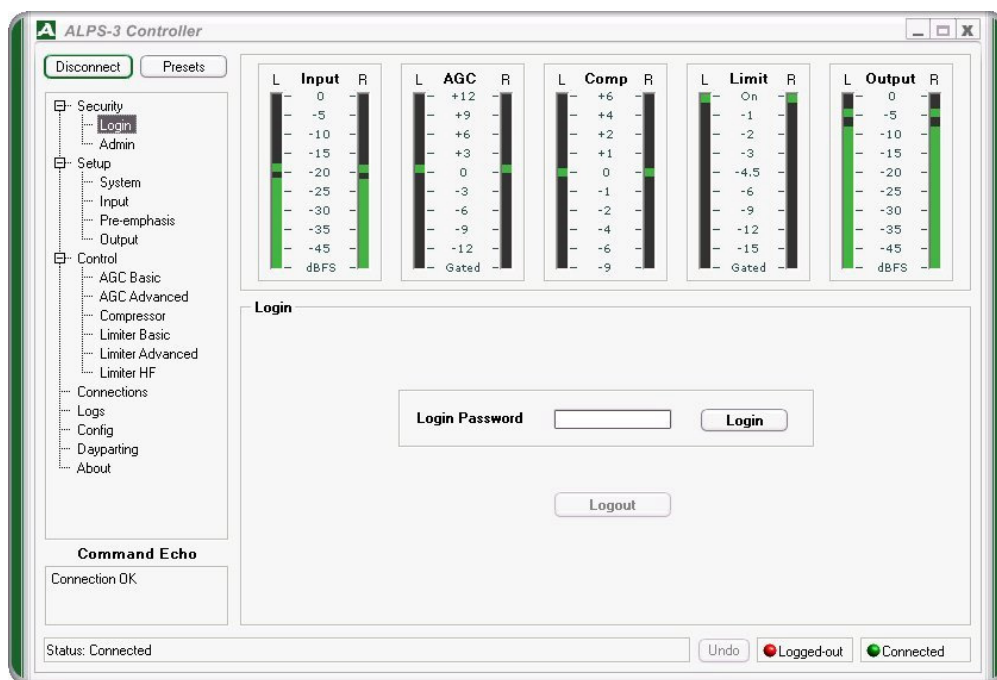


Audessence Controller Software

Installation & Operation Manual for the ALPS-3



Controller Manual A3 [Version 1.1] 2008-11-25

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Installing the Audessence Controller Software

1. It is easiest to install the software BEFORE connecting the audio processing unit to the PC. If the processor is connected then power-down before starting to install.
2. The software should auto-run directly from the CD after it is inserted.
3. The software is designed to run under Windows 2000(SP4), Windows XP and Windows Vista only.
4. If the installation does not start automatically, use the 'Run' option in your Windows 'Start' menu and select D:\setup.exe [where D is the letter of your CD or DVD drive]. This will install the Audessence Controller software, required runtime libraries and the USB drivers.

If you are using USB, occasionally the USB drivers may not load during installation setup, or automatically when you first connect the USB lead to your computer. In this case, follow the instructions in the Controller Appendices on the Audessence CD, 'Manually installing the USB Drivers', for Windows 2000 and Windows XP respectively.

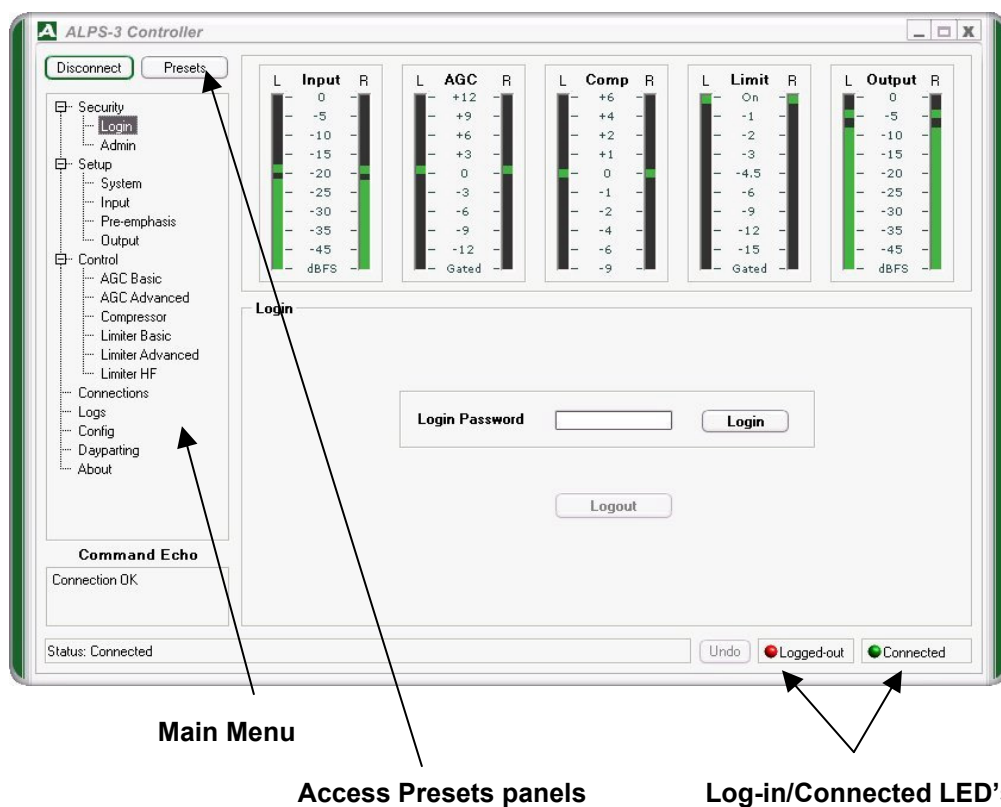
N.B. The drivers can be found in the USB-Drivers folder on the Audessence CD.

