

**future-u** (u = universal)

speed controller for brushless and sensorless motors

operating instructions V 10 date of issue: 23 JUNE 2003



**schulze**  
elektronik  
gmbh

## Wiring diagram future-11.xx, 12.xx, 18.xx, 24.xx, 32.xx, 40.xx



**Please read the instructions carefully  
(including those who hate to read  
instructions!)**

**Illustration future-32.170W see page 2  
Illustration future-9.xx see page 2  
DIL-switches and solder bridges -  
configuration samples see page 3**

### Key to illustration:

- 1 Receiver cable, 3-pin:
  - = negative . . . . . black or brown
  - + = positive . . . . . red
  - p = pulse . . . . . white or orange
- 2 Battery connection neg (-) . black
- 3 Battery connectin pos. (+) . red
- 4 Motor connection a . . . . . red . . . . . blue, black
- 5 Motor connection b . . . . . white, yellow . . . . . white, yellow
- 6 Motor connection c . . . . . blue, black . . . . . red

### Reverse use:

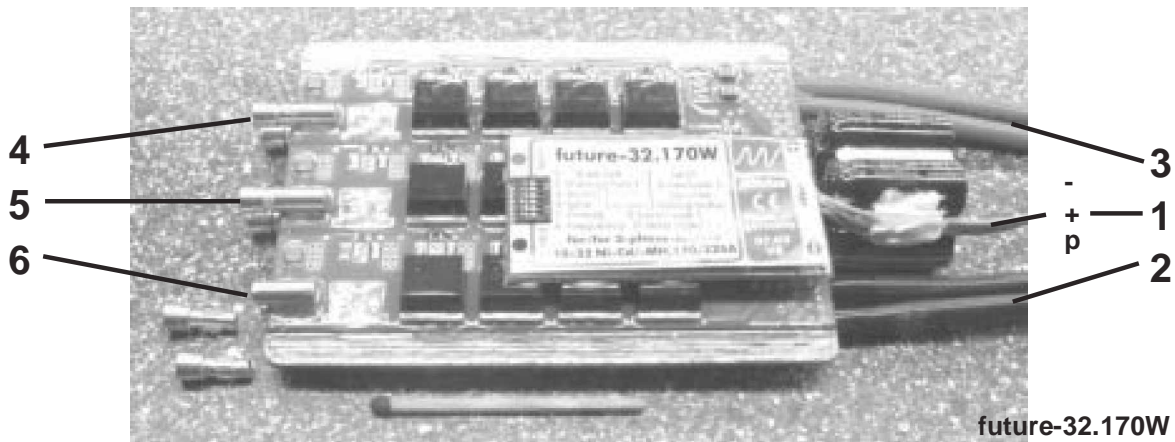
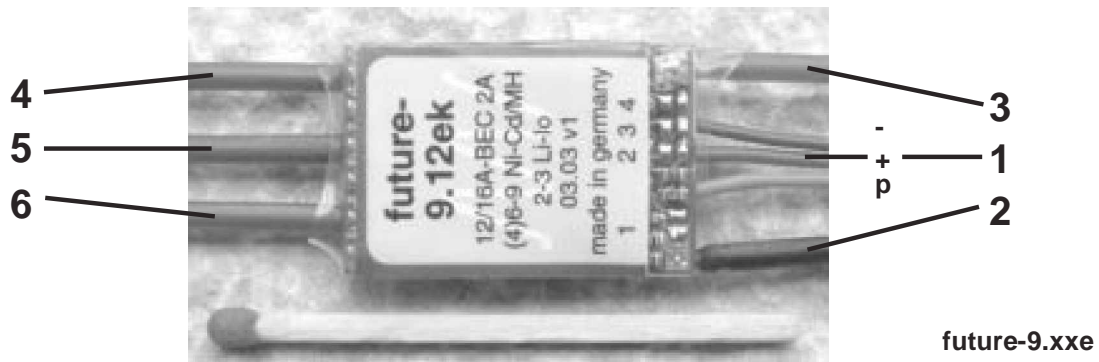
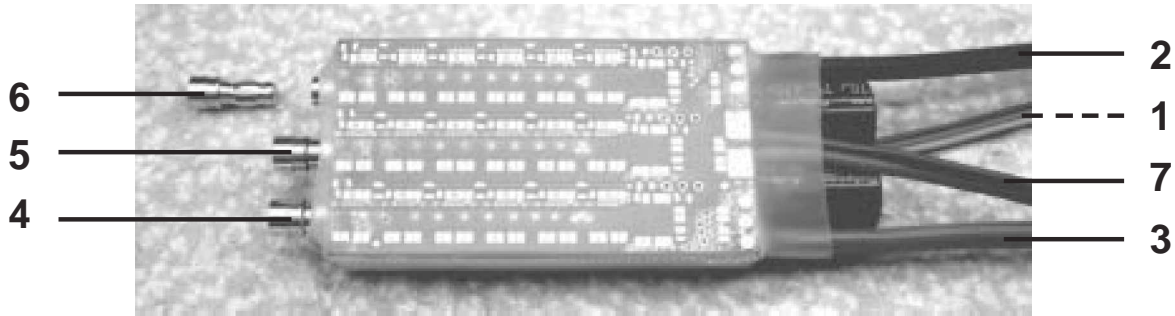
**Please note the following guidelines, which apply when you are connecting the motor and reversing its direction of rotation:**

- 1) The controller can be used with sensorless and sensor-controlled motors. If your motor is sensor-controlled, the 5-pin connector is not used.
- 2) The three motor cables can be connected in any order.
- 3) To reverse the direction of rotation you have to swap over two of the three motor cables; we recommend that you swap the two outer wires.

Unfortunately the colour coding of the motor windings may not apply consistently to the sensor-controlled and sensorless types.

**Note:** for right-hand rotation, Plettenberg motors should be connected as the colour code shows. Mostly **futures** should be connected with the DIL-switch facing the outside of the fuselage.

## Wiring diagrams other futures



**Key to illustrations:**

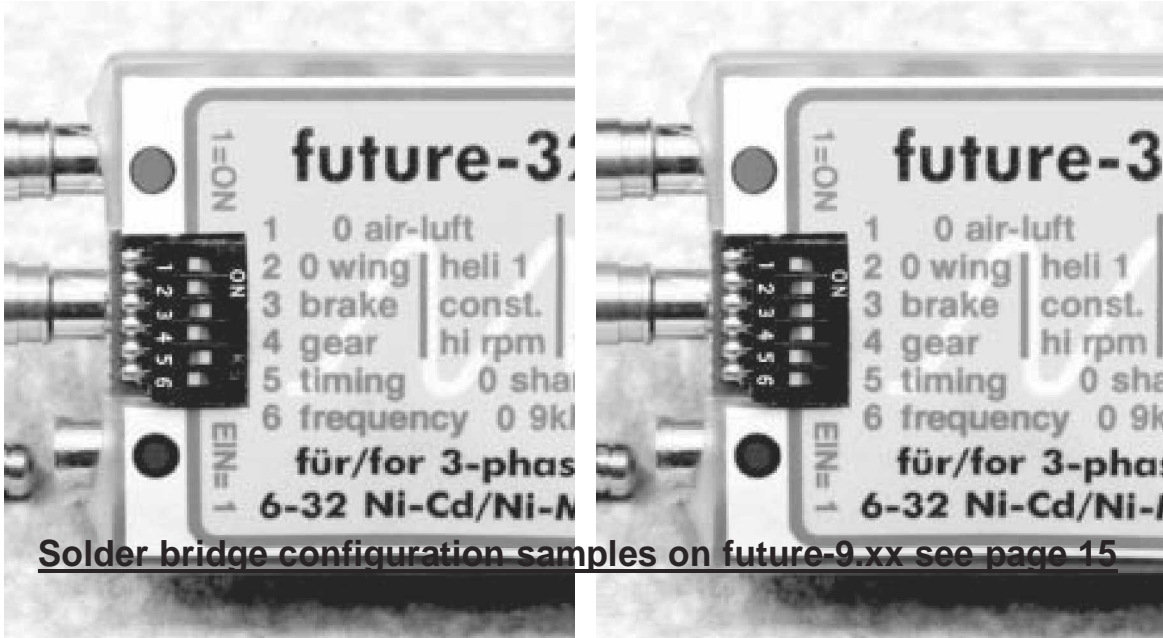
- |   |   |   |                           |
|---|---|---|---------------------------|
| 1 | Receiver cable, 3-core                      |   |                           |
|   | - = negative = brown, + = positive 5V = red |   |                           |
|   | p = pulse = orange or white                 | 7 | BEC-cable , 2-core        |
| 2 | Battery connection neg. (-) black           |   | (future-12.xx only)       |
| 3 | Battery connection pos. (+) red             |   | - = neg. . . . . braun    |
| 4 | Motor connection a . . . red                |   | + = pos. 5V . . . . . red |
| 5 | Motor connection b . . . white, yellow      |   |                           |
| 6 | Motor connection c . . . blue, black        |   |                           |

## DIL switch configuration sample

future-11.xx, 12.xx, 18.xx, 24.xx, 32.xx, 40.xx

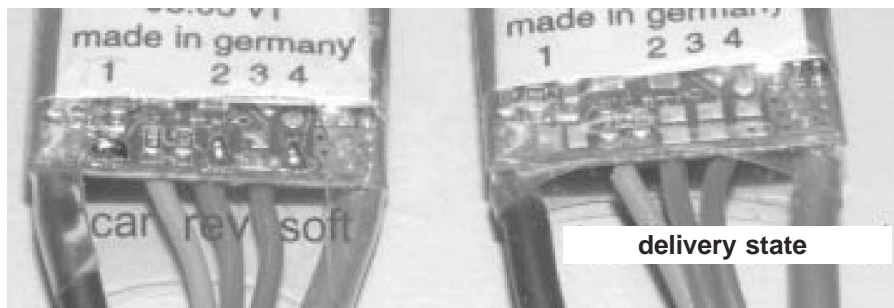
DIL-switch configured to:  
wing, brake enabled, no gear,  
soft timing, 9 kHz

DIL-switch configured to:  
heli, const.-rpm, high-rpm  
hard timing, 9 kHz



Solder bridge configuration samples on future-9.xx see page 15

## Solder bridge configuration sample future-9.xx



## Dear customer,

**Congratulations** on your choice of a **future** speed controller, which is a micro-computer controlled unit developed and manufactured entirely in Germany, designed for brushless and sensorless 3-phase rotary current motors.

All models of the **future** are amongst the world's smallest, lightest and most capable speed controllers. **future** controllers have the most intelligent, comprehensive software, which means that this speed controller (or governor) is capable of operating virtually any brushless motor currently on the market with optimum efficiency.

