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IKAN PRODUCTS

# Light Deck

## User Manual

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Professional DMX Controller for iPad  
ArtNet & sACN (E1.31) Support

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# 1. Introduction

Light Deck is a professional DMX lighting controller for iPad. It is designed for podcast studios, broadcast studios, and corporate spaces that need consistent, repeatable lighting without a dedicated lighting technician on staff.

Light Deck communicates with your fixtures over your local network using industry-standard protocols: ArtNet and sACN (E1.31). Any lighting node, dimmer, or fixture that supports these protocols can be controlled from your iPad.

## How It Works

The core idea is simple: set up your lighting rig once, then hand the iPad to anyone on your crew. No training required for day-to-day use.

- Patch your fixtures and assign them to DMX channels
- Build lighting looks as presets (Interview, B-Roll, Break, etc.)
- Hand the iPad to your producer, host, or intern
- They tap one button to change the look

## Demo vs. Full Version

Light Deck is free to download. The free version gives you a 4-channel demo so you can explore the app before purchasing.

Free Demo: Up to 4 DMX channels, all core tabs available  
Full Version: All 512 DMX channels, Lyra Manager, and auto-sync  
Upgrade: One-time purchase. No subscription, no renewal.

## 2. Getting Started

### Requirements

- iPad running iPadOS
- A DMX lighting node or wireless receiver that supports ArtNet or sACN, connected to your network
- Your iPad and lighting node on the same local network (Wi-Fi or Ethernet via adapter)
- DMX fixtures connected to your node

Using Ikan Lyra PoE fixtures? No additional DMX node is needed.  
Lyra lights support ArtNet and sACN natively over a standard network switch.

### First Launch

When you first open Light Deck, the app opens to Channel Control. All channels are available immediately with no login or internet connection required.

Before building presets, complete these two setup steps:

- Settings: configure your network protocol (ArtNet or sACN) and target universe
- Fixture Patch: assign your fixtures to DMX channels

Once done, your faders in Channel Control will display fixture names instead of raw channel numbers, and you are ready to build presets.

### Network Setup Overview

Make sure your iPad is on the same network as your DMX node. Light Deck auto-detects your network interface, or you can lock to a specific IP in Settings > Network.

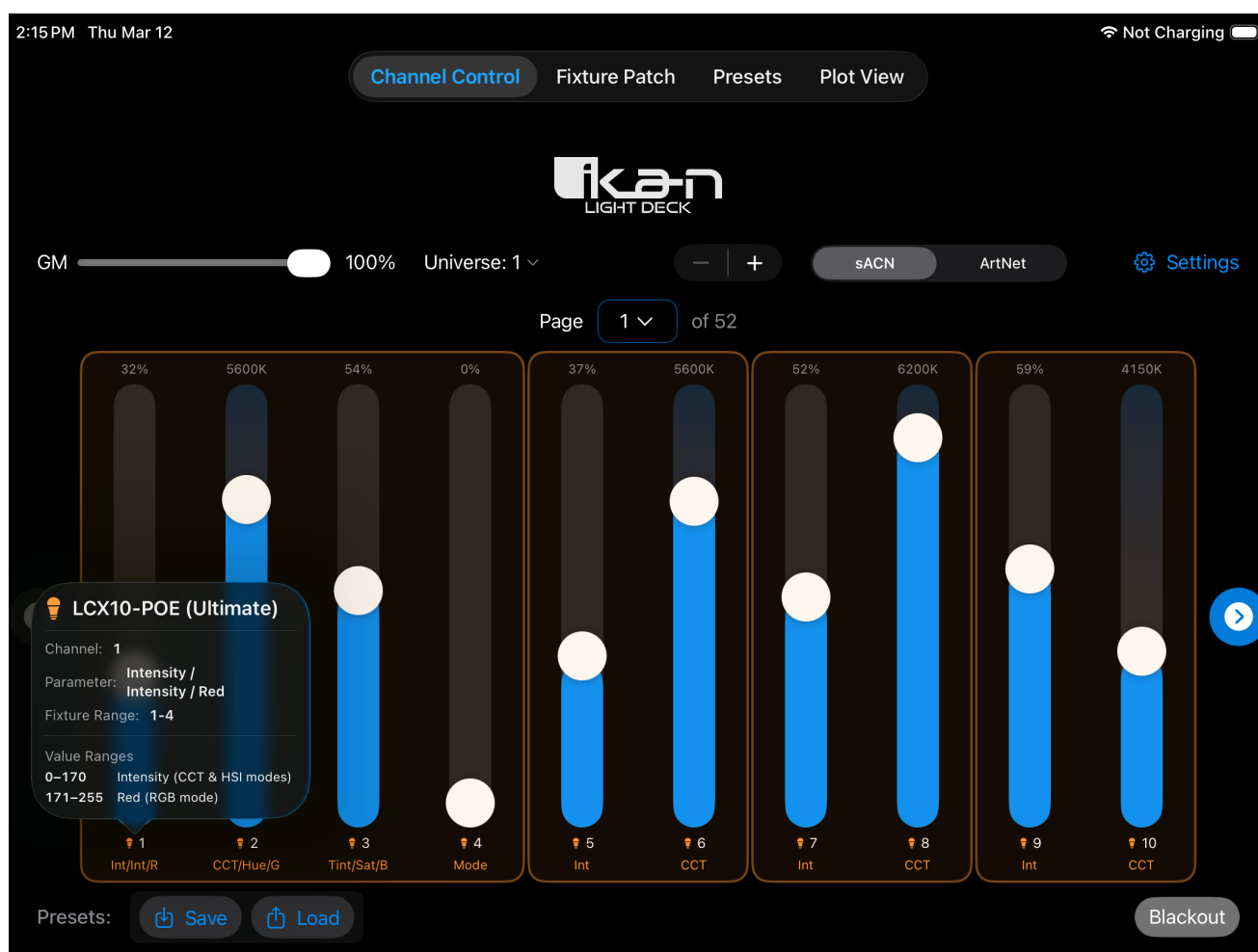
ArtNet: Uses UDP port 6454. Universe range 0–511. Common on wired setups.  
sACN: E1.31 standard. Universe range 1–512. Widely used in broadcast.

## 3. Features

Light Deck is organized around five tabs. Each one has a specific job, from basic fader control to full stage plotting and Lyra device monitoring.

### Channel Control

Channel Control is your primary mixing surface. Every DMX channel is a vertical fader. When fixtures are patched, faders display the fixture name and channel function instead of a raw channel number.



