

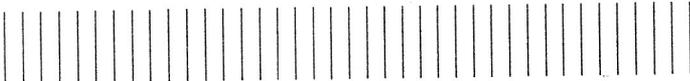


# Stage Accompany

## SC 1.0

Stage Control

User Manual  
Version 1.0





**Notice To The User:**

This manual should not be construed as any representation or warranty with respect to the software named herein. Occasionally changes or variations exist in the software that are not reflected in the manual. Generally, if such changes or variations are known to exist and to affect the product significantly, a release note or a README.DOC file accompanies the manual and distribution disks. In that event, be sure to read the release note or README.DOC file before using the product.



stage accompany

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**Important:**

If you have purchased a total Stage Control System consisting of a Stage Accompany PC equipped with an Sarnet interface board, mouse, EGA screen, parallel port with software key and Stage Control software package, you may skip chapters 2, 3, and 4. All software installations have been done by a Stage Accompany representative.



## Software License

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# 1 Software License

The enclosed Stage Control software package is owned by Stage Accompany and is protected by both the Dutch copyright law and international provisions. Stage Accompany always keeps the ownership of the software. You have the right for using the software under the following conditions:

- The software may run at one computer at the time.
- The software may not be sold, handed over or made available to third parties in any way.
- The program code may not be dismantled, disassembled, decompiled, brought back to source code or be modified in any way without the exclusive written permission of Stage Accompany.

Stage Accompany authorises you to make archival copies of the software for purposes of backing-up the software and protect your investment from loss.

Stage Accompany will replace defective disks under the condition the original disks are returned within 90 days. Stage Accompany also guarantees the software to function within mayor headlines as written in the manual and helptexts.

The software key included with the Stage Control software package has to be connected to the parallel printer port. It functions as a copy protection key and is necessary for correct operation of the control software.

### **Important:**

The software key represents the value of the Stage Control software package. It is therofor of the greatest importance that you do not lose this key. The control software does NOT work without the key so you will have to purchase a new key from Stage Accompany in case of loss.

**Software License**

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## Hardware Requirements

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## 2 Hardware Requirements

The minimum hardware (system) requirements to run the Stage Control software package are as follows:

- IBM (compatible) PC-AT with 20 megabytes (MB) hard disk
- DOS 3.2 or a subsequent version
- 640 kilobytes (KB) memory
- EGA (compatible) graphics board
- EGA (compatible) color screen
- Sanet interface board
- Parallel port with software key
- MS-Mouse (compatible) mouse

If you are going to use the PC to control large sound systems, it is recommended that the PC has a clock rate equal to 12 megahertz (MHz) or faster.



## Software Installation

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# 3 Software Installation / Demonstration Disk

## 3.1 Installing Stage Control

Two identical distribution disks have been provided, labeled "installation disk" and "backup disk". You have to use the "installation disk" for installation of the Stage Control software on your hard disk. The "backup disk" must be kept in a location different from that of the "install disk". Use the "installation disk" for all subsequent operations, and keep the "backup disk" for emergency use only.

The first step in installing the control software is to copy the files from the "installation disk" (one of the floppies that came with this manual) into the proper directories on your hard disk. A special program called INSTALL will both create the directories and copy the files to them. Put the "installation disk" into drive "A:". If the screen prompt is C, type:

A: < ENTER >

Run the INSTALL program by typing:

INSTALL < ENTER >

Read the instructions on the screen. You will be asked to answer a few simple questions. After that, the PC will tell you when the installation has been completed. Now remove the installation disk, reboot (reset) your PC and Stage Control will be run automatically.

## 3.2 Using the Demonstration Disk

A third disk has been provided, labeled "demonstration disk". The demonstration version of Stage Control is identical to the working version except that Sarnet communications are NOT possible! This means that the Sarnet controller PC-board is NOT required to run the program. Also the parallel port with the software key is NOT required! For the remaining hardware requirements see Chapter 2. You can run the demonstration by inserting the floppy in the A: drive and typing:

SC < ENTER >



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Switch the help function on by clicking on the <HELP> button with the mouse cursor as soon as you have entered Stage Control and have left the startup message dialog.

You may copy the demonstration disk as many times as you want. The demonstration floppy is of the high density format. If you want to copy to another high density floppy, use the command:

DISKCOPY A: A: <ENTER>

If you want to copy to a double density floppy (XT format), use the command:

DISKCOPY A: B: <ENTER>

on a PC which has a high density floppy drive (A:, AT format) as well as a double density floppy drive (B:, XT format)

Please follow the instructions on the screen.



## Mouse and Arrow Keys

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### 4 Mouse and Arrow Keys

Stage Control uses the mouse as a pointing device. Of the three mouse buttons, only the LEFT button is used, so if you are asked to press the mouse button, always press the most left button.

Stage Control assumes the mouse to be connected to COM2. However, in case you have installed Stage Control on a PC which has not been delivered by Stage Accompany, you have to be sure that you run the program MOUPATCH.EXE to tell the software to which port the mouse has been connected. Put the "installation disk" into drive "A:". If the screen prompt is C, type:

A: < ENTER >

Call up the mouse install program by typing:

MOUPATCH < ENTER >

Read the instructions on the screen. You will be asked to enter the number of the port to which the mouse has been connected (COM1 or COM2). After that, the mouse installation has been completed. Now remove the installation disk, reboot (reset) your PC and Stage Control will be run automatically provided that you have already run the main installation program.

