

THE ULTIMATE CAMERA INTERVAL TIMER

TUCIT-1



THE MANUAL

www.tucit.com

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Inventory

Tucit-1 is supplied with a 3 volt battery, a copy of this manual and a laminated menu summary. If your camera is to be triggered to an electrical contact switch you will need to attach a suitable plug to Tucit-1's lead.

What Tucit-1 Is and Does

- i The name TUCIT stands for The Ultimate Camera Interval Timer and Tucit-1 is the original Tucit.
- ii Applications include kite aerial photography, time lapse photography and countless odd situations where a photographer wants his camera to fire more than once while his hands are free.
- iii Tucit-1 provides automatic infra-red triggering for a number of Aikon, Canon, Konica Minolta, Nikon, Olympus and Pentax cameras.
- iv It can also fire cameras which can be triggered by a simple on-off switch. In this case a suitable plug needs to be attached to the 2 core wire from the relay switch. If this is not used with a plug it can be used as a carrying loop.
- v With Tucit-1 you can set *intervals* from a tenth of a second to up to 18 hours
- vi You can set *countdown* periods up to 18 hours.
- vii There is an optional *picture limit* from 1 to 250.
- viii In *batch mode* groups of pictures can be taken with delay periods between them.
- ix The *double take* setting allows you to fire the shutter signal twice with gaps which can be set in units of a half a second. This can be used to wake a camera up if it goes into sleep mode or to give the two actions involved in mirror lock-up.
- x As an economy setting the flashing of leds can be disabled.
- xi Tucit-1 is 64 x 30 x 15 mm and weighs 21 gram with battery.

The Infra-red Signals

- i Tucit-1 mimics the following camera infra-red remote controls: Canon WL-DC100 & RC-1, Konika-Minolta RC-D1, Nikon ML-L3, Olympus RM1 & RM2 and Pentax E & F as well as the remote control for Aikon cameras.
- ii Tucit does not attempt to match the range of any one of these dedicated devices and so should not be positioned more than a meter from your camera. Note also that the infra-red lamp is fairly directional.
- iii By default the different camera signals of all these cameras are sent with short spaces in between. This way there sometimes can be interference and pictures may be lost. You can avoid this by using the *Cameras* sub-menu to send just one type of camera signal.

Tucit And Time

- i Tucit does not attempt to offer quartz accuracy yet the time periods it uses are very consistent.
- ii Please note that the time the triggering process takes is not compensated for.
- iii There are 5 places to set time periods. These are the basic *countdown* and *interval* settings which are done by holding down the button switch and counting the flashing seconds or watching a clock. And there are the sub-menus *tenths* (of a second) *tens* (minutes) and *countdown2*. In all cases count 1 = 0 or off, 2 = 1, 3 = 2 etc.
- v The maximum sub-menu number is 255 and the maximum main *interval* and *countdown* periods is 18 hours.

The Internal 3 Volt Battery

The unit is powered by a 3 volt CR2023 lithium battery which should be disposed of safely. Battery life is over 9 days of continuous use at default settings. When the battery is removed all your settings are preserved.

TIMER SETTINGS

How To Switch On: There are 2 ways !

- i Just switch on and after the red-green *start-up-picture* flash watch the red *interval* seconds as they flash until the next red-green picture flash. (In fact the red-green picture flash occurs just before the infra-red signals are sent. This is to maximise current available for the infra-red led.)
- ii Switch on, then immediately off, then on again. Now after the *start-up* flashing watch the green *countdown* seconds until the first picture. By default there are 60 countdown seconds.

The Start-Up Picture

The purpose of red-green *start-up-picture* flash and picture is to test your system and it will occur even if you are starting Tucit-1 with a countdown. If unwanted this can be disabled in menu item 1.

Setting an Interval Delay

- i (Tucit-1 should not have been prepared for a countdown.)
- ii Switch on and holding the button switch down after the first flash (zero) count the number of red flashing seconds you want. Alternatively use a clock and watch that.
- iii When you release the button spectacular red-green flashing indicates that your setting has been confirmed.
- iv Switch off and restart with the new interval settings.
- v To reset the *default* interval delay of 5 seconds start the above process but simply switch the power off *before* releasing the button.
- vi In addition to this process you can use menu items 2 and 3 to count up additional *tenths* of a second or '*tens*' minute periods. These will be added to whatever you have set with the basic procedure above.

