



DRAGONFRAME

**DDMX-512
DMX Lighting Controller
User Guide v1.3**

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Introduction

The DDMX-512 is a hardware device that you can pair with Dragonframe to:

- Automate a work light (bash light) turning on and off.
- Automate front-light/back-light lighting passes.
- Automate keyframe-based lighting programs for your scene.
- Trigger a RED camera, film camera, or unsupported still camera.
- Trigger a motion control system for shoot-move-shoot integration.
- Trigger Dragonframe from an external system.

Control Lighting

DMX512 (or DMX) is a standard protocol for controlling lighting. It can control up to 512 different light channels.

Modern LED lights that are DMX-controllable take DMX input directly. Do not connect these to a dimmer pack.

Incandescent lights must be connected to a DMX dimmer pack. A dimmer pack receives the DMX input and modules the output voltage to the light.

Control Devices

Interact with external devices using the built-in relay switch, digital input and digital output.

Hardware Warranty

The DDMX-512 comes with a two year hardware warranty.

You can find the warranty on the product page for the DDMX-512, in the Resources section.

Setup Instructions

CONNECTING THE DDMX-512 TO YOUR COMPUTER

Plug USB connector directly into the computer or into a POWERED USB hub.

CONNECTING THE DDMX-512 TO A DMX-CAPABLE LIGHT FIXTURE

Many LED light fixtures take direct DMX input, with either a 3-pin or 5-pin XLR connector. (Incandescent lights generally require an external dimmer pack. See the next section.)

If your fixture has a 3-pin XLR connector, use a 3-pin DMX cable to connect the DDMX-512 to it. Do not use a microphone cable.

If your fixture has a 5-pin XLR connector, use a 3-pin to 5-pin XLR cable to connect the DDMX-512 to it. Or use a 5-pin XLR cable, and get a 5-pin to 3-pin adapter for the connection into the DDMX-512.

CONNECTING THE DDMX-512 TO A DMX DIMMER/SWITCH PACK

If your dimmer/switch pack has a 3-pin XLR connector, use a 3-pin DMX cable to connect the DDMX-512 to it. Do not use a microphone cable.

If your dimmer/switch pack has a 5-pin XLR connector, use a 3-pin to 5-pin XLR cable to connect the DDMX-512 to it.

CONNECTING THE DDMX-512 TO A DIGITAL INPUT

The DDMX-512 can sense external events via its digital input. You can use this to trigger shooting or playback in Dragonframe.

Connect an external switch or 5V logic level input to the DDMX-512 connectors labeled **GND** (for ground/earth) and **IN**.

CONNECTING THE DDMX-512 TO A DIGITAL OUTPUT

The DDMX-512 can output a logic level signal that can be active-high or active-low. For active-high output, connect your external device to the connectors labeled **GND** and **HI**. For active-low output, connect your external device to the connectors labeled **GND** and **IO**.

CONNECTING THE DDMX-512 TO A RELAY SWITCH

The DDMX-512 has an internal relay that can be used for connecting to an external device that needs a switch closure. Connect your external device to the two connectors labeled **RELAY**.

CONFIGURING THE DDMX-512 THROUGH DRAGONFRAME

Watch the video tutorial on DMX for an overview:

<https://www.dragonframe.com/tutorials/>

Read **Automate Lighting with DMX** in the User Guide (in the Help Menu) for complete instructions.

Technical Specification

OUTPUTS

To prevent **any** possible damage to the host computer from badly grounded peripherals, all DDMX-512 outputs and inputs are optically isolated from the host USB bus. The I/O channels “float” electrically relative to the USB, thereby minimizing the opportunity for ground loops.

DMX out

DDMX-512 supports a USITT standard DMX512 output protocol. The DDMX-512 output will easily drive a standard 120 ohm bus termination.

The DMX channel provides packets of 512 slots, with a 50mS inter-packet period.

The DMX port is typically equipped with a 3-pin XLR connector for easy connection to “entertainment” style DMX packs. To connect DDMX-512 to a USITT standard 5-pin XLR connector for use with “professional” style equipment, use a standard 3-pin to 5-pin adapter.

RELAY out

The **relay** is intended to switch low-power control signals like button presses, but it can also switch small amounts of power. Do not exceed 0.5A @ 24VDC, or 0.25A @ 125VAC.

LOGIC out

Logic out is a standard 5V, TTL level, logic signal (relative to the ground terminal).

The signal is provided in both active-high and active-low versions. Maximum load is 30mA in each state. These signals may also be used as a differential pair with a termination load greater than 220 ohms.

SWITCH in

Switch in is designed to sense a switch closure to ground. This input will also take a 5V TTL level signal. Note that in keeping with a switch closure, the logic on this pin is active low. This pin is internally pulled to 5V with a 1Kohm resistor. When driving this pin externally, do not exceed 5 volts.

PHYSICAL

4.7” X 3.7” X 1.3”, weight, approximately 12oz. (12cm X 9cm X 3.5cm, 340g) with 5’ (1.5m) Type A USB pigtail.

DDMX is built ruggedly, in a .090” thick cast aluminum box and painted with a hard powder coat to survive years in a harsh stage environment.

POWER

DDMX-512 is a “high current” USB peripheral, drawing up to 220mA with all outputs active and fully loaded. As such it must be plugged directly into either a computer port or a powered USB hub. Your power source must provide at least 4.5 Volts.

DDMX should not be plugged into a unpowered USB hub. USB peripherals send their power requirements to the system on initialization, and unpowered hubs are supposed to reject peripherals that do not identify as “low current”, that is, any peripherals that require more than 100mA.