

*DREAM*  
**Sidecar**

## Installation and User Manual

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# Chapter 1 - Introduction

## INTRODUCTION

The DREAM Sidecar is part of a new family of products from Fairlight which marries together QDC processing with an ergonomic physical control surface in a combination that has a significant impact on productivity and efficiency.

DREAM Sidecars come in Master and Slave formats and provide expanded control for mixing operations on the DREAM Station. The Station and Sidecar combination offers a flexible and scalable solution to a range of audio production and post-production tasks.

## ABOUT THIS MANUAL

The DREAM Sidecar Installation and User Manual should be used in conjunction with the DREAM Station Installation and User Manual to obtain complete instruction in the use and installation of the system. These manuals provide all the information necessary to rapidly become proficient at operating the system in a professional audio environment.

This manual is designed to familiarize sound editors and engineers with the facilities provided by the Sidecar. The terminology and concepts used in this manual assume a reasonable knowledge regarding audio principles and studio procedures.

## Finding the Information You Need

Read through the chapters in the order presented to learn all the features of the system or use the “Table of Contents” or “Index” to quickly find the specific information you require. The manual is divided into the following chapters, each covering a specific topic:

### Chapter 2 - Sidecar Operation

The Sidecar Operation chapter is also included in the online manual, available by clicking on the [Help](#) key on the DREAM Start splash screen.

### Chapter 3 - Sidecar Installation

This chapter outlines the steps required to perform a successful installation of the DREAM Station Sidecar.

### Chapter 4 - Specifications

This chapter details the weight, dimensions and power requirements of the Sidecar. Also included are the rear panel connection details.

NOTES:

# Chapter 2 - Sidecar Operation

## INTRODUCTION

The Station Master Sidecar expands the real time control capabilities of the Station system by adding twelve extra fader strips and an upper section comprising joystick panner, soft pot and soft switch function selection panels, dedicated macro keys and fader set selection keys. Each fader strip includes a motorised touch-sensitive fader, LCD legend panel, channel status indicators, mute and solo keys, a call key, automation enable key, and an assignable soft switch and motorised touch-sensitive soft pot.

A Station system may also include one Slave Sidecar. The Slave Sidecar includes twelve fader strips only. The Slave Sidecar can only be added to a system which already includes a Master Sidecar.



Figure 1: Station Master Sidecar

## USING THE SIDECAR

The Fader Set keys page through the available signal paths in banks of twelve, by default. For example, to access the fader for track feed 14, press the Fader Set **2** selection key and move the second fader from the left. The feed or bus name is displayed in the LCD above each fader.

Press the **CALL** key next to the fader to call the feed to the Parameter Pad.

See “Fader Sets” on page 2-6 for details of user definable fader sets.

The fader, **MUTE** and **SOLO** key all perform their respective functions as described below. The soft pot defaults to L-R pan control.

## FADER STRIPS

Twelve fader strips are provided, each one able to control a signal path. Each fader strip includes the following hardware components:

## Signal Path Indicator

The signal path indicators display if a fader is assigned to one of the four Sub-buses or the Main Bus, or, when controlling a track feed, if the track is armed for recording.

## LCD Legend Window

The LCD legend window displays information about the signal path that the fader is controlling with the following lines of text.

**System Name** - displays the track or feed name of the current path.

**Current Parameter** - displays the currently selected parameter on the Parameter Pad or soft pot.

**Username** - displays a user defined feed name.

## Fader

The touch-sensitive motorised fader controls the level of the signal path being controlled by the fader strip. The behaviour of the fader is the same as that of the Master Fader on the Station, with the exception that there is no **Fold** key and no **Master** key. Folding and unfolding is carried out from the Central Fader only.

## Soft Pot

The soft pot controls the left-right pan parameter of the signal path. DREAM software release 1.1 does not support other soft pot functions. This information is included for future reference.

The soft pot can be assigned to any continuously variable parameter available to the signal path. The soft pot selection keys on the Master Sidecar allow the function of the soft pot to be set to one of five preset controls or any custom control selected from the Parameter Pad.

## Selecting Soft Pot Function

To select a preset function for the soft pot, press the **Pan LR**, **Pan FB**, **Boom**, **Input Trim**, or **Direct Level** Key in the Soft Pot keys section on the Station Master Sidecar.

