Module USB-DMX512 and DMX PIPE

FAQ – Frequently Asked Questions

Q1: Will the unit work with NJD scanners?

A: These units are not tested with NJD scanners, it will work with all DMX512 (USITT) compatible technology. List of hardware that was tested and confirmed to work with the module is available here http://dmx512.svetla.org/download/DMX512-compatible-test.pdf. If you do have problems with your NJD scanners, you can of course return the purchased unit, but I think they should work fine.

Q2: Does this module work with DMX Creator software?

A: I don't think so. DMX Creator is a commercial product. If you want software with 3D visualization, you can try FreeStyler512 with Sunlite Magic 3D.

Q3: What programs work with USB-DMX512 module or DMX PIPE? How much is shipping to Brazil?

A: A program what interests you, you can download now and try. Shipping to Brazil is approx $ 8. If you visit the shop eshop.soh.cz. and register there. Then you will the shipping fee for your country.

Q4: Does this work with Windows Vista?

A: Yes, of course. Drivers are available for Windows 7, 7 x64, Vista, Vista x64, XP, XP x64, 2000, Server 2008 R2, Server 2008, Server 2008 x64, Server 2003, Server 2003 x64, Windows 98, ME, Mac OS X (Panther or later), Linux, Linux x64 and Windows CE 6.0 (ARM/XScale/x86 CPUs). Although it also depends on the program you are going to use. I recommend downloading it and trying to run it on Windows Vista.
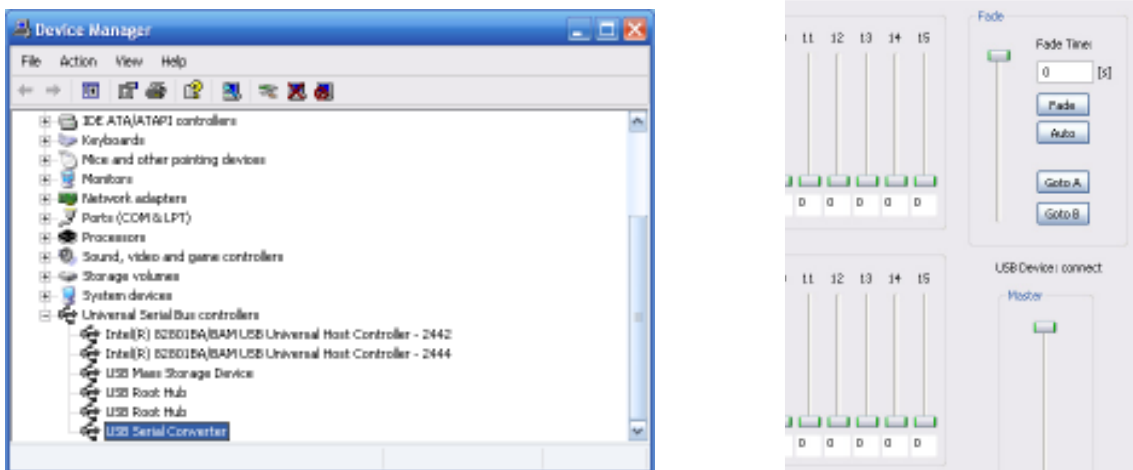
Q5: Do you know of any programs that will run on Windows 98SE (control of moving heads is not required).

A: You can try for example FreeStyler (users.pandora.be/freestylerdmx/).

Q6: I purchased Module USB–DMX512 and downloaded and installed the drivers for my Windows XP Pro. Then I tried a few applications suggested on your site. None of the programs (i.e. Freestyler, Abuelites,etc.) would recognize

the interface. In control panel, the USB interface is recognized as "USB Serial Converter" (Driver provider: FTDI, Date: 3/13/2008, Version: 2.4.6.0) What else I can try to make it work?

A:Please, take a look in this manual http://www.soh.cz/data_images/File/manuals/Module-USB-DMX512-English.pdf. The "USB Serial Converter" is correct (it is a universal name for a USB chip). Please try for example "DMX512 Light Control" software. This program works automatically with this interface, you will see "USB Device: connect" message in the window. The other programs must be properly configured (see dmx512.svetla.org/software_en.htm)

Picture: Microsoft Windows XP Device Manager and DMX512 Light Control

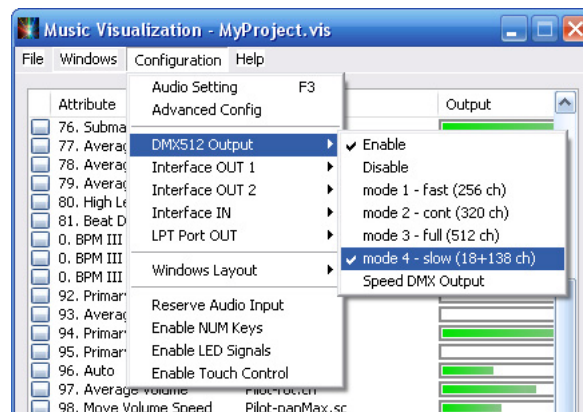## Q7: Does the unit come with a case?

