laserDESK
laser processing software

Installation and First Steps

laserDESK® Version 1.0

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1 Installation

1.1 PC and System Requirements

Before you install the laserDESK® software, verify that your system meets the following PC and system requirements:

- 32-bit operating system:
  Microsoft Windows XP, Windows Vista or Windows 7 (with Framework 3.5 or higher).
- Required hard disk space:
  Approx. 100 MB (incl. Help file in English and German)
- USB dongle:
  If you want to run the laserDESK® program with full functionality (i.e. not just demo mode) you need a vaild USB dongle (software-protection device). Without vaild dongle, only the demo mode is usable. In demo mode, nothing is savable and hardware control isn't possible. Laser jobs can't be executed.
- RTC®5 PC interface board (DLL Version 518 or higher):
  laserDESK® jobs are executable only if the PC that controls the laser scan system (production PC) contains a SCANLAB RTC®5 PC interface board. The RTC®5 requires a PCI slot. Certain functions (e.g. Processing-on-the-fly) are only usable if the corresponding option has been activated on the RTC®5 board.
  In contrast, **no** RTC®5 board is required for creating jobs. Thus, jobs can be created on any PC (even without an RTC®5 board) for later execution on the production PC (with RTC®5 board and installed laserDESK® software).

1.2 Installing laserDESK®

Notes

- If framework 3.5 is not installed on your computer, install it prior to installing laserDESK®. An appropriate installation file 'dotnetfx35.exe' is provided on the laserDESK® installation CD or can be downloaded from the Microsoft website.
- Before you install the laserDESK® software, check for updates at www.laserDESK.info.
- The laserDESK® software can be installed even without a dongle and without an RTC®5 PC interface board.

- If you install laserDESK® from an installation CD, insert the CD into your PC drive. Then the Installation Wizard will start automatically.
- Otherwise run 'Setup.exe' from the software package.
- Installation then proceeds automatically via the Windows Installer. Follow the Wizard's instructions to install laserDESK®.

2 First steps with laserDESK®

2.1 Starting laserDESK®

Right after installing the laserDESK® software, it is recommended to proceed with the following steps:

- For using laserDESK® with full functionality (i.e. not just demo mode), connect the supplied dongle to any USB port of the PC.
- Start laserDESK® via the 'SLLaserDesk.exe' program file or use a shortcut on the desktop or in the start menu.
- In the 'SCANLAB laserDESK' dialog box, enter "Admin" as user name and no password. This is the default user.

If no valid dongle is detected, then laserDESK® automatically switches to demo mode.

2.2 Assigning access authorizations and read and write permissions

Before any further use of laserDESK®, your system administrator must assign the required read and/or write permissions to all program users (depending on their level of laserDESK® access authorization, see topic 'Defining the User's Access Authorization' in the Online Help; open with <F1> key):

- To each user with laserDESK® access authorization "Administrator" or "Supervisor", assign read and write permissions for the laserDESK® program directory - typically 'C:\Programs\SCANLAB\' and for 'C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\User Data\SCANLAB\SLLaserDesk\' with subdirectories.
- To each user with the laserDESK® access authorization "Designer", assign read and write permissions for the 'C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\User Data\SCANLAB\SLLaserDesk\' directory with subdirectories.
- To each other user, assign read permission only (access authorization "Production" and "Viewer") for the 'C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\User Data\SCANLAB\SLLaserDesk\' directory with subdirectories.

2.3 Configuring the laser and scan system

The further steps must be performed by a user with laserDESK® access authorization "Administrator" (and thus has the respective write permissions):

- Copy the RTC correction file corresponding to your laser scan system in the 'C:\Programs\SCANLAB\LaserDesk\RTC5\' directory.
- Assign the RTC correction file to the laserDESK® program:
  - Open the menu 'File\Open >\Hardware Configuration' in laserDESK®.
  - In the 'Hardware Configuration' dialog box, select directory 'Optic'.
  - Open the Windows standard 'Open' dialog box, via button {...} and select the corresponding RTC correction file in the 'C:\Programs\SCANLAB\LaserDesk\RTC5\' directory.
  - Confirm with {OK}.
  - Finally, save the file – otherwise the settings will not be applied.
- Now you must define your laser control settings. In the Hardware Configuration, open the 'Processing Laser' page and select the laser type. If you use a specified laser, you have finished. Otherwise you must select 'GeneralType' and you need to create a laser definition file. There you will define your laser. The procedure is described detailed in the Online Help (<F1>, see 'Creating a Laser Definition File for a General Type Laser').

2.4 Reading important information

Before any further application of laserDESK®, all laserDESK® users must read the 'Safety' topic in the Online Help (<F1>). Moreover it is highly recommended to read the 'laserDESK® Software – Overview' topic (or the ‚laserDESK_QuickGuide.pdf' file) . This topic describes the program structure, which functions are available in laserDESK®, and what is the best way to create and execute a laserDESK® job.