

USER MANUAL

Kabuki Drop DMX

Professional Curtain Release System



SYSTEM DOCUMENTATION

Table of Contents

01	Introduction	03
02	Safety Information	04
03	Product Overview	05
04	Package Contents	06
05	Product Description	06
06	Technical Specifications	07
07	Installation	08
08	DMX Configuration	11
09	Operation	12
10	Best Practices	13
11	Maintenance	14
12	Troubleshooting	14
13	Available Configurations & Accessories	15
14	Warranty & Global Support	16
15	Regulatory Compliance	17
16	Manufacturer & Distribution	17

SECTION 01

1. Introduction

Thank you for choosing the GLOBAL EFFECTS Kabuki Drop DMX. The Kabuki Drop DMX is a professional curtain release system designed for live entertainment, theatres, concerts, television productions, exhibitions, and corporate events. Built for reliability and ease of use, it provides fast, smooth, and controlled release of curtains, banners, projection screens, and other stage elements. Please read this manual carefully before installing or operating the product, and keep it available for future reference.

Intended Use

The Kabuki Drop DMX is intended for the controlled release of stage curtains, fabrics, banners, projection screens, and similar lightweight scenic elements. The product is designed for indoor professional use only and must be installed on suitable overhead support structures by qualified personnel.

MANUAL CONVENTIONS

NOTE: Helpful tips or standard operational highlights.

IMPORTANT: Vital information crucial to prevent operational failure.

CAUTION: Potential damage to equipment if parameters are ignored.

WARNING: High risk of serious injury, loss of life, or extreme structural damage.

SECTION 02

2. Safety Information



CRITICAL RIGGING & SUSPENSION WARNING

Falling structures or curtains can cause severe trauma or death. Always establish a secure, cleared Drop Zone below any installed release modules. Overhead installation must strictly conform to local lifting equipment regulations.

■ General Safety

Read and comply with all instructions. Retain manual for life of the product.

■ Electrical Safety

Use only specified power supply (100–240 V AC, 50/60 Hz). Disconnect product from power source before installation, maintenance, or inspection.

■ Rigging Safety

Install product only on structures with sufficient load capacity. Secure every unit with an approved secondary safety attachment.

■ Load Safety

Do not exceed maximum rated load.

■ Operating Safety

Keep all persons clear of the drop zone during testing and operation. Ensure zero obstacle footprint.

■ Emergency Procedures

In case of erratic response, instantly cut power or disconnect DMX main feed.

■ PPE Requirements

Hard hats, safety harnesses, and steel-toe footwear required during overhead rigging operations.

SECTION 03

3. Product Overview

The GLOBAL EFFECTS Kabuki Drop DMX represents the state-of-the-art in reliable curtain release systems. Engineered for tour-grade operations and continuous commercial use, this model utilizes advanced magnetic fields and a mechanical clamp interface to release scenic drapes instantly and flawlessly.

Key Features & System Attributes

- ✓ Professional electromagnetic curtain release system
- ✓ Direct fabric clamping — no eyelets or hooks required
- ✓ DMX512 control protocol with direct setting displays
- ✓ Individual or synchronized release of multiple units
- ✓ Adjustable clamp pressure for different fabric weights and types
- ✓ Adjustable magnet position for different fabric thicknesses
- ✓ Suitable for various scenic materials up to 3 mm (0.12 in) thick
- ✓ Manual fabric release mechanism (operable without power source)
- ✓ PowerCON power IN/OUT for safe daisy-chain linkage
- ✓ 3-pin XLR DMX IN/OUT ruggedized stage connectors

SECTION 04

4. Package Contents

1x	Kabuki Drop DMX release unit	Main electromagnetic release module.
1x	Truss clamp (30–50 mm / 1.18–1.97 in.)	Heavy-duty aluminum support clamp.
1x	PowerCON Power IN connector	Blue lockable AC power connector.
1x	PowerCON Power OUT connector	Gray lockable AC pass-through connector.
1x	Safety cable	Steel secondary safety loop (60 cm / 23.6 in., 50 kg / 110 lb rating).
1x	Quick Installation Guide	Compact layout & reference reference booklet.
1x	3 mm (0.12 in.) Hex Key	Hex driver for magnet and bracket adjustments.

