: Auxiliary Servo 2  
 byte 4,5: Auxiliary Servo 3  
 byte 6,7: Auxiliary Servo 4  
 byte 8,9: Auxiliary Servo 5  
 byte 10,11: Auxiliary Servo 6  
 byte 12,13: Frame Count ( MSB, LSB )

The Frame Count defines how long the move will take in frames, each frame is 20 milliseconds. The minimum frame count is 10 (200 mS), and the maximum 500 ( 10 S ). If a move is already in progress, the command will be ignored and a busy ACK is returned.

### 'E'

This command will stop any current 'V' or 'N' motion move currently running.

### 'v'

This command will return the status of the Body Rotate & Translate motion move with either: BUSY or ACK (Not Busy)

### 'n'

This command will return the status of the Auxiliary Servo motion move with either: BUSY or ACK (Not Busy)

### 'I'

I2C Data write. This command allows you to send I2C data to an external device connected to the p.Brain-ds24 SDA, SCL lines. With this command it is possible to interface to I2C memory devices such as the 24xx series eeproms, or ultrasonic range finders such as the [SRF08](#). The command can send up to 32 bytes of data to an I2C device. The data bytes of this command are:

byte 0: I2C Address  
 byte 1: I2C Data Count & I2C Options  
 byte 2: I2C Register Address  
 byte 3: I2C Data 0  
 byte 4: I2C Data 1  
 ...  
 byte 35: I2C Data 31

I2C Data Count (byte 1) can be up to 32 bytes. The upper three bits of byte 1 are reserved for I2C options, see table below. *Only send as many data bytes as defined by I2C Data Count (byte 1).*

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Byte 1 Option Bit	Description
Bit 7 = 0	I2C Low speed 100Khz
Bit 7 = 1	I2C High speed 400Khz
Bit 6 = 0	Each byte is written as a separate I2C data write, with the I2C Register Address incremented after each write.
Bit 6 = 1	The I2C address (byte 0) is written, followed by the I2C Register Address (byte 2, this could be a command byte), followed by the desired amount of data defined by I2C Data Count (byte 1)

Example PIP data bytes for starting a micro second range PING on an [SRF08](#) device.

```
['O'],[I2C Address],[I2C Data Count],[I2C Register],[I2C Data]
0x4f,0xe0,0x01,0x00,0x52
```

### 'i'

I2C Data Read. This command allows you to read I2C data from an external device connected to the p.Brain-ds24 SDA, SCL lines. With this command it is possible to interface to I2C memory devices such as the 24xx series eeproms, or ultrasonic range finders such as the [SRF08](#). The command can read up to 32 bytes of data from an I2C device. The three data bytes of this command are:

```
byte 0:      I2C Address
byte 1:      I2C Data Count & I2C Bus Speed
byte 2:      I2C Register Address
```

I2C Data Count (byte 1) can be up to 32 bytes, the MSB bit 7 of byte 1 controls the I2C bus speed, 1 = 400 Khz, 0 = 100 Khz.

This command will read (I2C Data Count) bytes starting from the (I2C Register Address), after each read the I2C register Address is incremented. Data is stored in a buffer, once all data bytes have been read, the data is returned in a PIP packet of (I2C Data Count + 1) in length. The first byte of the returned PIP will be 'i', followed by the I2C data bytes.

Example PIP data bytes to read the PING data on an [SRF08](#) device.

```
['I'],[I2C Address],[I2C Data Count],[I2C Register]
0x49,0xe0,0x03,0x01
```

Returned PIP data from HexEngine:

```
['I'],[Light Sensor],[Echo High Byte],[Echo Low Byte]
```

Click [here](#) for further information on the SRF08 range finder.

