Prolight Laser Harp Controller FAQ

Q: What is a Prolight Laser Harp Controller?
A: Prolight Laser Harp Controller is essentially a MIDI controller box with a sensor unit that will turn your ILDA laser projector into a powerful frameless full color laser harp. **NOTE: It DOES NOT come with a built-in laser projector.**

Q: What comes in the package when I buy Prolight Laser Harp Controller?

Q: Are there any extra accessories I can purchase for my Prolight Laser Harp Controller?
A: There is a lengthy list of accessories that you can purchase from us, such as: Footswitches, White gloves, assorted cables, etc. For a complete list of available accessories please visit our web page - [http://www.laser-harp.com/site/accessories](http://www.laser-harp.com/site/accessories)
Q: Why should I buy Prolight Laser Harp Controller instead of any other?
A: Prolight Laser Harp Controller is a powerful device in a small package. It's high durability metal case and very small dimensions make for an almost imperceptible installation on any platform. Your laser harp controller box will be practically invisible on the stage! With many advanced functions such as interchangeable colors, number of beams, tone orientation and others you will have the performance of your dreams!
Prolight Laser Harp Controller was created by Prolight, a company that has been working with professional laser systems for years which means that this Laser Harp was developed by laser professionals in cooperation with musicians. Most of other laser harps have been created by hobbyists. Prolight Laser Harp Controller has won an ILDA Fenning Award for Technical Achievement in 2011 which makes this Laser Harp the only one in the World to receive such recognition from the leading laser companies association – ILDA (International Laser Display Association). This is sufficient proof that Prolight Laser Harp Controller is a very reliable, high quality device.

Q: Why should I buy Prolight Laser Harp Controller instead of a complete laser harp?
A: In a complete laser harp, laser projector is already built-in and you are limited to only that laser that the manufacturer provided while with Prolight Laser Harp Controller you can use any ILDA-Compatible laser projectors in the market or that you already own and/or change laser projectors according to your performance style or venue. The price of buying a complete Laser Harp (which includes a built-in laser projector) is the same as the price of buying a laser projector and a Harp Controller separately. The good thing of buying them separately is that you get two devices – a laser harp and a laser projector which you can use for logo projections and laser shows as well.

Q: How do I connect Prolight Laser Harp Controller to a laser projector?
A: Prolight Laser Harp Controller connects to an ILDA-Compatible laser projector via ILDA cable. Controller sends a signal to the laser projector to draw an array of laser beams in a fan arrangement. When you block a beam the sensor registers and sends a signal to controller which in turn sends a MIDI signal which corresponds to a pressed key on a musical keyboard. Midi signal can be sent to any synthesizer, sampler or PC software.
Q: Does the Laser Harp require that each beam has its own separate sensor? Do laser beams have to be pointed at some location or set into a certain position?
A: A frameless laser harp means exactly that – the harp has no frames i.e. the beams can be spread and directed to go anywhere. They are not required to hit sensor units. With Prolight Laser Harp Controller there is only one sensor unit on the ground and it registers blocking of any and all beams.

Q: What is an ILDA-Compatible laser projector and how to recognize one?
A: ILDA (International Laser Display Association) protocol is a standard protocol used for laser operation. It is used by all laser manufacturers. Prolight Laser Harp Controller requires a laser projector with ILDA connectors. ILDA connector is a standard DB25 pin connector.

Q: Which laser do you suggest to use with Prolight Laser Harp Controller?
A: It can be any type of ILDA-Compatible laser projector from any manufacturer. It can be of any color and power. If you are unsure what type or what power laser projector you should use we recommend that you buy the Laser Harp Controller and visit your local music shop or laser projector seller and test the Controller out on several laser projectors and pick the one that best suits your needs. This is what most of our customers did who didn’t already own a laser projector. We suggest that you buy a green laser because it is more cost-effective. For the same price of a lower-powered RGB laser you can get a higher-powered green laser which will have much better visibility because green color (532nm) is more easily perceived by the eyes. Therefore a green laser seems several times stronger than blue or red laser of the same power.
Q: How much Watt power should my laser projector have?
A: It very much depends on where you will use your laser harp. It is most cost-effective to buy a low power laser for practice and to rent a high powered laser from a rental firm for on-stage performances or open-air venues. The list of rental firms can be found on www.laserist.org.

Q: What devices can I control with Prolight Laser Harp Controller?
A: You can control any device that operates on MIDI protocol. You can control DJ computer software such as Ableton Live or Traktor Pro. You can control laser and light effects in such computer software as Pangolin QuickShow, Pangolin Live Pro or Phoenix. Phoenix v4 has a special user interface component within its software programmed particularly for Prolight Laser Harp Controller which allows you easy control over laser effects by blocking the laser beam, just like a real Laser Jockey!

Q: Is it possible to play chords?
A: Each beam that you block produces a sound. The user himself/herself chooses which sounds he/she wants the harp to play, depending on the device connected via MIDI cable to the Controller. If you block several beams at the same time you will hear the correct sounds playing all at the same time which means that you can play polyphonic music.

Q: If you block a beam does the sound change if you move your hand up and down?
A: Prolight Laser Harp Controller plays sounds just like a classical harp would. When you block a beam the Controller sends a signal that plays a corresponding sound. Just like a classical harp, it does not modulate a sound according to the movements of your hands along the string i.e. blocked beam.

Q: What accessories do you suggest we use?
A: We suggest you use white gloves for better light reflection. We recommend using double footswitch instead of a single footswitch because with double footswitch you can easily switch between MIDI banks as well as open and close your Harp. If you want to connect your Laser Harp Controller to your PC (and you don’t own a sound card with MIDI input) we suggest you try the MIDI to USB converter cable.
Q: Why do I need a mirror?
A: Mirror is used so you don’t have to turn your laser projector upwards to get a vertical beam projection. Instead, you place the mirror in front of the projector’s opening at a 45° angle. When laser projects horizontal beams, they will be reflected vertically by the mirror. If you are using a green laser you can use a regular mirror, but if you are using an RGB laser projector then we suggest you order our professional front-coated Laser Mirror to avoid color diffraction.

Q: Can you operate Prolight Laser Harp Controller while on-stage surrounded by other show lighting and laser projectors?
A: Yes you can. Laser Harp’s sensor unit is programmed in such a way that it detects only the blocked light of the laser projector that the Controller is connected to.

Q: Where can I buy Prolight Laser Harp Controller?
A: You can fill out an order form on our website www.laser-harp.com

Q: Where do you ship your product, how much do I have to pay for shipping and how long does it take for the package to arrive?
A: Prolight Laser Harp Controller is shipped worldwide with FedEx Express Service. Worldwide shipping costs are free of charge. The package is sent within a day of a confirmed payment and it usually arrives within 7 days.

Q: How can I pay for the Prolight Laser Harp Controller?
A: After filling out the shipping information and completing the order on our website, payment is done through PayPal system. If you do not use credit cards or do not wish to pay online we can create an invoice form for you and you can pay by bank wire transfer.

For more information, please visit our website...

www.laser-harp.com

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