Connecting and Configuring Audessence Controller

The following sections describe connecting to an ALPS-3 Audio Processor unit and how to change configuration settings.

Connecting and Logging-in

1. You can connect the Audessence Controller to the computer via a serial port (the modem port), USB port or Ethernet port. Serial (USB), modem and Ethernet connections can be configured from the *Connections* panel available from the main menu. See the section on Connections.



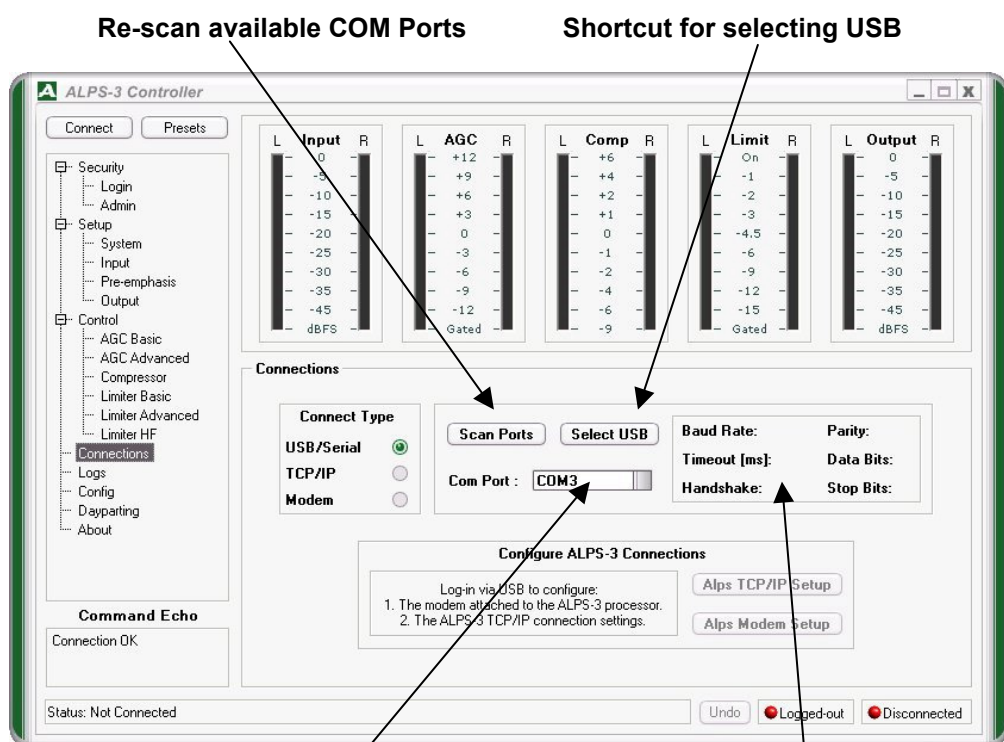
2. The metering bars should become active shortly after pressing the *Connect* button. You will need to log in if you wish to make any changes to the Audessence processor settings.
3. The initial login is **AAAA**. Click on the *Admin* menu option to change your user password when connected and logged- in. (See the section entitled Changing Your User Password.)
4. The Audessence Controller times-out after 10 minutes of inactivity. A reminder window will appear after nine minutes. Click the *Continue* button to carry on with the session. Pressing *Stop* will end the session and disconnect you from the processor.

Connections

You can connect to the ALPS-3 processor using USB, modem (U.S.Robotics 56k Faxmodem is recommended) or Ethernet.