The **ipsu** (intelligent programming system for **future-universal**) makes it as simple as possible to configure the controller to match any radio control system and operating mode: The transmitter stick travel settings of the wing programs is fully automatical, the operating modes can easily be configured by the DIL switch.

The **integral motor connector system** is a feature of all **future-u**, and makes it possible to remove the unit for servicing, or for fitting in another model, simply by unplugging the cables - no soldering is required.

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# 1 Warning notes, cautions

**Electric** motors fitted with propellers are dangerous and require proper care for safe operation. Keep well clear of the propeller at all times when the battery pack is connected.

**Technical** defects of an electrical or mechanical nature may result in unintended motor runs; loose parts may cause serious personal injury and/or property damage.

**The CE-certificate** on the speed controller does not absolve you from taking proper care when handling the system!

**Speed** controllers are exclusively for use in RC models. Their use in man-carrying aircraft is prohibited.

**Speed** controllers are not protected against reverse polarity (+ terminal and - terminal reversed). Connecting the **battery pack** to the **motor leads** of the controller will almost certainly cause irreparable damage.

**Electronic** equipment is sensitive to humidity. Speed controllers which have got wet may not function properly even after thorough drying. You should send them back to us for cleaning and testing.

**Do** not use speed controllers in conjunction with a power supply connected to the mains. Energy reversal can occur when the motor slows down and stops, and this may damage the power supply or cause an over-voltage condition which could damage the controller.

**Never** disconnect the flight pack while the motor is running, as this could cause damage on a speed controller.

**Please** take care when switching off the receiver battery: depending on the receiver you are using, it may send an incorrect throttle signal to the **future** at this moment, which could then cause the motor to burst into life unexpectedly.

**If** you are using a **future** with BEC system:  
**a) On** no account connect a separate receiver battery or an electronic battery switch (two receiver batteries), as this may cause damage to the speed controller and could cause current to flow from the receiver battery to the motor.

**b) If** you want to use a separate receiver battery cut through the + wire in the receiver cable, or pull it out of the connector if possible. However, for greater protection against motor-induced interference it is always better to use a speed controller with an opto-coupler. **Protect** the speed controller from mechanical loads, vibration, dirt and contamination.

**Keep** the cables to the motor as short as possible (max. length = 10 cm / 4").

**Do** not exceed the maximum stated length of cable between battery and **future** (max. length: 20 cm / 7..8"). The wiring inside the battery pack must also be as short as possible. Use in-line soldered "stick" packs.

For the same reason, use a clamp-type amperemeter, not a series meter with shunt resistor.

**Never** leave the flight battery connected when ...

... the model is not in use and/or

... the battery pack is being charged.

**Although** some speed controllers feature a separate On/Off switch, this does not isolate it completely from the battery.

**Speed** controllers can only function properly if they are in full working condition. The protective and monitoring circuits can also only work if the speed controller is in good operating condition.

**In** the case of motor failure (e.g. short circuits in the windings) the over-temperature sensor in the controllers may react too slowly to prevent damage. switch the motor off immediately to prevent permanent damage to the speed controller.

**Note:** Please remember that the monitoring circuits are unable to detect every abnormal operating condition, such as a short between the motor cables. Note also that a stalled motor will only trip the current limiter if the motor's stall current is well above the controller's peak current. For example, if you are using an 80 A controller in conjunction with a 20 A motor, the current monitor will not detect an excessive current even when the motor is stalled.

## 2 Ensuring safe, trouble-free operation

**Use** only compatible connectors. A 2 mm pin cannot provide reliable contact in a 2.5 mm socket. The same applies with 2mm gold-contact pins and 2 mm tin-plated sockets.

**Please also remember that ...**

... the wiring of your RC-components must be checked regularly for loose wires, oxidation, or damaged insulation, especially when using a BEC system.

... your receiver and the aerial must be at least 3 cm (>1") away from motor, speed controller and high-current cables. For example, the magnetic fields around the high-current cables can cause interference to the receiver.

... all high-current cables must be as short as possible. Maximum length between flight pack and speed controller should never exceed 20 cm (7"), between speed controller and motor: 10 cm (4").

... all high-current cables longer than 5 cm (2") must be twisted together. This applies in particular to the motor power cables, which are very powerful sources of radiated interference.

... in model aircraft: half of the receiver aerial's length should be routed along the fuselage, the other half should be allowed to trail freely (take care not to tread on it). Do not attach the end of the aerial to the fin!

... in model boats: half of the receiver aerial's length should be deployed inside the hull above the waterline, the other half should be threaded into a small tube mounted upright.

**Every time you intend to use the power system - before you turn on the receiver - make sure that ...**

... no one else is using the same frequency (identical channel number).

... your transmitter is switched on and the throttle stick is (as a rule) in the STOP position (exceptions see Section 9).

**Carry** out a range check before each flight. Ask an assistant to hold the model aircraft and set the throttle stick to the half throttle position. Collapse the transmitter aerial. Walk away from the model to the distance stated by the RC system manufacturer (this might be a distance of about 50-60 m = 200'). Make sure that you still have full control of the system at this range.

**As** a general rule: receiver interference is more likely to occur when using a controller with BEC system, as these units do not feature an opto-coupler with its optical link.

**When** Ni-Cd batteries approach the end of their charge, voltage falls drastically and quickly. The **future** detects this and reduces power to the motor automatically. This should leave sufficient energy to bring your model safely back home. However, if you use a small number of cells of high internal resistance and operate at high motor currents, the controller may reduce power before the pack is discharged. You can eliminate this problem by using low resistance straps to connect the cells, or use the direct cell-to-cell soldering technique ("sticks") and short, heavy-gauge wire if you assemble your own batteries.

**Your** receiver also benefits from the stability of the voltage supplied from the battery by a BEC system. If the BEC voltage is stable, the receiver is less liable to suffer interference.

**The** CE symbol is your guarantee that the unit meets all the relevant interference emission and rejection regulations when it is in use.

**If** you encounter problems operating the **future** controller, please note that many problems are due to an unsuitable combination of receiving system components, or an inadequate installation in the model.

### 3 Intended applications and common highlights:

#### Common Highlights:

Almost all of this series of future controllers are universal types which can be used in **model aircraft, helicopters, boats and cars**; the bigger types include an opto-coupler which ensures minimum possible transfer of interference to your receiver. Some versions include a BEC system, and the opto-coupler is by-passed if you use it. However, if you encounter interference problems, the opto-coupler can be re-activated by disconnecting the twin-core BEC lead (Chapter 6). The types with an "F" in the designation feature a special program for FAI gliders with an abbreviated soft-start, instead of the helicopter program. All **future** controllers with a "K" in the type designation feature a finned heat-sink instead of a plain heat-sink. These units are an excellent choice for use under part-load conditions, i.e. operating them primarily at part-throttle settings does not lead so quickly to overheating, even with high cell counts.

**Better** than 250-step resolution over the whole control range for extremely fine speed control.

**„Auto-arm“ function and „power on reset“.**

**Controllers** work reliably right down to the last scrap of energy in the battery pack.

**„ipsu“** (intelligent programming system for **future-u**) with no pots! The speed controller automatically configures itself every time to the stick travel when you go airborne. The brake can also be disabled in the same way if required.

**During** the "Power-On" process the motor acts as a loudspeaker to give you audible confirmation of the procedure.

**„W“-Types** (splash water protected) available. All **future-u** types include a timing and switching frequency adjustment facility, which enables you to make adjustments by a DIL switch. This feature allows us to cater more accurately for the different magnetic field geometries and flux concepts employed by the various motor manufacturers. This function also lets you offset the maximum efficiency point to suit your particular application.

**Use with Tango/Samba motors:** set the pulse frequency of your **future** to **38 kHz** (see section 8.3). You may find that your power system operates at higher efficiency set to 19 kHz, but this is below the pulse frequency which the manufacturer approves for these motors (to avoid invalidating the warranty).

#### Low voltage types with BEC:

##### **future-9.06ek:**

For (5)6-9 Ni-Cd resp. Ni-MH cells resp. 2-3 Lithium cells. 5 V/2 A BEC System (stabilizes from 5.2 ... 6 Volts upwards, depending on the servo current).

Undervoltage cutoff at about 58% of the connecting voltage or minimum 4.8 Volts.

For motors up to 6 A in slowflyers, cars and boats.

##### **future-9.12ek:**

For (4)6-9 Ni-Cd resp. Ni-MH Cells resp. 2-3 Lithium cells. 5 V/2 A BEC System (stabilizes from 5.2 ... 6 Volts upwards, depending on the servo current).

Undervoltage cutoff at about 58% of the connecting voltage or minimum 4.8 Volts or 3.5 V (selectable).

For motors up to 12 A in slowflyers, cars and boats.

**future-11.20e, -11.30e, -11.40Ke:** For 6-11 (in helicopters up to 8 cells only) Ni-Cd resp. Ni-MH cells. 5 V / 2 A BEC system. For motors up to 20/30/40 A in small soft-sailplanes, motor models or helicopters.

**future-11.40KWe:** as above, but sealed for boat use.

**future-12.36e, -12.46e:** For 6-12 (in helicopters up to 10 cells only) Ni-Cd resp. Ni-MH cells when 5 V/3 A BEC system is used. Can be used otherwise up to 18 cells. For motors up to 36 A resp. 46 A in sailplanes, motor models or helicopters.

**future-12.46We:** For Eco and Mono I/II boats

**future-12.97Fe:** For 6-12 Ni-Cd resp. Ni-MH cells. For motors up to 97A. FAI- instead of Heli-programm. Well suited for 10th scale cars.

**future-12.97FWe:** For Eco, Mono, Hydro I/II boats.

## Low voltage types without BEC:

**future-18.36:** For 6-18 Ni-Cd resp. Ni-MH cells. For motors up to 36A in sailplanes, motor models or helicopters with lower currents.

**future-18.46K:** For 6-18 Ni-Cd resp. Ni-MH cells. For motors up to 46A. Contains cooling fins for excessive part load use in car models, larger wing aircraft or aerobatic helicopters.

**future-18.46WK:** For Eco, Mono, Hydro I/II boats.

**future-18.61:** For 6-18 Ni-Cd resp. Ni-MH cells. For motors up to 61A. For hotliners and ducted fan models

**future-18.97F:** For 6-18 Ni-Cd resp. Ni-MH cells. For motors up to 97A. FAI- instead of helicopter program. Best suited for the 10 cells FAI-programm and 10th and 8th scale RC-cars - OnRoad.

**future-18.97FW:** For Eco, Mono, Hydro I/II boats.

**future-18.97KWF:** Especially for **EMAXX**-trucks with one Hacker, Lehner or „very hot“ Plettenberg motor and longer battery cables als normally allowed (total length 30cm each lead).