To select a custom function for the soft pot press the **Custom** key in the Soft Pot keys section on the Station Master Sidecar.

## Assigning a Custom Soft Pot Function

To define a custom function for the soft pot follow these steps:

- Step 1            Adjust the Parameter Pad to display the function you wish to control by pressing the **EQ**, **Pan**, **Dyn**, **Aux**, or **Plug In** key and any page soft key necessary.
- Step 2            Hold the **BLUE** key and press the **Custom** key in the Soft Pot keys section on the Station Master Sidecar.
- Step 3            Touch any rotary control in the Parameter Pad to select that function for the Sidecar soft pots.

## Solo

Individual feeds may be soloed in the monitoring system. There are three solo modes which may be entered by pressing the **SOLO** key next to any fader. These are



solo-in place or SIP, after-fader-listen or AFL, and pre-fader-listen or PFL. SIP mutes all other feeds leaving only the soloed feeds feeding the bus being monitored. SIP supports monitoring in any format. AFL and PFL modes replace the current monitor source with the stereo solo bus whenever a feed is soloed. All soloed feeds are routed to the solo bus. Soloed link groups are automatically upmixed or downmixed to allow all their members to be monitored in the stereo monitor bus, normal monitor upmixing or downmixing occurs between the monitor bus and the selected speaker set.

The AFL solo signal is derived after the feed fader and mute. PFL solo is derived before the feed fader and mute.

To set the solo mode:

- Step 1            Hold down a **BLUE** key and press the **Utils** key to enter the Utils menu.
- Step 2            Press the **Solo**: soft key to select the solo mode to be used.

Soloed feeds are shown with a green indicator on the mixer video display.

## Solo Clear

To clear all currently soloed paths hold down the **BLUE** key and press **SOLO**.

## Solo Contrast

When a feed is soloed in SIP mode all other feeds are reduced in level by the amount set in the **Utils** menu. To adjust the solo contrast or solo front attenuation level:

- Step 1            Hold down the **BLUE** key and press the **Utils** key.
- Step 2            Press the **Solo Frnt** soft key and turn the jog wheel to set the gain reduction level. The range is 0 to -100dB, -100dB is off.

## Call Follows Solo

The current feed called to the Channel Panel and Master Fader can follow the currently soloed feed. Call follows solo is enabled in the **Call** menu:

- Step 1            Press the **Call** key to display the Call menu.
- Step 2            Press the **Call by Solo** soft key to toggle call follows solos on or off.

## Mute

Press the **MUTE** key to mute the output of the signal path.

## Call

Press the **CALL** key to call the path controlled by the fader to the Parameter Pad and the Master Fader. This also assigns the joystick on this sidecar to control the pan of this feed or group.

## Soft Switch

The soft switch is not supported in DREAM software release 1.1, this information is included for future reference.

The soft key can be assigned to any switch function available to the signal path. The soft key function selection keys on the Master Sidecar allow the function of the fader soft keys to be set to one of five preset controls or any custom control selected from the Parameter Pad.

## Selecting Soft Switch Function

To select a preset function for the soft switch, press the **Comp In**, **L/E/G In**, **EQ In**, **Insert In**, or **Arm Track** key in the Soft Switch function section on the Station Master Sidecar.

To select a custom function for the soft switch press the **Custom** key in the Soft Switch function section on the Station Master Sidecar.

## Assigning a Custom Soft Switch Function

To define a custom function for the soft switch follow these steps:

- Step 1            Adjust the Parameter Pad to display the function you wish to control by pressing the **EQ**, **Pan**, **Dyn**, **Aux**, or **Plug In** key and any page soft key as necessary.
- Step 2            Hold the **BLUE** key and press the **Custom** key in the Soft Switch function section on the Station Master Sidecar.
- Step 3            Press any soft switch in the Parameter Pad to select that function for the Sidecar soft keys.

## Auto

Press the **AUTO** key to set the signal path into automation record. See “Automation” on page 22-2 the Automation chapter of the Station Installation and User Manual for more details on automation procedures.