USB/Serial Port Connections

- Connecting via USB creates a virtual COM Port, which is always the last available COM Port on your PC. The drivers should install automatically during Setup. If the “Found New Hardware Wizard” launches the first time you connect, or your connection isn’t recognized, then follow the instructions in the Appendices.
- You may have to *Rescan Ports* if you connected the USB lead after starting the Audessence Controller.
- If you don’t intend to use a modem then you can connect via the serial port in the usual way.
- You can alter the port used for connecting to the Processor from the drop-down **COM Port** list, which displays all available COM Ports.



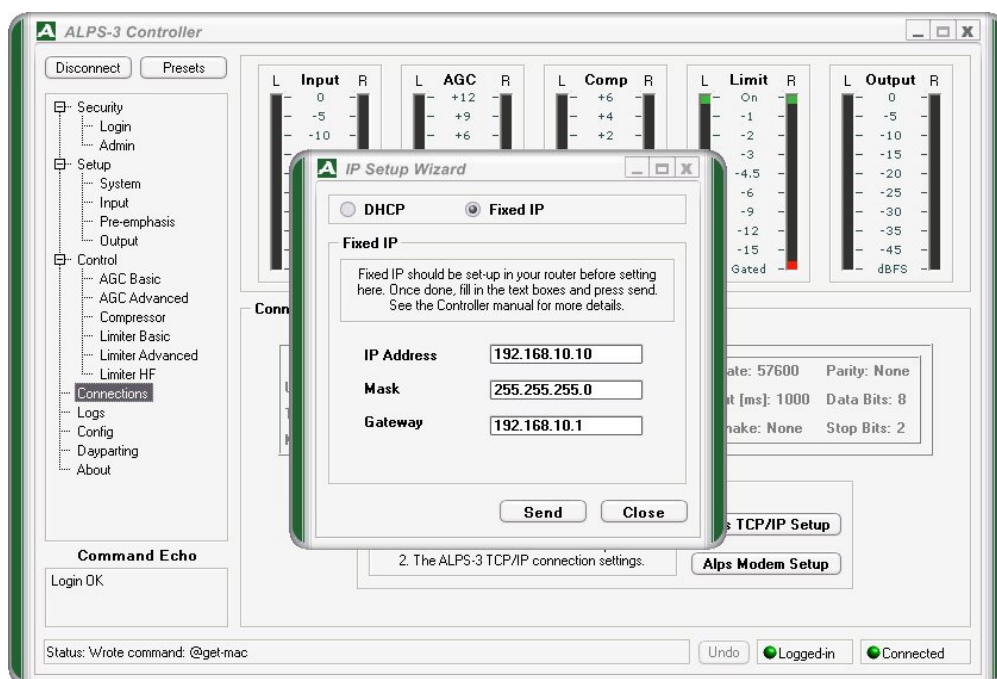
Choose from available COM Ports

Non-configurable Serial Port Settings

Ethernet Connections

- You need only supply the IP address for connecting via the Ethernet port. The default Timeout is set to 5 seconds. You can increase this by choosing a value from the drop-down list if your connection is a flaky.

- The ALPS-3 needs to be configured for IP connections. You will need to log in via USB before you can launch the TCP/IP Setup Wizard, below.



- ALPS-3 can be configured for either Fixed IP or DHCP. Fixed IP is recommended.

Fixed IP

- Configure your router so that the NAT table contains an address that is outside the DHCP range. You will also need to supply the Port address, which is always 61234.
- Now launch the IP Setup Wizard. You will need to supply an IP Address outside the router DHCP range (usually an local range address like 192.168.10.10), the network mask (usually 255.255.255.0, see your router configurator) and the Gateway (Router) address. This is the address you use to access the router configurator from your browser.

- Press send. If an error was encountered then the address text boxes will read **Not Set**.
- You can then connect to the ALPS-3 using the local address of the router, usually something like 80.5.192.94.

DHCP

- Make sure that your ALPS-3 unit is connected to an Ethernet port (you will still need to log-in via USB) and then press the send button. (If the IP Address text box reads **Not Set** or **0.0.0.0** you will need to close and then re-start the IP Setup Wizard.) Your dynamically allocated IP address should now appear in the address text box.

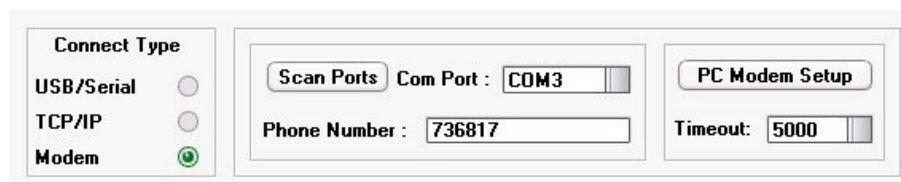


- Configure your router so that the NAT table contains your allocated IP Address and port number, which is always 61234.

See you Router documentation for configuring your NAT table for DHCP and Fixed IP.

