

# SOFTWARE RELEASE NOTES



**Product:** GroundControl™ Remote Followspot System™  
**Manufacturer:** PRG  
**Subject:** Software Upgrade  
**Bulletin No:** RFS-002  
**Date:** April 4, 2016

## INTRODUCTION

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### GroundControl RFS Software Upgrade

New software versions are available for the GroundControl™ Remote Followspot System™ devices.

### Summary of Changes

#### GC Main Board change log:

- + When intensity scaling is enabled, the incoming intensity level is shown on the main menu.
- + When a mechanism is selected/deselected for use by the controller, it immediately snaps to the new position.
- + When intensity is deselected on the controller, the incoming intensity value (if any) is shown on the main menu.
- + Added camera iris to the preset function filter. (Saves incoming DMX camera iris value, not encoder value.)
- + Implemented a Camera Reset menu option in the Status menu.
- + If incoming comm is removed when pan/tilt are under console control, pan/tilt control will be regained at the control arm.
- + When incoming DMX is absent, "no comm" will be display in the Comm In panel of the Comm menu.
- + Fixed pan/tilt inversion log messages.
- + Improved DMX processing for better MA2 compatibility.
- + Improved camera command reliability.

#### GC Truss Box change log:

- + Ignores pings from other Truss Boxes.

#### GC Bad Boy change log:

- + Allows DMX address to be selected from four options.

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- + Allows DMX address to be selected from four options.
- + Whenever a moiré gobo is in the beam, the lamp wattage is limited to 1400W (HP units only).

### Latest Software and Firmware Versions

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

#### Firmware:

Truss Box: v1.02 3/7/2016 16:13  
Switch Board: v1.02 12/17/15 17:12

#### Software:

GroundControl: v2.05 4/1/2016 10:42  
GC Bad Boy: v0.06 3/9/2016 11:42  
GC Best Boy: v0.05 3/9/2016 9:00

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**Note:** You may need to update some of the devices if they do not match the latest versions.

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# UPDATING SOFTWARE

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## Updating GroundControl Software

GroundControl software is updated using the two access ports (**Figure 1**) 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 arm).

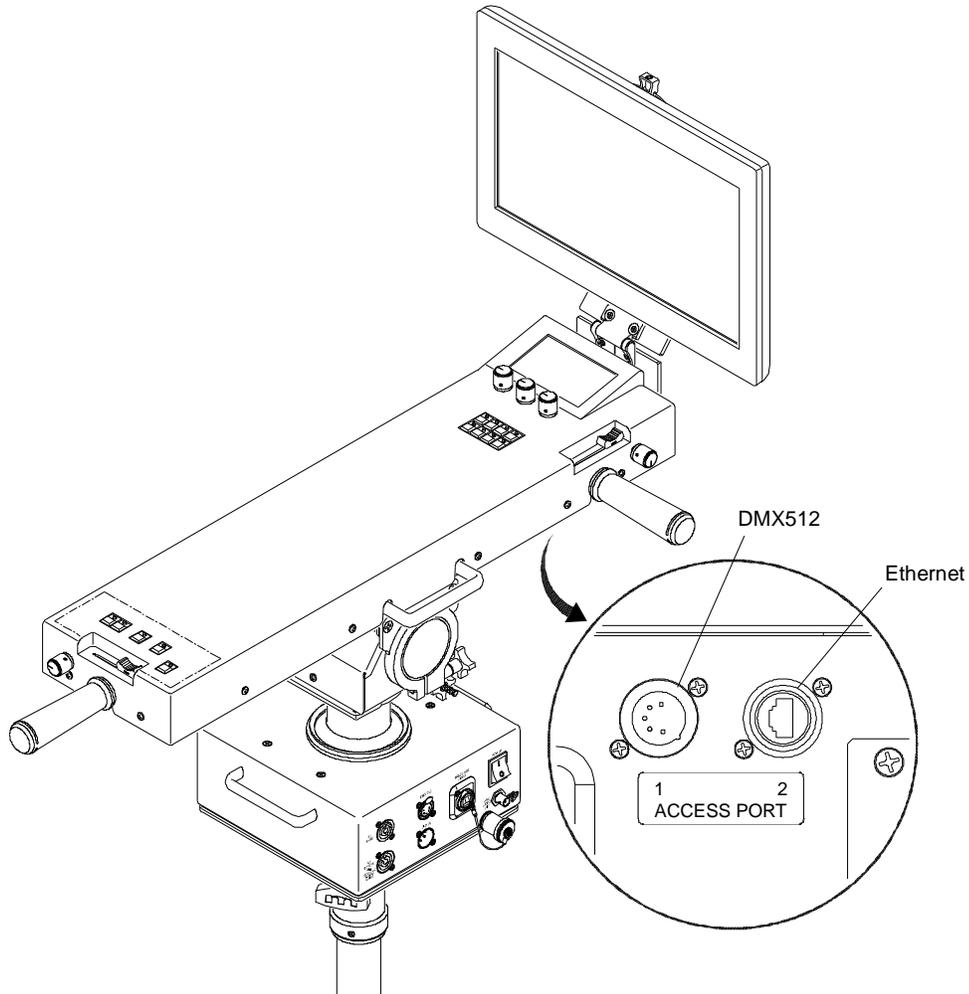
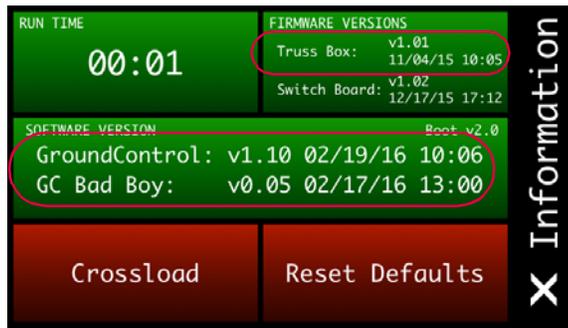


