

Example: An RGB Stage Light

Every lighting equipment manufacturer sets up their equipment in a slightly different way. For this reason, it's essential to consult the equipment manual during programming to determine the 'DMX Channel Map'.

A very basic example would be an RGB stage light. It could be designed to run in several different modes:

- 3 channels. Three consecutive DMX channels drive red, green and blue. Super simple to operate.
- 4 channels. As above, but a fourth channel controls 'master intensity.' If this fourth channel is turned off, the fixture will appear unresponsive.
- 5+ channels. As above, but some fixtures include built-in effects such as sound activation, color cycling, strobing in various colors and at different speeds. The map for one of these systems might look like this:

To make this particular fixture work properly, DMX channel 4 must always be set to 100%.

Without channel 4 being turned on, the fixture will appear unresponsive. If written on a musical staff, this would correspond to a whole note which lasts for many measures:

CH 1 RED
CH 2 GREEN
CH 3 BLUE

0%--100% DIMMER

4

Then, other notes are added and removed, corresponding to different colors. In some cases, these may appear to be very ugly chords indeed.

1-2-3-4 1-2-3-4

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150—199 PULSE
200—249 CYCLE
250—255 MUSIC ACTIVATED