



ControlFX Designer Quickstart Guide

What is ControlFX Designer?

ControlFX™ Designer software from TIR Systems Ltd. (TIR®) is used with the TIR® ControlFX™ Director device to design and manage shows in installations of TIR® Destiny™ luminaires.

ControlFX Designer Features

ControlFX™ Designer product features are as follows:

- Pre-set Simple Effects shows are ready to run on installation
- Custom Effects shows provide complete creative control for lighting designers
- Shows can be created and scheduled in advance to run automatically at set times
- Runs on the Microsoft® Windows® XP operating system

Understanding the ControlFX Designer Software & ControlFX Director Device

A *show* is a sequence of lighting effects synchronized across multiple luminaires.

In the ControlFX™ Designer software, you will:

- Select, preview, schedule, and run Simple Effects shows
- Design, select, preview, schedule, and run Custom Effects shows

The ControlFX™ Director device connects the notebook computer running ControlFX™ Designer to the network of luminaires to upload shows to the luminaires. While shows are running the ControlFX™ Director device remains connected to the network of luminaires, sending out timing signals to keep the luminaires synchronized.



Always consult the relevant safety laws, practices or requirements that apply to you, and ensure you conduct yourself accordingly.

Safety Advisory

ControlFX™ Designer software gives users the ability to produce a number of different lighting effects including strobing. Strobe lighting effects can precipitate epileptic seizures in some people.

The following guidelines are an accepted standard for setting strobe lighting effects:

- Where contrast changes affect a small part of the field of view (for example, in discotheques or audience events), up to five flashes per second are acceptable
- Where high contrast changes fill the field of view, less than three flashes per second are advised
- When possible, warn audiences in advance when there is a risk of flickering light or high-contrast image changes

Setting Up ControlFX Designer & Installing the ControlFX Director Device

To define luminaire serial numbers and physical positions in the software:

- Refer to the detailed instructions in the *ControlFX Designer User's Guide* (Part Number 940-0149).

To install the ControlFX Director device:

- Refer to the instructions in the *ControlFX Director Quickstart Guide* (Part Number 940-0153).

To install the ControlFX Designer software:

1. Ensure your notebook computer meets the following minimum hardware requirements:
 - Microsoft® Windows® XP installed
 - Intel Pentium/Celeron family, AMD K6/Athlon/Duron family, or compatible processor recommended with a processor speed of 233 MHz or higher
 - At least 64 megabytes of RAM (128 megabytes or more recommended)

- 20 megabytes of available hard disk space
 - Super VGA (800 × 600) or higher resolution video adapter and monitor
 - A 10Base-T ethernet card
 - A CD-ROM drive
 - A mouse, trackball, or other pointing device
2. Insert the supplied CD-ROM into the CD-ROM drive of your notebook computer.

The installation program starts automatically.

Typical Workflow for Simple Effects Shows

ControlFX™ Designer includes 27 preset Simple Effects shows. These shows are ready to run.

A typical workflow for running a Simple Effects show is as follows:

1. Plug an ethernet cross-over cable into the network port on a notebook computer with ControlFX™ Designer installed.
2. Plug the other end of the ethernet cross-over cable into the port labeled ETHERNET on the ControlFX™ Director device.
3. Start the ControlFX™ Designer software.
4. From the **Edit Schedule** item in the Steps pane, click **Set Shows**.

The schedule window is displayed in the workspace.

5. Drag a Simple Effects show (marked with a yellow lock icon) from the Source pane to the schedule window.
6. Specify the date and time the show will run:
 - Click the show name in the schedule window
 - In the **Show Time** group, set the **Start Date** and **Start Time** for the show
 - In the **Show Time** group, set the **Duration** of the show
 - Choose a **Recurrence Pattern** for the show, and then, if applicable, specify a value in the **Recur every** box
7. Repeat steps 5 and 6 to add and schedule more Simple Effects shows.

8. Click **Upload Schedule** to upload the shows and schedule to the ControlFX™ Director device and luminaires.

The Simple Effects shows begin to run when the start date and time for any one of the scheduled shows is reached.

9. Quit ControlFX™ Designer and disconnect the notebook computer from the ControlFX™ Director device.

For detailed instructions and a list of Simple Effects shows, refer to the *ControlFX Designer User's Guide* (Part Number 940-0149).

