



Rotel M8 / S5 RS232 ASCII Controller Command List

Date	Version	Update Description
August 25, 2019	1.00	Original Specification

The M8 and S5 support an ASCII based RS232 protocol. The RS232 hardware does not support flow control so care needs to be taken when sending and receiving data to avoid packet loss.

All commands sent to the attached Rotel device must have a terminating “!” character.

Example Command: power_on!

***Note:** Do not include any spaces in the command, and do not include a carriage return or line feed after the command, only the “!” terminating character.*

Status information from the attached Rotel product will have a terminating “\$” character. It is up to the sending/receiving control application to properly parse and process the packets.

Connection Settings

Baud Rate	Parity	Valid Data Bits	Stop Bit Value	Handshaking	Data Type
115200	N	8	1	None	String

Communication Protocol

Command and response messages are included on the following pages. Automatic status update information can be enabled/disabled using the “rs232_update_on” and “rs232_update_off” commands.

With RS232 update set to ON, any status changes to the unit will be transmitted via RS232. With RS232 update set to OFF, the unit will not send any feedback unless polled by the controller.

Section 1: Control Command List

M8/S5 ASCII	Command Description	Unit Response
POWER COMMANDS		
power_on!	Power On	power=on\$
power_off!	Power Off	power=standby\$
power_toggle!	Power Toggle	power=on/standby\$
OTHER COMMANDS		
dimmer_0!	Set display to brightest setting	dimmer=0\$
dimmer_1!	Set display to dimmer level 1	dimmer=1\$
dimmer_2!	Set display to dimmer level 2	dimmer=2\$
dimmer_3!	Set display to dimmer level 3	dimmer=3\$
dimmer_4!	Set display to dimmest setting	dimmer=4\$
RS232 FEEDBACK COMMANDS		
rs232_update_on!	Set RS232 Update to Auto (On)	update_mode=auto\$
rs232_update_off!	Set RS232 Update to Manual (Off)	update_mode=manual\$

Section 2: Feedback Request Command List

Command:	power?
Description:	Request current power status
Return String(s):	power=on\$ / power=standby\$
Return Description:	Current power status
Example:	power=on\$

Command:	dimmer?
Description:	Request current front display dimmer level
Return String(s):	dimmer=0\$ / dimmer=1\$ / dimmer=2\$ / dimmer=3\$ / dimmer=4\$
Return Description:	Current front display dimmer level
Example:	dimmer=3\$

Command:	version?
Description:	Request the software version
Return String:	version=#.##\$
Return Description:	Rotel main CPU software version
Example:	version=1.01\$

Command:	model?
Description:	Request the model number
Return String:	model=text\$
Return Description:	Rotel model number
Example:	model=m8\$