Channel Control — vertical faders with patched fixture names and CCT gradient indicators

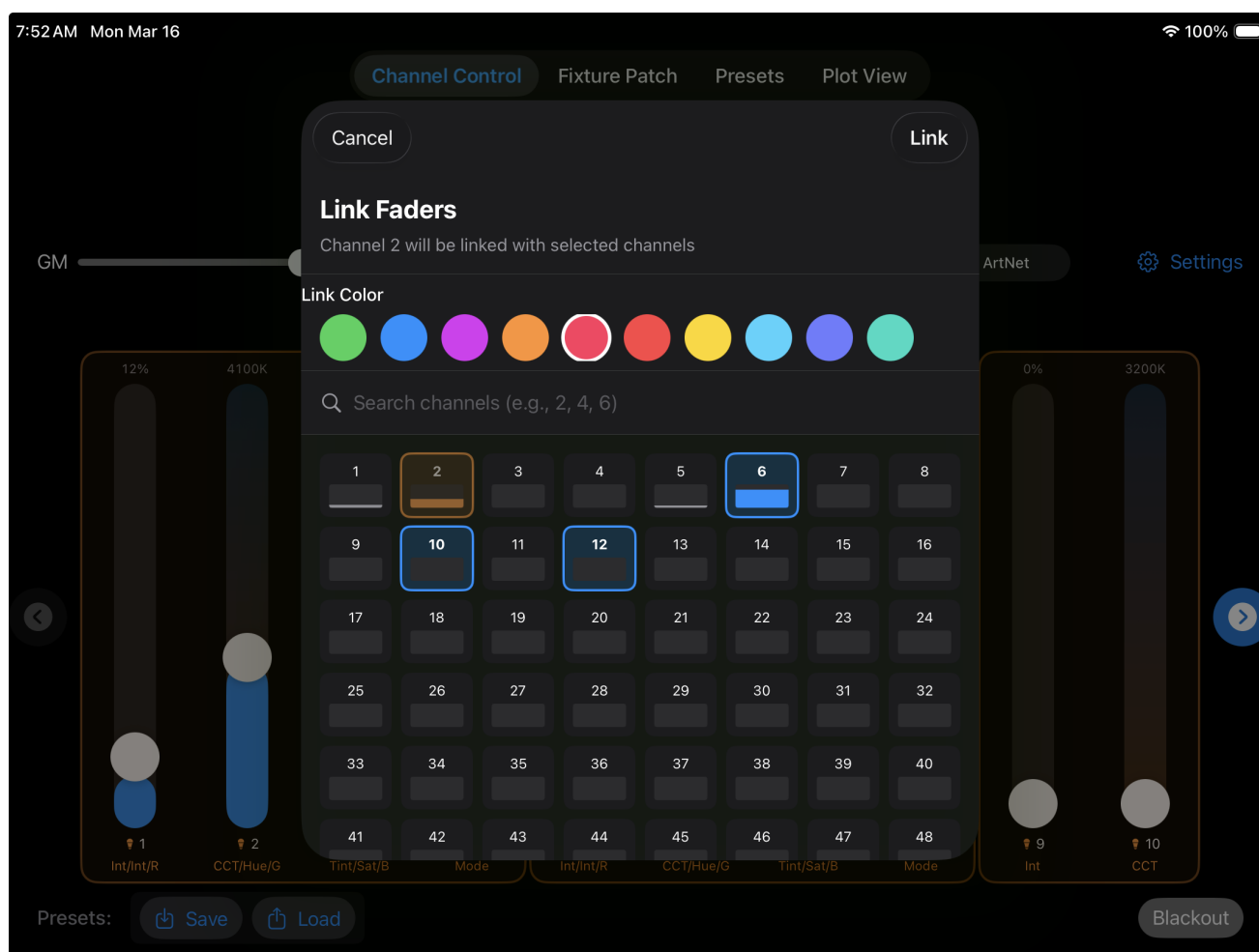
### Faders

- Drag any fader up or down to set the DMX value for that channel
- Tap a fader to open a quick-set popover for entering an exact value

- Values display as raw DMX (0–255) or percentage — toggle in Settings > General
- CCT channels show a warm-to-cool gradient so you can see color temperature at a glance
- Up to 512 individually addressable channels, across multiple universes

## Fader Links

Fader Links let you tie two faders together so they always move in sync. For example, if Channel 2 and Channel 4 are both CCT channels for two different lights, linking them means adjusting one automatically adjusts the other — keeping your color temperature matched without touching both faders. Links are created in the Fixture Patch tab.



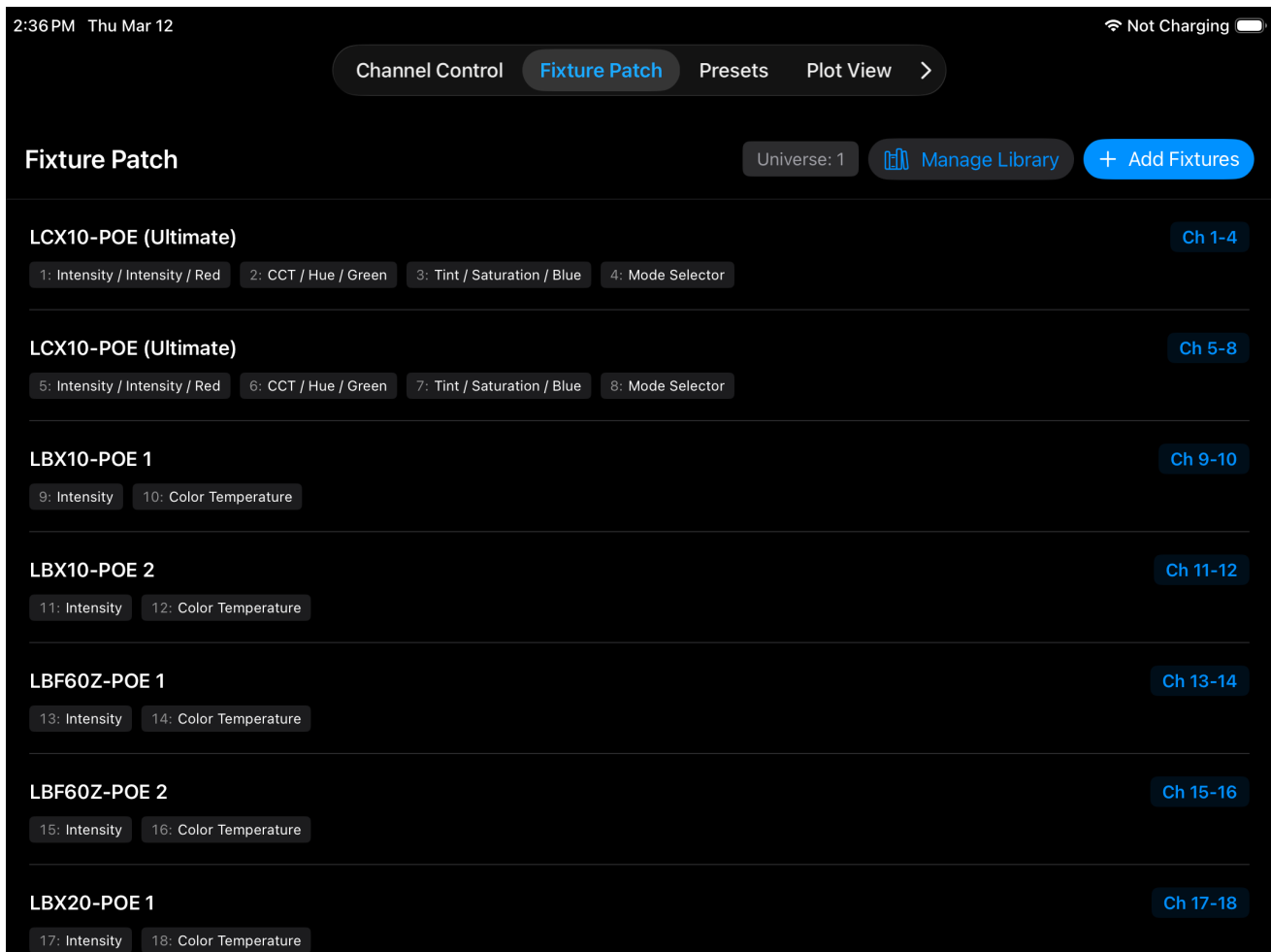
*Fader Links — link two channels together for synchronized control*