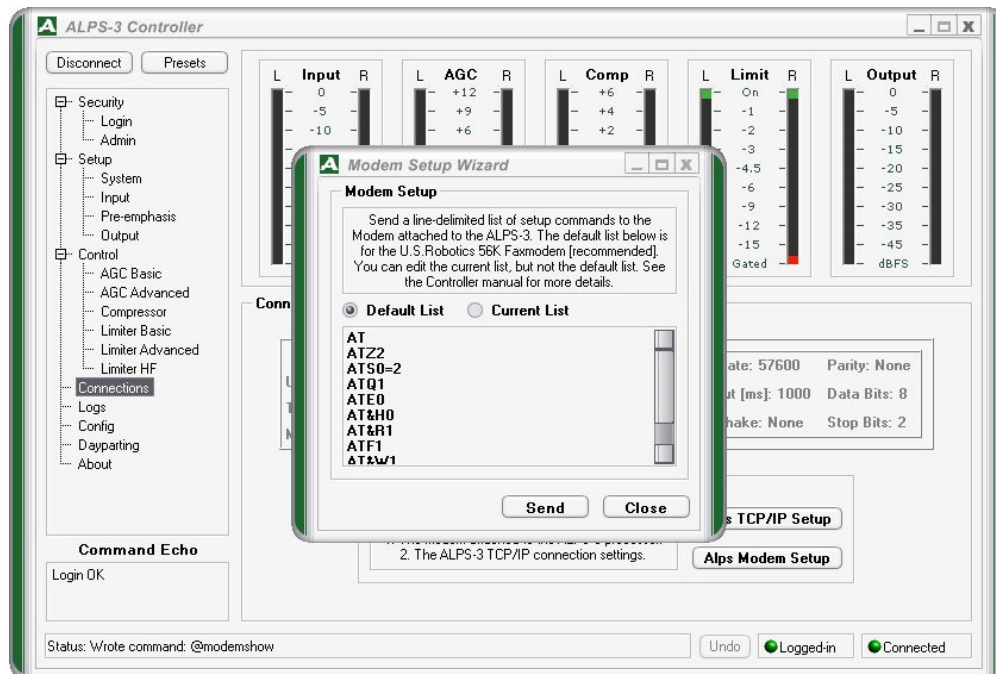
Modem Connections

- You need to supply the telephone number of the ALPS-3 connected modem and the Serial port of your PC modem. The default Timeout is set to 5 seconds. You can increase this by choosing a value from the drop-down list if you know your connection to be flaky.



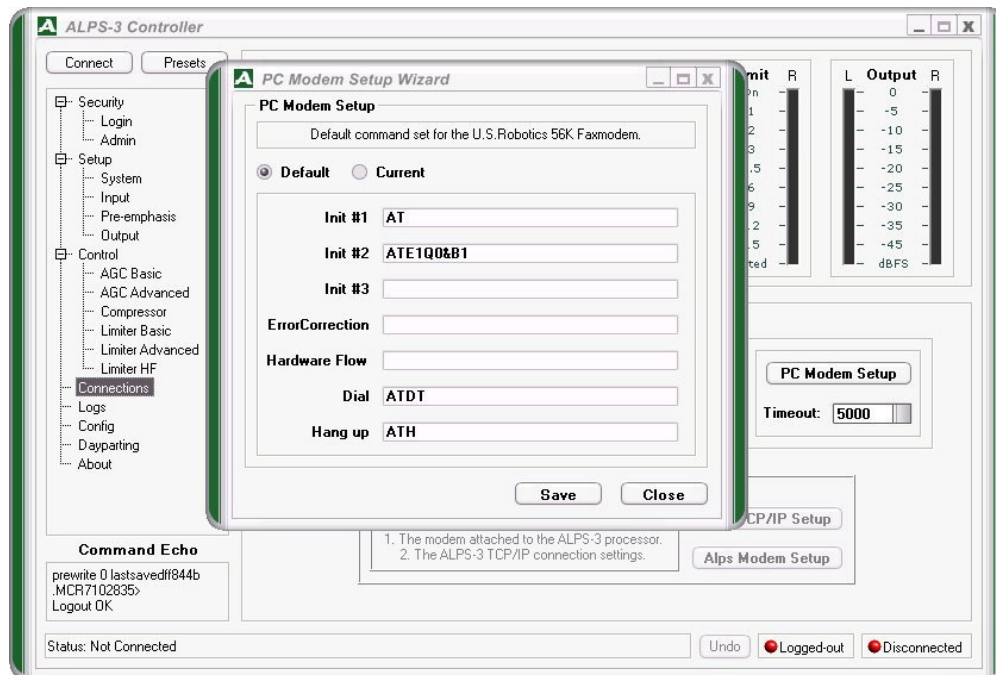
- To configure the Modem connected to your ALPS-3, you need to log in via USB. The Modem Setup Wizard contains a **Default List** of settings for the recommended U.S.Robotics 56k Faxmodem. You shouldn't have any problem setting-up your modem if you use these settings. Just press the *Send* button.
- ***Audessence does not offer support for any modem [connected to the ALPS-3] other than the recommended U.S.Robotics 56k Faxmodem. Use an alternative at your own risk.***

- Pressing the Current List radio button displays the currently loaded commands, if any. You can cut and paste commands from the (read only) Default List and create your own Current List, which you can then edit. The commands will not be loaded until you press send. [You do this at your own risk.] If your custom commands fail then you can always re-load the Default List.



