

ASTERA GUIDE

Using Astera Products with the Astera App

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Frost | Productions

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1. Link Fixtures to the Astera Box for App Control & Configuration


a. Put the Fixtures in Blue Mode

Power on the fixtures

- Press the  power button on each fixture
- Use the  **Power On** button on the IR Remote to grab several at once



Astera ARC1
IR Remote


Press and hold the  power button on each fixture for 3 seconds until it starts flashing blue – this is referred to as **Blue Mode**.

- AX1 tubes and AX3 pucks with go thru multiple phases:
 - Initial press: battery level (green, yellow, or red)
 - After 1s: turns off
 - After 3s: enter **Blue Mode** – RELEASE AT THIS POINT
 - After 5s: reset fixture
- FP1 Titan Tubes, AX5s, and AX10s (fixtures with screens) will only show blue mode after 3 seconds (no power cycle) and display **Pair Now** on the screen.

b. Connect the Astera App v10+ to the Astera Box in the Connection Dialogue

Power on the tablet by holding the power button near the top right corner

- Some tablets have it on the top, some have it on the side 1-2” down from the top.

Power on the AsteraBox by holding the  **Power button** until the lights turn on - the **App** light should start flashing blue, and if you press the power button it displays the battery level on the battery indicator

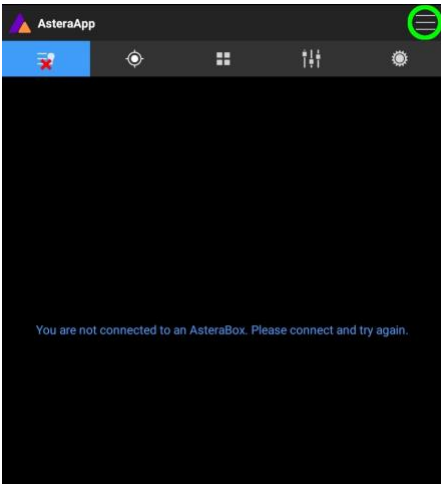
On the Tablet, open the **Astera App v10** or newer - some tablets also have Astera App v9, which does not say Astera in the logo



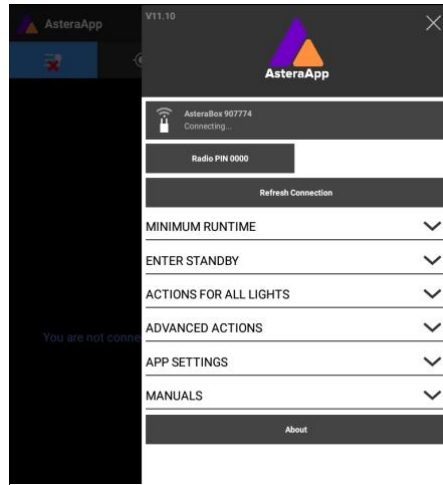
Astera App Logo v9 (left) and v10+ (right)