* Power cables are not included unless specified. They may be supplied separately and must be assembled by the installer depending on the desired length

SECTION 05

5. Product Description

1	PowerCON Power IN	Blue socket for main AC supply input.
2	PowerCON Power OUT	Gray socket for daisy-chaining power.
3	DMX IN (3-pin XLR)	Receives external DMX-512 standard signal.
4	DMX OUT (3-pin XLR)	Passes signal to adjacent release unit.
5	Status Display	Display for DMX addressing.
6	Address Buttons	Tactile keys to set address digits.
7	Clamp Adjustment Knob	Tension knob for specific fabric thickness.
8	Magnet Adjust Screws	Hex screws for precise mechanical centering.
9	Mounting Slots	Slot for attaching the truss clamp.
10	Safety Point	Reinforced eyelet for safety wire.
11	Truss Clamp	Removable coupler for stage pipe attachment.



SECTION 06

6. Technical Specifications

Product Name	The GLOBAL EFFECTS Kabuki Drop DMX
Product Type	Electromagnetic Curtain Release Unit
Application	Indoor professional stage use
Power Supply	100–240 V AC, 50/60 Hz
Power Consumption	30W (MAX) per active release state
Control Protocol	DMX512-A
DMX Connectors	3-pin XLR IN / OUT
Power Connectors	PowerCON IN / OUT
DMX Address Range	001–512
Maximum Units per DMX Line	16 units (DMX passive terminator required)
Clamp Regulation	0.1–3.0 mm (0.004–0.12 in) (factory adjusted)
Recommended Unit Spacing	1.0 m (3.3 ft) (conforming to curtain payload)
Load Capacity	Up to 10 kg (22 lbs) per mechanical clamp unit
Housing Material	Heavy-duty powder-coated structural steel
Mounting	Integrated truss clamp assembly (30–50 mm / 1.18–1.97 in. pipe)
Safety Attachment	Dedicated eyelet for secondary safety wire steel loop
Dimensions (L × W × H)	274 × 90 × 89 mm (10.8 × 3.54 × 3.5 in)
Weight	1.7 kg (3.8 lbs) net per unit
Operating Temperature	0 °C to +30 °C (32 °F to 86 °F)
Relative Humidity	Maximum 75% (non-condensing atmospheric safety)
Protection Rating	IP20 (indoor dry-stage application)
Installation Assembly	Qualified, certified rigging professionals only

* Maximum number of interconnected units depends on cable length and local electrical regulations.
** Actual load capacity depends on the type, weight, thickness, and surface characteristics of the material being clamped. Always perform a practical load test before use.

RECOMMENDED LOAD CAPACITY BY FABRIC TYPE

Silk (Ultra-lightweight decorative curtain)	4 kg (8.8 lb) (MAX)
Lightweight Synthetic Polyester / Satin Banner	6 kg (13.2 lb) (MAX)
Standard Stage Cotton (Unlined theatrical curtain)	8 kg (17.6 lb) (MAX)
Molton / Heavy-duty theatrical masking fabric	8 kg (17.6 lb) (MAX)
Velvet / Velour drapes (Thick density stage backdrop)	10 kg (22 lb) (MAX)

The values above are provided as guidelines only. Actual holding force depends on fabric thickness, weave, coating, and surface friction. Always test the installation before live operation.

SECTION 07

7. Installation — Part 1

BEFORE INSTALLATION

Carefully unbox and inspect every individual release module before starting any overhead installation. Verify that the support structure is suitable for the total suspended load and complies with all applicable rigging regulations. Installation must be performed only by qualified personnel.

PREPARING THE CURTAIN

For most curtain fabrics, no preparation is required. However, for smooth or slippery materials (such as synthetic silk or satin), it is strictly recommended to sew a sturdy 5–10 mm (0.2–0.4 in) reinforced hem or attach small woven loops along the top edge of the curtain. This ensures optimal friction and eliminates any possibility of early slipping.

