

EQUIN X

PEGASUS

order code: EQLA01



user manual

WARNING

**FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY, PLEASE READ THIS USER MANUAL CAREFULLY
BEFORE YOUR INITIAL START-UP!**

**CAUTION!**

**Keep this equipment away from rain,
moisture and liquids.**

**SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS**

Every person involved with the installation, operation & maintenance of this equipment should:

- Be competent
- Follow the instructions of this manual



**CAUTION! TAKE CARE USING THIS EQUIPMENT!
HIGH VOLTAGE-RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK!!**



Before your initial start-up, please make sure that there is no damage caused during transportation. Should there be any, consult your dealer and do not use the equipment.

To maintain the equipment in good working condition and to ensure safe operation, it is necessary for the user to follow the safety instructions and warning notes written in this manual.

Please note that damages caused by user modifications to this equipment are not subject to warranty.

IMPORTANT:

The manufacturer will not accept liability for any resulting damages caused by the non-observance of this manual or any unauthorised modification to the equipment.

- Never let the power-cable come into contact with other cables. Handle the power-cable and all mains voltage connections with particular caution!
- Never remove warning or informative labels from the equipment.
- Do not open the equipment and do not modify the equipment.
- Do not connect this equipment to a dimmer-pack.
- Do not switch the equipment on and off in short intervals, as this will reduce the system's life.
- Only use the equipment indoors.
- Do not expose to flammable sources, liquids or gases.
- Always disconnect the power from the mains when equipment is not in use or before cleaning! Only handle the power-cable by the plug. Never pull out the plug by pulling the power-cable.
- Make sure that the available voltage is between 220v/240v.
- Make sure that the power-cable is never crimped or damaged. Check the equipment and the power-cable periodically.
- If the equipment is dropped or damaged, disconnect the mains power supply immediately. Have a qualified engineer inspect the equipment before operating again.
- If the equipment has been exposed to drastic temperature fluctuation (e.g. after transportation), do not switch it on immediately. The arising condensation might damage the equipment. Leave the equipment switched off until it has reached room temperature.
- If your product fails to function correctly, discontinue use immediately. Pack the unit securely (preferably in the original packing material), and return it to your Prolight dealer for service.
- Only use fuses of same type and rating.
- Repairs, servicing and power connection must only be carried out by a qualified technician. **THIS UNIT CONTAINS NO USER SERVICEABLE PARTS.**
- **WARRANTY;** One year from date of purchase.

OPERATING DETERMINATIONS

If this equipment is operated in any other way, than those described in this manual, the product may suffer damage and the warranty becomes void.

Incorrect operation may lead to danger e.g.: short-circuit, burns, electric shocks, lamp failure etc.

Do not endanger your own safety and the safety of others!

Incorrect installation or use can cause serious damage to people and property.

You should find inside the Laser carton the following items:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1, Pegasus Laser | 2, Power cable |
| 3, DMX cable | 4, Instruction manual |

Technical Specifications:

Voltage: 240V AC 50Hz

Laser diodes: 1 x 60mW Green (532nm) DPSS laser diode
2 x 100mW Red (650nm) DPSS laser diode

Operating Modes: 1, Stand Alone Sound Activated
2, Stand Alone Auto Programme
3, Master/Slave mode
4, DMX-512, 7 channels

Features:

Over 100 laser patterns with adjustable scan rate, position and pattern size giving a total of over 300 laser effects.

Function settings:

- 1, Stand Alone Sound Activated, set all dip switches to off. Then use the sensitivity control to set the desired activation level.
- 2, Stand Alone Auto Programme change, set dip switch 10 to on and all others to off.
- 3, Master/Slave mode. To set the unit as Master use the Sound or Auto mode as above. For Slave mode operation, set dip switch 1 to on and all others to off
- 4, For DMX operation set dip switch 10 to off, then set the desired address using dip switches 1 - 9

When used in DMX mode please note:

To select **Pattern Mode 1**, set Channel 1 to DMX No: **42 to 83** then using Channel 2 you can select the patterns listed.

To select **Pattern mode 2**, set Channel 1 to DMX No: **84 to 125** then using Channel 3 you can select the combination patterns as listed.

To select **Pattern mode 3**, set Channel 1 to DMX No: **126 to 169** then using Channel 4 you can select one of the two Channel 4 options. Also with Pattern mode 3 selected you can then use Channel 5 to select the image size.

