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PSB013

Fusion, No DMX Message

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A Fusion Dimmer displays NO DMX in certain console / dimmer combinations

Problem

Fusion dimmers fitted with Software Version 1.0 display "NO DMX" and / or behave erratically when connected to certain DMX controllers.

Cause

The Fusion dimmer automatically detects whether or not it is receiving a valid DMX signal. If the signal is not valid the Fusion switches to its' standby state and displays NO DMX on the front panel.

For a signal to be deemed valid by the Fusion it must receive DMX within the USITT specification and, in addition, receive dimmer levels for its' 12 dimmer channels. In software version 1.0, the design is such that the Fusion expects to receive 48 DMX dimmer channels.

Examples

The following two examples show how Fusion's running Software Version 1.0 and 2.01 behave.

Incorrect operation – Software Version 1

If the Fusion's DMX start address is set to 60, then it will expect to receive DMX dimmer levels for channels 60 (dimmer 1) thru 108 (dimmer 48).

If a console that outputs only 96 channels of DMX is connected to a Fusion that has its' DMX start address set to 60 the Fusion will report NO DMX and switch to standby mode because it is not receiving valid DMX data for channels 97 thru 108.

Correct operation – Software Version 2.01

If the Fusion's DMX start address is set to 60, then it will expect to receive DMX dimmer levels for channels 60 (dimmer 1) thru 72 (dimmer 12).

Do you need to upgrade?

The above problem is apparent in a few cases. If your system does not exhibit any such symptoms it is not necessary to upgrade – no other aspect of the Fusion's operation is affected.

Even if the problem is apparent, in a few instances it can be immediately solved by configuring the controller to send 512 channels – all Celco consoles are able to do this. Alternatively arrange your DMX patch so that the Fusion's are within the range of channels sent by the console. For example if the console only sends 96 channels, set the Fusion DMX start address to 001 and other DMX devices to 13 and above.

Only when you generally use a controller that is not able to send all 512 channels of DMX is it advisable to upgrade.

What is involved in upgrading?

As described above, the updated software is designed so that each Fusion expects to see only 12 channels of DMX as originally specified. However, because the software is retained on a surface mount device, the user must replace the Front Panel Control Card (the card containing the menu select arrow keys) and the Flash Button Card.

Replacement cards are available on a "sale or return" basis direct from Celco Limited or through your Dealer. A document, PSB014, describes how to change the Front Panel Control Card and the Flash Button Card.

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