Obsidian Netron EtherDMX Plugin - Quick Start Guide

Introduction

This guide will help you set up and use the Obsidian Netron EtherDMX Plugin for Q-SYS. This plugin controls NETRON EtherDMX lighting nodes, allowing you to recall cues, load user presets, save DMX snapshots, and monitor device status directly from Q-SYS or via a UCI.

Quick Reference

- **Plugin Name:** Obsidian Netron EtherDMX
- **Supported Devices:** NETRON EN4, EN12, EP1, EP2, EP4, EN6 IP, EN12-45, RDM10
- **Cues:** Up to 99
- **User Presets:** Up to 10
- **License:** Required for Core hardware, not required in emulation

Prerequisites

- Q-SYS Designer v9.x or higher
- NETRON EtherDMX device on the same network as the Q-SYS Core
- Device IP address (static IP recommended)

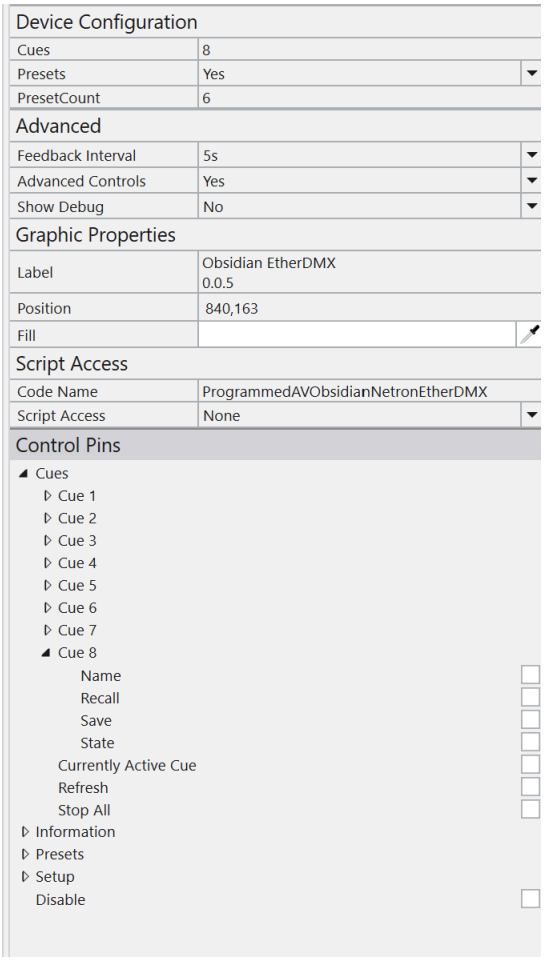
Installation

1. **Drag the Obsidian Netron EtherDMX Plugin** from the Plugins section of the Schematic Library into your Q-SYS design.
2. **Configure the plugin properties** in the Properties panel before running the design. See Plugin Properties below.

Plugin Properties

Property	Options	Default	Description
License Key	Text string	Empty	Your license key. Not required in emulation mode
Cues	1 to 99	1	Number of cue controls to display
Presets	On / Off	Off	Enable the Presets page for user preset recall
Preset Count	1 to 10	1	Number of preset controls (only visible when Presets is enabled)
Feedback Interval	Off, 2s, 5s, 10s, 30s	5s	How often the plugin polls the device for active cue state
Advanced Controls	On / Off	Off	Shows Refresh, Reboot, and Identify controls

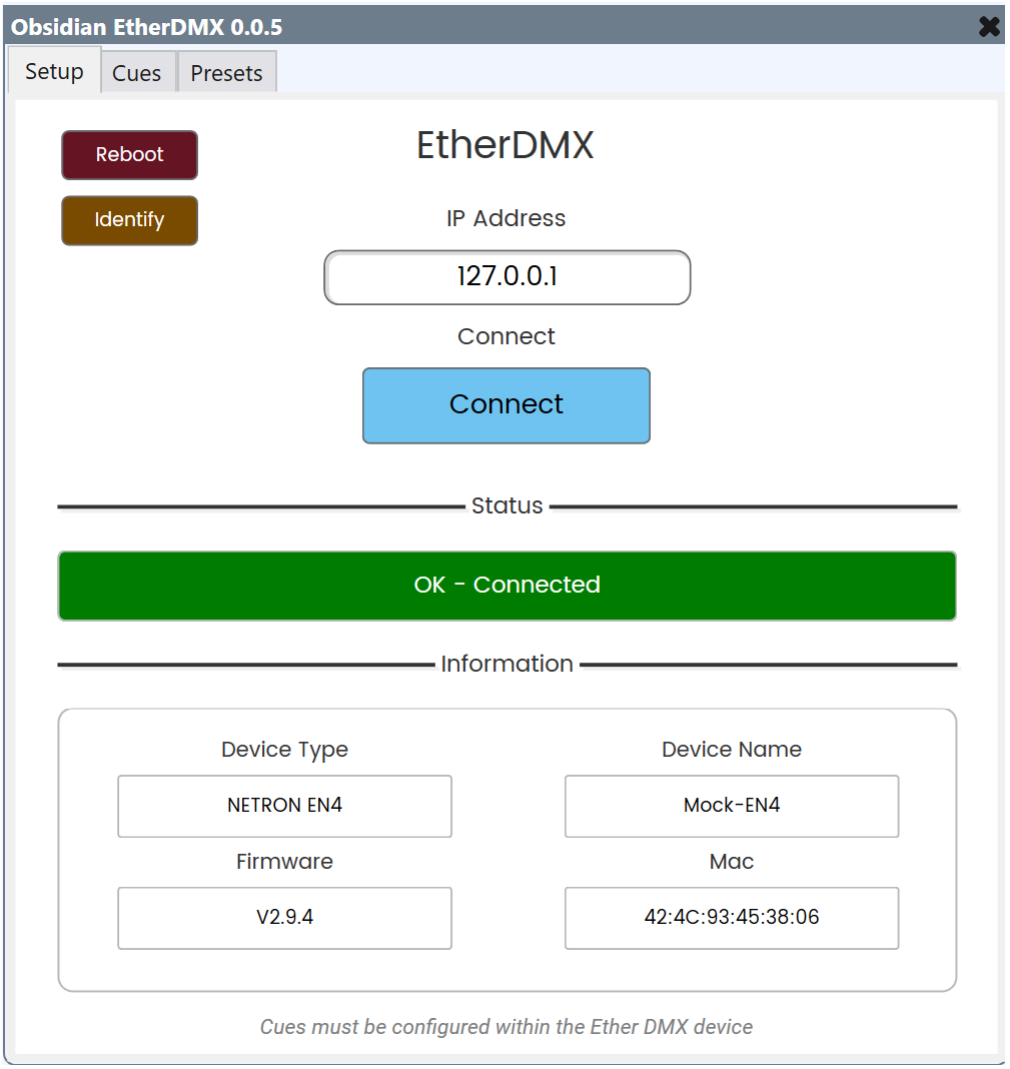
> **Note:** Set the Cues count to match the number of cues you have programmed on the device. You don't need all 99 if you're only using a few.