## Multi-Universe Support

If your rig exceeds 512 channels, additional universes are accessible via the page controls in Channel Control. Each universe can target a different ArtNet or sACN universe number.

## Fixture Patch

Fixture Patch is where you assign physical fixtures to DMX channels. You do this once during studio setup and Light Deck remembers everything automatically.



*Fixture Patch — assign fixtures to channels with automatic labeling*

### Patching a Fixture

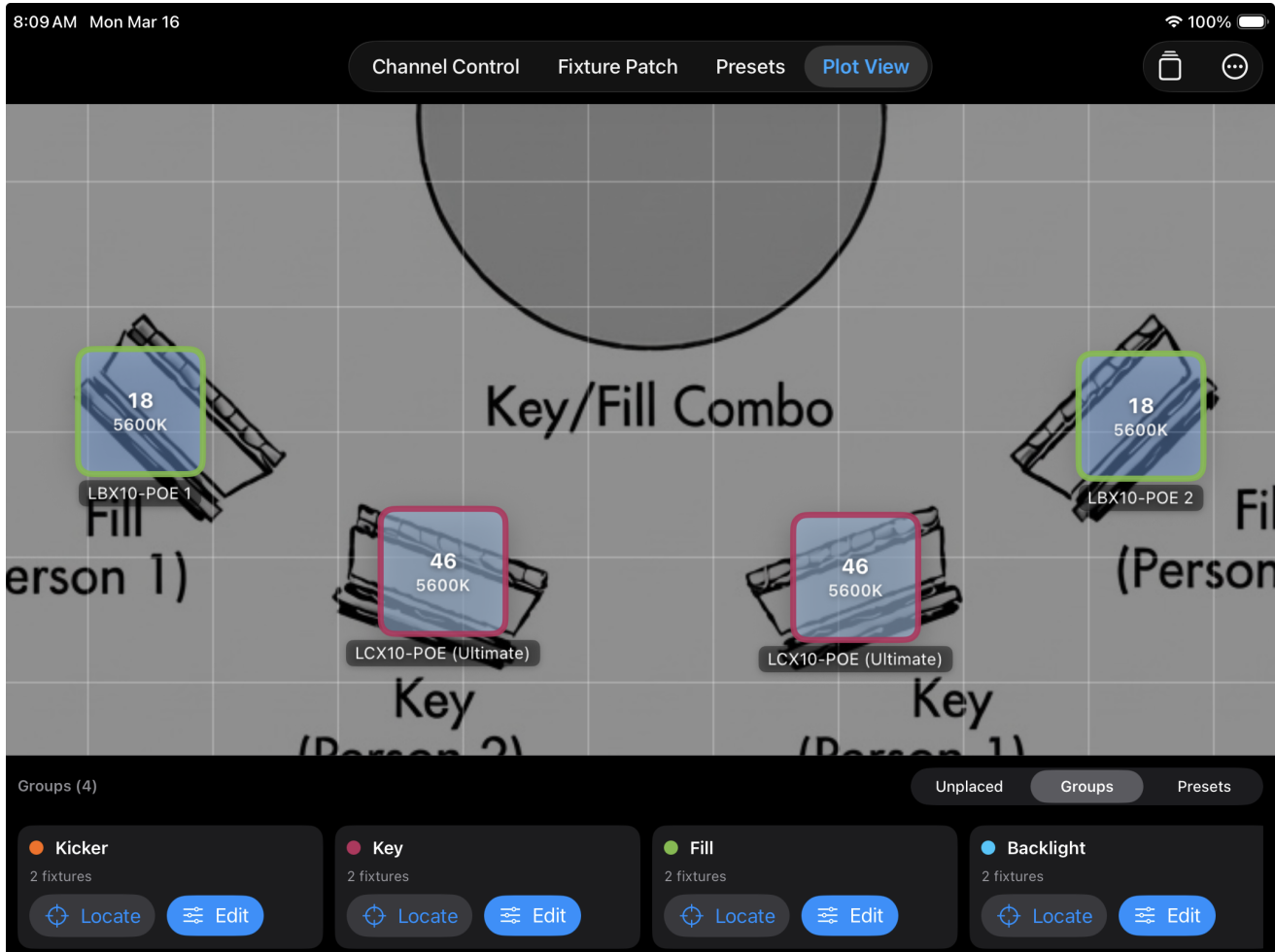
- Tap + and select your fixture from the library
- Assign a start address (the first DMX channel the fixture occupies)
- Light Deck automatically maps all channels based on the fixture's mode definition

### Smart Channel Names

Once patched, all channels are labeled automatically in Channel Control: Intensity, CCT, Red, Green, Blue, and so on. Your team always knows what each fader does without counting channels or consulting a spec sheet.

