



# **M A N U A L**

**for the**

**Showlaser Software**

# **LW-Showeditor**

**(Version 2011)**

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## 1 Preface

The software LW-Showeditor is under permanent construction. Thus it is not possible that this manual describes all changes, which were made since its setup. The manual will be updated from time to time. Please have a look for an updated version on the homepage [www.laserworld.com](http://www.laserworld.com).

When you find errors within the manual or the software, please contact Laserworld. Also wishes, which will help to improve the software, are welcome and can be submitted to us. The permanent improvement is only possible with the help of YOU, the user of the software! For urgent problems please contact us via e-mail: [info@laserworld.com](mailto:info@laserworld.com)

Please be informed, that this document can not be a translation of the original German version literally, but the translator tried to preserve the sense of all instructions.

### 1.1 Liability

**Any liability for damages**, for example for the hardware as e.g. galvanometer scanners or for the health of people or animals like eye damages because of still standing laser beams or for any other things, which are produced by the use of the software LW-Showeditor, **is generally and strictly excluded!**

It is possible to create still standing beams with this software! The safety (for example of the audience) when a laser device in combination with this software is running, has to be guaranteed by the user (by YOU!). The user should have very good knowledge of the danger, which is always present when lasers are used, especially powerful ones (lasers with a power of more than 1mW)!

The **regional guidelines and laws have to be fulfilled** when lasers are used!

Every user of lasers should have always in mind, that **he is at every time responsible** for any damages caused by the use of powerful lasers.

### **IMPORTANT:**

**Every user should have read this manual at least once in advance of the use of LW-Showeditor!**

## 1.2 Versions

There are different versions of the software available:

### **Demo:**

This is the demonstration version of the LW-Showeditor. This version can be used only with the simulation (no hardware can be controlled).

### **Full Version:**

The full software package is free for access via an USB-dongle (USB is an abbreviation for Universal Serial Bus). Two kinds of dongles are possible:

- a) External dongle. This is an USB stick, similar to a memory stick.
- b) Internal dongle, build into the output hardware, e.g. Lumax DAC.

With the full version of the software all options are enabled. Up to 16 output cards (DAC's) can be used, controlled via twelve figure tracks including the corresponding effect tracks. Furthermore, with the full version the "intelligent" DMX controller (DMX is generally used for controlling lighting systems) can be used. Also, via the dongle the possibility to protect the shows against unauthorized access is now given.

The price list can be requestet at [www.laserworld.com](http://www.laserworld.com).

## 1.3 Minimal Requirements of the Hardware

**Generally, the minimal requirements of the hardware are:**

- Windows (XP, Vista or Windows 7 - 32 or 64 bit version)
- CPU: Pentium 4, 1GHz or faster (a faster computer gives smoother laser output)
- 500 MB working memory or more
- 5 GB memory on hard drive and memory for the shows (possibly less)
- Sound card
- Grafics resolution minimal 1024x768 pixels, installed openGL driver
  - Attention** Netbook user! Many Netbook displays have less than 768 pixels vertical resolution. Thus possibly some buttons etc. are not visible.
- USB 1.1 or higher for dongle and DAC
- Two screens simplify the work with LW-Showeditor

An exact specification of the best suited computer is hardly to give. Some users work with the LW-Showeditor even on different systems (MAC and Linux). The program is made for Windows XP (service packs 1 to 3), Windows Vista (SP1 and SP2 with 32 or 64 bit) and also for Windows 7. Also divers MAC computers with Windows simulation are possibly able to work with the program. But it is not guaranteed, that the software works with "exotic" setups.

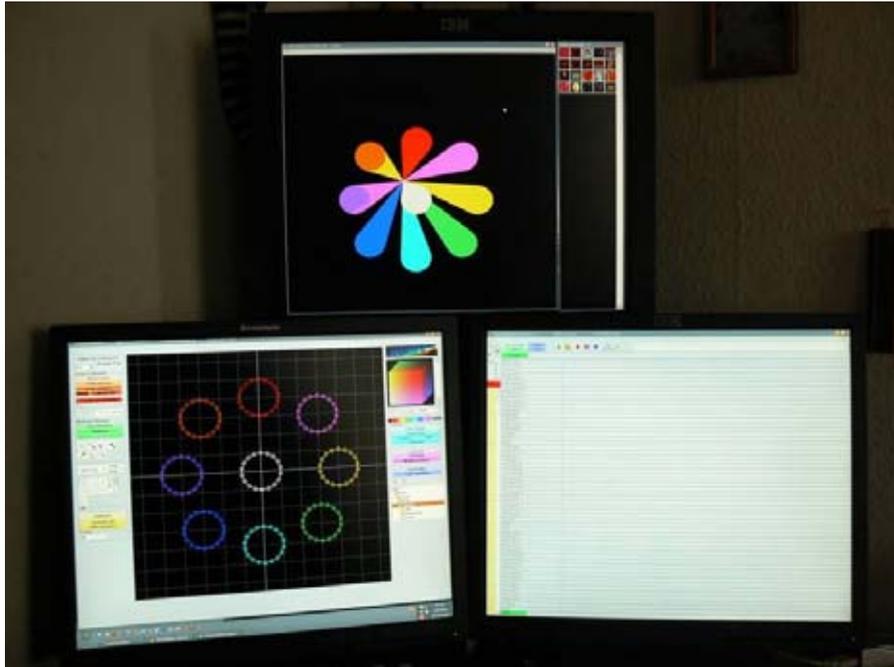
Minimal requirements are also difficult to tell, because the performance of the software is dependant on several factors. Shure you will get no smooth laser projection with 10 DACs and an "old" computer.

### **"Comfortable Working":**

The laser output is calculated in real time. Dependent upon the load of the computer it could happen that animations will show short stops or will hang up. Deductively is recommended a better equipped system than the above described minimal requirements.

To run a lasershow with several independent projectors and DMX as well as video output via beamer and at least sound you should have an Intel Core Duo with 2 GHz CPU, 2 GB RAM, a quick hard drive and USB 2. A real grafic card also makes sense (better than on board grafic card).

Naturally you should think about the necessity to use the TV card and the online chat during looking laser shows. A really exciting LW-Showeditor workplace could look like shown in the picture (Fig.1).



*Fig.1: Picture from laserfreak Gernot. Thank you!*

Much place to work, isn't it?

LW-Showeditor 2011 can control up to 16 output cards (DAC) simultaneously. The following combinations are tested with success:

- 11 Netlase cards, each connected with a RGB projector.
- 1 EasyLase-1, 2 Netlase and 4 Lumax cards with in total 8 projectors (one Y cable)

## 2 Functional Principles of Lasershow Software and Projector

**This chapter is only for your information. It shall give an understanding of the functional principles of laser systems and the software, thus it can be omitted (go on at chapter 3 (Installation) or chapter 4 (First Steps). Nevertheless it is recommended to read the chapter sometime.**

The principle is the following:

**Laser graphics are vector graphics.**

A **vector** is a mathematical object with the attributes length and direction. This means in our case that the galvo mirrors will move the laser beam from one point to the next one, described by vectors.

“**Galvo**” is derived from galvanometer. That is originally an instrument with, because of a flowing current in presence of a magnetic field within it, a moving or rotating coil on which a pointer (in our case a mirror) is mounted. You will perhaps know it as an instrument to measure voltages or currents analogue, not digitally. More precise information on galvos, very often also called “scanner”, you can find on different homepages in the WWW, e.g. [www.laserfreak.net](http://www.laserfreak.net).

The laser beam moves as your pencil, when you paint pictures from one number to the next one (“painting by numbers”). In the moment, when the software puts out a new point, the galvos, driven by the preset electronics, will be set in movement to reach that point. Then the galvos move the laser beam to the next point, and so on. This can be done with the laser(s) off (blanked) or with the laser(s) on.

The different colours are generated by a modulation of the intensity of different coloured laser beams. To do all of this, some time is needed – until the mirrors are at first accelerated (“step on the gas”) to reach the next point and then decelerated (“throttle down” or “brakes on”) to hit it more or less exactly and until the lasers are set to the wanted intensities, until other devices (e.g. DMX-devices) are switched on or off - and so on. Because of all this actions some delay will always be present. Thus you can perhaps imagine that the achieved result is not always the optimum (100%) of the wanted figure.

So the programmer tried to build in some functions, which shall optimize the output of the software (these functions are so called “point-optimizations”). More information on this point you can read later. But in spite of all this hinders, the painting of a vector graphics is done so fast, that humans eyes (or better the brain) will see a complete picture (to have a film with no more sensible frames a repetition speed of almost 20 frames per second is necessary for humans – a fly can see up to 200 single frames per second!).

Some words additionally to the colours: Today we have laser diodes (in general red beams, nowadays also blue) or so called DPSS-lasers (Diode Pumped Solid State) with beams in various colours. With the three basic colours red, green and blue every colour impression can be created within our brains (have a close look on the pixels of your Colour-TV!).

Colour is not a physical, but a psychological phenomenon! Thus every human will have another impression of the laser shows. Within our eyes are three sensors for red, green and blue, respectively. In former times, when DPSS lasers were not available, mostly multi line Ar<sup>+</sup>-ion lasers (up to 8 spectral lines) or Kr<sup>+</sup>-ion lasers (or mixed gas Ar<sup>+</sup> and Kr<sup>+</sup> with up to 13 spectral lines) were used for laser shows with so called colour-boxes (“dichroitic” filters) or acoustic-optical modulators (AOM, PCAOM) to generate different colours. For high-power purposes those lasers are often used today, too. HeNe-gas lasers were/are used, too.

To achieve impressive laser shows some preparative steps are needed to be done. Firstly graphics, in future called figures, have to be created (painted) and to be saved onto the computer. For this purpose the software offers diverse tools similar to graphic editors.

Furthermore every figure has its own setups of effects and parameters for the optimization of the output. A figure can consist of several pictures (later called frames) like an animated cartoon. Different figures, together with the respective music and other diverse files like the show file or the file which contains the keyboard assignments, must be saved commonly (all together) for the show within the show folder. When the show folder or the laser show, respectively, will later be opened, the figures will all be put into the random access memory (RAM) of the computer and they can subsequently be sent to the projector.

Now two kinds of “shows” can be used (starting at LW-Showeditor 2009). These are the “music synchronous laser show” (beam or graphics) or the “live show” (also beam or graphics). The two variants are similar. The difference is only, that the “Timeline” from where the figures are called, is in the first case “recorded” prior and in the second case it is at every time put in new (“live”) by the light jockey.

The show output, however, is in principle always the same and will be done by the program in the following way:

The start of figures which consist of many points, as well as their colour information (all stored within the RAM of the computer) will be addressed by an event, which is written down in the Timeline or via direct call from the Figure Table or Live-Window. The coordinates of the points and intensity values are calculated according to the effect settings, the distances between the points are optimized (by interpolation), corner points will eventually be repeated and at least, after a correction of the geometry, they are put out to the hardware. The selection of a figure together with its effect settings can be done manually (as mentioned above via the Live-Window) or automatically by an integrated Show-Editor (also called “Timeline” with “laser tracks”). If the Show-Editor shall do this operation, the necessary events have to be set up in advance onto the laser tracks. A manually control of the figures can be accessed by a PC-keyboard, DMX-console or by a MIDI-keyboard in “real-time”.

Dependent on the respective hardware (e.g. hardware connected with the parallel port), the software has to calculate additionally the correct timing between the single points. That involves unfortunately a not negligible additional work for the computer and thus this is very dependant on the capacities of it. The result of these additional calculations will be that the show will not be displayed as smooth as it could be when another kind of quasi “intelligent” hardware is used. Because of the above mentioned reasons intelligent hardware like EasyLase, (Mini-) Lumax, Medialas, Riya or other is recommended. The BILDA or the LPT-DAC (parallel-port) is less appropriate and will not be supported by the software to 100% furthermore. Nevertheless these DA-converters (DA stands for digital analogue) can be used and will continue to work in combination with the software.

Concerning to the work with the laser show software LW-Showeditor:

Have truth in the joyfulness for curiosities of the programmer and test the program busy as a bee. Not very rare you will find behind a click with the RIGHT mouse-key onto a button or the background of the software screen an additional function (e.g. a mouse click with its right key on the background of the simulation window will make visible some control elements).

As already mentioned above, messages, hints on errors (error messages) and bugs, as well as further ideas for the improvement are welcome and gratefully accepted by Laserworld. Strictly speaking: the further development of the software is depending on this communication.

## 3 Installation

### 3.1 New Installation

**First step:** Download of the actual installation-file from the homepage [www.laserworld.com](http://www.laserworld.com)

**Second step:** Start the installation file LaserworldShoweditor2011.msi and follow the instructions.

### 3.2 Update... or exactly: NEW VERSION

There are no updates for LW-Showeditor! There are always “only” new versions! If a **new version** shall be installed, the old version **must be removed** from the computer prior. To do so, start the file LaserworldShoweditor2011.msi. The following dialog (Fig.2) will be displayed:



*Fig.2: Setup-Wizard of LW-Showeditor.*

Now select the option “Remove Laserworld Showeditor 2011” with a mouse click on the respective radio button. After confirmation via a click on “Finish” the old program will be removed. The \*.ini-file remains in the Windows folder (operating system folder). Thus all settings will be conserved (series number, hardware setup etc.).

Now the “update” can be carried out like a new installation. In the case, that bigger problems will appear, the old program folder and possibly the \*.ini file should be removed prior. That helps sometimes.

An exact location where the \*.ini file is stored can not be given, because since Windows 7 the location is dependant on the settings of the operating system. Thus the option to delete the old \*.ini file via the program is added at Options → Reset. To determine the location of the file use Options → Others → Button “Show Software Paths”. Normally it is not necessary to remove the \*.ini file(s), except problems on starting the software occur.

### 3.3 Different Versions of LW-Showeditor on one PC

On the same PC different versions of LW-Showeditor can be installed at the same time. That is not given for the smaller bug-fixes. This means that you can (could) have installed the last versions of LW-Showeditor on your computer simultaneous.

Each version has its own \*.ini-file. This \*.ini-file can be copied from one version to another, but that is not recommended because of incompatibilities, which could sometimes be present. For example, if you go from version 2009 to version 2011 the settings of the options have to be done new. Here the \*.ini files are not compatible.

### 3.4 DLL-Files and Error-Messages at the Installation

Meanwhile there should be no problems anymore because of missing or incorrect \*.dll-files. If you get nevertheless error messages or you notice an unusual behaviour, then please contact us.

In the case that you want to switch from an older version (e.g. version 2007) to the new version 2011 it could possibly occur problems at the registration of the file "Quartz.dll". That can be recognized by divers' error messages at the start of the software. For example a message could have been displayed, that the respective \*.dll-file is already installed and can not be updated, because it is write-protected.

If you could not find a solution of any problems, then send an e-mail to us, we will try to help you!

### 3.5 Hardware-Overview

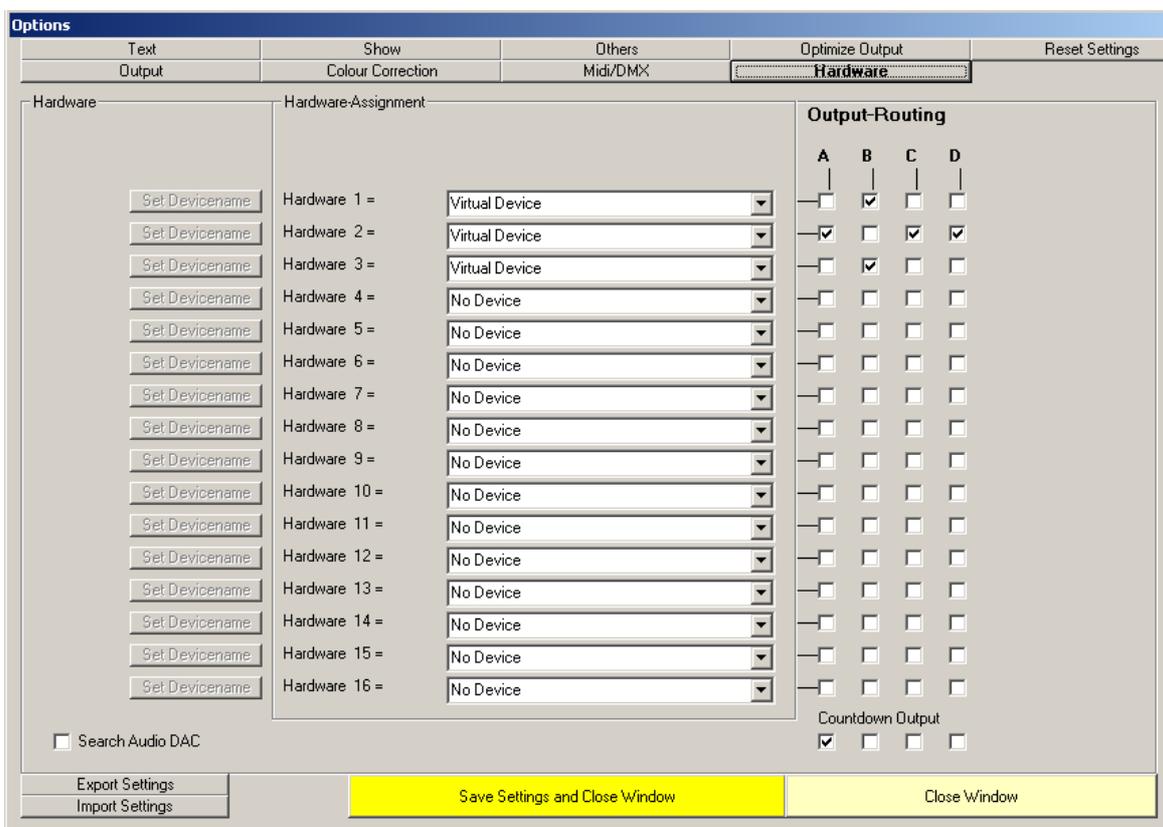
LW-Showeditor supports different types of DAC-hardware for Laser output (DAC = Digital Analogue Converter). These types will be described in a random order and the necessary steps to use them will be reviewed.

The interface cards (DAC) can be selected in the register card Options → Hardware. In the drop down lists you can select the (installed) cards. For special applications it is possible to select the same card in two lists. That is useful, if two different settings (e.g. output options) will be applied. But at the same time it should be used always only one of these lists. If both lists are used at the same time, the laser output will be flickering.

An example for such an application would be a mixed show with grafics and beams. For the grafics the output is set to fit to a screen, for the beams a setting with different parameters is cosen.

Another possibility of an application could be the use of a Play List containing a mixture of different show types (e.g. grafics, 1 projector beam, 3 projector beam, 1+2 projector beam etc.). This kind of use is explained in the chapter “Play List”.

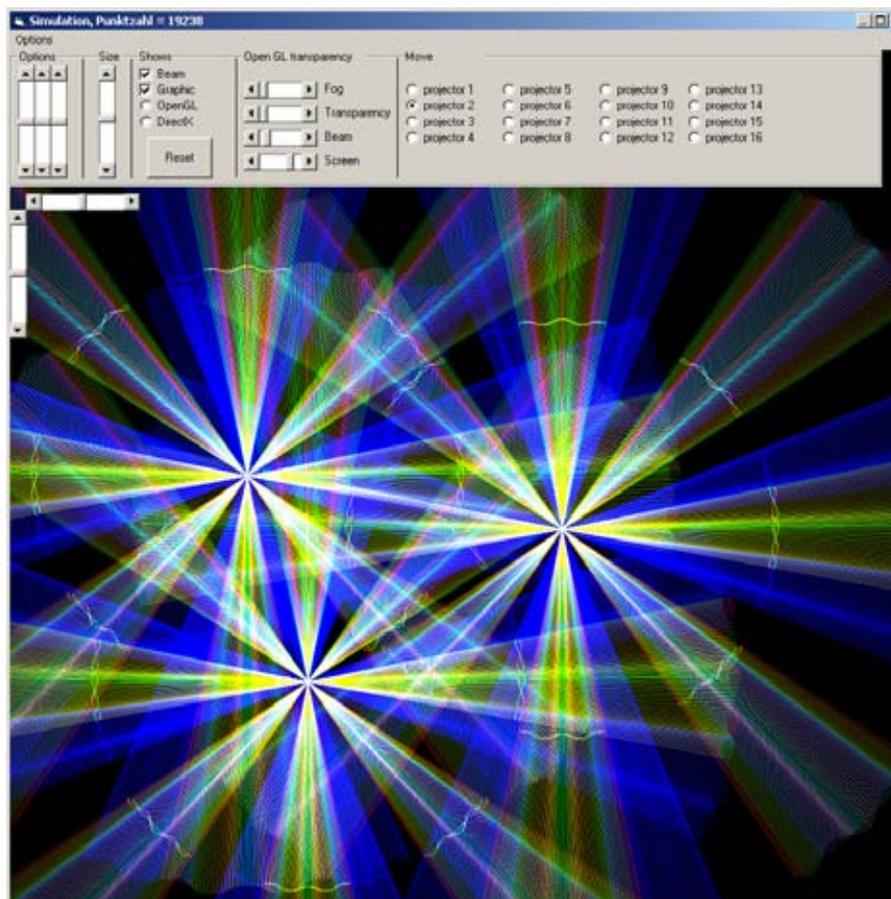
In a future version it is planned to give the possibility to enter a user defined description for the name “Hardware” (e.g. “Main Projector”, “Satellite 1”, “Grafic Projector”...).



**Fig.3:** Menu “Options/Hardware” for the selection of the hardware cards (DAC). Meanwhile up to 16 cards can be used. The shown setup is useful for a simulation of a 1 + 2 projector show (typical setup).

### 3.5.1 Simulation and Virtual Device

Indeed, for the simulation no additional hardware is necessary, **but only** those “projectors” will be simulated, which are assigned in the register card “Options/Hardware2. Thus, when a first installation of the software is done, at least one “Virtual Device” is selected as hardware. If the software detects any DAC like EasyLase or similar ones, these will be put into the list in the order as they are detected. This “proposal” can surely be changed by the user at every time. Regardless which cards are now assigned, to start the simulation just click on the button “Simulation” (see Fig.9). If only Virtual Devices are existent the simulation window is opened automatically via a click onto the button “Laser ON”. The simulation also works with real hardware. It is not possible to run a real laser output and the simulation at the same time.



*Fig.4: Simulation of figures and laser-shows. Use right mouse button to open the setup dialog (above).*

Up to sixteen simulated projectors are possible. To open the dialog to adjust the simulation, click with **the right mouse button** on its window or use the menu “Options”. A second right mouse button click will close the dialog. Via a click on the center position of the selected projector and keeping the mouse button down allows to move the projector. The selection of a projector is done with the radio buttons on the right side of the dialog. On closing the window the setups are stored into the \*.ini-file.

The Fig.5 shows an example for a simulation setup with 1 plus 2x2 projectors (one main projector and two satellite pairs). For hardware 1 and 2 it should be mirrored the x-axis.

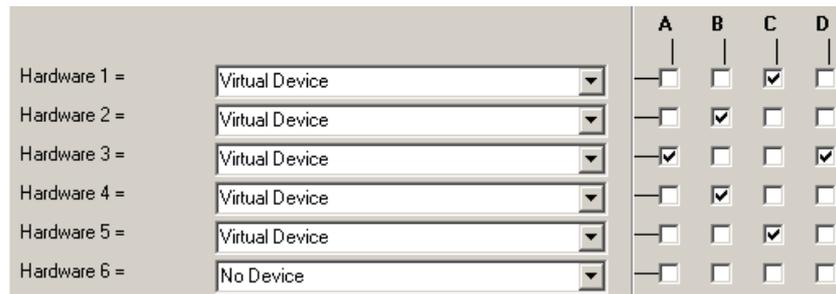


Fig.5: Simulation with Virtual Devices.

**Tip:** Because it is nowadays possible to start LW-Showeditor via a double click onto an \*.ini file, it makes sense to make a separate setup for the simulation (Virtual Devices, positions of projectors, movements, etc.) and to export this setup as e.g. “simulation.ini”. An ideal place for such an \*.ini file is the desktop. If you make a collection of \*.ini files with several setups and place them onto the desktop, then you start LW-Showeditor with the desired setup very quick via a double click.

**HINT:** If no correct simulation is shown, a click on the reset button could help! After a new installation of the software the parameters for the simulation display are sometimes very inappropriate and no simulation can be seen. Another origin of a not working simulation can be a missing colour correction setup for the hardware. Generally no real hardware with laser output will be driven, because the signals are redirected to the simulation. Thus the output parameters like mirror X and size (Options) have influence on the simulation.

The simulation uses Direct-X 8.0 (or newer) or OpenGL. With Direct-X the simulation works quicker, but then the view is not very near to a real situation. It is possible to simulate beam shows as well as graphic shows. Also a combination of beam and graphic is possible (like used in Fig.5).

To start the simulation a click on “Simulation” is necessary. It appears a window which displays the actually selected figure(s). The simulation has some debility. Real distributions of the brightness, like the laser offers, can not be simulated. Heavy flickering is not shown in the simulation, too. But in the headline of the window the real number of points for the output is shown. This could help to optimize the output for the real projector for a flickering free display of the figures.

If the show output shall be simulated, the simulation has to be started before the show is started. When a show is simulated, then the simulation window will come in the foreground automatically.

To end the simulation, just click on the cross in the upper right corner of the window. If you click on “Laser Off” (or you stop the show) the simulation window disappears, but it will appear automatically on a restart of the output.

### 3.5.2 MyLaserpage-LPT-DAC (Mot1)

This DAC is no more supported by LW-Showeditor!

### 3.5.3 BILDA (www.linux-laser.org )

This DAC is no more supported by LW-Showeditor!

### 3.5.4 EZ AudDAC

([www.laserfreak.net/forum/viewtopic.php?f=43&t=45628](http://www.laserfreak.net/forum/viewtopic.php?f=43&t=45628))

This selfmade and cheap DA converter, which is based on a 7.1 sound card, should theoretically work with LW-Showeditor 2009 and higher versions. A special DLL was programmed for the Audio-DAC. It was tested by the programmer only with an oscilloscope. If there are any messages of successful work with this DAC, please report it to us. To use the Audio DAC the option “Search AudioDAC” must be activated (Options → Hardware, see Fig.3 lower left side). The settings must be saved. After a new start of the program the AudioDAC driver can be selected.

### 3.5.5 JM-Laser.dll-Devices (EasyLase I/II and NetLase; www.jmlaser.com )

LW-Showeditor supports the JM-Laser.dll. That means that also all DAC from JM-Laser can operate with LW-Showeditor generally. But exceptions are known as the rule ☺. Because of company political reasons some cards from JM-Laser.com do not work with LW-Showeditor (actually the cards EasyLase LC and Phönix Live Card – date spring 2011 – possibly they will work sometimes). For ALL output cards from jmlaser.com only one dll-file exists (jmlaser.dll). This dll is now supported by LW-Showeditor. If the drivers or the network connections, respectively, are installed correctly, LW-Showeditor detects with the help of that dll all cards from jmlaser.com (in the case that it is allowed for the respective card to work with the software).

**HINT:** The NetLase is actually the DAC with the best offered performance (the programmer’s private impression). Unfortunately the price is considerable higher than that for the Lumax or EasyLase, but this is logically concerning the offered features. The Netlase is also available as 6 channel variant and includes an ILDA file player, which can be used “stand alone” without computer. If you will use sometime 10 DAC, then you will quickly admire the benefits of the NetLase: “Switch” and projectors with Netlase on the stage → only ONE single cable from computer to the stage is necessary (instead of 10 ILDA cables ☺).

### 3.5.6 Lumax / MiniLumax (www.he-laserscan.de, www.lumax.de)

The (Mini-)Lumax works proper and actually has a big advantage: Meanwhile a 6-channel output is available. The new card has 5+1 colour-channels. These are the outputs for R, G, B, Mg, Ye and Int. But thanks to the effective setup possibilities via the test program the channels can be routed user-defined. Thus the Lumax card can drive more than 3 lasers even if the program delivers only RGB-values. Because today also laser-diodes at 405nm and also 440nm with 100mW to 200mW power are achievable for small money, a 4-colour-system is quite interesting. The Lumax-DAC will give good laser-projections when the drivers for Windows are installed correctly. It has DMX-inputs and outputs and additionally TTL-switches. After the first program-start just select Lumax from the hardware-list. LW-Showeditor supports up to sixteen Lumax -DAC simultaneously.

### 3.5.7 Mamba (\*.mld)

The following is valid for hardware like Medialas-USB-Box, MyLaserpage-DAC, RIYA and QM2000 which use the Mamba-driver. For a proper work of LW-Showeditor in combination with this hardware, please copy the respective \*.mld-file from the folder “ML\_Driver” to the program-folder and rename it to “ML\_Driver.mld” (please rename or delete a previously installed “ML\_Driver.mld”-file).

After the program-start of LW-Showeditor the respective driver should be displayed at the bottom of the list in the Options/Hardware-dialog (Fig.3). You can use at the same time only one kind of MLD-driver! This means that you can use at the same time multiple RIYA-DAC or Lumax-DAC. A mixture of different cards is not supported by LW-Showeditor. Other drivers can be mixed (e.g. Easylase and Lumax together with a MLD-card). Tested combinations are listed in chapter 5.3.

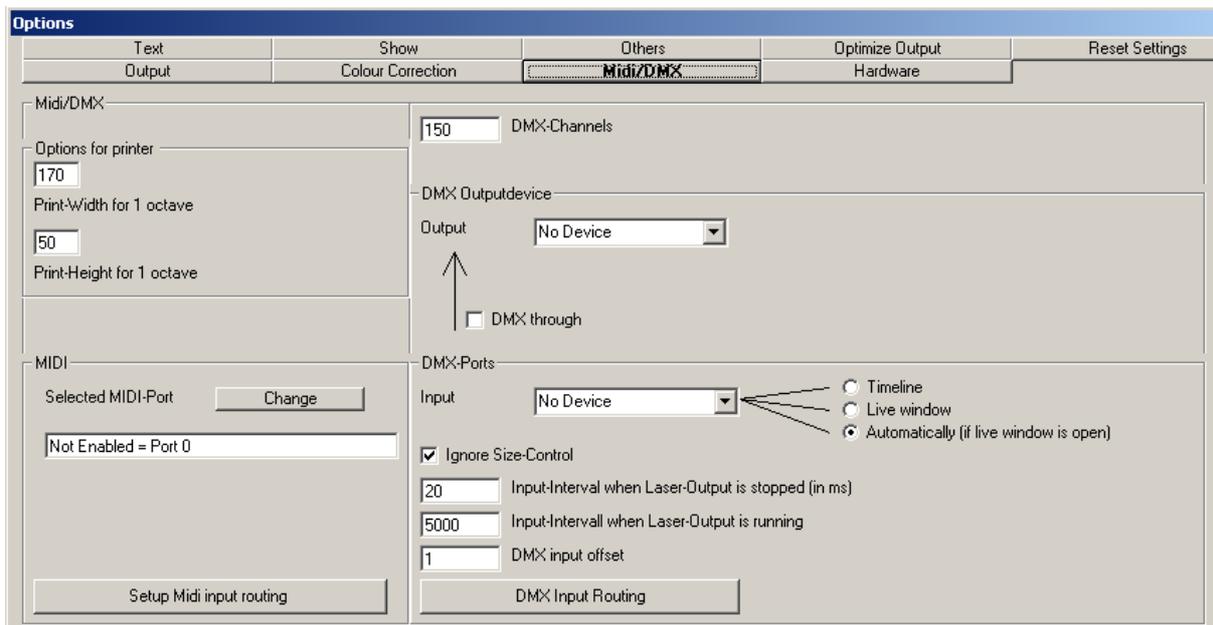
### 3.5.8 FriendlyName

Since LW-Showeditor 2011 the possibility is offered to give the DAC cards “FriendlyNames”. If it is supported by the respective card, you can via a click on the button “**Set Device Name**” give your cards your own names. Examples are “Main Projector”, “Satellite left” or “Grafic Projector”. This simplifies enormously the orientation during the setups. The FriendlyName is stored within the DAC! If you connect the renamed card with another system, the stored FriendlyName will be displayed.

LW-Showeditor recognizes and organizes the hardware cards generally by their series numbers. If the FriendlyName was changed with other software it has no influence on the order of cards within LW-Showeditor. If a prior via “Options/Hardware” selected and stored card is not connected during the start of the software, then a message about the missing card containing their series number is displayed. This message is sometimes regarded as “uncomfortable”. But it makes really sense, because when bigger setups are made it is good to know whether all cards are ready to use. You can prevent the appearance of the message by using only Virtual Devices (with the above explained technics to use several \*.ini files).

### 3.5.9 MIDI / DMX (Hardware and Driver)

The setup of the MIDI and DMX-hardware is done in the dialog Options/MIDI/DMX (Fig.6)



**Fig.6:** Menu Options/MIDI/DMX: Selection of DMX-ports for input and output, selection of MIDI-device and setup of printer.

It is possible to choose for DMX different cards for input and output. The duration of the request-interval for the input can be adjusted, too (dependent on the laser output).

See for more information chapter 5.3.3 Index-Card MIDI/DMX. Here some additional comments to the different hardware types:

### 3.5.10 DMX

#### ► EasyLase, Netlase and Lumax

The EasyLase DMX-hardware has one input- and one output port. Thus this card can be driven by the software like a real DMX device. The DMX input serves for the control of LW-Showeditor with a DMX controller like a DMX device. The DMX output is used to control the figures and effects with LW-Showeditor via its Timeline. This is useful for the creation of shows or for the control of effects in the live situation.

The DMX input of the EasyLase II makes temporarily some problems. For those who want to use the DMX input it is recommended to take the EasyLase I, the Lumax or the NetLase.

#### ► DMX4all USB-Dongle ([www.dmx4all.de](http://www.dmx4all.de))

This DMX interface is **not supported** anymore by LW-Showeditor.

#### ► MLD Devices with DMX

This hardware will **NOT** be supported (sorry!), because the technical data for the DMX access are not present (api-callings).

### 3.5.11 TTL Switches

The TTL-outputs of EasyLase-DAC, the NetLase (version 4) and Lumax-DAC are supported by LW-Showeditor. The TTL-switches can be set up for each figure within the Effect-Window (button Effects). On calling the figure (can be an empty one) the chosen TTL-switches are activated. (This is valid ONLY for the lowest sub-track on a sequencer-page!)

### 3.5.12 MIDI (Hardware and Driver)

Each installed MIDI-port on the PC should be recognized by LW-Showeditor and work including virtual ones. MIDI is used to control the Live-Window, the Timeline or the Play List, too. Also in the Show-Editor it is used to control the figure changes and effects, too (e.g. for recording the show). It is easier and more comfortable to use a MIDI-Keyboards for playing the figures than to use the PC-keys.

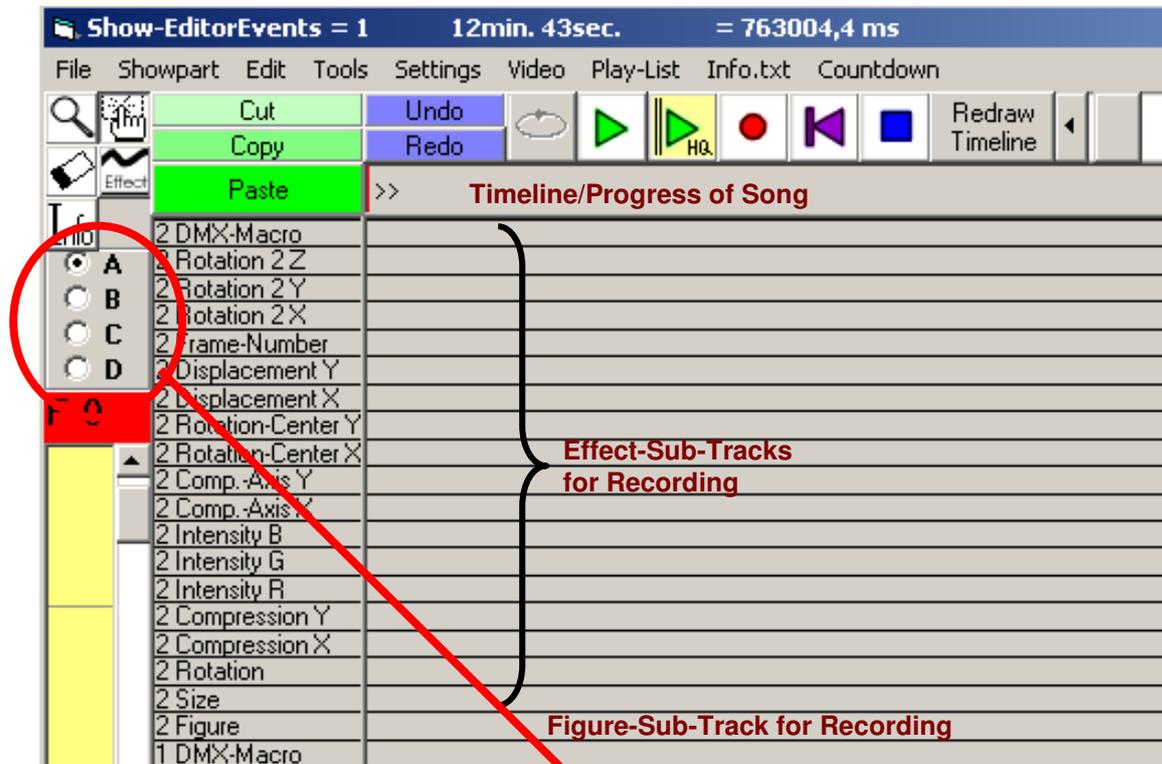
After a new installation of the program there is no MIDI-port selected, initially. To select a MIDI-port you have to open the dialog Options/MIDI-DMX-Printer (Fig.6) and then to click on the button "Change", situated above the text-field "Selected MIDI-Port". A dialog to select the desired MIDI-port will be opened. Only the MIDI-IN-port is used! Perhaps the MIDI routing must be adjusted. Please read the chapter "Software Control via MIDI/DMX".

