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Using Low Cost Dimmers

Some low cost dimmers (club type, often have a 3-pin DMX connector) are known to have problems with the number of updates per second they receive. This typically shows up during a fade as a flicker. Since the number of updates per second is directly related to the number of channels updated, changing the number of channels updated with the “N” command often fixes the problem. We’ve found that if you’re only using a few channels (like one 4-channel dimmer pack), setting the number of channels to exactly what you need can help. You can also simply set N to the maximum (if you are using a script that needs some channels for storage, set N as high as you can).

You may have to experiment a little to find the setting of N that works best with your dimmer.

To set the number of channels to 4, you would enter the command:

N 4

To set N to the maximum of 512 channels, you would enter the command:

N 200

As always, any numbers sent to our Converter/Controllers are in hexadecimal. See our other application notes for conversions.

Of course these are followed by pressing the RETURN or ENTER key.

If you want to save this setting so you don’t have to change it again, enter the command:

Z

That will save all the settings in NV-RAM to be restored on the next power cycle.