Channel 6 to select which of the four lasers operate

Channel 7 adjusts the scanning speed

Note: The maximum number of units that can be linked in Master/Slave mode is 32. The patterns overleaf are not perfect (squares, circles, triangles etc) as the unit uses stepper motors and not Galvo's but are ideal for use with smoke machines and to make lines and tunnels etc.

When using long DMX runs or multiple heads. A DMX terminator plug should be used on the last head in the chain.

DMX table 1:

| Channel | DMX number | Function |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Channel 1 | 0-41 | Sound Activated mode |
| | 42-83 | Pattern mode 1 |
| | 84-125 | Pattern mode 2 |
| | 126-169 | Pattern mode 3 |
| | 170-211 | Auto scroll through patterns |
| | 212-255 | Blackout |
| Channel 2 (Pattern mode 1) | 0-08 | Squares and circles |
| | 09-16 | Rotate |
| | 17-24 | Round pattern |
| | 25-32 | Moving wave patterns |
| | 33-40 | Squares reduced from four angles |
| | 41-48 | Combined square |
| | 49-56 | Dancing butterfly |
| | 57-64 | Water wave |
| | 65-72 | Clock hand rotating |
| | 73-80 | Flower shape |
| | 81-88 | Full reduced square |
| | 89-96 | Figure 8 |
| | 97-104 | Rotating "+" sign |
| | 105-112 | Rotating triangle |
| | 113-120 | Round |
| | 121-128 | Bi-triangle |
| | 129-136 | Snake |
| | 137-144 | Line increased from left |
| | 145-152 | Line decreased from right |
| | 153-160 | Jumping dot |
| | 161-168 | Wave moving up and down |
| | 169-176 | Leaf rotation |
| | 177-184 | Line increased from right |
| | 185-192 | Line decreased from left |
| 193-200 | Waving cloud | |
| 201-255 | Line increased and rotated | |

DMX table 2:

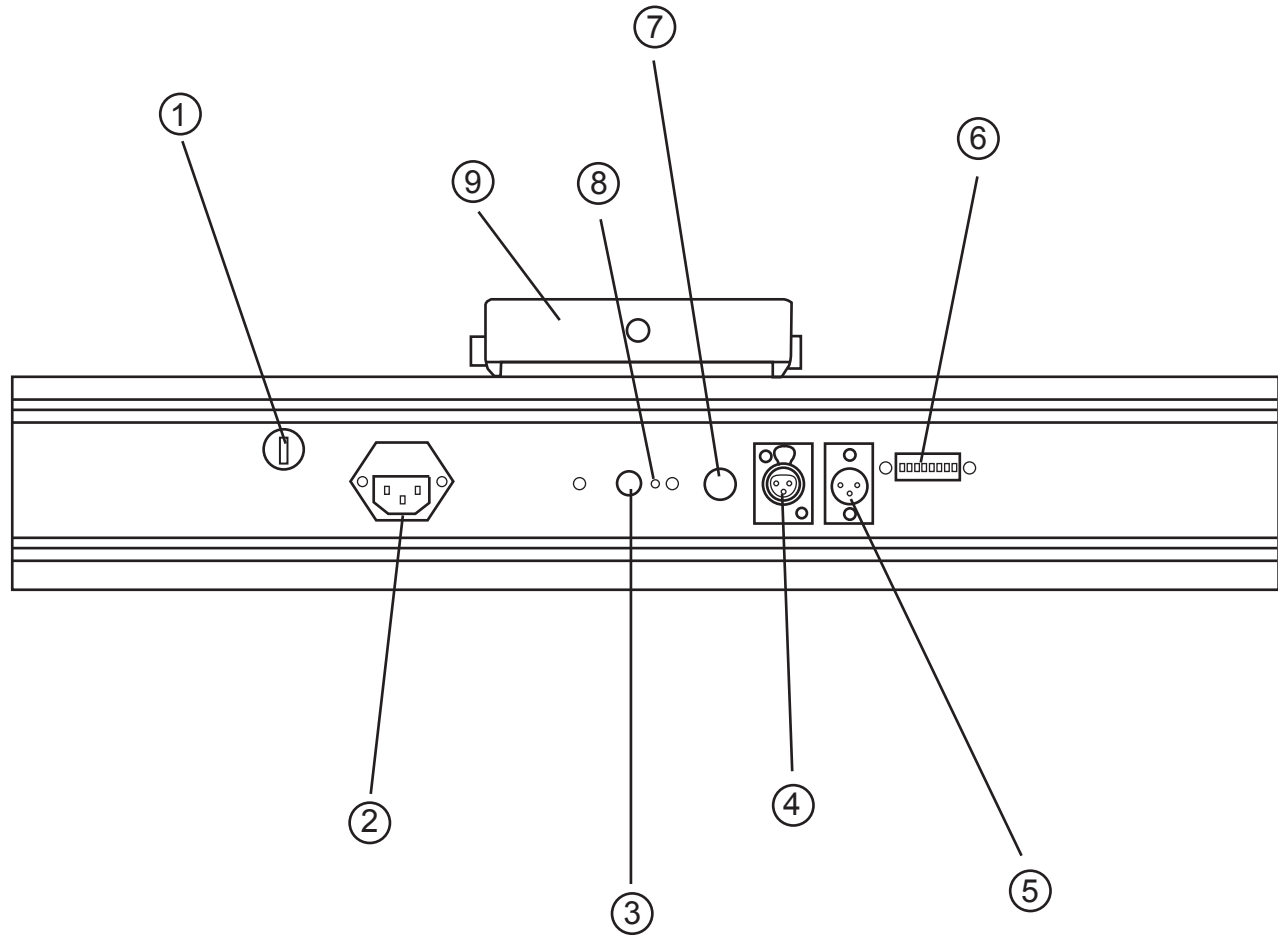
| Channel | DMX number | Function |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------------------------------|
| Channel 3 (Pattern mode 2) | 0-25 | Combination of butterfly shapes |
| | 26-50 | Combination of leaf rotation |
| | 51-75 | Combination of figure "8" |
| | 76-100 | Combination of clock hand rotation |
| | 101-125 | Combination of squares and circles |
| | 126-150 | Combination of bi-triangle |
| | 151-175 | Combination of waving cloud |
| | 176-200 | Combination of rotating "+" |
| | 201-255 | Combination of clock hand rotation |