The programmers tip for the MIDI control is at the time the M-Audio Oxygen 49. It has all what is needed for MIDI control. MIDI is somewhat curious and circumstantial, but every device should work.

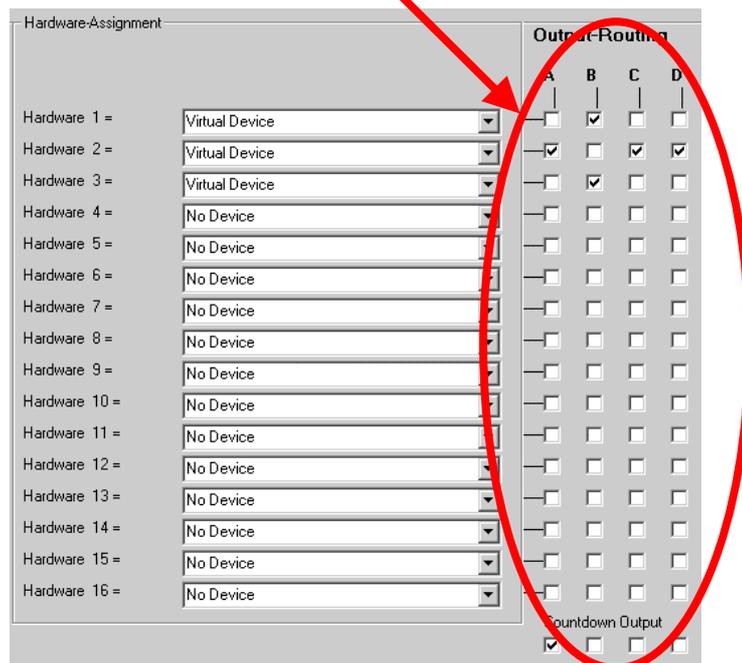
Generally the control of LW-Showeditor (Live-Window) is much easier via DMX.

### 3.6 Routing of Hardware-Output

The routing of the hardware output is very simple but nevertheless incredibly flexible and powerful. There are **sixteen** cards for the output. Each single route transmits the data-stream of the four sequencer-pages (A, B, C and D with each 3 figure-tracks and their effect-sub-tracks) of the Show-Editor to that hardware, for which it is routed (Fig.7 and 8).



**Fig.7:** Show-Editor: Four pages A, B, C and D (red circle) with each 3 figure-tracks and their effect-sub-tracks. These pages are connected with the hardware-output-routing for up to sixteen DAC (red arrow).



**Fig.8:** Dialog Options/Hardware: Output routing of the four pages A, B, C and D (see Fig.7; with each 3 figure-tracks and their effect-sub-tracks) to the hardware with up to sixteen DAC.

### 3.7 Start of the Program



To start the program, just click on its icon (small picture) on your computer-screen, which the installation has generated on the desktop automatically. After the start of the program, you should see the main-window on your screen like shown in the picture below.

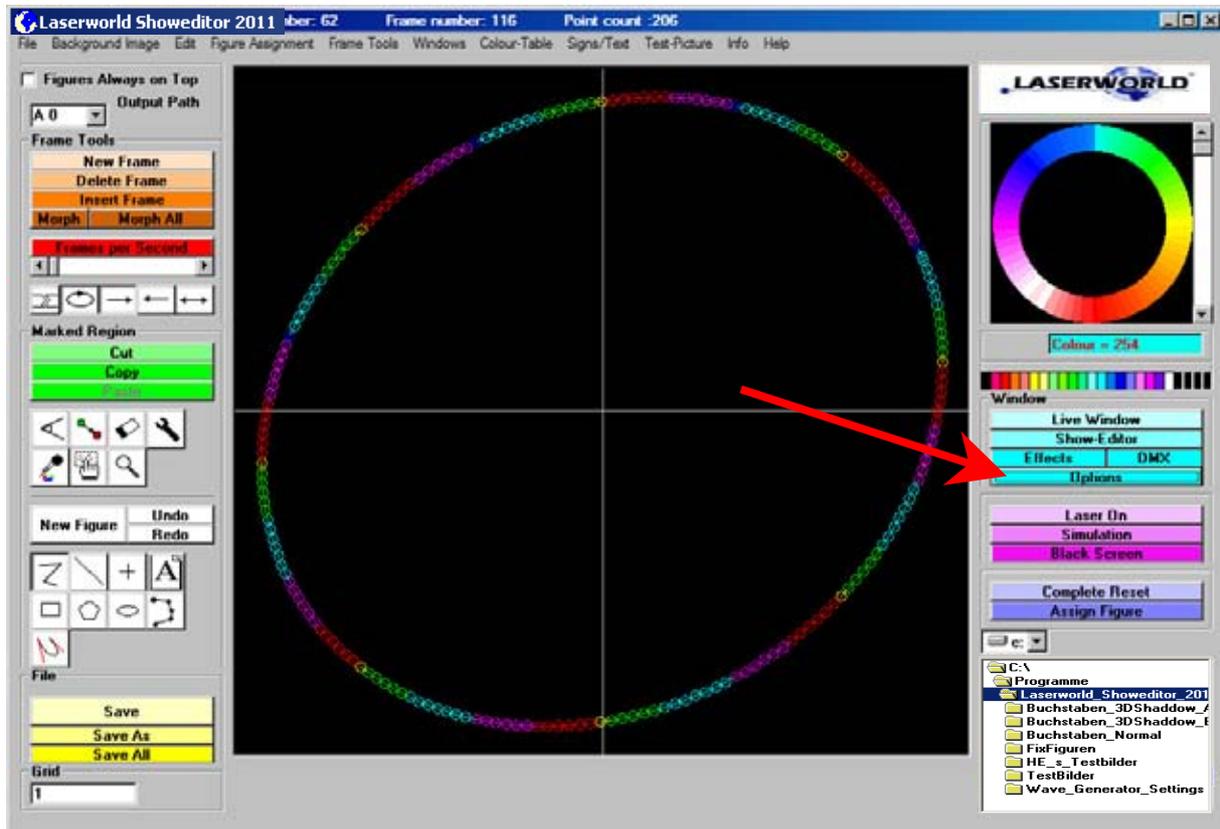


Fig.9: Main window of LW-Showeditor. Click on Options for hardware-setup (see red arrow)!

**Important:** If the software shall be started by a double click on a file with an to LW-Showeditor assigned ending (\*.ini or \*.shw), then the **path** to that file must be **without any empty spaces!** The development software VB can not handle that.

After launching the program you should see the main window of LW-Showeditor as shown above in figure 9. The design of this “main window” of the program is always a little bit different in the various versions and also dependant on your settings of the system.

### 3.8 Verifying of Settings

Normally the program finds a connected (and suited) hardware on your PC automatically. To be sure, you should verify the settings. To do that please open the window “Options” (see red arrow in the above picture) and then select the register-card “Others” (“Sonstige” in German, look for the bold letters in the next picture). Here you can at first select the desired language by a click on the respective radio button (e.g. English, see red arrow in Fig.10).

Earlier versions of LW-Showeditor could be used by a serial number instead of a dongle. That is no more possible, thus you can chose only Demo or Full-Version. If the dongle is plugged, the program runs in Full-Version modus.

The dongle can be external (like an USB memory stick) or included within the CPU of a Lumax DAC.

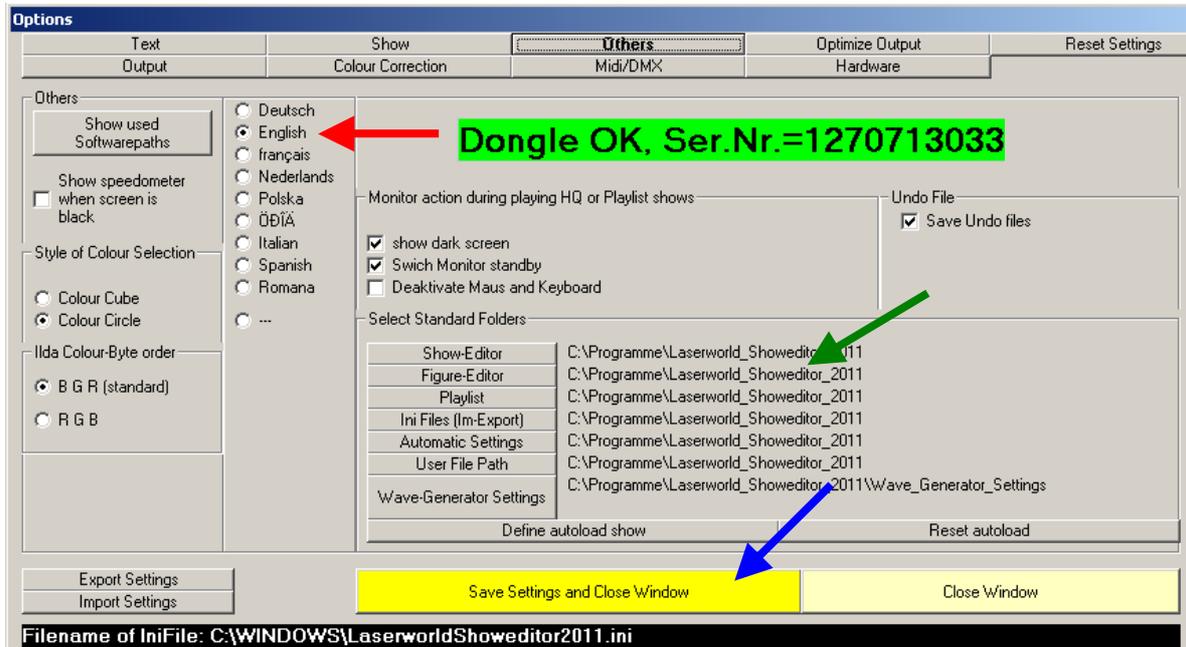


Fig.10: Menu "Options" (Optionen in German). Selection of English, dongle plugged into USB-port.

If you are owner of a **USB-dongle**, please connect it with the USB-port of your computer before you start the program. Then immediately you can use all functions after program start. An additional input of a username and registration number is not necessary.

If you open the dialog "Optionen" with the dongle plugged in, you can check wether your dongle was recognized correctly (Fig.10). You can see here the series number of your dongle. This number is in future necessary for the copy protection of your (exclusive) shows (if wanted). In this window you can also define standard paths, which are chosen automatically on program start (green arrow).

**Generally is valid:**

If any parameter is changed within the options, then it is immediately active. To use the changes after the next program start, the settings have to be saved by a click on the yellow button "Save Settings and Close Window" (in German: "Einstellungen speichern und Fenster schließen" – see blue arrow in Fig.10).

The next step should be to choose the register card "Hardware". Here you can select the hardware or verify the automatically by the software selected ones, respectively. As mentioned above, the various operation modes support up to sixteen DA-converters. Although you can select the hardware devices 1 to 16, NO hardware will be addressed by the software, when only the "Demo"-version is in operation.

At next you should have a look to the register-card “Optimize Output” (Fig.11). Detailed information is given later in this manual. For the start it is sufficient to do some basic settings.

In this dialog you should at least set the PPS-rate (PPS means points per second) for the respective galvo-system, which is in use. For the start it is recommended to set this value to 2/3 of the maximal PPS rate of the Galvo system. For example for Widemoves the PPS rate is about 17000PPS (of 25000). All other settings you don’t need to change now.

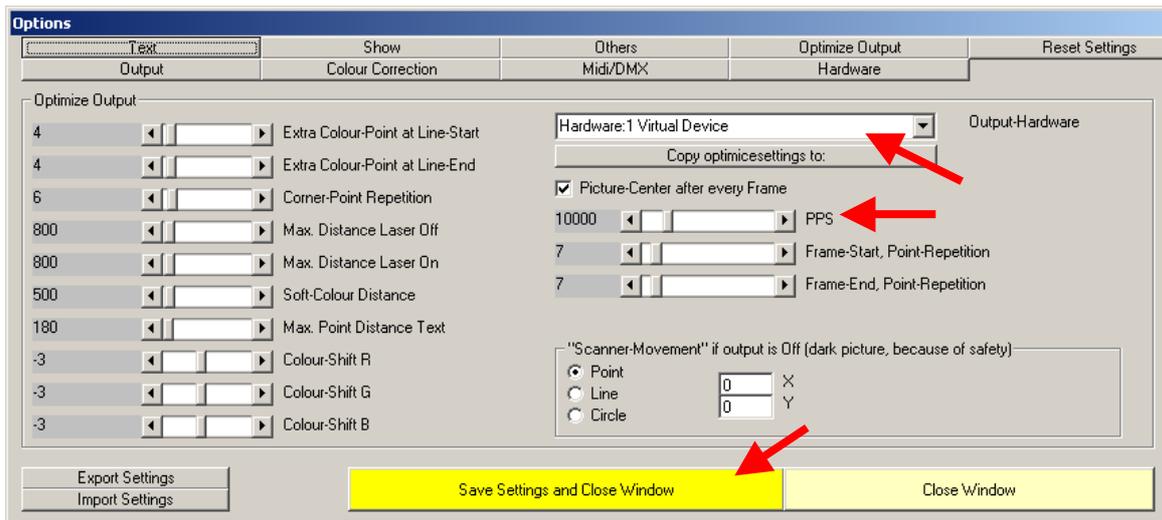


Fig.11: Dialog “Optimize Output”. Settings of hardware parameter.

Meanwhile the experience has shown that the standard-settings are not appropriate for the well-known 50kpps galvos from Laserword. They like better shorter interpolation distances (maximal distance laser off/on approximately 700) and a slightly higher scan speed (30000-40000 PPS).

According to your Galvo system perhaps later some changes will be necessary for optimal show output. The presettings done here are ONLY chosen to prevent damages of the hardware. Shurely different galvos need to be operated with different optimized settings. Later you have to do some changes of the settings with the help of test pictures for the fine adjustment to achieve optimal output. To achieve optimal results it needs some time and experience. Thus please have some patience.

Finally you should close the options dialog via the button “Save Settings and Close Window”.

If PPS rates above 25000PPS are set, a warning message appears (Fig. 12). If you find it obsolete and don’t want to get the message again, then please read the text carefully, especially the last sentence. The answer with the button “Nein” will prevent the next appearance of the message.

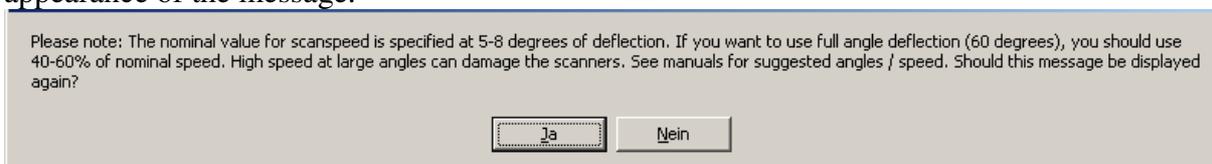


Fig.12: Warning, when a PPS rate is set above 25000pps.

## 4 First Steps / Quick Start

In this chapter a quick guide will be given to help the beginner to get some first results and to give him a first overview of the program.

Meanwhile the program has made some developments that now are two variants to play laser shows are possible: “Live Shows” and “recorded music synchronous shows”. The “recorded music synchronous shows” are also often called “Timeline Shows”. This quick start first explains the Timeline Shows.

### 4.1 Play a Ready Prepared Music Synchronous Laser Show

Because it is likely that you want at first to play a ready prepared laser show to see the performance of your show system, here some basic instructions:

Shows are generally stored within a folder. Each show should have its own folder. This folder must contain additionally to the show data (figures, assignments, etc.) the music file. Thus for the first step please copy the desired show into a folder on the hard disk (from CD or downloaded from the www – that doesn’t matter). Now also copy the appropriate music file into the show folder. Then start the program and click the menu item “File” → “Open Lasershow”. A dialog will open. Now the showfile can be selected (files with ending \*.shw). If all necessary files are present (and if you have the rights to play the show) the show will be loaded and is ready to be played.



Fig.13: Playing of shows.

To play the show two variants are possible:



- **Play button:**

The laser will be switched on; the show is running (start at actual position). More information to this is given below. This function is rather mentioned to EDIT the shows.

-  **Play HQ:**

This is the best variant! Shows for presentation should always be played by use of the Play-HQ-button. The reason is the following: This function switches the monitor off (dependant on the settings at Options). Because the monitor is switched off, no output to it is necessary → the program will run faster. Furthermore it is guaranteed that the show starts at begin. All files and settings are reset and the show will be displayed correctly.

That is not always guaranteed by the use of the Play button . That function should be used to edit the show. Moreover it is possible to set a start delay via a click with the right mouse button onto the Play-HQ-button or via the menu “Settings/Enter Delay for Show Start”.

**One important hint additionally to missing audio files:**

If the audio file is present in the show folder BUT is not correctly recognized by the program, then a message will be displayed (“Audio file not present”). The reason is mostly a different file name or path. The correct file name including the correct path can be set up in the Figure-Editor at “Options” → “Show” → “Select new Audio file”.

**4.2 Create Own Figures and Shows**



**IMPORTANT!** When a new figure shall be created, you have to click ALWAYS at first on “New Figure”. If this is not done, it could happen that a prior created figure will be edited further.

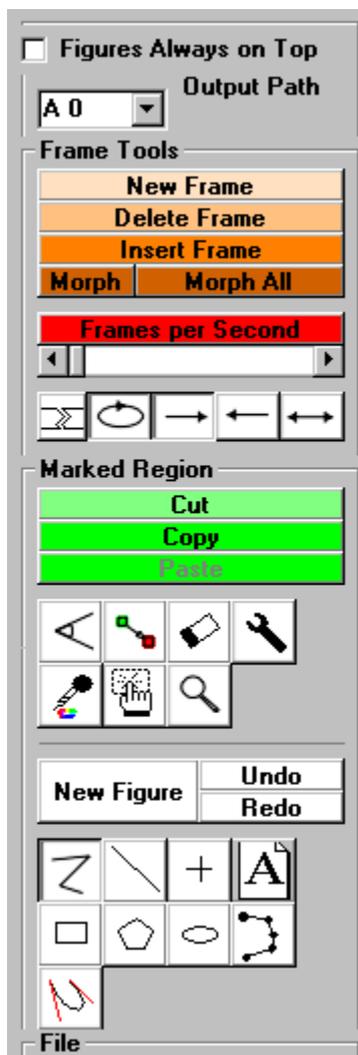


Fig.14: Buttons for editing.

Now a figure can be created in the black grounded painting window by the use of the computer mouse or other kinds of input devices. After each start of the program the graphic function “PolyLine-Tool” is active. With the **left** mouse key **coloured** points will be set; with the **right** mouse-key **invisible** (blanked) points will be set. Remember...we create now “vector graphics”. In the case that a second line with a new start point shall be drawn, the laser beam must move invisible to the start of the line. Thus you have to set a blanked point with the right mouse key. If you use any other painting function, the generation of this invisible vector is done automatically.

Who is able to create “nice” or “beautiful” pictures will have understood the laser show creation with galvos essentially☺.

Here a short summary of the grafic functions:



“**Poly-Line**” (on keeping the mouse key down a rubber band like line to the end point is visible). This tool is used e.g. to draw bended laser planes.



“**Ellipse**” With this tool the “tunnel effect” is created. The circle or the ellipse, respectively, will be interpolated by a many cornered polygon. The number of points of the figure is size dependent. That is important when “Morph” should be used later. The lines between the polygon points can be recolored.



“**Point**” The output of a point will create a still standing laser beam. Please use points very carefully! (The prescription is in Germany a minimal height of 2,70m for laser beams, which exceed the maximal allowed irradiance) The program will generate automatically three points. 2 are invisible (blanked) and one is visible. Via a right mouse click on the tool you can adjust the number of repeated points for a beam.



“**Rectangle**” This tool is used to create rectangular “tunnels” within the laser show, thus squared tunnels are included. The four sides can be coloured as desired.



“**Polygon**” This tool is used to create polygon tunnels with plane sides. By a click with the right mouse key the number of corners can be changed. A polygon with very much corners will create a circle again, naturally. A polygon with four corners will give a rectangle; three corners will give a triangle. The sides of the polygon can be coloured separately.



“**Line**” This tool is used to create laser planes in your show. The line is generated with blanked points at start and end.



“**Freehand**” This tool is used to draw freehand figures. Automatically blanked points at start and end will be set. Here some parameters can be adjusted by a click with the right mouse button on the icon, too.



“**Text**” This tool is used to create texts. Please read the respective chapter below for more information.



“**Bezier Tool**” is used to create curves and Beziers. Please read the respective chapter in the main manual for more information.

The tools like Ellipse, Rectangle, Polygon and Freehand are usually used by the operation:

- click on the left mouse key at center-position → keep it down
- pull the figure (move mouse) → release the mouse-key

The handling of the Bezier tool is more complex. Generally are created two control lines. These lines define the resulting Bezier curve (see respective chapter for more explanations).

The desired **painting colour** is easily chosen by a click on the **colour palette** below the cube or circle. Here you will find the 20 “brightest” colours. “Brightest” because always at least one laser is set to maximal intensity. Furthermore you have the possibility to choose the desired colour by a click on the colour cube (or colour circle, respectively). The view of the colour selection can be altered via Options → Others. The display of the cube can be changed by a click on one of the three radio buttons. The depth of the cube can be selected by the scrollbar. With that you can choose darker (greyish) colours, too. By “Drag `n Drop” you can pull other favourite colours into the colour palette.



By use of the function “**HAND**” points can be marked and with keeping the right mouse button down shifted to another place, too. To mark points of the figure, pull open a marking square by the use of the left mouse key. To mark additional points keep down the “Strg”-key. To work on or mark ALL points of a picture (frame) you can use the menu → “Edit” → “Mark All Points”.

**Marked points** can be moved with the right mouse key. If no points are marked, then the point just situated under the mouse cursor will be moved. It could be that to mark the points you have to switch off the grid, because otherwise some points are not reachable. To do that, enter the value “1” into the textbox for the adjustment of the grid.



The functions “**Rotate**”, “**Change Colour**”, “**Delete**” and “**Optimize**” work all in the same manner. If already points are marked when you use these functions, then the respective points will be edited immediately (deleted, changed in colour, etc.). Otherwise the respective function will be valid for only the point situated under the mouse cursor.



The “**Magnifying Glass**” is used to magnify regions of the painting window. Meanwhile also the Magnifying Glass is very flexible. You can use it to mark a region within the painting window to be magnified Alternatively you can use it in that way, that you click on the tool, then move with the cursor onto the painting window and at least use the scroll wheel to zoom in or zoom out of the picture. On clicking the tool it is different, whether the right or left mouse button is used. On a click with the left mouse button the zoom is always set to 100%. The click with the right mouse button lets the zoom in the actually used setting.

How to use all the functions will be explained exactly in the main manual below.

The work on marked points (**cut, copy, paste**) is similar as you know it from a text editor. But the (well known) shortcuts like “**Strg-C**” (copy), “**Strg-X**” (cut) and “**Strg-V**” (paste) can actually **NOT** be used to edit the figures, because they are used for the figure to key assignment.

Even a whole series of frames (series of pictures of a figure) can be edited (cut, copy, paste or add) via the menu “**Frame Functions**”.

In the case that a figure should consist of several single pictures (series of frames), which later can be displayed as an animated cartoon, you have to create a new empty frame (picture) via a click on “**New Frame**”. By this operation a new frame is generated at the end of the existing ones. On the contrary “**Add Frame**” will add an empty frame within the series at the actual position (in front of the actual frame).

The other functions like “**Morph**” will be explained later in the main manual.

A new created figure can directly put out to the hardware (displayed by the laser projector) by a click on “**Laser On**”.

### 4.3 Show Folder / Save Figures

To be able to create a laser show with an already prepared collection of figures, they have to be stored within a show folder. Thus you should create a show folder in advance with the Windows Explorer. Within this folder all used figures together with the later used music file (wave- or MP3-file) must be stored or collected, respectively. It is recommended to organize all folders in a certain structure. For example you should (could) create a folder named “LaserShows” with diverse subfolders like “Already PreparedShows”. For future purposes it is further useful to sort the show folders alphabetically by their name. You will possibly notice that you will have at a certain time in the future a lot of shows!  
 Via the folder tree within the Figure-Editor (Main Window) it is possible to go immediately into the wanted (actual) folder to have access to the already stored figures. The loading of whole shows is since version 2009 much quicker possible via the menü “File”.

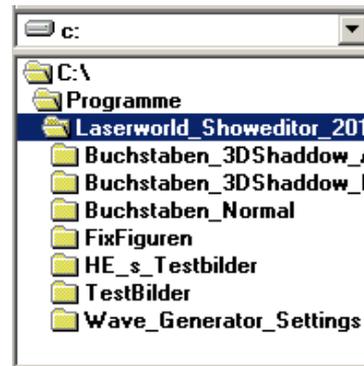


Fig.15: Figure-Editor, folder window: Structure of folders (example).

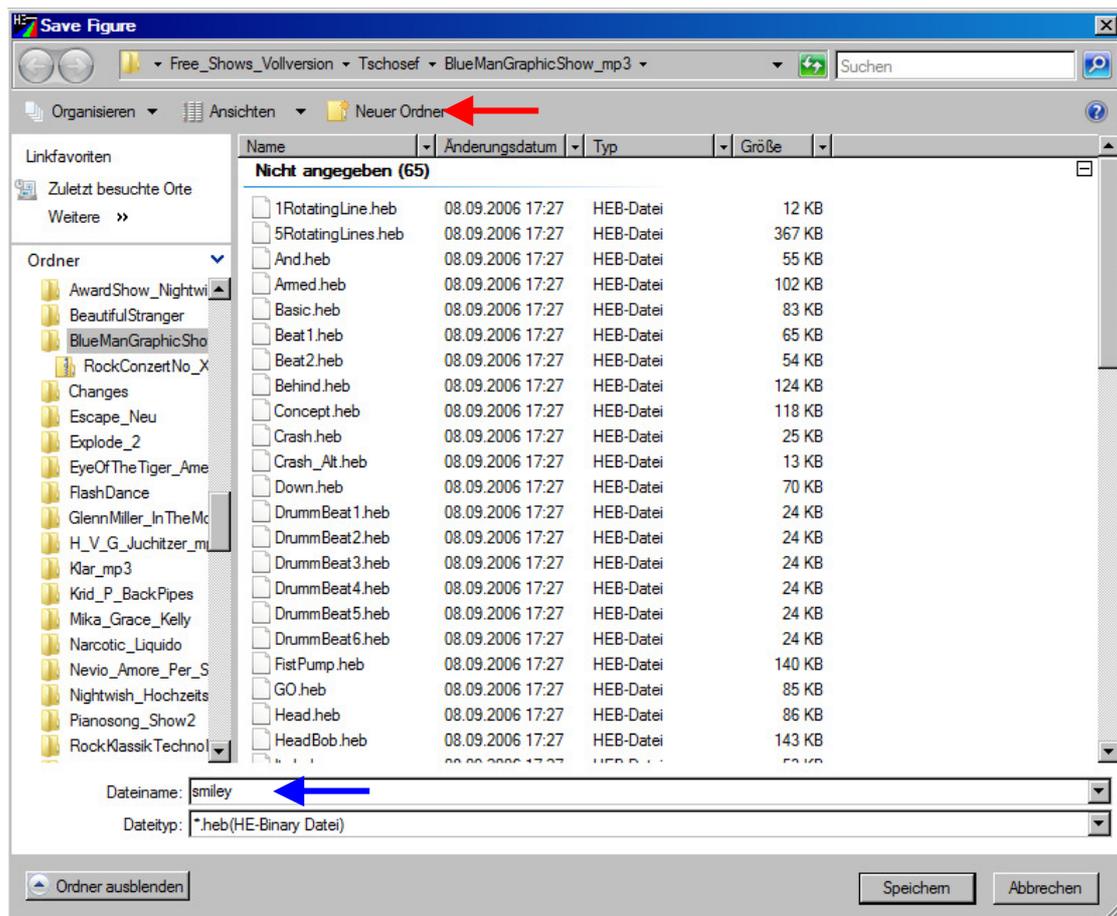


Fig.16: “Save Figure” – dialog: opened on first saving of a figure to give the figure a name (blue arrow). The cration of a new folder is also possible (red arrow). (This dialog can look differently in different Windows versions. Here the German Windows dialog is shown).

A new created figure is saved to the folder by the buttons “Save” or “Save As”. If the figure is not saved already, a dialog (Fig.16) to enter the name will be opened.

Already saved figures will be saved directly (overwritten) **without** any warning. A new folder to save the figures can be created in the dialog, too, if you have forgotten to do it in advance (see red arrow in Fig.16). On saving the figures no show files will be generated. That will be done via the Show-Editor on creating a new show – more information to this you can find below in the main manual.

The button “**Save as**” can be used to save an already existing figure (perhaps modified) a second time with a different file name and to store it at another place.

The button “**Save all**” is used to save all figures, which are present in the actually selected show folder. The use of this button has the advantage that changes can be done on several figures (e.g. changes done on the effects) and then be saved in one step with no need to save each figure individually.

#### **4.4 Use of Function Keys (F0 to F12)**

##### **This is important information!**

To use figures within a show, they have to be assigned to a key! At last LW-Showeditor works internally always with “pushed keys”. A key is pushed and LW-Showeditor calls the assigned figure. This is also valid, if the key is pushed via the Timeline, MIDI, DMX or what else.

Since the version Showeditor 2009 a change in the assignemnt of the keys was made. In earlier versions all keys could be used in combination with Strg, Alt and Control keys. NOW all keys can be used in combination with the function (“F”) keys. But you have to pay attention to the fact, that beneath the keys F1 to F12 the program knows the F0 key, too! F0 means “NO function key used”!

The behaviour of the function keys is dependent on the setting of the feature “Use Key up event → Figure off” in the menu “Settings” of the Show-Editor (Timeline). If the option is not set (default setting), then a certain F-page is selected by pushing the respective F-key. All program windows will show the actually selected F-page. By pushing another F-key the selection can be changed. By a second push on the same F-key the selection is canceled and then the F0-page is selected. If the option “Use Key up event → Figure off” is chosen, then the respective F-key must be pushed and kept down during pushing the figure key!

Additional Hint: The function key F10 could make problems, because often this key is occupied by the operating system for menu functions. This is a Windows problem.

### 4.5 Assignment of Figures to Keys

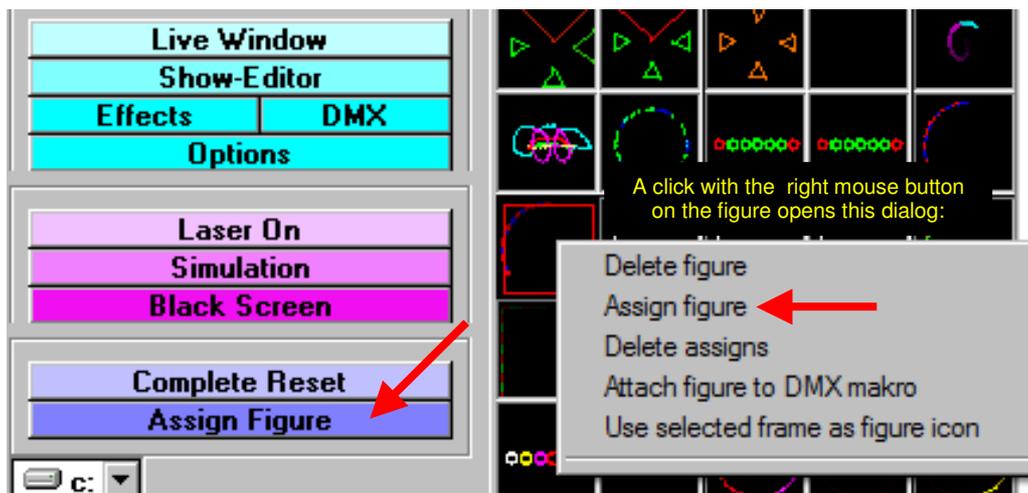
After the creation of the figures they have to be assigned to a key of the PC-keyboard or MIDI-keyboard, respectively. This is needed urgently for a later use of the figures, because the Show-Editor, the Live-Window and also the DMX-Editor as well as the MIDI input need this assignment to use the figures. For example in the Show-Editor at the process of creating a show the figures are called by pushing the respective keys in the beat of the music. Certainly the figures can be arranged in the tracks of the Show-Editor by drag'n drop with the mouse. Nevertheless they have to be assigned to keys in advance.

Meanwhile there are several ways for the assignment of figures to keys:

#### 1) Manual Assignment

To assign a figure to a key of the PC or the MIDI keyboard it has to be selected by a click on its icon in the Figure Table (Fig.17). Then the button "Assign Figure" has to be pushed. A message will be displayed until a key was pushed. If the key has already been chosen for another figure, then a warning is displayed.

The assignment can be started by a click with the right mouse key on the desired figure, too (do not click on the yellow popup window). The actually selected figure is shown in the painting window. It can also be recognized within the table by its red surrounding square.



*Fig.17: Assignment of keys to figures. Click with right mouse button on its icon or click on "Assign Figure" (red arrows). The selected figure has a red square.*

#### 2) Assignment by Drag and Drop to the Live-Window

This way is perhaps the easier one, because here the free possibilities for further assignments are easy to identify. To do the assignment in this way, open the Live-Window (Fig.18, opened via click on the light blue button in the Figure-Editor shown in Fig.17). Now it is easy possible to assign a figure to a key just by Drag and Drop it from the Figure Table to a free place within the Live-Window.

The assignment of figures to keys is saved automatically as file "key.ord" within the same folder as the figures. Changes of the assignments are possible by a re-assignment. Duplicate assignments are possible (several keys for the same figure, not opposite). To call several figures with one key "Showparts" are used.

On overwriting a figure by another one within the show folder (the other figure is given the same name within the Windows Explorer) the assignment (to the name of the figure) will be preserved. The assignment key ⇔ figure is thus done via the figure name!

