# **MECHA** C2 Quick Reference Card

Your choice is appreciated!

C2 is the Fanotec's second generation of controllers, with OLED display, external battery and support for two MECHA rotators.

Configurations like C2-P1-E2 and C2-E2-E2 are heavy-duty and affordable dual-axis pan-tilt head solutions for full-size DSLRs and lenses.

# **Get Your Equipment Ready** as shown in this image.

- 1 Controller to upper rotator built-in cable
- 2 C2 controller
- 3 Controller to lower rotator built-in cable
- 4 Upper rail
- 5 Upper rotator
- 6 Attachment strap
- 7 External battery
- 8 Lower rail
- 9 Nadir adapter
- 10 Lower rotator



**Power on MECHA** by long pressing the **U** button. The power button can also be used as an emergency stop.

▲ If the display is not showing anything, the battery may be completely discharged and needs to be replaced.

#### Check which Working Mode is Set



**1.** After powering MECHA on, the display should show the *Preset (P) Menu*, which means the SIMPLE MODE is ON, and you can skip the next step.

2. If the display shows the rotators in use and the IP address, the ADVANCED MODE is ON, and it is recommended to switch to SIMPLE MODE. Long press the 🗐 button to enter Menu Mode, next press the 🗐 button to switch to *Config (C) Menu*, then press

the 🔁 button to change the first option to SIMPLE MODE.

**Check the battery level** by pressing **U**. Press it again to exit.

Navigate through *Config* and *Preset* menus using the arrow buttons. Switch between menus using the **S** button.

# **Change and Check some Config Settings**

**OLED Brightness** – Press the 🛨 button to enter edit mode, then use either the 🛨 or 😑 button to adjust its value (from 1 to 255).

**ROTATOR 1 is.../ ROTATOR 2 is...** — Press either 😵 or 🛨 to enter edit mode, then set the lower rotator / upper rotator.

**ALWAYS ON NO POWER OFF** — Press either 😢 or 🛨 to enter edit mode, then set MECHA to shut down automatically after a certain number of minutes of inactivity, or vice versa, to keep it always on.

*USE NN IR is ON / OFF* — Press the 😢 button to switch between the two options. Choose ON to be able to use Nodal Ninja IR Remote.

**FIRMWARE VERSION** — Press the 🔁 button to show the current firmware version for all MCUs (microcontroller units) and connected rotators. The first – MECHA's firmware – is the one you update over the internet using the UPDATE options.

### Simple Rotations



In the *Preset (P) Menu*, navigate to *SIMPLE ROTATIONS*, then press **(2)**. The display will show: *Set POSITION*, as in the image.

After pressing the first button, quickly press the second one. Use the second button combination for rotation in the opposite direction.

		Lower rotator	Upper rotator
•	45° rotations:	() () () () () () () () () () () () () (	
•	90° rotations:	() (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (	
•	180° rotations:		

Note that the rotation angle for the above button combinations can be set in the *Config (C) Menu: INTERVAL 1/2/3.* 

**For continuous rotation** press and hold the arrow buttons, one at a time. For example, for continuous left rotation, press and hold

When pressing 🕑 to check the battery level, you can also use the button combinations above for simple rotations.

# **Upper Rail Positions**



The basic positions required for presets are: **Parked (1)** — the upper rail is oriented vertically down. **Level (2)** — the upper rail is in the horizontal position. **Raised (3)** — the upper rail is oriented vertically upwards.

#### Launch a Factory Preset Without a Camera Mounted

Use the **Section** buttons to find the *PANORAMA TEST PARKED* option in the *Preset (P) Menu*. This is a panorama preset consisting of 3 rows – at 0° and +/- 45° – 12 shots around, plus zenith and nadir shots, starting from the parked position. Press 🔁 to launch this preset and wait until it is done, or press 🕑 to cancel the execution.

#### **Example of Creating Your Own Preset**

In the Preset (P) Menu, find an empty option, then press 🛨 to enter edit mode, then adjust the preset settings.

Use the **-+** buttons to adjust the current value. Use the **b** button to go to the next setting.



Here are some basic settings:

- Focal length (50mm in the first image above) alternates with *Number of shots* (12sh - in the second image above) and AUTO; press 🔼 to switch between the three parameters, and choose the focal length this time.
- Number of camera trigger signals per position. T1 means 1 camera trigger signal.
- **Exposure** (in seconds). *E1/2* means an exposure of half a second.
- *Image overlap* (percent). Values in the range 5-80% are allowed.
- Coverage area: 360 180 for a full panorama.
- Position of the upper rail Level (L) (when launching this preset, make sure the upper rail is in the horizontal position).
- Direction of rotation: ? (unspecified).

Leave the other settings as they are in the template.

Press the 🕑 button to cancel and exit edit mode, if necessary.

Confirm your settings and save by pressing the 🐼 button.

As soon as a preset is saved, you can start shooting, or use it anytime later. Press 🔁 to launch the preset (or 🗖 to delete it).

The display will show Set POSITION, meaning you can set the initial view and position the upper rail before continuing, as shown in Simple

**Rotations**. Press 🔁 if no change is needed.



If the direction of rotation is not specified in preset (?), the display will show ROT. SENSE. Press either 🚺 or 🕨 to continue.

#### Firmware Update Using a Hot-spot

• Set up a hot-spot with the name **MECHA-UPDATE** and (default) password 87654321, in 2.4 GHz band on a 3G/4G/5G smartphone with mobile data enabled and Internet available to it.

- Power on MECHA and wait until it reaches the idle status.
- Press the 😑 button to switch to the *Config (C) Menu* and find the option UPDATE USING H-SPOT on page 8.
- Press the 🔁 button to launch the update. MECHA starts scanning the existing networks and you will hear two beeps when it connects to the MECHA-UPDATE hot-spot.
- After update, deactivate the hot-spot and power MECHA off, then power it on.

A The response shown on the display will be: "No update found!" if the update cannot be done at that time.

The update may take up to 5 minutes or more in case of slow Internet connection.

#### Access the UI with Your Smartphone

- Set MECHA in AP mode using the Config option: Default Wi-Fi is AP / STA / AP+STA / OFF.
- Tap the Settings icon on your device. Under Wireless and Networks, make sure *Wi-Fi* is turned on, then tap *Wi-Fi*. Tap the network that contains **MECHA** in its name to connect the smartphone to MECHA.
- The default password for MECHA's network is 12345678.
- Access MECHA's UI on the smartphone's browser at: 192.168.8.1

Configuration page: 192.168.8.1/config Row page: 192.168.8.1/row **C2 Interface**: 192.168.8.1/c2

For more information, download the MECHA C2 User's Guide: https://www.nodalninja.com/Manuals/c2-guide.pdf

Youtube Tutorials – How to use MECHA's C2 Controller: https://www.fanotec.com/list-c2

For support and troubleshooting, please visit our forum: https://forum.nodalninja.com/

Nodal Ninja Youtube Channel – VR solutions: https://www.youtube.com/@NodalNinja

Support email address: mecha@nodalninja.com



MECHA SSID Sticker

Developed and manufactured by Fanotec International Limited. https://www.fanotec.com/

**MY NOTES:**