DMX table 3:

| Channel | DMX number | Function |
|-------------------------------|------------|---------------------------|
| Channel 4 (Pattern mode 3) | 0-100 | Squares and circles |
| | 101-255 | Single picture of square |
| Channel 5 | 0-63 | Picture size 1 (smallest) |
| | 64-127 | Picture size 2 |
| | 128-191 | Picture size 3 |
| | 192-255 | Picture size 4 (largest) |

DMX table 3:

| Channel | DMX number | Function |
|-----------|------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Channel 6 | 0-42 | All lasers scanning |
| | 43-84 | Lasers 2 + 3 + 4 scanning (from right to left) |
| | 85-126 | Lasers 3 + 4 scanning (from right to left) |
| | 127-168 | Laser 4 scanning (from right to left) |
| | 169-210 | 2 + 3 Lasers scanning (from right to left) |
| | 211-255 | 1 + 4 Lasers scanning (from right to left) |
| Channel 7 | 0-255 | Adjust the scanning speed |

Back view:**Identification:**

- 1, Power Switch
- 2, Power Input
- 3, Microphone
- 4, DMX Out
- 5, DMX In
- 6, Dip Switches
- 7, Volume Control
- 8, LED power control
- 9, Hanging bracket

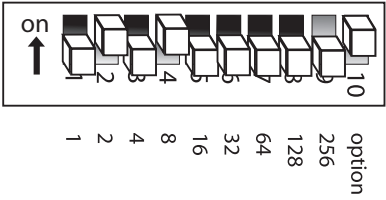
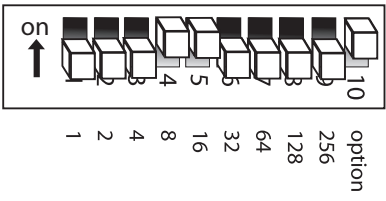
DMX Control Mode

Operating in a DMX control mode environment gives the user the greatest flexibility when it comes to customising or creating a show. In this mode you will be able to control each individual trait of the fixture and each fixture independently.

Setting the DMX address

The DMX mode enables the use of a universal DMX controller. Each fixture requires a “start address” from 1- 511. A fixture requiring one or more channels for control begins to read the data on the channel indicated by the start address. For example, a fixture that occupies or uses 7 channels of DMX and was addressed to start on DMX channel 100, would read data from channels: 100,101,102,103,104,105 and 106. Choose a start address so that the channels used do not overlap. E.g. the next unit in the chain starts at 107.