■ **NOTE**

In many cases, the clamp holds a stitched hem more securely than a single layer of smooth fabric.



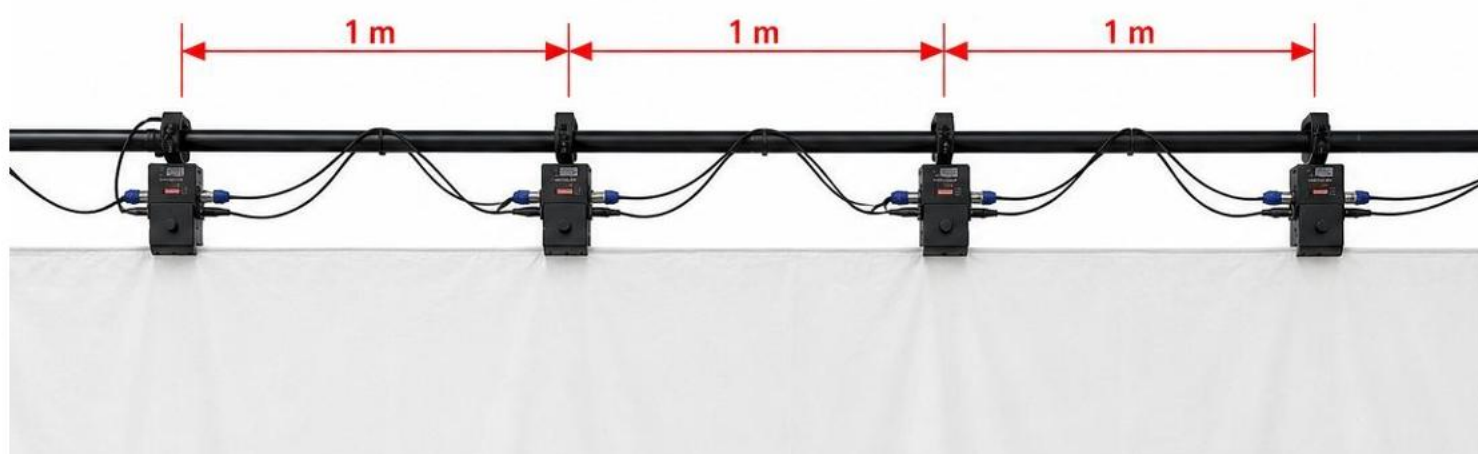
MOUNTING THE RELEASE UNIT

Attach the Kabuki Drop DMX unit to an approved truss, pipe, or batten using the supplied 30–50 mm (1.2–2.0 in) truss clamp. Mount the unit in a stable vertical position, with the fabric clamp facing downward and accessible for loading the curtain. Secure each unit with an approved secondary safety cable attached to the designated safety point.



POSITIONING THE MODULES

Determine the total width of the curtain, backdrop, banner, or screen to be released. Install the first and last units at the outer edges of the release area, then install the remaining units evenly between them. Alternatively, set the middle units first and position the remaining units evenly on either side. Recommended spacing between units is 1.0 m (3.3 ft), depending on the weight and behaviour of the material. Use shorter spacing for heavier fabrics or where a cleaner hanging line is required.



SECTION 07

7. Installation — Part 2

POWER CONNECTION

Connect power to each unit using the specified **PowerCON IN** connector. When linking multiple units, use the **PowerCON OUT** connector to continue the power chain. Do not exceed the maximum number of units permitted in one power chain. Follow local electrical regulations and use only properly rated cables and connectors.

DMX CONNECTION

Connect the DMX signal from the controller to the **3-pin XLR DMX IN** connector of the first unit. Use the **3-pin XLR DMX OUT** connector to link the signal to the next unit. Set the required DMX address for each unit. Use the same address for simultaneous release, or different addresses for individual control. A DMX terminator must be installed at the end of the DMX line. Do not exceed 16 units or a total DMX cable length of 25 m (82 ft) between the controller and the last unit.

LOADING THE CURTAIN

■ IMPORTANT

Before attaching the curtain, test the system several times. Send a DMX signal and make sure all units release correctly. Disconnect the signal, close the clamp, and repeat the test.

