

SYSTEM ALCII

ARCHITECTURAL LIGHTING CONTROLS OPERATION MANUAL

The microprocessor based ALCII dimming control system has been engineered specifically for operation by the casual user. ALCII controls offer many sophisticated functions, that can be easily configured to meet the most demanding lighting control requirements.

This user manual will describe basic operations, as well as the many advanced features of the ALCII architectural lighting controls.

DILOR ARCHITECTURAL DIMMING SYSTEMS
SYSTEM ALCII CONTROLS
OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

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SLIDER OPERATION

A Control Channel Is A Group Of Lights Operated By One Slider

Moving the slider up increases light intensity

Moving the slider down decreases light intensity

When your dimming system is initially powered up, the LED readout on the control station will display two dashes, "- -" which indicates the system status is "OFF", and the room will be dark.

ALCII control stations use sliders as a means of controlling lighting intensity. To increase lighting levels, simply move the slider "UP", to decrease the lighting intensity, move the slider "DOWN".

For manual control of your lighting scene, simply adjust the remaining sliders to the desired levels.

ALL ON, and ALL OFF

"ALL ON" BRINGS LIGHTS TO FULL BRIGHT

"ALL OFF" FADES LIGHTS TO BLACK"

To bring all your lights to full bright immediately, press the "ALL ON" push-button on the key pad. The display will show "All" to let you know that the "ALL ON" preset has been selected.

Fade your lights to "OFF" by depressing the "ALL OFF" push-button. The display will show two dashes "- -" to indicate the "ALL OFF" function is selected. The channels will fade slowly to dark using the current fade rate.

To make the Lights go off immediately, press "ALL OFF" twice quickly, and the fade rate will be bypassed.

SAVING AND RECALLING PRESETS

A PRESET IS A REPEATABLE LIGHTING SCENE

It is useful to save your lighting scenes so that the same "look" can be recalled time after time. By using presets, instead of adjusting the sliders every time a lighting change is required, you can repeat your look exactly, time after time, with the simple depression of a button.

Your ALCII control station key pad has 8 presets push-buttons numbered 1, through 8, which offers you the ability to program and recall up to 8 unique lighting scenes. To program a preset, follow these steps.

1. Use the sliders to adjust the channels to the desired levels.
2. When the lighting levels are correct, depress the "SAVE PRESET" push-buttons. The display will show "SP".
3. Press a number between 1 and 8 and the scene will be stored in that number. For example if you want the current light levels in preset 3, depress the "SAVE PRESET" push-buttons, followed by "3"

To recall a preset, simply press the appropriate number and that scene will be recalled. The number of the active preset will be indicated in the LED display.

When you recall a preset, it will fade to its levels slowly (SETTING FADE TIMES follows). To make the preset come on immediately, press the push-button twice quickly and the fade rate will be bypassed.

FADE RATES

"A smooth unnoticeable transition" between different lighting levels will occur when a timed fade rate is programmed as part of a preset.

Presets can be set to have 0 seconds fade, or if a preset has a fade rate programmed into it, you can depress that push-button twice quickly to override the fade.

To let you know that a fade is in progress, the "FADE" light on the ALCII display will flash. When the fade is complete, the light will go out.

SETTING THE FADE TIME

You can set the fade time for any of the presets by using the "SET FADE" feature. Every time a preset is recalled, it will fade in at the rate you have programmed.

There are eight fade times you can select. They are:

1. NO FADE (instant)
2. 3 SECONDS
3. 8 SECONDS
4. 15 SECONDS
5. 45 SECONDS
6. 3 MINUTES
7. 5 MINUTES
8. 15 MINUTES

The standard fade time for all presets is factory set at #2 - 3 seconds.

To set the fade time of the current preset, press the "F", and then the "1" push-button, followed by a number representing the fade time you want. For example if you want to set a fade time for preset 6 to 45 seconds, then you would use the following commands.