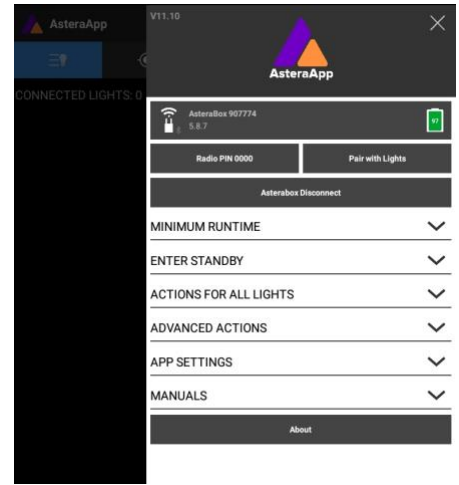
Astera ART7 AsteraBox



Open **Connection Dialogue** from any screen



Astera App connecting to Astera Box



Astera App connected to Astera Box

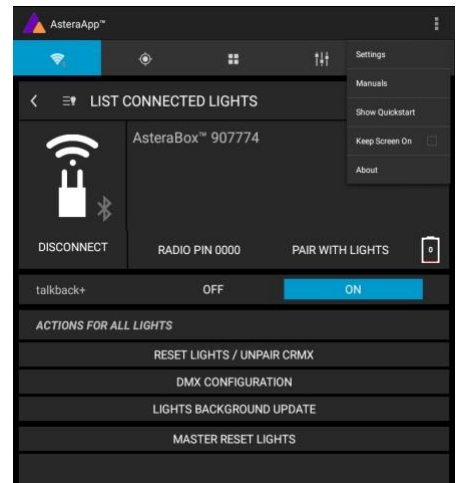
Open the  **Connection Dialogue** from the upper right of any main screen

The AsteraBox should connect by default - if it doesn't tap on the **AsteraBox #####**

If the AsteraBox is not listed:

- Tap **Refresh Connection**
- Tap **OK** to confirm the pop-up
- App will list all Boxes in range – tap the Box to pair with it
- Enter the 6-digit **Bluetooth pairing PIN** from the back of the Box
 - If the 6-digit PIN doesn't work, try dropping the first "00" from the PIN

If the AsteraApp looks like the v9 to the right (note the 3 dots in the upper right instead of the 3 lines), close the app and use the newest version – it may not be on the home screen, but hidden in the list of all apps. App version is shown in the upper left corner of the **Connection Dialogue**.



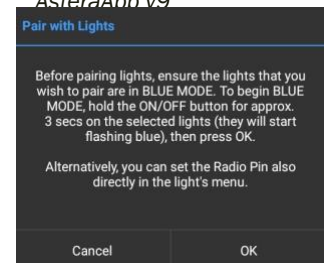
AsteraApp v9

c. Pair with Lights from the Astera App
In the **Connection Dialogue**, tap **Pair with Lights**

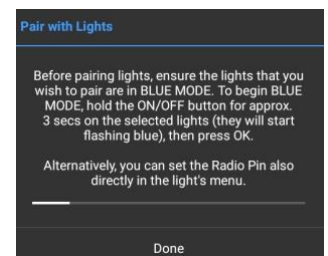
The App will remind you to put lights in **Blue Mode** - tap **OK**

The App will start pairing with lights

If you are doing multiple cases of fixtures, it's not uncommon to not grab all the fixtures in one go - execute the Pair with Lights again



Pair with Lights Confirmation





Pair with Lights Progress

d. Select All Fixtures with the Magic Wand

Open the  **Fixture List** from the left of the main screen

Select multiple fixtures by tapping on the fixture icon at the left, tapping the middle will configure 1 fixture

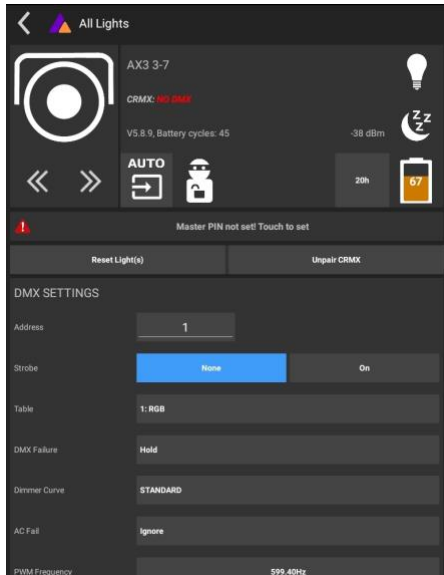
- Pressing and holding will select all fixtures
- This can be combined with the  **Filter** that allows filtering of fixtures by fixture type, App group, and fixture input as well as sorting by several options including signal strength, DMX address, and battery level.

Tap the  **Magic Wand** in the upper right to open the:

e. Individual Fixture Configuration









Fixture List with Multiple Fixtures Selected



Individual Fixture Configuration

The **Individual Fixture Configuration** window gives you access to:

-  Highlight (toggle)
-  Sleep/Wake (toggle)
-  Battery Life
-  Minimum Runtime
-  Input
-  Theft Alarm
- **Reset Light(s) and Unpair CRMX**
 - **Unpair CRMX** changes to **CRMX not paired** depending on status
- **DMX Settings** as detailed in 2.c

- If settings vary across the selection, "--" is displayed

f. Reset Lights

Tap on the **Reset Lights** and wait for it to push the data to all the selected fixtures.