Ensure that all power is completely disconnected before loading any curtain. Loosen the physical adjustment to open the clamp by 2–3 mm (0.08–0.12 in). Do not unscrew the knob completely. Carefully slide the top edge of the curtain fully into the clamping gap, keeping it straight and flat. Push the fabric inward to a depth of no more than 1.5 cm (0.6 in), then tighten the knob clockwise until it is hand-tight.

■ WARNING

Do not use wrenches, pliers, or external leverage tools to tighten the clamp knob. Overtightening may permanently deform the inner magnetic core assembly, strip mechanical threads, or damage the fabric.

CURTAIN RELEASE ADJUSTMENT (NO-POWER REPOSITIONING)

If the curtain has already been clamped and its position needs to be adjusted (for example, to improve curtain alignment or reposition a Kabuki Drop unit), the fabric can be released without connecting the unit to power or sending a DMX command. Proceed as follows:

1. Turn the Clamp Adjustment Knob counterclockwise until the fabric is released.
2. Reposition the curtain or the Kabuki Drop unit as required.
3. Insert the fabric back into the clamp.
4. Tighten the Clamp Adjustment Knob until the fabric is securely held.

This allows individual units to be repositioned quickly without opening the entire curtain line or reconnecting the system to power.

■ NOTE

This feature is especially useful during installation when making final curtain alignment adjustments.

SECTION 07

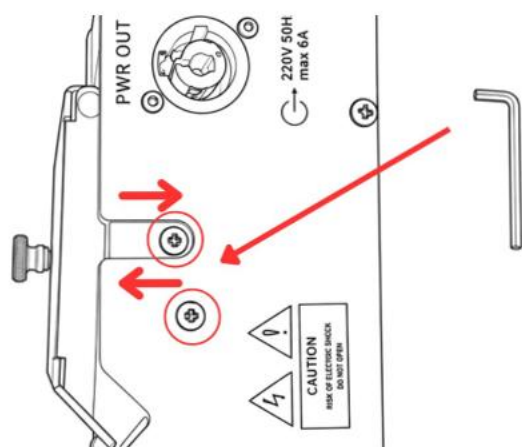
7. Installation — Part 3

ADJUSTING THE MAGNET POSITION

The Kabuki Drop DMX is factory-adjusted for thin fabrics. If thicker materials (2-3 mm/0.08–0.12 in) are used, the magnet position may need to be adjusted to ensure that the clamp closes securely. Close the clamp, then using the supplied 3 mm (0.12 in) hex key, loosen the two adjustment screws located on the side of the housing and move the clamp with magnet slightly toward the front of the unit. Loosen the adjustment knob to open the clamp. Insert the curtain edge evenly into the clamp to a maximum depth of 1.5 cm (0.6 in) from the edge of the clamp cover. Tighten the adjustment knob clockwise until the fabric is securely held. Adjust the clamping force as required for the fabric thickness and surface texture. Tighten the screws after adjustment. Only small adjustments are normally required. After adjusting the magnet position, verify that the clamp closes securely and perform a functional test before use.

■ **CAUTION**

Always disconnect the main PowerCON lines from every active stage unit before attempting physical hex adjustments to avoid any accidental dynamic trigger.



VIDEO INSTRUCTION

Scan the QR code to watch a step-by-step video guide detailing safe magnetic clamp adjustment.

PRE-OPERATION SAFETY CHECKLIST

- ☐ Verify all units are securely mounted with clamps locked and all safety cables attached.
- ☐ Ensure all PowerCON and 3-pin XLR DMX cables are attached with no tension or sag.
- ☐ Confirm all DMX address configurations are correctly set.
- ☐ Check that the curtain is held securely.
- ☐ Ensure the active drop zone is completely clear.

After testing, reload the curtain and repeat the final inspection before the performance.

FINAL SAFETY CHECK

Before operation, confirm that the drop zone is clear and access is controlled. Do not trigger the system unless the operator has a clear view of the release area or is in communication with a designated observer.

