

DOWNSTAGE

USER GUIDE

Cue Lite · Cue 360 · Cue Mini

Plug it in. Put it on your WiFi. Give it a Companion button.

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Welcome

The **Cue Lite**, the **Cue 360** and the **Cue Mini** are tally lights for Bitfocus Companion. Each one joins your WiFi and shows one Companion button: red when its camera is on air, green on preview, and whatever colour you give the button otherwise. There is no app to install and no account to make. You set a light up from a browser on your phone or laptop, once, and from then on it follows its button.

The **Cue Lite** sits on the camera, facing the operator, with the camera number and the tally on a touch screen. The **Cue 360** faces the talent: a glowing tower that is easy to see from any side. The **Cue Mini** is the small one, for a lens hood, a monitor, a lectern or a door. Hold a 360 or a Mini to a Lite and it links over CueLink, the lights' own radio: the 360 follows the Lite, so the pair needs only one Companion button.



Cue Lite, camera 2 on air



Cue 360, on air



Cue 360, on preview

In the box

- **Cue Lite:** the light, with its backup battery inside, and a hot shoe adapter.
- **Cue 360:** the light with its tower, and number tags 1 to 4. The full set of 12 (1 to 8 and A to D) is sold separately.
- **Cue Mini:** the light, and number tags 1 to 4.
- **Camera kit:** a Cue Lite and a Cue 360, with their own box contents.

  No power cable or charger is included. Any USB-C cable and a USB-C charger or power bank will do.

Meet the lights

	Cue Lite	Cue 360	Cue Mini
Faces	The camera operator	The talent	Anywhere small
Shows	Tally colour, camera number, the button's text, a clock and battery	Tally colour, across a lit tower	Tally colour, and its camera number
Display	1.8-inch AMOLED touch screen	64 RGB LEDs under a frosted tower	64 RGB LEDs behind a black grid
Controls	Touch screen; two buttons on the top edge	None you need: set it from its page	None you need: set it from its page
CueLink	Links one 360 or Mini	Links to a Lite	Links to a Lite
Mounting	A brass 1/4-20 insert; hot shoe adapter in the box	A brass 1/4-20 insert and four magnets	A 1/4-20 insert in its bottom end
Power	USB-C; backup battery, about 1 hour	USB-C only	USB-C only
Size	About 48 x 40 mm	About 36 x 36 mm, plus the tower	About 30 x 36 x 12 mm



The Lite's top edge: USB-C between its two buttons



The Lite's brass 1/4-20



USB-C on the 360's side



The 360's base: 1/4-20, magnets sealed inside

What you need

- **Bitfocus Companion**, free from Bitfocus, on a Mac, Windows or Linux computer, with its Satellite service on. It is on by default.
- **A 2.4 GHz WiFi network** that the light and the Companion computer share, and that lets devices see each other. Your own router or a phone hotspot is ideal. A light cannot get past a WiFi sign-in page, and many guest networks keep devices apart.
- **USB-C power** for each light: a charger, a power bank, or a USB port rated 5 V, 1 A or more.
- **A phone or laptop** for setup.

Set up a light

It takes about a minute, and you do it once. The light remembers up to five WiFi networks.

1. **Plug in USB-C.** A new light opens its own WiFi network for setup, named for the light and its four-character ID, for example **Downstage Cue Lite 4D1C** or **Downstage Cue 360 66B8**. The password is:

   `downstage`

The Lite shows `SETUP` in magenta with a QR code: scan it with your phone's camera to join. The 360 shows one dim magenta pixel circling its edge.

2. **Join that network** from your phone or laptop. The light's setup page opens by itself. If it does not, open a browser and go to:

   `http://192.168.4.1/`

3. **On the Network tab,** tap your show WiFi in **Networks in range** (or type its name) and enter its password.
4. **On the Companion tab,** enter the Companion computer's address in **Companion host**, for example 192.168.1.20. Leave **Satellite port** at 16622 and **Layout** at One key.
5. **Tap Save and restart.** The light joins your WiFi and connects to Companion.

