

**This page is deprecated (only valid for 2021 EHT observations).**

## Prerequisites

- Go through the [system setup](#) procedure for the DBBC3 and verify that the system is in a working condition.

## System initialization

More detailed information can be found also on the [EHT-wiki](#)

## Module initialization

**ONLY IF REQUIRED:** Initialise the modules using the following command. It has to be repeated separately for each Mark6 that has modules that need initialising (example below references the Mark6 using hostname 'recorder1').

**This command will erase all existing data on the modules.**

If you are unsure whether to initialise a set of modules, request guidance from AOC.

```
backendctl mark6 recorder1 modules 1,2,3,4 init-fresh
```

if the modules are still in "open" state they must be unmounted before

```
backendctl mark6 recorder1 group unmount
```

Repeat for all recorders

## Initialize, configure & validate the DBBC3

### Load the OCT\_D firmware

On the DBBC3 desktop

- close any other running control software programs
- close the DBBC3 client program
- double click the icon labeled "DBBC3 Control OCT\_D\_v110.exe" (Version number can be different)
- answer first question with "y" in order to do a full reload of the firmware.
- wait until the control software has fully loaded and responds with "Waiting for connection on port 4000"

### Load the filters and validate the system

make sure the DBBC3 client is not running

```
cd /home/oper/rottmann/dbbc3/utilities
./setupDBBC3_OCT_D.py dbbc3 -n 4
```

After carrying out a number of tests and verifications the script will ask whether you want to load the filters. Answer with 'y'.

Note: any checks prior to this question will fail if the filters have already been loaded.

All checks should report "OK".

### Check time synchronisation

Time synchronisation can be checked with the tick command via the serial interface.

**Follow these steps below exactly. Omitting any step will lead to mal-functioning and will require to completely reload the firmware.**

On the DBBC3 desktop:

- open the dbbc3 client program and issue:

```
disableloop
```

- double-click the putty icon
- in putty open connection e.g. to DBBC3 Board A
- in the window hit enter to get to the command prompt and execute:
- tick
- compare the timestamps to a radio-controlled clock
- when done hit enter to stop the tick command
- close the putty window
- in the dbbc3 client program issue:

```
enableloop
```

### Validate the VLBI System (Except DBBC3)

on the EHT control computer run:

```
backendctl whole check
```

This will check the setup of the control computer and the recorders. The check of the DBBC3 is not yet included in this procedure (see above).

### Adjust power levels (DBBC3)

Basically low/high power levels should have been reported by setup script (see above).

In DBBC3 client:

check attenuators, e.g. for board A:

```
dbbcifa
```

attenuator settings should be within 20-40, agc should be on

if reported attenuator level is out of range 20-40 the IF power must be decreased/increased.

## Do test recording

```
backendctl mark6 all run test-recording 20 30
```

Recording starts with a delay of 20 seconds. Visually check if all recorders are actually recording.

## Record & plot

log into the recorder e.g. recorder1

```
ssh -Y recorder1
```

execute:

```
plotdbbc3_m6.sh
```

This will do a short test recording and plot the resulting spectrum in both polarizations

## Load and execute the schedule

Schedules are located under `/srv/vexstore`

load the schedule that has been triggered by the AOC:

```
backendctl mark6 all schedule load trigger
```

Follow the schedule:

```
backendctl whole schedule follow trigger
```

## Start the Mark6 monitoring client

copy the vex file (e.g. from `/srv/vexstore/trigger`) to `/home/oper/shared/schedules`

```
vex2xml.py -f {vexfile} -s Pv
```

check the contents of the generated `{schedule}.xml` if it contains scans

```
m6schedulemon.py recorder1 {schedule}.xml &
```

repeat for all recorders you want to monitor