- A manual and command list for the U.S.Robitics 56k Faxmodem can be found on the Audessence installation CD.***

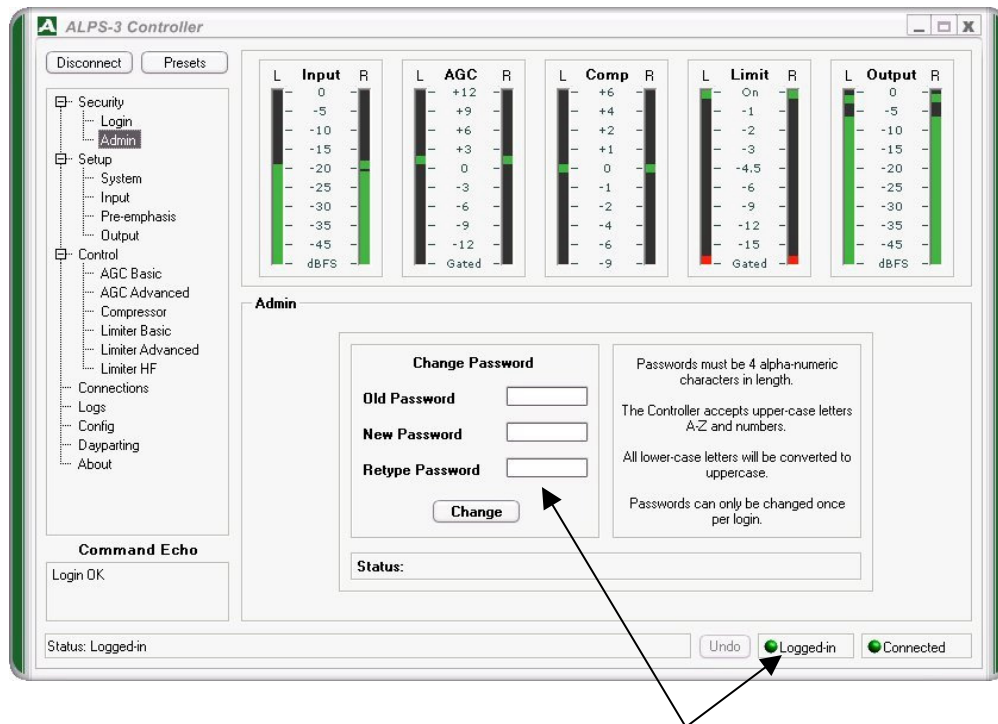
- Launch the PC Modem Setup Wizard (below) to configure the P.C. connected modem. As with the [ALPS-3] Modem Setup Wizard above, there are Default and Current command lists.



- The Default command list is for the [recommended] U.S.Robotics 56k Faxmodem and is read only. You can only add additional commands to the Current list.
- Pressing the Save button saves the command to file, not to the P.C connected modem. The commands are only sent to the modem when connecting.
- *A manual and command list for the U.S.Robotics 56k Faxmodem can be found on the Audessence installation CD.*

Changing Your User Password

1. You can change your password by selecting the *Admin* panel, available from the main menu. You can only change your password once you have logged onto the ALPS-3 processor. Read the instructions carefully.



You must be logged-in to change your password

2. The Change Password window will become greyed-out once you have successfully changed your password. You are only allowed to change password once per login session.

Saving CPU cycles on older computers

1. If you are using Audessence controller on older equipment, then you can save precious CPU cycles by removing the custom skin, and using the standard Windows skin.
2. The controller has to be re-started if you decide to disable (or re-enable) the custom skin. If you are logged-in to the processor then your current working preset will be saved and you will be automatically logged-out.



Try disabling the custom skin ...

... before slowing down the meter speed

3. If removing the custom skin isn't enough then you can try slowing down the frame speed of the metering bars. The default setting is 25fps for USB/Serial connections (17fps for modem connections). 12 fps will still give a reasonable display.

Note: You do not need to be logged into the processor to change these settings.

Using Audessence Controller

The following section describes how to change processor settings and how to use presets, which are collections of pre-defined settings.