Recording a Countdown Delay

- i First prepare for a countdown start by switching the unit on and immediately off.
- ii Push the button down, switch on and after the first flash (zero) count the number of green countdown seconds you require. Alternatively use a clock and watch that.
- iii Lift your finger, enjoy the red-green flashing and power off.
- iv To set the default countdown delay of 60 seconds power off *before* releasing the button.
- v In addition you can use the Tucit's second countdown *countdown2* which is menu item 8. This counts in minutes and these are added to whatever basic countdown period you have set with the button switch procedure above. *Countdown2* can be distinguished from the green flashes of the basic *countdown* as it is accompanied by a continuous green led.

THE FACTORY RESET

This will restore all the default settings shown in this manual. To perform a factory reset look at the microprocessor from the side of the leds. Take a small metal object such as a ball pen and counting from the left short together pins 5 and 6. The reset is confirmed by red-green flashing and you should restart. If you inadvertently touch the wrong pins Tucit won't mind, but you won't get the required flashing.



Footnote: The expression factory reset you will find in this document is not used literally. It should not be regarded as a description of the chaotic table up a ladder in the cramped attic from which your Tucit-1 first blinked at the world.

USING TUCIT'S MENU SYSTEM

The Flashing Lights

- i A red-green flash immediately precedes the taking of a picture.
- ii The red led flashes the interval seconds.
- iii The green led flashes the countdown seconds and a continuous green represents countdown2.
- iv Both leds are also used to make settings. And when they flash urgently this tells you that something important has happened and invites you to restart.

Getting Started With The Menu System

- i The system of a menu with sub-menus is just like that of any desktop computer. The only difference is that whilst you can read a computer menu you need to read Tucit's menu names off a sheet of paper and to navigate to them by counting button presses.
- ii Start off by practising the resets. These are a basic tool so be prepared to use them frequently and unashamedly.
- iii Set an interval of about 3 seconds and first explore the menus watching how your settings affect the leds.
- iv And keep resetting - that way you'll always know where you are.

On the Pushing of the Button Switch

When you are making settings Tucit understands only 2 kinds of push. Anything longer than a second is a *long push*. Anything shorter than a second is a *short push* or a *tap*.

Setting a Menu Item

- i With Tucit, on hold the button switch down. As soon as the *menu double flash* welcomes you lift your finger and the green will stay on. You are at the top of the menu.
- ii If you give the button switch short presses the red light will come on replacing the green each time.
- iii Each flash which you *tap* moves you down the main menu. The first short flash you tap is item 1, etc.
- iv If you give too many short taps you will simply 'fall off' the end of the end of the menu and be taken back to the *menu double flash*.
- v Hold down with a long push on the number of the menu item you want. For example to select item 4 to disable *flashing* give three taps and then a long push.
- vi Your setting having been made you will be welcomed back to the *menu double flash*.
- vii After the double flash you can either proceed with another setting or restart with your new setting.

Setting a Sub-Menu Item

- i Tap your way down the main menu and give the number of the sub-menu you want a long press.
- ii The red light will go out and the green light will come on.
- iii You can now lift your finger, the green light will stay on and you are now in the sub-menu.
- iv Now tap your way along it just as if you were in the main menu and hold down at the number of the setting you want.

Navigation tips

- i If at any time you are not sure about where you are in the *main menu* or the *cameras* sub-menu just *tap* your way to the end and fall off. Tucit will immediately take you back to the start. (This is not possible with the numerical sub-menu as these go up to 255 then continue from 0 again.)
- ii Alternatively if you are lost you can simply switch off and start again.
- iii If you are not sure about what has been set either do a *custom reset* or a *factory reset*.

THE MENUS

T = toggle S = sub-menu

1 Start-Up-Process (Default is on)

The purpose of the start-up-process is to confirm that the camera connection is working. But if it is a nuisance this is where you can turn it off - or later back on again.

2 Tenths (Default is 0 tenths of a second)

Here you can add to the interval time in tenths of a second.
1 = off, 2 = 0.1 secs, 3 = 0.2 secs, etc.

3 Tens (Default is 0 ten minute periods)

Here you can add to the interval using units of ten minutes.

4 Flashing leds (Default is on)

This is an economy option basic to all Tucits. When interval and countdown leds are turned off the very first flash, red or green, is still visible and a brief red-green flash marks the start of picture taking.

5 Double Take (Default is off)

This provides a double action double camera signal with a space between them which you can set in half seconds. This can be used for those cameras which go into sleep mode during long intervals or to lock up a mirror on a SLR camera.