   Left blank, Companion host lets the light try to find Companion on your network by itself. Typing the address is quicker and more certain, and it is the way to choose when there is more than one Companion.

While it connects, the Lite shows `FINDING WIFI` and then `FINDING COMPANION`. The 360 shows an amber ripple from its middle while it looks for WiFi, then a cyan ripple while it looks for Companion.

If the light cannot join

A light that cannot join the network it knows opens its setup network again: about 15 seconds after a refused password, otherwise after about a minute (about 20 seconds for each network, when it knows several). The 360 shows a red X as it does. Its page then says why, for example Could not join 'Ballroom': the password was refused. Type it again and save. The Lite shows the same reason on its screen. Once a light has joined, it never drops back to setup in the middle of a show.

Give it a button in Companion

1. In Companion, open **Surfaces**. The light is listed as **Downstage Cue Lite** or **Downstage Cue 360**, with its name if you gave it one, and an ID that starts **DSCUE-**.
2. Set its **page** and its key's position, so its one key sits on the button it should follow, such as your camera 2 tally button.
3. That is all. The light now shows that button's colour.

A light that is connected but has no button yet tells you: the Lite's camera number turns amber about 20 seconds after it connects.

What the lights show

Companion button	Cue Lite	Cue 360
Red (on air)	A thick red frame round the camera number, and `PROGRAM`	The whole tower red
Green (preview)	A thin green frame and `PREVIEW`	The whole tower green
Any other colour	A thin frame in that colour	The tower in that colour
Black (off)	`CAMERA` over the camera number, dimmed after 2 minutes	Dark
Text on the button	The button's own words, in place of PROGRAM or PREVIEW	Not shown

If Companion's connection drops, a light holds what it shows for 3 seconds and then goes dark, so a stale on-air light never stays up.

Four keys. Set Layout to Four keys and the light becomes a 2 x 2 surface in Companion: the Lite shows four tiles, numbered 1 to 4. Under the 360's tower, four keys are hard to tell apart, so keep the 360 on one key.

Using the Cue Lite



The Cue Lite on a ball head

Touch

- **Tap anywhere** on the screen to press its Companion button, as you would on a Stream Deck.
- **Swipe up from the bottom edge** for the menu.
- **Pull down from the top edge** for the info card: the light's name and web address (with a QR code), its network and signal, whether Companion is live, the battery and the firmware. Tap it, or push it up, to close it.

The two buttons

On the top edge, either side of the USB-C port.

- **PWR:** a short press opens or closes the menu. Hold it for 4 seconds to power off. Press it to power on again.
- **BOOT:** a second Companion button while the light is running. Do not hold it while plugging in: that starts the board's own download mode.

The status bar

Along the top of the screen: signal bars on the left (green when the light is linked to a Lite over CueLink), the time in the middle, and the battery on the right, with a + while it charges. When too much of the signal is being lost, the time takes turns with `WEAK WIFI` or `WEAK CUELINK` in amber. The time appears once the light has a clock to follow, for example after you open its page in a browser.

The menu

Swipe up from the bottom, or press PWR. Changes save by themselves a moment after you lift your finger, and the menu closes after 10 seconds without a touch.

Setting	What it does
`CAMERA`	The camera number on the screen, OFF or 1 to 99.