1. Press "6" to recall preset 6
2. Press "F", then "1", and the display will show a "t", followed by the current fade time.
3. Press "5", the display will show a "t5" indicating that the fade time for the preset is now # 5, 45 seconds. The display will go back to the standard display after a few seconds.

When you save a preset, it will be given the same fade time as the last preset you selected. The fade time of the last preset you selected will also be used for the "ALL OFF" fade time. (Unless "ALL OFF" is depressed twice quickly.)

PRESET PROPORTIONAL MASTER

The ALCII control panel allows you to proportionally master an entire preset. If the preset you are currently using is just a little too bright, or a little too dim, because of a temporary situation, you can raise or lower the intensity of the entire preset and the proportion between the channels will be maintained.

The next time you depress the current preset button, it will return to its original levels prior to you raising or lowering it.

To fade all the lights up, press "F" then "4". This will increase the intensity of the preset by about 1%- To increase the light levels more, just hold the "4" key until the lights reach the desired level.

To fade all the lights down press "F" then "8". This will decrease the intensity of the preset by about 1%- To decrease the light levels more, just hold the "8" key until the lights reach the desired level.

CHANNEL TAKE CONTROL

The ALCII control station allows you to "take control" on any of the channels (sliders) even though the intensity of that channel has been programmed into memory. If you find that because of a specific situation that you wish to increase, or decrease the intensity of a group of lights, simply move the slider. When the slider reaches the level that the lights are programmed at, the lights will then be under control of the slider, and you can change the intensity to the desired setting. The next time that preset push-button is activated, the lights will return to their programmed level.

The channel take control feature can be configured in two modes, "TOUCH TRIM" and "FIND TRIM". Toggling between these modes is discussed in "F2 FUNCTIONS" later in this manual.

LOCKING AND PROTECTING YOUR ALCII CONTROL STATION

The ALCII control panel allows you to activate a code which will provide tamper protection for the station.

"LOCK" prevents all actions on any station in all zones, except for unlock.

"PROTECT" prevents users from saving presets at any station in a zone, but will allow activation of presets and adjustment of sliders.

To lock the ALCII station press the following code:

"F", "6", "5174"

The "LOCK" light will illuminate indicating you are in lock mode. If you try to press any button while the ALCII is locked, the display will flash "L".

To unlock the station press "F", "6", "5174" again and control will be enabled again at the panel.

To protect the ALCII panel, press:

"F", "2", "6283"

You will now be in protect mode, and the "SAVE PRESET" button will be ignored if pressed. To unprotect the station, press 'F', "2", "6283" and the preset save function will be restored.

It is possible with the ALCII system to enable "LOCK" mode over top of the "PROTECT" mode. This allows certain operators to lock and unlock the station, but not change preset settings if the presets have been protected by another operator.

F2 FEATURES

The ALCII control system has a feature that allows you to re-configure some of the basic operations of the system. Since this could have drastic effects, this feature should only be used by personnel familiar with the basic operation of the control system.

To turn on the F2 features, press and hold the "F" key. After a few seconds an "F2" will appear in the LED display.

ALL ON PRESET

You may wish to set up your ALCII control panel so that only certain groups of lights come to full bright when the "ALL ON" button is depressed.

System ALCII allows you to program the "ALL ON" functions as if it was a normal preset, just use the following steps:

1. Press "ALL ON".
2. Adjust the sliders to the levels you want.
3. Press "F" and hold until "F2" appears in the display.
4. Press "SAVE PRESET", followed by "ALL ON" and the current levels will be recalled every time "ALL ON" is activated.

SETTING CHANNEL TAKE CONTROL MODE

The ALCII sliders can be set to operate in two ways when the channel take control feature is used, "TOUCHTRIM" or "FINDTRIM". Both of these modes can solve problems that exist when the sliders are at different settings than the lights and a preset is active.

For example when you press "ALL ON" the lights will be at full but the sliders may be in any position between full and dark.

When "TOUCHTRIM MODE" (the factory setting) is activate, the light levels for a channel will "jump" to the slider level whenever you move that slider. The lights respond immediately and you know which group you have control of and can adjust them accordingly.