## Automation Status Indicators

These indicators show the automation status of the signal path using illuminated text. See the Automation chapter in the Station User Manual “Automation” on page 22-2 for more details:

- TOUCH**            The fader is touched and will start to write automation data when in touch write mode.
- LATCH**            Touch is active and in Latch mode. Once a control is touched it will continue to write data after it is released.
- SAFE**              The selected signal path is in safe mode and will not update automation data.
- READ**              The selected signal path is in read mode and playing back automation data.
- WRITE**             The selected signal path is armed to write automation data, the console is in write mode and recording automation.  
  
The WRITE indicator flashes while in preview mode.
- TRIM**              The selected signal path is set to trim automation data, the console is in trim mode and recording automation.  
  
The TRIM indicator flashes while in trim mode but not recording.

## Signal Path Indicators

These indicators show the source status of the signal path using illuminated text:

<b>INPUT</b>	The fader controls the input level to a disk recorder track.
<b>FEED</b>	The fader controls a track or live feed level.
<b>BUS</b>	The fader controls a bus level.
<b>EQ</b>	The equaliser is in circuit.
<b>DYN</b>	The dynamics section is in circuit.
<b>INS</b>	The insert is in circuit.
<b>LINK</b>	The fader is a member of a link group.

## MACROS



DREAM software release 1.1 does not support the Macro keys, this information is included for future reference.

The Macro Bank keys provide instant access to the macro functions stored in Macro Bank 10. See “Macros” on page 30-2 the chapter on Macros in the Station User Manual for complete details on recording and using macros.

## SURROUND CONTROL SECTION

The Surround Control section provides motorised joystick panning for the currently selected signal path i.e. the one controlled by the Central Fader and the Parameter Pad. Press the **CALL** key on a fader strip to apply the panner to that signal path. If two Master Sidecars are installed the joystick on a secondary master sidecar is only active if the currently called signal path appears in the faderset associated with that sidecar. To use the joystick on either sidecar press the **CALL** key next to any fader on the sidecar. The joystick now controls the pan for that signal path.

## FADER SETS



Figure 2: Sidecar Fader Set Keys

A Fader Set is an assignment of signal paths to faders across the Sidecar (or two Sidecars if present). Fader sets are stored along with the preset snapshot in each project.

In addition, separate fader set setups are stored in each automated mix that is saved. Ten Fader Sets can be loaded using the numbered Fader Sets keys.

## Loading a Fader Set

To load a Fader Set, press one of the numbered keys in the Fader Sets section.

## Mapping a Fader Set

To change the mapping in a Fader Set:

- Step 1            Select the Fader Set to be changed by pressing a Fader Set key on the Sidecar.
- Step 2            Press the **Map** key. The left most fader amongst the Sidecars is now ready to have its signal path reassigned, and its **CALL** key will flash.
- Step 3            Select the desired signal path from the Selection Panel. You may choose a Track Feed, Live Feed, Bus Master (Main, Sub or Aux).
- Step 4            Once you have assigned the first fader, the second fader becomes ready for assignment. If you want to start assigning elsewhere on the surface, press the **CALL** key for the fader you want to assign.

After assigning it, the selection will move to the right as before.

To accept the current assignment for a fader immediately without making any selection, press the **CALL** key of the next fader to the right.

You may assign a range of signal paths to a range of faders:

- Step 1            Select the Fader Set to be changed by pressing a Fader Set key on the Sidecar.
- Step 2            Press the **Map** key.
- Step 3            Press the **CALL** key next to the first fader of the range you wish to assign.
- Step 4            Select the range of signal paths by holding the first selection key and double-pressing the last key in the range.

The paths selected will replace the paths previously assigned to the sequence of faders starting with the fader selected.

A fader may be removed from a Fader Set:

- Step 1            Press the **Delete** soft key in the LCD
- All following faders move to the left when this is done, and the fader at the extreme right of the console is made blank.

A fader may be inserted into a fader set:

Step 1 Press the **Insert** soft key in the LCD (this is only active during mapping) at any point in the mapping.

The faders to the right of the current position will immediately move one place to the right, so that the right-most fader will disappear from the end.

The new fader is immediately ready to be assigned to a signal path. If another fader is selected before this is done, the inserted one is left blank.

Changes to Fader Sets can be accepted in the following ways:

1 Pressing the **Map** key accepts the changes and exits from mapping operations.

2 Pressing a different Fader Set key accepts the changes and begins mapping the new Fader Set.

3 Selecting another mode accepts the changes and launches the new mode.

Changes to Fader Sets cannot be cancelled during a mapping operation, but can be undone immediately afterwards.