Set the start address using the group of dip switches located usually on the back of the fixture. Each dipswitch has an associated value. Adding the value of each switch in the ON position will provide the start address. Determining which switches to toggle ON given a specific start address can be accomplished in the following manner. By subtracting the largest switch value possible from the selected start address until zero is achieved.

| <p>EXAMPLE STARTING ADDRESS</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|-----|---|-----|----|--|
| <p>Address 10</p> <p>Pin NO: 4 = 8 Pin NO: 2 = 2 Total = 10</p> |  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Address 24</p> <p>Pin NO: 5 = 16 Pin NO: 4 = 8 Total = 24</p> |  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>DMX address using simple maths</p> | <p>233 - (128 = 105, Turn on dip No: 8 105 - (64) = 41, Turn on dip No:7 41 - (32) = 9, Turn on dip No: 6 9 - (8) = 1, Turn on dip No: 4 1 - (1) = 0, Turn on dip No:1</p> <p>You will most likely use the first available number which maybe Number 1. This number was selected for example purposes</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1024 1868 1281 2160"> <thead> <tr> <th>DIP SWITCH</th> <th>(DMX VALUE)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>32</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>64</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>128</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>256</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> | DIP SWITCH | (DMX VALUE) | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 16 | 6 | 32 | 7 | 64 | 8 | 128 | 9 | 256 | 10 | |
| DIP SWITCH | (DMX VALUE) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | 8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | 16 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | 32 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | 64 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | 128 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | 256 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

DMX-512:

- DMX (Digital Multiplex) is a universal protocol used as a form of communication between intelligent fixtures and controllers. A DMX controller sends DMX data instructions from the controller to the fixture. DMX data is sent as serial data that travels from fixture to fixture via the DATA “IN” and DATA “OUT” XLR terminals located on all DMX fixtures (most controllers only have a data “out” terminal).

DMX Linking:

- DMX is a language allowing all makes and models of different manufactures to be linked together and operate from a single controller, as long as all fixtures and the controller are DMX compliant. To ensure proper DMX data transmission, when using several DMX fixtures try to use the shortest cable path possible. The order in which fixtures are connected in a DMX line does not influence the DMX addressing. For example; a fixture assigned to a DMX address of 1 may be placed anywhere in a DMX line, at the beginning, at the end, or anywhere in the middle. When a fixture is assigned a DMX address of 1, the DMX controller knows to send DATA assigned to address 1 to that unit, no matter where it is located in the DMX chain.

DATA Cable (DMX cable) requirements (for DMX operation):

- The Equinox laser can be controlled via DMX-512 protocol. The DMX address is set on the back of the unit. Your unit and your DMX controller require a standard 3-pin XLR connector for data input/output (figure 1).

Figure 1

Further DMX cables can be purchased from all good sound and lighting suppliers or Prolight dealers.

Please quote:

CABL10 – 2M

CABL11 – 5M

CABL12 – 10M

Also remember that DMX cable must be daisy chained and cannot be split.

Notice:

- Be sure to follow figures 2 & 3 when making your own cables. Do not connect the cable's shield conductor to the ground lug or allow the shield conductor to come in contact with the XLR's outer casing. Grounding the shield could cause a short circuit and erratic behaviour.

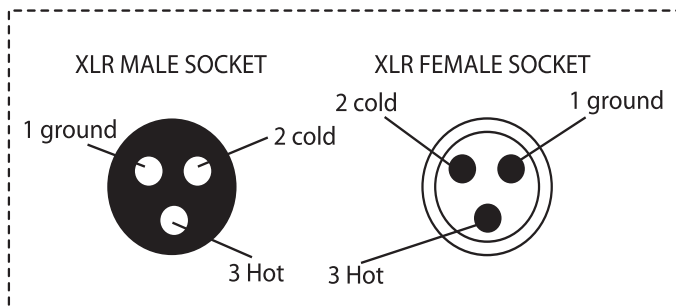
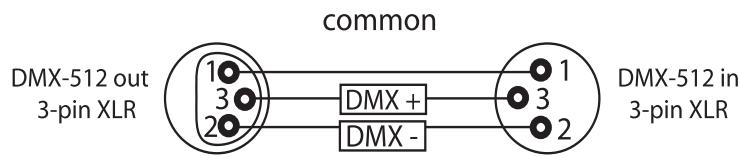


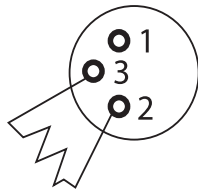
FIGURE 3

| XLR Pin Configuration |
|-----------------------|
| Pin 1 = Ground |
| Pin 2 = Negative |
| Pin 3 = Postive |

FIGURE 2

Special Note: Line termination:

- When longer runs of cable are used, you may need to use a terminator on the last unit to avoid erratic behaviour.



