

April, 2021

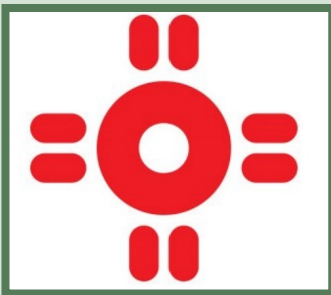
THE KMA SPEC

Architectural Products & Furnishings
www.kma.bz



All About Shades: Part 2, Motorization

Bringing you up to date on KMA's unique architectural product collection!



Hi again! KMA & Associates believes that all great projects start with good, solid specifications. But let's face it, some products just seem to be more complicated than others. In our effort to make specifying roller shades easier, we continue our discussion where we will take a step-by-step approach through the process of specifying that "just right" roller shade for your next project. **Let's now review the process of specifying motorized shades from Mecho!**

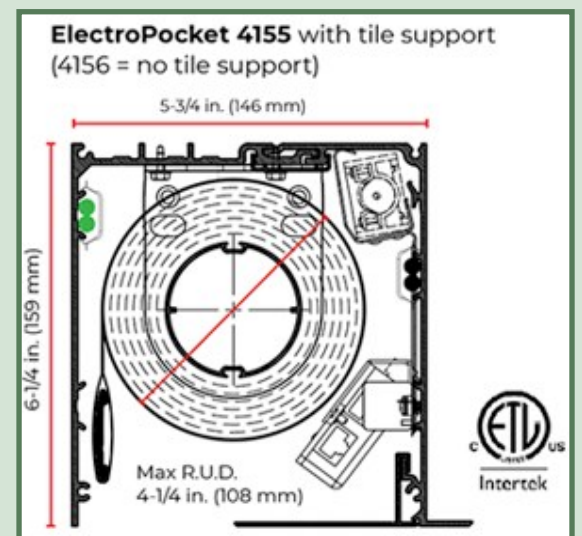
STEP 1 - Choose a Bracket. Mecho refers to motorized shades as "**Electroshades**". Let's begin by considering your space and making a decision about how the shades should be mounted. Shall we mount shades above the ceiling? The "**Electro 1**" is used for projects where the shade is mounted above the ceiling. The "**Electro 2**" bracket is used when mounting below the ceiling. You will most likely then want to specify fascia and perhaps end caps. The "**Electro 3**" is a smaller bracket that is used for special circumstances such as when you also have manually operated shades and motorized shades in the same space and you need uniformity in appearance.

STEP 2 - Locate Construction Details.

A. Visit www.mechoshade.com. B. Under the "Resources" tab, choose "Construction Drawings". C. Choose "Mechoshade, (Motorized)". D. Select either "Single Shade" or "Double Shade". E. Select if you would like either "Shades above ceiling", or "Shades below ceiling". (Remember: For shades below ceiling, you may wish to also specify a fascia and / or end caps.) F. Select your choice of "bracket" from Step 1. G. Download your appropriate construction drawing in either a PDF or CAD. You'll find a detail for every possible situation and some you may never have considered before. For example the "**ElectroPocket**". (Pictured at right and available exclusively from Mechoshade.)

The ElectroPocket is the industry's first ETL /UL certified pocket mounting solution for motorized shades. Here's how it works:

ElectroPocket's innovative design allows for below ceiling wiring and eliminates the need for extensive onsite wiring. The modular pockets clip together at the jobsite, making a relatively effortless transport and installation. Utilizing ElectroPocket can reduce the need for expensive electrician time. The certified wiring raceway secures all wiring safely away from a motorized shade system's moving parts. Reducing future maintenance costs, ElectroPocket's unique, patented design uses standard wire and cable instead of more expensive metal-clad or conduit wiring. You'll find a savings calculator on the Mecho website which will demonstrate what cost savings are possible for your unique project



STEP 3 - Deciding About Motors.

Mecho was the first manufacturer to develop a commercially available motorized roller shade. That was 40 years ago. Innovation continues to develop and that means more choices for your projects. The top-rated motors available for both Electro 1 and Electro 2 brackets are tucked inside of the shade's tube. Not only are they very powerful motors, they are very quiet, offer flexible controls, and contain sensors to minimize potential maintenance issues. In short, they have built in intelligence: ("iQ" Motors.) Mecho's iQ motorized shades may be integrated into various 3rd party functions using any manufacturer's keypad, touchscreen, wall switch, or remote, to create a unified user experience. Start off by deciding if your project is better off with using AC motors or if DC is preferable. You may like to consult with your project's electrical engineer to arrive at the best decision. Both iQ2+ and iQ2-DC motors may be integrated into automated shade projects. (We'll discuss automation of shades in a future newsletter.)

We suggest the **Whispershade iQ 2+** motor if you are looking for a line-voltage, AC motor. Or choose the **Whispershade iQ2 DC** motor for a strong, (up to 600 sq ft of shade!) nearly silent low voltage motor that saves costs on both wiring and installation. This may be a good choice for renovation projects. Fact: iQ2 DC is the only UL listed DC motor on the market.

Mecho also offers **RTS** (SOMFY) motors (radio transmitted). With RTS, there is no data cabling required. It can accommodate both single and double shades and provides for 3 stop options. The RTS wireless system may also be integrated into 3rd party systems.