SECTION 08

8. DMX Configuration

DMX512 CONTROL ARCHITECTURE

The Kabuki Drop DMX is controlled via the DMX512 protocol. Each release unit occupies one DMX channel.

The unit is equipped with a digital display and two control buttons:

▲ – Increase DMX address

▼ – Decrease DMX address

The selected DMX address is shown on the display.

SETTING THE DMX ADDRESS

1. Connect the unit to power.
2. Use the ▲ and ▼ buttons to select the desired DMX address.
3. The selected address is saved automatically.

Assign the same DMX address to multiple units for simultaneous release, or assign different addresses for individual control.

DMX STATUS INDICATOR

A solid, steady red display indicates a stable DMX signal is connected. A flashing display indicates that no valid signal is detected. If the display is flashing, check the main control cable connection, confirm the console power is on, and verify the DMX line is correctly terminated.

DMX OPERATION

When the assigned DMX channel is activated by the controller, the release unit opens and releases the attached curtain or scenic element.

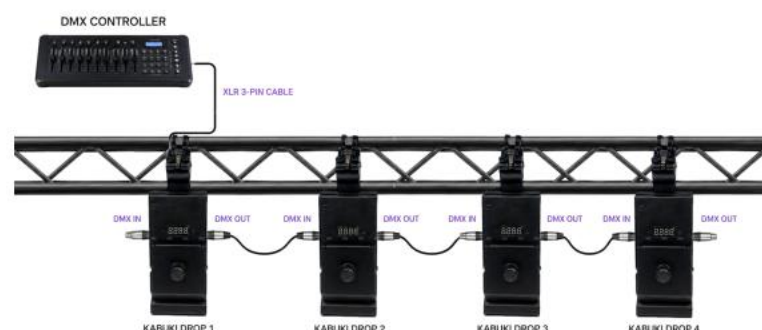
DMX Network Recommendations

For reliable DMX communication:

1. Install a DMX terminator at the end of every DMX line.
2. Do not exceed 16 Kabuki Drop DMX units on a single DMX line.
3. The maximum recommended DMX cable length between the controller and the last unit is 25 m (82 ft).
Using high-quality DMX512 cable is strongly recommended.

■ IMPORTANT! AUTOMATIC ELECTROMAGNET PROTECTION

To prevent overheating, the Kabuki Drop DMX automatically disconnects power to the electromagnet approximately 5 seconds after a continuous release command is detected. This protection feature operates automatically and does not affect the normal operation of the unit. For normal operation, the DMX release signal should be removed immediately after the release has been completed.



Up to 16 units may be connected on a single DMX line. Install a DMX terminator at the last unit.

SECTION 09

9. Operation

BEFORE OPERATION

Before each use, perform a complete diagnostic walk-through of the entire system. Ensure that all units are securely mounted, secondary safety cables are correctly attached, power and DMX cables are properly connected, the curtain is correctly positioned in each clamp, the DMX addresses are set as required, and the drop zone is clear of personnel and obstacles. Do not operate the system until all safety checks have been completed.

INITIATING THE RELEASE COMMAND

The Kabuki Drop DMX is controlled via the DMX512 protocol. When the assigned DMX channel receives the release command, the electromagnetic clamp opens immediately, releasing the attached curtain or scenic element. Once the release has occurred, remove the DMX release signal from the unit.

■ **IMPORTANT**

Do not leave the DMX trigger channel active for extended periods. The Kabuki Drop DMX is equipped with an internal protection circuit. If the release signal remains active continuously, power to the electromagnet is automatically disconnected after approximately 5 seconds to prevent overheating. This is a normal operating function and does not indicate a malfunction.

SYSTEM RESET PROCEDURE

After each release:

1. Remove the DMX release signal.
2. Disconnect the power supply.
3. Close the clamp manually.

DURING OPERATION

Do not touch, adjust, or reload the unit while it is energized, never stand beneath a loaded release unit and operate the system only when the drop zone is completely clear.

AFTER OPERATION

Disconnect all power supply after your event. Carefully inspect each unit for damage or excessive wear, clean the clamping surfaces if necessary, close the units and store the equipment in a clean, dry environment.

