DMX Fader v3

Manual

INTRODUCTION

The *DMX Fader* is a small DMX Merger that allows any DMX controllable lighting fixture to be used as a Follow Spot. It gives control over the intensity to a follow spot operator while still allowing the lighting desk to change the remaining parameters of the fixture.

The philosophy behind this product is to make follow spotting more accessible for productions which can not facilitate traditional follow spots. This may be because of the size, heat, space, transport, durability, interchangeability or budget that comes with it.

The system requires a DMX controllable lighting fixture and a lighting desk. Once the device is connected to both the lighting desk and the fixture, the *DMX Fader* can be addressed straight from the lighting desk. It is important that the device address aligns with the intensity address of the lighting fixture.

There are two mounting holes on the side of the device for zip ties to attach the *DMX Fader* to a structure like a stand, yoke or scaffold pipe. For every *DMX Fader* there is one Vertical & Horizontal Rigging Mount included which is specifically designed to fit on a 48mm scaffolding pipe.

After installation there are two modes one can choose from – Relative and Absolute, which determine how the intensity data from the lighting desk is processed (see Page 4).

By implementing the *DMX Fader* into the setup, any DMX controllable lighting fixture, including moving heads, can be controlled. Furthermore, it is possible to use two or more *DMX Faders* in series, for example to have intensity and iris control over the same fixture.

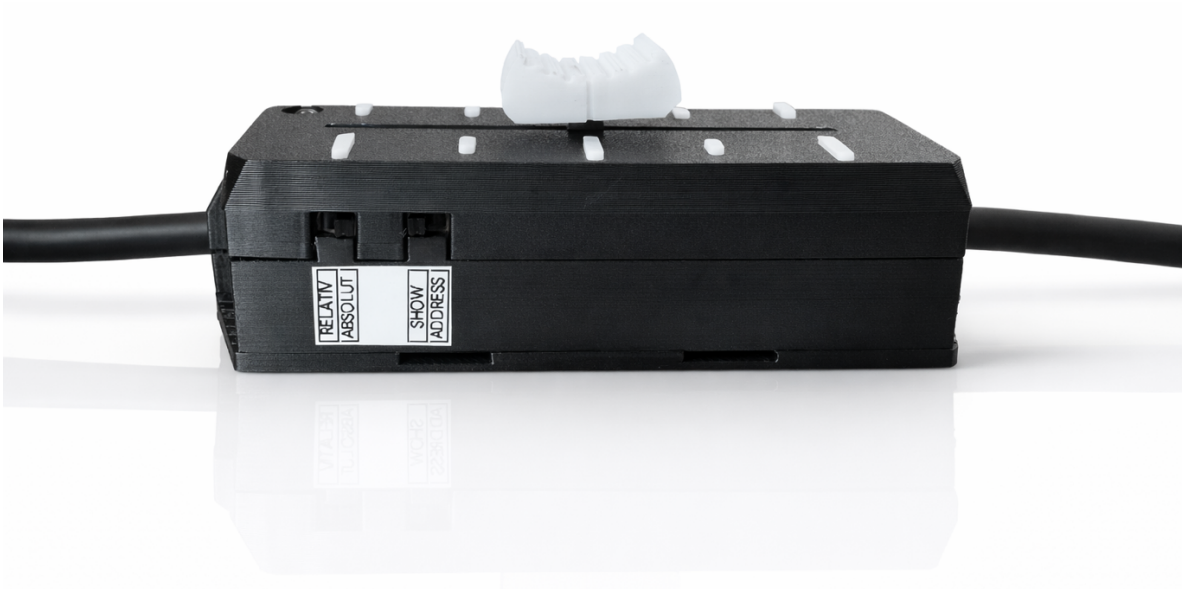
It is also possible to have independent lighting fixtures before and after the *DMX Fader* in the DMX line, which will not be affected. Though it is not advisable to have a large number of fixtures after the *DMX Fader* in the daisy chain, because this might compromise the signal quality.

SCHEMATIC

Lighting Desk → DMX cable → *DMX Fader* → DMX cable → Profile

COMPONENT OVERVIEW

1__DMX In ..... receives DMX from the lighting desk
2__DMX Out ..... sends modified DMX signal to the following lighting fixtures
3__Mode Switch..... sets mode: Relative / Absolute
4__Setup Switch ..... enables/disables addressing (Show / Address)
5__9V Power Socked... power supply of device
6__Fader..... changes values of a specific address
7__Indicator LED ..... flashes while listening for address / turns solid when addressed / turns off when in Show mode



NOTICE

- Do not pull on DMX cables
- Make sure to use the correct power supply
- Ensure device is mounted in a safe manner
- Keep away from liquids
- Keep away from heat

8-bit Dimming - 10Hz
Works best with ETC Lustr LED Profile and Robe T11 (smoothened dimming curve). With some Moving Heads turning on "Emulate Tungsten" will smoothen the dimming curve.

ABSOLUTE MODE

The Absolute mode enables the follow spot operator to have absolute control over the intensity. Intensity values sent by the lighting desk will be ignored, and the *DMX Fader* takes total control over the Intensity. Other parameters than intensity like colour, iris or strobe stay unaffected and are still controllable from the desk.

RELATIVE MODE

If Relative mode is active, the programmer can set a maximum intensity the spotlight can reach, relieving the follow spot operator of the responsibility to exactly hit a specific intensity level. For example, if the desk is setting the maximum intensity to 50% the spotlight will output that exact intensity when the fader is all the way up. Furthermore, this mode allows for the follow spot to be snapped and faded in sync with the rest of the lighting rig.

ADDRESSING

1. Add the *DMX Fader* into the DMX line in between the desk and the follow spot fixture.

2. Power up the *DMX Fader*.

3. Set the Setup Switch to active (Address).
   The green LED will begin flashing to indicate that the device is listening.

4. Select the follow spot fixture on the lighting desk and continuously ride the Intensity up and down. After doing that for a couple of seconds the *DMX Fader* will automatically detect the value change and address itself to that address and the LED will turn solid green. Make sure that only one fixture is selected on the desk and only one value is being manipulated.

5. Now the Setup Switch can be deactivated and the *DMX Fader* is ready to be used (the indicator LED will turn off).

The reason behind this approach of addressing is that every lighting fixture has got a different footprint and therefore the instance of the intensity parameter varies for every fixture type. Therefore, it is important that the correct fixture type is patched on the lighting desk.

lightner

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