Figure 1: Access Ports

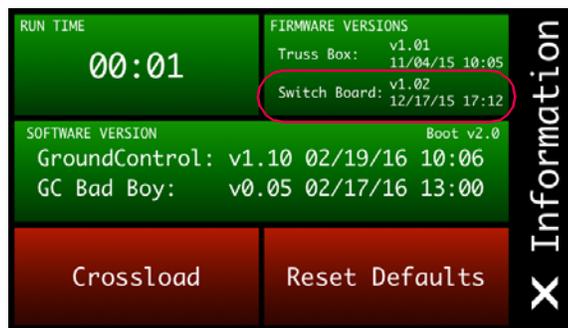
**To update main board, truss box, or luminaire:**

- Step 1. Connect Truss Box and Luminaire to GC Controller as normal.
- Step 2. Connect Ethernet cable between computer and Control Arm Access Port 2 (**Figure 1**).
- Step 3. Open required .jar file.
- Step 4. If computer has more than one Ethernet interface available, select appropriate network interface from drop-down menu.
- Step 5. Click **Start Download** button. Touchscreen display will change to bootloader screen and show load progress.
- Step 6. Wait for download to complete.
- Step 7. After download, the updated version can be verified in the Information menu:



**To update switch board:**

- Step 1. Connect XLR cable between computer and PRG Node device or S400 System.
- Step 2. Connect XLR cable between Node / S400 and Control Arm Access Port 1 (**Figure 1**).
- Step 3. Open required .jar file.
- Step 4. Click **Start Download** button. Touchscreen display will change to bootloader screen and show load progress.
- Step 5. Wait for download to complete.
- Step 6. After download, the updated version can be verified in the Information menu:



## Software Crossload

The Information menu provides a method for sending the current GC Followspot Controller 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.

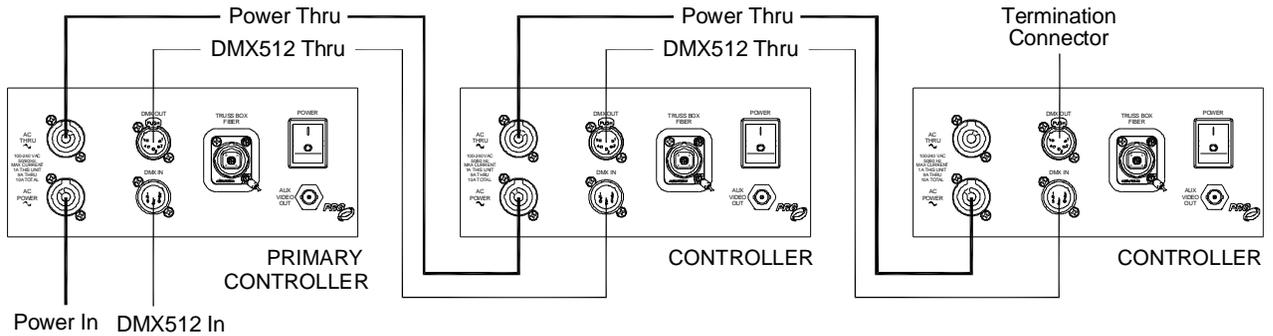
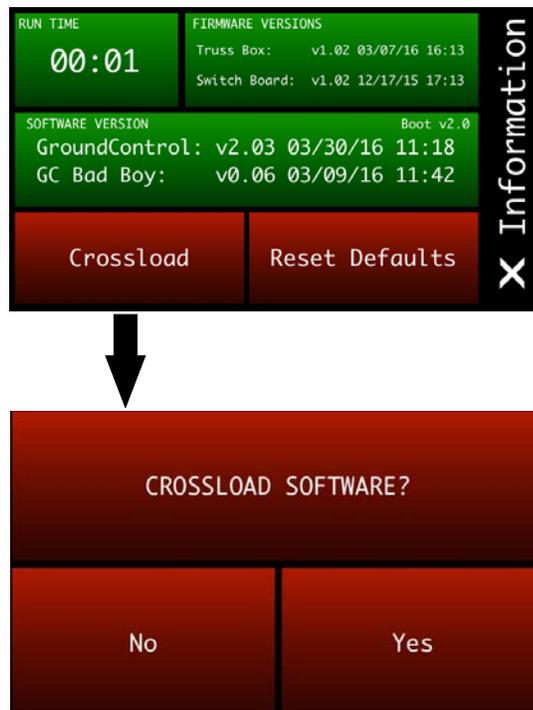


Figure 2: Example Daisy-Chain Configuration

To initiate the software crossload, press **Crossload Software** at the Information menu. At confirmation menu, 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 during the update process.