### Visual Channel Grouping

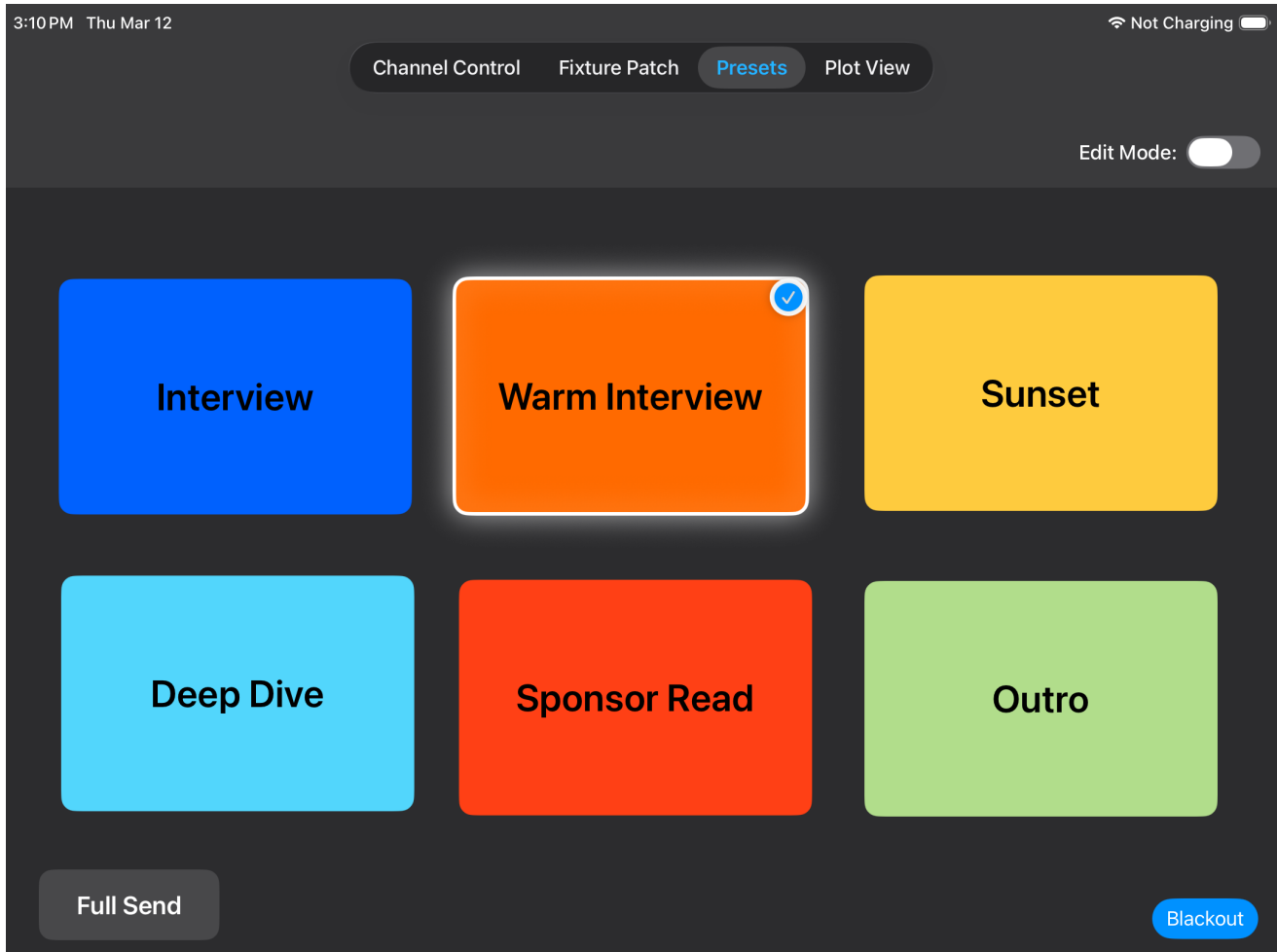
For multi-channel fixtures (e.g., an RGBW fixture using 4 channels), Light Deck groups those channels together with a visual highlight so it is immediately clear which faders belong to the same fixture.



Visual Channel Grouping — multi-channel fixtures are bracketed together in Channel Control

## Presets

Presets are the main feature your crew will use every day. A preset is a snapshot of the entire DMX state saved to a named button. Recalling it restores all those values instantly.



*Presets — a customizable button board for one-tap lighting recall*

### Creating a Preset

- Set your faders in Channel Control to the desired levels
- Switch to the Presets tab and tap the + button
- Name the preset (e.g., "Interview", "B-Roll", "Break") and save

### Customizing Your Button Board

- Drag buttons to any position on the canvas
- Assign a custom background color to each button
- Upload a background image for quick visual identification

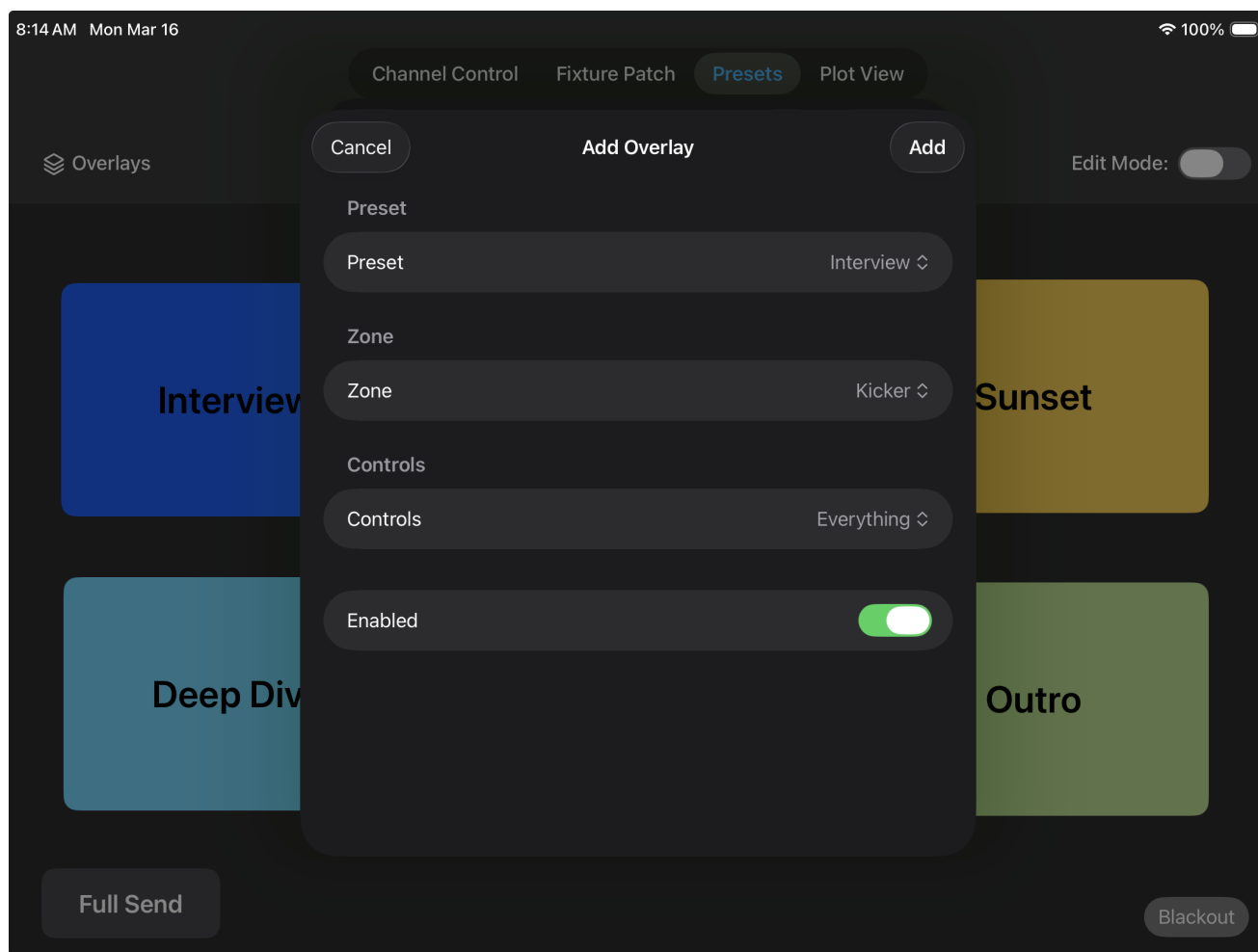
- Adjust text alignment to keep labels readable
- Rename or delete presets at any time without affecting others

