

HDMI - High-Definition Multimedia Interface

Digital cameras and home cinema are increasingly growing together. This is made possible, inter alia, by the digital universal interface HDMI, which enables the transfer of all digital multimedia data via only one cable. HDMI is already standard in most television sets of the younger generation. Many modern camcorders, all high-quality DVD, Blu-ray and audio players and, since recently, also laptops and PCs have this universal connector. Now the first digital cameras with HDMI interface are entering the market, so that digital photos can be shown on TV screens in optimal quality.

single, 9 pin special cable with mini connector. Unlike earlier interfaces and cables for the transfer of data-intensive contents - for example, iLink or FireWire - HDMI does not compress data for transfer. Consequently, there are no data or quality losses. A/D conversion - which involves a loss in quality - is not necessary, either. The wide bandwidth of the HDMI transfer allows a loss-free data transfer of all digital contents, including the currently highest HDTV resolution of 1080p.

Communication between HDMI devices can be bidirectional. For example, a TV set can send to the data source the necessary information about TV picture and sound formats, in order to adapt the data transfer automatically to these requirements. Another advantage of linking several multimedia components through the HDMI interface is the option to simply steer them via remote control or along an infrared path.

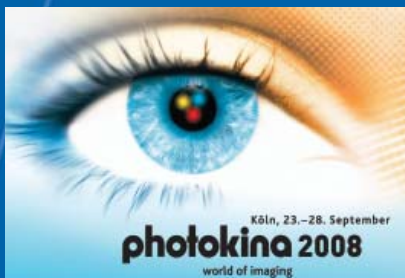
HDMI is considered highly future-oriented, because the fathers of this interface have left much room for further optimization. For example, there is scope for higher data transfer rates with future picture and sound formats. For HDTV transfer - the best TV picture quality of the present day - HDMI is so far using only one fourth of its potential bandwidth of 10.2 GB/s.

Following TV sets, audio systems, video projectors and DVD or Blu-ray players, now cameras and PCs are the most recent components to use this multi-talented interface for communication with home entertainment devices. At photokina 2008 visitors can look forward to many new digital cameras with HDMI and HDTV compatibility, additionally to the AV-out connector.

One for all

Transferring digital photos to TV screens was already possible with AV-out connectors in most cameras, but in the age of high resolution HDTV/LCD or plasma screens the reproduction quality did not reflect the full potential of those screens. Quite an effort, such as e.g. purchasing a special HDTV player, was necessary for satisfactory picture quality. Now the fast-spreading HDMI interface directly connects compatible digital cameras with TV sets - for pictures in optimal TV quality.

HDMI specifications were first adopted in 2004 and soon accepted by industry and consumers alike. Current specifications of the version HDMI 1.3a leave very little to be desired. They enable the direct transfer of multimedia data via one



HDMI - High Definition Multimedia Interface is one of the central subjects of photokina in Cologne from 23 to 28 September 2008. For those who want to be in the picture, all roads lead to the World of Imaging with 1,600 exhibitors.



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