Adjusting Processor Settings

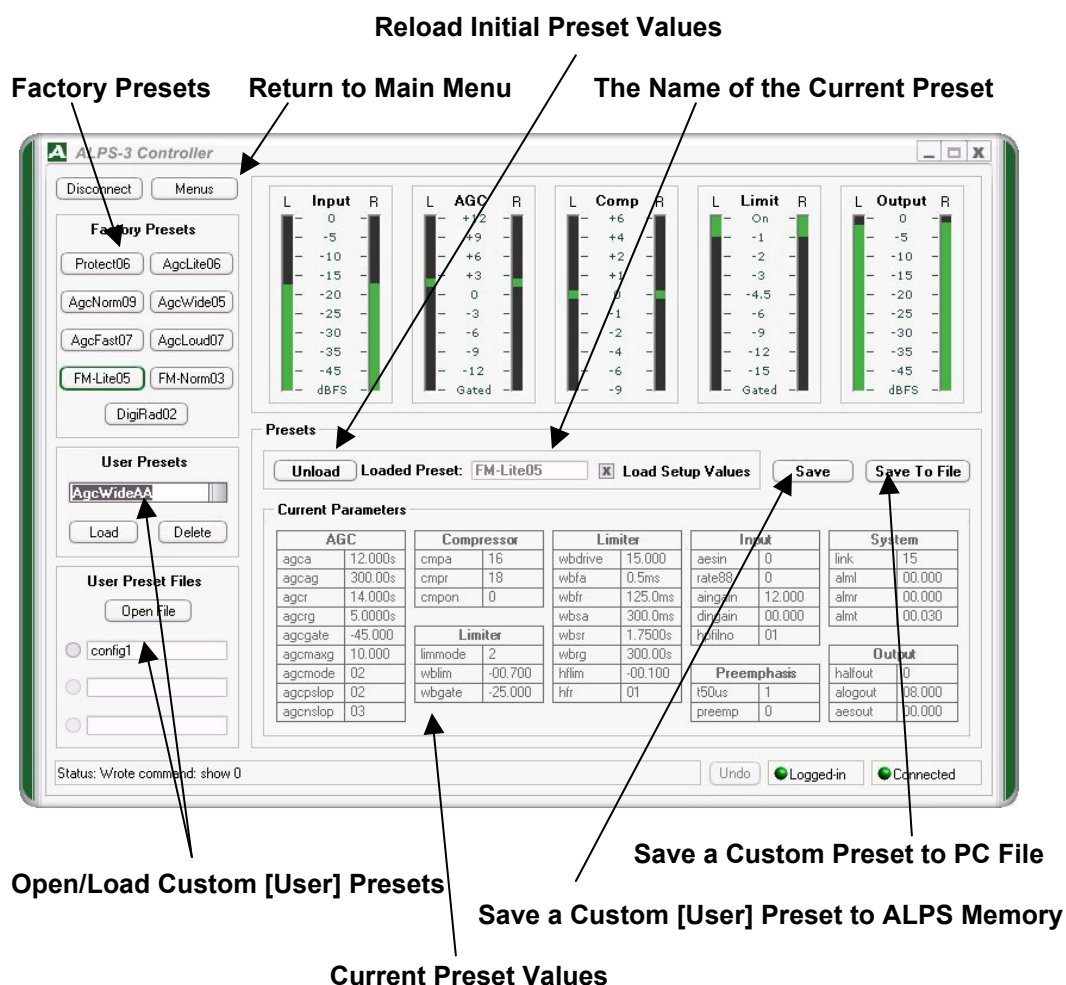
1. All controls are accessed via the main menu. Sliders and writeable text boxes will not respond to commands if you are not connected and logged-in. Commands are echoed in the Command Echo box if successful, otherwise an error will be displayed in the Status Bar.



2. Some slider control text boxes are writable and some are read-only. Writable text boxes show print in a regular font, whereas read-only text boxes show print in bold grey. The pointer will not change when hovering over read-only text boxes.
3. If you enter an incorrect value into a writable text box, such as a value that falls outside the accepted range, then an error will appear in the Status bar and the text box will display its previous value.

Changing Presets

1. Click on the *Preset/Menu* button to view and load Factory or Custom presets onto the Processor. A preset is a list, or collection, of control values for all Processor functions. A copy of the current working preset is stored in memory whenever you enter the Presets window.
2. Press one of the Factory preset buttons to load a Factory preset into Processor memory. The preset can then be fine-tuned by returning to the main menu and adjusting individual controls.