Termination reduces signal transmission problems and interference. it is always advisable to connect a DMX terminal, (resistance 120 Ohm 1/4 W) between pin 2 (DMX-) and pin 3 (DMX+) of the last fixture.

Using a cable terminator (part number CABL90) will decrease the possibilities of erratic behaviour.

5-Pin XLR DMX Connectors:

- Some manufactures use 5-pin XLR connectors for data transmission in place of 3-pin. 5-Pin XLR fixtures may be implemented in a 3-pin XLR DMX line. When inserting standard 5-pin XLR connectors in to a 3-pin line a cable adaptor must be used. The Chart below details the correct cable conversion.

| 3- Pin XLR to 5-PIN XLR Conversion | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Conductor | 3-Pin XLR out | 5-Pin XLR in |
| Ground shield | Pin 1 | Pin 1 |
| Negative (-) | Pin 2 | Pin 2 |
| Positive (+) | Pin 3 | Pin 3 |

DMX Dip Switch Quick Reference Chart

Dip Switch Position

| DMX DIP SWITCH SET 0=OFF 1=ON | | | | | #9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | |
|-------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|---|---|
| | | | | | #8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | | | | | #7 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | | | | | #6 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| #1 | #2 | #3 | #4 | #5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 32 | 64 | 96 | 128 | 160 | 192 | 224 | 256 | 288 | 320 | 352 | 384 | 416 | 448 | 480 | | | |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 33 | 65 | 97 | 129 | 161 | 193 | 225 | 257 | 289 | 321 | 353 | 385 | 417 | 449 | 481 | | | |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 34 | 66 | 98 | 130 | 162 | 194 | 226 | 258 | 290 | 322 | 354 | 386 | 418 | 450 | 482 | | | |
| 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 35 | 67 | 99 | 131 | 163 | 195 | 227 | 259 | 291 | 323 | 355 | 387 | 419 | 451 | 483 | | | |
| 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 36 | 68 | 100 | 132 | 164 | 196 | 228 | 260 | 292 | 324 | 356 | 388 | 420 | 452 | 484 | | | |
| 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 37 | 69 | 101 | 133 | 165 | 197 | 229 | 261 | 293 | 325 | 357 | 389 | 421 | 453 | 485 | | | |
| 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 38 | 70 | 102 | 134 | 166 | 198 | 230 | 262 | 294 | 326 | 358 | 390 | 422 | 454 | 486 | | | |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 39 | 71 | 103 | 135 | 167 | 199 | 231 | 263 | 295 | 327 | 359 | 391 | 423 | 455 | 487 | | | |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 40 | 72 | 104 | 136 | 168 | 200 | 232 | 264 | 296 | 328 | 360 | 392 | 424 | 456 | 488 | | | |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 41 | 73 | 105 | 137 | 169 | 201 | 233 | 265 | 297 | 329 | 361 | 393 | 425 | 457 | 489 | | | |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 10 | 42 | 74 | 106 | 138 | 170 | 202 | 234 | 266 | 298 | 330 | 362 | 394 | 426 | 458 | 490 | | | |
| 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 11 | 43 | 75 | 107 | 139 | 171 | 203 | 235 | 267 | 299 | 331 | 363 | 395 | 427 | 459 | 491 | | | |
| 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 12 | 44 | 76 | 108 | 140 | 172 | 204 | 236 | 268 | 300 | 332 | 364 | 396 | 428 | 460 | 492 | | | |
| 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 13 | 45 | 77 | 109 | 141 | 173 | 205 | 237 | 269 | 301 | 333 | 365 | 397 | 429 | 461 | 493 | | | |
| 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 14 | 46 | 78 | 110 | 142 | 174 | 206 | 238 | 270 | 302 | 334 | 366 | 398 | 430 | 462 | 494 | | | |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 15 | 47 | 79 | 111 | 143 | 175 | 207 | 239 | 271 | 303 | 335 | 367 | 399 | 431 | 463 | 495 | | | |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 16 | 48 | 80 | 112 | 144 | 176 | 208 | 240 | 272 | 304 | 336 | 368 | 400 | 432 | 464 | 496 | | | |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 17 | 49 | 81 | 113 | 145 | 177 | 209 | 241 | 273 | 305 | 337 | 369 | 401 | 433 | 465 | 497 | | | |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 18 | 50 | 82 | 114 | 146 | 178 | 210 | 242 | 274 | 306 | 338 | 370 | 402 | 434 | 466 | 498 | | | |