In case of malfunctioning of the mouse, the keyboard "arrow" keys can be used as an alternative. The "home" key simulates a temporary pressing of the mouse key while the "end" key simulates a permanent holding down of the mouse key. To enable the "arrow" keys, press the left < Ctrl > key once.

Pressing the "arrow" keys while holding down the < Shift > key enables you to move the cursor with very small steps.



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## 5      Operation / Sample Session

### 5.1   Working Environment: Setups, Presets, and Effects

Stage Control has been based on concepts like setups, presets, effects, and groups. Figure 5-1 shows the graphical representation of these concepts. Stage Control contains various so called setups.

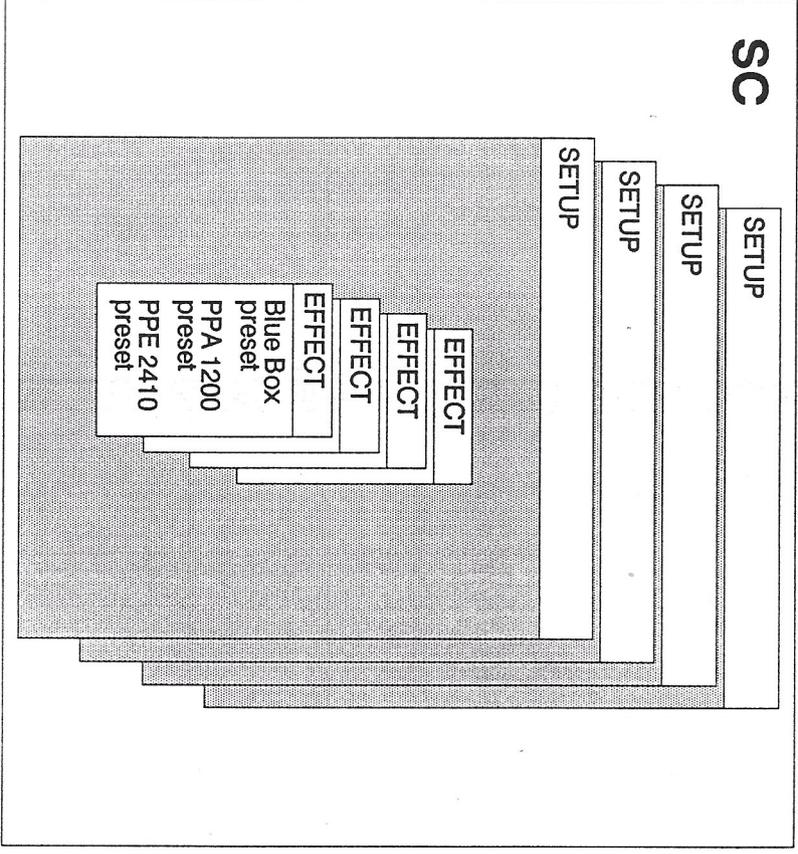


Figure 5-1. The working environment of Stage Control.



Each user or venue has its own setup which is comparable to a directory on a PC. A setup contains any combination of Blue Boxes (PMS 5000s), PPA 1200s, PPE 2410s, and their ID codes. The directory structure is shown in Figure 5-2.

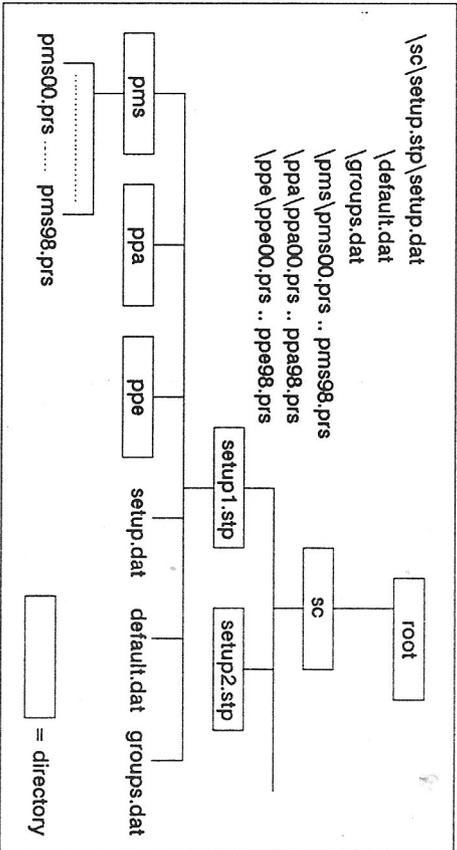


Figure 5-2. Stage Control directory structure.

Each setup also contains a maximum of 99 presets per device sort. 99 Blue Box presets each contain settings of all Blue Boxes in a setup, while 99 PPA presets each contain settings of all PPAs, and 99 PPE presets each contain settings of all PPEs in the setup.

