TrackMen GmbH

Torq2FBX Recorder

User guide

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1 Preface

Torq2FBX is a compact program to record tracking data and associated time code and save it as an animation in an .fbx file format for later import into a 3D engine.

1.1 Prerequisites

For the application, a user needs the following components:

1.1.1 The Torq2FBX software

The software comes as a small program folder, including an .exe file to directly start it. No installation needed. It is compiled for Window 7 and up operating systems and has no special hardware requirements. To download, please follow the link on the right.

1.1.2 A valid license

The license for the software is bound to a hardware dongle that needs to be connected to the machine doing the recording. **Torq2FBX** is a dedicated dongle feature that can be activated remotely, if necessary. Some Windows machines do not recognize the dongle drivers automatically. If so, please download the drivers following the link on the right.

1.1.3 Timecode feed for the camera tracking

The software will read the timecode embedded in the incoming tracking data. The camera tracking engine will need to have a timecode embedded in the SDI video feed for the Chief camera.

TrackMen Torq2FBX FTP Download

ftp://f0l4bblb:gEcAD9fPkzFmw4Vv@www.trackmen.de/Torq2fbx

License Dongle Drivers FTP Download

ftp://f0l4bblb:gEcAD9fPkzFmw4Vv@www.trackmen.de/Drivers/Dongle

Note: **The software will save the data in a software-independent .fbx file to be imported in the desired 3D program as an animation. It will neither record the associated video, nor will it play back the data itself. It is meant for post production applications in the software of the user's preference. Thus, importing procedure and aligning the video will be up to the user to implement in his individual workflow.**
A sample recording for checking that workflow in advance can be downloaded on the FTP Server, following the Torq2FBX link.

2 Preparations

2.1 Software

1. Connect the license dongle to the recording PC and check whether it has been recognized:
2. Open the Windows Device Manager and check whether the license dongle is listed as Sentinel HL Key in the **Universal Serial Bus Controller** section. If it is instead displayed as unknown / unconfigured device, with a small ! symbol, please install the drivers linked in section 1.1.2.
3. Make sure that any firewall is deactivated or allows the ports defined in step 2.3 to be forwarded.
4. Unpack the software in a convenient folder and locate the TrackMenTorq2FBX.exe in it.

2.2 Tracking Timecode

5. Enable using Timecode in the tracking interface:
6. In **VioTrack**: Switch to the **VioTrack Chief** window and select the **Camera** tab.
7. Activate **Use Timecode**.
8. Check the option **Dump Timecode** and check the output in the **System Log**.
9. If each frame number is displayed twice a second, check the option **Fix Timecode**. If not, leave it unchecked.
10. If the timecode is coming in correctly, uncheck **Dump Timecode** and click **Save**.

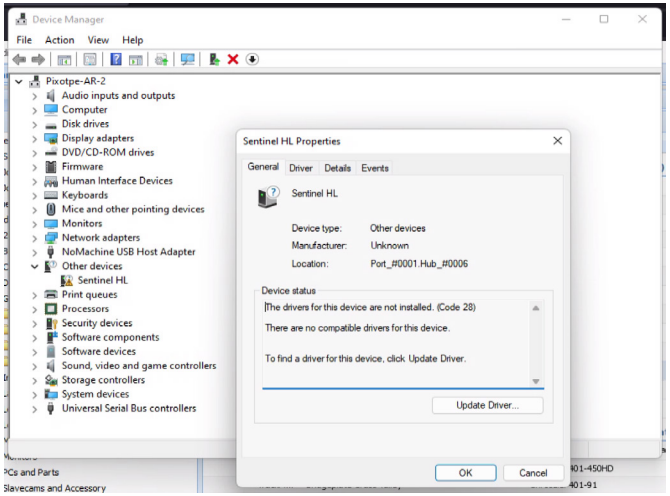

Illustration 1-2: Sentinel HL key dongle is not correctly recognized by Windows; install drivers manually

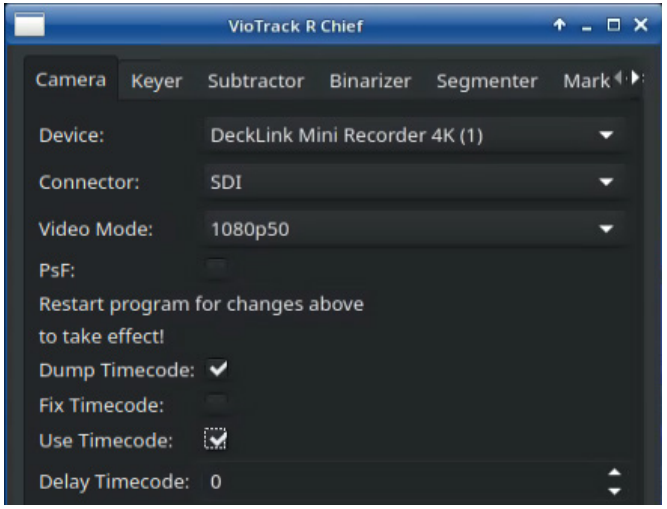

Illustration 1-1: Timecode settings in the VioTrack Chief Camera tab.

