Video VBOX: A new dimension to in-car video

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For a system that goes beyond Video, look no further than Racelogic’s Video VBOX. Combining suction mounted bullet cameras for ultimate flexibility, SD-card recording, a high-speed GPS data-logger, and a graphics engine, Video VBOX puts the driver at the centre of DVD quality, video game-like footage.

Racelogic claim that with its plug and play ease of use, Video VBOX will shave seconds off lap-times by replaying video overlaid with customisable values such as speed, lap-times, g-force, and even gear changes.

Combining DVD quality video with GPS data-logging and graphic overlay has made for a powerful piece of kit at home in a variety of motorsport environments. Owing its heritage to the industry-standard VBOX data-acquisition systems, Video VBOX is aimed at professional racing teams, racing schools, vehicle dynamics testers, and track day enthusiasts.

Enabling data to be overlaid onto video in real time, Video VBOX has proved to be a useful tool in all aspects of driving and vehicle analysis. Just by playing, pausing and rewinding the video, braking points, corner entry speeds, clipping points, g-forces and lap times are all instantly visible and referenced to circuit position.

By using the picture in picture of a second camera, insights into steering technique are now possible, with the ability to clearly spot any occurrence of understeer or oversteer. This can all be done using a standard media player.
The setup software supplied with the system allows users to choose from a number of standard dashboard styles and circuit maps, or even create them from scratch, which can then be uploaded via USB or SD card.

For deeper analysis, users can install the VBOXTools data-analysis package, which provides an intuitive and simple way to delve more deeply into the data recorded by the system alongside the video. Kevin Bursnall, Technical Director at Racelogic, said:

“Using this powerful software, you can compare two different laps (or drivers) alongside each other, whilst the two videos stay synchronized either with time or position around the lap.”

The 10Hz GPS engine provides information such as circuit position, lap timing, speed (accurate to ±0.1km/h), and acceleration, whilst the optional 32 channel CAN interface retrieves information such as throttle angle, revs, and brake pressure.

This new way of acquiring data allows anyone from track day drivers to race engineers to analyse and improve performance. Issues such as braking or turning in too early, and gear selection are easily addressed in the video playback and logged data; moving the focus back to the driver.

Speaking after the Finland Joensuu Rally 09, rally driver Kristian Sohlberg said:

“Without Video VBOX, it would have been absolutely impossible to understand why things happened and where. This is a tool that gives us and the team important information that couldn’t otherwise be possible. We can for the first time see important speed, CAN and other information from the video and hear notes and this way analyse what happened and how we can improve”.

Because drivers and engineers usually have more to think about than data acquisition, Racelogic have made the set up quick and easy. The user simply connects the cameras and the GPS antenna, inserts the SD card or USB stick, and drives.

For more info and videos, head to www.videovbox.co.uk