These three different presets may be recalled separately or simultaneously. In the last case the combination of the three equally numbered presets is called an effect. So an effect can be used to simultaneously change the settings of Blue Boxes, PPAs, and PPEs in a given setup. Because there are maximal 99 presets per device sort, there are also maximal 99 effects. Figure 5-3 on the next page illustrates the effects feature.

Setups may contain group relations consisting of a number of the same devices. Groups are only used for simultaneous control of devices that otherwise had to be controlled separately. It is a convenience to the user.

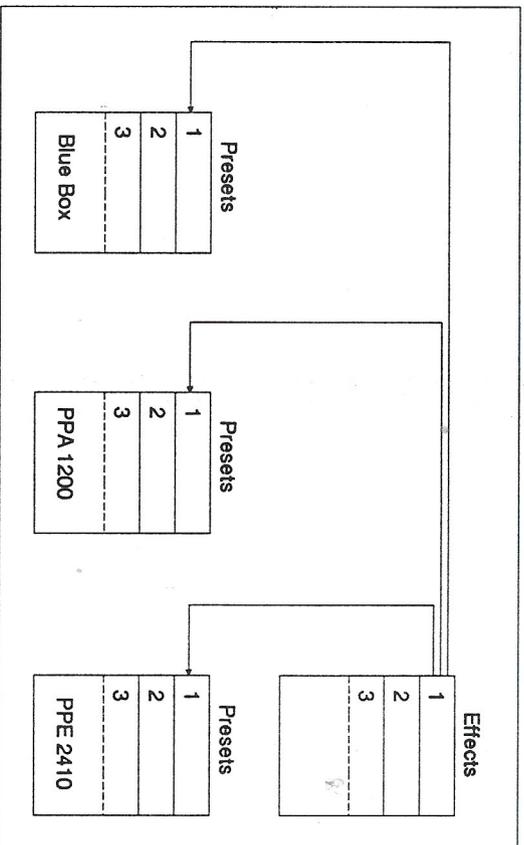


Figure 5-3. Relations between effects and presets.

## 5.2 Getting Started

Before you run Stage Control, connect two Blue Boxes via Sanet to the PC. To do so, route one cable from the PC to the Sanet input of the first Blue Box and then route one cable from the Sanet output of the first Blue Box to the Sanet input of the second Blue Box. If you want to control PPAs or PPEs, connect them as well using Sanet inputs and outputs. Terminate the last Sanet output with the Sanet termination plug which has been enclosed with the PC. It would be nice if you had an audio signal connected to the Blue Boxes, although it is not necessary (see Figure 5-4 on the next page).

Stage Control will be run automatically after you have switched on your PC and screen. However, if this is not the case and the MS-DOS screen prompt C-> is visible, you can run the control software be typing:

SC < ENTER >

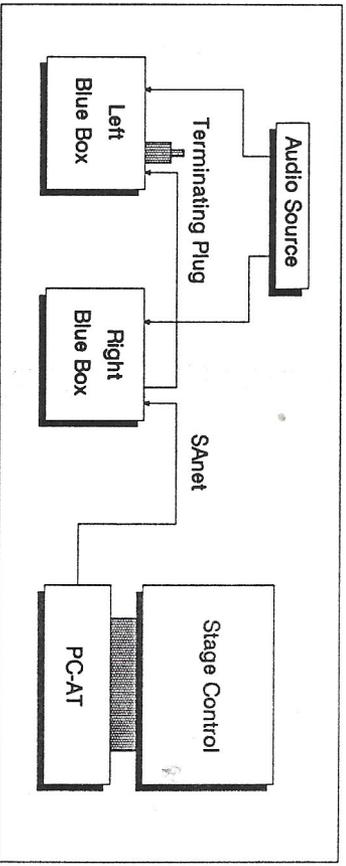
The first thing you see is a "dialog" with the copyright message and some general information. It shows which control modules (Blue Box, PPA, and/or PPE) are available in your Stage Control program. The device images contain the minimum software version



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**Figure 5-4.** Blue Box sample session system configuration.

numbers of the devices that are going to be controlled. If you get a "device software version error" later on in the program, you have to update the software of the concerning devices with a program called PROGDEV.EXE that can be obtained from your Stage Accompany dealer. After you have read the information, move the mouse arrow to the "button" labeled < CONTINUE > and click the left mouse button on it.

Now you see a screen divided into two parts. The upper part is called the < WINDOW > which contains the images of the devices to be controlled. The lower part is called the < DASHBOARD > by which the devices in de < WINDOW > are controlled.

### 5.3 Blue Box Sample Session

Before you start with the sample session, you have to activate the context sensitive help function. This function gives you help information dependent on the part of the program you are in. Move the mouse arrow to the < HELP > button and press the left mouse key. Read the information dialog and either press the < LANGUAGE > button to select another language or press the < CONTINUE > button. Now a second dialog comes up with information about loading a setup. Since you do not have any setups yet, press < QUIT >.

Next press < EDIT >, read the information dialog and press < CONTINUE >. You may now choose which device (Blue Box, PPA, or PPE) you are going to place in the < WINDOW >, for example Blue Boxes, (the most left one of the three device images).