**future-18.129F:** For 6-18 Ni-Cd resp. Ni-MH cells. For motors up to 129A. FAI- instead of helicopter program. Best suited for all applications in cars and wing aircraft, where you will not give away a single millivolt.

**future-18.129FW:** Best suited for all applications in boats and cars, where you will not give away only 1mV.

## 24 cells high voltage-types:

**future-24.40K:** For 6-24 Ni-Cd resp. Ni-MH cells. For motors up to 40A. Contains cooling fins for excessive part load use in wing aircraft or helicopters.

**future-24.89F:** For 6-24 Ni-Cd resp. Ni-MH cells. For motors up to 89A. FAI- instead of helicopter program. Best suited for all applications in wing aircraft, where you will not give away a single millivolt in e.g. 24 cells FAI sailplanes

## 32 cells high voltage-types:

**future-32.28K:** For 6-32 Ni-Cd resp. Ni-MH cells. For motors up to 28A. Contains cooling fins for excessive part load use in helicopters (scale - not 3D) or low current draw sport models.

**future-32.40K:** For 6-32 Ni-Cd resp. Ni-MH cells. For motors up to 40A. Contains cooling fins for excessive part load use in helicopters (3D) or medium current draw sport models.

**future-32.55:** For 6-32 Ni-Cd resp. Ni-MH cells. For motors up to 55A. Best suited for all high current draw aircraft and 5th scale cars.

**future-32.55WK:** Best for Hydro III and power boats.

**future-32.80F:** For 6-32 Ni-Cd resp. Ni-MH cells. For motors up to 80A. Best for contest use of F5B-sailplanes or 5th RC-Cars.

**future-32.80FWK:** When the **32.55WK** is not strong enough...

**future-32.170W:** Boats, Cars or Aircraft from 10 to 32 cells. The ultimate 170 amps controller whose predecessor is the fastest controller on water (106 miles/h = 164km/h). Splash water protected.

## 40 cells high voltage-types:

**future-40.70:** Large models from 10 to 40 cells

**future-40.70WK:** Boats from 10 to 40 cells  
Ref. to **Chapter 4 - future from v10**, 4 beeps:

Solder an additional electrolytic low-ESR capacitor between the battery cables (recommended for future-9 is a value of 330µF / 16V or more). Fix cables with rapid glue on the capacitor. Insulate with adhesive tape.

**More infos** on our homepage at „**important tips**“



## 4 Protective circuits

**Note:** the monitor circuits are effective, but they cannot detect every possible operating condition.

### Temperature monitor:

The temperature monitor throttles down the motor and later switches off the motor. You can reset the unit using the "auto-arm" function (throttle stick to stop for about 2 sec.)



If the motor windings are short-circuited the temperature monitor reacts too slowly to prevent damage. switch the motor off immediately to avoid permanent damage to the speed controller.

### Voltage monitor:

As soon as the voltage of the drive battery falls back to the under voltage threshold the motor is throttled back (more information about the threshold value see **chapter 8.9**). If the situation which caused the controller to throttle back continues for more than a short time, the unit switches the motor off. Of course, you can re-start the motor again briefly by moving the throttle stick back to "stop" for about 2 seconds to re-arm the system. If you use a **future** without BEC system you retain full control of the model until the receiver battery is flat; if you use a **future** with BEC system the power system and the model remain fully controllable until the last usable energy in the flight pack is exhausted. We can not predict how long you can still control your model with the residual battery charge as this depends on many parameters such as the number of cells in the pack, the cell type, actual motor current and the way you control your model. The only solution is for you to time the period yourself with the model on the ground. If the voltage monitor trips, i.e. the motor starts to throttle back without your intervention, you should stop the motor at once with the throttle stick in any case so that you have the maximum possible reserve of power.

### Maximum speed monitor:

If maximum rotational speed of the motor will exceed, **future** throttles down. In this state do not use longer then 1 second.

**Because of this:** a) Do not run motor without air-screw, b) in "air" program motor switches off after 2 seconds.

### Minimum speed monitor:

To ensure that the controller detects the rotor position reliably, this series of **future** types sets a defined minimum rotational speed. If the rotor

speed falls below this value continuously, the controller switches the motor off. You can override the reset with the "auto-arm" function (throttle stick to stop for about 2 sec). This protective function can cause the motor to be reluctant to start up if its torque limit is exceeded. In this case a propeller one step smaller in diameter must be used. If this should happen, check that the maximum permissible motor current is not exceeded.

### Current Monitor:

Our **future** controllers (except future-32.170W) feature a current monitor circuit which trips when the current rises above the specified maximum value. If the motor is stalled, the motor is throttled back. This means, that a motor which draws an excessive current will never reach full-throttle, and the current may stay below the specified maximum value. If **future** is some seconds in current limiting mode, it will disarm itself (switching off the motor). re-arming = 2 seconds "stopp".

### Receiver signal monitor:

If the receiver signal fails, or the signal is longer or shorter than the usual range of values, the smart controller reverts to hold mode for about 300 milliseconds (helicopter = 1.5 s) before switching to disarmed mode.

This warning function enables you to eliminate receiver interference before you actually lose your model, perhaps by modifying the installation or changing the radio control components

### Reverse polarity protection:

These speed controllers are not protected against reversed polarity!



### Watchdog:

If this circuit is tripped the speed controller stops working briefly and then reverts to normal operation.

### Only software from v10 upward:

**Under** certain circumstances **future** controllers refuses to work after connection to the power battery and beeps - if possible - an error code:

#### 4 beeps:

battery weak (empty or high impedance) or battery cables too long. (Remedy e.g. by adding a low ESR electrolytic capacitor near the **future** - see picture on page 8 and on our homepage)

#### 5 beeps:

motor too strong or short circuit in the windings.

#### 6 beeps:

double tone beep, normal beep, double tone ... (motor defective, battery weak, **future** defective)

## 5 Monitor displays

The **future** is not fitted with LED to indicate its operating state.

**However**, when the unit is being configured

the set stick end-points are confirmed by a beep from the motor or a barely perceptible "blip" in full-throttle position when normal using with activated brake. (See also the corresponding section 8).

## 6 Installations, connections

### Installing in the fuselage:

**Velcro** (hoop and loop) tape is the ideal method of mounting the controller in the fuselage. Do not pack the **future** in foam as this may lead to a heat build-up in the controller.

### Receiver connection:

**Connect** the (3-wire) receiver cable attached to the **future** to the receiver servo output corresponding to the throttle stick on the transmitter (or a switch if that is your preference). The **future** receives its control signal via this receiver socket.

If you use a **future** with an additional 2-core BEC cable please connect this cable to the receiver socket to which the receiver battery would normally be connected, or to any other vacant receiver socket.

**Check** regularly especially in this case that the receiver cable is undamaged and firmly seated at the **future**.

**On** no account connect a separate receiver battery or an electronic battery switch (two receiver batteries), as this may cause damage to the speed controller and could cause current to flow from the receiver battery to the motor.



If you want to have a better protection against interference caused by the motor or want to switch off the BEC system by other reasons,



please activate the opto-coupler in the **future-12.xx** by simply pull the two core BEC cable out of the receiver. Use now a separate receiver battery. **future-12.xx** is now a 18 cell type.

### Length of connecting cables:

#### Power-connection battery <--> future:

Do not exceed the maximum stated length of cable between battery and **future** (max. length: 20 cm / 7...8"), otherwise the speed

controller may be damaged. This rule still applies even if your power system features a retractable (folding) motor, or your model necessarily includes a long battery cable!!! Battery packs which are assembled in a zig-zag pattern also produce "long cable" effects. Use in-line (end-to-end) soldered packs exclusively. It is essential to use polarized gold-plated-contact connectors - fitting any other type of connector invalidates the warranty. **Connectors** which do not have a polarised insulator can be made safe (i.e. polarised) by soldering the future's positive battery wire to a socket, and the future's negative wire to a plug.

We recommend that you choose your connectors from our selection in Section 7 - fitting any other type of connector invalidates the warranty.

#### Power-connection future <--> motor:

**The** cables to the motor should be kept as short as possible to avoid interferences to your receiver. Long cables tend to act as aerials and radiate interference; they also add unnecessary weight (see also section 2). **Cut** down the existing motor cables to a length of no more than 10 cm. Do not extend the motor cables except in exceptional cases; although this generally does not harm to the **future** itself.

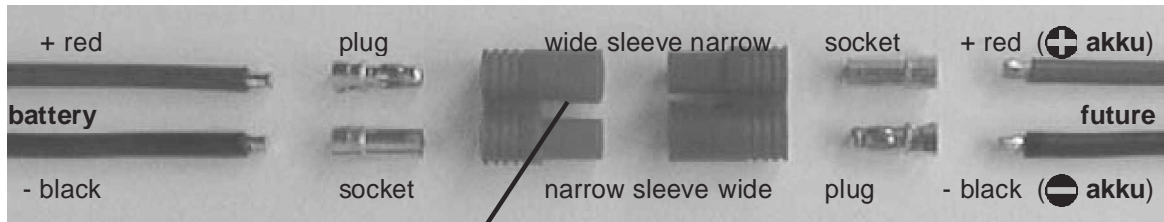
**Under no account** is it allowed to wind ferrite cores on the motor wires!

**Locate** the cables with the pp-plugs supplied with the controller (plugged into the **larger future**), and solder them to the motor cables. Observe solder instructions in section 7.1. See separate sheet (page 1) for details of cable configuration.

**Avoid** pulling on the motor cables; we recommend that you secure the three motor plugs with glass-reinforced tape to prevent them being pulled out.

## 7 Connector systems and mounting instructions; servos

### 7.1 3.5 mm gold-contact connector system (pp35); max. load > 80A



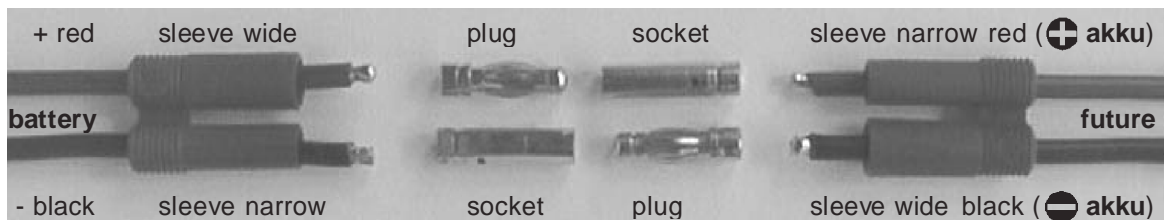
**Caution:** remove locating lug from battery cable. Do not remove lug from any cables attached to controllers or charge leads!

