

FocusPhone[™] *Guide*

for
ETC Expression[™] 2x/3
Insight2x/3
Express

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INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on your purchase of a FocusPhone. In a few minutes you will experience the gratifying thrill of running your lighting console from a cordless phone.

This booklet will guide you through the setup and checkout of the FocusPhone. The tutorial section will teach you everything you need to know to set levels using dimmers, channels or groups; to run cues; and even to use macros. With a little practice you will find the FocusPhone as easy to use as a wired remote control, and far more convenient.

Enjoy!

SETUP

1. Make sure the power switch on the FocusPhone interface box is off.
2. Plug the FocusPhone adapter cable into the RFU outlet.
3. Plug the modular telephone cable into the FocusPhone unit.
4. Plug the other end of the telephone cable into the phone base station.
5. Plug the phone power adapter cable into the bottom of the phone base station.
6. Plug the power adapter into a 120v AC outlet.
7. Turn on the FocusPhone power switch

Note: Never plug the FocusPhone into a phone line; both the FocusPhone and the phone line may be damaged. The FocusPhone is not certified or designed to be used on a live phone line.

Note: Always turn off the FocusPhone before plugging or unplugging it.

CHECKOUT

Do this step:

- 1 - With the handset removed from the base station cradle, press the PAGE button on the base station.
The handset should start beeping.
- 2- Press the TALK button on the handset.
The handset should stop beeping and the red "charge/in use" light on the base station should go on.
- 3- Confirm that the FocusPhone unit's green power light is on.
- 4- Put the console into STAGE display.
- 5- Press **[1]** on the cordless handset.
Channel 001 should be selected
- 6- Press **[*]** on the handset.
The console AT button light should go on.
- 7- Press **[0]** **[5]** on the handset.
Channel 1 should be at 05% on the console display.
- 8- The yellow LED on the FocusPhone unit should flash once for each key tone received. Confirm this by watching the LED while you press each number key and **[*]** and **[#]** on the handset.
- 9- On the handset, press **[#]** **[#]** **[#]** **[*]** to clear the channel selection.

Checkout is complete.

If there is a problem:

Check base station power. Check handset battery.

Possible interference; press handset CHAN button to change wireless channels. Place base station away from monitors, wireless intercom transceivers, or other sources of electrical interference.

Check that the FocusPhone power switch is on. Check that console is on. If using an RFU extension, it may be faulty; try plugging FocusPhone directly to the console.

See step 2

See step 2

See step 2

See step 2

TIPS

To preserve battery life of the cordless handset, turn it off when you are not actively using it, and be sure to place it in the base station to recharge at breaks and at the end of each day.

The cordless phone has its own instruction sheet which you should read at some point to familiarize yourself with its features, including speed dialing and wireless communication channel switching.

The rechargeable batteries will wear out eventually. Replacement batteries are available at office supply stores. Old batteries must be disposed of properly, preferably by recycling.

The FocusPhone unit should work with most good quality cordless phones, should you prefer to use a different phone. Remember that FocusPhone cannot be plugged into a phone line, but only directly into a phone base station.

TUTORIAL

You have seen a bit of the FocusPhone operation during the checkout, but are probably eager to learn more. This tutorial will introduce you to all of the FocusPhone features.

Nineteen Expression commands are built into the FocusPhone, and many more can be accessed through console macros. The FocusPhone "language" squeezes a lot of functions out of a Touch-Tone keypad. The button sequences are designed to be as mnemonic and logical as possible, but as with any new language, you may need a bit of practice to achieve proficiency. While you are reading this tutorial use any handy phone to actually punch out the button sequences. By the time you are done your fingers will have already begun to learn the language.

Setting Levels

The ***** key serves as AT.

Set channel 25 at 75: **2 5 * (at) 7 5**

Set channel 55 at 80: **5 5 * (at) 8 0**

At 08%: *** (at) 0 8**

At zero: *** (at) 0 0**

The ***** key also serves as FULL, **but must always be preceded by AT.**

Set channel 135 at full: **1 3 5 * (at) * (full)**

Set channel 20 at full: **2 0 * (at) * (full)**

Set it at zero: *** (at) 0 0**

Set it back to full: *** (at) * (full)**

Clearing

We should take a moment to talk about mistakes. To CLEAR a command and return to CHAN mode, use this sequence: **# # # ***. Memorize it, and use it whenever you suspect that a mistake may have locked up the console with a command error.