Setting	What it does
BRIGHT	Screen brightness, 10 to 100%.
TALENT MODE	The whole screen red when on air and dark otherwise, for a light facing the talent.
CAM OP MODE	Locks the screen so a bumped finger presses nothing. A padlock shows in the bar. Hold anywhere for 3 seconds to unlock.
BATTERY SAVER	Shows the tally as a dot and slows the processor, for a little more battery.
HEADER	The status bar's colour.
TALLY WORDS	Shows or hides PROGRAM and PREVIEW.
SOUNDS, VOLUME	The link sounds.
12-HOUR CLOCK	12- or 24-hour time.
STANDBY	When off air: NUMBER shows the dimmed camera number; BLANK keeps the screen dark until live.
ROTATION	AUTO, or fixed: UPRIGHT, TURNED RIGHT, UPSIDE DOWN, TURNED LEFT.
CUELINK	The light linked to it, and the link's options. See Linking a 360 to a Lite.
RANGE	How well it hears the light linked to it.
SETUP MODE	Hold for 2 seconds to restart into setup, to change its WiFi.
POWER OFF	Hold for 2 seconds to power off.
FACTORY RESET	Hold for 2 seconds, then choose YES, RESET to wipe every setting.

Screen sleep

To save the screen and the battery, the Lite goes to a dim, moving Downstage mark after 5 minutes on battery or 30 minutes on USB, and you can change both on its page. It never sleeps while the tally is lit, and the touch that wakes it presses nothing.

Messages

From the light's page you can send the Lite a short message, up to 64 characters, such as WRAP IN 2. It shows for 10 or 30 seconds with the tally still round the edge. Take it down early from the same page.

Using the Cue 360



The Cue 360 on a ball head



Off air, the tower is dark

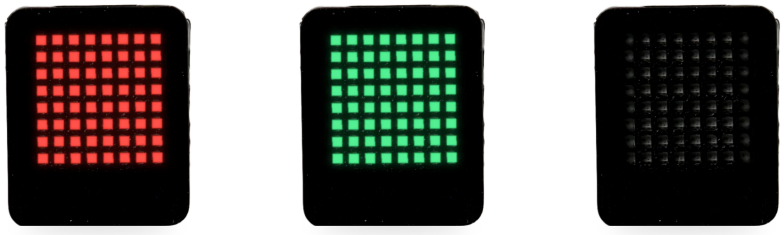
The 360 has nothing to press. It shows its button's colour across the whole tower, and it is dark when the button is black. Everything else, from its name to its brightness, is set on its page.

- **Brightness:** set the most it will ever be on its page. Red and green can run brighter than white.
- **Heat:** after a long stretch of bright red, the 360 dims itself a little to stay cool, and comes back to full on its own.
- **Number tags:** clip the camera's number onto the 360, so everyone knows which camera it belongs to. The 360 itself never shows a number.
- **Mounting:** four magnets in its base hold it to steel, and the brass 1/4-20 takes a ball head, an arm or a stand.

What its patterns mean

The 360 shows	It means
Its colour pulsing out from the middle	Starting up
A green check, for about 2 seconds	Connected to Companion: setup worked
A red X, for about 3 seconds	It could not connect, and its setup network is back. Join it: the page says why
Three amber blinks	Opening its setup network, after three quick plug-ins
A dim magenta pixel circling the edge	Setup: join its setup network
An amber ripple from the middle	Looking for WiFi
A cyan ripple from the middle	On WiFi, looking for Companion
Cyan with a green middle	Linked to a Lite that is looking for Companion
Green rings drawing in, then six green blinks	Just linked to a Lite
Its button's colour	Live: following its button

Using the Cue Mini



Cue Mini, on air On preview Not live

The Mini is the 360's light in a small flat case, with no tower: its 64 pixels sit behind a fine black grid, so each one is its own square and still reads from off to the side. Like the 360, it has nothing to press, and everything is set on its page.

- **Its camera number:** unlike the 360, the Mini can show a number. When no Companion is connected, it shows its camera number in its colour, or pulses instead: choose under **When no Companion is connected** on its page.
- **Number tags:** they clip into the three slots on its back, the same tags as the 360's. The tag covers a small pinhole; you never need it.
- **Mounting:** the 1/4-20 insert in its bottom end takes an arm, a ball head, or a hot shoe adapter for a camera's shoe (the Mini's box has no adapter).
- **Power:** USB-C only. It has no battery.

The Mini shows the same patterns as the 360, on its grid: see What its patterns mean, above. It links to a Lite, and goes into setup mode, the same way as the 360.