- If it pops up and says some fixtures could not be reached, tap **Retry** until all fixtures are reset.
- All lights should be red after the reset.
- If it does not show a progress bar after tapping **Reset Lights**, tap the **On** next to the strobe as this generally helps it send data to the fixtures. Once that progress bar goes, try **Reset Lights** again (even if the Strobe On says some fixtures could not be reached).

g. Set Minimum Runtime to 20 Hours

Set  **Minimum Runtime** to 20h (20-hour mode)

- Follows the same process as **Reset Lights**

h. Set Fixture Input

Set the  **Input** to **CRMX** for DMX control or **App** for App and IR remote control

- Follows the same process as **Reset Lights**
- More info: 4.c.Control Sources Based on Input Selection

2. Configure Fixtures for DMX control from the Astera App

Complete section 1.Link Fixtures to the Astera Box for App Control & Configuration

a. Unpair CRMX

From the *Individual Fixture Configuration*, with **Input** set to **CRMX**, tap **Unpair CRMX**

- Follows the same process as **Reset Lights**
- If it is greyed out, see 3.a.Reset Lights from the Astera App Connection Dialogue

b. Link to DMX transmitter

On the W-DMX transmitter, press the red button for 1 second.

- Pressing for 3 seconds will dump the connection to all paired fixtures
- It may take multiple rounds to grab all the fixtures

c. Set DMX Settings

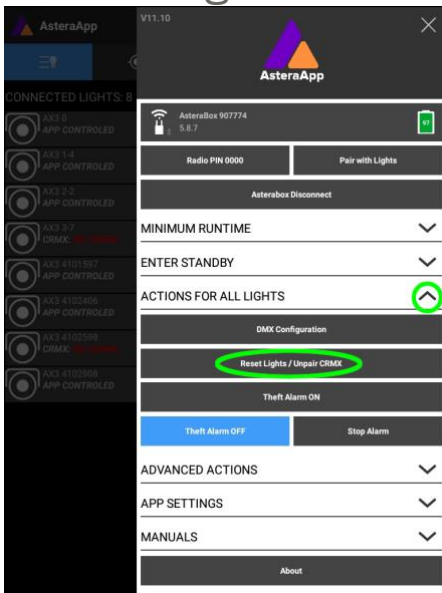
From the  **Fixture List**, select fixtures of one fixture type

Open the *Individual Fixture Configuration*, configure the DMX settings:

- **DMX Address** - set in the text box
- **Strobe** - select whether to activate the strobe channel, generally:
 - **On** for PARs and Pucks
 - **None** for Tubes
- **Table** (DMX profile) – generally:
 - AX1/FP1 1 Pixel – **1:RGB**
 - AX1/FP1 4/8/16 Pixels - **18:RGB RGB**
 - AX3 - **2:RGBW**
 - AX5/AX10 - **6:DIM RGBAW**
- **DMX Failure** set to **Hold** to keep settings if DMX input is lost
- **Dimmer Curve** set to **STANDARD**
- **AC Failure** set to **Ignore** unless powering fixtures

For individual addressing, see 3.c.DMX Configuration Menu.

3. Configuration from Connection Dialogue



Open **Reset Lights / Unpair CRMX**

a. Reset Lights from the Astera App Connection Dialogue
Open **Connection Dialogue**, expand **ACTIONS FOR ALL LIGHTS**

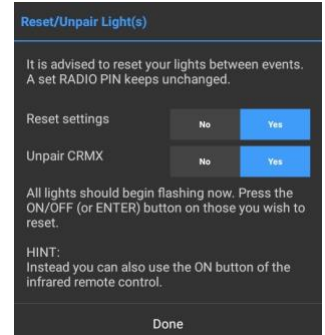
Tap **Reset Lights / Unpair CRMX**

- When you open this menu, all lights will start flashing white, which means they are being offered configuration from the App
- Fixtures with screens will also display **Accept Config?**