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## Operation / Sample Session

Click on the Blue Box image in the < DASHBOARD > (most left one), read the information dialog and press < CONTINUE >.

### 5.3.1 Edit Setup

You are now ready to "build" your setup in the < WINDOW >. Move the mouse to the left of the < WINDOW > and click. A Blue Box image appears. Next move the mouse to the right of the < WINDOW > and click again. The right Blue Box appears. A device image can be deleted by clicking twice quite fast (double clicking) on the image. Move an image by clicking on it and keep the mouse key depressed. Drag the image to the desired place and release the mouse button. Spend some time editing the < WINDOW > by adding, moving, and deleting Blue Boxes, PPAs, and PPEs. End up with a setup that contains two Blue Boxes to do the rest of the sample session.

### Adding / Deleting Multiple Devices

You may add multiple devices by keeping the mouse key depressed while you drag the mouse arrow. Multiple devices can be deleted by double clicking the mouse and holding it pressed while you drag the mouse.

### 5.3.2 Assign Setup

Once you have created a setup you have to tell the program which image corresponds to which Blue Box by the operation that is called "assigning". Click on the < ASSIGN > button, read the information dialog, press < CONTINUE >, click on the Blue Box image (the most left one of the three images) and again press < CONTINUE >. The program now starts looking for Blue Boxes on Sanet. Each time one has been found, it will ask you to click on the corresponding "linking" Blue Box. Look at the display or the little front panel of the two Blue Boxes which one is blinking. Then move the mouse cursor to the image on the screen that corresponds to the concerning Blue Box and click on it to make the connection. The image border will turn from grey to green. Repeat this for the second Blue Box. Finally, click on the < EXIT > button to leave the assign function.

The maximum device ID code (for Blue Box, PPA, and PPE) that Stage Control is searching for can be set by clicking on the < MAX.IDCD > button while in the assign level. A dialog enables you to increase or decrease the maximum ID code. The minimum value is 100 and the maximum value is 65500.



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**NOTE:** Searching ID codes, you can get the shortest searching time by setting the maximum ID code to 100 more than the highest ID code of your real-world devices.

### 5.3.3 Save Setup

Click on the <SAVE> button to save the setup on hard disk. Read the information dialog and press <CONTINUE>. Now select number 1 in the setup selector, read the information dialog and press <CONTINUE>. A keyboard appears to allow you to enter the following setup name: TEST. Click with the mouse on the "T", "E", "S", "T", and <RETURN/ENTER> buttons of the keyboard. A subdirectory named TEST.STP has now been created in the SC directory. The directory structure of setups, presets, effects, and groups can be found in Figure 5-2.

If you have edited an existing setup and you want to save the changes, the program will ask you to confirm your action. You may also save an existing setup under a new name. In that case, the program will copy the contents of the current setup to a new setup with the new name.

### 5.3.4 Delete Setup

You can delete a setup by double-clicking on it (click twice quite fast). Try this after you have switched off the help function. The program will ask you to confirm your action. Answer <QUIT> since you do NOT want to delete the just created setup. Next switch the help function on again.

### 5.3.5 Exit and Default Settings

To demonstrate the use of saving and loading setups you now have to leave the program to start all over again. Click on the <EXIT> button. A dialog appears with the question if you want the current settings to be saved as the default settings. This function may be used to save the settings of all connected devices on hard disk. Next time when the setup is built up again with possibly different or mixed up devices, you may click on the <DEFAULTS> button whenever you want to recover the setting of your setup to be exactly the same as you closed it down. For now click on <QUIT> and read the next dialog. Click <YES> to exit the control program. There are two possibilities now. Either you are being asked to shut the PC down or you return to the MS-DOS screen prompt C>. In the first case type:

N



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and reset the PC (by turning the PC key to the R position). In the second case, type:

SC < ENTER >

to run Stage Control again. Click on the < CONTINUE > button and switch the help function on again.

### 5.3.6 Load Setup

Click on the < LOAD > button if it is not selected to load a setup from hard disk. Read the information dialog and press < CONTINUE >. Now select setup 1, named TEST, in the setup selector, read the information dialog and press < CONTINUE >. The setup appears on the screen after which it has to be connected to the real world Blue Boxes.

### 5.3.7 Connect Setup

Once the program knows the ID codes as a result of the assign function, it stores them with the setup images information. This implies that a setup needs to be assigned only once until it is changed. Next time you want to use the unchanged, saved setup, just load it from disk. The program knows the ID codes but they have to be connected to the Blue Boxes yet. Click on the < CONNECT > button, read the information dialog, press < CONTINUE > and confirm that the devices (Blue Boxes) have not been moved by pressing < NO >. See how the images turn from grey to green to indicate that they have been connected to the real world Blue Boxes. Also when a Blue Box loses contact with the program due to a lost Sanet connection, the communication can be reestablished using the < CONNECT > button after the Sanet has been reconnected.

### 5.3.8 Control Devices: Blue Boxes

Click on the < CONTROL > button to control one of the three devices. Read the information dialog and press < CONTINUE >. Now click on the most left one (Blue Box) of the three images in the < DASHBOARD > or double-click on one of the Blue Box images in the < WINDOW >. The upper part of the < DASHBOARD > is now filled with the Blue Box control panel. Spend some time selecting and changing various parameters and reading the information dialogs.