| 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 19 | 51 | 83 | 115 | 147 | 179 | 211 | 243 | 275 | 307 | 339 | 371 | 403 | 435 | 467 | 499 | | | |
| 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 20 | 52 | 84 | 116 | 148 | 180 | 212 | 244 | 276 | 308 | 340 | 372 | 404 | 436 | 468 | 500 | | | |
| 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 21 | 53 | 85 | 117 | 149 | 181 | 213 | 245 | 277 | 309 | 341 | 373 | 405 | 437 | 469 | 501 | | | |
| 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 22 | 54 | 86 | 118 | 150 | 182 | 214 | 246 | 278 | 310 | 342 | 374 | 406 | 438 | 470 | 502 | | | |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 23 | 55 | 87 | 119 | 151 | 183 | 215 | 247 | 279 | 311 | 343 | 375 | 407 | 439 | 471 | 503 | | | |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 24 | 56 | 88 | 120 | 152 | 184 | 216 | 248 | 280 | 312 | 344 | 376 | 408 | 440 | 472 | 504 | | | |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 25 | 57 | 89 | 121 | 153 | 185 | 217 | 249 | 281 | 313 | 345 | 377 | 409 | 441 | 473 | 505 | | | |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 26 | 58 | 90 | 122 | 154 | 186 | 218 | 250 | 282 | 314 | 346 | 378 | 410 | 442 | 474 | 506 | | | |
| 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 27 | 59 | 91 | 123 | 155 | 187 | 219 | 251 | 283 | 315 | 347 | 379 | 411 | 443 | 475 | 507 | | | |
| 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 28 | 60 | 92 | 124 | 156 | 188 | 220 | 252 | 284 | 316 | 348 | 380 | 412 | 444 | 476 | 508 | | | |
| 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 29 | 61 | 93 | 125 | 157 | 189 | 221 | 253 | 285 | 317 | 349 | 381 | 413 | 445 | 477 | 509 | | | |
| 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 30 | 62 | 94 | 126 | 158 | 190 | 222 | 254 | 286 | 318 | 350 | 382 | 414 | 446 | 478 | 510 | | | |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 31 | 63 | 95 | 127 | 159 | 191 | 223 | 255 | 287 | 319 | 351 | 383 | 415 | 447 | 479 | 511 | | | |

Dip Switch position

DMX Address

Class 3B Laser Safety Guide

Warning

Class 3B Lasers have the potential to harm eyesight if viewed directly and can also be harmful at long distances.

Any unit that contains a laser diode has to be classified depending upon the light output that someone may be exposed to. All laser products are classed as defined in the *Laser Product Safety Standard (BS/EN 60825.1)*. The classes range from the safest, which is *Class 1*, through to the most hazardous, which is *Class 4*. A laser diode that emits more than *5mW* of light and less than *500mW* can be classified as a *Class 3B* product.

Operation and installation Notes

Laser effects should only be installed and operated by persons who have been trained in how to operate laser effects safely.

Laser effects should be located in a safe and secure position in the venue, so that once installed it cannot be tampered with by unauthorized users.

Before operation the path of the laser beams should be taken into account in respect to how the beams will scan the viewing audience.

If direct audience scanning is to be used then the laser energy levels from the effects needs to be calculated.

Health

If used responsibly and in accordance with the relevant guidance issued by the Health and Safety Executive a laser effect will not present a hazard to those viewing the show as long as the laser beams are projected over the heads of the viewing audience. When laser effects are directed into the audience area it becomes difficult to tell if the effects are causing harm.