Initial Setup

1. **Enter the device IP address** in the IP Address field on the Setup page.
2. **Press Connect** to establish communication with the device.
3. The plugin will automatically fetch device information, cue names, and preset names.
4. The status indicator will show **OK** when connected successfully.

When you press Connect, the plugin automatically fetches device information, cue names, and preset names, then begins polling for active cue status.



Using the Plugin

Setup Page

- **IP Address:** Enter the IP address of your NETRON device
- **Connect:** Toggle on to connect, toggle off to disconnect
- **Status:** Shows connection state and any errors
- **Device Information:** Displays Device Type, Device Name, Firmware, and MAC address once connected

If **Advanced Controls** is enabled:

- **Reboot:** Sends a reboot command to the device
- **Identify:** Flashes the physical LED on the device for identification

Cues Page

- **Active Cue:** Shows the name of the currently running cue
- **Stop All:** Stops all running cues
- **Cue Name:** Read-only display showing the cue name from the device
- **Save:** Saves the current DMX values on all ports to that cue slot
- **Recall:** Recalls the cue. The button stays highlighted while the cue is active
- **State LED:** Shows which cue is currently active

> **Note:** Only one cue can be active at a time. Recalling a new cue automatically replaces the previous one.

If **Advanced Controls** is enabled:

- **Refresh:** Re-fetches cue names from the device without disconnecting

Presets Page

Only visible when the **Presets** property is enabled.

- **Preset Name:** Read-only display showing the preset name from the device
- **Recall:** Loads the user preset. The device may reboot after loading a preset

If **Advanced Controls** is enabled:

- **Refresh:** Re-fetches preset names from the device without disconnecting

> **Important:** User presets are configured on the NETRON device itself (via the device's web interface or front panel). The plugin can only recall existing presets to prevent accidental changes.

Control Pins

All controls are available as control pins for external automation via Component.New scripts, snapshots, or other Q-SYS components.

```
Control Pins
  > Setup         IP Address, Connect, Status, Device Type, Device Name, Firmware, MAC
  > Cues          Active Cue, Stop All, Cue Name 1..N, Cue Save 1..N, Cue Recall 1..N, Cue
Feedback 1..N
  > Presets        Preset Name 1..N, Preset Recall 1..N (when Presets enabled)
  > Advanced       Refresh, Reboot, Identify (when Advanced Controls enabled)
```

Tips

- **Use a static IP** on your NETRON device. DHCP address changes will break the connection.
- **Set Cues to match your actual cue count.** No need to display all 99 if you're only using 10.
- **Cue names are fetched once on connect.** If you rename cues on the device, press Refresh or reconnect to update.
- **Feedback Interval controls network traffic.** For installations where cues don't change externally, 10s or 30s is fine. For live environments where cues may be recalled from the device's front panel, 2s gives faster feedback.
- **Multiple instances supported.** Use multiple plugin instances to control multiple NETRON devices from the same Q-SYS design.

Troubleshooting

Cannot connect to device

- Verify the device IP address is correct
- Confirm the device is on the same network (or routable subnet) as the Q-SYS Core
- Check that no firewall is blocking port 80
- Try accessing the device's web interface in a browser at `http://<device-ip>` to confirm it's reachable

Status shows "Compromised"

- This indicates an HTTP communication error. The plugin will recover automatically on the next successful response.
- Check network connectivity to the device
- If persistent, verify the device hasn't rebooted or changed IP address

Cue names not showing

- Cue names are fetched once on connect. Press **Refresh** (requires Advanced Controls enabled) or disconnect and reconnect
- Verify cues have been programmed and named on the device itself

Preset recall doesn't seem to work

- Preset recall is fire-and-forget. There is no feedback endpoint to confirm preset loading.
- The device may reboot after loading a user preset. Wait for it to come back online.
- Verify the preset has been configured on the device's web interface

Plugin status shows "Invalid or missing license"

- Verify your license key is entered correctly in the License Key property
- License keys are tied to a specific Q-SYS Core (Locking ID). Make sure the key matches the Core running the design
- No license is required when running in Q-SYS Designer emulation mode

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Requirements

- Q-SYS Designer 9.x or higher
- NETRON EtherDMX device with firmware V2.9.4 or higher (recommended)
- Network connectivity between Q-SYS Core and NETRON device on port 80

For additional support, please contact sean@programmedAV.com.au