Linking a 360 or Mini to a Lite

A Lite can link one 360 over **CueLink**, the lights' own 2.4 GHz radio. The 360 then shows the Lite's tally, and only the Lite needs a Companion button. Both lights must be set up first.

A Cue Mini links in exactly the same way: wherever this says 360, a Mini works too.

1. Make sure the Lite is live on Companion. A Lite only links a light while it is connected.
2. Bring the 360 up to the Lite and hold them together, touching, for about 2 seconds. Lights that are simply left side by side do not link: bring one up to the other.
3. The Lite shows `GOTCHA!` and the 360's name, and plays its link sound. The 360 draws green rings and blinks green six times.

The link is saved, so it comes back by itself after a restart. While a light is linked to it, the Lite shows a green dot in its status bar.

Options and unlinking

On the Lite, open the menu and go to `CUELINK` and the linked light:

- `LINKED` shows the Lite's tally on the 360; `OWN KEY` lets the 360 follow its own Companion button instead.
- `TALENT` turns Talent Mode on or off on the linked light.
- `RELEASE`: hold for 2 seconds to unlink.

You can also unlink from the 360's own page, on its CueLink tab. Touching the lights together again never undoes a link. If you hold a second light to a Lite that already has one linked, the Lite shows `ALREADY LINKED` in amber, and links nothing.

Range

CueLink is made for a light on the same rig, a few metres away. Range depends on the room. The Lite's `RANGE` screen shows how well it hears the 360. If the Lite loses Companion, the 360 goes dark and shows cyan with a green middle until the Lite is back.

The light's own page

Every light has its own web page, on any phone or laptop on the same network. Its address is on the Lite's info card (pull down from the top) and in the menu under `WEB PAGE`, as a QR code. It looks like:

```
http://downstage-cue-4d1c.local/
```

If your device cannot open .local names, use the light's number address instead, also on the info card.

On a Mac, **Downstage Find** is an easy way to find your Downstage devices. It is free at downstage.systems/apps. Once a light is on your network, Find lists it and opens its page.

At the top: the light's name and ID, what it is showing now, its Companion and network status, and an **Identify** button that flashes the light, so you can find it on a busy rig.

Tab	What is there
Light	Send a message (Lite), name, camera number, header colour (Lite), this light's colour and its brightness when not live (360), most brightness, Talent Mode, Cam Op Mode and the clock (Lite), screen sleep (Lite), what the Lite's button does, and mounting.
Network	The WiFi networks it knows, networks in range, and Forget.
Companion	Companion host, Satellite port, and one key or four.
CueLink	On the 360: unlink, choose the Lite's tally or its own button, and the radio channel.
Device	ID, address, firmware, an optional PIN, Update, Restart into setup mode, and Factory reset.

Most changes take effect at once, without a restart. Changing the network, Companion, the name or the layout restarts the light.

A PIN for the page

Anyone on your network can open a light's page. To stop changes, set a PIN of 6 digits or more on the Device tab: the page then asks for it before saving, updating, resetting or sending a message.

Power and battery

- **USB-C runs the show.** Use a USB-C charger, a power bank, or a USB port rated 5 V, 1 A or more for each light. Some camera USB ports cannot supply enough, so check yours before the show.
- **The Lite's backup battery** keeps it running if the cable is knocked out, for about 1 hour. It charges whenever the Lite is on USB, even when it is powered off.
- **The battery icon** turns amber when the battery is getting low and red when it is nearly flat. No light lasts a show day on battery.
- **The 360** has no battery and runs on USB power only.

Mounting

- **Cue Lite:** screw the hot shoe adapter into its brass 1/4-20 and slide it into the camera's shoe, or put it on any 1/4-20 arm or ball head.
- **Cue 360:** its magnets hold it to steel, such as a light stand, a truss or a rack, and its 1/4-20 takes an arm, a ball head or a stand.