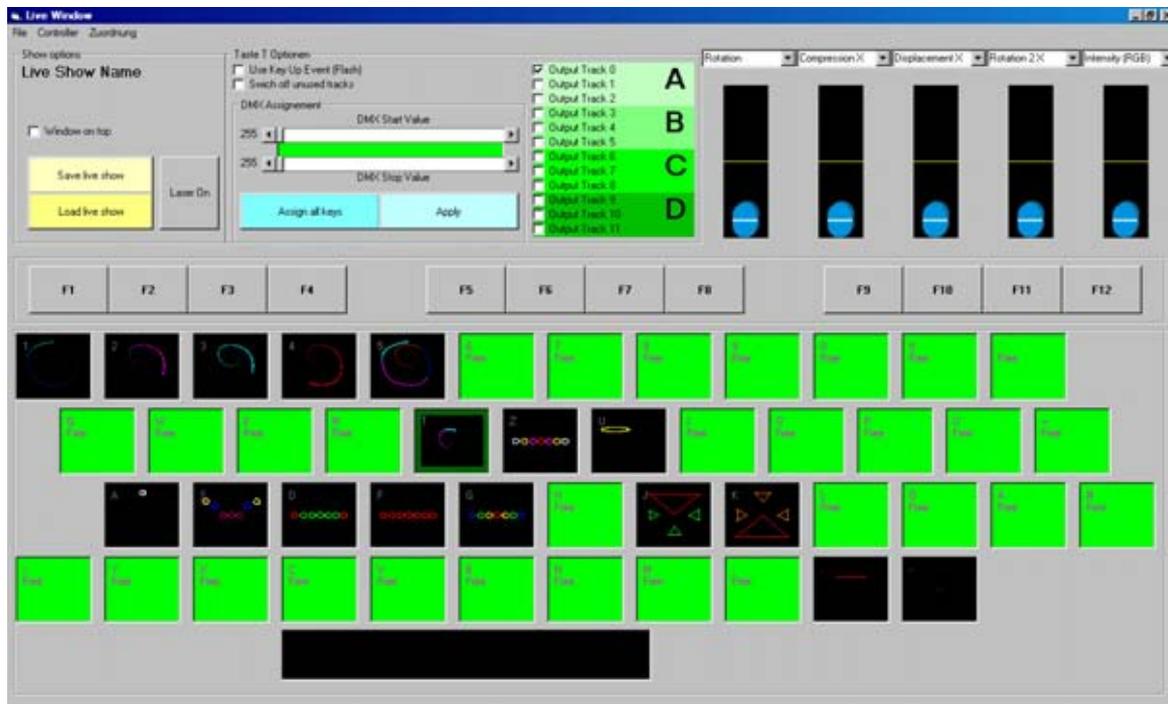


Fig.18: Key assignment within the Live-Window.

It is also possible to do the assignments automatically via the menu “Figure Assignment” of the Figure-Editor.

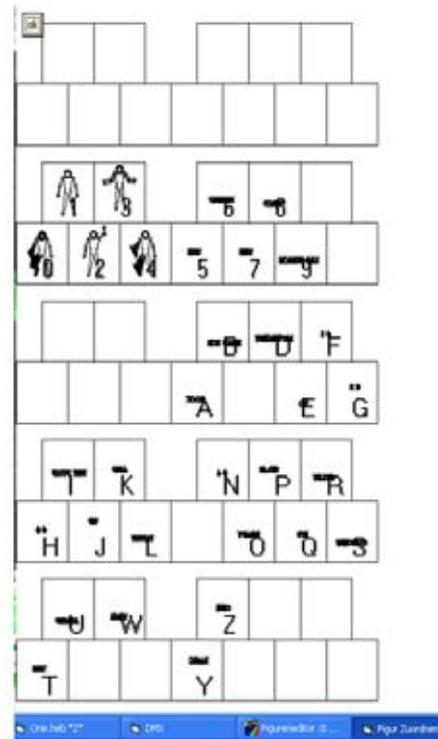
The already made assignments can be viewed or printed out by a click on the respective item within the menu “Figure Assignment” of the upper menu bar of the Figure-Editor. The easiest and quickest way to check the assignments surely offers the Live-Window. This will be opened on selecting the menu item “Show PC List”. According to the selection the assignment is displayed or printed out. It is also possible to open a list of the free keys.

Examples for the display as list or keyboard view are shown below (Fig.19). To close the lists, use “OK” (upper left) or make a double click on it. WARNING! The window could be open and hidden in the background!

An additional possibility to find out the key assignment of a figure is the yellow popup window which is shown when the mouse is placed at least one second on the respective figure. Furthermore you can read the assignment of the figure at the top of the Figure Table.

⌘	D+Shift	A	“	N	>
0	—	B	—	O	À
1	—	D	—	P	Ù
2	-	E	-	Q	Ð
3	“	F	—	R	+Shift
4	“	G	—	S	1+Shit
5	“	H	-	T	2+Shit
6	—	I	—	U	3+Shit
7	-	J	-	W	4+Shit
8	—	K	—	Y	A+Shi
9	—	L	-	Z	B+Shi

Fig.19: Assignment tables for computer- or MIDI-keyboards.



#### 4.6 Create Music Synchronous Shows

After all figures are created and assigned to the keys the creation of a show can be started.

To start the creation of a show, click on the button “Show-Editor” (Fig.20) or open the Show-Editor via the menu “Windows” of the Figure-Editor.



Fig.20: Buttons of the Menu “Window”.

Firstly, within the menu “File” of the Show-Editor the menu item “Create New Show” has to be selected (see Fig.21). Then an audio file has to be selected in the following dialog. To chose an mp3-file a changeover to the file type has to be done. If a \*.wav-file is used, an intensity overview is generated in the Show-Editors Timeline.

Just after the selection of the audio file please click on “Play” (button with green arrow in the Show-Editor) to verify its correct function.

Now the creation of a show can be started. Two different methods to do it are available:

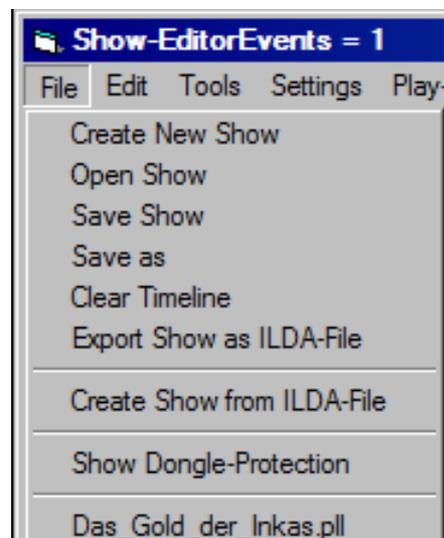


Fig.21: Menu “File” of the Show-Editor.

**Method 1:**

“Drag `n Drop”: Via this method the figures are just dragged (picked up) from the Figure Table and dropped (put) into the tracks of the Show-Editor. But this method is less recommended by the programmer. Placing a figure via “Drag `n Drop” and movements of the events it is not possible to create easy a music synchroneous show. But some people like “Drag `n Drop”. For those the function has been introduced. Via this method the figures are selected within the Figure Table by mouse click, then the left mouse button is kept pushed and the figure is moved into the desired figure track. On releasing the mouse button the figure is inserted into the track. To get the calling of the figure music synchroneous additionally movements will certainly be necessary. Functions of the Show-Editor like “Grid” and Zoom will help to place the figures exactly.

Comment by the programmer: *“I personally strongly believe that a good and synchronously to the sound running show can **not** be created via drag `n drop. Who knows already some shows created with LW-Showeditor could perhaps imagine that there sometimes some thousands of commands are used. Via drag `n drop this is very hard work to do that. But to test the functions or to add only a few figures, drag `n drop is sufficient and sometimes very useful.”*

It is now possible via Drag `n Drop to put the figures to a figure track within the Show-Editor. Up to three tracks for each output-path (routing) are possible. Up to four output paths (pages A, B, C and D) are present. Thus maximally twelve figures can be put out simultaneously.

With the help of the “Effect Tool” (see red arrow in next Fig.22) it is possible to change the effect values. After the click on this button firstly a region within the desired effect track must be marked (via pushed left mouse button). After marking the appropriate track section the dialog shown in Fig. 22 is opened. There the course of the effect can be drawn. The method is the simplest but also the most imprecisely to create a show! But it works.

Precise information on how to use the tools of the Show-Editor is given on the later pages of this manual.

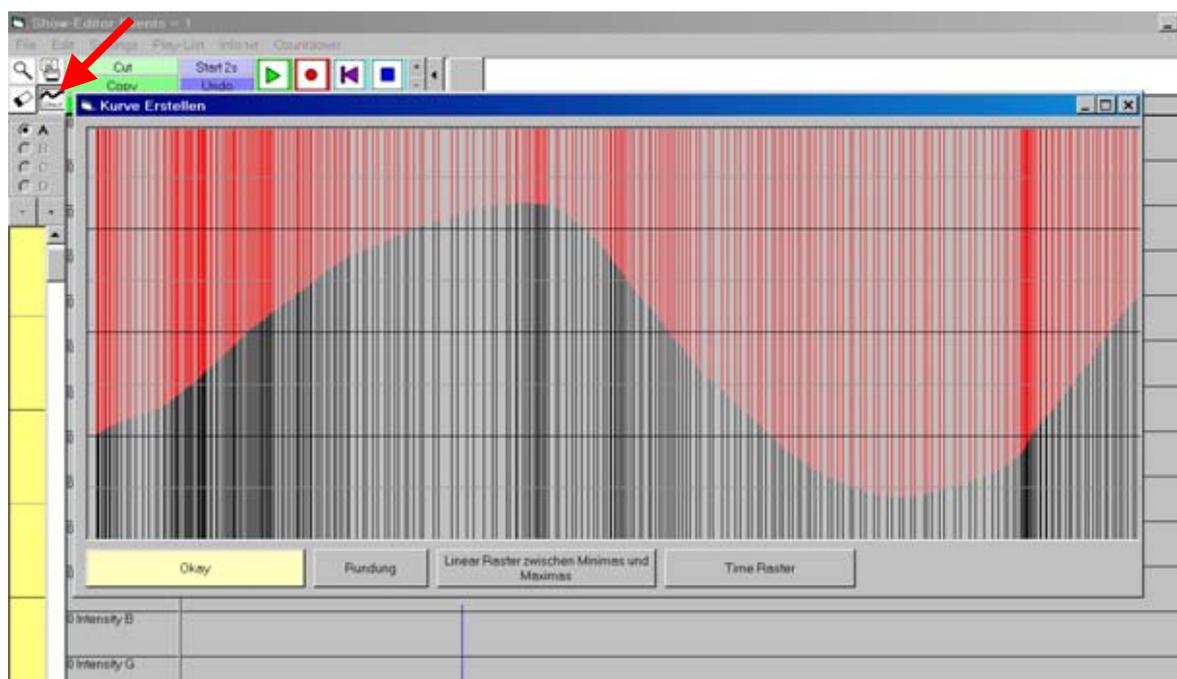
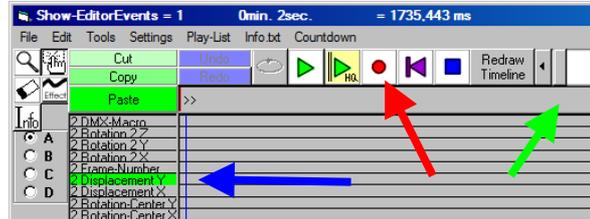


Fig.22: Dialog of the “Effect-Tool” (Show-Editor).

**Method 2 (the better one!):**

Live recording...- like it is done with a MIDI-sequencer or multi-track-recorder etc. Via this method the commands to change the figures, the effects and so on are directly - LIVE - entered and recorded quasi – real-time – by the program. To do so you have to mark the track(s) of the figure(s) or effect(s) to be recorded (see blue arrow in Fig.23). To mark several tracks keep the “Strg”-key pushed (for example when the intensities of the red, green and blue lasers should be recorded simultaneously). Recording on multiple tracks is only possible for effect tracks. Then push the red button to record the show (red arrow in Fig.23). Now the music is playing, the laser output (or the simulation) is active and you can enter the changes of figures via the assigned keys or the effects by use of the mouse.



*Fig.23: “Direct-recording” of laser-shows. Red arrow: Start of recording; green arrow: time-progress-bar; blue arrow: for recording marked track.*

To show the figure only as long, as the assigned key is pushed it is necessary to select the item “Use key-up event => figure off” in the Show-Editor menu “Settings”. Otherwise the figure remains active until the next is called or the key figure off is pushed. The standard key for figure-off (no figure) is the “Space”-key.

The place (time) where to start the recording can be determined by a click on the Timeline (green arrow in Fig.23). When \*.wav music files are used, the loudness of the music is displayed there.

The laser-show should be saved from time to time (e.g. when you have done important recordings). For this use “Save Show” in the above shown menu “File”. If no name for the show is given already, a dialog to enter the name is opened.

**Hint:** If the program is crashed, in the most cases the last status of the show can be recovered by the UNDO copies of the software.

**ATTENTION!**

Since LW-Showeditor 2009 a new function was implemented to recover the last status of the program after a crash. When the program is started, it checks if the folder “Temp” is still existent on the hard disk. If so, then that is a hint for a prior crash or something similar. Then the program offers on start via message box the chance to recover the last stand. Please read the message carefully. It is possible to avoid much work.

When the program was terminated in the normal way, the “Temp” folder is not existent and thus no message will be displayed on a new start. Then the undo copies are deleted definitely.

If any errors occur please contact us and tell us the messages as well as the course of events which lead to the errors.

So, already a show has been created – perhaps only a very simple one – but anyhow!



### 4.7 Load and Use a Live Show

Since Showeditor 2009 the LIVE-WINDOW is implemented into the program. This window serves for several functions (above we had just the function of the key assignment). Generally it shall serve for the “live” control of a laser show. This means that the LJ (light jockey) controls via the respective input device the laser output just when the music is played. For this purpose, he can prepare in advance “Live Shows”. One show example is already added as part of the delivered program. This show can be loaded and you can play with it to learn the use. Other Live Shows you can download from the homepage (Actually – Sept.2011 – you will find there three Live Shows).

A Live Show is in principle a collection of figures, already assigned to keys. Furthermore the Live Show contains the options for each key (on which track the figure shall be put out, does the key “flash” or not, which effects can be controlled via the scroll bars, which MIDI/DMX assignments are used for the keys, etc...).

To load a ready prepared Live Show you can use the menu “File” → “Load Live Show”. Another way to load a Live Show is the following: Open the Live-Window and push the button “Load Live Show”. Once a show has been loaded, this can be accessed again quickly via the menu File/ List of already loaded shows.As for a music synchroneous show, also all files for the live show have to be stored within one folder. The file extension of a live show is \*.live. After successful loading you see on your screen a window like shown in figure 24.

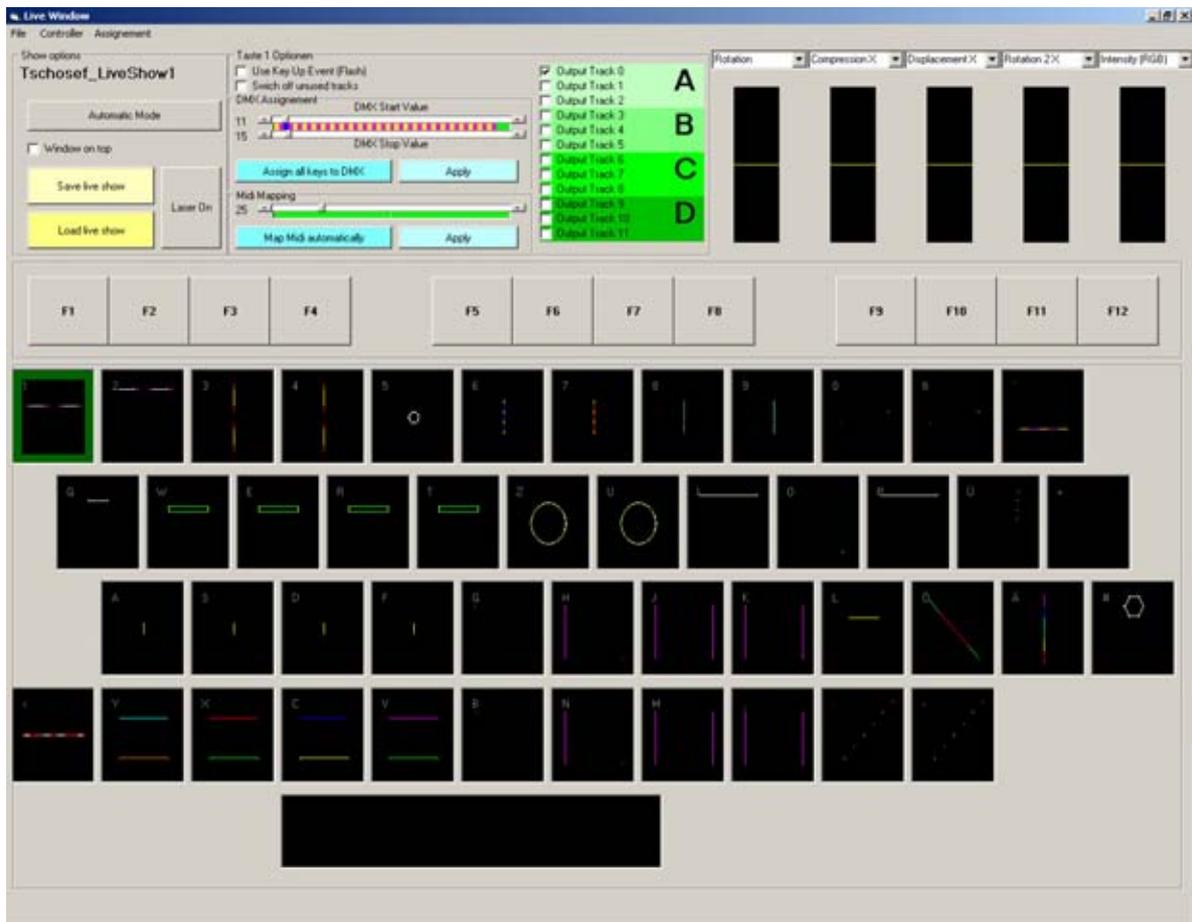


Fig.24: Live-Window after loading a live show.

You see something like a keyboard, with figures on the keys. In the upper region the options of the whole show and the options for the actually selected key are shown. In the upper right region five controllers for effects are placed. If your screen resolution is not sufficient it could result in some hidden controllers. But that does not matter, because every controller (slider) can serve for all possible effects.

The live show is started by a click on “Laser ON” . As soon as the laser output is running, the show can be played. The individual figures can be selected by:

- a) Mouse click (left button)
- b) Pushing the respective key on the keyboard
- c) Touchscreen
- d) DMX
- e) MIDI

The actually selected key can be identified by its green surrounding frame (see Fig.24, key 1). The “Space” key switches off all projections.

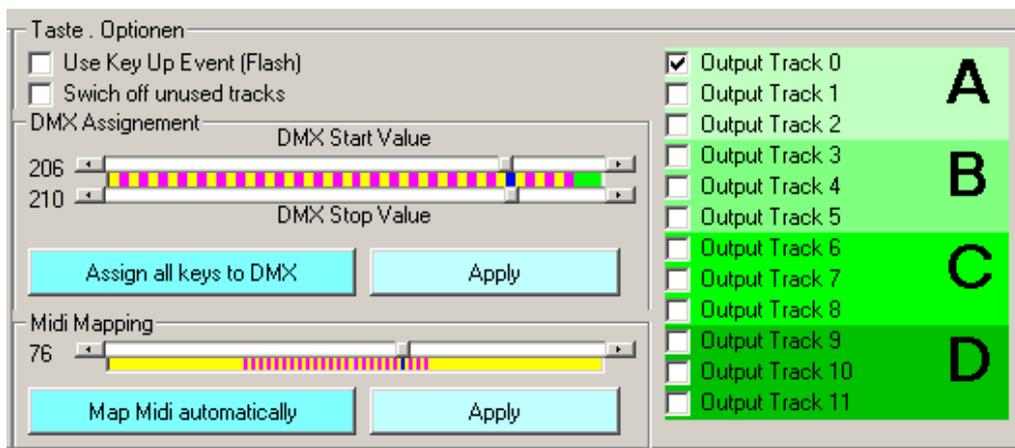


Fig.25: Detail view of the Live-Window after loading a live show.

**IMPORTANT! For each key divers setups can be made.** Here a short summary:

**“Use Key Up Event (Flash)”**: This option determines, whether the output is switched on until for the respective output track another projection is chosen, OR if the projection is stopped immediately on releasing the key.

**“Switch off unused tracks”**: If this option is selected, then all figures on other tracks are switched off, if they are not used by THIS figure.

**Output Track 0 to 11**: Here it is possible to select, on which track(s) the figure is put out. Remember that you must have in mind the routing to the track pages ABCD of your projectors.

**Selection of effects 0 to 5** (sliders): Within the Live-Window you see the five scrollbars (upper right). They serve only to modify the effects via mouse (or touchscreen). For each key you can prearrange which of all possible effects should be modified via the scrollbars. Generally all effects are adjustable for every figure (key). If the Live-Window is controlled via DMX or MIDI all effects can be accessed simultaneously. The scrollbars are not updated when they are controlled via DMX or MIDI. The Live-Window thus has 18 effects – and not only 5, what is sometimes assumed by mistake.

**DMX assignment:** For each key you can determine the DMX values, which are called by pushing it. The DMX input mapping for the Live-Window has to be considered (which channel serves for the values). “Ex factory” (after first installation) the DMX channel 1 is always responsible for the selection of keys. The DMX channel 19 is responsible for the F-key selection. This mapping can be changed, naturally. If no DMX assignment was set, a control by DMX is not possible.

**MIDI assignment:** Here the setup can be done, which MIDI value will call the (assigned) key.

DMX and MIDI do generally nothing else than to push the keys (virtually). In the beginning it could be a little confusing which mapping and which assignment will result in which action in the respective regions. But this approach makes sense for the future to react flexible on the wishes of the users.

### **Summary of “routings”, “mappings” and “assignments”:**

#### **Assignment of keys:**

Figures are assigned to keys. Pushing the assigned key will call the figure for output.

#### **MIDI or DMX assignment:**

This assignment determines which MIDI controller value or DMX channel, respectively, will “push” the assigned key.

#### **Routing (Output routing):**

This assignment determines which track pages ABCD (each with three output tracks) are put out on which hardware card (DAC).

All changes have to be saved! If you want to use your settings (new show) again, then click now on “**Save Live Show**”.

All possibilities (especially MIDI) will be explained in detail in the Main Manual.

## 4.8 Creation of a Live Show

The creation of a live show is similar to the creation of a “normal” laser show. In principle the following steps have to be done:

- 1) Make a new show folder on your hard disk
- 2) Create figures with the Figure-Editor and save them
- 3) Assign figures to keys (best is to do it by Drag and Drop into the Live-Window)
- 4) Verify the settings for EACH key and eventually correct them
- 5) Save the new live show by a click on “Save Live Show”.

## 4.9 Last Hints for the Quick Start

On [www.laserworld.com](http://www.laserworld.com) you will find FREE laser shows from LW-user for LW-user! Furthermore on the homepage you find FAQ, tips and tricks, and many more!

### REMARK:

This quick start can give only a little understanding of all possibilities of LW-Showeditor. For the start it could help to play with the functions in the divers regions of the program. Read also the respective chapters of this manual for a deeper understanding. Only via playing and using of the functions you will get somewhat routine and safeness on the work with your tool!

**Please be indulgent!** In the course of the translation of the manual some changes of the software could have been done. Thus some of the following pictures (and prior shown ones - some needed much work to create, especially when texts to explain the functions were added) will possibly not be up to date! Also, when no important changes took place in the pictures, those from the prior translation could be possibly still in use (the translator).



## 5 Main Manual

In the following text all controls and their functions will be described. The manual will from now on not follow anymore the development of a show, but more the description of the menus and windows.

Best would be to work through the whole manual and to test every function of the program for the first overview. When you work with LW-Showeditor and some questions will appear, you can use the index or the search-function to get a quick answer.

### 5.1 The Windows of LW-Showeditor

LW-Showeditor uses several windows for different functions. Some users like this, some not. The experience shows, that also the number of monitors plays a role. It makes sense to distribute the different windows to two or more monitors for a comfortable work. If only one monitor is available, perhaps with a resolution of only 1024x768 pixels, the number of windows could possibly become confusing. Then the task bar must be used for the organisation of the windows.

Generally LW-Showeditor saves the positions of the windows when they are closed. If this should make problems (because you have just only one monitor “on the road”), then via “Options → Reset Settings → Reset only Window Positions” the default positions can be reset.

#### The Figure-Editor

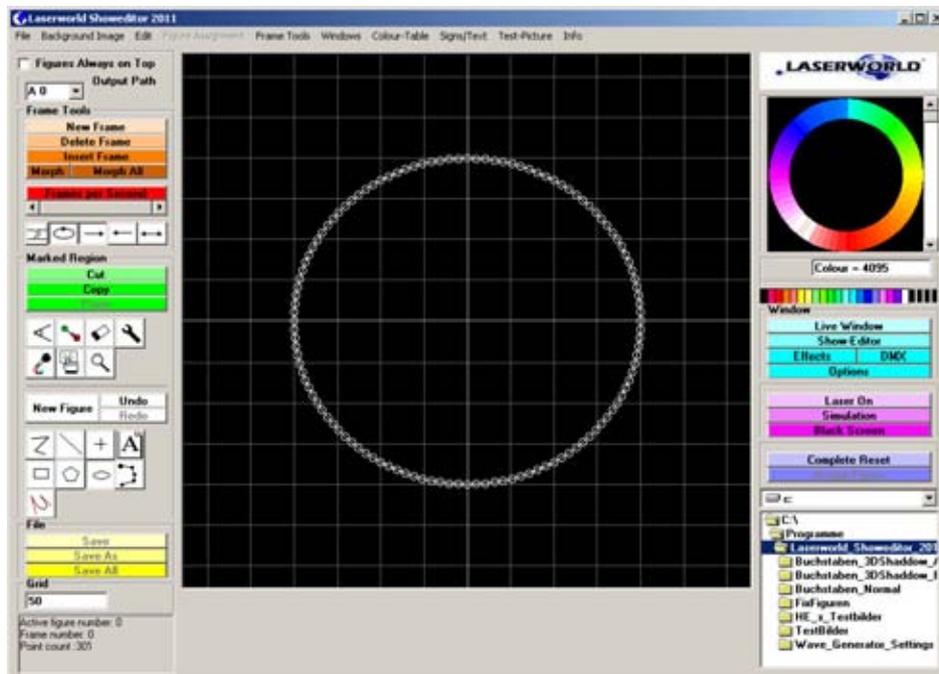


Fig.25: The Figure-Editor.

serves for the creation and managing of the figures and partly for their output to the laser-projector. As it is furthermore the main-window, the other windows can be reached from here.

The **Options** with several register cards

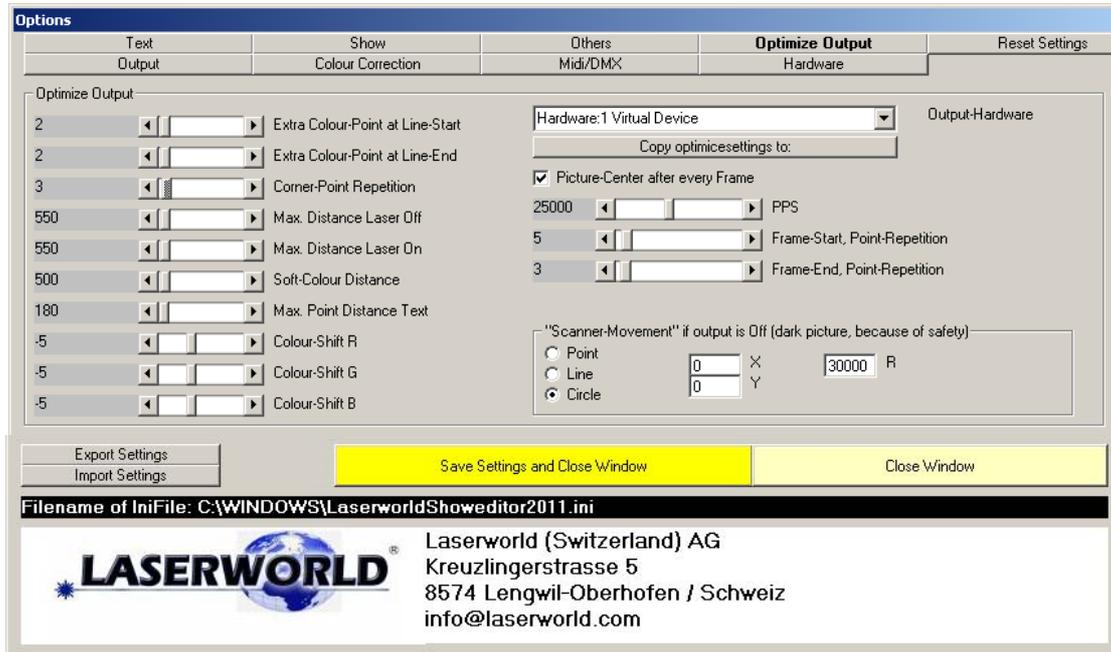


Fig.26: Dialog Options.

are used to manage the basic settings of the software (hardware-setup, language, optimisation of output, etc.).

### The Effects Window

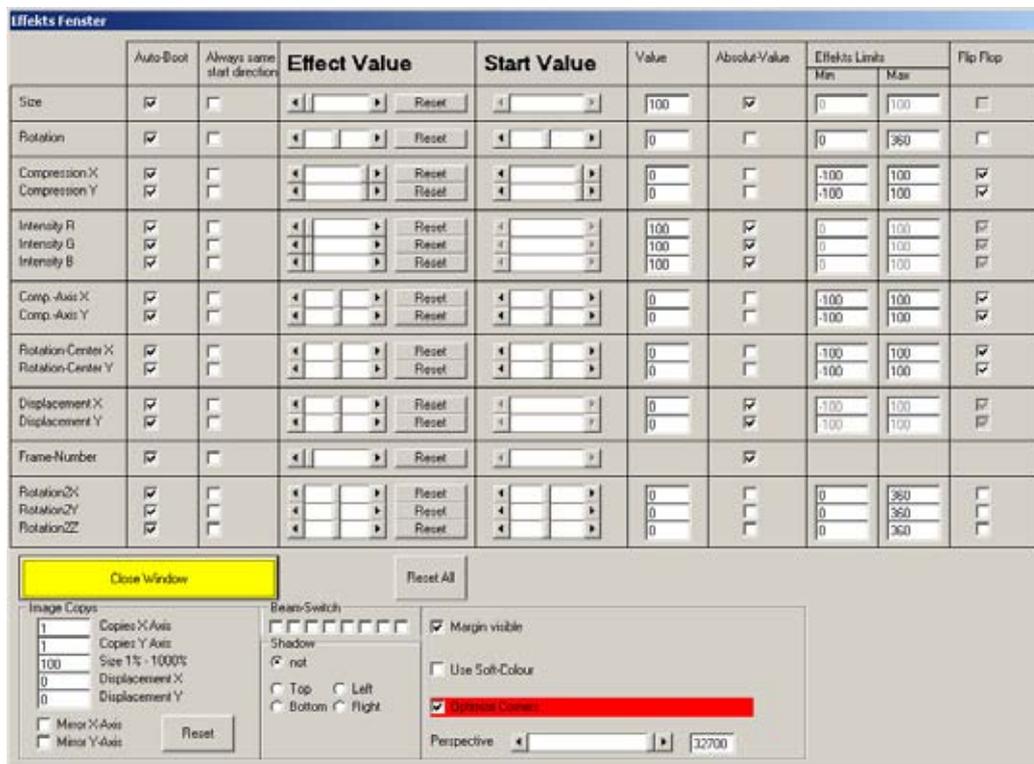
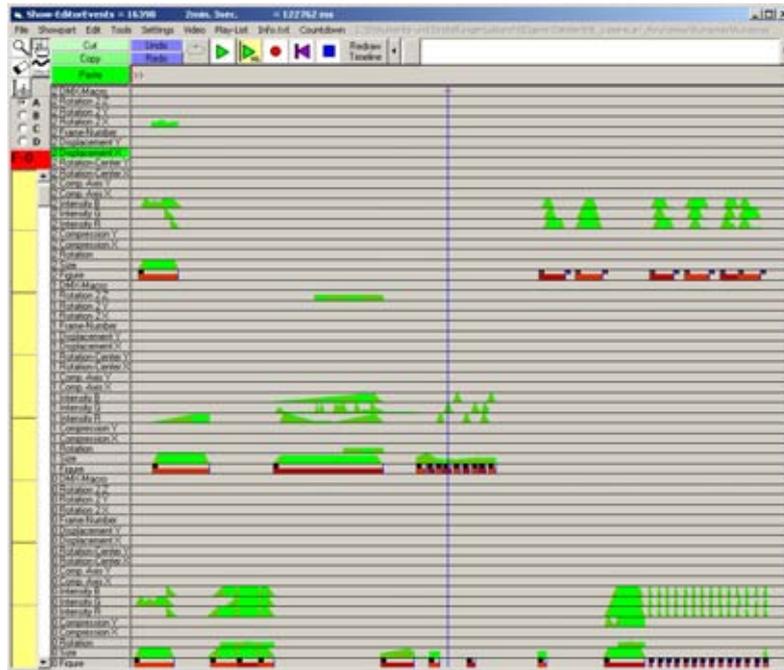


Fig.27: The Effects Window.

is used to apply the basic settings of the effects to a figure and partly to set some optimization methods.

The **Show-Editor**, also often called “**Timeline**”

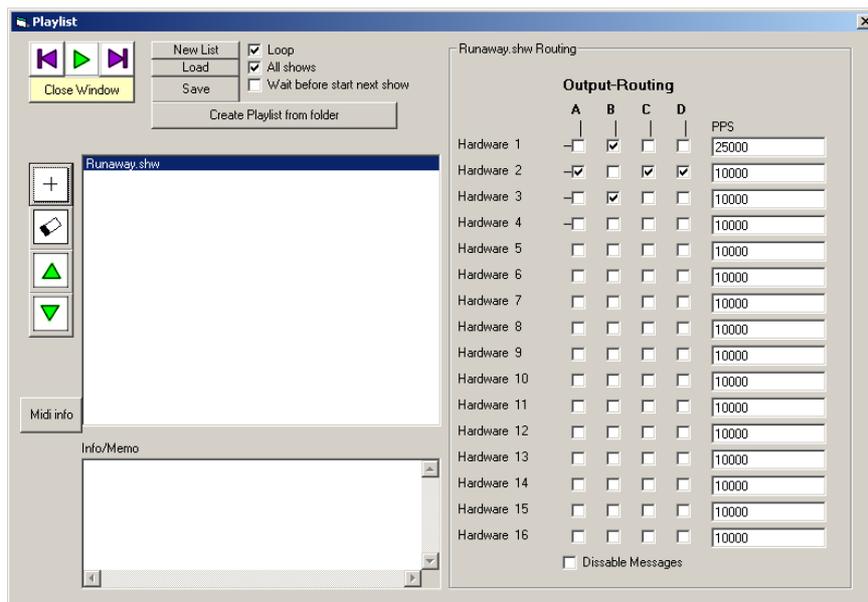


*Fig.28: The Show-Editor.*

is used for the creation and the replay of a music-synchronous laser-show. The window includes “Tracks”. On the sub-tracks the events (figures, effects, etc.) are arranged. These events call the figures and activate their effect-controls.

Short explanation: Every figure has its own basic settings of effects. These settings can be changed by the Show-Editor, quasi by remote-control.

Included in the Show-Editor is the **Play List**,



*Fig.29: The Play List.*

which is used to play several shows one after another. Here you can arrange a list of favourite shows to play.

The DMX-Window

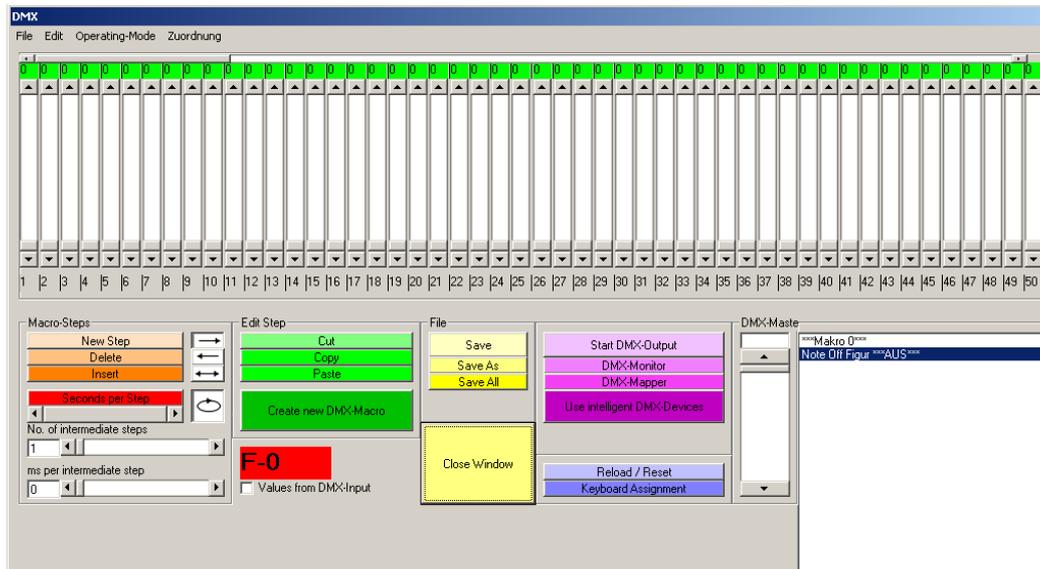


Fig.30: The DMX Window.

is used for the creation and management of the DMX-Macros. These serve for the control of DMX devices, such as “Moving Heads”, DMX-spotlights, projectors and other devices, which can be controlled by DMX. Furthermore the setup of the DMX-Output-Hardware is done here.

