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An introduction to Servoreeler Systems

Servoreelers were developed to provide servo control of microphone cable. Their initial use was in the U.S. Senate Chamber. This first Servoreeler System has continued to operate flawlessly since its installation in 1994. Applying the Unique patented designs that were developed, an entire family of Servoreeler mechanisms is now offered that permits remotely deploying, retracting and positioning any suspended microphone.

Suspended microphones are often used in Concert hall applications; however they can also offer nearly ideal microphone placement for many other venues such as boardrooms and conference rooms. They can offer the most efficient and un-obtrusive microphone coverage of a given area. Clearly, in many environments, it is unacceptable for aesthetic or practical reasons to leave such microphones permanently deployed. Servoreelers make the use of Suspended microphones plausible in environments where they would otherwise be unwelcome. This is demonstrated by the scope of applications in our growing list of completed Servoreeler projects. Many of these installations are in sensitive environments or reside in very prestigious facilities. These are for the most part venues that would not normally consider the use of suspended microphones if they were to remain hanging when not in actual use.

In addition, Servoreeler Systems also provide various valuable remote control and positioning capabilities for Suspended microphones. This has obvious value in the use of time and even avoidance of potentially hazardous climbs for technical personnel. The following is a brief description of the various components that have been developed to provide a complete remote control system for suspended microphones.

The Servoreeler:

This is the heart of the system. It consists of a precision servo operated mechanism that stores, deploys, retracts and positions suspended microphone (cable) by remote control. Importantly this design does not employ slip rings. Live microphones can be positioned, always preserving the complete integrity of the audio. Operation can be initiated by pushbutton control or by external computer systems such as Creston or AMX. On-board control circuitry in the Servoreeler provides adjustable stop positioning as well as various supervisory functions to assure sustained reliable operation by protecting the mechanism.

Various options are offered such as a stereo Configuration consisting of four conductor-shielded microphone cable and five pin XLR connectors. Please refer to technical literature or contact us for full listing.

Servoreeler Controller:

SRC Controllers are offered in two standard capacities. The SRC-6 will control up to six servos' and the SRC-12 will do twelve. An internationally rated, linear regulated 24VDC power supply that provides system power is embedded in the controller. It is of adequate capacity to enable simultaneous operation of the entire system. Controllers are easily interfaced to external computer systems such as Crestron and AMX. Options include individual pushbutton control and hand held remote control operation.

Ceiling Bezel:

A finished ceiling bezel is offered. This small, nicely turned component provides a finished opening in the ceiling for the microphone cable. The bezel also employs a switch that is activated by the docking of the microphone or connector. This allows most small microphones to retract flush with the ceiling and larger microphones to stop as close as possible.

Ball microphone:

An elegant suspended microphone consisting of a condenser capsule finely embedded into a 3/4" diameter stainless steel ball. Suspended by a satin black, 2mm-microphone cable, it is very unobtrusive and has found enthusiastic acceptance for use in prestigious facilities. It retracts flush with the ceiling plane when used with our ceiling bezel.

Trapeze System:

A microphone suspension system consisting of a main 3/4" black anodized, tubular member to which may be attached multiple microphones. Universal microphone brackets are employed that permit the precise aiming of each microphone. This assembly is normally deployed by two Servoreelers, each supporting one end of the fixture using special 2mm mar-less cable clamps. By employing our quad, stereo cable in each Servoreeler, a four microphone array may be deployed.

Monofilament Servo:

The MPS-1 is a compact servo unit that is designed to deploy and retract a thin monofilament line. Monofilament is frequently employed in concert halls and auditoriums to "pull" a suspended microphone to a new position or desired angle. This servo provides remote control ability to this function avoiding the necessity of a technician doing this manually.