  Do not over-tighten a 1/4-20 screw into the brass insert: finger tight is plenty.

When something is wrong

A light says why it cannot connect: the Lite on its screen, and both lights at the top of their page.

The light says	What to do
This WiFi has a sign-in page, which a light cannot get past. Lite: `SIGN-IN PAGE ON THIS WIFI`	Use a network without a sign-in page, your own router, or a phone hotspot.
On WiFi, but Companion at … cannot be reached. Guest networks often block this. Lite: `CANNOT BE REACHED`	Check the Companion host address, that Companion is running with Satellite on, and that the network lets devices see each other.
More than one Companion on this WiFi. Lite: `SEVERAL COMPANIONS HERE`	Type the address of the Companion to use, on the light's Companion tab.
Wrong password for '…'	Join the light's setup network again and re-enter the password.
'…' is not in range here	Move the light closer to the WiFi, or add a network that is in range.
Lite: the camera number turns amber	Connected, but Companion has not given it a button yet. See Give it a button in Companion.

Change its WiFi or start again

- **Cue Lite:** in the menu, hold `SETUP MODE` for 2 seconds; or use **Restart into setup mode** on its page.

- **Cue 360 and Cue Mini:** use **Restart into setup mode** on its page. Or, with no page to hand: plug it in, and it starts with its colour. As soon as that changes, unplug it. Do it twice more. The third time it blinks amber three times and opens its setup network, its settings kept. Left alone for 5 minutes, it goes back to its WiFi.

  A light that cannot reach Companion stays on its network and says so; it never moves to another network by itself. Move it from its page, or by putting it into setup mode.

Updates and factory reset

Updating the firmware

1. Open the light's page and go to the **Device** tab, **Update**. The page checks for newer firmware. Your phone or laptop needs internet for this; the light does not.
2. If a newer one is out, tap **Install**. The light restarts with it: do it between shows, not during one.

With no internet where you are, download the file for your light beforehand with **Download updates** on downstage.systems/support, and install it from the same card. A light only accepts a file made for it, and never one older than the firmware it runs.

Factory reset

A reset wipes every setting: its WiFi networks, Companion, its name, its PIN and its link. The light then starts as new, with its setup network.

- **Cue Lite:** in the menu, hold `FACTORY RESET` for 2 seconds, then choose `YES, RESET`. Or use Factory reset on its page.
- **Cue 360 and Cue Mini:** use Factory reset on its page. If you have forgotten its PIN, plug it in three times as above, then use Factory reset on its setup page: after the plug-ins, that page does not ask for the PIN.

Specifications

	Cue Lite	Cue 360	Cue Mini
Display	1.8-inch AMOLED, touch	8 x 8 RGB LEDs, frosted tower	8 x 8 RGB LEDs, open grid
Network	WiFi, 2.4 GHz	WiFi, 2.4 GHz	WiFi, 2.4 GHz
Companion	Satellite surface, 1 or 4 keys	Satellite surface, 1 key (4 possible)	Satellite surface, 1 key (4 possible)
CueLink	Links 1 light	Links to a Lite	Links to a Lite
Power	USB-C, 5 V	USB-C, 5 V	USB-C, 5 V
Battery	Built-in backup, about 1 hour	None	None
Mounting	Brass 1/4-20; hot shoe adapter	Brass 1/4-20; four magnets	1/4-20 in its bottom end
Size	About 48 x 40 mm	About 36 x 36 mm, plus the tower	About 30 x 36 x 12 mm
Case	3D printed	3D printed	3D printed

Safety and care

- Indoor use. Keep the lights dry and away from heat.
- The Lite has a lithium battery inside. Do not open, crush, puncture or heat it. If it swells, stop using it and contact us.
- Finished lights are 3D printed, so finish and colour may vary slightly.

Help and warranty

Setup help, CueLink and troubleshooting are at downstage.systems/support. Every light is covered by our one-year limited warranty: downstage.systems/warranty. Email hello@downstage.systems.

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