Pressing the **Fader Set** key of the Fader Set being changed has no effect.

## Mapping Bus Faders

Mapping Bus Masters is accomplished during a mapping session by pressing the bus key on the Selection Panel. The Bus Fader is a single fader controlling all Bus Elements.

Bus Elements cannot be mapped directly to faders, but they can be accessed by unfolding the Bus Master from the Central Fader.

## Mapping Link Groups

If a member of a link group is selected to map to a fader, only the link group master is mapped. This also occurs if link group members are selected within a multiple selection. See “Link Groups” on page 11-2 the chapter on Grouping in the Station User Manual for more details on link groups.

## METER BRIDGE

A Sidecar may be fitted with an optional meter bridge. This includes one meter for each of the faders on the Sidecar. “Meters” on page 13-2

## DUAL SIDECARS

If two Sidecars are attached to a Station system, various functions behave as follows:

## Fader Sets

If a Fader Set was created with two Sidecars present, and there is currently only one present, the first twelve signal paths in the Fader Set are placed on the existing Sidecar.

If a Fader Set was created with one Sidecar present, and there are currently two present, the first twelve signal paths in the Fader Set are placed on the first Sidecar, and the faders of the other Sidecar are unused until the Fader Set is changed.

## Two Master Sidecars

If two Master Sidecars are fitted to a Station system, all the keys in the Fader Set section and the Soft Controls section mirror each other.

Each corresponding key on the two Sidecars has the same state of illumination, and either one can be used to switch a function.

The joystick on a secondary master sidecar is only active if the currently called signal path appears in the faderset associated with that sidecar. To use the joystick on either sidecar press the **CALL** key next to any fader on the sidecar. The joystick now controls the pan for that signal path.



NOTES:

# Chapter 3 - Sidecar Installation

## INTRODUCTION

The DREAM Master Sidecar provides twelve additional faders and a joystick pan-ner to expand the functionality of the DREAM Station. The Slave Sidecar which may be used in conjunction with a Master Sidecar adds another twelve faders only.



**CAUTION:** Double pole/neutral fusing. Disconnect power before changing fuse or servicing.

## MECHANICAL INSTALLATION

The Sidecar provides a control surface to allow an engineer to work quickly and efficiently. The Sidecar console should be placed on a level horizontal surface. Place the Sidecar at a suitable location adjacent to the Station within easy reach of the operator. Do not obscure the ventilation openings in the Sidecar chassis.



### NOTE:

Care should be taken to provide the operator with a comfortable seating position. This will reduce fatigue, improve efficiency and minimize the possibility of strain injury.

