Data Distribution and Opto Splitters

By Nook Schoenfeld

One of the most important pieces of gear in the dimmer area has always been a dependable opto splitter, which gets DMX info to every fixture spread over your stage, trade floor or installation. Nowadays there are several types to choose from. They range from simple one-universe in and four 5-pin outs to Swiss Army knife-type models that accept RDM, DMX and Art-Net and can split, merge or spit out streams of info. There are even models that can tell you if your cable has a short, is terminated or is simply unplugged.
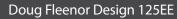

Applied Electronics Omni 2x5

Alt Sizes: 1x5 & 1x10
3 Pin: Yes
1+ DMX Input: Yes
Switchable Outputs: No
DMX Signal Merging: No
Locking AC Connector: Yes
Truss Mounting Hardware: No
Rack Mount Size: Yes
RDM Output Option: No
RJ45 Output Option: No
Size: 1U (19 x 1.75 x 5")
Weight: 5 lbs.
MSRP: Varies by model
More Details: 5000V Optical protection, galvanic power isolation & transient suppression on all outputs. Universal 85V-250V 47-66Hz power input w/powerCON input and loop-thru connectors.

appliednn.com

Blizzard Lighting 2-Fer

Alt Sizes: N/A
3 Pin: Yes
1+ DMX Input: No
Switchable Outputs: No
DMX Signal Merging: No
Locking AC Connector: Yes
Truss Mounting Hardware: Yes
Rack Mount Size: No
RDM Output Option: Yes
RJ45 Output Option: No
Size: 5.4 x 3.3 x 3.5"
Weight: 2.5 lbs.
MSRP: $149.99
More Details: Comes in two models: the 2-Fer 3Pin and the 2-Fer 5Pin

blizzardlighting.com

Lightronics IDW-104

Alt Sizes: IDW-112, IDW-206, IDW-212
3 Pin: No
1+ DMX Input: No
Switchable Outputs: No
DMX Signal Merging: No
Locking AC Connector: No
Truss Mounting Hardware: No
Rack Mount Size: No
RDM Output Option: No
RJ45 Output Option: No
Size: 15 x 15 x 3"
Weight: 10 lbs., 8 oz.
MSRP: $699
More Details: 3 Space screw terminal input/output, LED power and DMX signal indicators, 12V DC external power supply (provided).

lightronics.com

Luminex LumiSplit 2.10

Alt Sizes: LumiSplit 1.6
3 Pin: Yes
1+ DMX Input: Yes
Switchable Outputs: Yes
DMX Signal Merging: Yes
Locking AC Connector: No
Truss Mounting Hardware: Yes
Rack Mount Size: Yes
RDM Output Option: Yes
RJ45 Output Option: No
Size: 19 x 8 x 1.73"
Weight: 5.60 lbs.
MSRP: 995 euros
More Details: The new boosters are now visible and configurable from any RDM controller to help techs manage and configure their devices and fixtures.

luminexamerica.com

Martin RDM 5.5 Splitter

Alt Sizes: Martin RDM 5.3 Splitter
3 Pin: Yes
1+ DMX Input: No
Switchable Outputs: No
DMX Signal Merging: No
Locking AC Connector: Yes
Truss Mounting Hardware: Yes
Rack Mount Size: Yes
RDM Output Option: Yes
RJ45 Output Option: No
Size: 5" x 8.7" x 1.8"
Weight: 2 lbs.
MSRP: $861
More Details: Martin 5.5 Splitter maintains proper data over long or several runs of DMX signal. The splitter boosts the weak DMX signal.

martin.com

Chauvet Professional Synapse 4

Alt Sizes: No
3 Pin: No
1+ DMX Input: No
Switchable Outputs: No
DMX Signal Merging: No
Locking AC Connector: Yes
Truss Mounting Hardware: Yes
Rack Mount Size: Yes
RDM Output Option: No
RJ45 Output Option: No
Size: 19 x 7.87 x 1.75"
Weight: 6 lbs.
MSRP: $529.99
More Details: Functions as intelligent relay pack to control power sent to individual lighting units. Synapse 4 can de-power entire sections of an installation, which prolongs the lifespan of lighting fixtures.

chauvetprofessional.com

Chroma-Q CHDMX4

Alt Sizes: No
3 Pin: No
1+ DMX Input: No
Switchable Outputs: No
DMX Signal Merging: No
Locking AC Connector: No
Truss Mounting Hardware: Yes
Rack Mount Size: No
RDM Output Option: No
RJ45 Output Option: No
Size: 5.9 x 6.3 x 1.6"
Weight: 1.3 lbs.
MSRP: $440 USD
More Details: Chroma-Q's 4Play is a fault tolerant, self healing 4 way DMX buffer designed to fully isolate all outputs from each other. Each output is separately generated and boosted from the original DMX signal.

chroma-q.com

Doug Fleenor Design 125EE

Alt Sizes: Yes
3 Pin: Yes
1+ DMX Input: No
Switchable Outputs: No
DMX Signal Merging: No
Locking AC Connector: No
Truss Mounting Hardware: Yes
Rack Mount Size: Yes
RDM Output Option: No
RJ45 Output Option: Yes
Size: 11.25 x 8.25 x 1.74"
Weight: 4 lbs., 14.4 oz.
MSRP: $1,122
More Details: Individually isolated with their own power supply, line drivers and have power and termination status indicators. The input displays signal present and valid DMX signal. Available with various connectors.