PPAs or PPEs can be controlled by clicking respectively on the middle or right image in the < DASHBOARD > while the control function has been activated. You can also use a short cut: double-clicking (click twice quite fast) respectively on one of the PPA or PPE



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images in the < WINDOW >. You can use this feature in any mode with the exception of the "edit setup" mode.

### 5.3.9 Grouping

The grouping feature enables you to simultaneously control a number of devices. Seven group buttons in the upper right corner of the < DASHBOARD > (right next to the status line) may be used. Click on the < GROUPS > button to create/edit a group and read the information dialog for further information.

Once you have activated the < GROUPS > button, select group 1 and add the left Blue Box image to it. Next, select group 2 and add the right Blue Box image to it. Finally, select group 3 and add both Blue Box images to it.

When you are in "group editing" mode, device adding and deleting can be accelerated by drawing a box around the devices which you want to add or delete. Click the mouse in the upper left corner of the imaginary box and keep it depressed. Drag the mouse arrow to the lower right corner and release the mouse key. Now the concerned device(s) have been added to or deleted from the group.

Click on the < GROUPS > button to deactivate the function after which the program saves the (altered) group information on disk. Each setup holds group information per device sort: Blue Box, PPA 1200 and PPE 2410.

### 5.3.10 Create Preset

Now you are going to create a few presets. Presets are used to change the settings of all devices with the push of a button. This is only the case for the parameters that have a red box around it: polarity, poweramp, and level.

Preset 1 has already been selected and the < ACTIVATE > button is on which means that all the changes you make are audible. The (default) contents of preset 1 are now shown in the Blue Box images in the < WINDOW >. Switch the help function off and use the groups and the level faders to adjust the various preset parameters of both Blue Boxes to the following values:

Left Blue BoxLow Level: 0 dB

High Level: 0 dB



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Polarity Mode: Normal

Power Mode: On

Right Blue BoxLow Level: -60 dB

High Level: -60 dB

Polarity Mode: Normal

Power Mode: On

### 5.3.11 Store Preset

Switch the help function on, click on the <STORE> button, read the information dialog and press <CONTINUE>. The <STORE> button becomes activated to show you that you may select a preset. Now you can either select preset 1 or click on the <STORE> a second time. In the first case you are asked to enter a preset name through the screen keyboard: enter "LEFT". In the second case the program assumes that you just want to update the preset without changing its name. In both cases you are asked to confirm your store action. Now switch the help function off. To create a second preset, adjust the levels of both Blue Boxes to the following values:

Left Blue BoxLow Level: -60 dB

High Level: -60 dB

Right Blue BoxLow Level: 0 dB

High Level: 0 dB

Now click on the <STORE> button and select preset 2. The name "LEFT" is only copied for convenience. Just enter the preset name "RIGHT" on the keyboard. To create the third preset, adjust the levels of both Blue Boxes to the following values:

Left Blue BoxLow Level: 0 dB

High Level: 0 dB

Right Blue BoxLow Level: 0 dB

High Level: 0 dB

Now click on the <STORE> button and enter the preset name "BOTH" on the keyboard.



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### 5.3.12 Delete Preset

You can delete a preset by double-clicking on it (click twice quite fast). The program will ask you to confirm your action.

### 5.3.13 Examine Preset

Switch the help function on and click on the <EXAMINE> button, read the information dialog and press <CONTINUE>. The <EXAMINE> button is on and you may now examine presets in the <WINDOW> images. The examined presets are NOT audible. Next switch the help function off and select presets 1, 2, and 3 a few times and look at the level in the <WINDOW> images. They change according to the contents of the presets. The changes are only visible on the screen because the examine function has been activated (<EXAMINE> button). The examine function enables you to examine the contents of a preset before activating them to avoid unpleasant "surprises".

### 5.3.14 Activate Preset

Switch the help function on and click on the <ACTIVATE> button, read the information dialog and press <CONTINUE>. The <ACTIVATE> button is on and you may now activate presets, i.e. make them audible. Switch the help function off, select presets 1, 2, and 3 a few times and watch the levels of the real world Blue Boxes. They will change accordingly.

### 5.3.15 Multi Track Preset

Switch the help function on and click on the <M.TRACK> button, read the information dialog and press <CONTINUE>. Once the <M.TRACK> button is on, you can simultaneously activate presets of all three device sorts (Blue Boxes, PPA's, and PPE's) instead of presets of only one device sort. This feature will be further described in the paragraph about effects later on. For now, deactivate the multitrack function by clicking on the <M.TRACK> button and the <CONTINUE> button.

### 5.3.16 Copy Preset

Presets can also be copied. Switch the help function off, select preset 1 (named "LEFT") and click on the <STORE> button. Next select preset 7 and enter "LEFTCOPY" as the preset name. Preset 1 has now been copied to preset 7. The copy feature can be very convenient when you need a lot of presets with small mutual differences. Create one basic preset and copy it to the other presets and then make the differences.