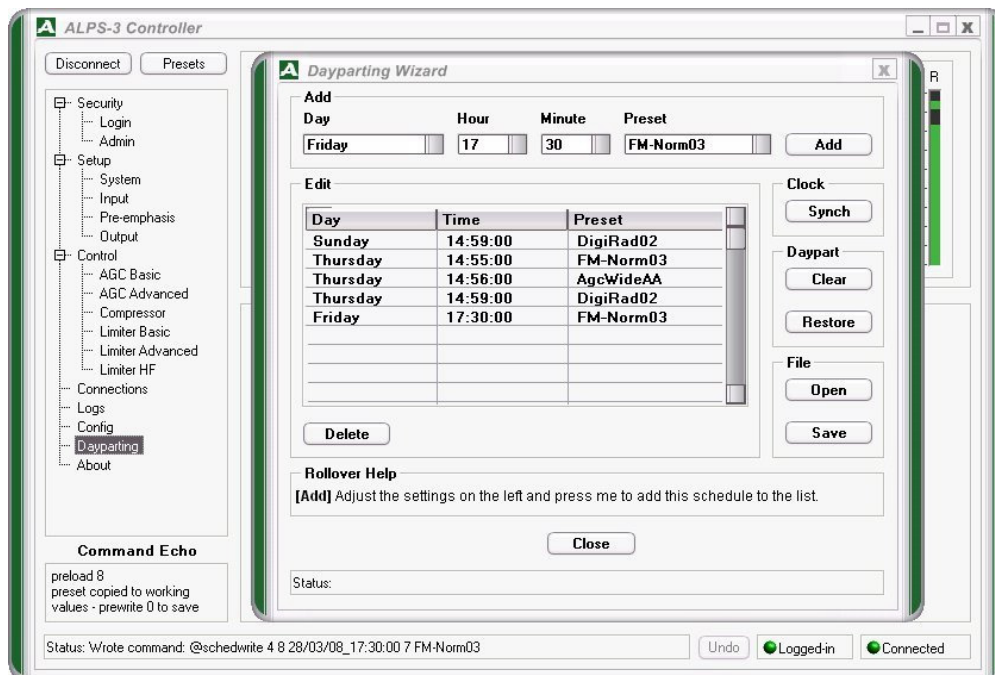
3. Preset values for each control are displayed in the window below the metering bars. The name of the currently loaded preset will appear in the *Loaded Preset* text box.
4. Preset *Setup* values are currently loaded by default. The *Load Setup Values* checkbox is always ticked.
5. Press the *Unload* button to unload any or all of the presets you have loaded onto the processor since entering the Presets window.

6. Custom presets can be saved to file for safe keeping by pressing the *Save to File* button. They can be loaded into the Processor by pressing the *Open Preset File* button. Up to three custom preset files can be stored for use on the controller at any one time, loading a fourth custom preset will simply replace the first in the list. To find out where the Custom presets are stored, see the Files section below.
7. User Presets are stored in reserved memory space on the ALPS-3. Up to 70 custom presets can be stored in this way. They are identical to P.C. Custom preset files and should be treated in the same way.
 - Press the *Delete* button to delete a User Preset from ALPS-3 memory.
 - Press the Load button to load a User Preset onto the ALPS-3 processor.
8. Preset values are automatically loaded into Processor permanent memory when you shut down the controller.

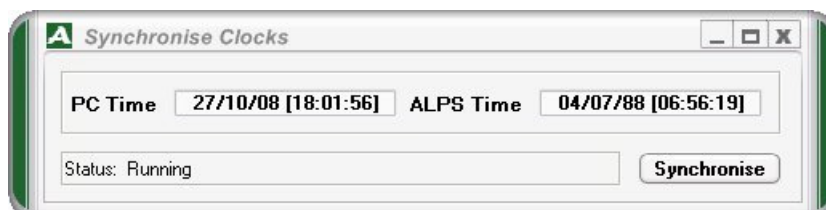
Dayparting

Launch the Dayparting Wizard to setup Daypart schedules on the ALPS-3. [Press the Dayparting menu item.] The Wizard is simple to use.

1. The *Add* panel adds a daypart item to the current list.
2. Use the *Daypart* panel controls to *Clear* and *Restore* the currently loaded Daypart list. *Restore* loads the Daypart list as it was when the Daypart Wizard was first launched.

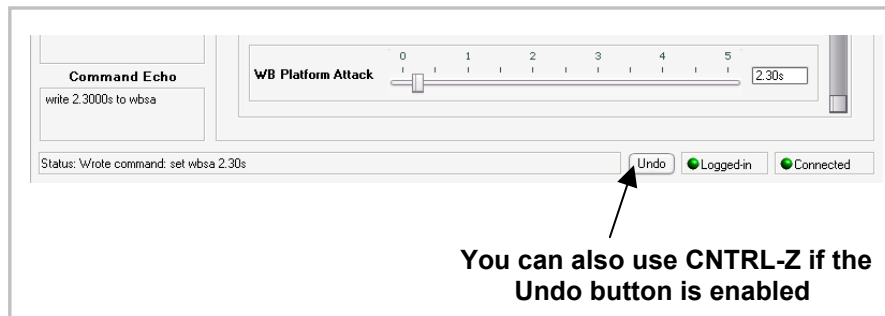


3. Use the *File* panel to *Open* and *Save* Daypart list files. Make sure to save your current Daypart list as it will be over-written when opening a Daypart file. To find out where the Daypart files are stored, see the Files section below.
4. The *Edit* panel displays the currently loaded Daypart list. You can highlight and delete individual Dayparts.
5. The *Clock* panel launches the synchronize Clock wizard. Pressing the *Synchronise* button synchs the P.C. clock and the ALPS-3 Clock.