**Manufacturer's information:** the **pp35** plug is very short, and this presents the danger that the contact spring could lose its resilience (spring force) due to excessive heat build-up during the soldering process. You can side-step the problem by keeping the temperature below 200°C as follows: either remove the contact carefully before soldering, or simply push the plug into a piece of wet fine-grain sponge for soldering, or plug it in a 3.5 mm hole of a copper-block.

**Fit** the connectors in the order shown above; the contacts are pressed in as follows:

- Place plastic sleeve vertically on table, grip end up.
- Push contact down into sleeve.
- Place 2.5mm wide screwdriver blade on top of cable solder joint inside sleeve.
- Tap screwdriver to press contact into sleeve until latch engages.

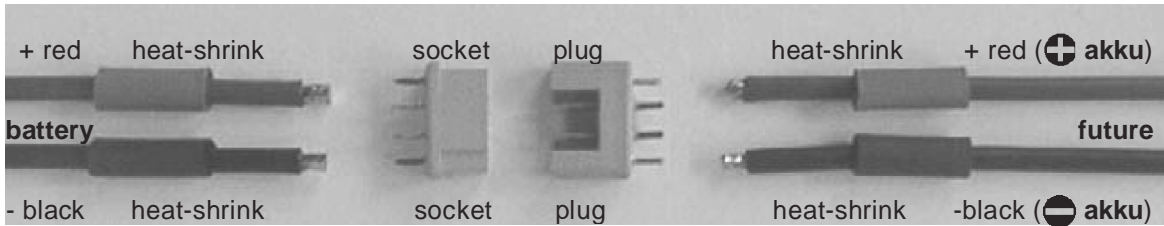
### 7.2 CT4-4mm, CT2-2mm gold-contact connector system (rating CT4 up to 80A; CT2 to 30A)



**Fit** the connectors in the order shown above; the contacts are pressed in as follows:

- Rest plastic sleeve on vice jaws with cables hanging down.
- Close vice jaws until cables are just free to move.
- Fit plug into socket and tap into sleeve until latch engages.
- Fit socket onto plug and tap into sleeve until latch engages.

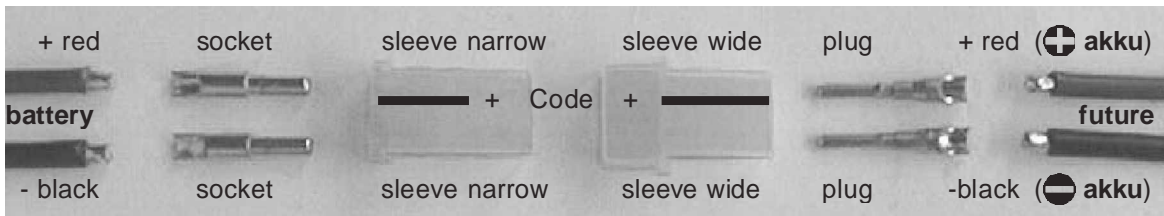
### 7.3 MPX gold-contact connector system (green or red); max. load ~30A



**Fit** the connectors in the order shown above; the contacts are soldered as follows:

- To center the contacts fit plug and socket together before soldering.
- Tin all 6 exposed solder terminals of plug or socket.
- Fit cable end into triangle of contacts, solder to all three solder terminals.
- Position heat-shrink sleeve and shrink over joint.

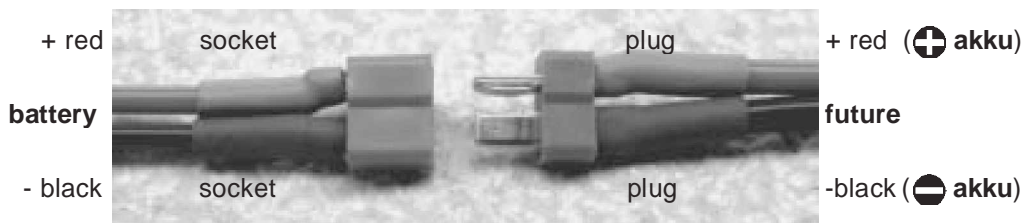
### 7.4 2,0 / 2,5 mm gold-contact connector system; max. load ~30A



**Fit** the connectors in the order shown above; the contacts are pressed in as follows:

- Place plastic sleeve vertically on table, grip end up.
- Push contact down into sleeve.
- Place 2.5mm wide screwdriver blade on top of cable solder joint inside sleeve.
- Tap screwdriver to press contact into sleeve until latch engages.

### 7.5 Deans connector system; max. load ~ 50A



### 7.6 - see page 14

## 8 Initial use

### 8.1 ipsu, the intelligent programming system

for configuring the **future-universal** to suit your application

**In general terms: in its standard form the future works with all motors known to us, i.e. without you having to make any adjustments to it!**

If you have a transmitter with adjustable servo travel we recommend that you set throttle-servo to normal full travel, i.e. +/- 100%. Adjust Multiplex servo center pulse width to 1.5 ms (= - 22% center or use uni-mode).

**The ipsu consists of two components:**

**a)** The DIL switch bank for setting the operating mode (configuring the controller to the application and motor) and

**b)** automatic transmitter stick travel setup.

Point **a)** is explained in the following pages; point **b)** includes two different procedures, of which **b1)** is also explained in the following pages:

**The stick travel setup process** is based on the previous standard procedure when the unit is first switched on, and is fully automatic:

**b1)** Under normal circumstances you simply proceed as previously: **1.** Transmitter to stop, **2.** Switch on receiver, **3.** Connect flight pack / drive battery (**future** confirms this with "Power-On" tones = flight pack / drive battery connected), then learns the Stop position and confirms this with a beep; it is then armed, **4.** Hold model in launch / start position, **5.** Apply full-throttle (**future** learns full-throttle point, confirms with brief drop in rotational speed), **6.** Launch / Start model. The process configures both the brake point and the full-throttle point, so full stick travel is always available when you operate the motor, giving ultra-fine control. **b2)** If you find the brief motor speed drop at the full-throttle setting disturbing (confirmation of learned full throttle position), or don't wish to apply full throttle at launch / start, there is an alternative method: set the transmitter stick to the full-throttle position before you switch on the receiving system and connect the flight pack / drive battery. After the "Power-On" tones the **future** emits two beeps (to confirm it has learned the full throttle position); the transmitter stick is then moved to Stop, and the future emits one beep (to confirm it has learned the brake position); the controller is now armed, and the model can be launched or started at any throttle position.

**In the model car and boat programs** the controller only learns the neutral point; the full-throttle position is a fixed margin from the learned neutral point.

**In the FAI and helicopter programs** the stick travels cannot be configured by the user; i.e. the brake setting and full-throttle setting are both fixed.

**If** you wish to use one of the four type groups mentioned above, but want to exploit the full travel of the transmitter stick to vary motor speed, we recommend that you program a slight reduction in servo travel at the transmitter. Caution: if you reduce servo travel too far, full throttle will not be available, and - especially in the FAI and Heli program - the controller will not reach the Stop setting, and therefore will not reach the armed state!

**If** your **future** beeps twice (double beep = full throttle position) when the transmitter stick is at the brake position, you must reverse the throttle channel using your transmitter's servo reverse function. If you neglect to do this, the future will be armed (single beep) at the transmitter's full-throttle setting, and run at full-throttle at the stop setting, which is not recommended!

**The** following pages explain exactly which type-specific setup facilities (operating modes) are available. They are sub-divided into the different applications of model aircraft, helicopters, cars and boats.

## 8.2 Symbols and terminology

**Stick:** The throttle stick on the transmitter

**Neutral position** (self neutralising stick, 1.36 ... 1.67 ms pulse width)  
Idle position (position where the motor just barely runs) or stop position (brake).



**Brake position or idle position**  
Position of the throttle stick where the motor stops or just barely runs.



**Full-throttle position**  
100% voltage passed to the motor.



**Wait** (0.5 seconds)



### **Audible indicators:**

These indicators are only audible when a motor is attached, as the motor itself acts as the loudspeaker.

**Power-On melody** (Flight-/drive battery connected)

or

**Single beep** (Brake position detected/learned, future is armed)

**Double beep** (Full throttle position detected/learned, future not armed)

**Duotone beep(s)** (**future** works with 38 kHz switching frequency  
resp. **future-9.12:** Undervoltage cutoff 3,5 V)

**Momentary interruption in running** (full throttle position learned while running)

---

## 7.6 Suitable servos for BEC operation (selection)

DYMOND	D 60, D54
FUTABA	5102
GRAUPNER	C261, C341, C351, C3041, C3321
HITEC	HS55
MEGATECH	MTC FX200
ROBBE	FS40 #8433
VOLZ	Microstar, Wingstar, Zip

### 8.3.1 Mode setting wing aircraft models (not for FAI-motors!)

DIL-switch # 1 = 0 (Air-Luft), # 2 = 0 (Wing-Fläche)

(future-9.xx: solder bridge 1 = open)

DIL-switch # 3 = 0 = brake OFF (future-9: solder bridge 2 = open)

1 = brake enabled (future-9: solder bridge 2=closed)

DIL-switch # 4 = 0 = direct drive or toothed wheel gearbox (fut-9:bridge3=open)

1 = Belt drive gearbox (fut-9:sold.bridge3=closed)

DIL-switch # 5 = 0 = Timing 1 (see section 8.4) (fut-9: bridge4 = open)

1 = Timing 3 (see section 8.4) (fut-9: bridge4=closed)

DIL-switch # 6 = 0 = 9 kHz part throttle switching frequency,

1 = 19 kHz resp 38 kHz (see section 8.7)

a Receiver off (flight battery disconnected)

b Set throttle stick to brake position

c Switch transmitter on

d Switch receiver on (connect flight battery)

e **future** confirms „Power-On“,

f waits about 1 second, confirms brake position with a single tone beep ( resp. at 38 kHz) and is armed!

g Hold model in launch position, keep clear of danger area around propeller!

h Move throttle quickly to full-throttle position and ...

... leave it there for about 1/2 second. Motor is already running - as with a conventional speed controller

i **future** confirms full-throttle position by interrupting the motor run very briefly - a barely perceptible "blip"

j The **future** is completely configured and the model can be flown

**Undervoltage cutoff:** 58.6% of the plug-in voltage;  
exceptions: future-9.xx, -40.xx, -32.170W see chapter 8.9.



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**8.3.2 Mode setting FAI sailplanes (only in future...F)**  
**DIL-switch # 1 = 0 (Air-Luft), # 2 = 1 (FAI)**

- DIL-switch # 3 =** 0 = brake OFF,  
 1 = brake enabled.
- DIL-switch # 4 =** 0 = Timing as # 5 (see section 8.4)  
 1 = Timing as # 5 + 1 (timing 2 resp. 4)
- DIL-switch # 5 =** 0 = Timing 1 (see section 8.4)  
 1 = Timing 3 (see section 8.4).
- DIL-switch # 6 =** 0 = 19 kHz (!!!) throttle switching frequency,  
 1 = 19 kHz resp. 38 kHz (see section 8.7)

- a** Receiver off (flight battery disconnected)
- b** Set throttle stick to brake position
- c** Switch transmitter on
- d** Switch receiver on (connect flight battery)
- e** **future** confirms „Power-On“,



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**RXon**

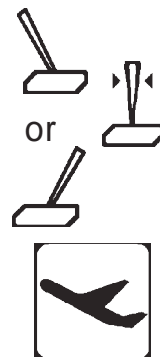
- f** waits about 1 second, confirms brake position with a single tone beep ( resp. at 38 kHz) and is armed!



