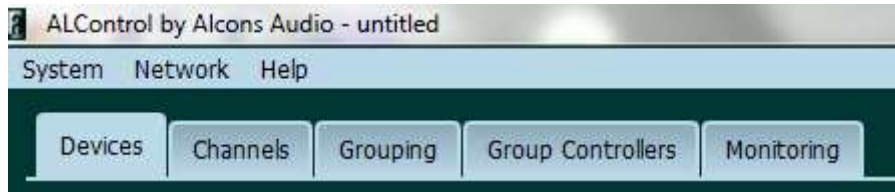




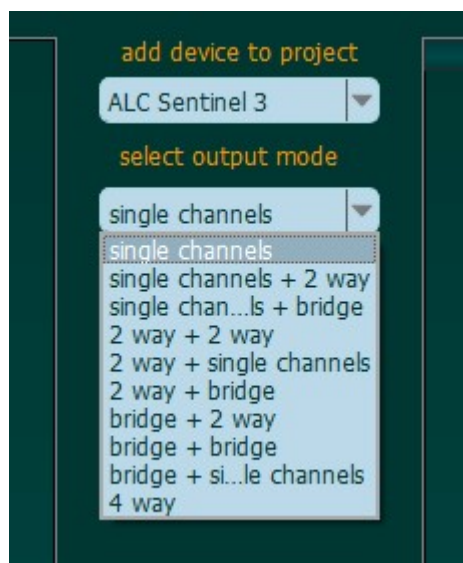
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User-interface of the program

The ALControl™ program is designed around the same “Tab” function as the control surface of the Sentinel. Each Tab section has a different function and the subsequent order of folders enables an easy workflow for setting-up and operating the control network.



Devices: there are two sections in this Tab: In the *left* section, the discovered (when network on-line) Sentinel devices can be selected into the project; This can be done both with network in on-line or off-line mode. The type of Sentinel can be selected (S3 or S10), as well as output mode configuration (drop-down menu):



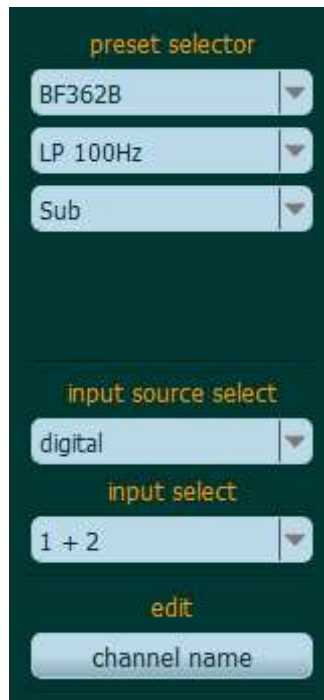
In the *right* section, you can change the output mode (drop-down menu) as well give the device a name. With the “blink” button, it is possible to let the Alcons logo on the Sentinel blink, to recognize which unit from a group of Sentinels this is.



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Channels: the selected Sentinel devices in the project form a list of channels. In this section, each channel can be configured with the required system factory preset (preset selector), the analogue or digital input signal and input channel. Each channel can also be configured with a manually selected name.

A vertical channel configuration form with a dark green background. It contains several sections: 'preset selector' with three dropdown menus showing 'BF362B', 'LP 100Hz', and 'Sub'; 'input source select' with a dropdown menu showing 'digital'; 'input select' with a dropdown menu showing '1 + 2'; and an 'edit' section with a button labeled 'channel name'.