■ **NOTE**

When reinstalling the same curtain, there is no need to manually open and readjust each clamp after storage. Mount the units, apply a DMX release command to open all clamps, remove the DMX signal, disconnect power, and then insert the curtain using the existing clamp settings. This allows the previous adjustment to be retained and speeds up installation.

SECTION 10

10. Best Practices

The following recommendations will help ensure reliable operation, consistent curtain release, and extended service life of the Kabuki Drop DMX system.

PLAN UNIT SPACING CAREFULLY

For most curtain applications, install release units at 1.0 m (3.3 ft) intervals. Reduce the spacing when using heavy fabrics or when a perfectly straight curtain line is required.

TEST EVERY INSTALLATION

Perform a complete functional test before every performance, especially after changing the curtain, adjusting the clamp settings, or modifying the installation. Never perform the first release in front of an audience.

ADJUST CLAMP PRESSURE CORRECTLY

Apply only the clamping force necessary to securely hold the fabric. Excessive pressure may damage delicate materials or make curtain loading more difficult.

KEEP THE CLAMPING SURFACES CLEAN

Dust, dirt, adhesive residue, or fabric fibers may reduce the holding performance. Inspect and clean the clamping surfaces regularly using a soft, dry cloth.

USE THE SAME ADJUSTMENT FOR REPEATED INSTALLATIONS

If the same curtain is used repeatedly, keep the existing clamp adjustment. Open all clamps using a DMX release command before loading the curtain. This eliminates the need to manually open and readjust each unit, significantly reducing installation time.

REMOVE THE DMX RELEASE SIGNAL AFTER ACTIVATION

After the curtain has been released, return the DMX channel to its normal value. Leaving the release command active unnecessarily energizes the electromagnet until the internal protection circuit disconnects it automatically.

INSPECT BEFORE EVERY USE

Before each performance, check that: mounting hardware is secure; safety cables are properly attached; power and DMX connections are secure; the curtain is evenly loaded; all units respond correctly during testing.

STORE THE EQUIPMENT PROPERLY

Store the units in a clean, dry environment. Protect the connectors from dust and moisture, and avoid impacts during transportation.

AVOID EXCESSIVE MECHANICAL FORCE

Do not force the clamp open or closed. If adjustment is required, use the adjustment mechanism only as described in this manual.

USE FABRIC WITHOUT EYELETS

The Kabuki Drop DMX is designed to clamp the fabric directly. In most applications, curtains, backdrops, and banners can be installed without eyelets, hooks, or sewn attachment points. If the fabric has eyelets, install each unit between eyelets.

OPTIMIZE THE MAGNET POSITION FOR DIFFERENT FABRICS

The factory setting is optimized for thin curtain fabrics. When using thicker materials (2-3 mm/0.08–0.12 in), adjust the magnet position to achieve reliable clamping. Small adjustments are usually sufficient. After making any adjustment, perform a test release before live operation.

USE CONSISTENT CURTAIN TENSION

Ensure that the curtain hangs evenly before loading all release units. Uneven curtain tension may affect the appearance of the release.

MAKE A STITCHED TOP

For very smooth or slippery fabrics, prepare the curtain with a stitched top hem as described in the Installation section.

SECTION 11

11. Maintenance

Before Each Use

- Inspect the unit for visible damage.
- Verify that the truss clamp and safety cable are secure.
- Check power and DMX connectors.
- Ensure the clamping surfaces are clean.

Cleaning

- Clean with a soft, dry cloth.
- Do not use solvents or abrasive cleaners.
- Prevent moisture from entering the housing.

Storage

- Store in a clean, dry environment.
- Protect connectors from dust and impact.

SECTION 12

12. Troubleshooting

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Display flashes	No DMX signal detected	Check the controller, cabling and DMX connections.
Unit does not release	Incorrect DMX address	Verify the DMX address.
Unit does not release	No DMX release command	Verify DMX channel values.
Curtain slips	Clamp pressure too low	Increase clamp pressure.
Clamp doesn't close securely	Magnet position not adjusted for the fabric thickness	Adjust magnet position using supplied 3 mm (0.12 in) hex key.
Curtain hard to insert	Clamp pressure too high	Reduce the clamp pressure by knob.
Units do not operate simultaneously	Different DMX addresses	Verify the DMX addresses.