Class 3B laser beams can be harmful to eyesight if viewed directly. The injury that a Class 3B laser can inflict is dependant upon several variables, including the amount of time the laser beam enters the eye for, the intensity of beam and what part of the eye that actually receives the beam. The part of the eye which is most susceptible to receive damage from the beam is the retina. The retina is the part of the eye that receives the light signals that are sent to brain. All light entering the eye gets focused onto the retina.

Normal light sources including halogen lamps are not usually harmful to view. Lasers are different in the fact that they can get the beam focused down to a very small point on the retina which can burn holes on the back wall of the eye. There are no pain receptors on the retina and the damage can happen in less time than it takes for a person to blink so the person will be not be aware of any damage taking place. Damage to the retina cannot be repaired and therefore is permanent. Symptoms include severe loss of sight and unnoticeable vision loss.

Licensing and Laws

There are no U.K. “laser laws” or any “laser licenses” that need to be obtained in order to own or operate a laser for lightshow use. Detailed and specific guidance is issued by the Health and Safety Executive in the form of a book called HS(G)95 The Radiation Safety of Lasers Used for Display Purposes.

Class 3B Laser Safety Features

Class 3B laser products need to be fitted with specific safety features. These features are issued in the British Standard on Laser Product Safety

BS/EN 60825-1 and are needed for the product to meet CE approval.

The important warnings are listed below:-

- 1) Emissions Indicator
- 2) Remote Interlock Connector
- 3) Laser Safety Warning Labels

Summary of each Feature

Class 3B lasers need to contain three very important Laser Safety Warning Labels; the starburst symbol, aperture label, and the warning/classification label. The starburst is used to indicate that the product is a laser product. The aperture label is located next to the aperture to show where the laser emits its beam(s). The warning/classification label details the class of the laser product, the maximum output power, and the wavelength(s) (colours) of the laser, along with a “Laser Radiation – Avoid Exposure To The Beam” warning

The Remote Interlock Connector will only allow the laser to function when the two pins are shorted together. For lightshow use it is recommended by HS(G)95 laser safety guidance laser effects can be overridden by a remote Emergency Stop switch. The remote interlock connector provides a convenient way for such a switch to be easily added to the laser system, to provide this control.

The emissions indicator is fitted to indicate when the laser is ready to produce a light output.

Audience Scanning

Audience Scanning is when laser beams are directed at the viewing audience. Because the laser output beam can scan people’s faces it carries a risk that it could cause damage to eyesight, if over exposed to the laser beam.

Maximum Permissible Exposure (MPE)

The amount of laser light that a person can be exposed to without it causing harm to eyesight is known as the Maximum Permissible Exposure or MPE. These levels are set down by the British Laser Safety Standard BS/EN 60826-1. When people are exposed to laser light output which is above the MPE, it may potentially pose a risk of causing eye damage. Calculating what the MPE and exposure level is for a given laser effect is quite a complicated process and it is dependant on a whole number of factors and conditions. The laser safety standard BS/EN 60825-1 contains the information and data required to calculate these levels.