## Preset Overlays

Preset Overlays let you layer multiple presets on top of each other, each controlling a different aspect of your lighting. Instead of a preset replacing the full DMX state, an overlay only affects the specific control types or zones it was saved with — leaving everything else untouched.

A common use case: you have a base preset for "Interview" that sets your intensity levels. You then create a CCT overlay saved with only the color temperature channels. Applying the overlay changes the warmth of your lights without disturbing the intensity faders you already have set. You can stack overlays freely — for example, a zone-specific intensity overlay on top of a full-rig CCT overlay — to build complex looks from simple building blocks.

Preset Overlays are enabled in Settings > Advanced and work in conjunction with Plot View zones.

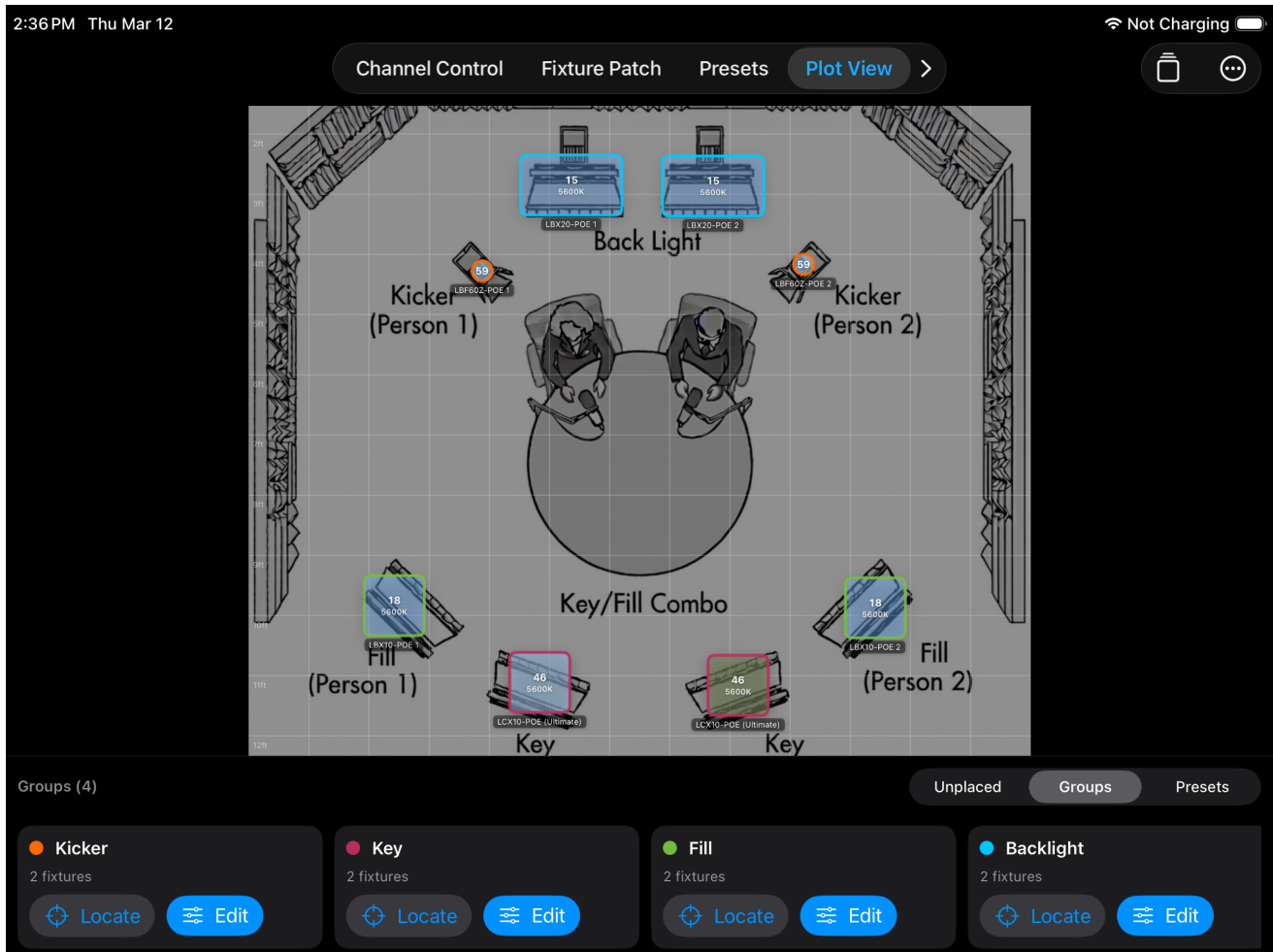


*Preset Overlays — layer partial presets by zone and control type*

## Plot View (Advanced Feature)

Plot View is for studios where thinking in zones is more useful than raw channel numbers. Place fixtures on a visual stage map, group them into named zones, and control entire areas with a single master slider.

Plot View must be enabled in Settings > Advanced before it appears in the main navigation.