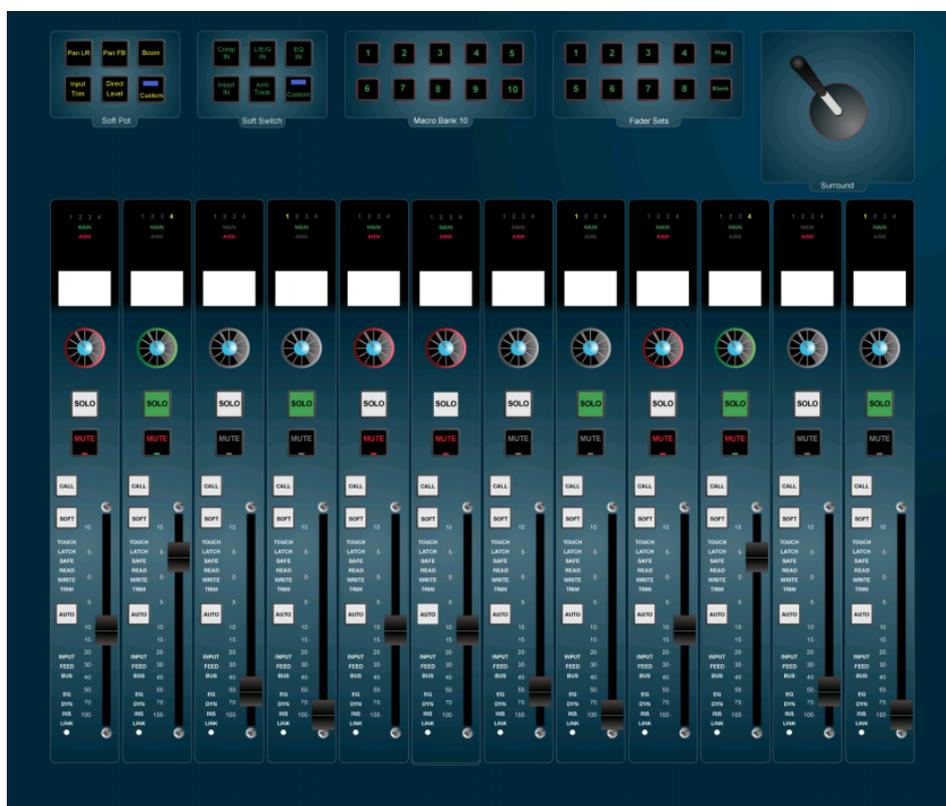


Figure 1: Master Sidecar

## CONNECTING THE SIDECAR



Figure 2: Sidecar Rear Panel Connections

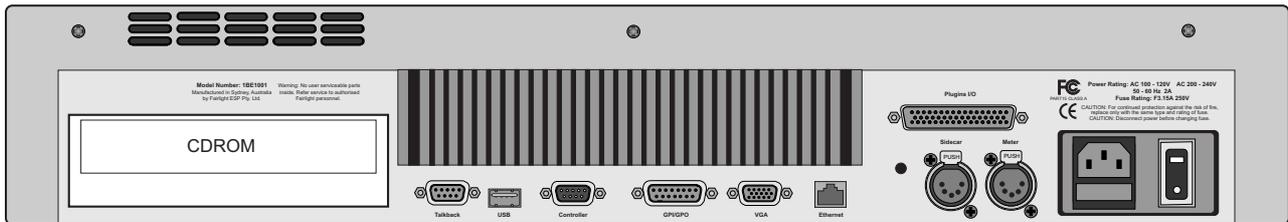


Figure 3: Station Console Rear Panel Connections

On the rear of the Sidecar make the following connections:

1. Connect an IEC mains power supply cable to the power supply inlet port.
2. Connect the 5-pin XLR USB cable (part no. AMIX119-A) from the female XLR labelled **Sidecar** on the rear of the Station to the male XLR labelled **Station** on the rear of the Sidecar.

## CONFIGURATION

If the Sidecar has been purchased separately from the Station, the Station must be configured to establish communication with the Sidecar via USB.

### Overview

Follow these steps to configure the Sidecar:

1. Connect the Sidecar, as described above, prior to turning on the Station or Sidecar.
2. Start by turning on the Station only.
3. Run Cons-con to add the Sidecar panels to the Station configuration.
4. Then turn on the Sidecar to start the USB driver installation process. Note that the Sidecar takes about one minute to start up, during which time there is no indication on the panel. Once the firmware is active, the top left indicator flashes on each panel.
5. Install the USB drivers as requested by Windows.
6. Finally, run the FMC calibration utility to calibrate the Sidecar touch sensors and LCDs.

### Cons-con

The Sidecar panel must be added to the Station console configuration. This is achieved with the Cons-con application.

- Step 1 While the DREAM Start splash screen is displayed, hold down the **Shift** key and press **Pause/Break** and type **SU Enter** to enter super user mode.
- Step 2 Use the trackball to click on the Binnacle **Cut** key to launch Conscon, the console configuration utility. Alternatively, click on **My Computer** on the Windows desktop and navigate to *C:\Projects\mixers\fmc\system\Cons-con.exe*.  
Double click on the file name to run *Cons-con*.
- Step 3 Select **Station** console type and click the **Add Panel** button to add panels one at a time.
- Step 4 Select panel number **Panel 22**, then select **FaderPanel** type. Click **OK** to add the panel. This refers to the first six faders on the sidecar.
- Step 5 Select panel number **Panel 23**, then select **FaderPanel** type. Click **OK** to add the panel. This refers to the second six faders on the sidecar.
- Step 6 Select panel number **Panel 5**, then select **Sidecar** type. Click **OK** to add the panel. This refers to the switch panel and joystick on the sidecar.
- Step 7 Click **Save** and **Exit** to complete the configuration.

To remove a panel, select the panel and click **Remove Panel**. To modify a panel, select the panel and click **Modify Panel**.