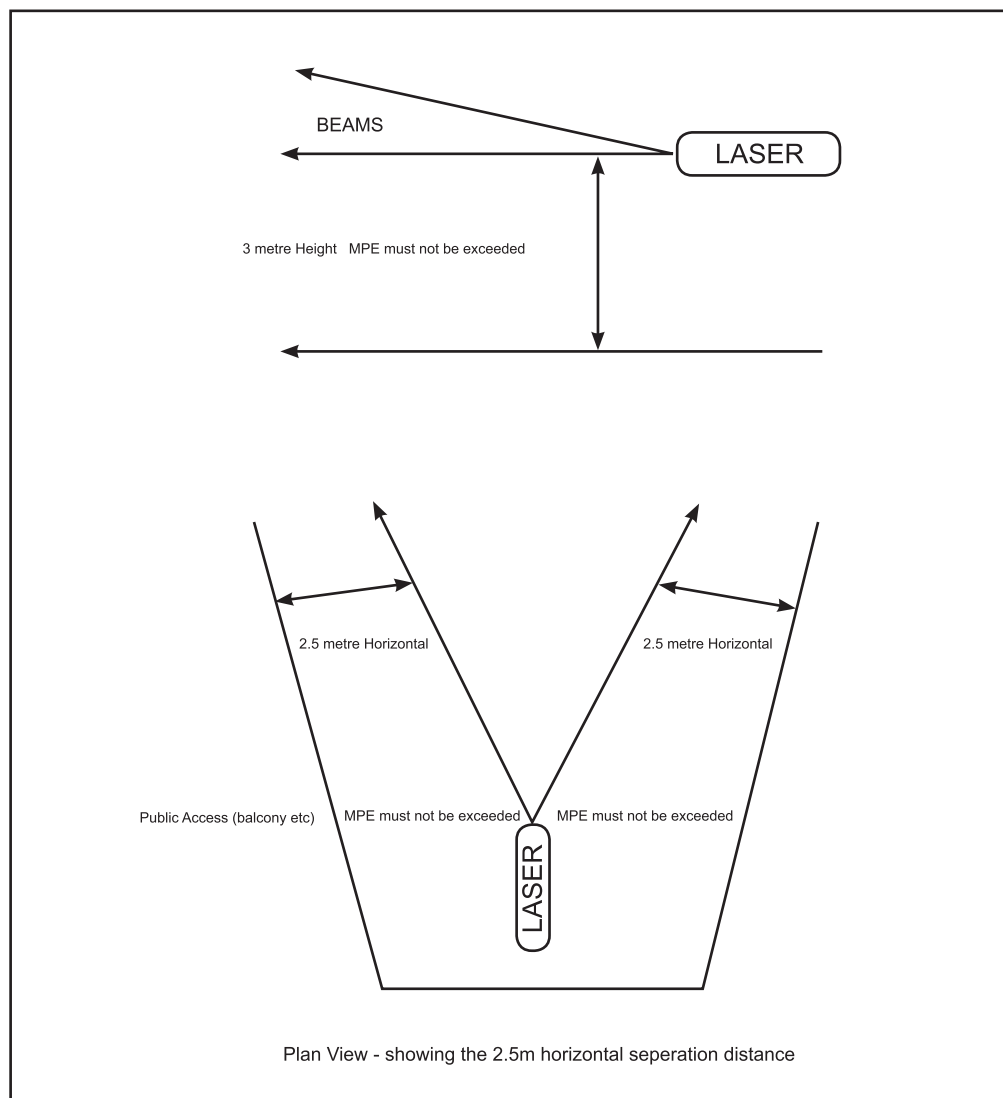
Laser Safety Officer

The BS/EN60825-1 Laser Safety Standard recommends that all venues that use, or businesses that work with Class 3B laser products, should appoint a Laser Safety Officer (LSO). The Laser Safety Officer should be aware of the many safety issues when using lasers, and will also be responsible for overseeing how the laser is used. In smaller businesses, the (LSO) could be the installer, operator or owner etc.

Separation Distances

Health and Safety guidance details that for supervised installations of lasers which are above the Maximum Permissible Exposure (MPE) should not be accessible to persons in the audience. Also recommended is an area where the MPE may not be exceeded and extends from 3m above to 2.5m laterally from any point in the venue where the public may have access during the lightshow. The illustrations below show the separation distances.

Separation Distance Drawing:



Note. The 3 metre height specified is not the height of the actual laser unit, but it refers to the height of the laser beams emitted.

Hazard Distances

All lasers for display purposes feature a characteristic called the hazard distance for direct viewing (NOHD). The (NOHD) is distance at which viewing the laser directly is no longer considered a hazard. Note at any point between the laser unit and the calculated hazard distance, it may be hazardous to directly view the laser beams. Exposing the eye to the laser directly from outside the hazard distance is considered to be no longer a risk.

The most dangerous scenario is to look directly at a static single beam, because all the light energy is concentrated into one small point. The hazard distances for various different powers of Class 3B laser are shown in the table below.

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------|------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| Laser Output Power | 10mW | 30mW | 50mW | 100mW | 250mW | 450mW |
| Hazard Distance | 12m | 20m | 25m | 36m | 56m | 76m |

Note - The above values in the table have been calculated assuming the characteristics of a typical laser, which has a beam spread of 2mradians. Not all laser units have the same specification.

Remember: Static laser beams are hazardous for long distances so it is recommended that the laser beams are projected overhead and not into the viewing audience

Laser Safety Books

The Radiation Safety of Display Laser Installations HS(G)95
Published by HSE Books 1996 ISBN 0 7176 0691

Health & Safety Executive
Website - www.hse.gov.uk

Laser display safety guidance page - www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/INDG224.htm

Health Protection Agency
Website - www.hpa.org.uk