



DM-406D

Operating Instructions

OPERATOR'S MANUAL

DIMMERMASTER 406 DIGITAL

RECEIVING YOUR EQUIPMENT

As soon as you have received your equipment, open the boxes and examine the contents. If the equipment in the carton does not agree with your order or the packing slip, contact the factory immediately and we will be happy to help you. If any damage is noted, contact the carrier immediately to file a claim for damages. You can be sure that when the equipment left the factory it was in good condition, thoroughly tested, and properly packed.

FEATURES

The DM-406D "shoebox" dimmer is a compact unit with four 600W dimmers. It may be pipe or tree mounted and is perfect for tight spaces where conventional rackmount dimmer packs are too bulky. Drawing no more than 20 amps, it may be powered from a single u-ground outlet.

The unit accepts both DMX-512 and 0 to +10VDC control signals. The starting channel is set on a thumbwheel switch, which also provides load testing and local control. A status LED indicates the presence of a DMX control signal. With both male and female XLR connectors, the control signal may be daisy-chained from pack to pack. The DMX signal may be terminated at the last pack by means of a DIP switch. Other switches set individual outputs for non-dim operation or force all outputs to full.

MECHANICAL INSTALLATION

For pipe mount use, a C-clamp and safety cable may be added to the mounting bracket. It may be top or bottom hung by reversing the yoke. For portable use, set the Dimmermaster on a smooth, cool surface, preferably in an area which remains fairly cool. Maximum air temperature must not exceed 40 degrees Centigrade (105 degrees Fahrenheit). Make certain that the vent holes all have at least 6 inches of free air around them. Do not block any vent holes. It is essential that this unit have adequate cooling for safe, reliable performance.

ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION

The pack consists of **four 600-watt** dimming channels. It requires a source of **120 volts AC 50/60Hz at 20 amperes** for full-power operation. This is usually available from a standard parallel blade (also called "U-ground" or "Edison") wall outlet. The pack may be run at less than full power (i.e. with lower power loads plugged in) on a 15 amp circuit. The actual amount of power consumed is determined by the total wattage of the connected loads used; the dimmer itself consumes negligible power. It is recommended that no other equipment be connected to the circuit which is used for the pack, including that on other outlets on same fuse or circuit breaker. If the building circuit breaker trips, it may be necessary to reduce one of the loads.

Power input to the pack is via a flush-mount male twist lock connector on the back panel. Any standard heavy-gauge extension cord will work for this purpose. Always use 3-wire, grounded cables. 12AWG cable is recommended.

When power is connected, the status LED will light up in red (green with DMX present).

GROUNDING

The term “grounding” refers to a separate wire, usually with green insulation, which is connected from the equipment case to earth ground. This is not the same as the neutral, or “common” and must not be confused with it; the neutral is a separate, load-carrying conductor. When the pack is connected to the power source by a flexible cable, this ground connection is made through a third wire in the cable and the ground prong on the plug. For maximum safety, and to comply with electrical codes, this connection must be made. Do not use an adapter (or “cheater”) plug.

LOAD CONNECTIONS

The pack will dim any load from 1 watt through 600 watts per channel. This includes conventional fluorescent, incandescent and quartz incandescent loads.

Merely plug the load or an extension cord to the load into the outlet which corresponds to the circuit you wish to use. Always use grounded cords. Loads may be single fixtures or combinations of lights **not exceeding 600 watts** per channel.

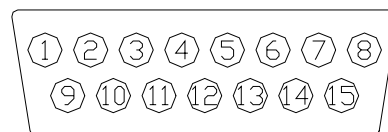
Each output channel is protected by a 10 amp fuse.

CONTROL CONNECTIONS

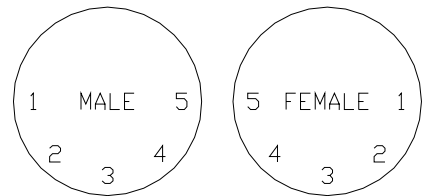
The pack accepts both DMX-512 and analog 0 to +10VDC control signals.