Multiple Channels

AND #
THRU # #

The # key is used for AND.

Set channels 1 and 5 at 35: 1 # (and) 5 * (at) 3 5

Set 2 and 25 and 45 at 20: 2 # (and) 2 5 # (and) 4 5 * (at) 2 0

For THRU press # #.

Set 1 thru 5 at 60: 1 # # (thru) 5 * (at) 6 0

Set 25 thru 35 at 85: 2 5 # # (thru) 3 5 * (at) 8 5

Set 2 and 15 thru 20 at 75: 2 # (and) 1 5 # # (thru) 2 0 * (at) 7 5

Set 1 thru 10 at full: 1 # # (thru) 1 0 * (at) * (full)

This concludes all of the basic level setting commands: AND, THRU, AT, and FULL. The FocusPhone can do much more, as you will see shortly, but with these are the only commands you need to know to set any channels at any levels.

More Level Setting

RELEASE * #
GROUP 0
CHAN *

Press * # for RELEASE.

Set 5 and 6 at 80: 5 # (and) 6 * (at) 8 0

Set 7 at 90: 7 * (at) 9 0

Release 7 * # (release)

Release all others * # (release)

Since channel numbers never start with a zero, FocusPhone reuses the 0 key for GROUP.

Set group 1 at 50: 0 (group) 1 * (at) 5 0

Group 2 and (group) 3 at full: 0 (group) 2 # (and) 3 * (at) * (full)

Use the * key for CHAN to mix channels and groups.

Group 2 and channel 3 at full: 0 (group) 2 # (and) * (chan) 3 * (at) * (full)

Note that this is the *only* time you should use the CHAN command. FocusPhone always returns the console to CHAN mode after any operation. When the * key is used at the beginning of a command it means AT, not CHAN.

Cues

CUE	0	0		
POINT	*			
GO	#			
A/B GO	0	0	#	
A/B BACK	0	0	*	
A/B CLEAR	0	0	0	#

0 0 at the start of a command means CUE. **#** at the end means GO. Like the RFU, FocusPhone uses only the A/B faders

Cue 1 GO: **0 0** (cue) **1** **#** (go)

Cue 25 GO: **0 0** (cue) **2 5** **#** (go)

Press ***** for POINT:

Cue 13.5 GO: **0 0** (cue) **1 3** ***** (point) **5** **#** (go)

Cue 0.1 GO: **0 0** (cue) **0** ***** (point) **1** **#** (go)

If you tell the FocusPhone to go to a cue and don't specify a cue number, it will press the GO button instead:

0 0 **#** (go)

Use three zeros for CLEAR A/B:

0 0 0 **#** (clear)

The BACK command is the mirror image of GO on the keypad:

0 0 ***** (back)

Dimmer Check

DIMMER	#	3
ENTER	#	
-	8	
+	9	
CLEAR	0	

FocusPhone provides access to the DIM, ENTER, + and - keys to run a dimmer check. Letter D for "dimmer" is on the 3 key.

Set dimmer 1 at 50: **#** **3** (dimmer) **1** ***** (at) **5** **0**

At the console you could now unpatch the dimmer (enter key), and then step to the next (+) or previous (-) dimmer. FocusPhone affords the same options.

To unpatch the dimmer, press **#** for ENTER.

Press **8** (-) or **9** (+) to step through dimmers.

Press **0** to clear dimmer check mode.

Set dimmer 1 at 50 enter	# 3 (dimmer)	1	* (at)	5 0	# (enter)
step to dimmer 2	9 (+)				
step to dimmer 3	9 (+)				
step back to dimmer 2	8 (-)				
change level to Full	* (at)	* (full)			
step to dimmer 3	9 (+)				
exit	0 (clear)				

The Park display may be accessed using Macros. See page 10.

Channel Check

next **#** **6** or **6**
last **#** **5** or **5**
exit **0**

FocusPhone can also help you run a channel check.

Set a channel at a level in the usual fashion.