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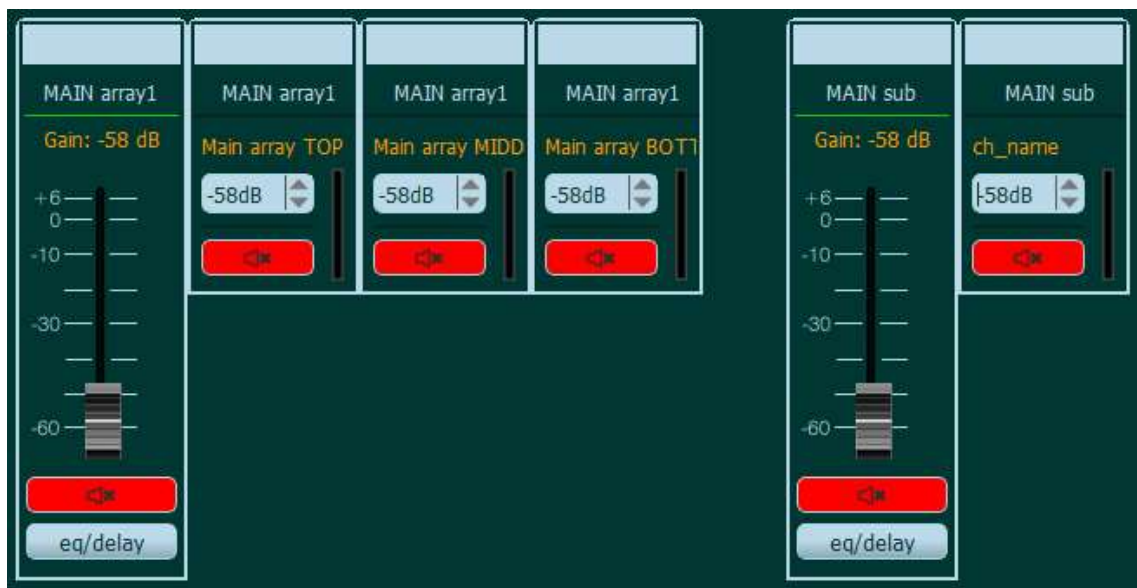


Grouping: there are two sections in this Tab: In the *left* section (“channel list”), the configured channels can be selected, to be assembled in the groups made in the *right* section (“channel grouping”). By means of the “group editor”, the groups can be added/removed. Assigning the channels to the groups can be done through “drag & drop”, as well as with the “add channel” button.

