SOFTWARE & FIRMWARE UPDATE

PRG

Product: GroundControl™ Followspot System
Manufacturer: PRG
Subject: Software Update 2023.02
Bulletin No: RFS-009
Date: 27 February 2023

OVERVIEW

GroundControl Followspot System Software Update 2023.02

New software versions are available for the following GroundControl™ products:

+ GroundControl Followspot Controller Main Board (v4.15)

+ GC Truss Box (v1.06)

+ GC Best Boy LED (gc5.05)

Summary of Changes

GC Main Board v4.15 change log:

+ Adds support for:

    o PRG Best Boy LED

    o Martin MAC Ultra

    o Robe BMFL

    o Robe T1 Profile

    o Vari-Lite VL2600

    o Vari-Lite VL3600

+ Adds support for GC Universal Profile

+ Fixes zoom/iris direction bug. The zoom and iris direction and percentage read-outs on the display for all fixtures have been updated to match GC Best Boy

+ Improves camera control responsiveness for new cameras

Note: The change to the zoom/iris directions can affect operation for existing shows. Do not update existing shows to this version.

GC Truss Box v1.06 change log:

+ Fixes DMX output timing bug

GC Best Boy LED gc5.05 change log:

+ Initial release

Release Software and Firmware Version Summary

The current firmware/software version are show in the Information menu. The latest versions are as follows:

FIRMWARE	SOFTWARE
Truss Box:	**GroundControl:**
v1.06	**v4.15 02/09/23 17:24**
2005: 1/8/2020 11:07	GC Bad Boy:
2019: 10/18/2022 10:50	v1.06 10/07/19 16:24
Switch Board:	GC Best Boy:
v3.00 07/28/17 12:42	v1.02 10/15/20 14:48
4-Way Switch:	GC Longthrow:
v0.01 02/25/2016 10:08	v1.07 09/24/19 12:30
	GC Best Boy LED:
	gc5.05 01/27/23 15:30

Updating GroundControl Software

GroundControl software is updated sing the two access ports (Figure 1-2) available on the underside of the Control Arm:

+ **Port 1 (DMX)** – used to load firmware into the Control Arm's Switch Board
+ **Port 2 (Ethernet)** – used to load firmware into the Control Arm's Main Board, the GC Truss Box, and the GC luminaire (connected to the Truss Box).
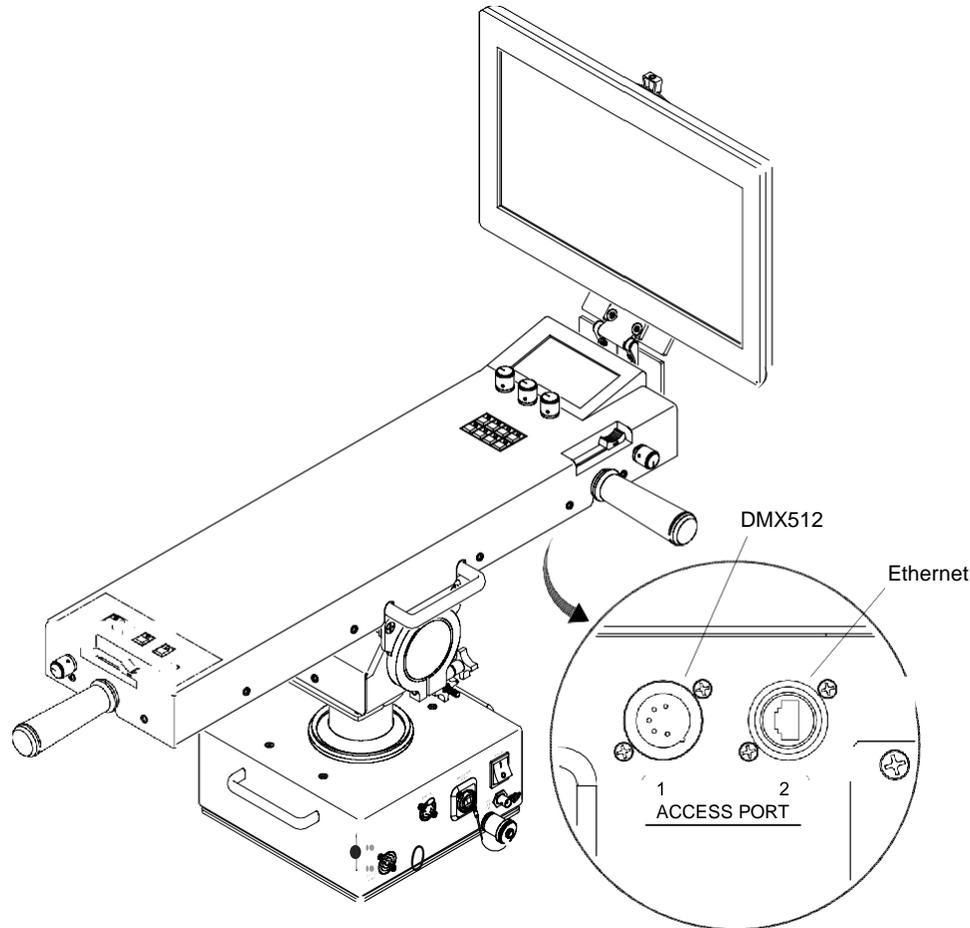
Figure 1-1: Access Ports

To update Main Board (GroundControl), Truss Box, 4Way Switch, or Luminaire:

Note: Updating is currently only supported via MacOS.

