

HauntMaven.com - Wolfstone's Haunted Halloween Site



http://wolfstone.halloweenhost.com/Flash/xstrem_TriggeringDJStrobes.html

Triggering DJ Strobes (remote control)

The larger and more expensive a strobe light, the more features you are likely to find. One popular feature is the ability to remotely trigger a strobe flash or link strobes together so that they all flash at once. This capability can also be used by a strobe controller to flash a series of strobes in sequence, or flash to the musical beat.

This page is dedicated to how that is done.



CAUTION

Xenon strobes use lethal voltage. Even a small battery-operated xenon strobe boosts the battery up to hundreds of volts in order to fire the flash tube. If you aren't prepared to know and follow high-voltage precautions, you shouldn't be poking around in a strobe!

Obtained from
Omarshauntedtrail.com

DMX

Some strobes can be remotely controlled using the DMX system.



This is an intelligent lighting fixture with DMX in and out, using 3-pin XLR connectors.

Low Voltage Analog

Many DJ strobes can be remotely triggered using a low voltage pulse. This pulse can be generated using a separate strobe controller or from a master strobe light that flashes itself and tells the slave flashes to flash along.

There are several different types of connectors used to hook up low voltage analog controls:

- 1/4-Inch Mono Plug
- 1/4-Inch Stereo Plug
- XLR Plug

The 1/4-inch mono plug is probably the most common.

I have seen many different strobes, made by different companies, that are linkable via 1/4" mono plugs. But despite very easy to find the strobes, it is uncommon to find technical information about exactly what signal to send.

Here's what I found on the web:

<http://www.pulsarlight.com/PDF/Instructions/Strobe%20Remote%20Instructions.pdf>

- Output Jack Socket - Standard 1/4" jack plugs are used for interconnection.
- Tip = Signal
- Sleeve = Earth / Ground
- The output firing pulses are +10v and the output impedance is 100 ohms.
- A jack to jack lead should be taken from the Strobe Remote Controller back panel to your Strobe(s).

- This lead does not need to be screened and may be up to 200 metres in length.

<http://www.tkk.fi/Misc/Electronics/circuits/strobocontrol.html>

- Voltage level is typically 2-12V
- a positive pulse triggers the stroboscope
- Input impedance is typically 1 kohm

A lot of equipment just says something like

- Linkable via mono 1/4 inch jack
- Remote operation via standard 0-10V DC positive pulse signal

1/4-Inch Mono Plug

Since the sockets for 1/4-inch stereo and 1/4-inch mono look the same from the outside, make sure that you read the instructions for your strobe before plugging anything into the socket!



1/4-Inch Mono Plug



- back panel of a SpeakerMAX strobe model SE009A
- sold by CheapLights.com as 125-AWESTROBE, \$76.85 [August 2006]
- 750 Watts
- note the two sockets for 1/4-Inch Mono Plug

This is cheaplights.com part number 137-STR-EXT-MONO \$4.85 [August 2006]

33 foot, 2 conductor cable for linking Zapstrobes and other lights using a 2 conductor mono plug.

1/4-Inch Stereo Plug

I have never used a strobe that provides remote control or linking via 1/4-inch stereo plugs, but I have read that they exist.

Since the sockets for 1/4-inch stereo and 1/4-inch mono look the same from the outside, make sure that you read the instructions for your strobe before plugging anything into the socket!



1/4-inch stereo plug



This is cheaplights.com part number 137-STR-EXT33 \$4.99
[August 2006]

33 foot cable for linking strobes. Use with Zapstrobes, STR-3, STR-750 as well as some intelligent lights using the 1/4 inch stereo plug.

XLR Plug



3-pin XLR: plug on the left, inline socket on the right,
Jefferson in the middle