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### 5.3.17 Name Effect

As mentioned earlier, an effect is simply a way to indicate a combination of three equally numbered presets of the Blue Box, the PPA, and the PPE (see Figure 5-3). When you activate an effect, you activate the corresponding presets of the Blue Box, the PPA, and the PPE simultaneously. This feature is similar to preset activating with the <MTRACK> button on. You may use one feature or the other. However, before you can activate effects you must name them because you are not allowed to activate unnamed effects to avoid unpleasant "surprises".

Switch the help function on and exit the "control" mode by clicking on the <EXIT> and <CONTINUE> buttons. Next select the "effects" mode by clicking on the <EFFECTS> button. Read the information dialog and press <CONTINUE>. Now click on the <NAME> button, read the information dialog and press <CONTINUE>. Select effect 1 and enter the name "BB\_LEFT" (the "\_" can be entered using the space bar of the screen's keyboard). After you have entered the name, you are asked if you want to use the same name for the three equally numbered presets which correspond to the effect. Due to this convenience you don't have to name those presets individually. For now click on the <OK> button.

If the concerned presets already exist only their names are changed. Non existing presets are created after their contents have been retrieved from the connected real-world devices. Devices which have not been connected result in default presets. See also paragraph 7.101

Name effect 2 as "BB\_RIGHT", Name effect 3 as "BB\_BOTH", and name effect 4 as "PPA\_BOTH" (see paragraph Activate Effect below). "BB" stands for Blue Box, while "PPA" stands for PPA 1200. If you like you may have a look at the individual preset names in the Blue Box, PPA, and PPE control windows. You'll see that their names have been changed by the name effect function.

### 5.3.18 Activate Effect

Until now this sample session used only Blue Boxes. However, if you want to get a quick understanding of the power of effects, you should add two PPA 1200s. Include them in your TEST setup, assign them and save the setup for later use. Next, add two PPA presets and one Blue Box preset (see next page):



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PPA 1200 : preset 3 (named BOTH\_OFF) with all levels equal to "OFF"  
PPA 1200 : preset 4 (named BOTH\_ON) with all levels equal to 0 dB  
Blue Box : preset 4 (named BOTH\_OFF) with all levels equal to "OFF"

Whenever you activate effect 3, called "BB\_BOTB", Blue Box preset 3 and PPA preset 3 are activated. This means that the levels of both Blue Boxes are set to 0 dB (completely open) while the levels of both PPAs are set to "OFF". Activating effect 4 causes the levels of both Blue Boxes to be set to "OFF" while the levels of both PPAs are set to 0 dB.

Thus the "BB\_BOTB" effect switches the audio signal to the Blue Boxes while the "PPA\_BOTB" effect switches the audio signal to the PPAs.

Select the "activate" mode by clicking on the <ACTIVATE> button. Normally, the <ACTIVATE> button is default on when you enter the "effects" mode, so you may start activating effects right away, provided that you have named the effects before. Switch the help function off, select effects 3 and 4 a few times and look at the levels of the real world Blue Boxes and PPAs. They change according to the contents of the presets.

If you have a PPE 2410, you should now be able to add it to the TEST setup and to create PPE presets and extra effects.

### 5.3.19 Mute/Unmute

The <(UN)MUTE> button can be used to mute the whole setup instantly in case of emergency, for example when feedback occurs. The levels of all Blue Boxes, as well as PPAs and PPEs are saved in memory and then set to "OFF". They can be "unmuted" (recalled from hard disk) by clicking on the <(UN)MUTE> button again. However, the unmute function is aborted when a preset is activated or when the default settings are recalled. Switch the help function on and try the "mute/unmute" function.

### 5.3.20 Operation Lock

The operation of Stage Control can be locked to avoid unauthorised changes of its settings. Click on the status line in the center of the screen to lock the operation. The program now asks you if you want to lock the operation. Click on <YES>. Now you have to enter a "password to lock" using the screen keyboard. For example enter your own name. The message "OPERATION LOCKED \*\*\*" appears in the status line. No button will respond to a mouse click except for the status line.



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Unlock the operation by clicking on the status line again. Now you have to enter a "password to unlock" using the screen keyboard. Enter the matching unlock password, i.e. your name. The message "OPERATION LOCKED" disappears from the status line indicating that you may resume operation. The next time you use this function, the screen keyboard comes up with the last used password.

### Important:

If you have forgotten the password while the operation has been locked, the only thing you can do is to reset the PC by turning the PC key to the R position. Stage Control will be run again automatically.



## Backing Up Your Work

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## 6 Backing Up Your Work

You should make a backup every time you have created a new setup or when you have made significant changes to an existing one. We advise you not to backup all your setups on one floppy disk. Instead you should use one floppy for one or more setups of a single project.

### Important:

The Stage Accompany PC is of the AT type. This means that double sided, HIGH density floppy disks must be used!

The backup procedure is as follows. Exit the Stage Control program so that the MS-DOS prompt is visible. Then type:

GEM < ENTER>

to start the Desktop Manager. The upper window contains your setups while the lower window contains the floppy drive and the hard disk. If you are going to backup for the first time you have to format one or more floppies. To do so, insert a BLANK floppy in the floppy drive (A:) and click with the mouse on the floppy drive icon (A:) in the lower window. Now move the cursor to the top left of the screen until the "files" pull down menu appears. Select "Format" and click on the < OK > button. The desktop is now formatting the floppy, and this takes a while.