*Plot View — visual stage layout with named fixture groups and zone-based control*

### Setting Up Your Plot

- Drag fixtures from the fixture list onto the stage canvas
- Name each position to match your physical layout (Key Left, Back Light, Fill, etc.)
- Assign fixtures to named groups (Key Lights, Background, etc.)
- Each group gets a color code for quick visual reference

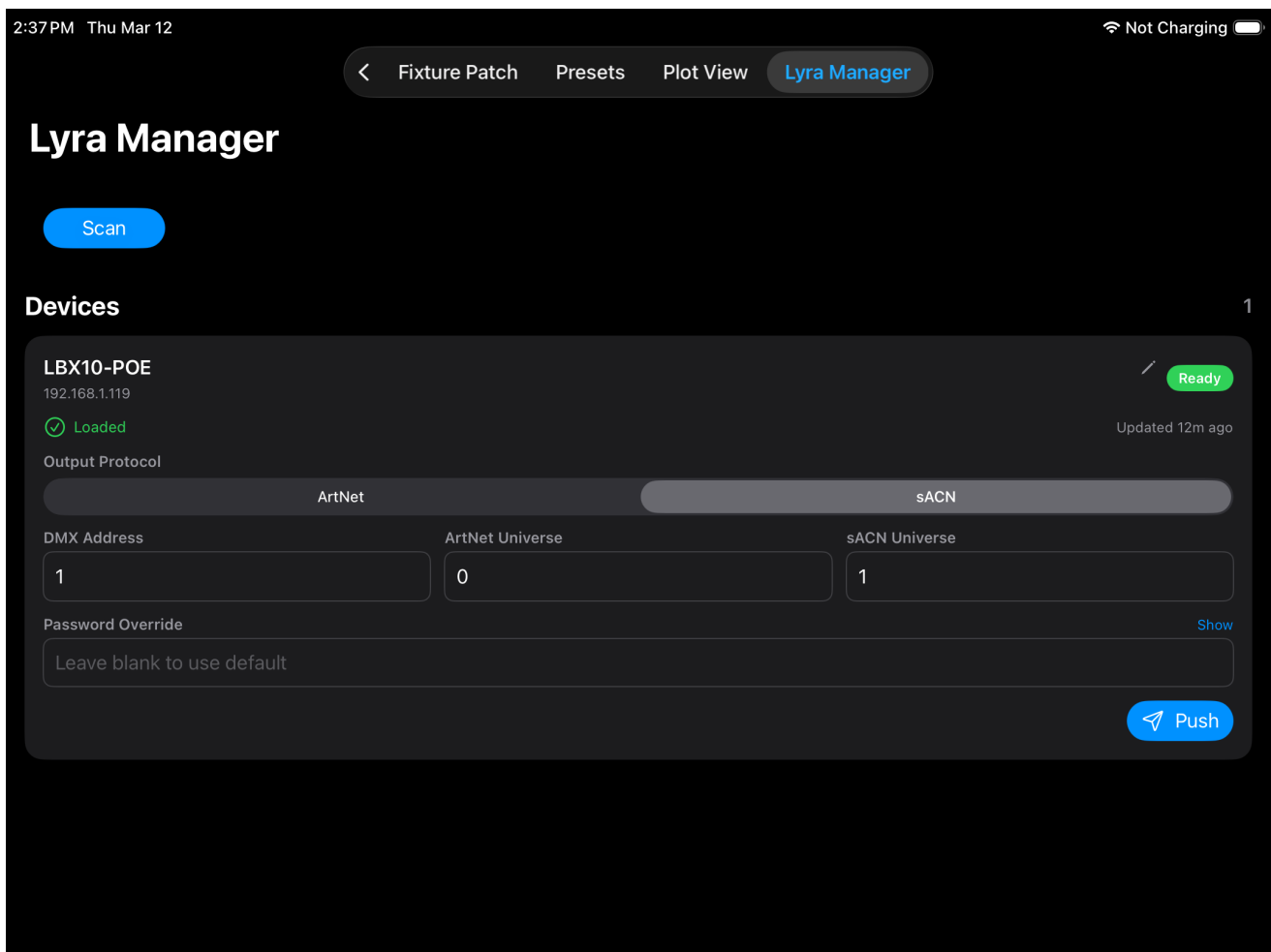
## Zone Controls

- Intensity master: scales overall brightness for all fixtures in the group
- Per-fixture multipliers: fine-tune individual fixtures within a group
- CCT master (Kelvin): sets a color temperature target for the whole group
- Per-fixture CCT offsets: compensate for fixture-to-fixture variance
- Color controls: reflect true current values of your fixtures

## Lyra Manager (Advanced Feature)

Lyra Manager is for Ikan Lyra PoE (Power over Ethernet) fixtures. It gives you a live view of every Lyra device on your network, monitors their configuration, and alerts you if a device has drifted from its expected settings.

Lyra Manager must be enabled in Settings > Advanced before it appears in the main navigation.



*Lyra Manager — live monitoring and one-tap sync for Ikan Lyra PoE fixtures*

### Device Discovery

Light Deck automatically scans your network for Lyra devices when you open the tab. Tap Scan to refresh. Each device shows its IP address, DMX address, current protocol, and sync status.

### Drift Detection & Syncing

- Green status: device matches expected configuration
- Warning status: device configuration has drifted from expected values
- Tap Sync on any device to push the correct configuration back to it
- Enable Auto-Sync to have Light Deck correct drift automatically
- Auto-Sync also fires when you change the protocol or universe in Settings

## 4. Fixture Library

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The Fixture Library stores fixture definitions. Light Deck uses them to label faders in Channel Control and build zone controls in Plot View.

### Ikan Lights Built In

Ikan Lyra series and other Ikan fixtures are included by default. They appear at the top of the fixture list in Fixture Patch with no import or setup required.