dfd.com

Pathway Connectivity 911x RDM/DMX Repeater Pro

Alt Sizes: 1016 DMX/RDM Hub, eDIN
3 Pin: No
1+ DMX Input: Yes
Switchable Outputs: No
DMX Signal Merging: Yes
Locking AC Connector: No
Truss Mounting Hardware: Yes
Rack Mount Size: Yes
RDM Output Option: Yes
RJ45 Output Option: Yes
Size: 17 x 6 x 1.7"
Weight: 5.2 lbs.
MSRP: $1,500
More Details: The Repeater Pro's support for RDM lets the Repeater Pro act as an RDM controller, or a bidirectional RDM splitter.

pathwayconnect.com

Philips Strand RDM 6TS

Alt Sizes: NA
3 Pin: No
1+ DMX Input: No
Switchable Outputs: No
DMX Signal Merging: No
Locking AC Connector: No
Truss Mounting Hardware: Yes
Rack Mount Size: No
RDM Output Option: Yes
RJ45 Output Option: No
Size: 19 x 7.2 x 1.73"
Weight: 4.4 lbs.
MSRP: $436
More Details: The Strand RDM 6TS is a truss mounting 6 way splitter with passive RDM pass through with captive power cable.

strandlighting.com

Swisson XPD-28

Alt Sizes: No
3 Pin: Yes
1+ DMX Input: Yes
Switchable Outputs: Yes
DMX Signal Merging: No
Locking AC Connector: No
Truss Mounting Hardware: No
Rack Mount Size: Yes
RDM Output Option: Yes
RJ45 Output Option: Yes
Size: 19 x 5.35 x 1.75"
Weight: 3.75 lbs.
MSRP: $1,348
More Details: XPD has 2 inputs and 8 outputs, OLED display, and encoder allowing you to interface with the splitter optimizing its settings to your data distribution needs.

swisson.com

Elation Professional RDMX6S

Alt Sizes: No
3 Pin: No
1+ DMX Input: No
Switchable Outputs: No
DMX Signal Merging: No
Locking AC Connector: Yes
Truss Mounting Hardware: Yes
Rack Mount Size: Yes
RDM Output Option: Yes
RJ45 Output Option: No
Size: 6.8 x 6.7 x 2.9" (w/ bracket)
Weight: 2.1 lbs.
MSRP: $500
More Details: Includes a single unit mounting bracket for truss/clamp installation. Optional single and dual unit rack mount kits are available.

elationlighting.com

Enttec Americas RDS4 Opto Splitter

Alt Sizes: RDS8, DIN-RDS4
3 Pin: No
1+ DMX Input: No
Switchable Outputs: No
DMX Signal Merging: No
Locking AC Connector: No
Truss Mounting Hardware: Yes
Rack Mount Size: Yes
RDM Output Option: Yes
RJ45 Output Option: No
Size: 11.82 x 1.75"
Weight: 1.65 lbs.
MSRP: $440
More Details: Truss mount kit available. Other versions: 8 way: RDS8; DIN rail mount version: DIN-RDS4. Entry Level Splitter: D-Split

enttec.com

Goddard Design Dot Eleven Splitters

Alt Sizes: CCO5, CCO5A, ISO-5, HUB5
3 Pin: No
1+ DMX Input: No
Switchable Outputs: No
DMX Signal Merging: No
Locking AC Connector: Yes
Truss Mounting Hardware: No
Rack Mount Size: Yes
RDM Output Option: Yes
RJ45 Output Option: No
Size: 17 x 8 x 1.75"
Weight: 7 lbs.
MSRP: $560-$925
More Details: Universal power supply. Rack and table chassis. HUB-5 configurable by RDM. Clean port available (retimes the DMX512 and removes RDM).

goddarddesign.com

Theatrixx Technologies GRID TourPatch 8

Alt Sizes: 3- or 5- pin output versions
3 Pin: Yes
1+ DMX Input: Yes
Switchable Outputs: Yes
DMX Signal Merging: Yes
Locking AC Connector: Yes
Truss Mounting Hardware: No
Rack Mount Size: Yes
RDM Output Option: Yes
RJ45 Output Option: No
Size: 1U (8.5" deep)
Weight: 6 lbs.
MSRP: $1,650
More Details: Cable monitoring system can distinguish cable faults and use algorithm. Indicates if a cable is shorted, terminated, crossed with high voltage lines, or simply open, along with the distance to the fault.

theatrixx.com

TMB/ProPlex Opto-Splitter 2x8

Alt Sizes: 1x5 Mini DMX/RDM; 2x10 rack mount RDM; 1x4 DIN rail DMX/RDM; 1x6 IP65
3 Pin: Yes
1+ DMX Input: Yes
Switchable Outputs: Yes
DMX Signal Merging: No
Locking AC Connector: Yes
Truss Mounting Hardware: Yes
Rack Mount Size: Yes
RDM Output Option: Yes
RJ45 Output Option: No
Size: 19 x 1.75 x 3.9"
Weight: 3 lbs., 5 oz.
MSRP: $986.50
More Details: Shock-mounted circuitry. Advanced thermal management. Rack mount, portable mount, mini, DIN rail, IP-rated formats. Neutrik connectors.

tmb.com

Coming Next Month

Truss
A look at the latest products that serve as the skeletal system for our show designs.