Sequencing Traditional Lights in ShowTime 5

Originally presented at Christmas Expo 2017
ShowTime 5: Requirements

• License levels remain the same as previous Light-O-Rama software versions

• If your license has been renewed within 365 days on the day the ShowTime 5 production version is released, you will be entitled to it
  – Renewing or upgrading your license resets the 365 day time period
ShowTime 5: Beta Version

• During the beta period some restrictions are relaxed:
  – Anyone running 3.12 or later can use the beta version at their current license level
  – Anyone with an advanced license can use motion effects and Enhanced LOR networks
  – The beta period runs until 10/31/2017
  – After that date, if your license is outside of the 365 day “active” period, you will need to renew, upgrade or revert to an older version covered by your license
  – If you have an advanced licensed and want to use motion effects, you will need to upgrade to a Pro license
ShowTime 5: Dockable Windows

- Each window can be floated*, docked, or hidden.
- Use the Window menu to hide or unhide the windows.
- Grab the title bar to move either window.
- The main areas are resizable: grab the separator to change the split.

* detached from the main application window
ShowTime 5: Floating Windows
ShowTime 5: Creating A Sequence
ShowTime 5: Creating A Sequence

- Note that a **preview** is required!
- More than one fixed timing grid can be specified
ShowTime 5: Sequence Upgrade

• Select File > Open from the menu
• Choose your .LMS or .LAS sequence file
ShowTime 5: Beat Channels

• Beat channels (musical sequences) and loop channels (animation sequences) stay frozen at the top of the grid

• You can limit the number of beat channels that are displayed at any one time – in case you have a lot of them
ShowTime 5: Creating Beat Channels

• You can create a beat channel from any of the audio wizards

• Or by selecting “Add Empty Beat Channel” from the menu
• Right-click on the beat channel and select “Delete Beat Channel” from the pop-up menu.
ShowTime 5: Toolbar Overview

- Items in the toolbar cannot be reordered
- Toolbar will wrap to fit the size of the Sequencer window
- Hover your mouse cursor over any button to see a tool-tip
ShowTime 5: Toolbar Overview - Preview

- Green checkmark shows that the sequence is ready for playback
- Heading shows the preview name assigned to the sequence
ShowTime 5: Toolbar Overview - Preview

• Menu allows you to:
  – Open Preview Design
  – Assign a different preview
  – View preview statistics and warnings
  – See a list of files referenced by the sequence (to be removed)
  – Modify the brightness of the background image (if one is used)
ShowTime 5: Toolbar Overview - Timing

- Timing menu
- List of exiting timing grids (drop-down selection)
ShowTime 5: Toolbar Overview - Timing

• Menu allows you to:
  – Change the name of a timing grid
  – Add new timing grids
  – Copy current grid to a new freeform timing grid
  – Import timings
  – Export timings
  – Lock freeform timings so they cannot be dragged
  – Move events when timings are moved
ShowTime 5: Toolbar Overview - Playback

• Menu allows you to:
  - Play the entire sequence
  - Play from what is currently visible to the end
  - Play from the beginning to what is currently visible
  - Play what is currently visible
  - Play what is currently selected – either on the sequence grid or from the timeline
  - Pause playback
  - Stop playback
  - Loop playback
  - Control playback speed

• The space bar can also be used to start and stop playback
ShowTime 5: Zoomed Playback (Digression)

- You can also initiate playback by right-clicking on a prop or group in the grid.
- In this mode, playback is zoomed into the selected prop or group.
ShowTime 5: Toolbar Overview – Grid Zoom

• These buttons perform the same function as in older versions of the Sequence Editor
  – Zoom in vertically
  – Zoom out vertically
  – Zoom in horizontally
  – Zoom out horizontally

• You can also use the mouse wheel:
  – Ctrl + MouseWheel zooms horizontally
  – Shift + MouseWheel scrolls horizontally
ShowTime 5: Toolbar Overview – Save

- These buttons perform the same function as in older versions of the Sequencer
  - Open sequence
  - Close sequence
  - Save (Ctrl-S shortcut)
ShowTime 5: Toolbar Overview – Copy/Paste

- Allows you to:
  - Cut to clipboard (Ctrl-X)
  - Copy to clipboard (Ctrl-C)
  - Paste from clipboard (Ctrl-V)
  - Repeat the selected area
  - Undo last action
  - Redo last undo
  - Display keyboard shortcuts
  - Paste special: repeat and background/foreground
  - View and set copy/paste mode
ShowTime 5: Toolbar Overview – Paste Special