Set **Reset settings** to **Yes**

Set **Unpair CRMX** to **Yes**


- If you have already set settings but only need to unpair CRMX, you can set **Reset settings** to **No** and only unpair CRMX on individual fixtures that need it



Reset Lights / Unpair CRMX

i. Tap Each Fixture

This is how you tell each fixture to take the configuration being offered by the Astera App:

- For AX1 Pixel Tubes and AX3 Pucks, tap the  power button
- For FP1 Titan Tubes, AX5s, and AX10s (fixtures with screens), press the **Enter** button
- For ALL fixture types, press the Power On button from the IR remote
 - As each fixture takes the configuration, it will double-flash white then stop flashing
 - Once reset, all fixtures should be RED
 - If you are adding a second round of fixtures, you can send the Reset/Unpair, and only tap the new round of fixtures to take the reset/unpair/configuration
 - If using the remote for several fixtures, close the cases of fixtures that do not need the reset/unpair so they don't accidentally get hit by the IR.
 - Reset/Unpair can also be done with the **Error! Reference source not found.**

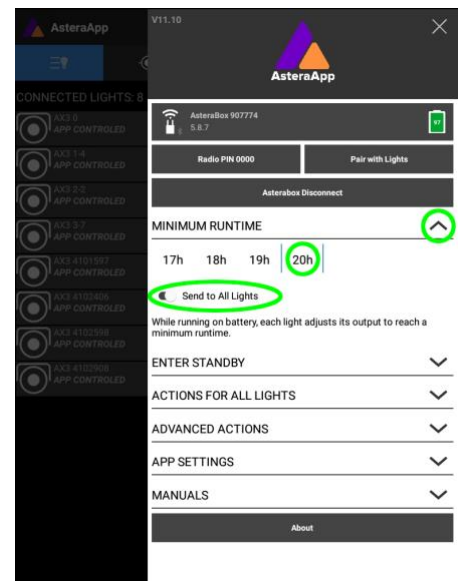
b. Minimum Runtime from the Connection Dialogue

In the **Connection Dialogue**, expand **MINIMUM RUNTIME**
Make sure **Send to All Lights** is active

Run the dial up to **20h**

- If it is on **20h**, toggle it to **19h** and back to **20h**
- Runtime can also be set with the **Error! Reference source not found.** and *Individual Fixture Configuration*, which is more reliable

Individual Fixture Configuration



Set **Minimum Runtime**

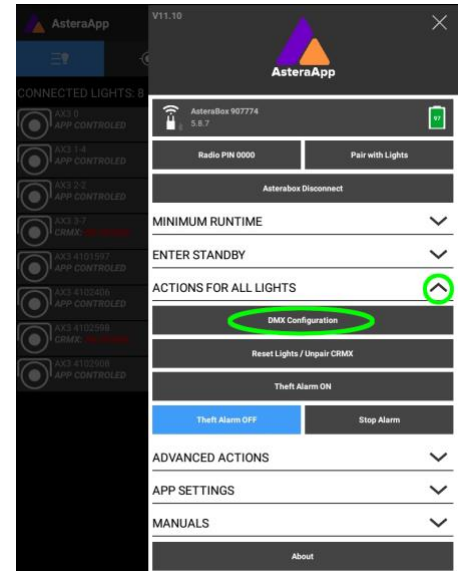
c. DMX Configuration Menu from Connection Dialogue
 In the *Connection Dialogue*, expand **ACTIONS FOR ALL LIGHTS**.

Tap **DMX Configuration**.