- g** Hold model in launch position, keep clear of danger area around propeller!



- h** The **future** is completely configured and the model can be launched without, with half throttle or full throttle.



**Undervoltage cutoff:** fixed at 5.3 volts.

### 8.8.3 Mode setting helicopter models (not in future...F)

DIL-switch # 1 = 0 (Air-Luft), # 2 = 1 (Helicopter-Hubschrauber)  
(future-9.xx: no helicopter program available)

DIL-switch # 3 = 0 = normal speed controller  
1 = speed governor (**constant** rotor speed, section 8.5).

DIL-switch # 4 = 0 = Low rpm (see next page - Tips),  
1 = High rpm (see next page - Tips)

DIL-switch # 5 = 0 = Timing 1 (see section 8.4)  
1 = Timing 3 (see section 8.4).

DIL-switch # 6 = 0 = 9 kHz part throttle switching frequency,  
1 = 19 kHz resp. 38 kHz (see section 8.7)

a Receiver off (flight battery disconnected)

b Set pitch stick to „minimum pitch“

(c) **In speed governor mode only** („const. = ON“):  
Move slider resp. toggle switch to „motor off“ position

d Switch transmitter on

e Switch receiver on (connect flight battery)

f **future** confirms „Power-On“,

g waits about 1 second, confirms idle position with a  
single tone beep ( resp. at 38 kHz) and is armed!

h Model is ready to launch, keep clear of danger area  
around rotor blades!

(i) **In speed governor mode only** („const. = ON“):  
Move slider very quickly resp. set toggle switch in direc-  
tion of hovering throttle to set the rotor speed you require

j Move the transmitter stick towards hovering position,  
the helicopter can be flown

**Undervoltage cutoff:** 58.6% of the plug-in voltage;  
(also applies to future-32.170W).



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## Common to the helicopter mode:

- **Fixed stick positions:** Idle (off)=1,1 ms, full throttle=1,9 ms
- **slow initial motor start** up to 13 seconds

## Speed ranges (linear divided to the throttle slider), relating to **2-pole** motors:

approx. % values relating to the servo travel of the mc18...mc24 transmitters

**Low rpm:** Slider at 1,16 ms (-84,5%) = 3250 rpm, 1,9 ms (+100%) = 29500 rpm

**High rpm:** Slider at 1,16 ms (-84,5%) = 13000 rpm, 1,9 ms (+100%) = 118000 rpm

## Unter-voltage:

As soon as the voltage of the drive battery is not high enough the motor is throttled back first. Later **future** is switched off.

## Tips (see also section 9.6):

### Low rpm, high rpm:

To find out if you need to use the **low rpm** or **high rpm** operating mode do as follows: Start always in **low rpm** mode. If the maximum rotor speed is good for aerobatic, you found the right mode. Otherwise use **high rpm** mode.

Example 1: **Eco 8**, X250-4Hblack, 15 teeth pin.: **high rpm**, 1200rpm=-6%, 1500rpm=+19%

Example 2: **Logo10**, BL50-18S, 14 teeth pin.: **low rpm**, 1200rpm=+13%, 1500rpm=+23%

Example 3: **Logo20**, HP300/xx/Ax, 9 teeth pin.: **high rpm**, 1200rpm=-18%, 1500rpm=+5% A  
%-calculation program „HeliCalc“ is available on our web page for download.

## Pre-set of rotor speed:

To provide finer control of the pre-set rotor speed, set up the slider channel on the transmitter so that the full-throttle end-point corresponds to the maximum rotor speed you ever need (e.g. for aerobatics). You can achieve this by reducing servo travel, and/or adjusting the neutral point. It is usual to use a 3-position toggle switch (motor off / hover / cruise) or better: Autorotation / hover- / cruise and a separate OFF-switch if you wish to use fixed rotational speeds.

## Auto-rotation:

If the slider channel is moved back to minimum speed by a mixer (not to the “motor stopped” position, but to about 1.15 ms (Graupner=-87,5%)), the integral soft-start designed for manual speed changes is reduced to the point where an auto-rotation can be interrupted quickly by suddenly (autorotation switch, fast „soft“-start) opening the throttle again. If you preselect the “motor stopped” position (less than 1.14 ms) for autorotation, it will be nearly impossible to interrupt autorotation by means of the 13 second soft start.

## 8.8.4 Mode setting car models

DIL-switch#1=1(Land),#2=0(Auto-Car)  
(future-9.xx: solder bridge 1 = closed)

Fixed throttle stick travel:  
Brake = neutral - 0,3 ms  
Full throttle=neutral+0,3ms

DIL-switch # 3 = 0 = Reverse gear OFF (future-9: solder bridge 2 = open)  
1 = Reverse gear enabled (future-9: solder bridge 2=closed)

DIL-switch # 4 = 0 = Timing as # 5 (see section 8.4) (fu-9:sold.bridge3=open)  
1 = Timing 2 resp. 4 (softer as # 5) (fu-9:sold.bridge3=closed)

DIL-switch # 5 = 0 = Timing 1 (see section 8.4) (future-9:sold.bridge4 = open)  
1 = Timing 3 (see section 8.4) (future-9:sold.bridge4=closed)

DIL-switch # 6 = 0 = 9 kHz part throttle switching frequency,  
1 = 19 kHz resp. 38 kHz (see section 8.7)

- a Receiver off (flight battery disconnected)
- b Set transmitter stick to centre position (1.4 ... 1.67 ms)
- c Switch transmitter on
- d Switch receiver on (connect flight battery)
- e **future** confirms „Power-On“
- f waits about 1 second and calculates the full throttle and full brake position (**neutral position + - 0,3 ms**),
- g confirms neutral position with a single tone beep ( resp. at 38 kHz) and is armed!
- h Moving the transmitter stick towards full throttle starts the motor running forward
- i Moving the transmitter stick towards full brake slows the model proportionally
- j **If reverse gear is enabled:** If you leave the stick in the reverse position (over 75% reverse travel, i.e. less than 0.225 ms below the learned neutral position) for longer than 1.2 seconds, the car will accelerate slowly in reverse.



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**Undervoltage cutoff:** 58.6% of the plug-in voltage;  
exceptions: future-9.xx, -40.xx, -32.170W see chapter 8.9.

### 8.8.5 Mode setting boat models

DIL-switch#1=1(Land),#2=1(Boot-Boat)  
(future-9.xx: solder bridge 1 = closed)

Fixed throttle stick travel:  
**Neutral** (learned)  
Full throttle see f1/f2

DIL-switch # 3 = 0 = Reverse gear OFF (future-9: solder bridge 2 = open)  
1 = Reverse gear enabled (future-9: solder bridge 2=closed)

DIL-switch # 4 = 0 = Timing as # 5 (see section 8.4) (fu-9:sold.bridge3=open)  
1 = Timing 2 resp. 4 (softer as # 5) (fu-9:sold.bridge3=closed)

DIL-switch # 5 = 0 = Timing 1 (see section 8.4) (future-9:sold.bridge4 = open)  
1 = Timing 3 (see section 8.4) (future-9:sold.bridge4=closed)

DIL-switch # 6 = 0 = 9 kHz part throttle switching frequency,  
1 = 19 kHz resp. 38 kHz (see section 8.7)

a Receiver off (flight battery disconnected)

b1 Set stick to centre position (for forward/reverse use) or

b2 Set stick to end position (stop, for double stick travel)

c Switch transmitter on

d Switch receiver on (connect flight battery)

e **future** confirms „Power-On“, waits about 1 second and

f1 calculates the full throttle and reverse position (**idle + - 0,3 ms**)

f2 resp. calculates the full throttleposition (**idle + 0,6 ms**),

g confirms with a single tone beep ( resp. at 38 kHz)  
and is armed!

h Moving the transmitter stick towards full throttle starts the  
motor running forward

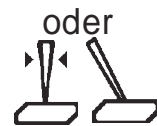
i2 Moving the transmitter stick towards reverse gear the boat  
slow down

j2 **If reverse gear is enabled and b2):**

If you leave the stick in the reverse position (over 75% reverse travel, i.e. less than 0.225 ms below the learned neutral position) for longer than 1.2 seconds, the boat will accelerate slowly in reverse.

**Undervoltage cutoff:** 58.6% of the plug-in voltage;

exceptions: future-9.xx, -40.xx, -32.170W see chapter 8.9.



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## 8.4 Changing motor timing

The general rule is: the harder the timing, the higher the current at which maximum efficiency occurs. However, optimum timing also varies according to the design of the motor. For this reason we state recommended timings for each motor type.

**Within** certain limits it is possible to match model aircraft and boat propellers to suit a particular motor by altering (offsetting) the timing. **future** controllers feature up to four optional timing settings, but timing stages 2 and 4 are **not** available in the fixed-wing aircraft (wing) and helicopter programs (heli). In these programs DIL switch # 4 is used for certain auxiliary functions.

The numbers below refer to the positions of the DIL switches mentioned above:

**0 = AUS/OFF = switch toggle towards motor sockets,**

**1 = EIN / ON = switch toggle towards battery cables.**

**Timing 1: Hard timing** (all futures)

**DIL-switch # 5 = 0 „hard“** (future-9.xx solderbridge 4 = open)

**DIL-switch #4=0 „not softer“** (DIL #4 = 0 at 'Land' & 'Air-FAI' / solderbr.3 = open at 'Land')

- Maximum efficiency at highest power and rotational speed
- Optimum for all Ikarus, Köhler, LRK, Plettenberg motores and all other motors when maximum rotational speed is needed

**Timing 2: Medium timing** (Only at „Land“ and „Air-FAI“-programms, future-9 at „Land“)

**DIL-switch # 5 = 0 „hard“** (future-9.xx solderbridge 4 = open)

**DIL-switch #4= 1 „softer“** (DIL #4 = 1 at 'Land' & 'Air-FAI' / solderbr.3 = soldered at 'Land')

- Motor efficiency is set to medium motor currents (e.g. runtime problems on Ikarus, Köhler, LRK, Plettenberg motors)
- Recommended when changing from a Kontronik to a Schulze speed controller with a given motor. The rotational speeds coincide more closely with the manufacturers' stated figures
- Optimum for all Aveox and Kontronik KBM motors in FAI operation.