### CAUTION!

Take care that you do not format the hard disk (C:) or a floppy which already contains valuable setups!

After you have formatted one or more floppies you are ready to backup your setup(s). Click on the floppy drive icon (A:). The desktop now shows you that there are no setups on the floppy yet. Now move the cursor to the upper window with your setups. Click on the setup you want to backup. Click another time and keep the mouse button pressed. Drag the cursor to the lower window and release the mouse button. The desktop asks



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**you to confirm the backup (copy) command. Click on the <OK> button. The desktop is now copying the setup, and this takes a while.**

You may backup multiple setups at once by holding down the left "Shift" key while clicking on the desired setups. Copy the setups by clicking on one of the selected setups and dragging the cursor to the lower window. Then release the button.

After the setups have been copied they should be visible in the lower window. Now move the cursor to the top left of the screen until the "files" pull down menu appears. Select "exit to DOS". Remove the floppy from the floppy drive and keep it in a safe place. Of course, you can make multiple backups if necessary.

This backup procedure can also be used to copy setups from one Stage Control system to another. For example, you are able to prepare your work using the demonstration version of Stage Control (DEMO) since it is possible to create setups, presets, and effects off-line. Just copy the created setup(s) from the hard disk to a (formatted) floppy. After that you can copy the setup(s) from the floppy to the hard disk of your "real" Stage Control system.



## Things You Should Know

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# 7 Things You Should Know!

Read this chapter very carefully! It contains valuable general information about Stage Control.

## 7.1 Assign and Connect

The Assign and Connect functions can be used when you are on the top level of Stage Control as well as on the device control level. While on the top level (i.e. the level where the < SETUP >, < CONTROL >, and < EFFECTS > button are visible), the device sort to be assigned or (re)connected can be selected using the device selector. While on the device control level (i.e. Blue Box, PPA, or PPE control), the currently selected device determines which device sort is going to be assigned or (re)connected.

## 7.2 Dialogs are NOT Interactive!

Keep in mind that message windows and dialogs (the green-coloured windows over the device images) are not updated in real time, except for the PPE 2410 control window. This means that the information shown is read from a device only ONCE just before the message or dialog is shown on the screen. Any successive changes of the information or settings is not updated in the message or dialog!

## 7.3 Groupwise Operation

Group operation is a great convenience to the user. But keep in mind that all settings of the group members follow the settings of the one group member that is actually controlled by you. So called relative information is NOT preserved. This means that when you increase a parameter of one group member from 10 to 20, the parameters of all other group members are set to 20 regardless of their previous values!

An exception to this rule is formed by the level faders as described in the following paragraph.

## 7.4 The Level Faders

The level faders can only be used when a filled group has been selected and when the < LEVEL > button has been activated. The fader position represents the mean value of



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all levels in the group. The balance between the different levels is maintained whenever you move the fader.

**NOTE:** When a group contains levels of 0 dB and -60 dB (OFF) it will look like the fader(s) cannot be moved. This is because one group member's level cannot increase above 0 dB and another group member's level cannot decrease below -60 dB. This situation is indicated by showing respectively " ^ ^ ^ " or "vvv" in the concerning device images when you try to move the fader(s) further up or down.

### 7.5 Blue Box and PPA 1200: Power Amp On Delay Distribution

The switch-on current of the high power supply of the Blue Box and the PPA 1200 can be up to four times the magnitude of the nominal required current. If a number of devices are switched on simultaneously, it is easy to imagine that the mains fuses may melt. It is therefore very important that you set the various Power Amp On Delays in a setup to different values.

The Grouping feature can be used to distribute different Power Amp On Delays among the devices in a group. Create a group which contains all devices which are powered by one mains supply cable. Then click with the mouse on one of the images. The Power Amp On Delay is now distributed with steps of 2 seconds among the group members. Repeat this procedure with any other device group which is powered by another mains cable.

#### **Note:**

If there are more than 50 Blue Boxes or 25 PPA 1200s, the delay distribution restarts from 2 seconds, i.e. 2, 4, 6, ..., 96, 98, 100, 2, 4, 6, etc...

### 7.6 PPA 1200: Groupwise Operation of Amp Config and Max Power

The PPA 1200's Amplifier Configuration function and the Maximum Power function can NOT be used groupwise! Each PPA 1200 in a group has to be controlled separately. This is caused by the fact that the maximum power of a PPA 1200 which is in crossover mode depends on the selected enclosure and can NOT be altered. Since the PPA 1200s in a group can be in two-channel mode, bridge mode, or crossover mode, the maximum power of the device which is being controlled cannot be sent to the other PPA 1200s.



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### 7.7 PPA 1200: Bridge Mode Operation

When a PPA 1200 is operated in bridge mode, care must be taken that the Channel 2 controls are NOT used!