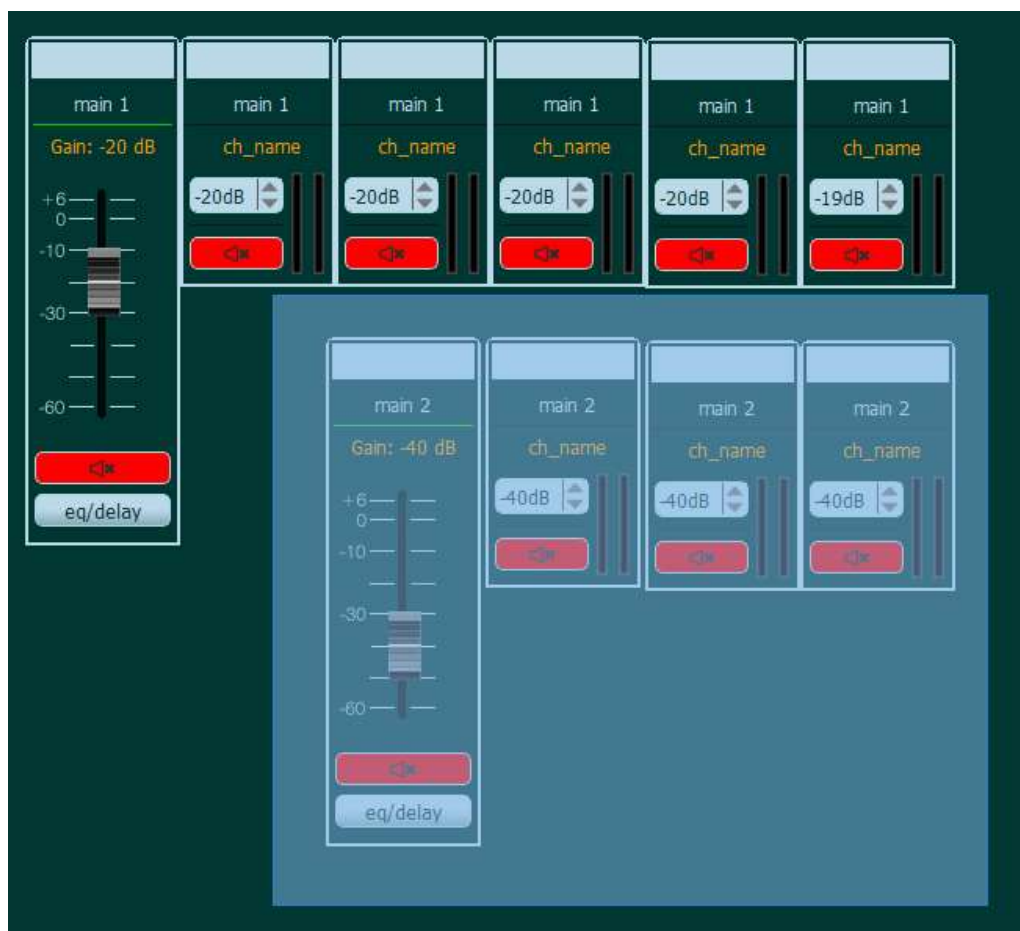


Group Controllers: resulting from the channel assignment, groups and sub-groups are formed that can be controlled in the “Group Controllers” Tab. The groups and sub-groups are visualized; This screen is visually free-configurable (drag & drop), without changing the relations between the groups and channels. EQ, delay and on/off can be controlled through the pop-up screens, that can also be used separately from the main program screen.

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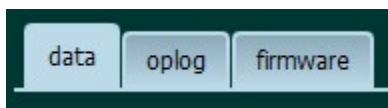
It's also possible to move a complete group of channels simultaneously, by holding the left mouse button to draw a rectangle enclosing all channels.



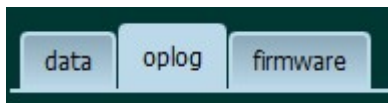
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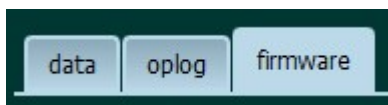
Monitoring: this section enables close monitoring of all relevant parameters in the system. By clicking the desired device from the list, the pop-up screen shows three sections:



The “data” tab provides general status on temperature per channel and SMPS power. It also provides channel-specific information on output voltage, amps, wattage and impedance; Each parameter can also be traced (+ recorded) in real-time through the “plot” (pop-up) screen.



The “oplog” tab provides operational status info of the different sections inside ALC. In case of a problem, the device entry in the list and overview tab line indicate a certain color/status. By consulting the “oplog” tab, the function status is reset (stops blinking), but error remains!



The “firmware” tab shows the current firmware and library versions of the device.



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Working with the program

The instructions below are also part of the on-board help function of the program.

- start project
- setup devices
- create groups
- monitor device
- device error
- saving

Starting a project

There are two ways of starting a new project; online with the amps already connected to the network or offline to prepare a project.

Note: make sure you configure your amplifiers with a fixed IP address when using project files, otherwise if DHCP is used in the amplifiers, the amplifiers might get a different IP address on a restart.

DHCP mode can be useful if connected to a guest network and setup the remote quickly for a single event.

- offline situation
- online situation

How to add devices in offline situations > Adding devices in offline situations

In this case we assume there is no connection to a network or a device. You set up the system by adding amps in the "Devices" tab by pressing the "add device" button. It is important to set the device type and the desired output mode of the amp correct i.e. single channels, 2-way, 4-way, bridge etc. When you add a device controller you have to assign an IP address. This address should correspond to the actual device IP address. See "set device IP address" for more info. Note that if an ALC Sentinel 3 is added with a certain IP address but on that same IP address an ALC Sentinel 10 device responds when scanning the network then this device cannot be added and an error message will appear. The added device stays offline. In this case you either change the IP address of the actual device or change the IP address of the device controller in the "ALControl devices in project" list.

