

Installation Trouble Shooting Tool - DMX 512 Line Tester

Doug Fleenor Designs DMX 512 Line Tester



The DMX512 Line Tester instantly displays the presence of the +Data and -Data signals when plugged into a DMX control line or feed-through connector. Observing the indicators while fading all the dimmers from zero to full will detect if either line is stuck high. Swapped +Data and -Data lines can be determined by sending all dimmers to full.

TEST 1: Plug the tester into the DMX line or feed-through connector to be tested. Both LEDs should light.
 If the red LED does not light: data- (pin 2) is stuck low.
 If the green LED does not light: data+ (pin 3) is stuck low.
 If neither LED lights: common (pin 1) may be open, both lines may be stuck low, or no signal is being sent.

Causes of lines being stuck low include broken wires, loose connectors, a short between the affected line and common (pin 1), bad solder joints at the connector, and failed driver circuits.

TEST 2: With the tester plugged in, fade all the dimmers from zero to full. Both LEDs should flicker during the fade. Plug the tester into the DMX line or feed-through connector to be tested. Both LEDs should light.
 If the red LED stays steady: data- (pin 2) may be stuck high.
 If the green LED stays steady: data+ (pin 3) may be stuck high.
 If both LEDs stay steady: both lines may be stuck high or the console may not be fading the dimmers.

Lines stuck high are usually caused by a failed driver circuits in the console (or splitter, isolator, etc.).

TEST 3: With all dimmers being sent to full, observe the intensity of the two LEDs. The green LED should be brighter. If the red LED is brighter: the data+ and - lines may be reversed (swap pins 2 and 3).

Note: Tests 2 and 3 above assume the DMX512 signal is generated by a reasonably fast console. These tests may not work accurately with slow DMX512 signals.

SPECIFICATIONS:

- Connector: 5 pin male or 3 pin male
- Indicators: Data + Green T1 light emitting diode (LED)
- Data - Red T1 light emitting diode (LED)
- Effective input impedance: 220 Ohms (each line)
- Power input: None, draws power from DMX line
- Color: Silver connector body with white label
- Size and weight: 1.9" long, 0.8" maximum diameter, 1.5 ounces

ORDERING INFORMATION

Ordering Number: 65-TST03-001-00 (5 Pin)

Applications

- Test cables and fixtures during installation

Specification sheets are subject to change without notice. For the most recent version, please refer to www.ilight-tech.com.

Product Application

Hypnotica iS