The Live-Window

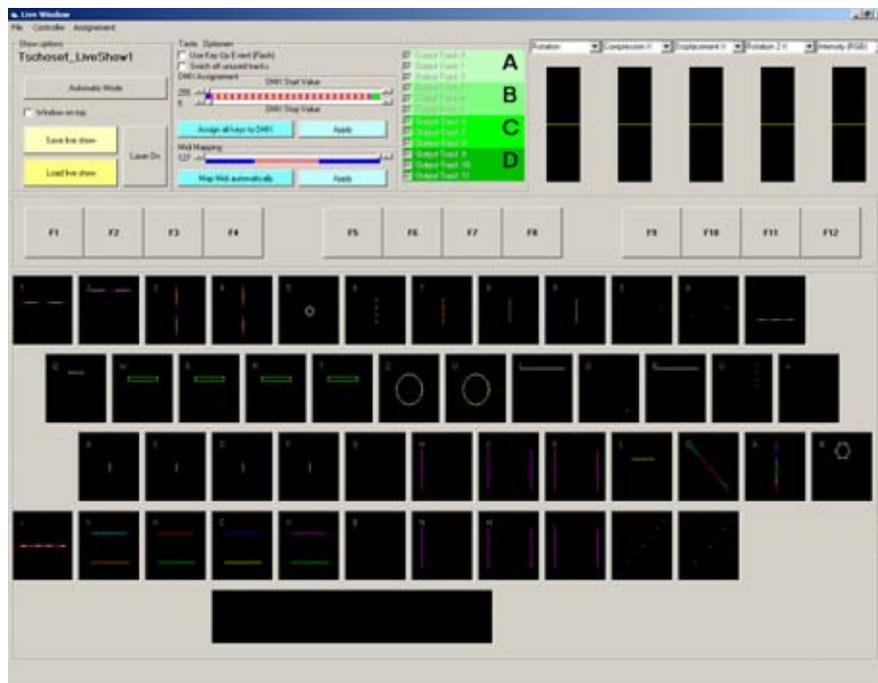


Fig.31: The Live Window.

has the primary purpose to control a live show by keyboard, DMX, touchscreen or mouse. Furthermore the Live-Window is very useful for the key assignment of the figures.

Divers **other windows** will appear according to their context. Their functions will be described, elsewhere.

## 5.2 Figure-Editor (Main Window)

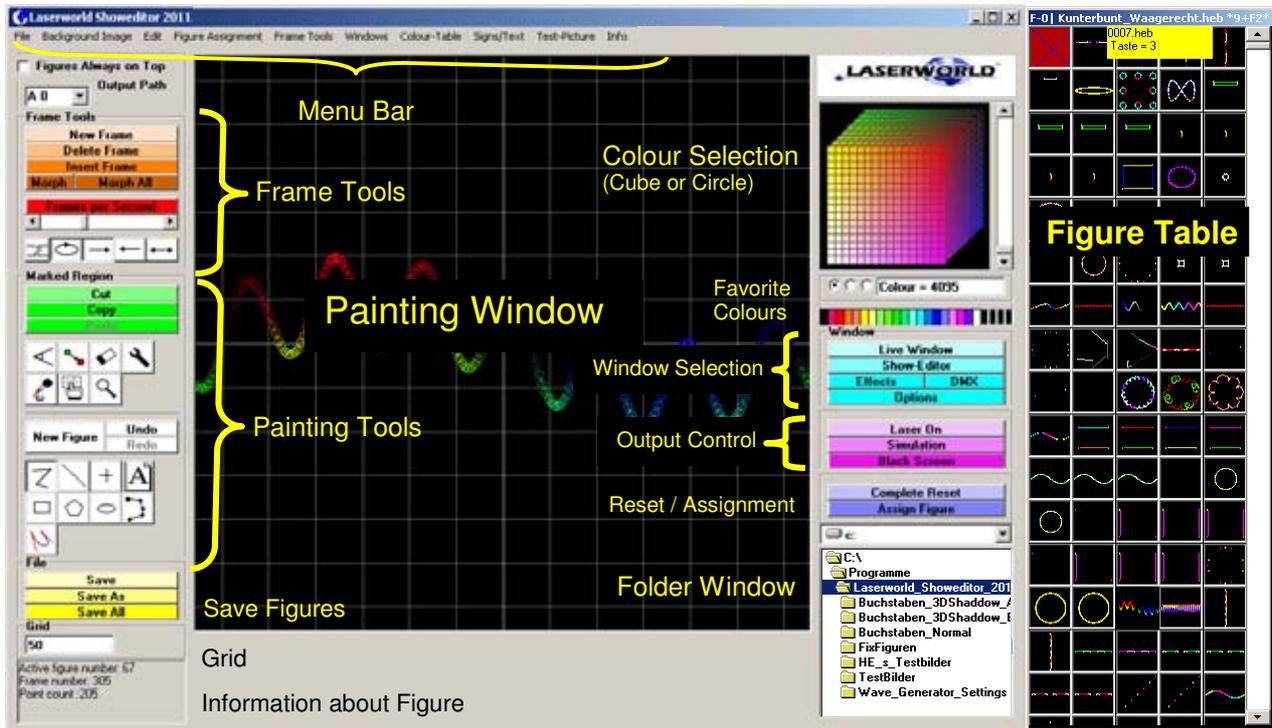


Fig.32: Figure-Editor: Main Window of LW-Showeditor.

### Orientation (just for information):

The Main Window of LW-Showeditor is the **Figure-Editor**, which serves for the creation and managing of the figures and from which the other windows like Live-Window, Show-Editor, Options, Effect Window, DMX-Window, etc., can be reached.

The main function of the Figure-Editor is, of course, the creation of figures. Possibly the view as shown in Fig.32 will look different on your screen. Meanwhile the windows are dependent on the screen resolution. Furthermore all windows can be changed in size and position. On closing the windows their settings are saved and recalled on a later opening. A work with three monitors (see picture from laserfreak Gernot) will make much fun ☺.

As shown in Fig.32, the main part of this window is occupied by the **Painting Window**. On the left hand you can find the **tools for painting** like Frame Tools, working tools for marked points of the figure, buttons to select the kind of painting function (line, circle, etc.) and **buttons to save** the created or edited figures. Below the buttons to save you find the textbox to enter the **width of the grid** in the painting-window.

In the upper part of the Figure-Editor is the **Menu Bar** (here you can reach additional functions, which can not called by buttons).

On the right hand of the window you can select the desired colour for the painting by help of the **Colour Cube** (Colour Circle) or the palette of the **favorite colours**.

Below the Colour-Cube you find buttons to reach other windows (**Window Selection**). Also you find here buttons to set the **laser output** “ON” or “OFF”, to use the **Simulation** (instead of laser output) and to set the screen to black to increase the output speed.

Below that you have a button for complete **Reset** and one for the **Assignment of figures** to keys (accessible via a right mouse button-click onto the respective figure, too).

Below these buttons the **Folder Window** is situated. Here you can to select the folder to store/load the figures for editing. When a whole laser show is loaded (via menu or Show-Editor) the respective show folder is shown here.

On the right hand in Fig.32 you find the **Figure Table** with the list of the already created figures.

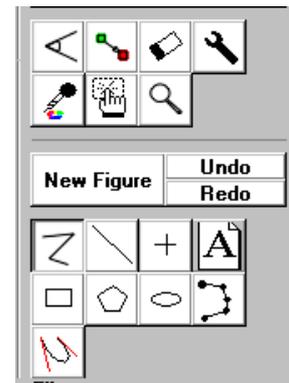
In the lower part on the left side is a region, where **Information about the Figure** is shown.

It should be pointed on it again, that LW-Showeditor has changed its layout already several times. Many changes were done at the switch from version 2009 to version 2011. Thus it could happen, that within this manual tells you something about “on the left” or “below”, even though the just mentioned element is perhaps to find on another place. Nevertheless the descriptions should give you the wanted information. If you find big mistakes, please write a short mail to us.

### 5.2.1 Creating and Editing of Figures

To create a NEW figure you have to push at first the button “New Figure” (see Fig.33). If you miss this, you could work further on a existing figure, perhaps unmeant. The creation of a new figure is indicated by the vanishing red square (figure 0) in the upper left of the Figure Table. When you click on “New Figure”, then the buttons description will change its colour to grey (and is not active) and later back to black. The duration of inactivity is dependant on the amount of data of the prior edited figure 0.

“New Figure” is preparing all conditions to paint a new figure. The figure 0 is selected from the table and the following values are set: Number of frames and number of points are set to zero, the actual effect settings remain unchanged.



*Fig.33: Figure-Editor: Grafic functions.*

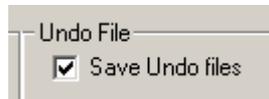
If you want to edit an already existent figure, than select it by a click with the left-mouse button on its icon. The selected figure is indicated by a red square around its icon (see for example Fig.17) and shown in the painting window. The name of the figure is shown at the top of the Figure Table. If present, its key assignment is shown, too. The name and the assignment of a figure is shown in a popup window, too, when you move the mouse cursor to its icon and wait for a short time (about one second).

### 5.2.2 Grafic Functions

Don't forget: With LW-Showeditor you create vector-graphics. Thus pictures will be drawn from one point to the next. For blanked points use the right button of the mouse. The tools for painting figures (already explained in chapter 4.1) are shown in Fig.25. Thus here is presented only a short listing and some additional hints are given:

► **“New Fig.”:**  To create a new figure, push this button.

► **“UNDO”:**  If “UNDO” is clicked, then the program will return to the version of the figure, as it was before the changeover to the tool. The automatical saving of undo files could disturb your work very much, e.g. when big ILDA files are edited. Thus the undo function can be switched off via “Options → Others”:



**Example:** Ellipse is selected. 4 ellipses will be drawn. Then rectangle is selected and 4 rectangles are painted. Now assume, that the last rectangle was not set to its correct position and “UNDO” is used. Then ALL 4 rectangles will be wiped out (not only the last one!). On a second click on “UNDO” the four ellipses will disappear, and so on.

► **“REDO”:**  If “REDO” is clicked, then the program will return to the version of the figure, as it was before the click on “Undo”.

► **Poly-Line:**  A click on this button will make possible to draw connected lines. Each mouse click (left button) in the Painting Window will set a (corner-) point, which is connected by a straight line with the prior one. Use the right mouse button to set an invisible point (or a “blanked” line).

To draw two single lines with this tool, you have to set a blanked point at the start of the second line (for the start of the first one this is done automatically).

To understand this, imagine what happens when you draw a picture with a pencil. You start on the upper left and then you draw a line to the right. Okay. Now for a second line you have to move the pencil to the start of it...and what do you do? You lift the pencil! And you move it WITHOUT drawing to the start. The same happens, when a “blanked”, invisible line is drawn.

If the Poly-Line tool was used and a change of the painting tool is done, then the drawing is automatically checked on the existence of an invisible end point. When this point is missing, a message is shown.

► **Line:**  A click on this button will make possible to draw single lines (planes in the projection). It is generated one single line with start and end. A line consists of blanked start, coloured start, coloured end and blanked end of the line. Thus at least 4 points are generated to create the line.

► **Point:**  A click on this button will make possible to draw single points (beams).

**ATTENTION!** A single point will be displayed as a beam in the laser output! These single beams can be very bright! Don't set a single point below the middle-line of the painting-window, because the resulting beam will go into the audience!

Automatically the program will set the following points: blanked point (to reach the position), visible point(s) at the position and blanked point at last.

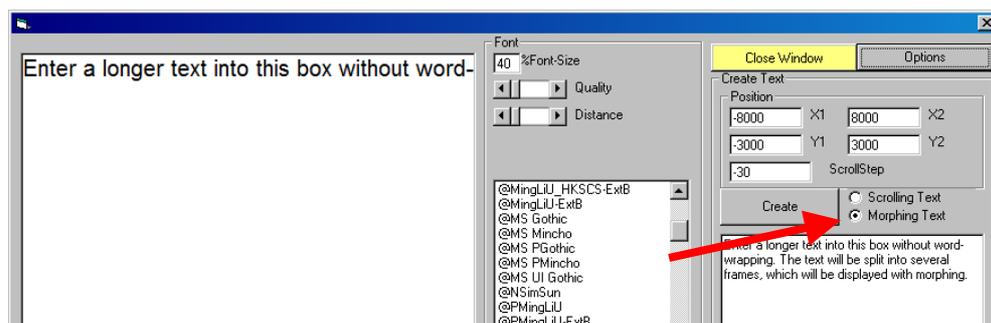
To show the points in the painting window it is necessary to set the option "show points" in the menu "Edit".

If the option "blanking visible" is set within the options dialog, the coloured points are eventually not visible, because they could be overlapped by invisible ones!

► **"A":**  Text tool: A click on this button will make possible to create texts. In older versions of the software only one design was available, thus the control was very simple. Meanwhile different options for the design of text are available. Depending on the desired "animation" or design of the text different procedures for the creation have to be used.

**Simple words and signs, not animated**

To use this kind of design, the text option "Morphing Text" has to be selected. To open the dialog for the text options please do a click with the right mouse button onto the tool. In the dialog choose the option "Morphing Text". Furthermore you can set here the font, the quality and the size of the letters.



*Fig.34: Figure-Editor: Dialog for text options (click with right mouse button on the text tool).*

After your selection close the dialog by a click on the yellow button “Close Window”. Now again click the tool in the Figure-Editor after you have selected the desired colour. Then click in the painting window on the position to display the text (position of first letter). A small dialog to enter your text will open. Enter the text and confirm with “OK”. The text will be inserted.

This procedure is suitable for single words. Longer texts will be cut at their end. Then you have to change the size or to write the words separately (e.g. one below the other).

### **Long texts, animated → Morphing Text**

These kinds of texts are created only within the text dialog (Fig.34). The option “Morphing Text” must be selected. It is also possible to set up the size and quality as well as the font. Click with the right mouse button onto the tool to open the text dialog.

Now you can enter your text in the text-box on the right side of the dialog. With a click on the button “Create” the creation of the text is started. A new figure consisting of several frames will be created automatically. It is attempted, according to the setups (options), to separate the words of the text at appropriate places. It will be morphed among the generated frames (all is done automatically). At least the dialog disappears. In the painting window the first frame is shown. To see all frames use the scroll-bar of the frame-tools. Now you will also understand the meaning of “Morphing Text” ☺.

### **Long texts, animated → Scrolling Text**

These kinds of text again can be entered in two different ways:

- A) Within the text box, where also the animated morphing text is entered (see above). For that you have to change the option to “Scrolling Text”. But an additional thing has to be recognized. The 4 coordinates (Position) describe a rectangle within the scrolling text will be moved. The values of the X- and Y-coordinates lie between  $-32767$  and  $+32767$ . If the rectangle is set up to small, then only parts or even not text will be shown. Because it is hardly possible to imagine the position of the text by the coordinates a second possibility (B) is available. It shall be noted, that a new figure will be created, thus existing elements will be deleted in the painting window.
- B) Creation within the Figure-Editor: The text can also be created by firstly making the setups in the text dialog (selection of “Scrolling Text, size, font, quality – see above) and closing the dialog afterwards. Now you can select the text-tool within the Figure-Editor and draw/mark the position-rectangle within the painting window. This rectangle will generate the suitable coordinates for the position of the scrolling text. Again the small dialog to enter the text will be opened. Here it has to be remembered, that existing elements will be preserved. Thus it is possible to create scrolling texts together with other figures; even multiple scrolling texts are possible with varying scrolling speeds.

► **Rectangle:**  A click on this button will make possible to draw polygons (multi-corner figures). This tool works like the ellipse tool. The centre of the rectangle is set with a click on the left mouse button. Keep the mouse button pushed and pull the rectangle up to the desired size.

► **Polygon:**  A click on this button will make possible to draw polygons. This tool works like the ellipse-tool. The centre of the polygon is set with a click on the left mouse button. Keep the mouse button pushed and pull the polygon up to the desired size. On releasing the button the dialog to enter the number of overlapping edges will open.

If the default value is accepted, quasi 2 overlaying polygons are created. The advantage is that the polygons are everywhere closed and no differences in the intensity will appear. If it is intended to use later the “Morphing”-function, it could be better to set the number of overlapping edges to zero. The number of corners of the polygon can be set by a click with the right mouse button on the polygon button.

**HINT:** The difference in principle of a polygon compared with a circle is the multiple repetitions of the corners, dependent on the optimizing setup for output. For a circle no points are repeated. On the other hand a polygon with about 100 corners without optimization will look very similar to a circle.

► **Ellipse:**  A click on this button will make possible to draw ellipses (circles). The centre of the ellipse is set with a click on the left mouse button. Keep the mouse button pushed and pull the ellipse up to the desired size. The rule is: the width is dependant on the horizontal and the height on the vertical mouse movement. If you release the mouse button, the ellipse is drawn with the prior selected colour. By a click with the right mouse button on the ellipse button the number of points of the ellipse can be varied. The dialog, shown in Fig.35, is opened. Only values between 7 and 40 (inclusive) can be entered. Smaller numbers result in more points of the figure of the same size (the feed-rate is done in smaller steps).

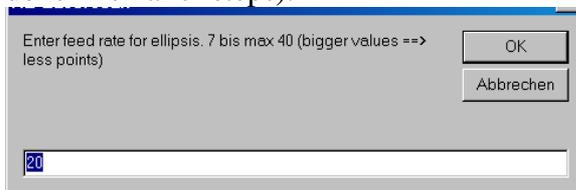


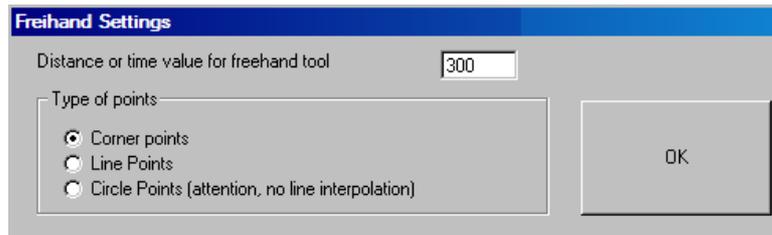
Fig.35: Figure-Editor: Dialog after right mouse button-click on tool ellipse.

**Very important hint!**

Points of ellipses (circles) have very special properties! The lines between the points will **not** be optimized (interpolated) at the laser output. Thus you should never delete e.g. half of the points to get a half circle. To get a half circle it is better to set the colour of the unwanted points to black (make them invisible). Furthermore the points of an ellipse should not be moved – it could happen that the distances become too large. **The large distances could destroy the galvos!**

A better option would be to use a polygon with about 50 points. Or you could change the optimization method of the dangerous points via the “wrench tool” → “change properties of points”. For more information see the description of the wrench tool.

► **Freehand:**  A click on this button will make possible to draw figures by “free-hand”. Automatically banked points are generated at start and end.



*Fig.36: Figure-Editor/Painting Tools/Freehand: Dialog to set up freehand parameters.*

This tool was developed to make possible the creation of complicated figures e.g. the painting of figures with the help of background-images. Its full functionality can be used with a graphics tablet.

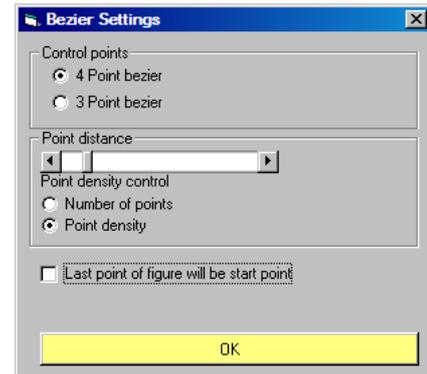
A click with the right mouse button opens a dialog (Fig.36) to make some setups. There the type of the points to draw (corner-, line- or circle-points) can be selected. In the text box above “OK” the distance- or time value for the drawing of the points can be set up. These values refer either on distance by painting with pushed left mouse button or on temporal values (time lag) by painting with pushed right mouse button.

► **Bezier:**  A click on this button will make possible to draw Bezier curves. This tool can help to draw easily complex figures, but a little training and the ability to imagine the wanted figure is necessary. Generally a Bezier curve is created with the help of two control lines, which consist of 4 coordinates. On the icon the two control lines are shown as red lines. These are naturally NOT visible in the ready drawn figure. The 4 coordinates are created by pushing and releasing the mouse button. The drawing of the Bezier curve is thus done by a two times pushing of the mouse button, mouse movement and releasing the mouse button. After the second releasing of the mouse button the curve is created.

- a) The first point of the control lines will appear on that place, where the mouse button is pushed the first time. THIS point determines the start of the Bezier curve.
- b) The second point appears on the place where the mouse button is released the first time. The first control line is thus drawn with pushed mouse button. The direction of the line in relation to the first point determines the direction of the start of the Bezier curve (the tangent). The length of the line determines the strength of the orientation of the curve in this direction.

- c) The third point appears on the place, where the mouse button is pushed a second time. THAT point is the end of the curve.
- d) The fourth point appears on the position, where the mouse button is released again (for the last time). The control line again shows the tangent, from which the end point of the curve is arrived. The length of the control line again determines the strength of the direction changment. On drawing the last point you will see a preview of the resulting Bezier curve.

**Important Hint:** It is of great importance to understand the 4 coordinates of the two control lines. BECAUSE...there are further variants to use Bezier curves. To change those options a click with the right mouse button on the icon is necessary. The window shown in Fig.37 will open. There the variants of the Bezier curve can be set. Furthermore the number of points (coordinates) and the kind of construction can be determined. 3- or 4-point Bezier refers to the necessary number of points for the two control lines. You may ask now: “Two lines with only three points?” The answer is simple: The two lines will share one point! This means, that the above explained principle will be changed a little bit.



*Fig.37: Bezier settings.*

- a) The first mouse click into the painting window determines the position of the first control point. Here the Bezier curve will start.
- b) The second click with the mouse button determines the end of the curve. We talk thus about the fourth point, compared with the above description. (Please keep the mouse button pushed!)
- c) The second release of the mouse button defines the two points, which influence the direction of the control lines. These are the points two and three, compared with above.

In the strict sense the point b) from above is skipped by the 3-point Bezier method and two points of the control lines are set on the same place. Perhaps it is not as easy to describe, then to carry it out. So, please test it by yourself.

The **slider for the point distance** defines the number of points to draw the curve. Here again an important difference is to describe: The slider can determine a “**density of points**” or a “**number of points**”.

When “number of points” is chosen, then this means that EVERY curve will consist of the same number of points, regardless of which length it has. This can be very advantageous, if a later morphing of curves is planned. Morphs of Bezier curves can result in very nice figures! If “density of points” is chosen, then the number of points of the curve is dependent on its length.

The option “**last point of figure will be start point**” is another variant for the creation of Bezier curves. If chosen, then only the missing control points must be drawn. The first start point is already given by the first mouse click and this is also the end point of the curve. Please test the variants! If there are further questions, please write a mail to us.

**A last hint additionally:**

Because the program at the drawing of Bezier curves can not know how it will go on, generally NO invisible end point is set. Thus after each Bezier curve the question appears, if the line shall be ended with an end point. This is not avoidable because it is very important for the output optimization to have a blanked point at the end of a line.

**5.2.3 Marking- and Editing-Tools**

New or already existing figures can be edited. For this purpose you can use the marking- and editing-tools (Fig.38).

The tools are:

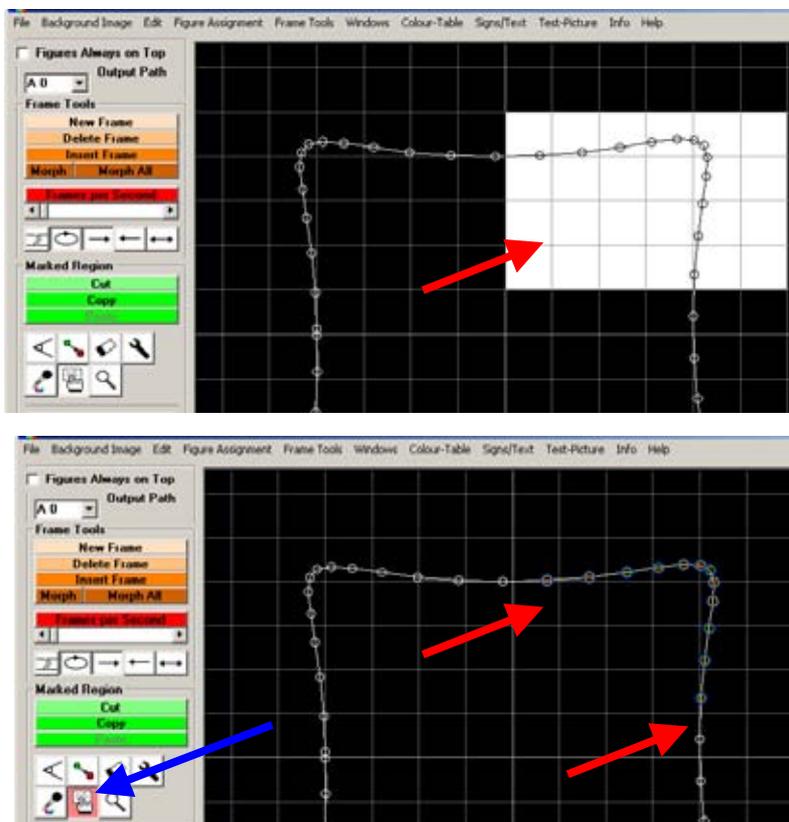


► **Hand:**

The hand is the most important tool of this group of objects. With this tool points of a figure are marked. To mark points click on the hand-button with pushed left mouse button and pull a marking-square around the desired region (Fig.39).



*Fig.38: Figure-Editor: Tools to mark and edit.*

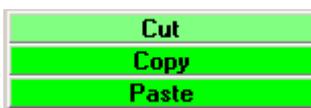


*Fig.39: Figure-Editor: Tool “Hand”. On the left side a marked region is shown (marked by use of pushed left mouse button). The marked points are indicated by coloured circles around them and the hand-tool has a red background to indicate that a region is marked (blue arrow).*

Sometimes it might be necessary to set the grid to 1 to reach points which otherwise are lying beneath the grid.

If the background of the hand button is red coloured (blue arrow in Fig.39) it is an indication for already marked points. In the Painting Window the marked points will be surrounded by coloured circles (red arrows in the lower part of Fig.39). Additional points can be marked by keeping the “Strg”-key pushed. To mark ALL points use the menu “Edit/Select all points” in the upper Menu-Bar.

Marked points can be moved by use of the **right** mouse button (keep it pushed). If no point is marked, then the point just below the mouse-cursor is moved, when the right mouse button is used (to move only one point).



► **Cut/Copy/Paste:**

With these functions already marked points can be cut, copied and/or pasted. Pasted points are marked and can immediately be moved with the hand tool. If the marking is deleted before, then two points will overlap – what is not very convenient.

To copy or cut and paste a series of frames (single pictures of a figure) use the functions of the menu “Frame-Tools” (see below for more information).

Cut or copied points or frames can be pasted into other figures and frames, too. That is sometimes very useful, if animated figures are the aim of the creator. From the clipboard pasted points are always marked, so they can be moved or rotated directly after pasting.



► **Rotation Tool:**

With this tool marked points can be rotated. The rotation-centre is that position where the mouse button is pushed within the Painting-Window. A horizontal movement with pushed mouse button results in a rotation with angle zero. A movement downward means a +90 degree rotation, upwards -90 degree rotation etc. The rotation will be done, when the mouse button is released.



► **Change-Colour Tool:**

This tool is used to change the colour of marked points. First mark the desired points, then select the desired colour and finally click on the tool. The colour of single points can be changed, too.

If there are no marked points and the tool is selected then the colour of the point just below the mouse cursor is changed. Furthermore it is possible to keep the mouse button pushed and change the colour for all points, which are hit by the cursor.

On using the **left** mouse button, ONLY visible points can be changed in colour! To recolour blanked (invisible) points, the **right** mouse button must be used. To work on blanked points, you should make them visible in the painting-window via the menu “Edit” → “Blanked lines visible”. If the endpoint was made visible, a question will appear whether a blanked point should be inserted.





► **Pipette (take colour):**

This tool is used to take the colour of other parts of a figure. First mark the desired points, then click on the tool. Or you click the tool and then click on the place of the figure with the desired colour. Now you can recolour other parts of the figure with the same colour.



► **Magnifying Glass:**

This tool is used to magnify regions of the painting window. With it it is possible to manipulate points at the level of pixels.

In this context a hint on the settings within the menu “Edit → View Grid = 0 (or >5)”. According to the settings it is really possible to move points at the level of pixels.

Meanwhile there are several ways to use the magnifying glass:

- A) Select the magnifying glass and mark a region with pushed left mouse button. The marked region is displayed magnified. In doing so the marked region is stretched to fit into the painting window. Thus possibly distortions may occur.
- B) Select the magnifying glass and move with the mouse cursor to the point where a magnification is wanted. Then rotate the mouse wheel.

If the zoom is set to 100% on selecting the magnifying glass depends on the use of the right or the left mouse button!

### 5.2.4 Frame Tools

A figure can consist of only one or of many frames (single pictures). Figures consisting of several frames are often called “Multiframes”.

Unfortunately there is a lot of name confusion when different programs are used. Some programs name it “Multiframes”, some “Animations”, some just “Frames”. Thus please be indulgent.

In the show the single frames of a multiframe figure are called up by timer or by the effect subtrack “Frame-Number”, where the user can define prior (by hand) the wanted frames of the figure. Thus it is possible to create small animated cartoons or animated figures, like deforming planes etc.

At the start a figure consists of one frame with current number 0. To work with multiple frames, or to create more frames for the figure, the “Frame Tools” (Fig.41) are needed.

► **New Frame:**

**Left mouse button:** A click with the left mouse button on the button “New Frame” will add a new, empty frame at the end of the actual frame series. The scrollbar in the bottom of the Frame-Tools (below “Frames per Second”) will automatically jump to the last (new) frame.

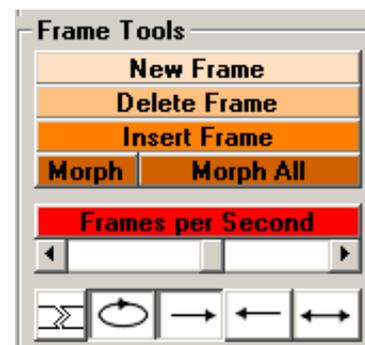


Fig.41: Frame-Tools.

**Right mouse button:** A click with the right mouse button on the button “New Frame” will also add a new, empty frame at the end of the actual frame-series. **ADDITIONALLY** all points of the actual frame are copied to the new frame (this was a wish of a user). Formerly you had to create a new frame and to copy all points by hand. Now this is done via one click.

► **Delete Frame:**

A click on this button will delete the actually selected frame. The prior following frame will now be displayed. If you want to delete frames 3 to 8, for example, the firstly select frame number 3 (the **number of the actually selected frame** is displayed in the lower left corner of the Figure-Editor, see Fig.32) and then click 6 times on “Delete Frame”. Alternatively the use of the menu “Frame-Tools” in the Menu-Bar is possible (Cut Frames A=>B into Clipboard).

► **Insert Frame:**

A click on this button will add a new frame on the actual position (it will be then in front of the prior selected one). All following frames will be shifted backwards. This tool can be used with the right mouse button, too! Via the right mouse button the content of the frame in front of the actually selected frame is inserted into the new frame.

► **Morph:**

With the “Morph”-button it is possible to achieve a smooth change from one picture (frame) to another. But the range of possibilities is limited! The function will work correctly (for colour changes) only with the original Colour Table!

The internal operations of the program are the following (just for information):

The two frames, which shall be morphed into one another, are calculated to have the same number of points (according to the frame with the most points). Now in the prior defined count of steps the picture-points are shifted gradually from their start position (start frame) to their end position (target frame). Additionally the colour-values are gradually adjusted.

**Advantageous is, when the respective points of start and target frame play the same role in the pictures** (the numbers of points are casting!).

For example the points, which design an eye, should do this in the start frame and in the target frame, too. But that is mostly very difficult to achieve. Thus sometimes unwanted effects after using “Morph” could occur (like a moving of all points to one center and then an expansion to the target frame). To morph polygons, if these have a multiple number of corner points (e.g. 6 → 12), works very well. However, in this case you should create polygons **without** overlapping edges.

“Morph” will calculate the given number of frames to insert between two frames (start frame and target frame). Thus these two frames must exist before you can use the tool. If you click on the button, a dialog will open to enter the current number of the start frame (look at the top of the Figure-Editor for the numbers of the frames) and after entering the value another dialog to enter the number of the target-frame opens. At least a dialog to enter the number of frames to insert will open (count of steps to calculate, about 50 frames is practicable).

► **Morph All:**

A click on this button will execute the function “Morph” to all frames of the actual figure. A dialog to enter the number of frames to insert will open. It will be morphed between frame 0 and the last frame of the figure.

The application is often to have smooth transitions in an animated cartoon (for example you have painted 5 frames of a walking man, then a smooth walking is achieved by “Morph All”). But attention! The assignment of the points is critical! Point No.1 of the start frame will be No.1 of the target frame, too. When you mix the order of point-numbers, then the display of your figure will be warped! Thus it is reasonable to paint firstly the picture in the start-frame, then to copy the picture to the following frames (the numbers of points will then be conserved) and at last to shift the points of the pictures to their end-positions to achieve the desired movement. After that you can use “Morph All” to get a smooth movement in the cartoon.

**Another trick:** Amazing morphs, which are often seen in shows, are made in the following way: Firstly a figure is created, for example consisting of several single planes, e.g. 4 planes beneath one another (a broken line). Now 4 new frames are created with the same content. Then the first plane is moved upwards in the first frame, in the second frame only the second plane, in the third frame only the third plane ...and so on...

Now the whole frame series is morphed (best is to use “Morph All”). The result will be a “wave” of up and down moving planes. That works well, because in EVERY SINGLE picture (frame) the points play the same role. The number of points does not change. Thus it works very well and looks very amazing. Additionally the colour of the planes could be changed.

**Additional hint:** If “Morph” is used between frame number 10 and frame number 15 of a frame series (e.g. 20 frames are present), then the frames 11, 12, 13, 14 will be overwritten!

#### ► **Frames per Second:**

A click on this button opens a dialog to enter the “speed” in “frames per second” (fps) for the output of the frames. A frame series consisting of 50 single frames will last exactly 1 second, if the speed is 50 fps. This value has absolutely NOTHING to do with the scan speed and the picture repetition rate of the laser projector! The value simply determines the duration of the animation (e.g. a wave). If the fps rate is higher than the picture repetition rate of the projector (depending on the PPS rate), then some frames will simply be omitted. In the case that the fps rate is lower than the picture repetition rate of the projector some frames are simply displayed multiple times (e.g. twice). The speed can be entered in three different versions:

- **Frame rate without unit:**

If only a number without unit is entered then it means “frames per second (fps)”. For example, if you enter “20” then 20 fps will be displayed.

- **Frame rate with unit “ms”:**

If a number with unit “ms” is entered, then every frame will be displayed for the entered duration of milliseconds. For example, if you enter “20ms” then every frame will be displayed for 20 milliseconds (or in other words you will have a frame-rate of 50 fps).

- **Frame-rate with unit “bpm”:**

If a number with unit “bpm” is entered then it means that all frames will be displayed xx times per minute.

For example, if you enter “20bpm” then the frame-rate will be adjusted by the program in that way, that the series of frames (the figure) will be displayed 20 times per minute. This unit is for laser-shows, which shall fit perfectly to the timing of the song, very useful. If your song has e.g. 64bpm and you enter this value for your figure, it will always be in beat with the song. The “bpm” of a song can be determined via the tool “Beat Counter”, which is available in the Show-Editor, menu “Tools”.

**Hint (only for information):**

In the following a “technical information” about “PPS”, “picture repetition rate” and “FPS”:

If a figure consists of multiple frames, then you can determine the speed of its display by “Frames per Second”. Here you have to remember the following: If we assume that every frame shows a picture consisting of 500 points and your DAC will put out 5000 pps. Then 10 frames per second can be displayed by the projector. If now a frame-rate of 20fps is entered for an animation, then logically every second frame will be omitted. On the other hand, if 5fps is entered, every frame will be displayed twice.