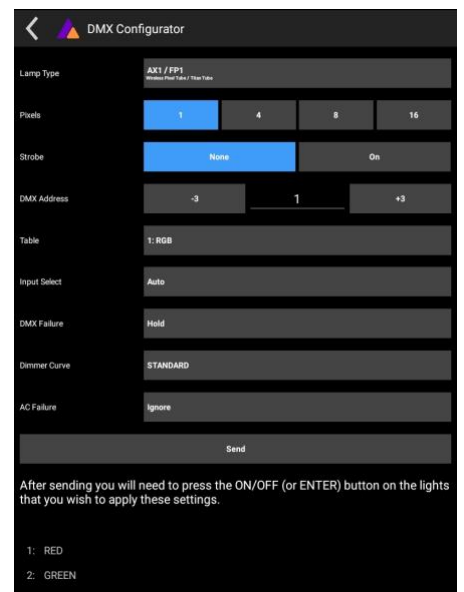
Configure the fixtures:

- **Lamp Type** (fixture type)
 - **AX1/FP1** for Tubes
 - **AX10/AX7/AX5/AX3** for PARs and Pucks
- **Pixels** (for **AX1/FP1** Tubes only)– sections of control across the tube.
- **Strobe** - select whether to activate the strobe channel.
 - **On** for PARs and Pucks
 - **None** for Tubes
- **DMX address** - set in the text box in the middle of the line
- **Table** (DMX profile) – several options, generally:
 - AX1/FP1 1 Pixel – **1:RGB**
 - AX1/FP1 4/8/16 Pixels – **18:RGB RGB**
 - AX3 – **2:RGBW**
 - AX5/AX10 – **6:DIM RGBAW**
- **Input Select**
 - **Auto** for DMX control - if the light latches to another source, restart the fixture to allow DMX control
 - **CRMX Wireless DMX** allows WDMX control, but IR remote will not turn fixtures off at the end of the night.
 - More info: 4.c.Control Sources Based on Input Selection
- **DMX Failure** set to **Hold**
- **Dimmer Curve** set to **STANDARD**
- **AC Failure** set to **Ignore**

You can confirm the exact DMX address assignments below the **Send** button



Open **DMX Configuration**



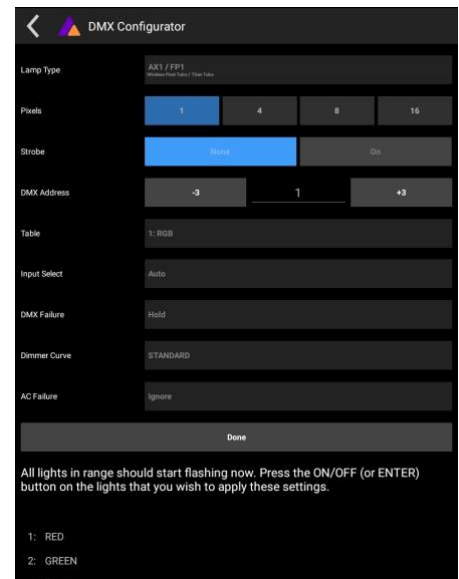
DMX Configuration

Press **Send**

- Some of the menu will be greyed out
- Fixtures will start flashing white, as with the Reset above
- As above, Tap Each Fixture to take the configuration
 - You can adjust settings for different groups or types of fixtures and only tap the fixtures you want to take those settings

Once all lights have taken the settings, press **Done**

- **Send** and **Done** are the same button, changing function depending on state
- There are simple directions below this button for setting and sending configuration



DMX Configuration - Sending Settings

d. Individual Addressing

Execute all steps up to this point

Test the fixtures using the first address from the console

Once all fixtures are working, place the fixtures

Then, in the *DMX Configuration Menu from Connection Dialogue* set to the first **DMX Address**, press **Send**

Tap the first fixture (See Tap Each Fixture)

Tap the **+X** to the right of the DMX address

- Automatically calculated from the Pixel, Table, and Strobe settings

Tap the next fixture

Repeat the previous 2 steps for all fixtures

- If multiple fixtures need the same address, skip pressing **+X** between fixtures

4. Troubleshooting & Useful Shit

a. Lights Won't Pair with App

If some lights won't pair with the app when they are in blue mode, try power cycling the fixtures. If they still won't pair, try doing a fixture reset.