If this "jump" is undesirable, then you can enable "FINDTRIM MODE" which requires you to move the slider to the lights current level before control is transferred to the slider. When the slider reaches it's level, the slider takes control of the lights and then the level can be adjusted. This mode results in no "jump" in the light levels.

The "TOUCHTRIM MODE" is the factory default setting. If you wish to enable "FINDTRIM MODE" use the following steps:

1. Press "F" and hold until the display shows "F2".
2. Press "2" to switch trim modes. The new mode will be shown in the display. "tt" for touchtrim, and "Ft" for findtrim.

To switch back, just repeat these steps.

RESET ALCII TO FACTORY DEFAULTS

“CAUTION! - THIS WILL ERASE ALL YOUR PRESETS AND FADE RATES”

The ALCII controls can be reset to the factory settings and erase all programmed presets, fade rates and other settings. Reset should only be used with caution. This feature is useful if you have been experimenting with the control stations and wish to return to standard settings.

To reset ALCII follow these steps:

1. Press "F" and hold until "F2" appears in the display.
2. Press "3" to reset ALCII controls.

“CAUTION - THIS WILL ERASE ALL YOUR PRESETS AND FADE RATES”

THE SYSTEM ALCII DISPLAY

The two digit display on the front of the ALCII control panel is used to inform you of the current status of you lighting displays have been described.

Occasionally a unique display may be noticed. Following is a description of various displays and their meanings.

FADE AND LOCK LIGHTS

There are two small lights in the front of the LED screen labeled "FADE" and "LOCK".

They have the following meanings:

If the "FADE" light is flashing, then a timed fade is in progress

If the "FADE" light is solidly on, then you are in proportional master fade mode.

If the "LOCK" light is solidly on, then the ALCII panel is in "LOCK" mode.

NORMAL DISPLAYS

The 2 digit main displays can show the following messages:

--	"ALL OFF" has been selected	All	"ALL ON" has been selected
1	Preset 1 selected	2	Preset 2 selected
3	Preset 3 selected	4	Preset 4 selected
5	Preset 5 selected	6	Preset 6 selected
7	Preset 7 selected	8	Preset 8 selected
SP	"SAVE PRESET" selected	F	The F key was pressed
t X	Fade time is set to "X"	L-	enter Lock passcode
P-	Enter Protect password code	L	button pressed system locked
b	Bank select (F3) activated	2 X	Preset bank 2 selected
3 X	Preset bank 3 selected	4 X	Preset bank 4 selected
5 X	Preset bank 5 selected	6 X	Preset bank 6 selected

F2 DISPLAYS

F2	F2 Features selected	tt	Touchtrim enabled
Ft	Findtrim enabled		

DISPLAY FLASHING

If the main 2-digit display is flashing, you are recording a sequence.

ERROR DISPLAY

E1	Sliders are not connected
E2	ALCII cannot communicate
E3	Internal error, contact factory
E4	No more sequence memory
E5	Presets may be corrupted
E6	No master controller

SYSTEM ALCII EXTENDED PRESETS

The standard ALCII control system has 8 preset memories. If your control system has been supplied with extra memory, you can access these banks by using the "Bank Select" feature.

The standard ALCII presets are numbered 1 through 8 and this is know as BANK 1. The optional presets are stored in additional banks, and are configured as follows:

BANK	PRESET NUMBERS	TOTAL QUANTITY OF PRESETS
1	1 TO 8	8
2	21 TO 28	16
3	31 TO 38	24
4	41 TO 48	32
5	51 TO 58	40
6	61 TO 68	48
7	71 TO 78	56
8	81 TO 88	64

To access the expanded memories, you select the appropriate bank of presets. All operations (like preset save, recall, fade rates etc.) will then work in the new bank.

For example, to access presets 21 to 28 you would select bank 2 like this:

1. Press "F" then "3" (Bank Select)
2. The display will show a "b" so you can enter the bank you want.
3. Press "2" to select bank two.
4. Press "1" to recall preset 21. (Bank 2, Preset 1)
5. Press "2" to recall preset 22 etc. etc.