Analog 0 to +10VDC control signals are input through a DB15 male connector on the case of the unit. The connector is wired as follows:

PIN:	1	FUNCTION:	channel 1
	2		channel 2
	3		channel 3
	4		channel 4
	13		+15VDC power supply to passive controllers if required
	15		control common
	(pins 5 - 12 & 14 not connected)		



DMX-512 control signals are input through the **male** five pin XLR connector on the case of the unit. The connector is wired as follows:



5 pin XLR connectors

Pin	Function
1	Drain
2	Data
3	Data
4	N/C
5	N/C

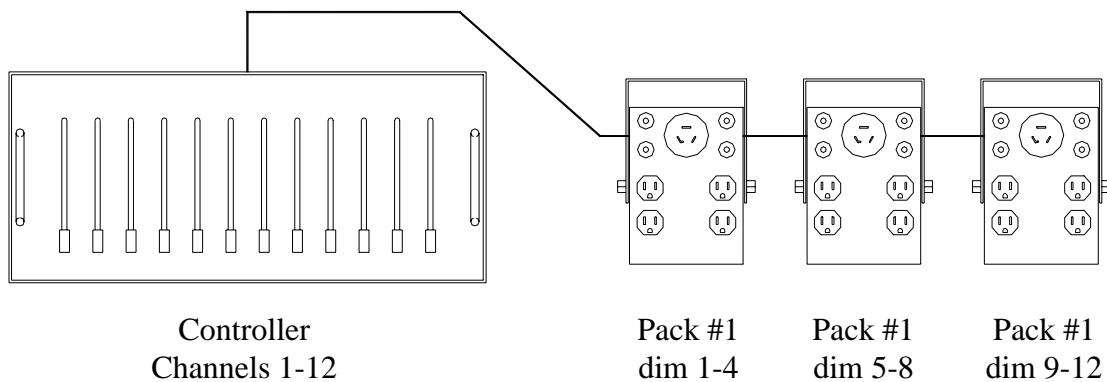
Pins 4 and 5 are not used but are passed through to other equipment.

The dimmer packs are wired in series along the control cable: the cable is daisy-chained from pack to pack. Do not split the cable. Use one of the specialty interface boxes for this purpose.

The **starting channel** is set on a thumbwheel switch. When the switch reads 001, the dimmer pack runs on channels 1 through 4. Setting 005 runs on channels 5 through 8, setting 009 runs on channels 9 through 12, and so on. Valid addresses range from 001 to 509. The starting dimmer may be any channel, and dimmers on different packs can overlap some channels, though it is usually preferable to run them one dimmer per channel. Dimmer channels should not overlap channels for other DMX equipment, including strobe lights, moving lights, and fog machines. It is not necessary to set the starting channels in sequence (i.e. 1-4, 5-8, 9-12).

DMX **termination** may be made on the DIP switch on the case. Although not strictly necessary, termination is useful in preventing noise due to signal reflection. Only the last pack in the chain should have termination enabled.

The status LED changes from red to green in the presence of a DMX signal.



LOAD TESTING, LOCAL CONTROL, AND NON-DIM FUNCTIONS

The thumbwheel switch enables the load testing / local control function. The load test is useful for determining which load is plugged in, finding a burnt-out lamp, and putting light on stage when the controller is not plugged in. Set the first digit to 6. Set the second digit to the dimming channel (from 1 to 4). Set the third digit to the dimming level, from 0 (off) to 9 (full on). Levels thus set remain in effect until the power is disconnected. Here is an example:

Set the thumbwheel switch to 600. Leave the first digit at 6. Set the second digit to 1. Set the third digit to 5. The switch reads 615. The first load is at half power. Set the switch to 625. The second load is at half power, and the first remains at half. Set the switch to 639. The third load is at full power, and the first two remain at half. Unplug the pack and reset the switches.

In addition to DMX termination, the DIP switch sets individual channels for non-dim (full on or off) function or forces the output of all channels to full. In non-dim mode, the dimmer forces the load to full when it receives a DMX value of 128 or more (about halfway to full on the slider) and forces the load off when it receives a DMX value of 127 or less (about halfway or less on the slider). The emergency on function forces all outputs to full regardless of the level of control.

TROUBLESHOOTING

A review of the following paragraphs may save you a long distance phone call, a trip to the service center, or the cost of shipping and/or repair. Even if something is still wrong, this process will help you explain the malfunction to the service technician.

Read the operating instructions carefully. Be sure you know how to operate the equipment. Do not expect this equipment to operate exactly like others. Many apparent failures result from not being familiar with the operating characteristics of the unit.