You can change the IP address of a device controller by double clicking the entry in the "ALControl devices in project" table. Note that changing the IP address in ALControl of the device controller will not change the IP address of the actual device! After the IP address change the device will reappear in the discovered devices list.

Set the ALControl name by pressing the "ALControl name" button to something useful ie that designates the amp. This name can be found on the device under the "System > network" tab.



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Proceed to setup device to further set up a device.

When ALControl is connected to the network and the menu's "Network > Scan" or ctrl+F is pressed, the units that are found in the network will be synced and appear "online" in the "ALControl devices in project" table. A channel can now be directly controlled when double clicked in the "Grouping" tab channel list.

Proceed to create groups to start making groups.

Set up device IP

To set the IP address on the device go to the "system tab" and press the "network" button.

There are two options for the unit to get an IP address; automatically via DHCP or manual. If DHCP is disabled the "edit IP address" button will become active.

To set the IP address manual make sure DHCP is disabled and press the "edit IP address" button, dial in the desired IP address using the encoder when done press "confirm"

Adding devices in online situations

In an online situation (devices powered and connected) the amps should appear in the "discovered ALControl devices" list in the Devices tab. With the Network > select network interface control it's possible to select on which network the scan/auto discovery takes place. This is useful when having multiple network interface cards installed. Now you have two options for starting a project. Either you open an existing project created before (System > open or ctrl+O) The amps are set back in the state you saved them in. The amps in the discovered device list that are part of this project are removed from the list.

Units can be visually identified by pressing the "blink logo" button and select the device in the "ALControl devices in project" list. You can select multiple devices at the same time to identify a group of devices.

You can also move the discovered amp to the project space by pressing the "move to project" button, while having the amp selected in the list. The controls are synced to the amps settings so presets, input source, etc is synced from the amp to the remote, in the grouping tab channel list you can open a channel and directly control it. If you need a different setup, proceed as you would have added the amp manually.

Note that it might be necessary to change output mode. You can select multiple units and change output mode; however, units need to be of the same type (the S3 has different output modes compared to the S10). Changing the output mode sets all presets to empty; no signal can come out of the amp anymore.



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This is important because active presets can have tweeters directly connected to a channel! If a unit with channels in a group changes its output mode, the channels will be removed from the group.

You can change the IP address of a device by double clicking the entry in the "ALControl devices in project" table. If the device was online, it will move back to the "discovered ALControl devices" list and the changed unit will appear offline, until a unit with matching IP address is connected to the network.

Proceed to create groups to start making groups.

Set up devices

In the "Channels" tab you can set the channel presets, input source, channel input and the channel name. Multiple channels can be selected and have their properties changed at the same time. Note that if the selected channels have different output modes, the preset change will only apply to the first channels it can change and display a message when it cannot set the preset anymore.

For mono sub inputs 1+2 and 3+4 can be summed.

The preset options can also be changed in multiple channel selections; If channels with different presets are selected, the options of the first preset in the list are displayed and the channels with different presets are ignored when applying the selection. Note that all table columns can be sorted by pressing the column header.

Name your channels so that they are easy put in groups; i.e. if you have 4 amps driving the FOH with LR16 then a logic channel name would be "FOH - LR16". This way, when you create a group "FOH", you know these channels need to be in there. Channels can also be named in multiple selections.

Creating groups

When the channels are set up you can start creating groups. Press the "add group" button to add a root group. Usually you want to have a root group "master", under which you create every part (subgroup) of the system that exists in the same zone. For example, the FOH and the subs might need different volume settings, but need an overall volume setting from the master so that their relative volumes are changed.