10 AT FULL **1** **0** ***** (at) ***** (full)

Then press **#** **6** for next (letter N for “next” is on key 6) or **#** **5** for last (letter L for “last” is on key 5.)
FocusPhone will set the current channel at zero, select the next (or last) channel, and set it at full.

next **#** **6** channel 10 at 00, channel 11 at full

When you are in the channel check mode you can continue to press **6** for next, or **5** for last, to step through channels. You don't need to press the **#** key every time.

next **6** channel 11 at 00, channel 12 at full
last **5** channel 12 at 00, channel 11 at full

Press ***** for AT to enter a new level. After the level is set, press **#** **6** again for next, or **#** **5** for last.

AT 50 ***** (at) **5** **0** channel 11 at 50
next **#** **6** channel 11 at 00, channel 12 at 50
next **6** channel 12 at 00, channel 13 at 50
last **5** channel 13 at 00, channel 12 at 50

Press **0** to exit the FocusPhone channel check mode.

clear **0** channel 12 at 00

Macros

MACRO **#** **#** **#**
ENTER **#**
STAGE **#** **1**

To execute a macro, press **#** **#** **#** for MACRO. There are no direct macro keys, so use the MACRO [number] ENTER command form for all macros.

Macro 5: **#** **#** **#** (macro) **5** **#** (enter)

Macro 25: **#** **#** **#** (macro) **2** **5** **#** (enter)

Macros can cause trouble. They might confuse FocusPhone because it doesn't know what keys are in the macro, and therefore which command is intended if you next press a multipurpose *****, **#** or **0** key. For example, if your macro ended with "AT", then you might next press **0** **0** meaning level 0%. But if your macro also set a level, then you might next press **0** **0** meaning "CUE". FocusPhone does not know what's in the macro, and therefore cannot guess whether to send "00" or "CUE" to the console when you press **0** **0**.

For clarity and consistency **FocusPhone will always assume that the macro completed a command.** FocusPhone assumes that the console is waiting for the next command, rather than left in the middle of a command sequence. After a macro is run, the next ***** will mean AT, the next **0** will mean GROUP and the next **0** **0** will mean CUE.

Macros can be very powerful when used carefully, but downright dangerous when used in the wrong context. They can be even trickier when neither you nor the FocusPhone can see the command line. Keep this in mind when writing macros which will be used from the FocusPhone. Don't get too fancy, and remember that the FocusPhone will assume that the macro completed a command.

Should a macro leave you in a display other than the Stage display, the FocusPhone command **#** **1** will always return the console to the Stage display.

Summary

You now know how to access numerous common commands from a cordless phone. You can call up any list of channels and groups, set levels, run cues, check dimmers, and more. Furthermore, since the console can play virtually any key sequence from a macro, you can effectively do anything from the FocusPhone. Yes, including phoning in the show.

It seems like a lot to remember, but as you use the FocusPhone the key combinations will become automatic and you will find that using it is as fast as using a wired remote or even the main console.

The charts on the next page will help you remember what's what.

Alphabetical Command Reference

A/B BACK_____	[0][0][*]
A/B CLEAR_____	[0][0][0][#]
A/B GO_____	([0][0]) [#]
AND_____	[#]
AT_____	[*]
cancel dim/ch check_____	[0]
CHAN_____	[*] Use <i>only</i> for "GROUP num AND CHAN num"
CLEAR ALL_____	[#][#][#][*]
CUE_____	[0][0]
DIMMER_____	[#][3]
ENTER_____	[#]
FULL_____	[*] Always use with AT first
GROUP_____	[0]
last channel_____	[#][6]
MACRO_____	[#][#][#]
next channel_____	[#][5]
POINT (decimal)_____	[*]
RELEASE_____	[*][#]
STAGE_____	[#][1]
THRU_____	[#][#]
-_____	[8] Only in dimmer check mode
+_____	[9] Only in dimmer check mode

Command Group Reference

Levels

[*] AT	[0] GROUP	[#] AND
[*] FULL		[#][#] THRU
[*][#] RELEASE		
[*] CHAN (w/group)		

Cues

[*] POINT	[0][0] CUE	[#] GO
	[0][0][0][#] A/B CLEAR	
	[0][0][#] A/B GO	
	[0][0][*] A/B BACK	

Dimmer Check

	[#][3] DIMMER
	[#] ENTER
[8] -	[9] +
[0] cancel	

Channel Check

	[#][5] last
[0] Exit	[#][6] next

Other

[#][#][#] MACRO	[#] ENTER
	[#][1] STAGE
	[#][#][#][*] clear all