### 'O'

Digital I/O Write. This command writes one byte of data to the external digital I/O port on the p.Brain-ds24. If using a p.Brain-SMB mother board, this is mapped to CN19. Only pins which have been assigned to digital I/O and configured as outputs are effected. There are no current limit resistors on these output pins of the dsPIC33, so care should be taken not to short the pins in digital output mode. Each output can source and sink 4 mA. The data byte for this command is as follows:

```
byte 0:      8 bits of digital I/O data.
```

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### o

Digital I/O Read. This command reads the current state of the external digital I/O port on the p.Brain-ds24. If using a p.Brain-SMB mother board, this is mapped to CN19. Only pins which have been assigned to digital I/O using the "ADC" & "DIO" commands within the HexEngine config and configured as inputs can be driven by the user. Pins configured as outputs will return the current output state. When the HexEngine receives this command, the port byte is read and returned in a PIP packet. The first byte of the PIP data will be 'o' followed by the 8 bits of the port state as one byte:

Returned PIP data:

byte 0: 'o'  
byte 1: Port State ( 8 bits )

### 'p'

Analogue Input Read. This command returns the current analogue voltage applied to the eight analogue input pins of the external port on the p.Brain-ds24. If using a p.Brain-SMB mother board, this is mapped to CN19. Only pins that have been configured as analogue input pins using the "ADC" command within the HexEngine configuration are captured. When the HexEngine receives this command, a PIP packet is returned containing the analogue input levels. The 17 data bytes returned are as follows:

Returned PIP Data:

byte 0: 'p'  
byte 1: Analogue Input 0 High Byte  
byte 2: Analogue Input 0 Low Byte  
byte 3: Analogue Input 1 High Byte  
byte 4: Analogue Input 1 Low Byte  
byte 5: Analogue Input 2 High Byte  
byte 6: Analogue Input 2 Low Byte  
byte 7: Analogue Input 3 High Byte  
byte 8: Analogue Input 3 Low Byte  
byte 9: Analogue Input 4 High Byte  
byte 10: Analogue Input 4 Low Byte  
byte 11: Analogue Input 5 High Byte  
byte 12: Analogue Input 5 Low Byte  
byte 13: Analogue Input 6 High Byte  
byte 14: Analogue Input 6 Low Byte  
byte 15: Analogue Input 7 High Byte  
byte 16: Analogue Input 7 Low Byte

### 'H'

This command is ideal for joystick like control of the PAN/TILT head. The command requires that the PAN/TILT servo limits have been configured using the PAM,PA+,PA-,TIM,TI+,TI- commands within the CONFIG menu. Each of the data bytes used to control head position are scaled to the pre-set servo limits. The two data bytes of this command are:

byte 0: Head Left/Right ( Pan )  
byte 1: Head Up/Down ( Tilt )

Each byte is a 8 bit signed, -128 to 127.



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**'&'**

This command will return the current PIP mode either 0 or 1 (Simple/ Escaped)

Returned PIP Data:

byte 0: '&'

byte 1: PIP Mode 0 or 1

**'{'**

Sets PIP mode = 0:SIMPLE

**'}'**

Sets PIP mode = 1:ESCAPED

**'j'**

This command defines the body rotation offset point in X, Y & Z. Each data byte is in mm. The rotation offset is reset to 0,0,0 upon boot. The 3 data bytes of this command are:

byte 0: Body Rotate Offset X

byte 1: Body Rotate Offset Y

byte 2: Body Rotate Offset Z

Each byte is a 8 bit signed, -128 to 127.

For example, to set the rotation point to the head of the MSR-H01 hexapod, X = 0, Y = 118, Z = 0.