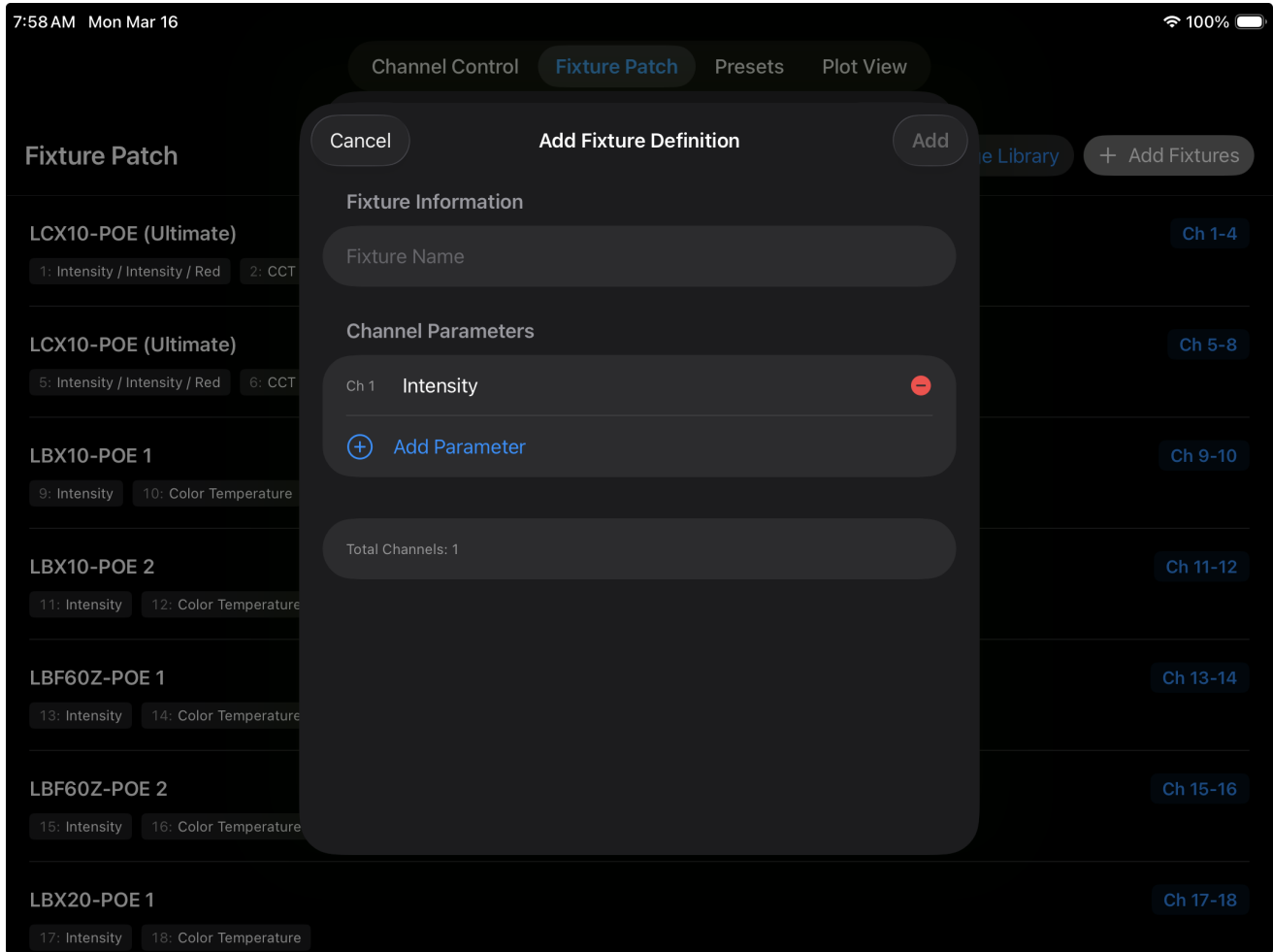
### GDTF Import

GDTF (General Device Type Format) is an industry-standard open format for fixture definitions. Most major manufacturers publish GDTF files at [gdtf-share.com](http://gdtf-share.com).

- Download the .gdtf file from the manufacturer or [gdtf-share.com](http://gdtf-share.com)
- Use the Files app on your iPad to import it into Light Deck
- The fixture appears in your library with accurate channel layouts and mode support

### Manual Fixture Entry

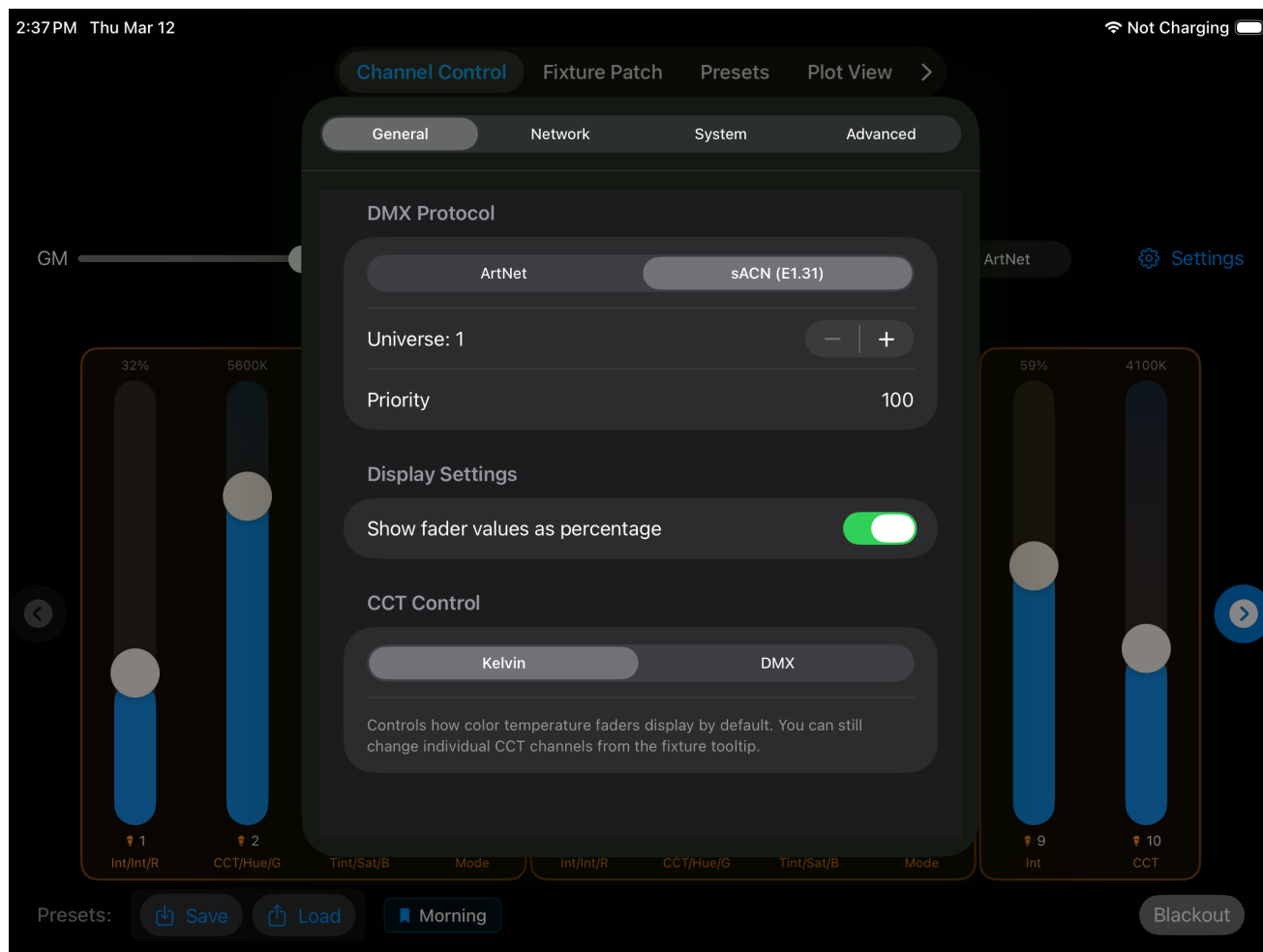
No GDTF file available? Build a fixture manually. Tap Add Manual Fixture, enter the channel count, and name each channel. Manual fixtures work identically to library fixtures once saved.



Manual Fixture Entry — define your own fixture channel by channel

## 5. Settings & System

Settings are split into four tabs: General, Network, System & Backup, and Advanced. Configure these during studio setup and you will rarely need to change them during normal operation.