Typical Workflow for Custom Effects Shows

A *sequence* is a series of transitions from one color to one or more different colors. You specify the hold time and fade time for the transitions between each color. Each sequence displays on one or more groups of luminaires.

To create a Custom Effects show:

1. Plug an ethernet cross-over cable into the network port on a notebook computer with ControlFX™ Designer installed.
2. Plug the other end of the ethernet cross-over cable into the port labeled ETHERNET on the ControlFX™ Director device.
3. Start the ControlFX™ Designer software.
4. Position the luminaires by performing the following steps:
 - Go to the Initial Setup in the Steps pane
 - Enter or import a list of luminaires by serial numbers
 - Drag and drop the luminaire icons onto the canvas
 - Arrange the luminaires in the desired geometric pattern
5. In the **Edit Sequence** step in the Steps pane, choose one or more existing sequences, or create one or more new sequences as follows:
 - Set the colors you want in your sequence, in the order of appearance

- Set the fade times, hold times, and types of transitions between the colors
 - Add a strobe effect to one or more transitions if desired
 - Preview the sequence in ControlFX™ Designer
6. In the **Edit Show** step in the Steps pane, create a new show containing your single sequences or multi sequences:
- Assign the luminaires to one or more groups
 - Set the display order for each luminaire in the groups
 - Drag single sequences or multi sequences onto the luminaires
 - Preview the show
 - Adjust fade times, hold times, and transition effects
7. Repeat steps 5 & 6 to create more Custom Effects shows, if desired.
8. In the **Edit Program** step in the Steps pane, specify when the show will run:
- Click **Set Shows**, and then drag the shows you want from the Source pane into the schedule window
 - Click the show name in the schedule window
 - In the **Show Time** group, set the **Start Date** and **Start Time** for the show
 - In the **Show Time** group, set the **Duration** of the show
 - Choose a **Recurrence Pattern** for the show, and then, if applicable, specify a value in the **Recur every** box
9. Click the **Upload Schedule** button to upload the shows and schedule to the ControlFX™ Director device and the luminaires.
- Shows begin to run when the start date and time for any one of the scheduled shows is reached.
10. Quit ControlFX™ Designer and disconnect the notebook computer from the ControlFX™ Director device.

For detailed instructions, refer to the *ControlFX Designer User's Guide* (Part Number 940-0149).

Troubleshooting ControlFX Designer

For any additional questions, refer to the list of symptoms and solutions in the Troubleshooting Checklist.

See Table 1.

Table 1: Troubleshooting Checklist

Symptom	Solution
One or more luminaires do not light in the expected order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Check the group settings for the luminaires ■ Check the display order settings for the luminaires ■ Check the positions and serial numbers for the luminaires in ControlFX™ Designer ■ Check the wiring on the network of luminaires
Shows end before the expected stop time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Check the schedule for the shows. If run times for active shows overlap, the currently running show ends when the start time of the overlapping show is reached
Show does not start at the scheduled time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ensure the ControlFX™ Director power is on as you are uploading the shows; after clicking Upload, the green ethernet light will blink ■ Check the scheduled time for accuracy
Colors change abruptly instead of fading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Change the transitions between colors to Fade instead of Switch
Fading between colors is too slow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Adjust the Fade and Hold times for the transitions ■ Consider changing the transitions between colors to Switch instead of Fade



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Request for Service

If you have any questions about your ControlFX™ Director device, report the problem to TIR Systems Ltd. technical support with the serial number and model number of the device. The serial number and model number are on a label attached to the bottom of the ControlFX™ Director device.

For technical support or any service related to TIR® products, use the following contact information:

- Telephone: (1) (604) 294-8477
- Toll-Free North America: (1) (866) 663-2036
- Fax: (1) (604) 294-3733
- E-mail: technical@tirsys.com

Service coverage at TIR® is structured as follows:

- Standard coverage hours are 5:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Pacific time (GMT -8 Standard time), Monday-Friday
- If you are directed to a voicemail box during integral coverage hours, TIR® will respond to your call within 90 minutes
- For service outside regular hours your call will be recorded by an answering service and forwarded to a TIR® representative and responded to the next business day