Undo Operations

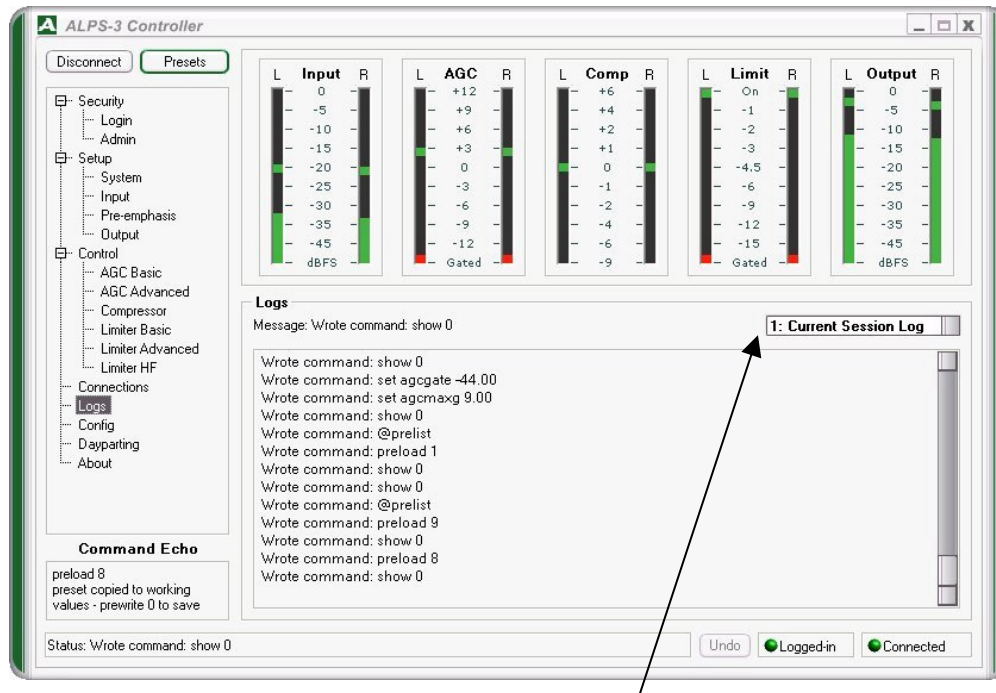
1. Press CNTRL-Z (or the *Undo* button) to undo previously applied setting. The undo stack remains active between login sessions but will be lost when the Controller is shut down. Undo is not accessible if you are not connected and logged-in.



2. The status field and Command Echo will update as you cycle back through your previous commands. You cannot use undo when in the Presets panels - you must return to the main menu for the Undo button (and CNTRL-Z) to become active.

Reading the Logs

1. Use the *Logs* menu link to read the last eight connection logs as well as the current working log.
 - To find out where the Log file is stored, see the Files section below.
2. Each log entry contains connection and command details, as well as any errors that were encountered.



Choose a log from the drop-down menu

3. All previous logs (not the working log) end with the state, or closing preset, of the processor when the controller was shut down. Useful if you want to check previous settings against current settings.

Files

Audessence Controller stores user defaults, Log files and Custom preset files in the My Documents folder.

- Logs: ~\My Documents\Alps-3 Controller\ControllerLog.txt
- Custom preset files:
~\My Documents\Alps-3 Controller\Presets\mypreset.apf
- Custom Daypart files:
~\My Documents\Alps-3 Controller\Daypart\mydaypart.a3sf

If the ~\My Documents\Alps-3 Controller\ folder does not exist, it is created when the Controller is started for the first time.

On **Windows Vista**, the *Audessence Controller* folder is located in the 'Documents' folder, which replaces the 'My Documents' folder.

Contact Us

Please contact Steve Webster if you have any questions, comments or suggestions regarding the Audessence Controller programme. Email: steve@audessence.com

Please contact Martin Spencer if you have any questions, comments or suggestions regarding audio processing, setup of Audessence audio processors and operational considerations. Email: martin@audessence.com

Please contact Graham Sloggett if you have any questions, comments or suggestions for the Sales department. Email: graham@audessence.com