**Timing 3: Soft timing** (all futures)

**DIL-switch # 5 = 1 „soft“** (future-9.xx solderbridge 4 = closed)

**DIL-switch # 4 = 0 „not softer“** (DIL #4 = 0 at 'Land' & 'Air-FAI' / solderbr.3 = open at 'Land')

- Motor efficiency is set to lower motor currents (e. g. for long duration flights with helicopters)
- Recommended when changing from a Lehner to a Schulze speed controller with a given motor. The rotational speeds coincide more closely with the manufacturers' stated figures
- Optimum for Astro, Aveox, Bittner, Hacker, Kontronik and Lehner motors
- Not for Plettenberg motors

**Timing 4: Very soft timing** (Only at „Land“ and „Air-FAI“-programms, future-9 at „Land“)

**DIL-switch # 5 = 1 „soft“** (future-9.xx solderbridge 4 = soldered)

**DIL-switch #4=1 „softer“** (DIL #4 = 1 at 'Land' & 'Air-FAI' / solderbr.3 = soldered at 'Land')

- Motor efficiency is set to very low motor currents
- Use when having problems with runtime and/or too much current on very sharp Lehner and Hacker motors at relatively low currents
- For lowest idle current on Hacker, Kontronik BL/Fun-series and Lehner motors (e. g. duration contest)
- Not for Astro, Aveox, Bittner, Köhler and Plettenberg motors

## 8.5 Standard <-> Expert speed regulation (Heli mode only)

For the helicopter pilot we have programmed in two different versions of the speed regulation characteristic: Standard mode (new) and Expert mode (as previously).

In principle, Standard mode is equally suitable for hovering and 3-D flying.

The basic difference between Standard mode compared to Expert mode is its softer response to fluctuations in rotational speed. This makes it ideal for ...

- ... use with simpler gyros,
- ... unfavourable gyro locations (i.e. not mounted on the tail boom), and
- ... use with medium-speed tail rotor servos (instead of fast / ultra-fast digital servos).

**However**, these characteristics make it possible that rotational speed may dip slightly if a severe load change is encountered (collective pitch change).

### 8.5.1 Switching from Standard to Expert speed regulation (using DIL switch # 3):

Normally each DIL switch position is interrogated directly after the flight battery is connected. One exception is switching to Expert mode.

- a) Set transmitter to full throttle (i.e. maximum rotational speed, in technical terms: pulse width  $\geq 1.6$  ms)
- b) Select "Helicopter" mode: DIL switch # 3 (const.) must be set to 0=OFF.
- c) Switch receiver battery on (only applies to **futures** with opto-coupler)

d) Connect future to flight battery; future beeps:

e) Move DIL switch # 3 (const.) to ON=1, future beeps:

- f) Set transmitter to Stop (i.e. motor off, pulse width  $\leq 1.15$  ms), **future** beeps:
- g) Completed, **future** is armed; set desired rotor speed and fly.

### 8.5.2. Switching back from Expert to Standard mode (also using DIL switch # 3):

(Note: mode is switched back via normal controller mode)

- a) Set transmitter to Stop (i.e. motor off, pulse width  $\leq 1.15$  ms)
- b) Move DIL switch # 3 (const.) to 0=OFF
- c) Switch receiver battery on (only applies to **futures** with opto-coupler)

d) Connect future to flight battery; future beeps:

- e) **future** is armed - but in normal speed controller mode, not in speed regulator mode, hence:
- f) Disconnect future from flight battery and wait at least 5 seconds.
- g) Move DIL switch # 3 (const.) to ON=1,

h) Connect future to flight battery; future beeps again: and is armed.

**Note:** Standard or Expert speed regulation mode is retained even after the flight (or drive) battery is disconnected, **provided that DIL switch # 3 is left at 1 (i.e. # 3 = ON)**. Expert mode can be recognised by the rising and falling beeps when the battery is connected.

---

## 8.6 aldis connection (alarm display - only active in Heli mode)

As of V. 7 software the "large" circuit boards of the **future universal** series controllers feature concealed connection points for our alarm display. This is a panoramic LED array consisting of red LEDs, usable with 10 ... 32 cells, designed to be mounted on the underside of the helicopter in any clearly visible position.

**We** can retro-fit the connection provided that the circuit board is suitable (or you can do it, but no guarantee claims; **take care:** the flight battery voltage is present at this connection).

**This** connection always becomes active if ...

- a) the motor reaches full-throttle in Heli mode (in "const" mode this means: I cannot maintain the rotational speed, i.e.: motor + gearbox + collective pitch angle = incorrectly matched; or: battery flat, land immediately) and
- b) the future detects overheating (**aldis** comes on at around 90°C and goes out again at around 80°C).

## 8.7 Changing part-load switching frequency (not available in future-9.xx)

**When** selecting the switching frequency the general rule is this: the lower the motor's inductivity, the higher the switching frequency should be. Increasing the switching frequency reduces the ripple in the current flow in part-load mode, but at the same time causes a rise in eddy current losses in the motor and switching losses in the controller. The simplest method is to try out different switching frequencies, and select the one at which the motor and the **future** heat up the least or click on "important tips" on our homepage to get recommendations.

**Normally** every DIL switch position takes effect directly when you connect the flight pack / drive battery, **but the process for switching to 38 kHz is an exception**; this only takes effect after you connect the battery, and switch from the 9 kHz setting (DIL switch #6=0, see below).

### 8.7.1 Working with 9 kHz part-load switching frequency,

**Setting** to 9 kHz resp. **switching back** from 19 kHz or 38 kHz **to 9 kHz**:

a) Set DIL-switch # 6 to „OFF“ (= 9 kHz)

b) Connect flight battery to future, at stop: **future** beeps: ( at full throttle)

### 8.7.2 Working with higher part-load switching frequency:

a) Switching from 9 kHz to 19 kHz Set DIL-switch # 6 to „ON“

b) Connect flight battery to future, at stop: **future** beeps: ( at 38kHz)

at full throttle: **future** beeps: ( 38kHz)

### 8.7.3 Switching from 9 kHz to 38 kHz (by DIL-switch # 6):

a) Set DIL-switch # 6 to „OFF“ (= 9 kHz)

b) Set throttle lever to full throttle (i.e. to max. power, technical: pulse widths  $\geq 1,67$  ms)

c) Connect flight battery to future, **future** beeps: After the beeps:

d) Set DIL-switch # 6 to „ON“ (now = 38 kHz), **future** beeps

e) Now move stick to stop to arm the controller or disconnect the battery.

### 8.7.4 Switching from 38 kHz to 19 kHz (by DIL-switch # 6):

(you have to switch first to 9kHz mode, before you can switch to 19kHz)

a) Set DIL-switch # 6 to „OFF“ (= 9 kHz)

b) connect flight battery to future, at stop: **future** beeps: ( at full throttle)

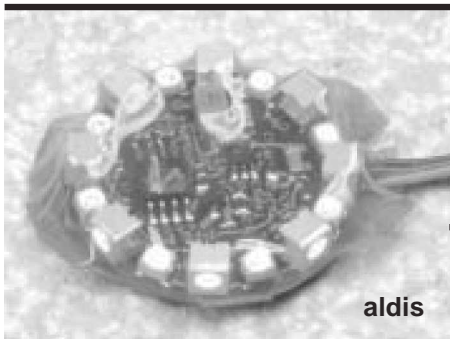
c) Now disconnect flight pack / drive battery and wait at least 5 seconds

d) Set DIL-switch # 6 to „ON“ (now = 19 kHz)

e) Connect flight battery to future, at stop: **future** beeps: ( at full throttle)

**Note:** If you configure the future to 19 or 38 kHz using **DIL switch position #6 = 1**, the setting is retained after you disconnect the flight pack / drive battery. At 9 kHz and 19 kHz all Stop and full-throttle beeps

are emitted as single or double beeps ( resp. ), at 38 kHz they take the form of single or double duotone beeps ( bzw. ), in each case according to the throttle stick position.



„aldis“ alarm display (Section 8.6)

a useful aid to optimising the power system, also "flat battery" warning and high temperature indicator (from v6)

## 8.7 Neodymium <-> Ferrite mode

(available in boat and car program only, not available in future-9.xx)

For car and boat drivers we have programmed in two different versions of the motor characteristic: Neodymium motor mode (as previously) and Ferrite motor mode (new).

In Ferrite motor mode the **future** is optimised to suit the Team Orion Vortex ferrite motor. The Neodymium motors known to us must not be operated in Ferrite motor mode, as they may stutter if the throttle is opened quickly.

In Ferrite motor mode the maximum rotational speed is limited to 55,000 rpm (2-pole motor).

**8.7.1 Switching from Neodymium motor mode to Ferrite motor mode** (using DIL switch # 3):  
**Normally** each DIL switch position is interrogated directly after the drive battery is connected.  
**One exception is switching to Ferrite motor mode.**

a) Set transmitter to full throttle (i.e. max. rotational speed, in technical terms: pulse width  $\geq 1.6$  ms)

b) Select "Model Car" mode: DIL switch # 3 (reverse) must be set to 0=OFF.

c) Switch receiver battery on (only applies to **futures** with opto-coupler)

d) Connect **future** to drive battery; future beeps::

e) Move DIL switch # 3 (reverse) to ON=1, **future** beeps:

f) Set transmitter to Stop (i.e. motor off, pulse width  $\leq 1.15$  ms), **future** beeps:

g) Completed, **future** is armed; you can run your model in Ferrite motor mode with reverse.

**If you do not require reverse:**

h) Disconnect **future** from drive battery, wait at least 5 seconds

i) Move DIL switch # 3 (reverse) to 0=OFF,

j) Connect **future** to drive battery; **future** beeps again:

**8.7.2. Switching back from Ferrite motor to Neodymium motor mode** (using DIL switch # 1!):

(Note: mode is switched back via "air" mode)

a) Set transmitter to Stop (i.e. motor off, pulse width  $\leq 1.15$  ms)

b) Move DIL switch # 1 (land) to 0=OFF (air).

c) Switch receiver battery on (only applies to **futures** with opto-coupler)

d) Connect future to flight/drive battery; future beeps:

e) **future** is armed - but in flight controller mode, not in land mode, hence:

f) Disconnect **future** from flight battery and wait at least 5 seconds.

g) Move DIL switch # 1 (air) to ON=1 (land).

h) Connect **future** to flight/drive battery; **future** beeps again:

**Note:** Neodymium motor or Ferrite motor mode is retained even after you disconnect the flight/drive battery, provided that DIL switch # 1 is left at 1 (i.e. # 1 = ON). Ferrite motor mode can be recognised by the rising and falling beeps when the battery is connected.