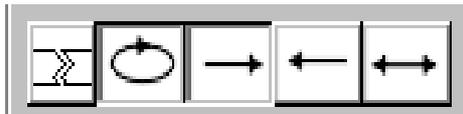
This must be so! The advantage is that the output will be independent from the DAC in use, when the frame rate is the same. The only difference will be that a faster system will display perhaps more frames per second and gives a “smoother” display, whereas a slower system will perhaps omit some frames and thus it will perhaps display the picture changes more abruptly.

When FPS rate and the real picture repetition rate are nearly the same, it will unavoidable happen that e.g. 10 frames do fit and the 11<sup>th</sup> will be omitted...again 10 frames fit..11<sup>th</sup> omitted...and so on...This means, that a movement will be displayed smooth for the duration of 10 pictures and then will make a sudden break. That is due to the technics and can not be prevented, because now two timers are present, which are “incommensurate” (the timer of the computer and the timer of the DAC). If such behaviour should happen it could help to adjust the FPS rate.

► **Scroll-Bar (Frame Selection):**

The scroll-bar below the button “Frames per Second” indicates whether the figure consists of multiple frames. With its help you can select the single frames. The respective frame-number is displayed in the info box of the Figure-Editor (lower left corner).

► **Buttons for the Display-Direction and a Cutting Tool:**



With the three buttons “to the right”, “to the left” and “forward and backward” the direction of display of the frames can be determined. Via activation of the “Loop” button the frames are displayed as endless loop.

If the direction of display is selected as “forward and backward”, then in the long run it could happen that the figure with a frame rate entered as “bpm” will not be simultaneous to the beat of the song, because the first and the last frame will be put out twice on changing the direction.

The button on the left  activates a cutting tool. This tool cuts a frame series at the position of the actually selected frame. With its help a long ILDA animation can be divided into single figures, for example. The actually selected frame will be used as first frame of the rear part as well as of the front part.

### 5.2.5 File (Buttons Save, Save As and Save All)

These buttons are used to save the created figure(s) (Fig.42).

► **“Save”** will save the figure actually in work in the Painting Window. If this figure is already named, the prior existing one will be overwritten without warning! If no name for the figure is present, a dialog to give the figure a name and the path for the storage will open (standard Windows dialog for saving).

► **“Save As”** will open the standard Windows dialog for saving. The use of this button enables you to save copies of the figure with different names, or to save the changed figure with another name.

► **“Save All”** will save all figures of the Figure Table. So you can work on several figures and then save them with one click.

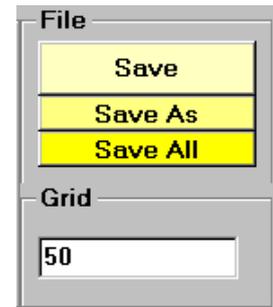


Fig.42: File save buttons and grid.

#### Hint on special characters within file and path names:

Because this software is used international and thus also in countries, where no special characters (like ä, ö, ü etc.) are used, it is not allowed to use them for the file or path names. If this restriction is not followed, a message is displayed. Furthermore it is not allowed to use empty spaces within the names!

### 5.2.6 Textbox „Grid“

This textbox (see Fig.42) is used to change the grid of the Painting Window. Smaller numbers will give a smaller distance of the grid lines. Accepted values are 1 to 300. The smallest possible value is 1 (no grid) because the program internally uses “integer” variables. Sometimes it will be necessary to set the grid to 1 to reach otherwise unreachable points.

### 5.2.7 Output Path

Within the Figure-Editor it is possible to determine the hardware to put out the figures which are loaded into the painting window. The respective DAC must be selected via “Options/Hardware” (see Fig.44). This function is ment NOT for Live Shows! It should be serve only for the inspection of the just created figure on different projectors.

The **meaning of Output Path** is the following:

If in the dialog “Options/Hardware” a “B” is selected for Output-Routing (Fig.44) and in the Figure-Editor the Output-Path is set to “Bx”, then the selected figure (in the Figure-Editor’s Figure Table) is routed to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> projector. So both projectors will display the figure. If in the Figure-Editor the Output-Path “Ax” is selected, only the 1<sup>st</sup> Projector will display the figure (in this example). The numbers refer to the possible tracks, because each track page (A, B, C, D) of the Timeline has three figure tracks. This will play a role at the use of the Live-Window, too.

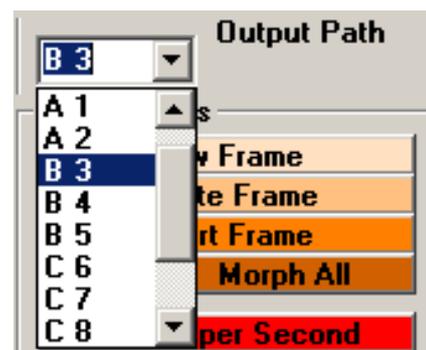


Fig.43: Setting of Output Path.

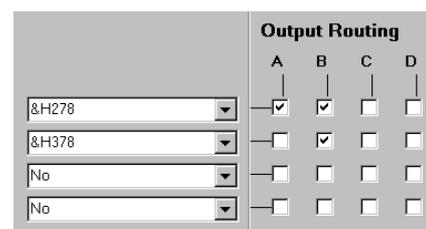


Fig.44: Options/Hardware: Setting of Output Routing.

### 5.2.8 Colour Selection

First of all: It is **much recommended** to use the Colour Cube, because it displays correctly all possible colours! The Colour Circle is only an “adapted display” for users, which like more “something” like used in other programs (simply an argument for selling).

The Colour Circle (Fig.46) restricts some possibilities, even if it seems to be clearer. The switch to cube or circle is done via “Options → Others”.

Via a click on the respective place of the Colour Cube (Fig.45) or of the Colour Circle (Fig.46) you can easily select the desired colour. To get other colours in the “depth” of the cube, use the scroll bar on the right side. For the Colour Circle the scrollbar is used to adjust the saturation.

► **Views of the Colour Cube:**

The directions of viewing the Colour Cube can be changed via the three radio buttons (on the left near “Colour = xxxx”). This does not change the colours – only the view of the cube!

► **Favourite Colours:**

Below the Colour Cube or Circle, respectively, there are listed some of the mostly used bright colours. To add your favourite colours use “Drag’n Drop” to put these into the free places.

► **Selected Colour:**

The actually selected colour is displayed together with its number below the colour cube.

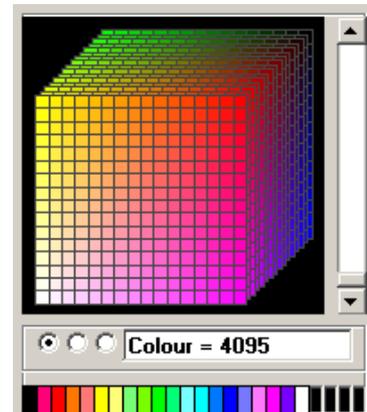


Fig.45: Colour Cube.



Fig.46: Colour Circle.

### 5.2.9 Checkbox “Figures Always on Top“

If this checkbox is checked (Fig.47) then the Figure Table will be ALWAYS on top (in the foreground). This is useful for e.g. the Show-Editor, when figures shall be put to a track by “Drag’n Drop”. The box will be unchecked, when you uncheck it or when you double-click on the black background of the Figure Table (don’t hit a figure). Furthermore the opening of divers other windows can eventually uncheck it (Options, DMX, etc.). Since version 5.1.L the setting of this option is stored within the \*.ini file. Thus at a new start of the software the same setting is restored.



Fig.47: Figure-Editor: Checkbox “Figures Always on Top”.

### 5.2.10 Folder-Window

Here you can select the folder to store the created figures or open the already existing ones. Above the window with the tree you find a list box to select the drive (Fig.48). On selecting an existent folder all figures which are loadable by LW-Showeditor will be loaded and put into the Figure Table. ILDA-figures are no LW-Showeditor files and must be imported manually (menu File of the Figure-Editor).



Fig.48: Folder Window.

If a show is loaded via the Show-Editor, the content of the window will be updated automatically with the respective path of the folder.

There are some special folders present in the program folder of LW-Showeditor (Fig.49):



Fig.49: Special Folders.

Folders named “**Buchstaben\_XXXXX**” contain self made letters.

The folder “**FixFiguren**” serves to store figures, which can be called **from every show**. These figures are displayed together with the test pictures within the table of the test pictures (menu → “Test-Pictures” → “Show Test-Pictures”). These figures can be assigned to keys as usual.

For example it is very useful for mirrors distributed in your show room. Here you can define some beams, which will hit these mirrors. If you store the corresponding figures within this folder you can use them within every show. Thus it is not necessary to copy them to the show folder.

The folder “**HE\_s\_Testbilder**” contains some very useful test-pictures to set up the projector. Below some explanations will follow. Additionally there are stored some pdf files with descriptions how to use the test pictures (sorry – only in german).

The folder “**TestBilder**” contains some test-pictures, stored as \*.bin-files. These pictures are shown via the menu → “Test-Pictures” → “Show Test-Pictures”.

**IMPORTANT HINT:** The pictures in the folder TestBilder contain no point properties and will not be optimized as usual on laser output! Thus it is **not** recommended to use them to optimize the laser output. The ILDA test picture is used to determine the speed of the Galvo system. This picture is put out without changes, thus the detected pps rate is correct.

### 5.2.11 Buttons in the Region “Window”

These buttons (Fig.50) will open the respective program windows or will enable the connected functions, respectively.

► **Button Live-Window:**

A click on this button opens the Live-Window. As already explained, it helps to assign the figures to keys. Its main function is the control of Live Shows. Please read the chapter “Live-Window” for more explanations.

► **Button Show-Editor:**

A click on this button opens the Show-Editor. Please look at chapter “Show-Editor” for more information.

► **Button Effects:**

A click on this button opens the Effects Dialog. Please look at chapter “Effects Dialog” for more information. The settings of the Effect Window refer always to the actual figure!



Fig.50: Figure-Editor: Buttons to open windows or select functions.

**► Button DMX:**

A click on this button opens the DMX-Window. Please look at chapter “DMX-Window” for more information.

**► Button Options:**

A click on this button opens the Options Window. Please look at chapter “Options” for more information.

**► Button Laser ON:**

A click on this button switches on your projector for the laser output of your figures. If within the Show-Editor “Play HQ”, “Play” or “Stop” is clicked, this button is used automatically, too. **The caption of this button tells you, what will happen when you push it ☺!**

In the case that the Simulation Window is opened, but minimized, then this will again displayed normally and the output is directed to it. The simulation is closed via a click on the x in the upper right corner of the Simulation Window.

**► Button Simulation:**

A click on this button opens the Simulation-Window. Please look at chapter “Hardware-Overview/Simulation” for more information. If the simulation is used no output to the laser projector is possible!

**► Button Black Screen:**

A click on this button disables the monitor of your computer.

This can have an enormous effect on the speed of the laser output, because all calculations, which are necessary for the display on the screen (actualisation of the effects, figures, etc.), are then no more necessary. The light of the screen will not disturb the laser show, too.

Depending on the kind of the graphic card of the computer the increase of the speed can be very impressive. Meanwhile via Options → Others it can be selected additionally, whether only a black screen is displayed or if the monitor is set to standby. Advantage of standby: This mode works also with several monitors. The rest light will be suppressed totally. Disadvantage: The start of the show will be delayed a little bit (eventually the delay of the show start must be adjusted for PlayHQ). Another disadvantage: EVERY use of the mouse or every push on a key will finish the standby of the monitor. This can cause some bucking of the show. Thus: Keep your hands off the mouse or the keys! One more disadvantage: Video Beamers, which are connected, will get no more signal and thus will eventually switch to their blue picture with the information “No Signal” – but else – only advantages ☺.

If a show is started via PlayHQ or via Count-Down-Timer or via “Start xx Seconds”-function, then the button Black Screen will be activated automatically.

When the monitor is black, a “speedometer” can be activated and displayed (dialog “Options/Others”). The speedometer gives information about the actualisation of the frames per second. But this does not give you information about the rate of the frames, which are really put out by the DAC. If a delay will occur, the DAC will simply repeat the last transmitted frame until a new one is received.

Deactivation of standby: Move mouse or push a key.

Deactivation of black screen: Click with right mouse button into the window.

Deactivation of black screen and stop the show: Click with left mouse button into the window or push the ESC key.

► **Button Complete Reset:**

The button Complete Reset serves for a actualisation of all figures (they will be loaded again). This could be useful when you have done changes on several figures, but are not satisfied with your changes.

► **Button Assign Figure:**

A click on this button lets you assign a key to the actually selected figure. This operation can be activated by a right mouse button click, too (see also chapter “Assignment of Figures to Keys”). Meanwhile most of the users use the Live-Window for the assignment. Thus this button will perhaps be unnecessary in future.

**5.2.12 Menus of the Figure-Editor**

Nearly all functions and windows are accessible via the menus of the Figure-Editor, too (Fig.51; see also Fig.32, Menu Bar). Furthermore you will find additional functions and tools, which are accessible only via the Menu Bar (e.g. Wave Generator, Path Tool etc.).

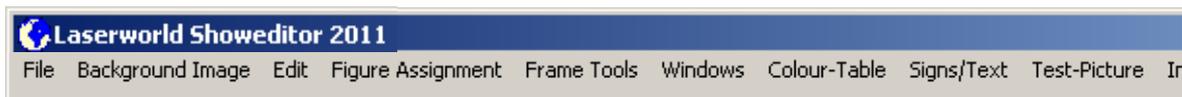


Fig.51: Figure-Editor: Menu-Bar.

**5.2.12.1 Menu File**

► **Open Laser Show**

A click on this menu item (Fig.52) automatically opens the Show-Editor and the Windows standard dialog to load a laser show. Thus the procedure to click on the button “Show-Editor” and to open the menu “File/Open Show” is done via this menu item and lets you access more easily a show.

► **Play List Load**

A click on this menu item automatically opens the Show-Editor and the Windows-standard-dialog to load and open a play-list. The play list will be displayed and is ready to use.

► **Load Live Show**

A click on this item opens a dialog to open a live show. The Live-Window will open automatically after loading the show.

► **New Figure**

This menu item has the same function as the “New Figure”-button (see chapter 5.2.2 Grafic Functions). To create a new figure this item or the corresponding button must be clicked.

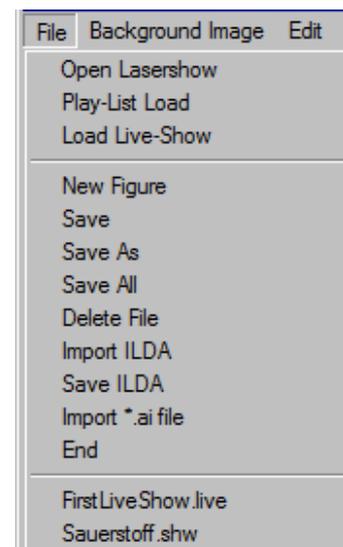


Fig.52: Menu File.

**► Save, Save As, Save All**

These menu items have the same functions as the “Save”-, “Save As” and “Save All”- buttons (see chapter 5.2.5 File → Buttons Save, Save as and Save all).

**► Delete File**

This menu item has the same function as the click with the right mouse button on a figure of the Figure Table / Delete Figure. The selected figure will be deleted in the Figure Table and will be removed from the hard-disk, too! After deleting the Figure Table is loaded again.

**► Import ILDA**

This menu item serves to import an ILDA-file (figure). The import of ILDA-files is only possible via this menu item! With this function 2D and 3D-ILDA-files, with or without colour table or RGB-data can be imported (and converted to LW-Showeditor files).

To import ILDA-files is often very problematic, because the “ILDA Standard” is used very flexible by some programmers. In the most cases the import will be successful. If any messages are displayed, please read them carefully and give your answers according to your wishes. Actually the import of ILDA-files up to the format 5 is possible.

**Hint:** Because of a faulty interpretation of the format description there exist different RGB-ILDA-files, unfortunately. Some have stored the colours in the byte order red, green, blue. But this is not correct. Correct is the order blue, green, red. So, if blue and red are swapped, then, before you import the file, you can reverse the order in the → Options → Others. This setup works on import as well on the export of ILDA-files. **Additional hint:** Many existing files use the Pangolin colour table. In this case you should firstly load the Pangolin colour table (Menu→Colour table) and then convert to HE-colours (Menu→Windows→Special functions→button “Change colours to HE-colourtable values”).

**► Save ILDA**

This menu item serves to export a figure as ILDA-file.

**Important:** On this export exclusively the basic coordinates will be exported. **An optimization or interpolation will not be done.** If you want this and when you want to export a complete show, too, then please use the respective export function of the Show-Editor menu →”File” → “Export Show as Ilda-File”. Different ILDA-formats are offered. The best is a type 5 ILDA-file (RGB). But attention! Not all programs can read all ILDA-formats correctly. In the “emergency-case” you have to accept the simplest format. This means that only the point-coordinates of the figure without RGB-values or colour-table are exported. That format nearly any program can read. Sorry, LW-Showeditor offers no recalculation of the colour-values to the Pangolin-colour-table. Thus programs based on the Pangolin-colour-table will display wrong colours.

If you find any errors within the ILDA-files, exported by LW-Showeditor, please inform us and put the error description into the mail.

**The programmer’s comment:** The ILDA-file is a mystery. There are circulating many defect and erroneous ILDA-files and formats in the www. If problems occur, I will try to give help. But I can not guarantee that EVERY existing file can be loaded. In fact there are defined standards....but the exeptions are numerous.



► **Import AI file (Adobe Illustrator)**

A click on this menu item opens a dialog to import an Adobe-Illustrator file (format 5!). This import can work, but it is not sure! We accept proposals to this theme, but we can not guarantee to add new functions.

**Tip:** Corel Draw can create AI files in the respective format. You can buy it very cheap at ebay. Meanwhile some additional tools are available (some are free, some are very cheap) to export/convert ILDA files from animation software. These then can be used with LW-Showeditor. If you need additional information to this point, write an e-mail to us.

► **End**

A click on this menu item closes the program.

► **Entries below “End”**

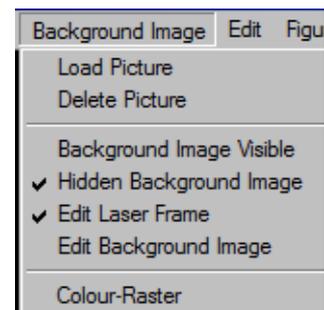
These entries list the shows (\*.shw) or Play-Lists (\*.pll), which were loaded at your last (10) LW-Showeditor sessions. This helps you to have very easy access to your favourite shows.

**5.2.12.2 Menu Background Image**

Via this menu a background image can be loaded to draw (copy) or raster. To check the drawn figure, the background picture can be hidden. Also the loaded picture can be edited on a limited scale.

► **Load Picture**

This menu item serves to load a picture (\*.jpg or \*.bmp), which is put to the Painting Window as background (Fig.54). Because the window is quadratically, the picture should also have this form. The loaded picture can then be processed via the function “Colour Raster” or copied by hand (the silhouette).



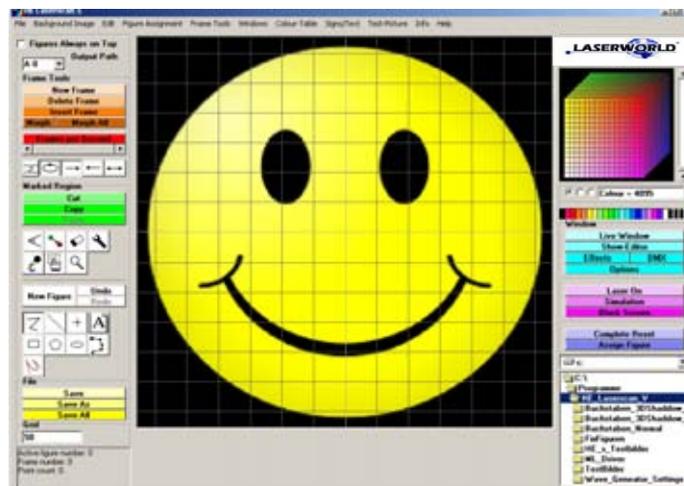
*Fig.53: Menu Background Image.*

► **Delete Picture**

A click on this menu item removes (deletes) the picture from the Painting-Window.

► **Background Image Visible**

Via this menu item the background image is made visible.



*Fig.54: Figure-Editor: Background image.*

► **Hidden Background Image**

Via this menu item the Background-Image is made invisible (hidden).

► **Edit Laser Frame / Edit Background Image**

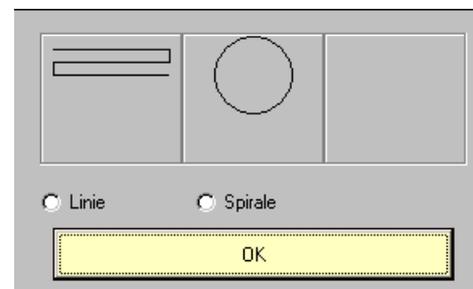
You can select “Edit Laser Frame” or “Edit Background Image”. A selection of one of these items deactivates the other one. If you select “Edit Background Image” your paintings will not be part of the (laser-) figure, but you can work with the Painting Tools on the background picture. The selection of “Edit Laser Frame” enables further work on the (laser-) figure.

► **Colour-Raster Tool:**

Before you can use this tool, you have to load **always** a \*.bmp or \*.jpg – file as background-picture. There are two kinds of operation of this tool – “Raster-Scanning” and “Take colours of background picture”.

● **Raster Scanning:**

Firstly use the “New Figure” button. Then load the background picture. Afterwards set a grid measure (about 8 to 10). Then mark a region on the background picture and finally click on the “Raster Colour” button. Now a dialog to enter the kind of raster-scanning (line or spiral) opens. After your input the marked region of the background-picture will be scanned step by step. A figure is created with its points coloured like the background-picture.



*Fig.55: Dialog to select the kind of raster-scanning.*

**ATTENTION:**

Very quick you can produce with this tool figures consisting of too much points. Possibly no DAC is then able to put the figure out. Suitable numbers of points are below 4000. More points are senseless. Let’s calculate: One frame has 5000 points. Your DAC-output-rate shall be 25000pps. Then only 5 frames per second can be put out! The result is a very flickering laser output. Even at a DAC-output-rate of 50kpps only 10 frames per second are possible – that is just enough to identify the picture.

● **Take Colours from Background Picture:**

This is the second function of the tool. Firstly a figure must be created (or loaded). Then load the background picture. A dialog will open and you will be asked whether to keep blanking or not. After closing the dialog the program will look for the colours of the background-picture and will take these to dye the figure accordingly. With this tool it is possible to make beautiful coloured texts, for example.

Another possibility to use the tool is the following: Firstly create with Corel Draw an “array” consisting of lines (curves are possible, too) and export the picture as AI file. Then the AI file is loaded and the colour is transferred from the points of an bmp-file. With this method quasi a “Raster Scan” is created.

**Hint:** It is advantageous when the background picture has strong and bright colours, otherwise the laser output could be too dark. Thus it could be necessary to optimize the colours with a graphic program (e.g. Irfanview → “Shift G”). In the case, that a dark source picture is necessary, the colours can be trimmed to maximal brightness via menu “Window → Special Functions → Normalize RGB”.

### 5.2.12.3 Menu Edit

#### ► Colour change

This is a special tool to change the colour of several points (of one colour), or to change the colour of points (with the same colour) in a series of frames. It works in the following way:

1. Select the future colour of the points (please see Chap. Colour Selection).
2. Mark one of the points of the figure to redye (perhaps you need first to mark “Show Points” to make single points visible).
3. Now click on “Color change”. A dialog to set the options is shown (see Fig.57). Please do your choice and finish with a click on “Do”. If “Colour of actually selected point” or “Destination colour” are not satisfactory, please click on “Cancel” and select the correct colours.

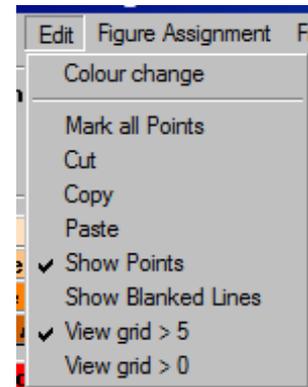


Fig.56: Menu Edit.

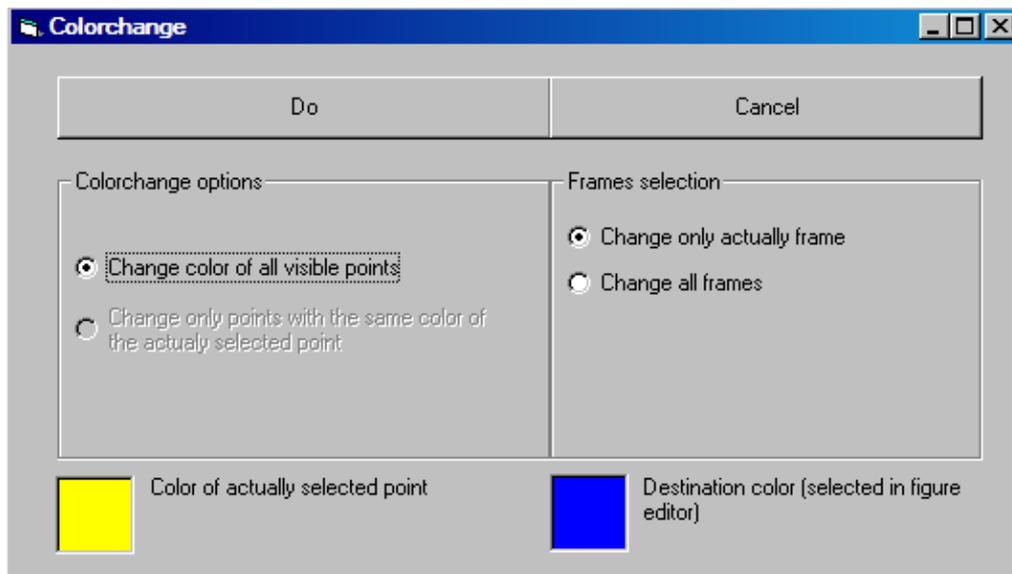


Fig.57: Menu Edit/Color change. Dialog to change colours of points.

#### ► Mark all Points

To mark all points of the actual frame is only possible via this menu item. After the click on it all functions like copy, cut, paste and change colour can be used.

#### ► Cut

This item has the same function as the button “Cut”.

#### ► Copy

This item has the same function as the button “Copy”.

#### ► Paste

This item has the same function as the button “Paste”.

► **Show Points**

This function is only accessible via the menu. It has to be used to display single points (beams in the laser output) within the Painting Window. You will see furthermore all points of the picture in the frame and not only the lines.

► **Show Blanked Lines**

This function is only accessible via the menu. Use it to make visible blanked points or lines. It could be possible that then not blanked points become invisible, because a blanked point is lying in front.

► **View Grid > 5 or View Grid > 0**

With these options it can be determined, if and from which raster value the grid is visible. A lock to a chosen grid will be done always! This option is useful when you e.g. zoomed with the magnifying glass and want to move single points.

**5.2.12.4 Menu Figure Assignment**

Please see also the chapter “Assignment of Figures to Keys” and the figures 17 and 19.

► **Print PC-List**

A click on this item will print out the PC-key-assignment-list (only accessible via this menu).

► **Show PC-List**

A click on this item shows the PC-key-assignment-list on your computer-screen. The old list is meanwhile replaced by the Live-Window, because there a better overview is given.

► **Print Keyboard-List**

A click on this item will print out the MIDI Keyboard assignment list (assigned keys of the MIDI-Keyboard). This function is only accessible via the menu. The printout can be cut and glued onto the keyboard.

► **Show Keyboard-List**

A click on this item shows the MIDI-Keyboard assignment list on your computer screen (only accessible via this menu).

► **Assign Figure**

This menu item is a copy of the function of the button “Assign Figure”, which is offered via a right mouse button click on the Figure Table, too. For more information see chapter 4.3.

► **Assign all Figures automatically**

If you use this menu item, then ALL existing assignments are canceled and the actually loaded figures are assigned automatically to keys. This is done with increasing F-key number (when much figures are present), but not with a special sorting. A message with the question if also MIDI and DMX shall be assigned, too, is displayed.

► **Delete all DMX Assignments**

A click on this menu item will delete all present DMX assignments.

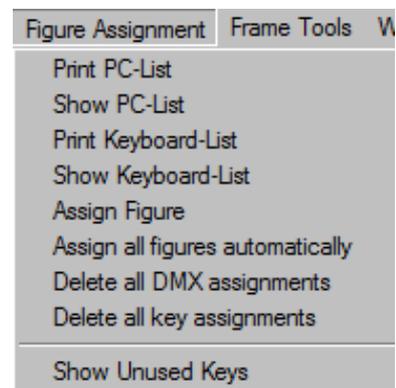


Fig.58: Menu Figure Assignment.

► **Delete all MIDI Assignments**

A click on this menu item will delete all present MIDI assignments.

► **Delete all key assignments**

This menu item serves to delete all key assignments.

► **Show Unused Keys**

This menu item gives you an overview about the “free” keys, which are not assigned yet. A simple way to find out the free keys offers the Live-Window:

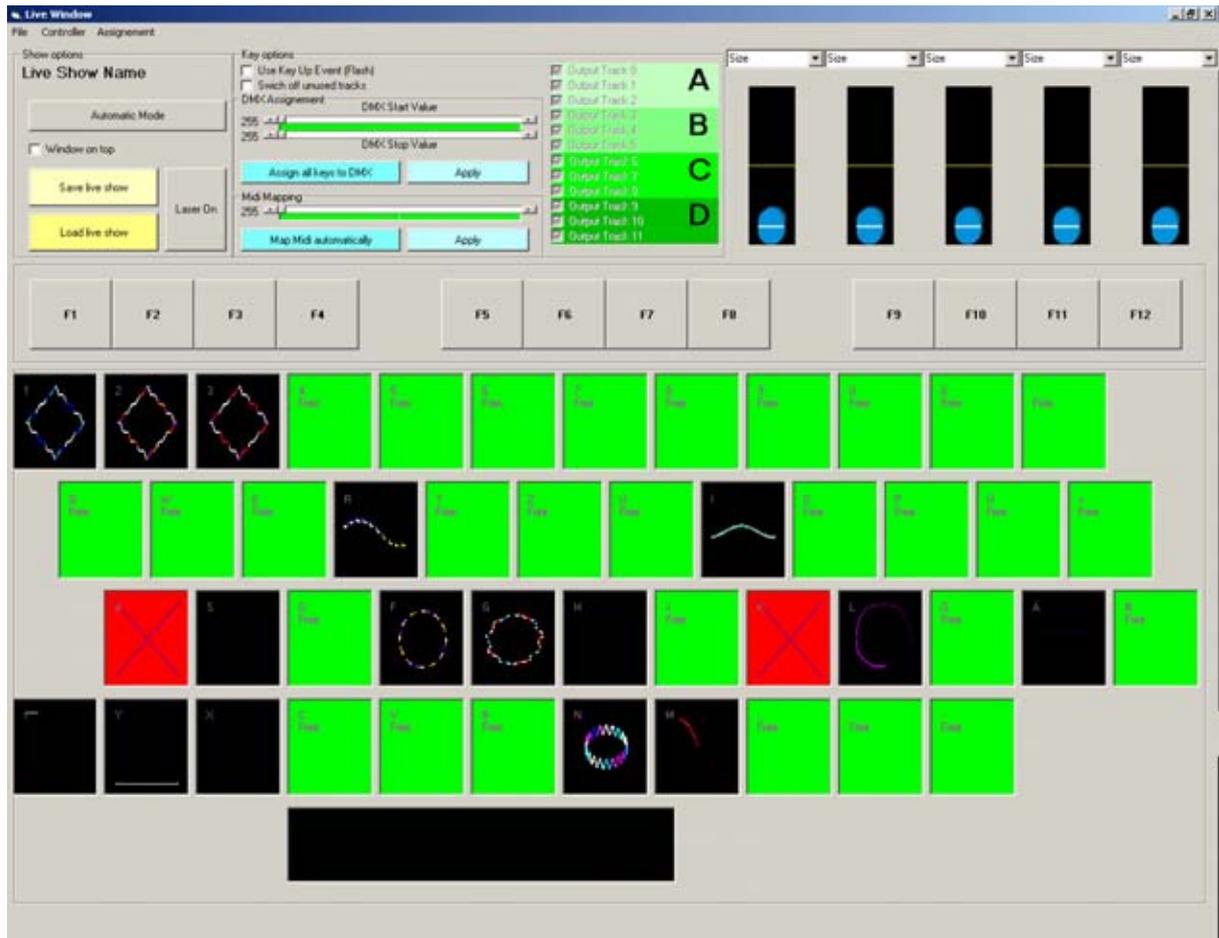
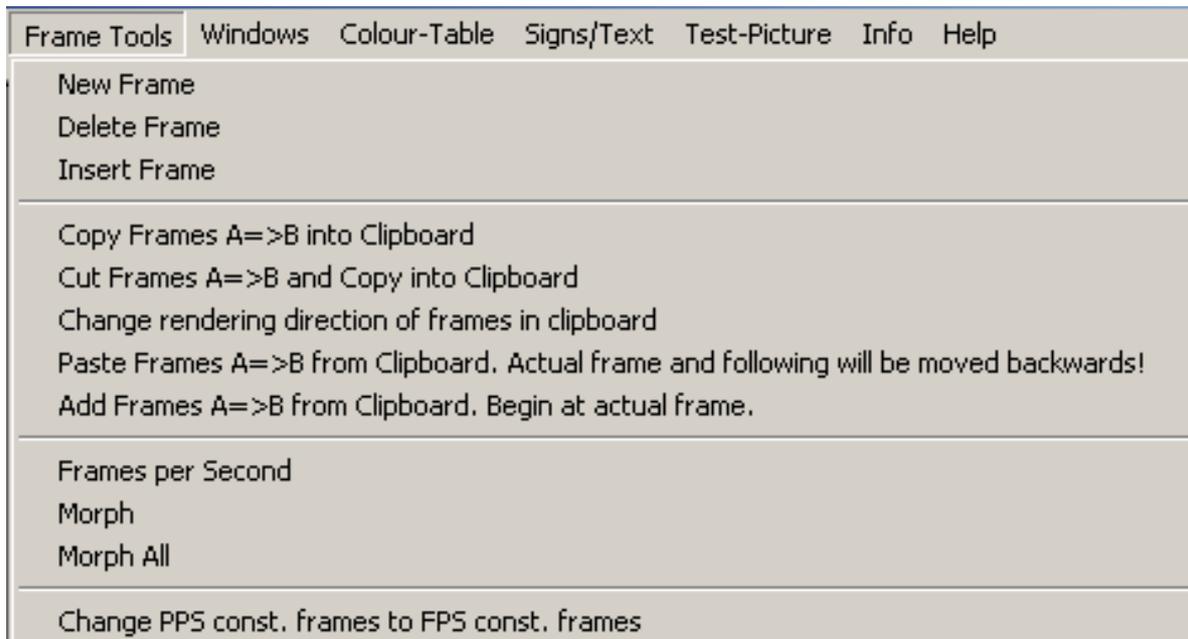


Fig.59: Free keys shown in the Live-Window (all green keys).

Within the Live-Window all the keys without a figure are backgrounded with green colour.

### 5.2.12.5 Menu Frame Tools



*Fig.60: Figure-Editor: Menu Frame Tools.*

► **New Frame**

This menu item is a copy of the function of the button “New Frame”, used with the left mouse button (see above).

► **Delete Frame**

This menu item is a copy of the function of the button “Delete Frame”.

► **Insert Frame**

This menu item is a copy of the function of the button “Insert Frame”.

► **Copy Frames A=>B into Clipboard**

This function is only accessible via the menu. It copies a series of frames into the clipboard. The first and the last frame to copy have to be entered into the dialogs, which will be opened.

► **Cut Frames A=>B and Copy into Clipboard**

This function is only accessible via the menu. It lets you cut a series of frames from the actual figure and copies them into the clipboard. The first and the last frame to copy have to be entered into the dialogs, which will be opened. It can be used for the erasure of a series of frames (delete the frames), too, if you don't paste them into another figure.

► **Change rendering direction of frames in clipboard**

This function is only accessible via the menu. It will exchange the frames of the series within the clipboard, so that the first will be afterwards the last. The frame-series will then be displayed in the other direction than the original.

► **Paste Frames A=>B from Clipboard**

This function is only accessible via the menu. It will paste the copied or cut the series of frames into the actual figure. The actually selected frame and all following ones will be moved backwards (behind the pasted series).