A: This is only module with connectors, without case. It is possible to start using the module right away as it (with proper drivers and software that can be downloaded). If you want an interface with casing, consider DMX PIPE from http://eshop.soh.cz.

Q8: Does this work with Laserworld EL 200mW RGY?

A: The Laserworld EL series lasers have problems with USB interfaces in general, because these lasers have slow DMX512. However, these lasers can be fully controlled by Music Visualization in mode 4. Other programs don't have this special slow mode, which means that only some DMX channels in EL-series will work with them. Other Laserworld series (CS and above) work absolutely fine. With the

exception of one Eurolite product – scanner TS-5 – hundreds of lighting effects with DMX512 support work flawlessly.

Q9: Will this interface work with Martin light jockey?

A: I did test the Martin LightJockey, but this software doesn't support the interface.

Q10: Does the host machine (PC) continually transmit DMX data through this device or does it contain a chip/driver and some memory so it uses less system resources?

A: The DMX512 packet is assembled in the host machine (PC) and then transmitted directly through the interface. The interface is without an external chip. The utilized system resources of the host machine are absolutely insignificant. The "mark time between packets" (MTBP) is specified up to 1000 ms by protocol DMX512 and in some case is unlimited. For lower latency, on the contrary, is appropriate to send the data directly, as used DMX PIPE (see product Music Visualization).

Q11: Can I return the USB-DMX512 interface?

A: Yes, of course, no problem. Although, I am very interested in why do you want to send it back. What happened? You would be the first, who would like to return the USB-DMX512 interface.

Q12: Why isn't the item mounted in a box? How can one house the USB connector?

A: It is possible buy interface mounted in the XLR connector. The name of this interface is DMX PIPE and is available from the e-shop. It is a little bit more expensive. You can use standard USB A-B cable to connect the module to the PC.

Q13: What is the difference between the two offered interfaces DMX PIPE and Module USB-DMY512? Do they differ in their function or is it only their housing

and cabling? Can I use the cheaper version -Module USB-DMX512 – with the free version of your software - Music Visualization for private non-commercial home-use)?

A: Module USB-DMX512 is separate electronic module, but in fully working condition and fully compatible with DMX PIPE. Interface DMX PIPE is complete product integrated in connector, with cable and with CD that includes drivers and programs. You can use USB-DMX512 module with the free version of Music Visualization. The free version of Music Visualization can use first 10 DMX channels and up to 6 musical attributes. Every circa 2 hours you must confirm message with information that this version is not for commercial use. This is enough for small parties or for testing. We also offer Music Visualization Lite too. This Lite version has 16 DMX channels and up to 10 musical attributes, and commercial use is permitted. Music Visualization Lite bundled with DMX PIPE is supplied for €82. Separate DMX PIPE costs €60. License upgrade is available too as well on site http://dmx512.svetla.org/cenik_en.htm or http://eshop.soh.cz/en/light-control/c3/catalogue.html. At this moment there is a new e-shop eshop.soh.cz in English and Czech and new web site www.soh.cz in Czech. The English version of web site is available on old pages www.svetla.org. I recommend download the new 2.0 version of Music Visualization from http://www.soh.cz/en/download/music-visualization. New version of manual for Music Visualization 1.8 is available too.

Q14: What programs can be used with Module USB-DMX512 and with DMX PIPE?

A: List of compatible programs can be found on this page dmx512.svetla.org/software_en.htm. There are for example Music Visualization, FreeStyler 512, Magic Q, DMX Theatre, DMX512 PC Control, Madrix and lots of other software that is freely available on the Internet.

Q15:How long does the package travel to Greece?

A: Economical shipping takes approximately 3 to 4 days (in general, it takes under one week to ship to any state in EU). Worldwide shipping to other countries takes 1 to 3 weeks. Other shipping options are EMS (Express Mail Service), PPL, DHL and UPS. You can check the cart for all the available options for shipping to your country after you register in the e-shop (eshop.soh.cz).

Q16: Can Module USB-DMX512 work as a receiver?

A: Yes, Module USB-DMX512 and DMX PIPE can work as sender as well as a receiver of DMX512 data. You can use this to control your PC using lighting desk (there is an application for this purpose called DMX512 PC Control) or utilize cooperation of external board and a computer. There is also a program for recording and playback of DMX512 data.