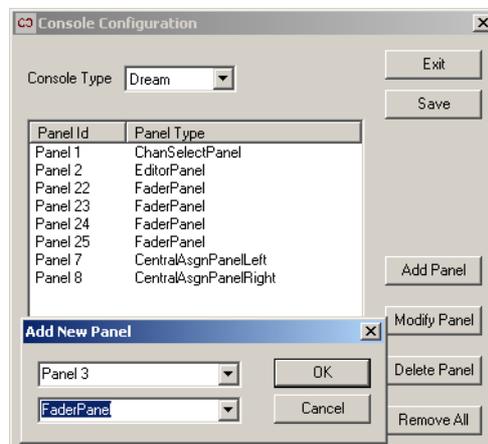


Figure 4: ConsCon Window

## Two Sidecar Panel ID Configuration

If two Master Sidecars are to be fitted to a Station, the Fairlight distributor must be informed prior to shipping in order for the panel configuration of the second Sidecar to be modified. Where two Sidecars are present the following configuration should be used:

Sidecar 1 Fader Panel 1 ID 22	Sidecar 2 Fader Panel 1 ID 24
Sidecar 1 Fader Panel 2 ID 23	Sidecar 2 Fader Panel 2 ID 25
Sidecar 1 Switch Panel ID 5	Sidecar 2 Switch Panel ID 6

## USB INSTALLATION

The USB drivers for the Sidecar must be installed the first time it is connected to the system. There are three USB devices in each Sidecar. These are the two, six fader panels, plus the switch panel. Each panel has its own set of drivers.

- Step 1            Ensure the Sidecar is connect to the Station and that the Station is running. Turn on the power on the rear panel of the Sidecar. After about one minute the top left indicator on each panel will flash to show that the firmware is running.
- Step 2            After a few moments the Windows **Found New Hardware** dialog box will appear. Click the **Browse** button and navigate to the following directory: *C:\DREAM Drivers\USB drivers\W2000*. Select *FairUsb.inf* and click **OK** to complete the driver installation.
- Step 3            When the **Digital Signatures** dialog box is displayed click **Yes** to continue.

Three drivers are required for each panel. Respond to each new driver request as described above.

## CONSOLE CALIBRATION

Console calibration is necessary whenever the Station or Sidecar is installed. To calibrate the pots, faders and touch sensors on the Sidecar, run FMC by clicking on the **Start** key on the DREAM Start splash screen. Hold down the **Shift** key and press the **Pause/Break** key (**Shift+Pause/Break** switches the keyboard focus from the QDC engine to FMC and Windows) then type U. This will bring up the calibration window.

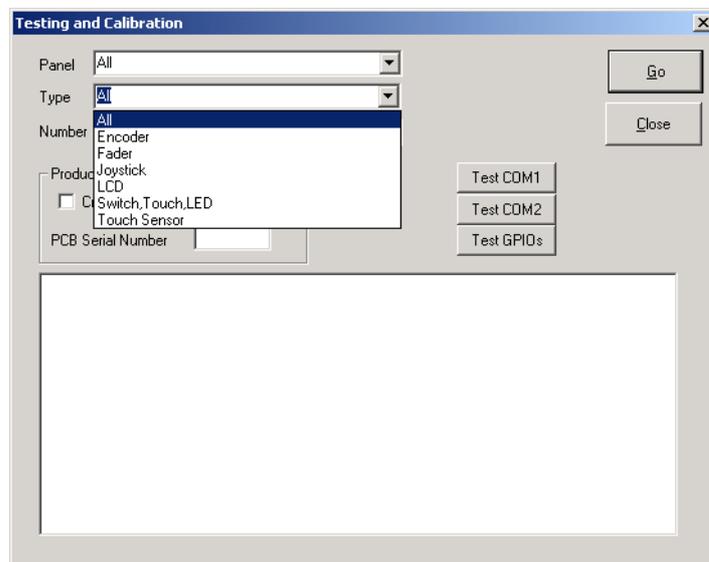


Figure 5: Console Calibration Window

The Sidecar has three panels to calibrate. The panels should be selected from the **Panel** drop down list one at a time and then calibrated as described below. If correctly entered in Cons-con, the panels are listed as follows: **Fader Panel ID 22**, **Fader Panel ID 23**, **Sidecar Panel ID 5**.