**► Add Frames A=>B from Clipboard**

This function is only accessible via the menu. It will paste the copied or cut the series of frames into the actual figure. They will be added starting at the actually selected frame. This means that the new frame-series will be an addition of the previous existing ones and the added ones.

To “add” means: Assume that the frames 0 to 100 show a rotating plane. Now you select e.g. frame number 50 and add then a 100 frames lasting animation, which is stored within the clipboard (e.g a jumping ball) The result will be then the following: At the beginning frames 0 to 49 you see the rotating plane, from frame 50 you see the rotating plane AND the jumping ball. This lasts until frame 100. From frame 101 only the rest of the animation “jumping ball” is seen, without rotating plane. With this tool you are enabled to create incredible effects! Look at some existing shows.

**► Frames per Second**

This menu item is a copy of the function of the button “Frames per Second”.

**► Morph**

This menu item is a copy of the function of the button “Morph”.

**► Morph All**

This menu item is a copy of the function of the button “Morph All”.

**► Change PPS const. frames to FPS const. frames**

For your information: This tool does not work not optimally yet and is included only for test purposes.

History of this function: Some programs export ILDA files with constant PPS rate. Thus, if you send each single point of the file with a certain delay to your galvo, then the show should theoretically be synchronous to the music. Other programs (the most - including LW-Showeditor) export ILDA files with constant FPS rate (frames per second! – see hint at description of the respective frame tool, then you understand the difference). This tool should change the frame series in that way that a **PPS constant file can be converted to a FPS constant file.**

Until now the functionality could not be tested fully, because of missing files. But meanwhile all programs have changed the export to FPS constant ILDA files.

### 5.2.12.6 Menu Windows

#### ► Options

This menu item (and the sub menus, see Fig.61) is a copy of the function of the button “Options” (see chapter “Options” and “Hardware Overview”). With its help you can access the respective register card of the window “Options” directly. Furthermore the reset of the windows positions to default places can be accessed directly.

#### ► Special Functions

This menu item is used to access special additional functions of the program. Some of these functions origin from older versions of LW-Showeditor. For the conversion of ILDA files they can be very useful. A click on it will open a dialog (Fig.62) to access the functions. The most important tools are:

- **“opt. Distance”** could perhaps optimize your figure, if later the Extra-Tool “Path-Tool” should be used (explained later). This function divides the distances of a line into shorter peaces as long, as the in the “Options” entered value for “Max. Distance Laser ON” is bigger than the length of a peace.

- **“Change colours to HE-Colourtable values”**: If you imported an ILDA file with an own colour palette, different from the HE palette (e.g. Pangolin), then a click on this button will convert the colours to the HE colour palette. After the procedure the file can be used together with other HE figures. The imported figure also can now be stored as \*.heb file.

- **“Normalize RGB Point/Frame”**: This function serves to enhance the RGB values of the single points to achieve maximal brightness. There are different possibilities: “enhance brightest point of frame to maximum” or “enhance each point to maximal brightness”, etc.

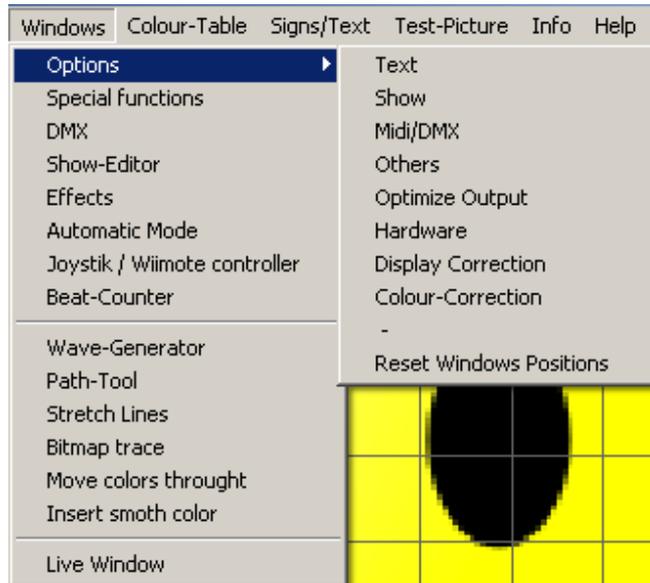


Fig.61: Menu Windows.

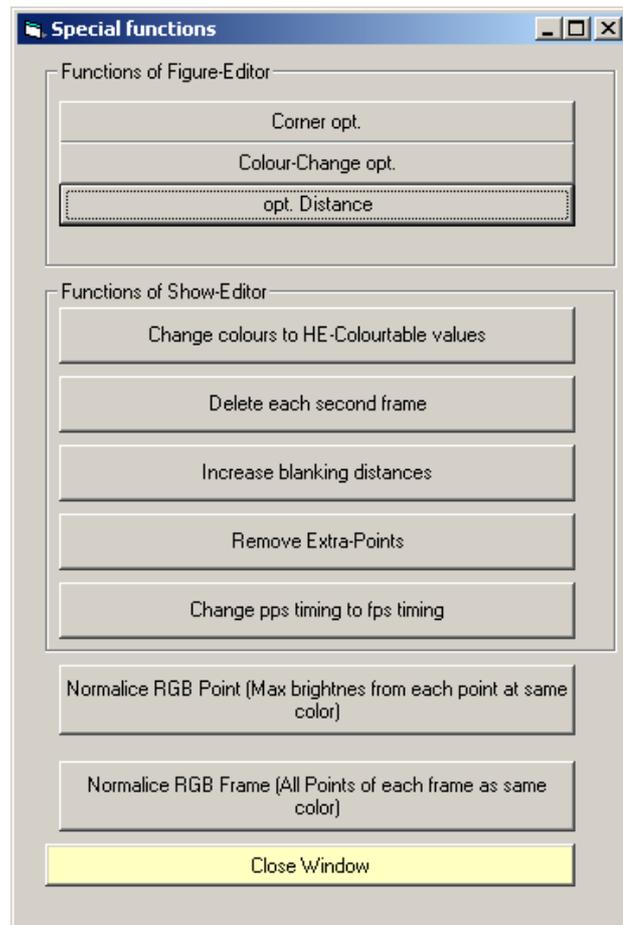


Fig.62: Special Functions: Dialog to access special tools.

The **other functions** should explain themselves by the names of the respective buttons or are described elsewhere.

► **DMX**

This menu item is a copy of the function of the button “DMX”. It opens the DMX-Window.

► **Show-Editor**

This menu item is a copy of the function of the button “Show-Editor”. It opens the window of the Show-Editor.

► **Effects**

This menu item is a copy of the function of the button “Effects”. It opens the Effects Window (chapter “Effects Dialog”).

► **Automatic Mode**

This function is accessible via the menu and via the button within the Live-Window. It opens the window of the Automatic-Laser-Player (Fig.63).

It offers two modes of operation:

1) With the help of the “Klick Beat”-buttons for each of the 12 tracks a beat (bpm) can be entered. At every beat a generator will call a random figure from the Figure Table. A click on the button “Start” will start the timer for the respective track and the figures will be displayed (randomly!).

2) The calling of the figures can be done via frequency analysis in realtime for the desired song. For this purpose a Winamp-plugin called “Winamp VB Link” is used (it is not an included feature of the software! **You have to install it manually!**

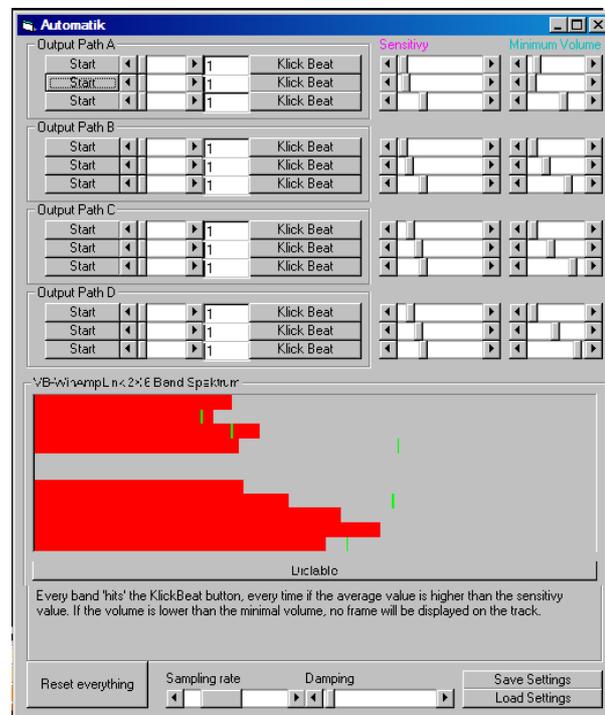


Fig.63: Automatic Mode: Automatic-Laser-Player.

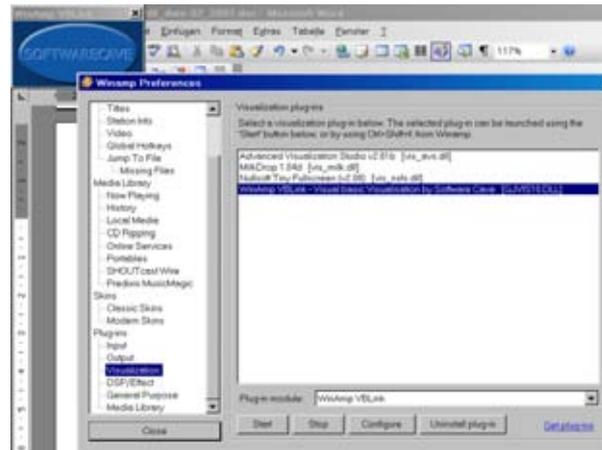
**Please look for the \*.zip file “vblink10.zip” within the program folder of this software. The file “readme.txt” describes the installation of the plugin. Winamp and the plugin do work at all Windows operating systems. Possibly it could be necessary to use divers tricks to get a successful installation. Thus please read the tutorials to this subject.**

If the plugin is active, you will see in the upper left corner of your screen the “Softwarecave”-logo of Winamp’s VB-Link (see Fig.64). Push the button “Enable” of the automatic-player and the plugin will be used for the frequency analysis. Now you have to activate the tracks by a click on the respective “Start” button. Then you should see the amplitudes of the different frequencies in the window of the automatic-player (see Fig.63).

Please pay attention to the fact that the tracks are assigned to frequencies. Hence track A is more assigned to the bass (low frequencies), track B to the middle frequencies and D to the high frequencies. Six tracks react to the left music signal, the others to the right signal.

There are different functions which can be altered, but to explain all would be too much. Thus here some short descriptions:

The Automatic Player uses 6 frequencies of the audio spectrum. For each frequency the average amplitude is calculated. The damping for each average frequency value can be varied via the scrollbar “**Damping**”.



*Fig.64: Setup of Winamp-plugin (Winamp/Options/ Visualizations/Select plugin) and “Softwarecave” logo (upper left corner).*

If now the actual average signal level is higher than the selected limit “**Minimum Level**” and when the peak level is a certain value (**Sensitivity**) bigger than the damped average, a random figure is called from the Figure Table for the respective track and put out to the projector. For every track an individual setup of the Minimum Level and the Sensitivity is possible. The adjusted values can be identified on the vertical lines within the frequency spectrum. If the intensity value of the respective frequency band falls below this lower limit, no figure will be displayed, at all.

You can perhaps imagine that the best setup of the limits is different for each song. Thus you have to experiment a little with the values until you will find the best for the laser display of your songs.

With the buttons “**Save**” and “**Load**” you can save or load the settings of the automatic-player, “**Reset everything**” will carry out a full reset. With the scrollbar “**Sampling Rate**” is set the interval to update the intensity value by the frequency analyzer. For fast computers it is recommended to increase the sampling rate.

Winamp also can evaluate the LineIn input of the PC (for DJ’s music). For this use please enter “linein://” as URL.

The stored \*.aut file with the automatic settings can be started wvia a double click within the Windows Explorer. Then LW-Showeditor’s Automatic Player is opened automatically with the respective setup.

► **Joystick/Wii**

Little secret (-: Just the following explanation: There was once the idea to control the laser figures by the Wii control. That worked partly with two virtual joysticks. If you want, you can try to install two virtual joysticks and to play with them (no guarantee of function) ☺.

► **Beatcounter**

The “Beatcounter” is a new function existing since version 3.4.2. With its help you can determine the beats per minute (bpm) of a song. As you know from above you can adjust the FPS as BPM value for the speed to play animations.

When you select this menu item, a dialog to count the beat will open (Fig.65). You can open the dialog in the Show-Editor, too, via the menu “Tools”.

When you have loaded a song in the Show-Editor (via New Show) a click on “**Play Song**” will starts to play the song. After pushing any key (except the space key) or after a click with the right mouse button on the black window a reset of the beat count is done. Now click with the mouse on the black window in the rhythm of the song. The clicks are counted. Above the window the actually calculated bpm-rate is shown. On the right you see a red bar above or below a black line. When the bar is above the black line, your clicks are too fast and if the bar is below the black line, your clicks are too slow, compared with the calculated average bpm-rate. With “**Stop Song**” the playing of the song is stopped. A click on the small cross in the upper right corner will close the beat counter window.



*Fig.65: Beatcounter: Dialog to count beats. (see also "Show-Editor/Tools")*

**Attention!** Do not miss any beat after starting the procedure! Otherwise the result (bpm) will be wrong! The BPM is calculated from the average temporal distance of the entered “beats”. The longer you click the beats, the more precise the calculated BPM will be.

► **Wave-Generator, Path-Tool, Stretch-Lines, Bitmap Trace**

By this menu items you have access to the extra tools “Wave-Generator”, “Path-Tool”, “Stretch-Lines” and “Bitmap-Trace”. These tools are accessible only via this menu. The function of the respective extra tool will be described in the chapter “Extra Tools” below.

► **“Move Colours Through” (Push Through Colours)**

A click onto this menu item opens a little window. This serves to push through the colours of the single figure points through the entire figure (easily told, but hardly to understand...). An example: Assume a triangle – side 1 shall be red, side 2 green and side 3 blue. In total there are 3 colours (4, if the blanked points are included, too). If now the colours are pushed through, a new figure is created consisting of 3 (4) frames. You see always the triangle, but on every change of a frame the respective colour has moved further one point. Thus you see the sides of the triangle changing the colour every frame, first one side is red, then green, then blue.

This works also for multi frame figures. But one has to consider, that only the colours of the first frame are pushed through. In the following frames the original x/y coordinates of the animation are maintained, but the colours come from the first frame and will be pushed through. Here it should become understandable that the number of points must be the same for each frame. If that is not given, then the missing points are set automatically by the software to have equal numbers of points for the frames. Furthermore a number of (new) frames results according to the number of coloured points within the first frame.

But now there are already a given number of frames exists because of the animation. These two numbers (of frames) will be made equal by calculating the lowest common denominator of the two frame numbers. Please don't be surprised on viewing the animation multiple times. In very unfavourable cases the calculated frame numbers could "blast" the available memory of the computer and thus will cause an error message.

**Hint:** Possibly it could be smart to use the tool "Opt. Distance" of the special functions to receive smaller distances for the pushing through of colours.

► **Insert smooth colours (Insert Colour Gradient)**

This tool inserts a colour gradient. There is already an option "Use Soft Colour" within the Effects Window. Indeed, this function does the same. BUT there is a difference: "Use Soft Colour" is created just at the output of the figure. But when you intend (e.g.) to push through the colours of a figure with colour gradient or to use a colour gradient for the path tool, then "Use Soft Colour" is useless. Thus for these purposes colour gradients can be calculated via this tool directly to insert them into the figure.

► **Live-Window**

Menu item to open the Live-Window.

**5.2.12.7 Menu Colour Table**

The menu item "Colour Table" is used to manipulate the Colour Table.

► **Reset**

"Reset" will reset the Colour Table to default (HE) colours.

► **Save**

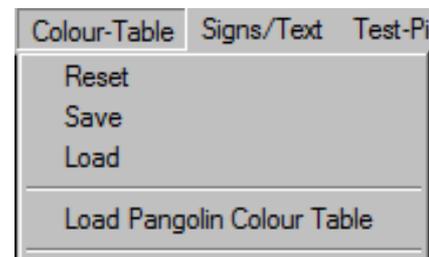
"Save" is used to save the Colour Table. For example, if you have imported an ILDA Colour Table, you can save this via this menu. Each show can use its own Colour Table. This will be saved automatically on saving the show. Overall it should not be necessary to use this function anymore. Formerly it made sense, when ILDA files including a colour table were on the market.

► **Load**

With "Load" you can load a previously saved Colour Table.

► **Load Pangolin Colour Table**

Via this menu item the Colour Table from Pangolin can be loaded. These tables were often used for ILDA files. You can load an ILDA file, load the Pangolin Colour Table and finally export again as ILDA file. From that moment the LW-Showeditor Colour Table is used (if a RGB file is exported). A separate conversion to LW-Showeditor colours is possible (see above "Special Functions" / button "Change Colour Values to HE Values") and even sometimes necessary, if the ILDA file shall be used together with other LW-Showeditor figures.

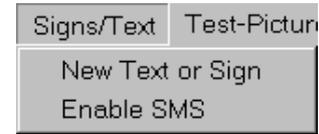


*Fig.66: Figure-Editor: Menu Colour-Table.*

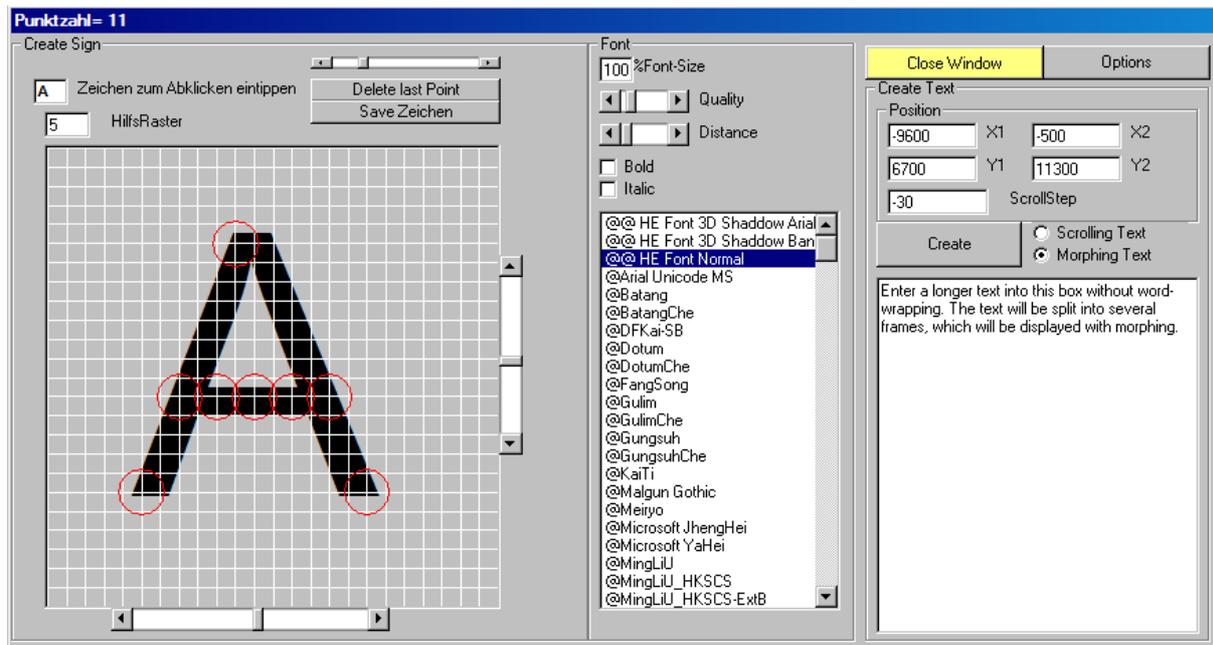
### 5.2.12.8 Menu Signs/Text

#### ► New Text or Sign

With the help of the menu item Signs/Text (Fig.67) you will open a dialog (Fig.68) to create your own signs and letters (A) and/or to display longer text passages (B) with the laser-projector.



**Fig.67:** Figure-Editor: Menu Signs/Text.



**Fig.68:** Figure-Editor: Menu Signs/Text. Window to create letters and signs and to enter texts.

**Description:** This window serves for multiple purposes. Indeed, it is not very typical for Windows, because it is a very old function. Perhaps it will be re engineered sometimes. The window offers mainly two different text functions:

#### A) Create OWN Signs or Letters:

To create your own signs or letters you have first to select one of the three “@@HE-..” fonts. Now into the left upper textbox you can enter the desired letter to copy by hand. The letter will be displayed in large in the respective window. The size and the position of the letter can be varied via the three scrollbars. Now you can set with the mouse the coordinates of the points of the new sign. For a uniform set of signs you should not vary the settings of the scrollbars. Click on “Save Zeichen” to save the new sign or letter in the previously defined folder (Options/Text).

**IMPORTANT!** At the start and the end of the letter or sign have to be set blanked points! Otherwise you will see later coloured connecting lines. The software already can do this (see red circles in Fig.68) but to be sure please set the blanked point again (right mouse button)! The advantage of these self made letters is their less complexity and thus a laser output with less flickering is achieved. Furthermore “special” signs can be created and then be used within the Figure-Editor. A tip: WingDings has some signs, which could be useful for a Graphic Show.

**B) Settings for text (short and longer text) and creation of longer text:**

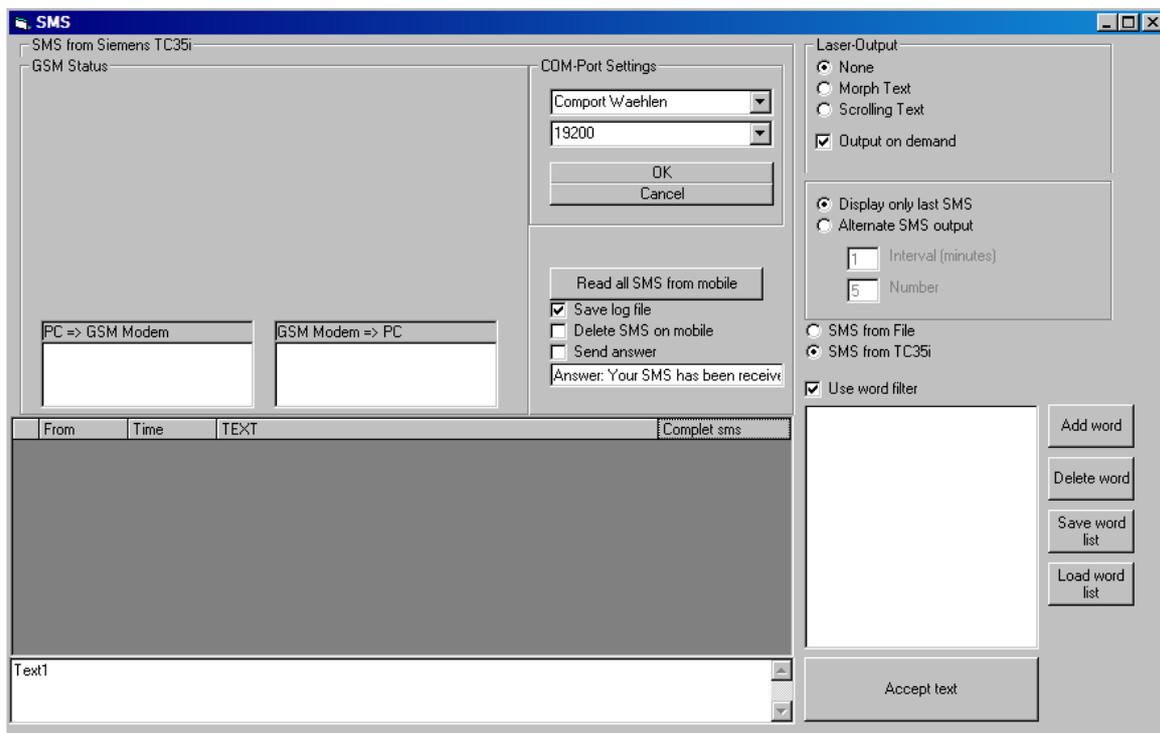
How to use these options has been already described in the respective chapter of the Figure-Editor → Grafic-Functions → Text-Tool.

Here a **short repetition**: To create long text you have firstly to select the font. Then into the window on the right side of the dialog you can enter your text. This can be up to a full DINA4-page! Then click on “Create”. According to the text options the program now generates the laser display of the text. The text will be displayed in several frames (depending on the length). If possible, the word wrap will be executed at empty signs (space). If wanted, the change from one frame to another can be done via morphing. The button “Options” will open the “Options/Text”-window.

The Options/Text settings will play a great role for the output of long text and SMS-messages. For tests create a message and try to display it with the laser projector. Then try via “Effects” to get the wanted target position. The values determined in this way can now be entered in the respective text boxes of the Options/Text dialog. Then later received SMS-messages should be displayed at the correct position.

► **Enable SMS**

This section of the software has been completely redesigned in the end of 2007. Generally the SMS-receiving is only possible via the mobile SIEMENS TC35I GSM. Other mobiles are not tested and will probably not be supported.



*Fig.69: Figure-Editor: Menu Signs/Text → Enable SMS.*

If this menu point is enabled, then a dialog to set the COM port and the baud rate is shown (Fig.69). Chose the COM port, to which your mobile is connected. A baud-rate of 19200 should work properly. If distortions should be present, try a slower baud-rate.

Now click on “OK” to establish the connection to the mobile and (if not done already) to the provider (keep ready your PIN-code!). It is recommended to switch on the mobile in advance and to enter the PIN-code. If done so, then the request of the software for the PIN can be skipped by entering “xxxx”. It will work in another way, too, but then the process will last very long and if an error occurs it could happen that you will lock your mobile unwanted.

The **upper left region** of the dialog (GSM Status) **actual status information** is shown.

In the **lower left window** the received messages are displayed. In a table the actually per laser displayed message is marked by colour. Via mouse click on the respective message it can be selected and edited.

Within the **upper right region** of the dialog (Laser output) the kind to display the messages (morphed or scrolling text) can be selected.

In the **lower right window** forbidden words can be entered to a list. These words will be substituted by XXX. The list can be saved and loaded.

In the **centre of the dialog** (button “Read all SMS from mobile”) you can set up logging- and answer-functions.

#### **Important: SMS from File or SMS from TC53i**

In general the SMS should come from the TC35i. Furthermore there are some programs available to convert SMS to \*.txt-files (e.g. <http://www.t2slive.co.uk>). These \*.txt-files then can be imported into the program and handled like original TC35i messages.

Who has the knowledge, patience and the need can (naturally) program a little tool to receive SMS messages and then saves them to a file by himselfe. The file format can be requested at Tschosef.

The changes done in 2011 concentrate to the point that each SMS text is ALWAYS projected complete, before the next SMS is displayed. You can put out the SMS messages in turn. If the interval for display is set to 0.1 minutes, then each SMS which lasts longer than 6 seconds is displayed (once) and afterwards the next SMS is shown.

### 5.2.12.9 Menu Test Pictures (and FixFigures)

Via this menu a table with different test pictures (some from the DAC EasyLase) is accessible (quasi a second Figure Table). Also the figures are shown, which are stored in the folder “FixFiguren”. The test pictures are stored in the folder “TestBilder” as \*.bin-files. The test-pictures created by the programmer are stored in \*.heb-format. The figures stored in “FixFiguren” shall help you to adapt effects with beams reflected by mirrors. In general your mirrors will have different places than those of the original show. With “FixFiguren” your own positions will be recognized.

The EasyLase test pictures have not original size! The change of the colours of the test-pictures is not possible, except at the watch.

**Attention!** The DAC output of the test pictures is **not optimized!** They are in general used to measure the PPS speed of your galvos (ILDA test picture). Please use the “HE’s Testbilder” to set up the software and your Galvos to get optimal show results.

All pictures can be assigned to keys and thus be used in shows.

To close the test picture table, please uncheck the menu item.

### 5.2.12.10 Menu Info

#### ► Version

A click on this menu item will show you the version and the date of release of the software.

#### ► Imprint

Here the imprint is shown.

#### ► Update History

Here you can read the history of the development of the software.

#### ► Update Homepage

Direct link to the homepage of LW-Showeditor for updates!

#### ► www.laserworld.com

Link to the homepage of Laserworld.

#### ► www.Softwarecave.nl

Link to Softwarecave-homepage.

#### ► About Softwarecave

Infos about Softwarecave.

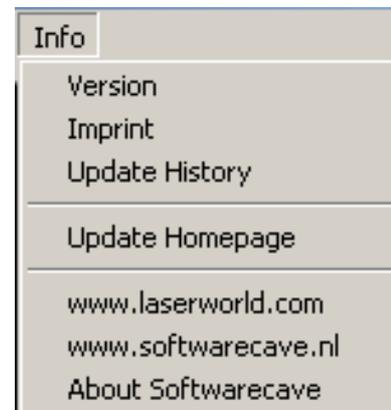


Fig.70: Figure-Editor: Menu Info.

### 5.2.13 Tools to Create Automatically Animations

These tools can be reached via the menu “Windows” of the Figure-Editor. They shall help the user to generate diverse figures automatically. Sometimes it is not simple to handle these tools, thus a little training is recommended. The combination of several tools can create impressive effects (e.g. “Colour Gradient”, “Push Through Colours” and “Stretchline” used one after another...or similar combinations).

#### 5.2.13.1 Wave Generator

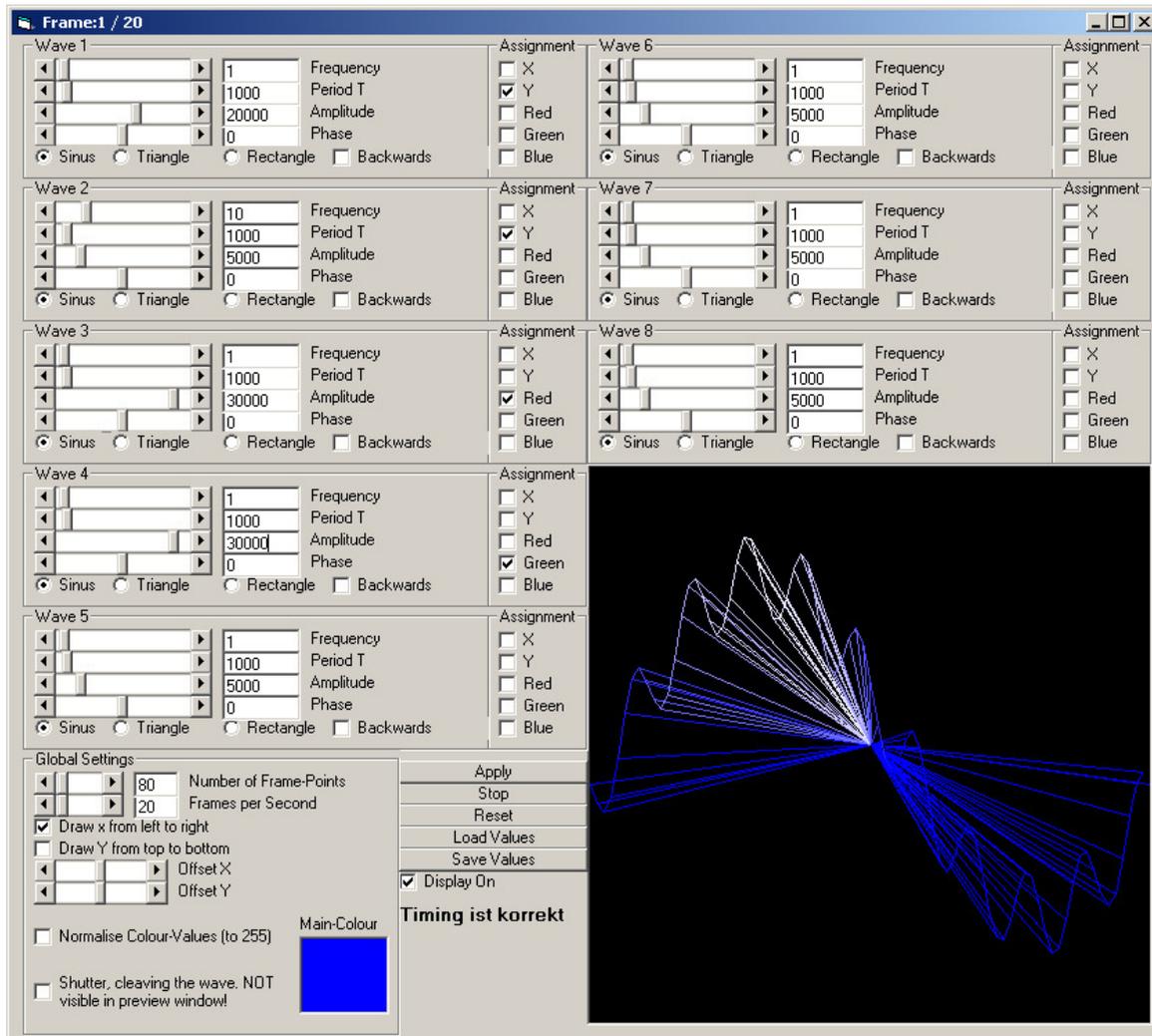


Fig.71: Extra Tools: Wave-Generator.

The Wave Generator is a very flexible tool to generate waves and other periodic figures. Its flexibility seems to confuse some users. But please don't be scared! It is not very difficult to handle this tool and you can get satisfactory results just by playing.

A little knowledge of the mathematical description of waves (see below) can help to handle the tool, but that is not a must. Figures can be created with the Wave Generator via “Try and Error”, too.

The principle of work of the Wave Generator is the following:

The Wave Generator consists of 8 single generators. Each can generate its own waveform. The amplitudes of the waveforms are dependant on space and time.

The amplitudes theoretically begin with a range from -100% to 100%, because the “real” amplitude (height of signal) at least arises on the combination with a point property (you remember the “properties of a point”? see “wrench” tool, if not). The amplitudes can be assigned to a point property like (x, y) coordinate or colour. Because all generators have the same operation principle, it is sufficient to explain only one.

Every wave is characterized by amplitude, frequency (in space), period (in time) and phase.

The **frequency** describes the number of peaks and wave troughs in the space. In the Fig.71 the frequency is 1 for wave 1 and it is assigned to the y coordinates with amplitude 20000. Thus the generated wave has 1 peak and 1 wave trough in total. The generator for wave 2 is also assigned to the y coordinates, but has a frequency of 10 and smaller amplitude of 5000. That generates the smaller wave with 10 peaks, which is interfering the big wave (see preview window in Fig.71).

The **period T** describes the duration, which one point on the wave needs to reach the peak after being in the wave trough. The duration is entered in milliseconds. In the example in Fig.71 for the wave 1 the duration for one oscillation is 1000ms, thus it needs 1 second for the oscillating points to fulfil one complete period (to go up and come down again).

The **amplitude** describes the “intensity” of the wave (or the colour when used). In other words: It describes the height and the depth of the peak and wave trough. The generator internally calculates in relative values (in %), because the amplitudes can be assigned to different point properties. Colours are described internally by values from 0 to 255 for each of the ground colours RGB, coordinates can have values from -32767 to +32767. You see in Fig.71 the big wave with amplitude 20000 and the interfering smaller wave with amplitude 5000. Furthermore you see in the picture the generators 3 and 4, which are assigned to red and green, respectively. Because they have the frequency 1 and amplitudes of 30000, they generate the white colour (in combination with blue), which is partly dying the wave.

The **phase** describes, how much degrees the oscillation is shifted (in comparison with a wave with phase = 0). An example should explain the property of the phase: Let us take for the x-axis a sinus oscillation and for the y-axis, too. The result will be a line, rotated by 45° to the axes. To get a circle, we need for one of the axes a cosines oscillation. Now remember the basics of trigonometry: A cosine-function is the same as a sinus-function with a phase shift of 90° (when  $\sin(x) = 1$  then  $\cos(x) = 0$  and  $\sin(x+90^\circ) = 0$  and otherwise).

All waves can be created as triangle- or rectangle-oscillations and the display can be altered in the direction (backwards), too.

**HINT:** The generator is designed to be very flexible. There were some requests of users to accept only certain conditions in order to simplify the handling. But this would restrict the flexibility. Because the flexibility has higher priority, some circumstances have to be taken into account:

**Problem 1: Long times for calculations and very big files:**

If you use values for the frequency and/or duration for the different generators, which are not integer multiples from each other, then the time to calculate the wave can need very, very long time! Furthermore the size of the file will become big, because very much frames are created. The reason is that the calculation will be finished, when the start situation is reached again. The last frame must fit to the first frame in order to avoid a jumping display.