### 7.8 Yellow Preset Names

Always keep in mind that whenever a preset name is yellow, its contents may NOT correspond with the actual settings in the device images! To be sure that the settings correspond, you may click on the <EXAMINE> or <ACTIVATE> button or reselect the preset.

### 7.9 Creating Presets Off-Line

To enable you to prepare your work before the system is actually be built up, it is possible to create presets off-line. This means that the real-world devices do not have to be connected to the PC while you are creating presets. Just create a setup but don't use the assign and connect functions. Because of the fact that the devices are not connected to their real-world counterparts their screen image will be grey, or black when they have been grouped. It is also possible to name effects off-line.

### 7.10 Activating Effects without Sensible Presets

Whenever you name effects you may give the three corresponding presets the same name (see paragraph 5.3.17). If those presets already exist only their names are changed. Non existing presets are created after their contents have been retrieved from the connected real-world devices. Devices which have not been connected result in default presets. Default presets have both levels and amplifiers (Blue Box and PPA 1200 only) off, non inverted polarity (Blue Box only) and the EQ settings (PPE 2410 only) are the same as after an EQ reset.

Always keep in mind that whenever you activate an effect, three device presets are simultaneously activated! So be sure that those three presets each contain sensible settings or you'll possibly be faced with unpleasant surprises...

### 7.11 Problems with <ASSIGN> and <CONNECT>

If you have problems assigning or (re)connecting devices, it may help to switch the mains power of the concerning devices off and on again. Then retry to assign or connect. Sometimes it also helps to reload and reconnect the setup or exit Stage Control and



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enter it again. In this way the Sanet controller board is reinitialised. Connect the devices which have already been assigned and assign the remaining ones.

### Important:

A device will disconnect itself from Sanet if for some reason it loses contact with the PC's Sanet controller board. After approximately one minute, horizontal bars appear in the device's displays indicating that the device has reinitialised itself. From then on, the device can be assigned again or (re)connected.

### 7.12 Saving Default Settings

The default settings contain not only preset parameters of all connected devices, but also the remaining parameters. Keep in mind that previously saved default settings are always overwritten with new default settings. You can NOT save the settings of one connected device first, then connect another device and save its settings, etc... Thus connect as much devices as possible and save their settings as default settings in ONE go.

### 7.13 Environment Variable "HOMEDIR"

Stage Control makes use of one MS-DOS environment variable, called "HOMEDIR". This variable is set during startup when AUTOEXEC.BAT is run. The command is:

```
HOMEDIR=C:\SC1
```

"HOMEDIR" is the directory that contains all Stage Control software version 1.x related files including your setups, effects, presets, groups, etc... The default directory is C:\SC1.

### 7.14 Short Cuts

After you have gained familiarity with most of the Stage Control functions, it's time to learn some short cuts which speed up the operation. The following paragraphs describe these shortcuts.

#### 7.14.1 Startup Window Exit

The Startup Dialog can be left by clicking anywhere on it.



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### 7.14.2 Instant Device Control Changes

Whenever in control mode, only one device sort has been enabled. The other two have slightly vague colours. You can instantly switch from one device sort to the other by double clicking (click twice quite fast) on the desired device.

### 7.14.3 PPE 2410: Direct Parameter Control Access

From the PPE 2410 control window you can directly select another parameter on the < DASHBOARD > without clicking on the < EXIT > button that's below the Program Peak Meters.

### 7.14.4 PPE 2410: Frequency Curve Redraw

Besides clicking on the < REDRAW > button, the frequency curve of the PPE 2410 control window can be redrawn by clicking anywhere on the curve window.



## Trouble Shooting

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# 8 Trouble Shooting

This chapter contains an overview of possible problems that you may encounter when you work with the PC and Stage Control. With each problem a possible cause (C) and remedy (R) has been given.

## 8.1 Hardware Malfunctions

### PC does not work

C: No mains voltage connection.

R: Connect mains voltage.

C: Rear mains switch off.

R: Turn rear mains switch on.

C: Key in wrong position.

R: Turn key in 1 ::: position.

### Screen does not work

C: No mains voltage connection.

R: Connect mains voltage.

C: No video signal connection.

R: Connect video signal.

### Mouse does not work

C: Mouse not properly connected or configuration is not OK.

R: Be sure that mouse is properly connected and read Chapter 4.



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### Software key error

- C: Software key not properly connected.
- R: Check software key connection.

- C: FATAL - wrong software key number.
- R: Purchase key with correct number.

### Keyboard error

- C: Keyboard not properly connected.
- R: Check keyboard connection.

## 8.2 Software Malfunctions

### Boot failure message

- C: FATAL - Hard disk error.
- R: Contact Stage Accompany dealer.

### MS-DOS prompt C after startup

- C: Bad "autoexec.bat".
- R: Reinstall Stage Control software package (see Chapter 3).

## 8.3 Stage Control Error Messages

### Version error

- C: One or more device software versions too low.
- R: Update concerning devices with PROGDEVEXE (contact Stage Accompany dealer).



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### **SAnet errors**

- C: Network communication is corrupted by line reflections.
- R: Connect termination plug to end of SAnet cable.  
(e.g. 75 Ohm between pin 3 and pin 4 of XLR connector)