Select each controller type one at a time, select **All** from the **Number** list, then click **Go**. Wait for the controller movement to finish before moving on to the next con-

troller type. During fader panel calibration, the red signal present LED of the first fader in the panel will flash. Calibration is complete when the LED stops flashing. Check the calibration report in the window to verify correct operation.

The types that need to be calibrated on the Sidecar are: **Encoder**, **Touch Sensor**, **Fader**, **LCD** and **Joystick**. Each type is described below.

## Encoder Calibration

Select **Encoder** from the **Type** list. All rotary encoders are automatically calibrated without intervention. During fader panel calibration, the red signal present LED of the first fader in the panel will flash. Calibration is complete when the LED stops flashing.

## Fader Calibration

Select **Fader** from the **Type** list. All faders are automatically calibrated without intervention.

## Joystick Calibration

Select **Joystick** from the **Type** list. The Joystick dialogue box will be displayed. Click **Reset** to clear the previous values. Move the joystick through its entire travel, left to right and top to bottom. The two fields on the left display the current X and Y values for the joystick. Check that the joystick displays the lowest values for X and Y when it is positioned in the bottom left corner. Check boxes are available to correct axis reversal or inversion. When the minimum and maximum values are displayed in the Left/Right/Top/Bottom fields, the calibration process is complete. Click **OK**.

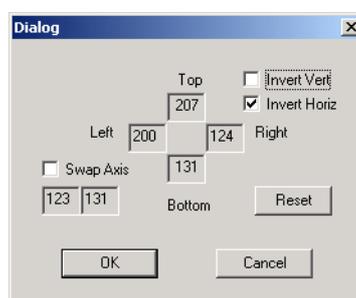


Figure 6: Joystick Calibration Window

## LCD Calibration

Select **LCD** from the **Type** list. The LCD dialogue box will be displayed. Click the **Contrast +/-** buttons to change the contrast for each LCD. Click the **Backlight +/-** buttons to change the backlight level. The backlight control for each LCD controls backlight level for the entire group of six LCDs. Only one control needs to be adjusted. Click **OK** to move on to the next LCD.

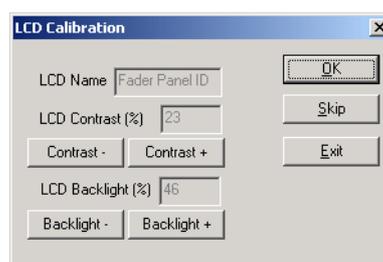


Figure 7: LCD Calibration Window

## Touch Sensor Calibration

Touch sensors in rotary controls and faders must be calibrated to compensate for environmental changes. Select **Touch Sensor** from the **Type** list.

## TESTING AND COMMISSIONING

Once the Sidecar has been installed, configured and calibrated, refer to the Station manual for operational procedures that will assist in testing its operation within the studio environment.



NOTES:

# Chapter 4 - Specifications

## WIRING AND CONNECTION DETAILS

The following information contains all the wiring details necessary for specifying studio cabling installations. Connector sex described is the panel mount connector on the rear of the console.

### Meter USB

Description: USB and DC Power connection for external meters.

Connector: 5 Pin XLR Female

XLR5	SIGNAL	PAIR
PIN 1	USB +	1
PIN 2	0 V	
PIN 3	12 V	
PIN 4	0 V	
PIN 5	USB -	1
SHELL	SHIELD	1

### Sidcar USB

Description: USB and DC Power connection for Sidcars. Note that Sidcars do not require DC power.

Connector: 5 Pin XLR Female

XLR5	SIGNAL	PAIR
PIN 1	USB +	1
PIN 2		
PIN 3		
PIN 4		
PIN 5	USB -	1
SHELL	SHIELD	1

## DIMENSIONS, WEIGHT AND POWER REQUIREMENTS



CAUTION: Double pole/neutral fusing. Disconnect power before changing fuse or servicing.

### DREAM Station Sidecars

Width	569 mm / 22.4"
Depth	525 mm / 20.7"
Height at Front	40 mm / 1.6"
Height at Rear	131 mm / 5.2"
Net Weight	13 kg
Supply Voltage	100-240 VAC 50/60Hz
Power Consumption	150 Watts
Fuse	Fuse 3.15A 20 x 5mm Quickblow (F) Glass or Ceramic 250V, UL only

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