## 8.9 Under voltage cutoff limits (general/configuration of fut-9.12)

**Under voltage cutoff at 58,6%** means that the **future** can not only be used with **Ni-Cd** and **Ni-MH** batteries, but also with **Li-Io** and **Li-Po** batteries. The batteries are protected against deep discharge.

If the **future** calculates a cut off voltage lower than the minimum voltage which is necessary for the safe use, the **future** uses a higher cut off voltage. This voltage limit is usually set to 5.3 volts.











**Exceptions** if not otherwise noted in the differnt configuration settings before:

**future-32.170:** Wing: 7.5 V, Heli: 58.6% bzw. 7.5 V; Car & boat: 7.5 V

**future-40.70:** Wing & Heli: 58.6% resp. 7.5 V; Car & boat: 7.5 V

**future-9.06/12:** generally 58.6% resp. 4.8 V; **future-9.12 also fixed 3.5 V.**

### 8.9.1 Configuration of the cut off voltage (future-9.12 only):

- |   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| a | Switch transmitter on  |   | <b>TXon</b>   |
| b | Set transmitter stick to full throttle position (> 1,67 ms)  |   |    |
| c | Connect drive battery = switch receiver on   |   | <b>BATTon = RXon</b>  |
| d | Double beep ("full throttle"), then wait (10 sec) for duo-tone beep  |    |   |
| e | Move throttle stick to neutral (or brake) position (<= 1,5 ms) within 1.5 seconds  |   |   |
| f | Wait for duo-tone beep again (1,5 s)   |  |   |
| g | Move throttle stick to full throttle position (> 1,67 ms) within 1.5 seconds   |   |  |
| h | Wait for duo-tone beep again<br>This beep means: "Caution, count signals" (i.e. with your fingers)   |  |   |
| i | Wait for 2 seconds, after that first beep sounds: <b>Under voltage = 4.8 V</b><br>To select 4.8 V cut off: after that instantly go to <b>k</b> |  |   |
| j | Wait f. 2 seconds, after that second beep sounds: <b>Under voltage=3.5 V</b><br>To select 3.5 V cut off: after that instantly go to <b>k</b>   |  |   |
| k | Move throttle stick to neutral (or brake) position instantly (within 1.5 seconds)  |   |  |
| l | <b>future</b> receipts with duo-tone beep  |   |   |
| m | <b>future</b> waits 2 seconds and - if you are in neutral position - repeats the stored under voltage limit and arms.                          |  | ( )   |

**Note:** if the number of maximum possible voltage selections (2) is exceeded, the mode change is invalid. This means: if you wait longer than 2 seconds after the maximum possible number of single beeps, or if you fail to observe the time sequence described above, the mode change is invalid. The old voltage selection is still valid.

## 9 Tips

### 9.1 Rotational speeds:

**future** speed governors and controllers generally produce higher rotational speeds in **timing 1** mode than Kontronik controllers. In order to maintain the same load on the motor when you switch to the **future**, you have to use **timing 3** mode. Otherwise you will overload the motor.

### 9.2 Start-up problems, controller / governor faults:

We have now established that the usual cause of unreliable motor start-up problems is poor contact in the connectors.

Inadequate contact can result in faults due to excessive voltage, especially when the high-voltage versions of the **future** are used, because the high resistance of the connectors prevents the voltage being passed back into the battery at mid-range settings, and especially during braking.

#### Examples of poor practice:

- Solder between the contact segments of the plug
  - Remedy: solder on a brand-new plug.
- Resin (electronic solder flux) under the contact segments of the plug
  - Remedy: remove flux residues with meths or contact cleaner.
- Over-long leads between battery and **future**
  - Remedy: shorten to permissible length (chapter 6).
- Lack of spring pressure in the contact segments
  - Remedy: solder on brand-new plugs, and be sure to cool the segments when soldering.
- Poor-quality connectors. Oxidised sockets (black inside), discoloured gold plating (greenish or grey).
  - Remedy: use high-quality plugs and sockets from a brand-name manufacturer
  - Remedy: don't use cheap goods from the Far East
  - Remedy: contact segments should be made of copper-beryllium - no mild steel contacts!

### 9.3 Overheating motors:

If you are using a Graupner Carbon 70, Hacker, Kontronik BL or Simprop motor, never shorten the winding wires which project from the motor. The strands are coated with high-temperature lacquer, and it is impossible to solder through this material. To obtain a sound soldered joint you must mechanically remove the lacquer coating all round each individual strand. Any strands which are not soldered or fractured cause an increase in current flow through each remaining wire, and this in turn causes a lower efficiency and increase in motor temperature.

### 6.4 Interferences:

We recognized some interference in combination with certain types of motors. These interferences occurs in combinations with different manufacturers of controllers.

## 9.5 Multi motor operation:

In general terms we do not recommend operating multiple motors with a **future**. From some of our customers we have heard that this certainly works with some (but not all) Ave-ox, Hacker, Kontronik or Lehner motors, provided that the currents do not exceed the permissible maximum values for the speed controller concerned. However, we cannot guarantee that both motors will rotate over the full load range.

**It is never permissible to run more than one Plettenberg motor connected to a single future: you must use a separate future for each motor. However, you can certainly power both controllers from a single drive battery.**

## 9.6 Helicopter use:

**9.6.1 Note:** Fixed stick positions means: idle (off) = 1.1 ms, full throttle = 1.9 ms. If you are using a Graupner RC system this equates to +/- 100% stick travel. If you find that you cannot arm the controller reliably, the solution is to increase servo travel to about 105%...110%.

In speed regulator mode the full throttle setting on a slider should be different - according to the maximum rotational speed you require-and must not be necessarily 100%.

**Important:** If you are using the **future** as a normal speed controller in your helicopter, you must connect the future's servo cable to the receiver output which produces the throttle curve set on the transmitter when you operate the collective pitch control.

**If you are using the future as a speed regulator (governor), you must not connect the controller to the receiver channel which produces the throttle curve. Instead connect it to a channel which is controlled directly by a slider or rotary control on the transmitter, i.e. a channel not affected every time by the collective pitch control. If you ignore this, motor speed will change every time you give a collective pitch command.**

### 9.6.2 Helicopter motors (efficiency/ temperature):

For helicopter applications the motor's maximum efficiency should be around 15 A, and not at the maximum currents which can occur briefly in aerobatics.

### 9.6.3 Rotational speed fluctuations in governor mode (const. rpm):

- The first step is to test the **future** in standard constant speed mode and/or in standard speed controller mode (not constant speed mode). Test it if the air is not smooth. If tail oscillation occur, the gyro is incorrectly set up, and/or the tail rotor servo is too slow, and/or the tail rotor control mechanism and/or the helicopter chassis is not rigid enough. There must be absolutely no play in the sliding sleeve linkage, the blades, the ballraces in the sleeve and in the tail rotor blades.
- If the transmission includes a belt drive, especially in the main rotor system, the belt must be adequately tensioned.
- Receiver interference may affect the nominal rotor speed, and cause fluctuations in rotational speed. In "normal controller" mode this interference is not usually detectable. Please use a PCM-receiver or -of course- **a schulze-alpha-receiver**.
- Please mount the gyro directly on the tailboom, not in or on the chassis.

## 9.7 Optimum part throttle switching frequency:

On our homepage we published a table of recommended part load switching frequencies for different motor types / different motor manufacturers. Click on „important tips“.

## 10 Legal matters

### 10.1 Warranty conditions

All **schulze** products are 100% dynamically tested by using a battery and a motor. We do not simulate tests.

If your unit develops a problem, please return it to **schulze** or to the importer. Include a description of the problem. Please be careful and precise, and list the battery voltage and capacity, motor type, conditions under which failure occurred etc. A note saying "doesn't work" does not help us much, and it may lead to wasted time in troubleshooting. Before returning the unit for repair, please test it "one more time" carefully. If we find that the controller is operating correctly, whether it is under warranty or not, we will make a charge for our lost time.

Warranty claims are processed according to our current General Conditions of Business, which are enclosed in our price list or our web page.

The warranty does not cover consequent damage or damage due to incompetent usage, such as: damage caused by moisture, by soldering cables using an acid-based flux (especially relating to speed controllers), or due to the use of non-polarised connectors. This means that you have to ship your controllers to us originally as used (particularly do not remove the plug system on the leads!). When a brushless controller has a need to repair it is often necessary to send it to us together with the battery pack, the motor and the airscrew. The warranty does also not cover those controllers which are not used with those connectors (of the fitting current) shown in our operating instructions and/or those connectors which can not serve the reliable function e.g. by dirt.

#### One further note:

If a problem arises with a schulze device, send it straight back to us or our authorized representative (see catalogue); don't attempt to repair it! This allows us to repair it as quickly as possible, as we can detect warranty defects without any doubt and thus keep costs low. You can also be certain that we will fit genuine replacement parts which are a perfect match to your device. (Very few hobby shops are equipped to analyze and repair surface-mount printed circuit boards.)

We reserve the right to refuse repair to units which have been modified or "improved" by unauthorized "experts". You also have the comfort of a properly repaired unit with a renewed warranty. The warranty period of repaired devices is applicable only to the repair. This period is shorter than the warranty period of a new product (See general conditions of business).

### 10.2 Liability limits / compensation

We at Schulze Elektronik GmbH are unable to monitor methods of installation and operation, and have no control over how you fit, use and maintain the devices we produce. For this reason we accept no liability for loss, damage or costs which arise from the incorrect or incompetent use of our products, or are connected with that use in any way.

In so far as the law allows, our obligation in respect of compensation, regardless of the legal grounds, is limited to the invoice value of that quantity of goods which was immediately involved in the event which caused the damage. This does not apply if legally binding regulations oblige us to accept unlimited liability in a particular case, or if deliberate or gross negligence can be proved on our part.

### 10.3 CE certification

The products described in this manual are manufactured in accordance with all specific and mandatory European CE guidelines:

**EMI 89/336/EEC, 91/263/EEC and 92/31/EEC.**

The products have been tested according to the following norms:

<b>EMI-emissions:</b>	<b>EN 50 081-1:1992</b>
<b>EMI-resistance:</b>	<b>EN 50 082-1:1992 or EN 50 082-2:1995</b>

The design and construction of our products comply with the requirements for safe operation.

EMI emissions were tested under realistic conditions, i.e. using suitable motors close to the maximum allowed currents. The use of resistors instead of motors do not create maximum emission levels.

Further testing is carried out to ensure adequate EMI resistance against emissions from other apparatus. The RF signals used for these tests are similar to those produced by mobile telephones and RC transmitters.