To save presets and fade rates in an extended bank, proceed exactly as described in earlier sections "SAVING AND RECALLING PRESETS" and "FADE RATES".

PROGRAMMING SEQUENCES

Sequences can be designed to be an animated retail window display used to attract customer attention, or in a "disco" application to create dance floor lighting. Sequence operation should not be used in Ballroom or other multi zone applications as the sequence will affect other linked stations in the system.

You should have a clear understanding of the System ALCII operation before attempting to record a sequence.

PLAYING BACK AND STOPPING A SEQUENCE

Sequences are stored just like presets, so that the operator may recall a sequence by depressing a preset activation button. In the example we assume that someone has stored a sequence into preset 3. Pressing "3" will start the sequence.

To start a sequence on the ALCII, follow these step:

Press the preset button which stores the sequence, for example "3". The display will show the sequence preset "3".

Some sequences may run forever by looping back and starting over again. To stop a sequence, press "ALL OFF", "ALL ON", another preset activation button, or press the "F" key twice.

RECORDING A SIMPLE SEQUENCE

Sequences are made up of steps, and steps are simply a set of operation such as pressing buttons or adjusting sliders. Other "F" functions are disabled when writing a sequence and cannot be used.

To store a simple sequence with 2 steps follows, which simply recalls preset #1, then preset #2.

1. Press "F", then "5" to enter sequence record mode. The ALCII display will begin to flash to indicate you are recording a sequence and will show a "00", since your sequence has no steps so far.
2. Press "1" to recall preset 1. The lights and the display will be set to preset 1 and the display will continue to flash.
3. Press "SAVE PRESET" to indicate the end of step 1. The sequence now has one step recorded and this display shows this by flashing "01".
4. Press "2" to recall preset 2. The lights and display will be set to preset 2 and the display will continue to flash.
5. Press "SAVE PRESET" to indicate the end of step 2. The sequence now has 2 steps and will flash "02".
6. Press "F", then "5" to end the sequence recording. At this point the ALCII control system will play back your sequence so that you can check if it is correct and also so you can adjust the playback speed. Use slider 1 to adjust the playback speed:

The speed of the sequence can be adjusted from a maximum of 10 steps every second, to one step every minute by moving the slider up. The higher the slider setting, the shorter the sequence timing.

7. When you are happy with the speed, press the preset number you want to store the sequence into, such as "5". The sequence is now saved as preset 5 and the display returns to the preset recalled.

The sequence can now be recalled by simply pressing the "5" key. This sequence will switch between presets 1 and 2 at the set speed and will run until stopped.

Please note that after having entered the sequence mode ("F", "5") if a button is not pushed or a slider not moved within a 45 second period, then sequence mode will automatically terminate the sequence without storing any steps.

Also note, if any presets are already sequences, they cannot be used within a new sequence. (you cannot run a sequence within a sequence.)

RECORDING SLIDER ADJUSTMENTS INTO A SEQUENCE

You may want to record and playback the settings of just a few sliders, without using a preset. This has two advantages, first you do not use up one of your presets, and the sequence does not affect channels which are not part of the sequence.

Although not required, it is best to press "ALL OFF" before recording a sequence with individual slider adjustments so that you are not distracted by other lighting groups while you are recording. In the following example we will record a sequence which alternates between channels 1 and 3, and channels 2 and 4.