There are two forms of malfunctions common to solid state dimmers: “failed off”, in which the lights do not come on, and “failed on”, in which the lights cannot be turned off.

If a load has “failed off”, check that the instrument is plugged in and that the lamp has not burned out. Verify that the dimmer pack is on (the LED will glow). Use the load test feature (see previous page) to see if the load can be controlled at the pack. Test the channel output fuse for continuity. Check that the control cable runs all the way back to the controller and that the signal has not been terminated at a pack somewhere up the chain. Check the controller, paying particular attention to the softpatch feature if so equipped.

If a load has “failed on”, especially after replacing a fuse, it is due to a shorted triac. The triac fails when a short in the output overloads it. The short can be in the cable, in the connectors, in the light fixture, or in the lamp itself. Although the fuse will blow, it is often not fast enough to save the triac, and it will need to be replaced. Please check the load by plugging it into a known good wall outlet before plugging it into other dimming channels.

Channels which flicker or cut in and out can be victims of an intermittent connection somewhere, including broken slide controls. This can occur if dirt, coffee, or some other liquid is spilled into the slide control slot. Curing this problem usually requires the replacement of the control. Cleaning with WD 40 or TRI-FLOW may fix it temporarily.

Sometimes flickering is caused by a problem with the control cable. If DMX termination has not already been set at the last pack, set it. Try an opto isolator to eliminate any potential control cable ground loop problems. Swap control cables. Route them away from motors or other sources of noise. Do not use splitters.

Service technicians are generally available between 9am and 6pm, Eastern time, on Monday through Friday at (412) 206-0106. It is helpful to have a complete description of the problem from those who saw it and to be in the theatre or otherwise have access to the equipment when placing a service call.

It is recommended that all equipment be repaired at the factory. If the unit is under warranty, it **MUST** be repaired at the factory. Replacement parts are available, but because the DM-406D is a microcontroller based product running proprietary software, schematics will not be released.

To have equipment repaired, please call the factory at (412) 206-0106 for a Return Materials Authorization (RMA) number. Pack the unit securely in a sturdy box with plenty of padding material. Include a note with the unit describing the problems experienced, the return address, the date the unit is needed back, and a daytime phone number. This will help the technician identify the cause faster.

Owner's Record

- The serial number of this product can be found on the side of the main housing. You should note the model number and the serial number in the space provided and retain this book for future reference as a permanent record of your purchase.

Model No. _____

Serial No. _____

Date of Purchase _____



brightline®

WARRANTY

brightline guarantees all its products to be free from defects in materials and workmanship for a period of one (1) year from the date of shipment.

PROCEDURES

If any product is found to be unsatisfactory under this warranty, the buyer must notify **brightline** immediately. Once a course of action has been determined, if it is necessary to return the product to **brightline** a Return Authorization (RA) will be issued. Ship the product directly to **brightline**, 580 Mayer Street, Building #7, Bridgeville, PA 15017. The RA number should be marked on the shipping carton. The unit will be replaced or put into proper operating condition, free of all charges. The correction of any defects through repair or replacement by **brightline** shall constitute fulfillment of all obligations and liability of **brightline** to the buyer under this warranty and the contract of sale.

DISCLAIMERS

brightline is not responsible for damage to its products caused by improper installation, maintenance, or use; by improper electrical hookups; or by unauthorized repairs.

Failure to notify **brightline** of unsatisfactory operation or any improper or unauthorized installation, maintenance, use, repairs, or adjustments shall terminate the warranty and **brightline** shall have no further responsibility under the warranty. **brightline** shall not be liable for special or consequential damages in any claim, action, suit, or proceeding arising under this warranty or contract of sale, nor shall **brightline** be liable for claims for labor, loss of profits or goodwill, repairs, or other expenses incidental to replacement. **brightline** makes no other warranty of any kind whatsoever, expressed or implied, and all implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose that exceed the obligation specifically described in this warranty are hereby disclaimed by **brightline** and excluded from this agreement.

All shipments, unless otherwise noted, are F.O.B. factory.

The customer is advised to inspect for shipping damage, apparent and/or hidden. If detected, notify the transportation company and file your claim.

580 Mayer Street, Building #7, Bridgeville, PA 15017 • phone 412.206.0106 • fax 412.206.0114

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