- AX1 tubes and AX3 pucks press and hold the power button:
 - Initial press: battery level (green, yellow, or red)
 - After 1s: turns off
 - After 3s: enter **Blue Mode**
 - After 5s: reset fixture – fixture will go dark and turn back on after resetting
- FP1 Titan Tubes, AX5s, and AX10s (fixtures with screens) go to **Fixture Reset** in the menu.

b. Extra Lights in the App

If there are extra lights displayed in the app, **BEFORE** pairing the fixtures to the app:

Open the  **Connection Dialogue** from the upper right of any main screen

Expand **APP SETTINGS**

Toggle **talkback+** off and back on, each time confirming the warning that pops up

c. Control Sources Based on Input Selection

Source \ INPUT SELECT	Auto, none latched	Auto, Standalone latched	Auto, App Control latched	Auto, ART3 DMX latched	Auto, CRMX wirel. DMX latched	Standalone	App Control	ART3 DMX	CRMX wireless DMX
AsteraApp™: change colors	•		•				•		
AsteraApp™: STANDBY, RUNTIME, ALARM	•	•	•	•	•		•		
AsteraApp™: DMX Settings	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•
ART3 DMX	•			•				•	
CRMX Wireless DMX	•				•				•
Infrared Remote	•	•	•	•	•		•		
The Light's Control Panel	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

Control Sources Based on Input Selection - From AX3 Manual, Page 29

Note that the IR remote **CANNOT** turn off fixtures that are in **CRMX** mode; however, putting fixtures in **CRMX** mode for wireless DMX control is more reliable than leaving them in **Auto** mode. The IR remote can still be used to tell fixtures to take **DMX Configuration** in conjunction with the App.

d. Radio PINs and Astera Box failure

Each Astera tablet is assigned its own radio PIN in the form of 57<tablet number>, i.e. tablet 9 is 5709 and tablet 12 is 5712. This allows multiple Astera kits to be used in separate rooms onsite.

If an Astera Box fails, pair a spare box to the same tablet and it should find all of the lights again. This is preferable to changing tablets as the colors and groups *DO NOT* transfer, they are stored on each tablet.

If the tablet fails, take another tablet and assign the same radio PIN and it should find all of the fixtures; however, you will have to rebuild the groups and colors for app control. Fixtures will still be assigned to groups based on their number; however, the existence and names of the groups will not transfer to another tablet. Fixtures will also hold their color and intensity, but that will also not transfer to another tablet.

e. Using the Astera Box as a DMX transmitter

Using the Astera Box as the DMX transmitter may result in faster response from the fixtures due to the CRMX technology in use. However, it is recommended to use a separate WDMX transmitter in most circumstances, as it is usually preferable to have the Astera Box free to move about with the Tablet to adjust configuration as needed, instead of being wired into the console.








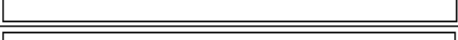










Also note that the CRMX transmitter is only active when the Box sees DMX on its 1/8" jack using the 5-pin XLR to 1/8" from the Astera kit – the **DMX** light will illuminate. When DMX is present on the 1/8" jack, press the green button for 1 second to link with fixtures – the **LINK** light will flash while linking fixtures, and it may take multiple tries to link several cases of fixtures.

NOTE: Astera Boxes used to have issues staying connected to the Astera App when being used a DMX transmitter, especially if they are near the router connected to the lighting desk. This seems to have improved with newer versions of the software and firmware but may still cause issues.

f. W-DMX G5 transmitters

Astera fixtures *DO NOT* work with W-DMX G5, any W-DMX G5 transmitters must be placed into G3 or G4S 2.4GHz mode. The mode must be changed on the transmitter:

- Press and hold the red button for 10 seconds, the top 4 LEDs will chase
- Tap the red button to scroll through available modes
- Press and hold the red button to save and exit

	MODE LED	UNV LED
G3 2.4 GHz		
G4S 2.4 GHz		
G4S 5.8 GHz		
G5 2.4 GHz		
G5 5.8 GHz		
G5 5.2 GHz		
G5 2.4 GHz Double-Up		
G5 5.8 GHz Double-Up		
G5 5.2 GHz Double-Up		

W-DMX G5 Modes - From W-DMX G5 Manual, Page 11