If the setups of the generators are integer multiples from each other, you can see when starting the preview. In the upper border of the window you will see, how many frames will be created. If you accept the created figure, then a warning will be displayed, too, if necessary.

What are “integer multiples”? In the strict sense we have to deal with the “smallest common multiple”. Example: Look at the numbers 2 and 4: 4 is a multiple of 2 because  $2 \cdot 2 = 4$ . Thus the smallest common multiple of 2 and 4 is 4 –  $1 \cdot 4 = 4$  and  $2 \cdot 2 = 4$ .

Next example: Look at the numbers 2 and 5: 5 is not an integer multiple of 2! Because  $2 \cdot 2 = 4$  and  $2 \cdot 3 = 6$ . The smallest common multiple of 2 and 5 is 10, because  $2 \cdot 5 = 10$  and  $5 \cdot 2 = 10$ . That all seems to be simple...but now let us look at combinations of three numbers, which are taken by chance: e.g. 1111, 1134 and 3241....Who knows the smallest common multiple? The program knows the answer, because it is calculating. Clearly we can say that e.g. the numbers 1000, 1500 and 3000 will fit very well together: With that combination the program will create 30 frames (the “0” can be omitted):  $3 \cdot 10$  equals 30,  $2 \cdot 15$  equals 30 and also  $1 \cdot 30$  equals 30, too. With a little training you will find out quick fitting numbers and you will create beautiful waves. You don’t need to calculate – just pay attention to the warning:

**Framecount >> 1000 !!!**

**Problem 2:** Not really a problem – more a hint: If a rectangle is used for one wave and the vertical sides shall be dark, then it is advantageous to use the last used generator for this. The software recognizes the setup and the edges will be blanked. If after the rectangular wave a colour signal is added with a further generator, then the edges will be visible.

The “**Global Settings**” are valid for all generators.

“**Number of Frame Points**” determines the number of points of the wave (of one frame). According to experience are useful 50 to 200 points. Experiments with only 3, 4 or 5 points showed also very interesting results.

“**Frames per Second**” adjusts the frame rate for output, when the wave is applied (taken to the Figure Table). This value can be changed later (via button “Frames per Second” in the Figure-Editor). If it’s not changed, then the values for the period T are correct, else the running speed of the wave is changed.

“**Draw x from left to right**” must be used to create a horizontally oriented wave (used in the example shown in Fig.71).

“**Draw y from top to bottom**” must be used to create a vertically oriented wave. Both options together applied will give a diagonally oriented wave. If one of the options is chosen, then all amplitudes assigned to the respective axis will be ignored.

“**Normalize Colour Values (to 255)**” will let operate at least one of the lasers at maximal intensity.

The “**Shutter**” will cleave the wave to beams. The wave will consist of many beams following the course of the wave.

The button “**Apply**” starts the calculation of the wave and takes it to the Figure Table as figure 0. There it can be modified further (e.g. by applying morphing to get a smoother output) and stored on the hard disk.

The button “**Preview**” (Stop) will generate a simulation of the wave (and stop the simulation).

The button “**Reset**” is used to reset all values.

The button “**Load Values**” lets you load previously stored values for the generation of a wave.

The button “**Save Values**” is used to save the values of the wave.

For the actions “Load” and “Save” the standard Windows dialogs are opened.

### 5.2.13.2 Path Tool

With this tool a new multi frame figure (an animation) will be created. It will consist of several frames, which will display a moving figure (copies of a figure) along a prior determined path. In the simplest case this will be a short line which is moving along a given path. But furthermore more complicated figures can be moved along paths. The tool consists of several modules for the input:

#### A) Input of Path

Fig.72 shows the dialog to input the path. You can draw the path with the mouse in the window of the dialog or you take the path from the actually chosen figure of the Figure-Editor via the button “**Path from Frame**”. You can check the option “**Ignore Blanking**” to ignore the blanked lines of your figure.

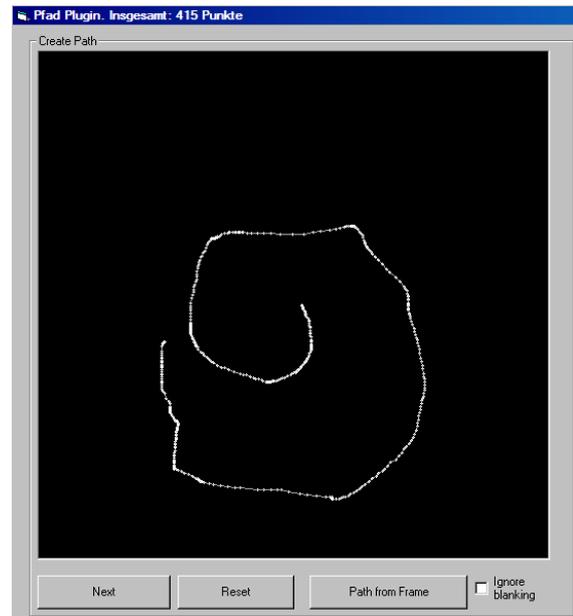


Fig.72: Extra Tools: Path-Tool. Input of path.

Tip: The colours of the figure for the path (Path from Frame) can also be transferred. Here figures with colour gradient could give very interesting results.

When you are ready to draw the path, push the button “**Next**” to go on in the process. If you are not satisfied with the path, push the button “**Reset**” to clear the window. If you want to take the path from a figure of the Figure-Editor it could be useful to apply the function “**Optimize Distance**” via the menu “**Windows/Special Functions/Opt.Distance**” to add intermediate points on straight parts of the path.

#### B) Path Treatment Window

With the Path Treatment Window (Fig.73) it is possible to smooth the course of your path via the button “**Smooth**”. You can change the number of points, which describe the path, too (button “**Number of Points**”). If the path was taken from a figure of the Figure-Editor it is in the most cases not recommended to use the option “**Smooth**”, because then the corners will be rounded. If the treatments are done, click on the button “**Next**” to go to the last module of the Path Tool.

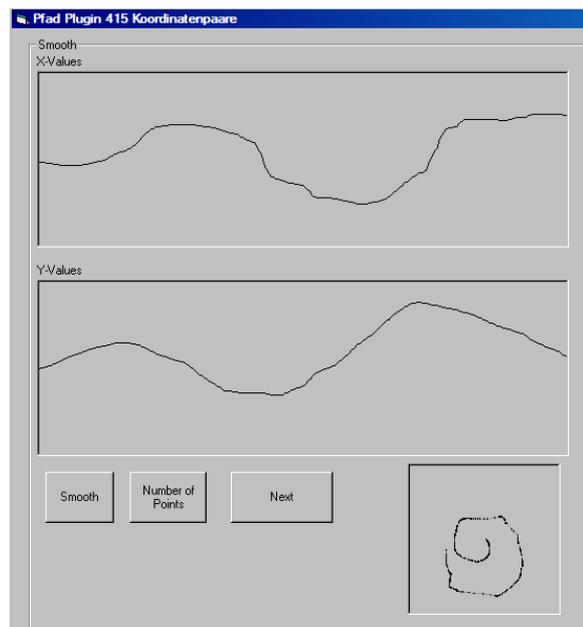


Fig.73: Extra-Tools: Path-Tool. Path Treatment

#### C) Selection of Figure and Options

With the help of this module (Fig.74) you can select the figure to move along the path. This could be the actually selected figure from the Figure-Editor (Option “**Source/ Use frame from main-window**”) or a “snake” (Option “**Source/Snake/Line**”).

If “Snake” is selected, then a serpentine (way like a snake moves) will be created. The length of the serpentine is given by the number entered at “**Count of Pictures**”.

If “**Use frame from main window**” is selected, then the figure from the Figure-Editor will be displayed in the window of the module (for the movement on the path).

If the figure was not already chosen, then it is possible to do it now (afterwards). Sorry – the window will perhaps not be updated automatically. In that case please click on “Snake” and then again on “Use frame from main window”.

The red-green coloured circle is quasi an anchor. It can be moved by a click on the new position. This point will move exactly on the created path.

The option “**Use colour from**” is playing a role only together with “Snake”. Here you can determine, if the colour values are taken from the (coloured) path (“**Path**”) or from the window of the Figure-Editor (“**Main window**”).

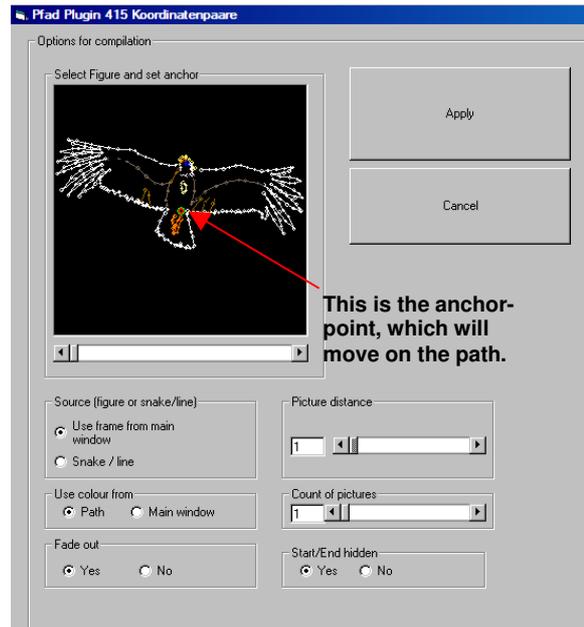
The option “**Fade out**” will dim (blank) the end of the serpentine or the last figures when it is set to “**Yes**” or dim not, when set to “**No**”.

The value, set at “**Picture distance**” (upper scrollbar) gives for the case of the serpentine the distance of the points and for the case of a figure moving on the path the distance of the copies of the figure, which are taken for the movement (only every second, third, etc.).

The value, set at “**Count of pictures**” (lower scrollbar) determines the length of the serpentine or for the figure which number of figure repetitions will be moved on the path.

The option “**Start/End hidden**” (blanking on start and end) determines whether the figure at start and at the end of the path will be shown (“**Yes**”) or not (“**No**”).

A little exercise: It is possible, for example, to move a writing hand along a writing. The writing itself can be created with the tool “Stretchline”. Thus it is possible to let the hand “do” the writing. This needs some exercise and patience. To create this animation was the basic idea to program the Path Tool.



**Fig.74:** Extra-Tools: Path-Tool. Selection of Figure and Options.

### 5.2.13.3 Stretch Lines Tool

The Stretch Line Tool creates a new figure. This figure consists of multiple frames (it is an animation). The animation will show a figure, which is quasi just drawn. In other words: The tool is used to rise up (make them big) the figures (a single line or a complete figure) or pull them down (make small) in steps. In principle it is only possible to work on an existent and stored figure.

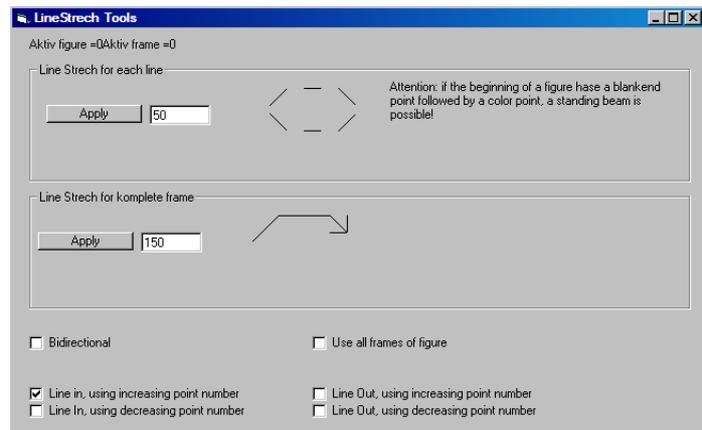


Fig.75: Extra Tools: Stretch Lines Tool.

If you click on the button “**Apply**” in the box “**Line Stretch for each line**”

then ALL existent line parts will be drawn up simultaneously. The value to enter in the textbox gives the number of steps which will be used to draw up the figure.

If you click on the button “**Apply**” in the box “**Line Stretch for complete frame**”, then the complete figure will be drawn step by step. The value to enter in the textbox gives again the number of steps which will be used to draw up the figure.

If the option “**Bidirectional**” is checked then after the calculations of the pictures they will be added once more in the reverse direction (the figure will become big and then small again).

The option “**use all frames of figure**” makes only sense, if it is a multiframe figure (animation). If this option is checked, then for each step the next frame of the source figure will be used. For example with this you can slowly grow up a wave, which naturally will swing! It is advantageous to use the number of frames of the source-figure as number of steps to draw up the figure, too. Otherwise some frames will be used repeatedly, or simply skipped.

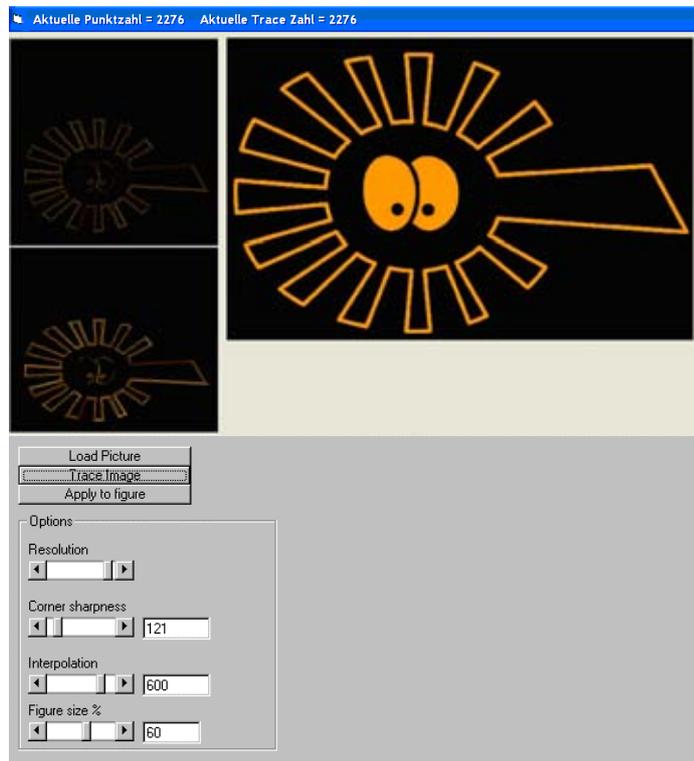
The options “**Line in, using increasing (decreasing) point number**” are used to develop (arise) the figure. “Increasing” or “decreasing” gives the direction of the process.

The options “**Line out, using increasing (decreasing) point number**” are used to let disappear the figure. “Increasing” or “decreasing” determines the direction of the process.

### 5.2.13.4 Bitmap Trace Tool

This is a very new tool for an automatic conversion of simple logos or line drawings to frames for the laser output. The tool tries to extract the borders of the picture and convert them to vectors. Thus it is often the case, that complicated pictures will give too many points for a proper laser display. Then try to reduce the number of points by varying the resolution and longer interpolation distances). (e.g. less resolution and longer interpolation distances).

First load a picture via the button **“Load Picture”**. Then push the button **“Trace Image”** to start the sampling. During the sampling the program tries to find out the borders of the picture and converts the course into a vector graphics. The progress of the sampling is indicated via a bar.



*Fig.76: Extra Tools: Bitmap Trace.*

In the header of the dialog the number of points of the resulting figure (vector graphics) is shown. But this is not the final number of points of the laser figure. In the Fig.76 you see 2276 points for the Laserfreak’s “Beamy” – that are really too much points to get a flickering free projection with standard Galvos (<30kpps)! The final number of points will be more then the calculated 2276, because the final figure will contain also interpolation points and corner repetitions. For 30kpps galvos a limit of 2000 points in total should not be exceeded to get a flickering free laser display.

The number of “trace points” can be controlled via the four scrollbars (to the right: more points – to the left: less points). The aim is to find out the smallest number of points, which will nevertheless give a good and flickering free laser display of the logo. A generally valid procedure for all masters is hardly to give. The converting of a master into a laser figure is surely dependant on the complexity of the master (possibly the example of the beamy is not the best). Simple logos should work well for the conversion. You should remember: Every corner needs a number of points, every curve needs more points! Too many points will lead to a flickering laser display. The masters should have a width of about 800 pixels. It will make sense to simplify the master with image processing software (convert to grey values, delete obsolete elements...).

If the converted result (shown in the lower black window) is satisfying, then click on **“Apply to figure”** to create an \*.heb-frame.

### 5.2.13.5 Push Through Colours (Move Colours Through)

This is a very new tool to create animated multiframe figures. The animation refers in this case only on colour values of single points of the figure. The colour values of the points are just “pushed through”. Within the new multiframe figure the colours will move further from point to point at each frame. Thus it should be simple to understand that a master figure with 5 coloured points (one frame) will result in an animated figure consisting of 5 frames.

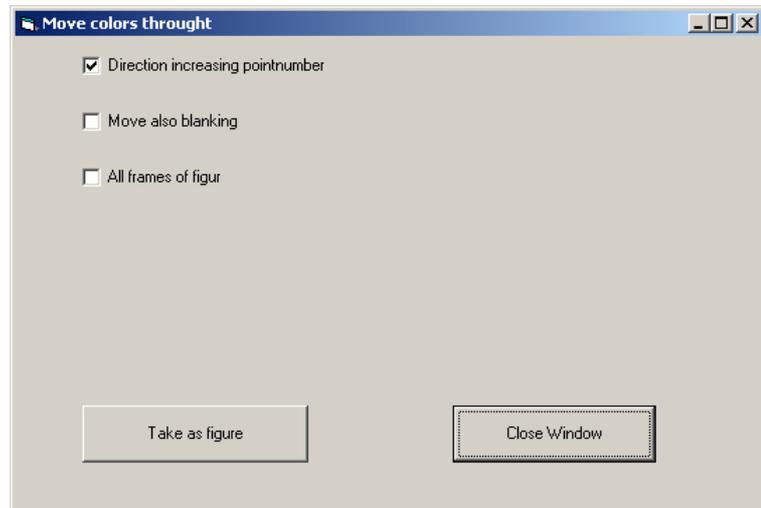


Fig.77: Extra Tools: “Push Through Colours”.

To use the tool a ready drawn and saved figure is needed (if not, a message is displayed). Then the figure must be selected and at least the menu item “Push Through Colours” (at the moment the menu item is named “Move colors through”) has to be clicked.

After pushing the button “**Take as Figure**” the new animated figure will be created. The figure now can be stored.

If you work already on a figure, please save it before using the tool, else it would be lost!

The tool offers divers options:

- **“Direction increasing pointnumber”**

This option determines the direction to push through the colours.

- **“Move also blanking”**

When this option is checked then also the blanked points are pushed through (the property “invisible” is regarded as colour and pushed through the figure).

- **“All frames of figure”**

This is an option, which makes the “pushing through” of colours very interesting: If the option is chosen, two things will happen (with multiframe figures!):

- 1) The colours of the first frame are pushed through all points in several frames.
- 2) The coordinates of the points will be taken from the existing frames of the figure.

Perhaps it is more complicated to explain this then to test it. Thus please be brave and test it.

**Hint:** Assume to have a multiframe figure. Each frame consists of 2 coloured points, which have another position from frame to frame. The first frame shall be red and blue, the next blue and green and the following green and red. If now “Push Trough Colours” is applied, then ALL new created frames will be red and blue, because only the colours of the first frame are pushed through. Furthermore only two frames would be necessary to apply the tool (for two colours), but the animation consists of three frames. Thus the software will calculate the smallest common number of 2 colours and 3 frames and hence will create 6 frames!!

### 5.2.13.6 Insert Colour Gradient (Insert Smooth Colour)

This function does in principle the same as the option “Use Soft Colour” of the Effects Window (what is done in realtime during the optimization of the output – see next chapter). The advantage here is the fact, that figures with colour gradient applied via this tool can be modified further by other tools (e.g. Push Through Colours, Path Tool).

The usage is already well known from other tools:

- 1) Create a figure
- 2) Save the figure
- 3) Select saved figure
- 4) Apply the tool

A new figure with colour gradient is created. In the dialog (Fig.78) a value can be entered which is used to divide the distances for the stepwise change of the colours.

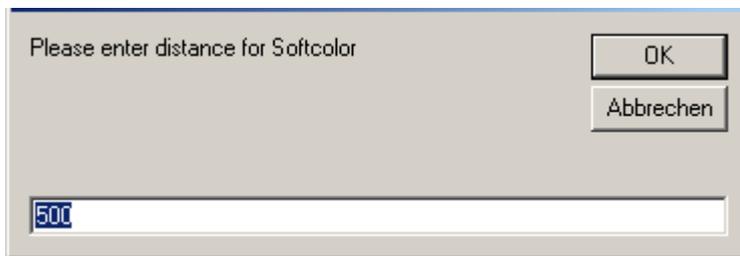


Fig.78: Extra Tools: Dialog of “Insert Colour Gradient”.

### 5.2.14 Effects Dialog

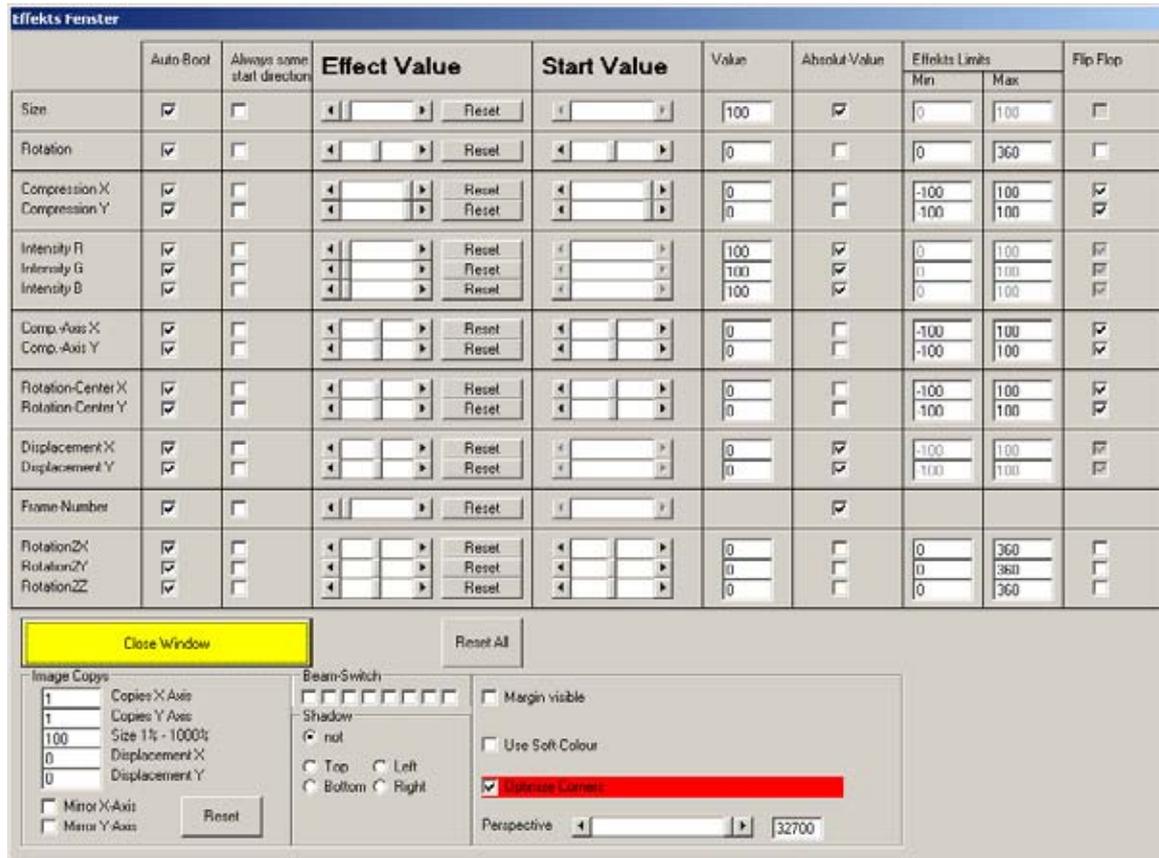


Fig.79: Figure-Editor: Effects Dialog.

The Effects Dialog (Fig.79) is opened via the button “Effects” in the Figure-Editor. Because it is in principle a sub-window of the Figure-Editor, it is described here.

The Effects Dialog is used to determine the behaviour of the effects of the respective (actually selected) figures. Furthermore the “conditions on start” for the effects of the figure are configured. Each figure has its own settings of effects. Thus these settings are stored together with the figure.

To apply effects on a figure is done in the following way: Firstly a figure is painted. Then the Effects-Dialog is opened and diverse desired values are entered. Afterwards the figure is saved. On calling the figure (it does not matter if via Show-Editor or via hand or else) the programmed effects are set. What then happens is very dependant on the settings. Depending on the settings of “Start Value” the settings act as start values – or not!

If a new figure is created, then it has in the beginning the effect settings of the prior created figure. When the program settings are stored (via “Options”) the actually used effect settings are saved as default settings, too.

#### Description of the Effects Dialog:

First some generally valid explanations: The **Effect Values** are usually in the region of – 100% to +100%, when the effect is bidirectional (can run in positive and negative directions). For rotations the region of values is bigger, from –180° to +180° or from 0 to 360° (or even more), respectively.

The **Reset-Button(s)** sets the actual value to the standard value, usually this means effect off. This value must not be stringently ZERO (e.g. for the size the standard-value is 100). Logically the respective scrollbar is set to the standard value, too. The scrollbar on the right hand is not affected (its function will be described later in detail – here it should only be mentioned that on a repeated calling of the figure the values could be set to the old values using this scrollbar)!

The **Reset-ALL-Button** will actuate all single Reset-Buttons.

The scrollbar **“Effect Value”** is generally used to set the desired value, which is displayed in the textbox **“Value”** nearby. Within this textbox **“Value”** it is possible to enter the desired value manually. But the response to this value is dependent on the option **“Absolute Value”**. At effects like rotation, compression, displacement and for the axes the standard-value is in the middle of the scrollbar, for others it is on the right side.

The **“speciality”**: The effect commands, coming from the show (tracks) or via DMX, will act exclusively on these controllers (scrollbars). Thus the value of the scrollbar determines the actual behaviour of the figure.

Now some important things have to be paid attention to. These are the **options “Auto Boot”, “Always same start direction”** and **“Absolute Value”**. Dependent on the settings and combinations of these options the effect value has different influences to the effect.

**Auto Boot:** This option determines, if on calling the figure via the show or via a click on the figure or via DMX the last used effect value of the left scrollbar will be preserved (if its not checked), **or** if at **every** time on recalling the figure the preset value of the scrollbar **“Start Value”** will be used as start value (when the option is checked). This option thus can have an extreme influence on the show.

**Example:** Auto Boot is active for Rotation, the Effect Value is set to 0. That means, on calling the figure the Rotation has firstly the value 0 (clear...), but by somewhat manipulation (e.g via Show-Editor) the value can be changed and the figure will rotate. Now other figures are called. Thanks to Auto Boot on a second calling of the prior figure this will not rotate any more, the value is set again to 0. If **Auto Boot had NOT been activated**, then the figure would rotate still as on that moment when it was replaced by another figure.

**Always same start direction:** This option is only active, when Auto Boot is activated, too. Thus it will be deactivated automatically when Auto Boot is deactivated. If it is set, this option serves for the same direction of movement of the effect on every calling of the figure.

**Example:** A plane shall move up and down. Thus the Displacement Y effect is activated. If the plane is called, it will move up and down (option Absolut Value not set!). Is now **“Always same...”** not set and the plane has already fullfilled a change of direction of movement (first down, now up), then it will on the next calling go further on with the up – movement. If the option had been set, then the plane would move again down.

**Absolute Value:** This option defines how the value of the left scrollbar will act. If this option is not checked, then the setting describes a speed. On the other hand, if the option is checked, then it describes an absolute value (a rotation angle, a defined compression etc.).

**Example:** Effect Rotation, the Effect Value is set to 10. If Absolute Value is activated, then the figure will be rotated by +10 degrees. In that position it will stop and stay still! Via the Show-Editor or the Live-Window the figure can be rotated further, but only by defined angles. If Absolut Value is not activated, then the Effect Value describes a certain speed of rotation.

The scrollbar “**Start Value**” determines the value, which is taken when the “Auto-Boot” option is checked. This value can be set only when it makes sense. That is the case, when an effect does not act absolutely and when Auto Boot is activated, too.

**Example:** A Rotation of a figure is wanted. Auto Boot is activated. Effect Value shall be 20, Start Value shall be 10. That means that the rotation of the figure begins at angle 10 degree and then further the figure rotates with the speed of 20.

Below “**Effects Limits**” the limits for the effect can be set. With this values it is determined, between which limits the effect will operate. For example a rotation can be set to be between 90 and 180 degree. The limits make only sense, when the option Absolute Value is not activated.

With the option “**FlipFlop**” it is possible to let the effect go forward and backward. For example the effect Displacement Y will always go upwards (option not set) or will go up and downwards (option set).

At the effects displacement, rotation etc. it could happen, that the figure is moving out of the window. If the “**Margin visible**” option is checked, then the figure lines which would leave the projection area will be compressed and visible at the borders of the projection area. When the option is not checked the output of points outside of the projection area will be suppressed – the points which leave the projection area are simply not displayed. Please pay attention to this option, because there have been already angry situations at Award shows due to a checked option!

A **short explanation** of the problem (as it already happened): The problem arises, when at the creation of the show no attention is payed to this option. Then it could happen that the option is not activated. This may not be noticed, because at home the size of the display has possibly been reduced via “Size of Show” (Options/ Output). An effect like Displacement then has much place to push elements outwards on the sides. The elements remain visible when the “Global Size” (the scan area) is not exceeded. But later at the Laserafreak Award the situation was different. The room was really wide and thus the Show Size was set to almost 95%. Due to that already smallest displacements pushed the elements out of the scan area and they then were invisible (but they should be visible). That was angrily because elements of the show disappeared.

Meanwhile the structure of the software was changed due to those problems. The option “**Margin Visible**” now is set as default and has to be changed by the user, if wanted. If the option is not activated, then this will still be valid when new figures are created! The option must be activated again for new figures! The default will be restored at every start of the program. The settings of the effects are not stored any more.

The option “**Use Soft Colour**” will activate a smooth transition from one colour to the next. The settings at “Options/Optimize Output/Soft Colour Distance” will be used for the fading. The Colour Gradient is calculated and displayed in real time during the output.

The option “**Optimize Corners**”, if checked, will add additional points to get sharp corners. The settings at “Options/Optimize Output/Corner Point Repetitions” are applied. When your figure is a wave, then it is recommended to uncheck this option.

The scrollbar “**Perspektive**” is used to change the perspective when viewing the figure.

**Example:** Paint a horizontal plane above or below the middle and then let it rotate around the x-axis. Then adjust the scroll-bar “Perspektive” to the left. The result will be that the plane will be broad in the foreground (when it is in the front) or small in the background (when it is in the back).

With the box “**Image Copies**” it is possible to create copies or mirrored figures. The value at “**Copies X-Axis**” and also at “**Copies Y-Axis**” describes the number of copies to make. If values greater than 1 are set, then firstly no copies are visible, because they overlap. The copies become visible at the time when a displacement or a mirroring is applied.

At “**Size 1%-1000%**” it is possible to change the size of the copies. With “**Displacement X (Y)**” the displacement of the copies can be adjusted in X and/or Y-direction. The checkboxes “**Mirror X(Y) Axis**” must be activated to mirror the figure on the X and/or Y-axis.

The button “**Reset**” is used to reset all settings.

Below “**Beam Switch**” it is possible to activate the 8 TTL-pins of the DAC EasyLase or Lumax. These beam switches are connected with a figure (even a non existent one). If the beam switches shall be used, then the connected figures must be placed into the lowest sub-track of the Show-Editor (Figure-Sub-track 0). Otherwise they will simply be ignored.

With the help of the options in the box “**Shadow**” it is possible to suppress the output (shadow) at the top (“**Top**”), the bottom (“**Bottom**”) the left (“**Left**”) or/and the right (“**Right**”) side of the figure. (The show “Klar” from Tschosef uses this option). The shadowing refers to the geometrical centre of the painting window. If the output of the scan area is shifted via Options/Output it has no influence on this effect.

### 5.3 Options

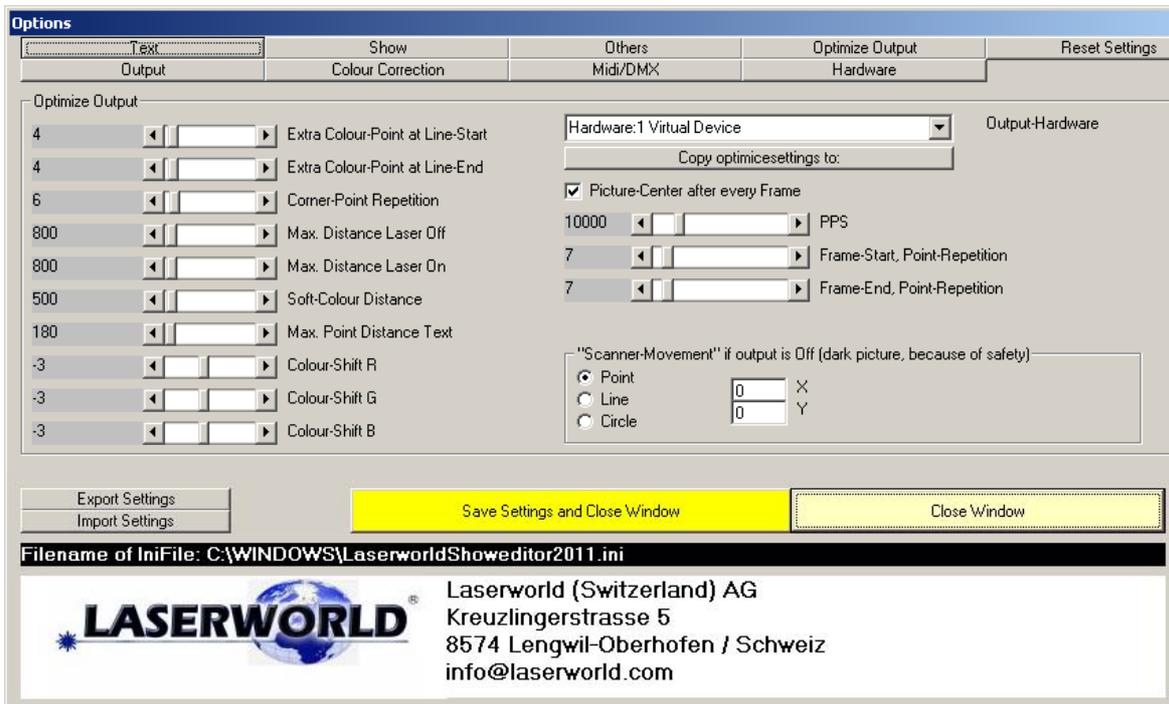
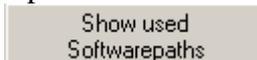


Fig.80: Dialog Options.

With the dialog “Options” (Fig.80) all basic settings for the hardware, optimisation, language, texts and more are done. The settings (except the show options) are saved into the \*.ini-file.

The place where the \*.ini-file is stored is dependant on the operation system of the computer. Windows XP e.g. stores the file in the Windows folder. For Windows 7 (and Vista) the situation is more complicated. If necessary you can get an overview on the paths via Options/Others/Show used Softwarepaths.



If errors occur due to a wrong \*.ini file, then it is recommended simply to delete it. Then at a new start of the program the default settings are restored (like after a new installation). The push onto the **red button “Reset Settings”** of the index card “Reset Settings” will do this automatically.

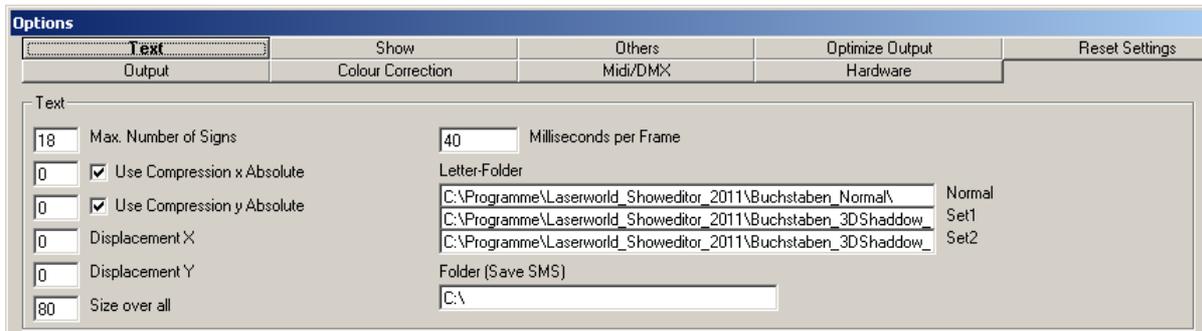
Within the black line at the bottom of the Options dialog you see the name and the path of the actually used \*.ini file. This is useful, because you can prepare different settings and store them under different names (then you have several \*.ini files). For this purpose a function to import or export the different settings has been created. These functions are called via the buttons “Export Settings” or “Import Settings”.