We wish to point out again that our products are tested under realistic conditions for the most dangerous scenario: exposed to the field of a powerful transmitter, the motor must not start while you are working on the model.

**Problems involving our products are most likely caused by unsuitable combinations of radio components or improper installations.**

### 10.4 Connection to Tango and Samba motors

**We** do not recommend that you operate these motors with **future** controllers, as this may invalidate the warrantee. **However**, in technical terms there is no problem, provided that you set the appropriate frequency.

## 11 Specifications

### Key to product summary **future-universal** in section 12

**Weight:**                    **Excluding** - including cables

**Current rating:**        Nominal current / maximum current: **The** excess current level lies above the maximum current value for each unit.

The nominal current value is the continuous current at full throttle at which the future can be operated when connected to a 2 Ah battery without forced cooling. The nominal current value actually achieved may vary in either direction with different types of motor, rotational speeds and cell counts.

**Throttle, brake:**        **Internal** resistance of the MOSFETs, based on data sheet values (25°C / 10 V gate voltage). At 125°C the resistance is about 40% higher. For this reason you should always provide an effective flow of cooling air over the **future** to prevent it getting too hot.

**Pulse times:**

General: Allowed range: 0.8 ms ... 2.5 ms, cycle time: 10 ... 30 ms.

Otherwise: See header of the future operating modes.

**Rotational speed:**    The rotational speed stated above is the limit value for a 2-pole motor (...P2). The following division factors apply: P4= /2; P6= /3; P8= /4; P10= /5. The speed limiter provides some level of protection against the armature magnets of HP 220 motors flying off. Note: this speed limit is too high for the "washing machine" motor types.

**BEC:**                        **The** stated peak current is dictated by the maximum current value of the 5V voltage regulator; it can only flow for less than 0.5 seconds, followed by a cooling-off period.

**The** stated continuous current is much lower and is determined by the maximum power dissipation of the voltage regulator used in the unit ( $V_{\text{loss}} = V_{\text{battery}} - 5 \text{ V BEC-voltage}$ ).

**Pay attention** when connecting micro-servos: the current consumption is mostly 2...3 times higher than the current of the Graupner C341 servo! The BEC System can be overloaded by temperature when using more than 8 cells and more than 3 servos!

**Maximum permissible dissipated power: future-9.xx:** 1.5W = 0.3 A continuous current at 10 V; **future-11.xx:** 3W = 0.5 A continuous current at 11 V; **other:** 4 W = 0.5 A continuous current at 13 V). See also „important tips“ on our web page and in section 12.

**Part-load-switching frequencies:** 9.7, 19.1, 37.8 kHz, selected by DIL-switch (**future-9:** 15.6 kHz)

**Soft-start:**                The soft-start feature on throttle and brake is not the same for the standard versions and special versions (boat, car, helicopter, pylonracer or FAI-sailplane); it is matched to the requirements of each application.

**Temperature:**            Overtemperature threshold approximately 110°C.

**Note:**                        **If** you have been using a sensor-controlled speed controller, you may find that now your motor's maximum speed is different when you use the **future**. **The** timing of sensor-equipped motors is set for a particular rotational speed and a particular load (similar to the advance setting of an internal combustion engine's timing), but the **future** automatically optimises the timing (within the pre-setted timing) for maximum efficiency under all load conditions. **This** means that the timing does not depend on the position of the speed sensors as dictated by the mechanical design, nor on the accuracy with which they are installed. **The** net result is that you may find that the maximum rotational speed of your motor is higher - combined with higher current; or lower - combined with lower current. **For** this reason it may prove necessary to experiment with new propeller sizes when you make the switch to a sensorless controller or you simply use the timing adjustment features of this type of **future**.

## 12 Product overview future-universal

Type Vers. Remark	Current Ni-cells	Size	Weight	CableThrott.	Brake	Rot.Sp.				
Units -->	[A] [cell count]	[mm]	[g]	[mm <sup>2</sup> ][m ]	[m ]	[min <sup>-1</sup> ]				
<b>9 vells low voltage with BEC 5 V / 2 A (no opto coupler):</b>										
future-9.06e	6/8 (5)6-9	26*17*5	4-8	0.5	33	13/3	126k	10k	6 FETs, small, flat	
future-9.12e	12/16 (4)6-9	26*17*5	4-8	0.5	15	4/3	126k	10 j	12 FETs, small, flat	
<b>11 cells low voltage types with BEC 5 V / 2 A (no opto coupler):</b>										
future-11.20e	20/26	6-11	41*26*8.5	15-20	1.5	2*4	4/3	126k	10g	6 FETs, small, flat
future-11.30e	30/40	6-11	41*26*8.5	18-23	1.5	2*3.5	3.5/3	126k	10g	12 FETs, small, flat
future-11.40Ke	40/53	6-11	41*26*17	31-39	2.5	2*2	2/3	126k	10g	12 FETs, cool.fins
future-11.40KWe	40/53	6-11	41*26*17	33-41	2.5	2*2	2/3	126k	10g	12 FETs, cool.fin,sealed
<b>12 cells low voltage types with BEC 5 V / 3 A (and opto coupler - if BEC is unused: max. 18 cells):</b>										
future-12.36e	36/47	6-12	77*30*11	37-45	2.5	2*3.5	3.5/3	126k	10a	12 FETs, lightweight
future-12.46e	46/60	6-12	77*30*11	37-45	2.5	2*2.3	2.3/3	126k	10a	18 FETs, lightweight
future-12.46We	46/60	6-12	77*30*11	38-46	2.5	2*2.3	2.3/3	126k	10a	18 FETs, sealed
future-12.97Fe	97/128	6-12	77*30*12.5	37-50	4.0	2*0.8	0.8/3	126k/240k	10b	54 FETs, FAI, leight
future-12.97FWe	97/128	6-12	77*30*12.5	38-51	4.0	2*0.8	0.8/3	126k/240k	10b	54 FETs, FAI, sealed
<b>18 cells low voltage types with opto coupler:</b>										
future-18.36	36/47	6-18	77*30*10	29-37	2.5	2*3.5	3.5/3	126k	10a	12 FETs, cooling plate
future-18.46K	46/60	6-18	77*30*14	37-45	2.5	2*2.3	2.3/3	126k	10a	18 FETs, cooling fins
future-18.46WK	50/65	6-18	77*30*16	43-51	2.5	2*2.3	2.3/3	126k	10a	18 FETs, water cooling
future-18.61	61/81	6-18	77*30*10	29-42	4.0	2*1.3	1.3/3	126k	10a	18 FETs, cooling plate
future-18.97F	97/128	6-18	77*30*12.5	37-50	4.0	2*0.8	0.8/3	126k/240k	10b	54 FETs, FAI, leight
future-18.97FW	97/128	6-18	77*30*12.5	38-51	4.0	2*0.8	0.8/3	126k/240k	10b	54 FETs, FAI, sealed
future-18.97KWF	97/128	6-18	77*38*28	66-79	4.0	2*0.8	0.8/3	126k/240k	10b	54 FETs, ColFns,seald.
future-18.129F	129/171	6-18	77*30*12.5	37-50	4.0	2*0.4	0.4/3	126k/240k	10b	54 FETs, FAI, leight
future-18.129FW	129/171	6-18	77*30*12.5	38-51	4.0	2*0.4	0.4/3	126k/240k	10b	54 FETs, FAI, sealed
<b>24 cells high voltage types with opto coupler:</b>										
future-24.40K	40/53	6-24	80*30*14	37-45	2.5	2*3	3/3	126k	10c	18 FETs, cooling fins
future-24.89F	89/119	6-24	80*30*12.5	37-50	4.0	2*1	1/3	126k/240k	10d	54 FETs, FAI, leight
<b>32 cells high voltage types with opto coupler:</b>										
future-32.28K	28/37	6-32	80*30*14	37-45	2.5	2*8	8/3	126k	10e	18 FETs, cooling fins
future-32.40K	40/53	6-32	80*30*14	37-45	2.5	2*3.7	3.7/3	126k	10e	18 FETs, cooling fins
future-32.55	55/73	6-32	80*30*14	44-52	2.5	2*2.7	2.7/3	126k	10e	54 FETs, cooling plate
future-32.55WK	62/80	6-32	80*30*20.5	56-64	2.5	2*2.7	2.7/3	126k	10e	54 FETs, water cooling
future-32.80F	80/106	6-32	80*30*12.5	37-50	4.0	2*1.2	1.2/3	126k/240k	10f	54 FETs, FAI, leight
future-32.80FWK	95/115	6-32	80*30*20.5	56-69	4.0	2*1.2	1.2/3	126k/240k	10f	54 F.,FAI,water cooling
future-32.170W	170/226	10-32	120*71*20	180-210	2*4.0	2*0.88	0.88/3	126k/240k	10m	24 big FETs, sealed
<b>40 cells high voltage types with opto coupler:</b>										
future-40.70	70/93	10-40	80*30*14	44-57	4.0	2*1.8	1,8/3	126k	10h	54 FETs, cooling plate
future-40.70WK	83/100	10-40	80*30*20,5	64-77	4.0	2*1.8	1,8/3	126k	10h	54 F., sealed, w.cooled

### Key to table above

Type-ending	Remark	Meaning
-	cooling plate	plate, no cooling rips
e	leight...	no cooling plate or rips, BEC pcb
F	leight..., FAI	no cooling plate or rips
K	cooling fins	cooling fins for excessive part load use
W	sealed	splash water protected
FW	FAI, sealed	splash water protected + FAI program
WK	water cooling	splash water protected + cooling tubes
FWK	FAI, water cooling	splash water protected + cooling tubes + FAI program

### Important hint:

**Practical maximum load** with BEC suitable servos (less than 500 mA stall current) depending on the cell count

up to 6 cells max.	future-9.xx: 4 servos,	future-11.xx: 4 servos,	other 6 servos
up to 7 cells max.	future-9.xx: 3 servos,	future-11.xx: 4 servos,	other 6 servos
up to 8 cells max.	future-9.xx: 2.2 servos,	future-11.xx: 4 servos,	other 6 servos
up to 9 cells max.	future-9.xx: 1.7 servos,	future-11.xx: 3.4 servos,	other 4.5 servos
up to 10 cells max.	future-9.xx: not allowed,	future-11.xx: 3 servos,	other 4 servos
up to 11 cells max.	future-9.xx: not allowed,	future-11.xx: 2.5 servos,	other 3 servos
up to 12 cells max.	future-9.xx: not allowed,	future-11.xx: not allowed,	other 3 servos

All data above are clues. Depending on the used servo type, cooling air and motor current data can vary.



- 30 e -

Available from: [www.modelflight.com.au](http://www.modelflight.com.au)