2.3 Tracking sender

11. Configure a Sender in the Tracking interface:
12. In **VioTrack**: Open an unused Sender tab in the VioTrack Chief window.
13. Enter the IP of the receiving PC running the Torq2FBX software, in Host.
14. Define a free Port.
15. Check the two data format options:

    Euler angles

    Studio y-axis points up
16. Click Save.

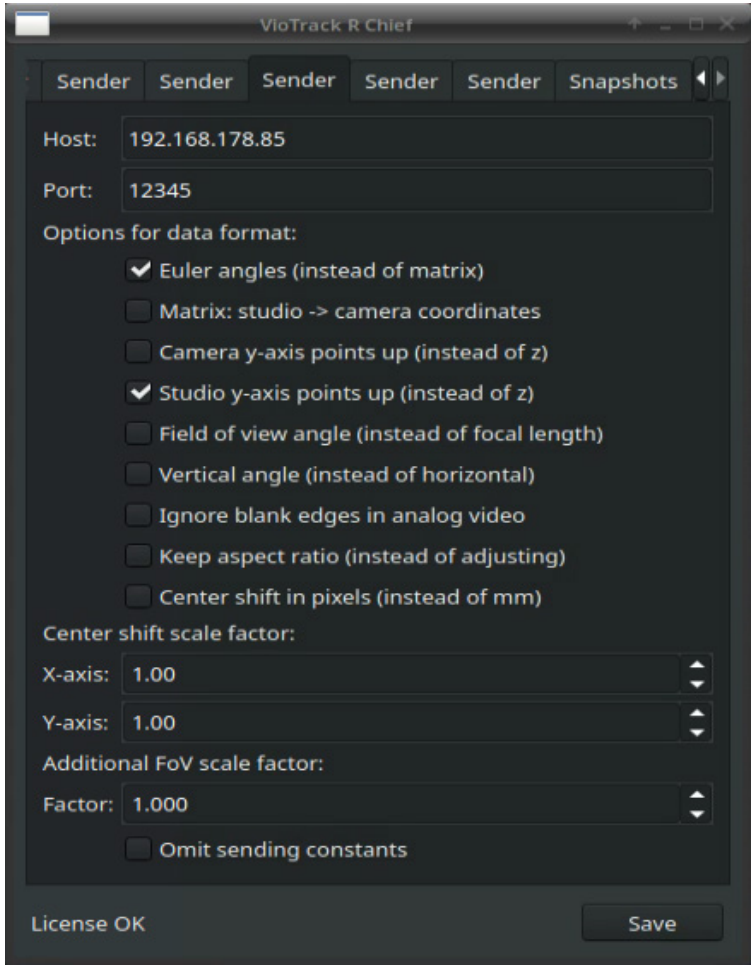

Illustration 1-3: Tracking Sender for Torq2FBX example

3 Using Torq2FBX

3.1 Interface and options

Launching Torq2FBX will start a simple interface with the following options from top to bottom:

Output Folder: Define where the .fbx files will be saved.

Take Name: Name the output file.

Take ID: A number that will be added to the file name. It counts upwards automatically with each recording.

Write (Local) Time-Code in Filename: Select whether the timecode should be part of the file name.

Resulting filename: Shows the file name and path with the selections made.

Grab Images: Only in special setups, this option can add a thumbnail image to the recordings. The Image Output and Delay are concerning this option.

TorqTrack Frequency: Selection for the tracking data framerate. It has to match the video format that is being used.

Port number: Port on which to receive the tracking data, as defined in step 2.3.

Recording Button: When tracking data is coming in, the button with the red recording symbol will start a recording.

Stop Button: Will end a running recording and close the file, as well as increase the Take ID counter by 1.

Timecode: Displays the incoming timecode.

Snapshot Button: Creates an image for the above thumbnail section.