To create a subgroup select the group you want the subgroup to be part of and press "add group". To create a new root entry make sure nothing is selected in the tree and press "add group". To rename a group right click on the group to be renamed and select "rename group".



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A root controller can set the group power. If an amp has channels in different branches, both root controllers need to set the power-off before the amp actually goes off. The group power is indicated by a green bar. To add a subgroup, select the group you want to have the subgroup in and press the add group button. To remove a group, press the “remove group” button. Note that channels will also be removed.

The channels can be selected in the channel list and can be either dragged in a group or moved with "add channel" button; In this case you also need to select the group you want to have the channels in. The channel now takes over the setting from its group master (gain, eq, delay, mute). To remove a channel, select it and press “remove channel”. If you would double click a channel in the "channel list" list, a channel control opens. It closes automatically when the channel moves to a group.

Note that all table columns can be sorted by pressing the column header. A channel can also be dragged to another group within the tree view.

The group channel controllers have a gain box which sets the relative gain against the group gain. A channel can also be muted separately. The channel has a signal input bar with input clip indication and an output VU meter. Just like the groups, the channel has a power indicator which is green when the amp is on; This bar also shows output clip in red. When an active preset is selected additional meters for the active channels are displayed along with a Solo button.

The Solo button can be used to solo the individual channels of an active preset to check the speakers. This is only possible in edit mode and channel not muted; When switching to show mode or mute the group or channel the solo is disengaged.

To eq the group, press the group controller eq/delay button in the group controller tab. A subgroup's eq slaves to the group above it in the hierarchy, but you can make relative changes. However, if you would do this and then afterwards change that same band in a group higher in the tree, it would override your setting. Good practice would be to set overall eq settings in the group master, if you need to have a separate eq in a subgroup then use a band which is not in use by groups higher up in the tree. Same for delay; subgroups always slave to the group above them, but you can make an offset.

The blink logo button blinks all logos of devices which have one or more channels in this group.

Monitoring a device

To monitor the status of a unit, go to the Monitoring tab and double click the device to monitor. This will add a monitor control panel. Multiple panels can be arranged in the monitor space.

The monitor allows to plot a channel parameter. The plotter can be paused or put in a record mode which increases the monitor time to 1 minute in the past.



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The Oplog tab shows the status of the unit. If an error occurs, the device entry in the list will blink red along with the overview tab line. Note that by going into the monitor control panel's Oplog tab, the error condition is reset, but not the error itself! The device log files can be downloaded by pressing the log file type in the drop down selector.

Device error condition

In case a device encounters an error condition, indicated by a red blinking encoder, ALControl responds by blinking the tab line, so that in every tab the error condition can be seen. To inspect the situation, press the Monitoring tab and double click the red flashing device entry in the monitor area list. The device's monitor opens and by pressing the "Oplog" tab, the error can be inspected and the error condition is reset i.e. stops blinking. Proper steps need to be taken to address the actual error condition if necessary.

If the error condition is reset in ALControl, the red encoder on the device is also reset. In case an operator needs to inspect the unit, the blink logo function in the Devices tab can help identify the device.

System mode

By default the program starts in setup mode indicated by the "gear" icon on the right. In this mode all editing can be done.



Via the menu Mode selector the system can be put in show mode. In show mode selecting channels is not possible. Mute, standby, delay on/off functions need to be confirmed by the user. The gain slider changes its response to mouse input so that small changes can be made easily. Show mode is indicated by the "spotlights" icon on the right.





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Saving

At any point in time you can save your work by the "System > save as" or ctrl+S controls.

To open an existing project, press the "System > open" or ctrl+O control to load in a project; This will remove all added devices and the current grouping structure.

All devices in the project that are in the network will be synced and appear online. If some devices are still unpowered, then they can be connected by the "Network > scan" or ctrl+F control, after power-up.

Note: The above tutorial can also be found aboard the program under "Help" in the menu bar, select "ALControl help", or press F1.

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