We're the first to admit there is a lot to know about motorized shades! Please don't let the technical aspects bog you down too much. Reach out to your KMA & Associates rep for more guidance. We enjoy hearing from you anytime and learning about your project needs. We can discuss your goals and help you to make the best decisions for your specification.



**Fresh Innovation in Motorized Shade Control is here!
Power Over Ethernet!**

Mechoshade Now Offers Motorization with PoE.



- Multiple building systems can be integrated into POE such as cameras, security, phones, HVAC, lighting, and now SHADES!
- Mecho is always the leader when it comes to commercial roller shade innovation. How does PoE work?
- Data and low voltage power on a single Ethernet cable.

As Revit has revolutionized the Building Information Modeling world, so is PoE revolutionizing how buildings are powered and managed. PoE will eventually be the building standard for advanced electrical cabling. When you specify Mecho motorization, you have this capability right now.

We encourage you to talk with your electrical consultants to see how PoE technology can enhance your Mechoshade projects to be the best ever.



The Whispershade DC-UPoE Gateway low-voltage communication router with power distribution capability for controlling Mechoshades over PoE.



Easy and secure convergence of IP infrastructure.

- Metal enclosure meets plenum requirements.

EARTH DAY: 2021

Mechoshade Sustainable Shadecloth Collections

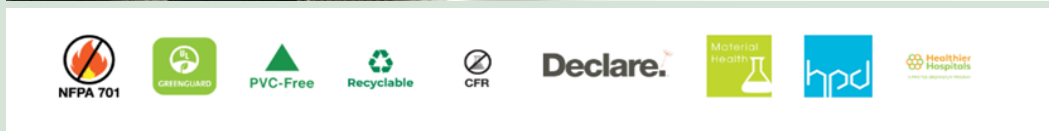
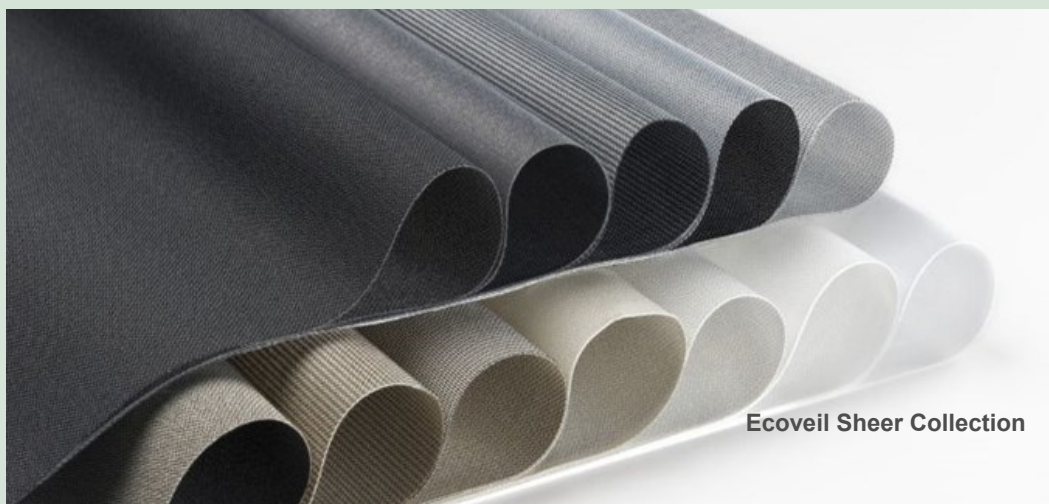
KMA & Associates recognizes the celebration of [Earth Day on Thursday, April 22nd](#). It is now even more important to do what we can to be kind to our planet and working together is the key. For this reason, we want to call your attention to several shadecloth collections Mecho offers with superior sustainable features.

Above: the **Ecoveil Collection**, the first environmentally certified product of its kind.

Left: **Ecoveil Sheer Collection**. This is a reversible solar fabric featuring a broken twill weave pattern woven from pigmented yarns. This fabric is made of flame-retardant polyester, is recyclable, PVC-free, and has a soft hand.

Are you working with any LEED compliant projects?

Balancing a combination of building efficiency, human performance and budget is tough. That's why Mechoshade can help. Mechoshade systems not only look great over the long term, they control the amount of natural light, solar heat, and glare – all things that can affect occupant health. Mechoshade systems have proven that they are an integral component for any project seeking LEED certification.



New Educational Webinars are Coming Soon!

Since the beginning of the year, KMA & Associates have been busy planning educational webinars for you, our valued design community. We are in collaboration with our various manufacturers in scheduling unique learning opportunities to help you increase your knowledge of products and become more confident in your specifications. In the month of April, we will be bringing you a webinar from **CARVART** we are calling "**Glass 101**". We will dive deep into the process of how glass is made, the various types of glass, and for what applications is each type specified. We will host 2 of these webinars at the end of this month. Please be watching your inbox for the invitation. We think you will find this a very useful learning experience.

KMA & Associates strives to be your # 1 resource when it comes to specifying roller shades and more.

In upcoming newsletters, we will be continuing the subject of shades focusing on automated shades. Please reach out if we can assist with your next project.

KMA & Associates

Please check out our website at www.kma.bz and like us on **Facebook**, **Instagram** and **LinkedIn** to see all the latest and greatest news from KMA!