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### C Code example to create a PIP Packet

The following code demonstrates how to create a HexEngine PIP packet. The code assumes you can open, close & send a byte on a serial communications port on the target platform

```
// *****
// INCLUDE
// *****

#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <conio.h>

// *****
// DEFINITIONS
// *****

#define CMD_PIP_HEADER 0x7e
#define CMD_PIP_ESCAPE 0x7d
#define CMD_PIP_XOR 0x20

// *****
// FUNCTION DEFINITIONS
// *****

// SENDS ONE BYTE TO SERIAL PORT
void SendByte( char lC );
// OPENS SERIAL PORT
void OpenComms( void );
// CLOSES SERIAL PORT
void CloseComms( void );
// SENDS PIP PACKET
void SendCMDPIPPacket( char *pPtr, char pLen );
// SENDS BYTE CHECKS FOR ILLEGAL CODES
void SendByteCheckCodes( char lC );

// *****
// MAIN CODE
// *****

void main( void )
{
char lBuffer[10];

// OPEN COMS DEVICE (User defined communications device)
OpenComms();

// SEND HEXENGINE WAKE COMMAND
lBuffer[0] = '+';
SendCMDPIPPacket( lBuffer, 1 );

// Delay 10 Seconds
delay(10000);

// SEND HEXENGINE SLEEP COMMAND
lBuffer[0] = '-';
SendCMDPIPPacket( lBuffer, 1);

// CLOSE COMMS DEVICE
CloseComms();

// END
}
```

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```

// *****
// Send Command PIP Packet
//
// Input:
// pPtr = char pointer to data buffer
// pLen = length of data buffer
//
// Output: none
// *****

void SendCMDPIPPacket( char *pPtr, char pLen )
{
char lC,lCs,lB;

// SEND PIP_HEADER
SendByte( CMD_PIP_HEADER );

// PACKET COUNT NEEDS ESCAPE CODE CHECKING!
SendByteCheckCodes( pLen );

// SETUP CHECK SUM
lCs = 0;

// SEND DATA WITH ESCAPE CODES IF NECESSARY.
// CALCULATE CHECKSUM WITHOUT ESCAPE CODES.
for( lC = 0; lC < pLen; lC++ )
{
// lB = NEXT BYTE OF DATA
lB = *pPtr;
// CHECK FOR ILLEGAL CODE & SEND
SendByteCheckCodes( lB );
// ADD TO CHECK SUM
lCs += lB;
// INCREMENT POINTER
pPtr++;
}

// CALCULATE CHECKSUM
lCs = 0xff - lCs;

// CHECK FOR ILLEGAL CODE + SEND CHECKSUM
SendByteCheckCodes( lCs );

}

// *****
// CHECK COMMAND ILLEGAL CODE
//
// INPUT: lC = Byte to be sent
//
// OUTPUT: none
// *****

void SendByteCheckCodes( char lC )
{
// IF SENDING PIP MODE 0 PACKETS, REMOVE FROM HERE..
if( lC == CMD_PIP_HEADER || lC == CMD_PIP_ESCAPE )
{
SendByte( CMD_PIP_ESCAPE );
SendByte( lC ^ CMD_PIP_XOR );
}
else
// TO HERE..
{
SendByte( lC );
}

}

```

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### Basic Stamp Code example to create a PIP Packet

The following code demonstrates how to create a HexEngine PIP packet. The code assumes you can open, close & send a byte on a serial communications port on the target platform

```
' =====
'
' File:      HE_2_BS.BS2
' Author:    Matt Denton
' Date:      26 AUG 2008
'
' {$STAMP BS2p}
' {$PBASIC 2.5}

' -----[ I/O Definitions ]-----
LED      PIN 0
SER_OUT  PIN 5

' -----[ Constants ]-----
CMD_PIP_ESCAPE  CON      $7d
CMD_PIP_HEADER  CON      $7e
CMD_PIP_XOR     CON      $20

#SELECT $STAMP
#CASE BS2, BS2E, BS2PE
  T1200      CON      813
  T2400      CON      396
  T4800      CON      188
  T9600      CON      84
  T19K2      CON      32
  T38K4      CON      6
#CASE BS2SX, BS2P
  T1200      CON      2063
  T2400      CON      1021
  T4800      CON      500
  T9600      CON      240
  T19K2      CON      110
  T38K4      CON      45
  T57K6      CON      23
  T115K2     CON      2
#CASE BS2PX
  T1200      CON      3313
  T2400      CON      1646
  T4800      CON      813
  T9600      CON      396
  T19K2      CON      188
  T38K4      CON      84
#ENDSELECT