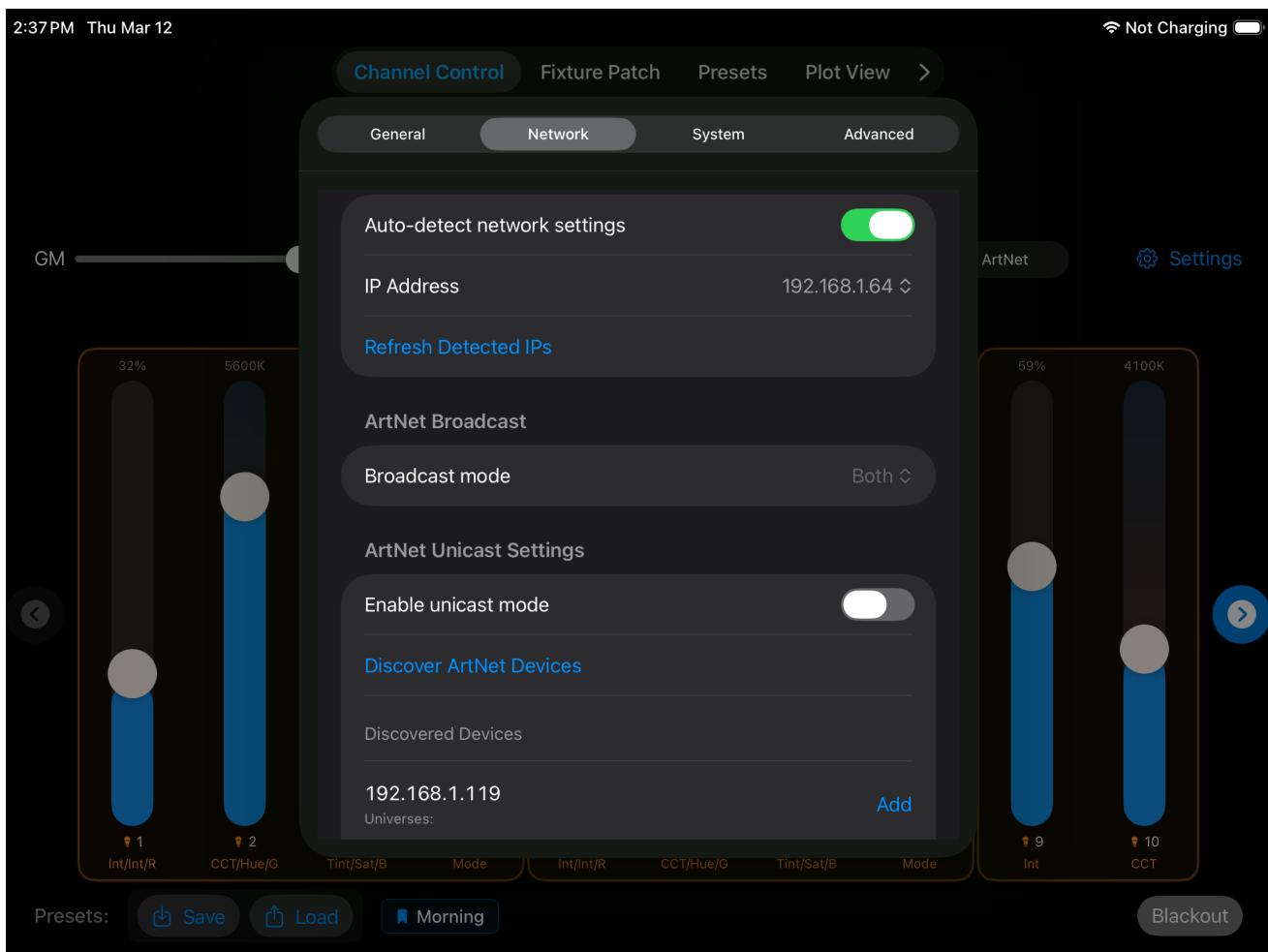


Settings — four tabs for protocol, network, backup, and advanced features

### General

- Protocol: Choose ArtNet or sACN (E1.31)
- Universe: Set the target DMX universe number
- Value Display: Toggle between raw DMX (0–255) and percentage
- CCT Display: Choose between Kelvin and DMX readout for CCT faders

### Network



Network Settings — ArtNet broadcast mode, sACN universe, and device discovery

- Network Interface: Auto-detect or lock to a specific IP address
- ArtNet Broadcast Mode: Broadcast, Directed, or Limited
- sACN Multicast: Enable for clean network segmentation
- Unicast Mode: Configure per-fixture IP targeting (both protocols)
- Device Discovery: One-tap scan to find ArtNet devices on the local network

## System & Backup

Export your entire setup as a JSON backup file: fixture definitions, channel patches, presets, DMX levels, and Lyra settings.

- Export: save a backup via the iPad Files app
- Restore: load a backup on the same device or a different iPad
- Reset Programming: clear all DMX levels without losing patches or settings

Export a backup any time you make significant changes to your studio setup.

## Advanced

Control which features appear in the main navigation. Hiding a feature does not delete any configuration; re-enabling it restores everything.

- Plot View Tab: Show or hide Plot View from the main navigation
- Preset Overlays: Enable or disable zone-based preset layering
- Lyra Manager Tab: Show or hide Lyra Manager from the main navigation

## 6. Upgrading to Full Version

The free demo limits you to 4 DMX channels. Upgrading unlocks everything permanently.

Full Version includes:

- All 512 DMX channels
- Lyra Manager tab
- Auto-sync for Lyra devices

One-time purchase. No subscription. No renewal.

To upgrade, tap the upgrade prompt in the app or find Light Deck on the App Store. The purchase is tied to your Apple ID and can be restored on any iPad signed into the same account at no additional cost.

# 7. Troubleshooting

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## Fixtures Are Not Responding

- Confirm your iPad and DMX node are on the same network
- Check the correct protocol (ArtNet or sACN) is selected in Settings > General
- Verify the universe number matches what is configured on your node
- Use Settings > Network > Device Discovery to locate your node
- If using unicast mode, confirm the target IP address is correct

## Channel Values Are Wrong or Shifted

- Check the start address of your patched fixtures in Fixture Patch
- Confirm the fixture mode in Light Deck matches the mode set on the physical fixture
- Verify there are no overlapping start addresses between fixtures

## Lyra Devices Not Appearing

- Confirm Lyra Manager is enabled in Settings > Advanced
- Tap Scan in the Lyra Manager tab to manually refresh
- Verify your Lyra devices are powered and on the same network as your iPad
- Try toggling the network interface in Settings > Network

## Preset Not Recalling Correctly

- Presets capture the full DMX state at the moment they are saved
- If your rig changed since the preset was created, delete and re-save it
- If Preset Overlays are enabled, check whether an overlay is overriding specific channels

## Contacting Support

For additional help, reach the Ikan support team through any of the following:

- Website: [ikancorp.com](http://ikancorp.com)
- Email: [support@ikancorp.com](mailto:support@ikancorp.com)
- Phone: (713) 673-8818