Step 1. Connect Truss Box and Luminaire to GC Controller as normal

Step 2. Connect Ethernet cable between computer and Control Arm (Controller) Access Port 2 (Figure 1-1).

Step 3. Open the GroundControl Software Package .dmg file

Step 4. Open the required .jar file from within the .dmg folder

Note: It might be required to download a new version of Java JDK. Follow the computer's prompt to download or navigate to prg.pub/JDK13. Once installed, the .jar file will be able to open.

Step 5. If computer has more than one Ethernet interface available, select appropriate network interface from drop-down menu. Ensure computer IP address is set within 10.66.x.x and subnet mask 255.255.0.0.

Step 6. If updating main board, disconnect fiber from GC controller

Step 7. Click Start Download button. Touchscreen display will change to bootloader screen and show load progress

Step 8. Wait for download to complete

Step 9. After download, the updated version can be verified in the Information menu

Note: It is highly suggested to perform a full system reset after any software update.

To update switch board:

Step 1. Connect Ethernet cable between computer and PRG Node device or S400 system

Step 2. Connect an XLR cable between a Supernode or S400 device and the Control Arm Access Port 1 (Figure 1-1)

Step 3. Open the GroundControl Software Package .dmg file

Step 4. Open required .jar file from within the .dmg folder

Step 5. If computer has more than one Ethernet interface available, select appropriate network interface from drop-down menu. Ensure computer IP address is set within 10.66.x.x and subnet mask 255.255.0.0

Step 6. Click Start Download button. Touchscreen display will change to bootloader screen and show load progress

Step 7. Wait for download to complete

Step 8. After download, the update version can be verified in the Information menu

Software Crossload

The Information menu provides a method for sending the current GC Main Board software to any connected Controllers. Controllers can be daisy-chained using the DMX512 ports located on the Control Arm interface panel.

Note: At the last Controller in the chain, install a male termination connector at the DMX OUT connector.
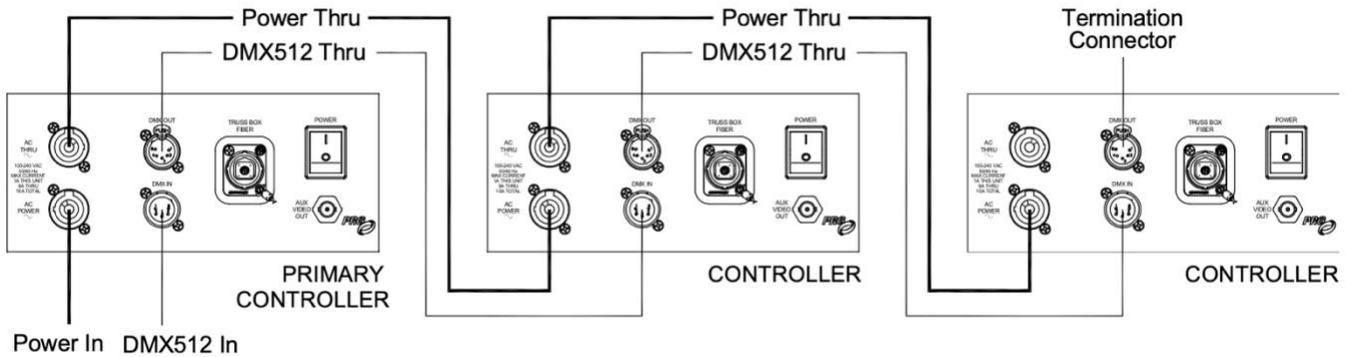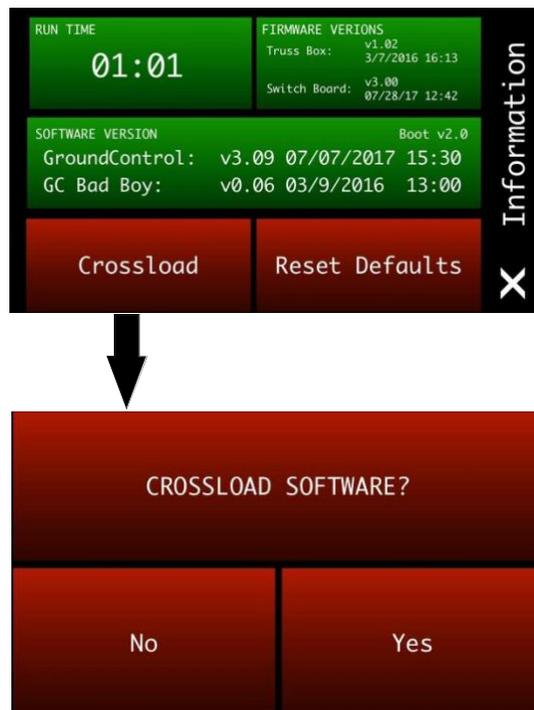

Figure 1-2: Example Daisy-Chain Configuration

To initiate the software crossload, press **Crossload Software** in the Information menu. At confirmation screen, press "Yes". If a connected Controller already has that software version, it will do nothing. If it does not have the same version, it will go into the boot screen and start updating.

Note: There should be no active control data during the update process.