COM_SevenBit  CON      $2000
COM_Inverted  CON      $4000
COM_Open      CON      $8000

Baud          CON      T115K2

' -----[ Variables ]-----
PIP_Byte      VAR Byte
PIP_Len       VAR Byte
PIP_Temp      VAR Byte
PIP_Buff      VAR Byte(8)
PIP_Cs        VAR Byte

Temp          VAR Byte

' -----[ Initialization ]-----
Setup:
HIGH SER_OUT

' -----[ Program Code ]-----
```

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Main:

```

' WAKE THE HEXENGINE
PIP_Buff(0) = "+"
PIP_Len = 1
GOSUB Send_Pip_Packet

PAUSE 5000

' SETUP BUFFER FOR WALK FORWARD
PIP_Buff(0) = "w"
PIP_Len = 1

' TRANSMIT WALK FORWARD FOR 10 SECONDS
FOR Temp = 1 TO 100
  GOSUB Send_Pip_Packet
  PAUSE 100
NEXT

' STOP THE HEXENGINE
PIP_Buff(0) = " "
PIP_Len = 1
GOSUB Send_Pip_Packet

' SLEEP THE HEXENGINE
PIP_Buff(0) = "-"
PIP_Len = 1
GOSUB Send_Pip_Packet

END

' -----[ Subroutines ]-----
' *****
' SENDS PIP PACKET STORED IN PIP_BUFF OF PIP_LEN LENGTH
'
Send_PIP_Packet:
' SEND HEADER
SEROUT SER_OUT, Baud, [CMD_PIP_HEADER]
' SEND PIP LENGHT
PIP_Byte = PIP_Len
GOSUB Send_Byte_Check_Codes
' SETUP CHECK SUM
PIP_Cs = 0
' SEND PACKET
FOR PIP_Temp = 0 TO PIP_Len-1
  PIP_Byte = PIP_Buff( PIP_Temp )
  PIP_Cs = PIP_Cs + PIP_Byte
  GOSUB Send_Byte_Check_Codes
NEXT
' SEND CHECK SUM
PIP_Byte = $ff - PIP_Cs
GOSUB Send_Byte_Check_Codes

RETURN

' *****
' SENDS PIP BYTE TO SERIAL PORT AND CHECKS PIP CODES
'
Send_Byte_Check_Codes:
' IF SENDING PIP MODE 0 SIMPLE PACKETS, REMOVE FROM HERE..
' CHECK CODE AGAINST ILLEGAL CODES
IF( PIP_Byte = CMD_PIP_HEADER | PIP_Byte = CMD_PIP_ESCAPE ) THEN
  ' SEND ESCAPED CODE
  SEROUT SER_OUT, Baud, [CMD_PIP_ESCAPE, PIP_Byte ^ CMD_PIP_XOR]
ELSE
  ' TO HERE..
  ' SEND NORMAL CODE
  SEROUT SER_OUT, Baud, [PIP_Byte]
ENDIF
RETURN

```

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We guarantee all products except electronic kits to be free of defects in workmanship and material for 30 days from the purchase, delivery date. We will repair or replace non-electronic kits (No cash will be refunded), at our option providing there is no evidence of customer misuse or alteration to that product item.

micromagic systems carries a limited 30 day warranty on most all items, some items carry an additional number of warranty days or special restrictions. If you want specific warranty information about a product contact micromagic systems to obtain that information.

We are not able to offer any refunds or accept returns for the following items and products: Electronic Kits.

#### CANCELLATION POLICY

Please be aware that if you cancel an order you may be responsible for restocking fees and / or shipping charges, including charges for return shipping. Cancelled orders are subject to a 25% or £10.00 minimum restocking fee. Orders cancelled within 24 hours of order placement will not be subject to restocking fees however this does not apply to orders with Express Shipping and Handling.