Q17: What is the address of your shop?

A: The address of the e-shop is eshop.soh.cz. Please, register an account there first. It will allow you to choose suitable shipping for your country.

Q18: Can I buy the only the controller in the XLR connector and then download the software? Is there free software for both offered devices? Can I use LightFactory with this device?

A: The interface is available in two variants. Module USB-DMX512 is without casing. DMX PIPE has the controller built into the XLR connector.. LightFactory works with these interfaces. Other compatible free programs can be downloaded from dmx512.svetla.org/software_en.htm.

Q19: Can I use your software with Vellman USB-DMX512 interface?

A: The Velleman USB-DMX512 that I know is different type of interface than DMX PIPE. If you would like to purchase license for Music Visualization Lite or above, you must this software use with the DMX PIPE or module USB-DMX512. Free version of Music Visualization works with Enttec Open DMX USB as well as SOH interfaces. You can download software to try with your interface here: http://www.soh.cz/en/download/music-visualization.

Q20: How does this device work? Is it just a module, which I can put into a plastic box and use it to connect my DMX devices to my pc? Are drivers and control programs are included? Can I connect and control just one device or is it possible to connect multiple devices to a single interface (USB → DMX → first device in → out → second device in → out etc.)? How can I learn how to control these devices, if I am a beginner? Will it will work with Shimp lasers?

A: It is a fully functional module with connectors, just without any casing. Module can be connected to the PC using the usual USB A-B cable and then connected to the light with DMX512 cable. The number of lights connected to one module according the USITT norm is set to the maximum of 32 pieces, but in practice you can connect more than 32 devices. Programs and drivers need to be downloaded from http://www.soh.cz/en/download/drivers. You can read up on DMX512 here http://www.opendmx.net/index.php/DMX512-A.

Q21: Do you sell a case to fit the device in?

A: If you require an interface built into a case, you should consider the DMX PIPE interface, which is integrated in the XLR connector. DMX PIPE is supplied with a cable and drivers and programs on a CD. You can buy DMX PIPE in the e-shop http://eshop.soh.cz (DMX PIPE: http://eshop.soh.cz/en/svetelne-ovladace/i1-dmx-pipe-(interface-usb-dmx512). A separate case for module USB-DMX512 is not available.

Q22: Does this come with the DLL and Class libraries for Visual basic and C++? I have written my own program and would need to change the device setup for it to work?

A: The drivers and programs can be downloaded from the Internet. You can find them on this page: dmx512.svetla.org/software_en.htm. The SDK (Software Development Kit – an example for C++) can be downloaded here: dmx512.svetla.org/download/usb-dmx512-sdk-sample.zip.

Q23: What are the dimensions of the module? Does it come with a warranty? Are there some good free programs to control it?

A: The dimensions are in the user's manual here: http://www.soh.cz/data_images/File/manuals/Module-USB-DMX512-English.pdf. You can try the programs here: dmx512.svetla.org/software_en.htm. You may want to try for example FreeStyler 512 with free 3D Sunlite visualization.

Q24: Is it possible to buy an interface without the XLR connector, but 3 wired cable 10 or 15 cm long? It is for integrate on an install. Will you accept combined shipping?

A: I am sorry, but at the moment the only available interfaces are with XLR connectors. However, it is possible to unsolder the XLR connector. It is only one sided PCB. The interface can be use directly without a case.

Q25: Is the DMX USB interface supplied in any sort of case, or is it just the bare PCB and connectors?

A: Yes, the USB-DMX512 module is only PCB with connectors and without any case. If you are interested in an interface with case, please, look for DMX PIPE in the e-shop eshop.soh.cz.

Q26: I am having trouble installing the Mac driver. Can you provide more detailed instructions on how to install the Mac OS X Snow Leopard Driver?.

A: The chip manufacturer also has its own page with drivers. You can visit the site www.ftdichip.com/Drivers/D2XX.htm and download the D2XX or VCP drivers for MAC OS there. There are also manuals for installation. Module USB-DMX512 has the new FT232R chip inside.

Q27: I received the USB-DMX512 interface. Drivers were successfully installed and I can see the device in Device manager. What output plugin do I need to use with DMXControl 2.10.4 with your interface? Before that I have successfully used uDMX interface. But I want to trying use you device.

A: This interface is compatible with EntTec Open DMX USB. This interface has newer chip then EntTec, but it is from the same manufacturer – FTDI Chip. The company FTDI Ltd. has the same drivers for both chips and that's why those interfaces are compatible.