SECTION 13

13. Available Configurations and Accessories

The following accessories and product configurations are available for the GLOBAL EFFECTS Kabuki Drop DMX system.

Product Configurations

The Kabuki Drop DMX is available in the following configurations:

Configuration	Description
Single Unit	For system expansion or replacement
6-Unit Flight Case Set	Complete set supplied in a protective flight case
12-Unit Flight Case Set	Complete professional set supplied in a heavy-duty flight case

Each unit is supplied with:

Truss clamp 30–50 mm (1.2–2.0 in)
Safety cable
PowerCON IN connector
PowerCON OUT connector
3 mm (0.12 in) hex key
Quick Installation Guide

Optional Accessories are available separately for replacement:

Truss clamp 30–50 mm (1.2–2.0 in)
Safety cable
PowerCON IN connector
PowerCON OUT connector
3 mm (0.12 in) hex key

Power and DMX Cables

Power and DMX cables are not supplied. Cable lengths vary depending on the installation, therefore users should prepare or purchase cables appropriate for their specific application.

Cable Type	Specification
Power cable	Suitable for local electrical standard with PowerCON connectors
DMX512 cable	3-pin XLR connectors

Use only high-quality cables intended for professional entertainment lighting and stage applications.

SECTION 14

14. Warranty & Global Support

The Kabuki Drop DMX is manufactured exclusively for and distributed worldwide by **ARTEQ Stage Technologies LLC**, the authorized global distributor and trademark licensee of GLOBAL EFFECTS.

TWO (2) YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY: ARTEQ Stage Technologies LLC warrants this professional stage equipment to be free from defects in materials and workmanship from the date of the original purchase.

Warranty Exclusions

This limited warranty does not cover:

- Damage resulting from improper installation or rigging.
- Misuse, physical negligence, or overload beyond specifications.
- Unauthorized modifications or repair.
- Mechanical damage.
- Natural physical wear and tear
- Damage caused by improper transportation or storage

Warranty Service

If your Kabuki Drop DMX requires service during the warranty period, please submit a Repair Request through the Support section of our website. Our technical support team will review your request and may provide remote troubleshooting assistance if the issue can be resolved without returning the product.

If repair is required, you will receive instructions for returning the product to:

- an authorized ARTEQ Stage Technologies service center; or
- your authorized dealer or distributor.

The cost of shipping the product to the service location is the responsibility of the customer.

If the warranty claim is approved, ARTEQ Stage Technologies will, at its discretion, repair or replace the defective product or component.

Technical Support

Before returning any product for service, please contact Technical Support on our website www.arteqstage.com. Many issues can be resolved through remote diagnostics, reducing equipment downtime and shipping costs.

SECTION 15

15. Regulatory Compliance

The GLOBAL EFFECTS Kabuki Drop DMX has been designed to comply with applicable international safety and electromagnetic compatibility requirements.

This product complies with the following regulations:

CE & RoHS COMPLIANT

Complies with European Union safety, health, and environmental protection requirements. Free of restricted hazardous chemical elements.

FCC PART 15 CLASS A

Meets United States electromagnetic compatibility requirements. Operation is subject to no harmful RF interference in staging environments.



Disposal: This stage equipment must not be disposed of with normal household waste. Recycle in compliance with regional electrical/electronic machinery laws.

Compliance markings are located on the product identification label. For complete Declarations of Conformity and the latest compliance information, please visit the Support section of our website.

SECTION 16

16. Manufacturer & Distribution

ARTEQ Stage Technologies LLC

Authorized Global Distributor & Licensee of GLOBAL EFFECTS
1616 Cape Coral Pkwy W Suite 102, PMB 223
Cape Coral, FL, 33914, USA

Support: Support@arteqstage.com

Web: arteqstage.com

DIGITAL RESOURCES



Website



Videos