0 = off, 1 = a gap of 0.5 secs, 2 = 1 secs, 3 = 1.5 secs etc.

6 Picture limit (Default is off)

Normally Tucit will continue taking pictures indefinitely. But here you can limit the number of pictures taken from one up to 250.

1 = off, 2 = 1 picture, 3 = 2 pictures etc.

7 Batch (Default is off)

With *batch* you can take a group of pictures and then repeat a *countdown* process (with green flashes) then take another group repeatedly. Set the interval between batches with the basic *countdown* timer. If you want to set a longer countdown before the first batch use *countdown2*.

1 = off, 2 = a batch of 2 pictures, 3 = a batch of 3 pictures etc.

8 Countdown2 (Default is 0 minutes)

i Used when the regular countdown is committed to *batch mode* or or as an alternative or addition to the basic *countdown*.

ii It is activated together with the normal *countdown* with the on-off-on switch sequence. *Countdown2*'s solid green led is followed by the green flashes of the normal *countdown*.

iii When setting 1 = 0 (off), 2 = 1 minute, etc.

9 Cameras (Default all)

By default Tucit sends the signals of 8 different camera infra-red controllers one after the other with short spaces in between and finally operates the switch contact relay. Occasionally a camera will miss a picture this way. To avoid any problems of signal interference this sub-menu allows you to send the signal of just one of the following camera types.

MAIN MENU		
1	Startup	T on
2	Tenths	S 0
	0 > 0.1 secs > 0.2 secs etc	
3	Tens	S 0
	0 > 10 mins > 20 mins etc	
4	Flashing	T on
5	Double Take	S off
	off > 0.5 secs > 1 secs > 1.5 etc	
6	Picture Limit	S off
	off > 1 > 2 etc	
7	Batch	S off
	off > 2 shots > 3 shots etc	
8	Countdown2	S off
	off > 1 min > 2 mins etc	
9	Cameras	S 1
10	Reset Custom Defaults	
11	Customise All Defaults	

9 Sub-menu: Cameras	
1	All Cameras ✓
2	Canon WL-DC 100
3	Canon RC-1
4	Konika Minolta RC-D1
5	Nikon ML-L3
6	Olympus RM1
7	Olympus RM2
8	Pentax E & F
9	Aikon
10	Switch

10 Reset Custom Defaults

- i This custom reset replaces whatever settings you have with the intervals, countdown and menu settings you have customised in 11 below. The reset is confirmed by red-green flashing. You are then returned to the welcoming *menu double flash* where you can either switch off and restart or continue with another setting.
- ii (Alternative Custom Reset. Turn Tucit on then hold down the button switch. After the *menu double flash* the green light goes on. Keep holding down for about 8 seconds ignoring the warning flashes. When rapid red-green flashing confirms your reset you can restart.)
- iii Both these ways reset Tucit with all the *customised all settings* you have made in 11 below. If you haven't yet made any customised settings it will restore the *factory defaults*. (If you want to return Tucit to the *factory defaults* described in this manual do a *factory reset* by shorting out pins 5 and 6.)

11 Customise All Defaults

This replaces the default settings shown in this manual with your own. It applies to all menus and also interval and countdown times. It simply records all the settings you have at the time you push the button. Hold down for about 8 seconds ignoring the warning flashes until rapid flashing confirms that your Tucit has been customised. Restart.

Finally

The manual is subject to revision and downloads are available from www.tucit.com All comments and suggestions are most welcome.

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TUCIT-1 MENU SUMMARY AND DEFAULT SETTINGS

MAIN MENU		
1	Startup	T on
2	Tenths 0 > 0.1 secs > 0.2 secs etc	S 0
3	Tens 0 > 10 mins > 20 mins etc	S 0
4	Flashing	T on
5	Double Take off > 0.5 secs > 1 secs > 1.5 etc	S off
6	Picture Limit off > 1 > 2 etc	S off
7	Batch off > 2 shots > 3 shots etc	S off
8	Countdown2 off > 1 min > 2 mins etc	S off
9	Cameras	S 1
10	Reset Custom Defaults	
11	Customise All Defaults	

9	Sub-menu: Cameras
1	All Cameras ✓
2	Canon WL-DC 100
3	Canon RC-1
4	Konika Minolta RC-D1
5	Nikon ML-L3
6	Olympus RM1
7	Olympus RM2
8	Pentax E & F
9	Aikon
10	Switch

T = toggle

S = sub-menu

Red = Default

Intervals = 5 secs

Countdown = 60 secs