Paste Special

Paste By Cell

- Repeat Across Time (Horizontally)
  - This many times: 1
  - All the way to the end of the sequence

- Repeat Across Channels (Vertically)
  - This many times: 1
  - All the way to the end of:

Source
- Foreground (effects)
- Background (off areas)
- Both

Destination
- Foreground (effects)
- Background (off areas)
- Both

OK
Cancel
ShowTime 5: Toolbar Overview – Tools

• **Tools:**
  - Select
  - Maximum Intensity (N)
  - Minimum Intensity (I)
  - Fade Up – min to max (U)
  - Fade Down – max to mix (D)
  - Intelligent Fade
  - Fill (F)
  - Chase (H)

• **Intensity range**
  - Manually set range
  - Save commonly used ranges

• **Current Effect**
  - Color and effect
  - Effect gets set automatically when you click a grid cell containing an effect
• Picking a range from the menu makes the selected range current
ShowTime 5: Toolbar Overview – Intensity

• After selecting “Manage Intensity Presets” from menu:
ShowTime 5: Toolbar Overview—Current Effect

• Change the current effect to set which effect gets placed into the grid
Demo

- Using the tools
- Copy/paste
Select the current “Grid View” from the drop-down list

A Grid View is like an S4 track except that you can only view one at a time.

Props & Groups currently displayed in the grid. The “prop tree”.

Commands to add, change, or delete grid views

Modify the current grid view

Display options

More display options
ShowTime 5 Grouping Items

- Items in the prop tree can be grouped using the right-click menu.
- Items can be moved by dragging them with the mouse.
- Similar to S4’s Sequence Editor.
ShowTime 5: One Way To Add An Effect

- Select an empty area on the grid
- Use the Shift-N shortcut
  - Works for single channel effects, RGB channels, motion effect rows, loop rows
ShowTime 5: Modifying An Effect

• Clicking on an effect in the grid makes it the current effect

• Double-click on an effect to change it
  – Works for single channel effects, RGB channels, motion effect rows, loop rows
ShowTime 5: Varying Light Intensity With Sound
ShowTime 5: RGB Channels

- No splitting into separate Red/Green/Blue channels
- Select color via toolbar
- Double-click to change color
ShowTime 5: Archive Props

• Archiving happens automatically
• For example, you delete a prop from a preview. The next time the sequence is opened, this will be detected and any sequence events will be moved to an archive prop, where they can:
  – be deleted if no longer needed, or
  – copy/pasted into the active section of the sequence
ShowTime 5: Archiving is Not Perfect

• Archiving protects you from a common issue, but there are still some situations where sequencing can be lost:
  – if the number of channels in a multi-channel prop (e.g. megatree) is reduced,
  – a group with motion effects on it is deleted.
ShowTime 5: Archiving is Not Perfect

• The best practice is to:
  – Create new props in a preview without deleting anything
  – Then transfer the sequencing in all of the sequences to the new props
  – Then delete the props once the transfer is finished

• Another good practice is to use the copy preview function in Manage Previews to make backup copies of a preview you are editing (and make backup copies of the sequences!)
ShowTime 5: Copying Grid Views

- Export the grid views from one sequence and import them into the next
  - This also copies information about motion effect rows
ShowTime 5: Sequence Process

Import a preview from Visualizer, a sequence animation, or create your own

Upgrade an S4 sequence or start a new one in ShowTime 5

Save Sequence

Create Playback Files

Create and schedule show

Create SD Card

Create Playback Files

.LOREDIT file

.PLAY.LMS file
ShowTime 5: Sequence Files

• The ShowTime 5 Sequencer uses a new file format with a new “.loredit” file extension

• Your S4 sequences and ShowTime 5 sequences can be stored in the same directory

• In ShowTime 5, you can open an LMS or LAS file from S4 (or any prior version) and it will automatically be upgraded to the new ShowTime 5 format
ShowTime 5 Playback Files

• When you are finished with a sequence, select File > Create Playback Files from the menu. This will create a “mysequence.play.lms” (example name) in your sequence directory.

• Use this file when creating a show schedule or writing an SD card for an LOR ShowTime Director

• If you have a Pro license, a “mysequence.play.lms.pe.lid” intensity data file will be created at the same time
Resources

- Website: www.lightorama.com
- Tutorials: www1.lightorama.com/tutorials/
- Forums: forums.lightorama.com
- Help Desk: helpdesk.lightorama.com
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