1. Press "F", "5" to enter sequence record mode. The ALCII display will begin to flash to indicate that you are recording a sequence, and will show a "00" since your sequence has no steps so far.
2. Adjust the slider for channel 1 to full. (or the desired level)
3. Adjust the slider for channel 3 to full. (or the desired level)
4. Adjust the slider for channel 2 to low (or the desired level)
5. Adjust the slider for channel 4 to low (or the desired level)
6. Press "SAVE PRESET" to indicate the end of step 1. The sequence now has one step programmed and the display indicates this by flashing "01".
7. Adjust the slider for channel 1 to low (or the desired level)
8. Adjust the slider for channel 3 to low (or the desired level)
9. Adjust the slider for channel 2 to high (or the desired level)
10. Adjust the slider for channel 4 to high (or the desired level)
11. Press "SAVE PRESET" to indicate the end of step 2. The sequence now has two steps programmed and the display indicates this by flashing "02".
12. Press "F", then "5" to end the sequence recording. At this point the ALCII plays back your sequence so that you can check it and also so you can adjust the playback speed with slider #1.
13. When you are happy with the speed, press the preset number you want to store the sequence into, such as "6". The sequence is now saved in preset 6 and the display returns to the last preset recalled.

The sequence can now be played by pressing "6".. It will alternate between channels 1,3, and 2,4. As it plays the other channels are not affected by the sequence. After storing and recalling the sequence, set the desired fade time, "F", "1", "x". (see the section on fade times)

RECORDING SEQUENCES - GENERAL

The previous two examples show very simple sequences using either presets, or channel adjustments. A sequence can contain combinations of these, along with other operations such as setting the fade time to create complex lighting effects. To record a sequence:

1. Press "F", "5" , to enter sequence record mode. The ALCII display will begin to flash to indicate that you are recording a sequence and will show a "00" since there are no steps in this sequence yet.
2. Enter all actions that make up this sequence. These include selecting presets or "ALL ON", "ALL OFF", or adjusting channels.
3. Press "SAVE PRESET" to indicate the end of the step. The display shows the current number of steps recorded so far.
4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 until all steps have been recorded.
5. Press "F", then "5", to end sequence recording. At this point the ALCII will play back your sequence so that you can check that it is correct and also so you can adjust the playback speed. Use the first slider to adjust the playback speed. There is a relationship between the playback speed (speed per sequence step) and the fade time that is required. The fade time should be shorter than or equal to the step time.
Example: if you select a step time of 45 seconds use fade t5 (45 seconds) so that light transitions will be smooth and complete during the 45 second step.
6. When you are happy with the speed, press a preset number to store the sequence into, such as "6". The sequence is saved under that preset and the display will return to the last preset recalled.

This sequence can now be played by pressing the preset key it was saved into. If a mistake is made while programming a sequence, the sequence must be recorded again from scratch. To exit a sequence push "F" twice.

SEQUENCE MEMORY AND E4

As sequences are recorded, the steps are stored in the ALCII memory. If there is no more memory available for more steps the display will show "E4" (error code 4). If this happens you can either cancel the sequence you are recording or save what you have already recorded. To cancel:

Press "F" twice to cancel sequence recording mode.

To save the sequence immediately:

1. Press "F", "5", to end the sequence.
2. Adjust the speed using the first slider
3. Press a preset number to store the sequence into.

To avoid running out of memory, you should erase sequences that you do not need, or are replacing. (see "ERASING SEQUENCES" following).

ERASING SEQUENCES

If you run out of sequence memory (E4 is displayed while recording) then you may erase some of your other sequences to reclaim the memory that they are using.

To erase a sequence stored into preset 5:

1. Press "SAVE PRESET", the display will show "SP".
2. Press "5". The sequence stored in preset 5 will be erased.

Preset 5 can be used to store another preset or sequence.

PLAY ONCE SEQUENCES

By default sequences automatically go back to the beginning and repeat after the last step is played back. You can record a sequence that plays back only once by pressing the "ALL OFF" button while you are setting the sequence speed.

To record a play once sequence:

1. Press "F", "5" to begin sequence recording.
2. Enter presets or light adjustments.
3. Press "F", "5" to end sequence recording. The sequence will be played back to let you set the speed.
4. Set the speed using the first slider.
5. Press "ALL OFF". This indicates that the sequence should be played once only. (the system will not go to "ALL OFF" at the end of the sequence, but will return to the previous preset).
6. Press a preset number to save the sequence into.

This sequence can be recalled by pressing the preset it was saved into. It will play back just once.