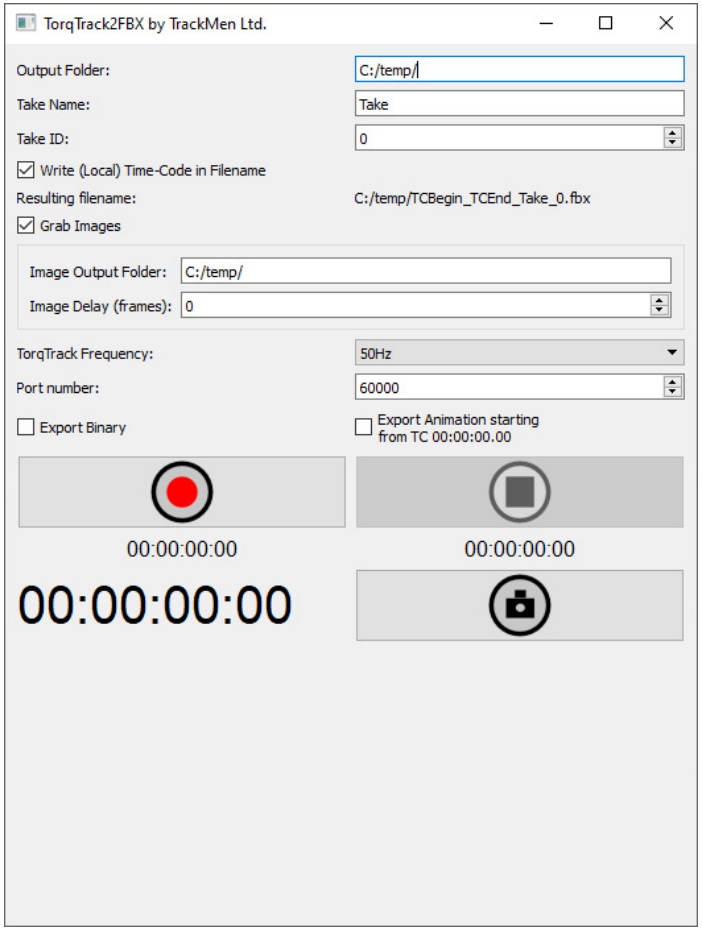

Illustration 1-4: Default Torq2FBX view

3.2 Operation

1. Establish tracking to send live tracking data to the recording PC.
2. Select the video format framerate in the **TorqTrack Frequency** dropdown menu.
3. Enter the **Port** that has been defined in the tracking sender in step 2.3.
4. Name the file and its saving path.
5. Click the Record Button to start recording.
6. Click the Stop Button to stop recording and close the take file.

Note: **While recording includes timecode, so any camera move can later be located by going to the respective position, the program records live data in real time, making use of the RAM of the recording machine. The program is not meant to be kept running extensive times, as RAM will eventually be full. Make sure to split recordings into multiple takes.**

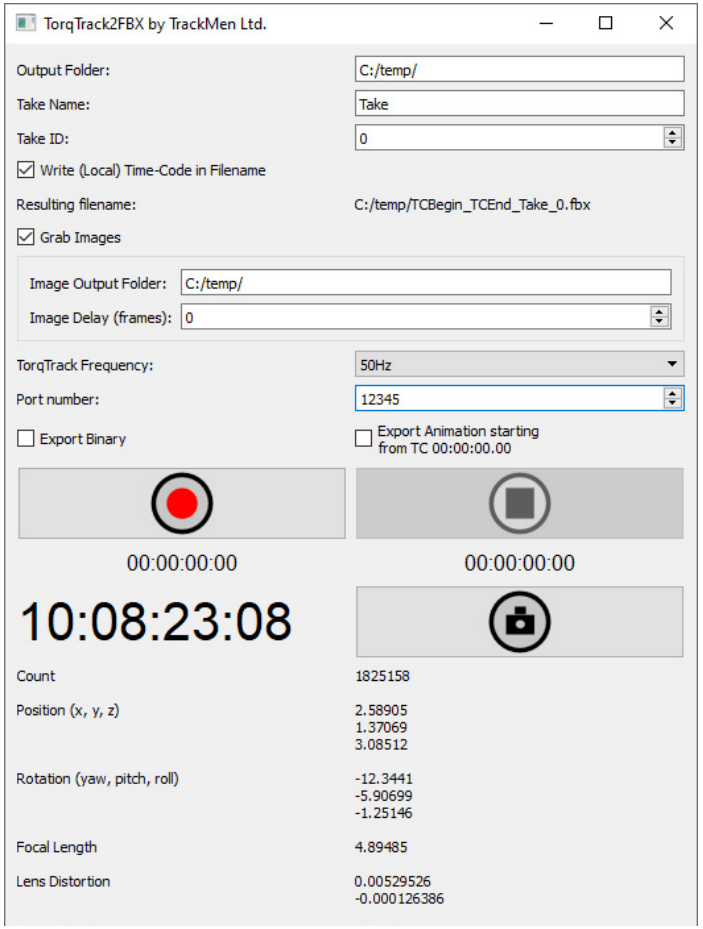

Illustration 1-5: Torq2FBX view with incoming tracking data