If the files with different settings are placed onto the desktop (after export with the file extension “Laser\_ini”), then you can start LW-Showeditor via a double click onto the respective \*.Laser\_ini file with the desired settings (e.g. for graphics, beam show, output of text etc...). After the import of settings they are applied and stored automatically. (Attention! Eventually you must store your old settings before you import new ones!) For this an automatic restart of the program is done.

The restart is necessary because a change of the hardware settings during the running program is not successful without a new initialisation.

The **index card “Hardware”** is already explained in its own chapter (3.5), thus it is not necessary to explain it here again.

### 5.3.1 Index Card Text



*Fig.81: Dialog “Options”, Index card “Text”.*

There are two variants to enter text. The first possibility to enter text is placed in the Figure-Editor. Choose this text-button (painting-tool “A”) to enter text in the painting window. To change the font or the size of the letters click with the right mouse button on the tool.

The other possibility is to let create longer text automatically, up to a full DIN-A4 page. Then the text will be divided in sections and a number of frames are generated. The settings for the creation of automatic text are done in the index card “Text” of the “Options”! They are valid for the “SMS to Laser” text, too. The global settings like font and size are done during the entering of text. The possible settings are:

#### ► Max. Number of Signs

The program tries to find a space sign (starting at the end) when generating the text (in Fig.81 there is entered the value 18, this means that the program starts at letter 18 while going forward to find the space sign). At that point a new frame will be created. A bigger value for the “Max. Number of Signs” results in a greater variety for the possibilities of the page break. If no space-sign is found, then the text will be truncated at the sign with number X (e.g. 18) and the next frame will be generated.

The software operates on the generation of text in the way that automatic morphing is possible between the frames. For this a request will appear.

#### ► Use Compression x (y) Absolute

The entered x (y)-value will be applied to the effects window for the generation of text effects. With this option the text can be mirrored automatically (e.g. to see it from both sides of a screen). The same is valid for the y-value (e.g. over head projection?).

#### ► Displacement x (y)

With this function the text can be displaced to hit the desired projection screen. The necessary values can be determined by firstly creating the text and then move it with the scrollbars of the Effect Dialog. Notice the end values and enter them into the textboxes. Furthermore it is possible to displace the text via the index card “Output” (explained later).

► **Size over All**

This is the desired value for the “size effect”. It determines the whole size!

► **Milliseconds per Frame**

The value entered herein sets the duration for a frame in milliseconds.

► **Letter-Folder and Folder (Save SMS)**

The letter-folder is the place, where the signs are stored. It is only necessary when no TTF-fonts are used. Here it is important, that the specifications are correct, otherwise the program can not find the signs (path given in letter-folder). When the program is installed a folder with “simple” letters is created automatically. It is possible to edit the signs.

The folder (**save SMS**) is for the saving of your SMS-text.

### 5.3.2 Index Card Show

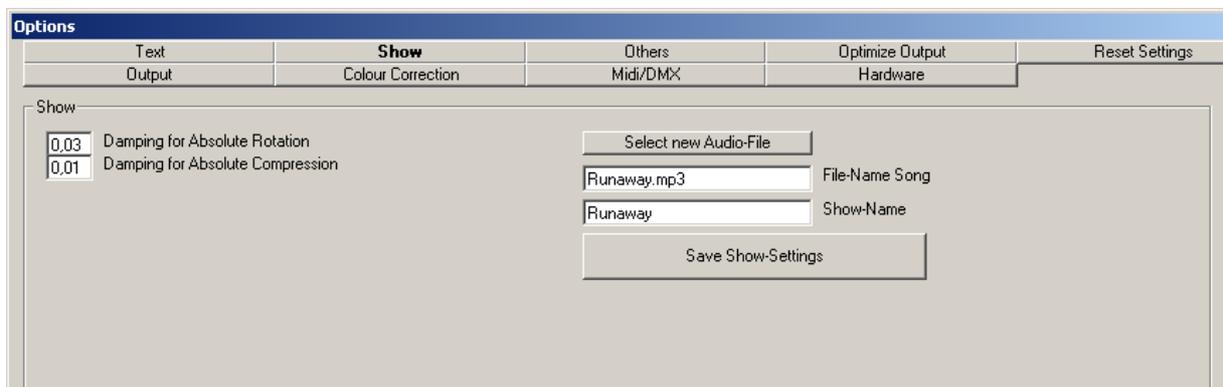


Fig.82: Dialog “Options”, index card “Show”.

The settings done here will affect the respective show, which is actually loaded. They are stored into the show file (\*.shw) and thus can be different for the shows.

► **Laser output without effects and optimising (for ILDA-file)**

**HINT: This option has been removed!** Nevertheless it is mentioned here. Reason: Formerly the optimization (optimization of distances by interpolation etc..) could be switched off for specific shows. That was necessary especially for ILDA shows. NOW (since version 2009) also ILDA shows are optimized, at least concerning distances. This has the consequence that earlier shows created from ILDA files, which were created **before** this change was done, will now possibly be “over optimized”. They will flicker; the ends of lines are very bright and so on. Because of these “over optimizations” these shows now must be recalculated. Load the show. Open the Effects Dialog of the respective figure. Remove the check at the option “Optimize Corners”. Save the file. Now the show should run normally again.

**REMARK** (only for information): Because the number of points of an ILDA-file is much greater than in a LW-Showeditor-file (\*.heb) it makes no sense to export a show as ILDA-file and afterwards import it again for better performance. Original LW-Showeditor -shows will run better than imported ones. But nevertheless it makes in another way sense: Shows with multiple tracks can be converted to single-track-shows, which then can be played with the freeware version, too. In the upper part of this manual has been explained, why the output has to be optimized for the galvos. ILDA files have now a perfidy. On the export of a show into the ILDA format all information about corner points and distances are lost (the state of the points). Thus ILDA files are exported usually in that way, that the optimizations are contained within the ILDA file. That means, the corner points will be repeated and distances are interpolated. If now the ILDA file is imported, then it will logically contain many points, but the information about the kind of points is lost.

**► Damping for Absolute Rotation (Compression)**

If the “Absolute” option is used with the effects, then the here entered values are active. The damping helps to prevent discontinuities in the laser projection. Small values result in a strong damping. No damping is present, when the entered value is equal to one. If the entered value is greater than one, the projection will be discontinuous or will overshoot. For the most shows the values remained unchanged by the users.

**► Select new Audio File**

This button has a special function. If it is not necessary, it is grey and will not operate. Each laser show has its own assigned audio file. The place of this file will be stored within the showfile (path and name). If the file is missing or the path had changed, then LW-Showeditor will not be able to find it on loading the show. A message will displayed “Audio file is missing...”. When the message is called, the button will be set active. Now a new file (which has to be stored within the folder of the show) can be selected.

**► File Name Song**

Only for information: Here the file name of the audio file is displayed. But it can happen that a new name for the audio file of the show must be assigned. That is the case, e.g., when a wave file has to be replaced by a mp3 file because to save memory. Also when the show is used on another computer and the path had changed, then here it is necessary to change it. At least it is necessary, when you downloaded the show without audio file and when you converted this from your own CD to an mp3 or wave file. So you can look for the right name or you can change it with the help of the button “Select new audio file”. (Usually this is not necessary, when the song is included in the show folder.)

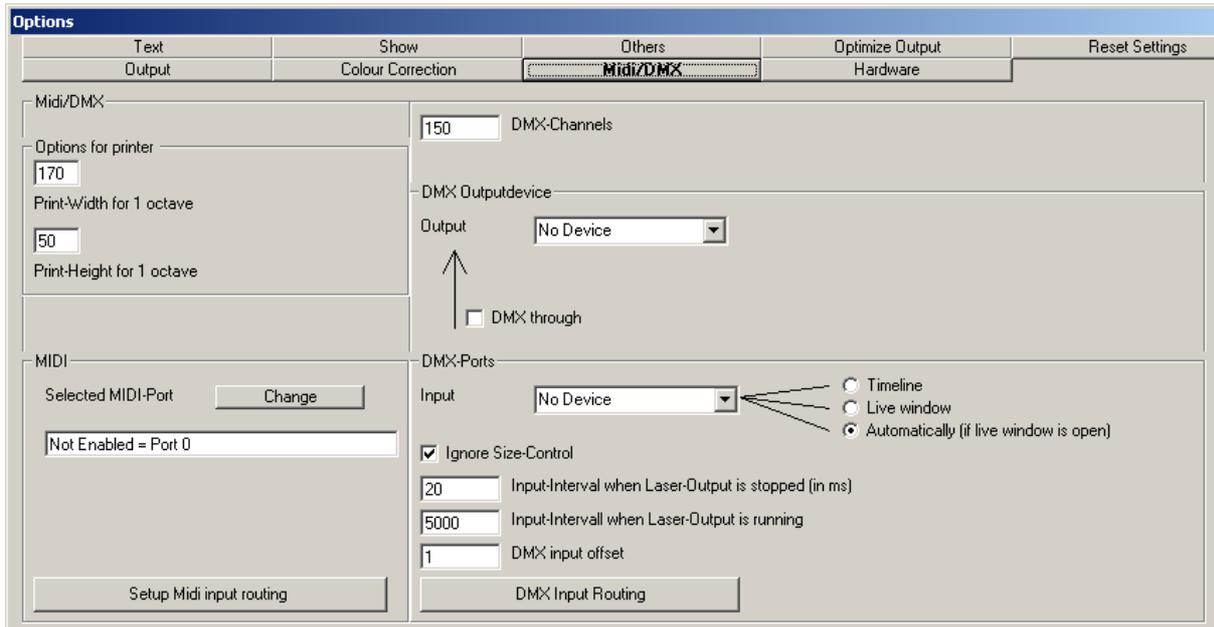
**► File Name Show**

Just for information: The name of the show is displayed. This is the name for the storage of the events of the track(s) (\*.seq-file) and the colour-table (\*.hep-file). It is possible to store several shows (with different names) in one show folder.

**► Save Show Settings**

This button must be used to store the changes. It offers the same function as “Save Show” of the Show-Editor.

### 5.3.3 Index Card MIDI/DMX



**Fig.83:** Dialog “Options”, index card “Midi/DMX”.

See also the chapter 3.5.7 about DMX (Hardware and Driver).

► **Print Width (or Height) for 1 octave**

These values are for the printout of the key assignments of the MIDI-keyboard. This printout refers only onto the assignments of the Timeline. It will be printed one page for every 5 octaves of the keyboard, with small pictures of the figures. For small keyboards the values may be changed to adjust the printout to the keys.

► **Selected MIDI-Port**

Here a MIDI-device can be selected and enabled (button “Change”). A plugged keyboard can be used to create a show. The modulation wheel (Pitch) can be used to control the effects.

► **DMX-Channels**

This is the number of the DMX-input and -output channels. By reducing the number of channels the performance of the program will be enhanced. The maximum are 512 channels.

► **DMX-Ports (Input and Output)**

Here the respective hardware-ports are set up. It can be used different hardware for input and output. For the input port you can further select the destination of the the incoming DMX values. These values can control the Timeline (Show-Editor) OR they can control the Live-Window, respectively. The option “Automatically” will select automatically the Live-Window, when it is open or will select the Timeline, if the Live-Window is closed. Pay attention! It could be that the Live-Window is open, but hidden in the background!

► **DMX through**

This option enables the software to connect through the incoming DMX data. This has two applications:

- 1) If a NetLase DAC is present, then the DMX data can simply be sent to it. According to the setup also a connection via W-LAN is possible.

2) The start channel DMX input offset can be used to recalculate high channel numbers into lower ones (if this makes sense is a question of Tschosef on himself).

► **DMX input offset**

Here the number of the start channel for DMX **input** can be set. That makes sense, if for example the first 49 channels are used for other DMX devices. Thus the software can be used only with channels above 50. BUT ATTENTION! If you set channel 50 as start channel, then naturally you can not enter 512 channels in total (see above DMX Channels).

► **Input Interval when Laser Output is stopped (running)**

Here the input intervals in ms can be adjusted. They define the repetition frequency of the DMX-input. To prevent a disturbance of the laser output two different values can be set separately. For a live show via DMX for both input and output a short interval should be used (please test it). Pay attention: If the USB DAC is heavily used by DMX data transmission then the laser performance will be declined.

► **Ignore Size Control**

It is possible to generate a still standing beam via DMX by adjusting the Size Control Channel to small values. To prevent this, set this option. If it is checked, all channels which could result in still standing beams are ignored. The option is set as default.

► **DMX Input Routing MIDI Input Routing**

How to set up the DMX/MIDI Input Routing is explained later in chapter 5.6 “Control of the Software via MIDI/DMX”.

A click on this button opens the DMX (MIDI) Input Routing Window (we agree – again a caotical use of names...routing, mapping...). The function of the DMX Input Routing is in principle the same as of the MIDI Input Routing.

### 5.3.4 Index Card Others

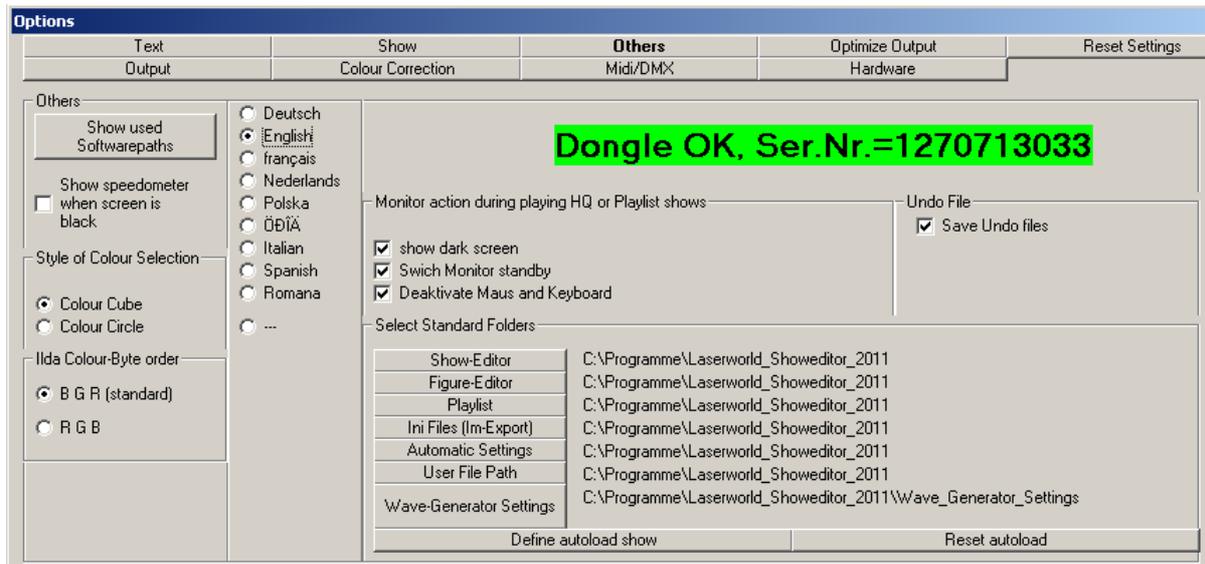


Fig.84: Dialog “Options”, index card “Others”.

For additional information see also chapter 3.7 “Verifying of Settings”.

#### ► Show used Softwarepaths

On pushing this button an information window is opened, where the paths are listed, which are used by the software to store the divers files (Ini files, undo files, etc..).

#### ► Show Speedometer when screen is black

With the help of this option the “speedometer” can be switched on or off. It will be displayed when the screen is dark (e.g. when a show is started via “Play HQ”), but not switched to standby. The speedometer gives information about the number of frames which are sent to the DAC. It helps to find out why the show output is flickering. Reasons for flickering can be the optimization settings (e.g. too much corner repetitions, too small distances), too much points of the figure and a PPS rate, which is too slow, too (Attention! The maximal pps rate is determined by your Galvo system!).

Hint: Displayed are the numbers of frame actualizations. This means how often the memory of the DAC is actualized. How often the DAC repeats a frame on output or if frames are omitted can not be evaluated with the speedometer!

#### ► Style of Colour Selection

Here it is possible to display a colour circle instead of a colour cube in the Figure-Editor (see above). Here you can select the kind of display. Recommended is the colour cube, because it exactly shows all colours, which can be displayed with LW-Showeditor. The colour circle is quasi a design of the colours of the Pangolin colour palette. The choices are less.

#### ► Selection of Language

Click on the respective radio button to choose your desired language (please be indulgent that not all words are translated – the software was developed in the first versions only for Germany and then extended to other languages). Please give information about big errors! If for a certain language the translation is not yet available, the English translation is used for the respective caption.

### ► ILDA Colour Byte Order

This is a special option, which is NOT stored within the INI file. Reason of the option: Unfortunately there is much confusion concerning ILDA files. Thus there exist two kinds of ILDA files with different order of the colours: RGB or BGR. If you see on the import (or export) of an ILDA file, that the colour order of R and B is inverted, then you can set the respective option, import the ILDA file and afterwards store it as LW-Showeditor file. On a new start of the program the option is set again to the default.

### ► Monitor action during playing HQ or Playlist shows

With these three options you have the choice to control your monitor(s) on playing a show in HQ mode or via the Playlist. “**Show Dark Screen**” makes sense only with one monitor. It is simply displayed a black window (on which is the speedometer is displayed, if activated). For old CRT displays (monitor with tube – not LED, LCD etc...) that was (is) a suitable option. On the use of LCD monitors you see still the background lighting gleaming. Thus on using LCD monitors or if you have several monitors the option “**Switch Monitor Standby**” is recommended. Via this option all monitors are switched dark. But that needs some time. This delay could possibly be noticed at the start of a show. Dependant on the speed of the graphics board it may be necessary to increase the value for the delay of the start of the show (Show-Editor, menu Settings).

**ATTENTION!** As soon as the mouse is moved (or the mouse itself is moving) the monitors will be reactivated! That can additionally cause heavy bucking of the laser show. Hence the third option “**Deactivate Mouse and Keyboard**” was built in. But this has the consequence that you can not stop the show. You have to wait until the show is finished.

**The programmers tip** is: Move the cursor just above the PlayHQ button, lift the mouse, push the button and then put the mouse upside down onto the table ☺. This trick always helped and works well with optical mouse. Unfortunately then the LED of the mouse illuminates the room. If you are owner of a notebook then use the touchpad to avoid all problems.

### ► Save Undo Files

If this option is deactivated, the undo files are no more stored. The advantage could be an increase of the speed of the program (especially if big ILDA files are edited). Disadvantage: In the case of a program crash the recovery will not be possible.

### ► Select Standard Folders

Here the setup of default folders to store the different data is done. If the respective program dialog is opened, then these paths are used as default.

### ► Define Autoload Show

Here it is possible to select a show, which is automatically loaded on program start.

### ► Reset Autoload

This resets the autoload of a show.

### 5.3.5 Index Card Optimize Output

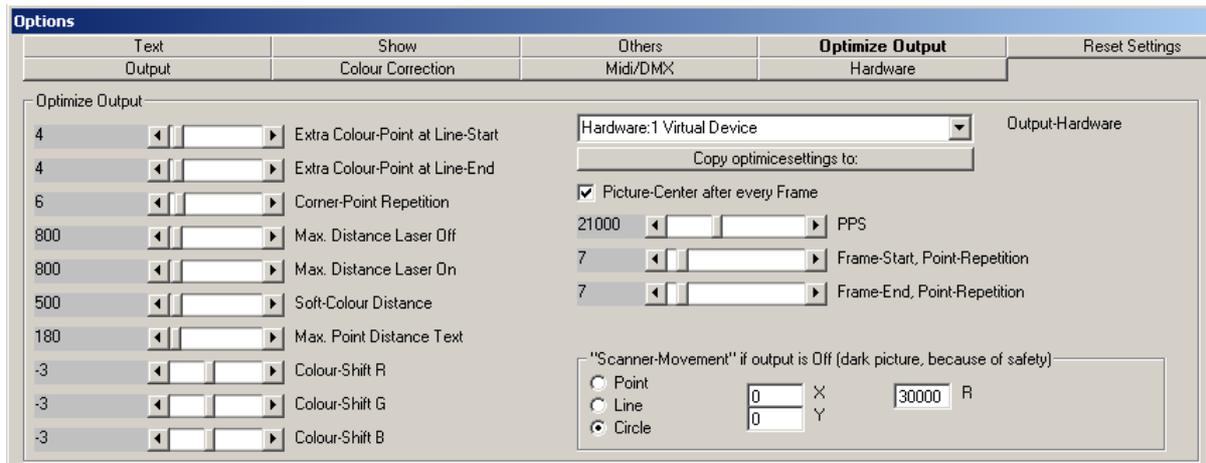


Fig.85: Dialog Options, index card “Optimize Output”.

This index card is of most importance and influence for the performance of the laser output! Here the galvo system can be set to its optimum, but also the system could be destroyed in the worst case. Thus the settings should be varied very careful. Whether the galvos work good can be seen and heard (the galvos will begin to whistle if they are not in optimal condition)! Thus it could be advantageous to switch the music off for the finding of good parameters.

For the setup of the pps rate a short “story” has been included into the next chapter. This story meanwhile has been written several times to beginners. But before the procedure is done, it is the best to know the optimization functions.

The optimization has the following properties:

- The optimization of the laser output is done in real-time.
- Each hardware has its own optimization-values.
- In the strict sense the correction of geometry and the correction of colours belong to the optimization of the output, too. These are accessible via the index cards “Output” and “Colour Correction”, respectively.

How to find the best optimization settings will be explained after the description of the elements. First a description of the elements of this index-card:

► **Extra Colour Point at Line Start**

This is the number of additional points on a colour change (NEW colour) at the start of a line. It is valid on the transition blanked→Laser On, as well as on a change from one colour to another.

► **Extra Colour Point at Line End**

This is the number of additionally points on colour change at the END of a line, before another linepiece is drawn with another colour. It is valid on the transition Laser On→blanked, as well as on a change from one colour to another.

**► Corner Point Repetition**

Here the setup is done how often a point will be repeated, when its property is defined as corner point. More repetitions will result in sharper but also brighter edges. Corner points are mostly defined automatically on the creation of figures. Example: Polygons, rectangles, line start and line end are corner points. Circles have NO corner points, as well as waves. According to the setups this is valid for freehand drawings, too. The properties of points can be changed manually via the “Wrench Tool” (see chapter 5.2.3 Marking- and Editing-Tools).

Since Laserworld Showeditor 2011 the corner point optimization was changed. The value now defines a MINIMAL NUMBER OF REPETITIONS of corner points. If a corner point has already been repeated several times by the colour correction, then the Corner Point Repetition adds only as much points until the value is reached. With a setup as shown in the above figure no corner point repetitions will be done, when due to a colour change already 2x4 extra points has been set.

**► Max. Distance Laser OFF**

The setting here defines the maximal length of a (piece of a) line for the galvo output, when the lasers are off (blanked). Galvos can not operate properly over big distances without this interpolation, hence this setup is important. Typical values lie between 500 and 2000. Depending on the properties of the points the value entered here could be ignored. But that is mostly the exception (e.g. at circles! Circles are NOT interpolated, hence it is forbidden to pull apart circle points!). If for a blanked line (Laser OFF) the distance of points is bigger then the entered value, the line will be divided and additional points are inserted. This is repeated as many times, as all distances are smaller then the given value. This is also valid for the movement to the picture centre.

**► Max. Distance Laser ON**

The setting here defines the maximal length of a (piece of a) line for the galvo output, when the lasers are on. Apart from that the same is valid as for “Max. Distance Laser Off”.

**► Soft Colour Distance**

If “Soft Colour” is activated in the Effects Dialog, then the value entered her defines the distance between the points to crossfade the colours. Between two different coloured points the colours will slowly be varied to get a smooth colour transition between the points. With smaller distances the colour crossfade will look more beautiful (the crossfade becomes smoother). A value of 500 is mostly a good choice. If Soft Colour is chosen no extra colour points will be set on line start and line end. Slower galvos could need a higher value.

**► Max. Point Distance Text**

Here is valid the same as for “Max. Distance Laser ON/OFF” with the small difference that the distances are calculated only for letters (text).

**HINT:** The optimization can not be fully disabled in general. But this could be necessary if optimizations with ILDA-files shall be done. A possibility is to set the repetition of points to the value zero and to set the maximal distances to big values. Then nearly no changes are done (can be used to play very old shows). But this will not disable the optimization completely, because the colour correction and the correction of geometry will be calculated nevertheless.

**IMPORTANT:** The test pictures (with file extension \*.bin) will NOT be optimized to the greatest possible extent. The pictures from the folder “HE-s\_Testbilder” will be optimized, because these are “normal” LW-Showeditor figures.

### ► Colour Shift R / G / B

The three scrollbars “Colour Shift” are used to put out the colours (switch the lasers) a little before or after the figure is scanned. The reason is that the lasers are faster in their response than the galvos (in very rare cases the lasers are slower). This difference in the speed is corrected by setting the appropriate values. By the use of these scrollbars those for “Frame Start, Point Repetition” and “Frame End, Point Repetition” are ALWAYS changed, too! That is because the program needs enough points to shift the colours xxx-points.

**Hint:** If you understand a little German, then read the description from Ralf (\*.pdf file, stored in the program folder HE-s\_Testbilder) for an optimal setting of the colour correction and colour shift.

### ► Output Hardware

The selection of the respective hardware (DAC) is done in the upper right list box “Output Hardware”. Remember: All settings refer to the hardware NUMBER, which is selected here – not to the real DAC! That means that on changing the DAC for hardware 1, the optimization parameters for hardware 1 (set up for the prior used DAC) will still remain unchanged.

**Example:** For hardware 1 the scan speed was set to 30kpps. Hardware 1 was for this setup a Netlase, connected with a Raytrack35 galvo system. If now for hardware 1 a slower galvo system is used (e.g. a Lumax DAC with K12 galvo system) then this Galvo system will be overloaded, because the pps rate is still 30kpps for hardware 1.

Each hardware (projector) can be optimized separately. Tip: Use the mouse wheel to scroll comfortably within the list of hardwares.

### ► Scrollbar PPS

With this scrollbar the output speed of the actually selected hardware is set (you can enter directly a value, too). When a frame is projected, it will be done with xxx-points per second. The user sets up HIS PPS-rate, depending on his galvo system. If the PPS are set the first time on a value exceeding 25kpps, then a warning is displayed (see Fig.12). **Please read carefully the displayed text** and give your answer to the question correctly. Later the warning will not be displayed anymore, if wanted ☺. There already have been some cases of “quick clickers”, which ignored the message and later sent a bug message via mail to us, instead to read the message carefully. Other users have also ignored the message and as the result their galvo system was killed.

For the setup of the pps rate please read the next chapter!

### ► Picture Centre after every Frame

If this option is selected the galvo mirrors will move **always** from the picture centre to the first point of the figure and from the last point back to the centre. For some galvo systems this is necessary. If you are not sure whether your system needs it, it is better to select the option. “Widemoves” can work without this option. Simple devices (China galvos) will need this option. The movement to the centre will need about 20 points additionally, but it is secured that no extreme distances will be put out without interpolation. (On this place you should remember, that any liability for damages of the galvos is excluded!)

**► Frame-Start, Point-Repetition**

Here the number of additional blanked points is entered, which will be put out at the place of the first point of the figure. The number is automatically increased, if the value for the Colour Correction is negative. The value can not be smaller than the number of colour shift points. Generally this value has no more a big influence, thus the smallest possible value should be entered.

**► Frame-End, Point-Repetition**

Here the number of additional blanked points is entered, which will be put out at the place of the last point of the figure. The number is automatically increased, if the value for the Colour Correction is positive. Apart from that the same is valid as for Frame-Start, Point-Repetition.

**► Scanner movement, if output is off**

This region has two different applications:

**On the one hand** this function should be of interest for all those users, who have a “safety”-circuit (for short “Safety”) built into their projector. A “Safety” is monitoring the scanner movement. In case of an error (no movement for a “longer” period) a shutter is activated to switch the lasers off (this is duty for audience scanning in general).

There are different kinds of safeties. Some of them monitor the intensities of the lasers, too. If no laser output is present, the scanner movement doesn't need to be monitored. If the safety does not monitor the intensities of the lasers, then it will interrupt the output, if the scanners don't move. This can be the case in short pauses of the show, which are wanted – no scanner movement. To prevent in these cases the shutdown of the system by the safety the option of scanner movement without output is necessary. Here you can adjust the movement of the scanners to prevent the safety shutdown. You can select as figure a point (when a “beam zone” can be adjusted for the safety), a line or a circle. The coordinates (for the middle) of the figure are entered into the boxes “X” and “Y” and the size (radius) into the textbox “R”. Allowed values are in the range of +- 32767 (only positive values for circles).

**On the other hand** sometimes it is necessary a (partly) suppression of “standby beams” during the show. A standby beam (output of a laser in spite of zero signal) will become invisible (more or less) when the scanner is moving.

**5.3.5.1 Adjustment of the PPS Rate (Instructions)**

OK – to find out the ideal scan speed can be a tricky thing. The scan speed in PPS of a galvo system according ILDA has not stringently to do anything with the (optimal) display of a show. That value is valid only for 8 degree! Mostly the scan angle is much greater (up to 60 degree and more).

Tschosef's tip is the following:

- Set the scan speed to about 50% of the nominal value for the Galvo. Then scan a test picture with all kinds of content. The picture should contain at least a L-shaped line, a rectangle, a circle, some single beams (points) and eventually some other elements.
- Project the picture onto a screen and listen to the sound of the galvos (switch off any music!) You will see (hopefully 1:1) the picture clearly projected onto the screen and you will hear a buzzing or humming of the galvos (depending on the type and manufacturer). Keep the sound in mind and go on with the procedure.

- Now increase the speed by 1000pps.
- Look at the picture and listen to the sound of the galvos. The picture will flicker less, but it will basically remain unchanged. The corners are sharp and detailed, the line starts and ends are clear. The points remain points. The buzzing of the galvos may be a little louder, but generally unchanged (the sound characteristics).
- Now increase again the speed by 1000pps.
- Look again at the picture and listen to the sound of the galvos. There shall be no noticeable changes.
- Now increase again the speed by 1000pps. Look again at the picture and listen to the sound of the galvos. The procedure shall be repeated until the following happens:
- SOMETIME you will reach a point, where after another increase of the speed the picture will become noticeable badly and the Galvo sound will become noticeable louder! The corners will become more rounded, points will become unclear and circles will become noticeable smaller.
- When this point is reached, then the “healthy scanspeed” has just been exceeded at the actual optimization settings!
- Thus reduce the scanspeed by 1000pps and be happy with the found pps value ☺. If this value seems to be too slow (for your expectation), then change the parameters. Adjust carefully the galvo drivers and/or change the optimization settings. Then again carry out the procedure until you find an optimum. If you should find no acceptable optimum, then your galvos are possibly cheap scrap metal ☺. If the galvos will become smoking and suddenly be destroyed, then they have been not worth for further tests and you should be happy, that they are now killed ☺.

Hopefully this instruction will help especially beginners to find out ideal parameters.

### 5.3.5.2 How to set up the Output-Optimization (Instructions)

#### Settings of the scrollbars for the colour shift:

The settings here perhaps must be done several times, because they are dependant on the interpolation distances and the pps rate.

- You can draw you own test-picture for this optimization. A suitable picture would be a triangle, drawn with the Poly-Line graphics tool. Additionally draw some points.
- Dye the sides of the triangle and the points with the colours red, green and blue. (A suitable picture you can find within the folder “HE-s\_Testbilder”)
- Project the picture onto a screen or wall.
- Open the dialog “Options/Output-Optimization”
- Set ALL point optimization controls to their minimum (Extra-Points, Line Start, Corner-Points, etc...set to ZERO)
- Leave the Max.Distance controls, as they are.

Now adjust the Colour-Shift scrollbars for each colour – the starts and the ends of the sides of the triangle shall be precise coloured, the points shall have no small lines (called in Germany “Rattenschwänze” – English: “rat’s-tails” ☺).

Ignore rounded corners and imperfections of the picture during the adjustment. After the adjustment procedure the optimizations (Extra-Points for corners etc.) can be set up.

Please look at the \*.pdf file “Farbabgleich\_nach\_Ralf.pdf”, which is stored within the folder “HE-s\_Testbilder”. It is written in german, but possibly may help to adjust the settings, too (look at the pictures therein).

### **Settings of the scroll bars for interpolations (max. distances), extra points (line start – end) and optimal PPS rate**

These settings will be possibly needed to be done repeatedly. To receive optimal values for a certain galvo system an approach in small steps can be necessary.

Generally all settings will influence each other. If the optimal values are found once, then a new setup will be done easily.

For the setup only some tips can be given. Generally the default parameters are chosen in that way that no Galvo system will be destroyed. Thus here is much potential to increase the performance of the laser output.

The setup of the optimization should be done in the following way: Firstly select a suitable figure and project it on the wall. Recommended figures are saved in the folder “HE\_s\_TestBilder” and named **TestBild1.heb** or **FarbBlanking\_Kreis.heb**. If you now change the values you can see immediately the resulting output.

A suitable figure could also be a combination of a circle and a square together with a multi-coloured line and some single points (beams). Additionally a few letters can help. This figure eventually will flicker, but it is more important to look for **clean ends of lines and for sharp transitions of the colours**. You should try to remove long finishing’s of line-ends (rat’s-tails). Finally you should try to get sharp corners of the square, but they should not be displayed with much more brightness than the planes.

It is not possible to give a universally description to do the settings, thus you have to experiment with the values. Good luck at the experiments!

### **5.3.6 Index Card Hardware**

The hardware is already explained in the chapter 3.5 Hardware Overview. Please look there for more information.

One hint additionally: The option “**Countdown Output**” determines on which output pages the countdown will be put out.

### 5.3.7 Index Card Output

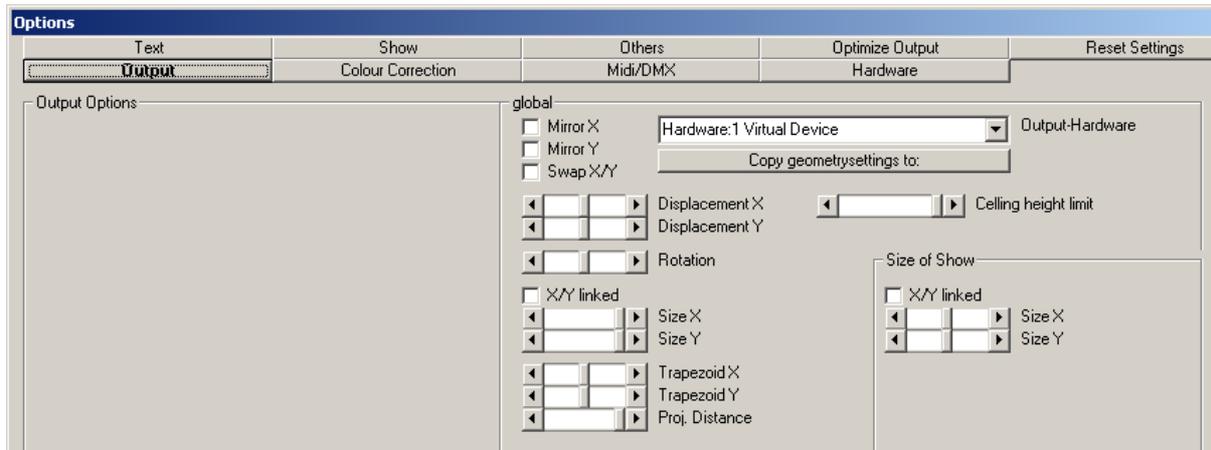


Fig.86: Dialog “Options”, index card “Output”.

These options are used to adapt the projector output to the environment and to manipulate the scanner and laser output. Concerning the size of the projections two different regions are available. One is used to set up the global size and one for the show size. The difference will be explained below.

**Output-Hardware:** Via the list-box the projector is selected, for which the settings are valid.

**Mirror X/Y:** Via a check of these options the output for the x-axis or y-axis is mirrored.

**Swap X/Y:** Via this option the output for the x-axis is done at the y-axis and inversely.

**Displacement X/Y:** Via these scroll-bars the whole output is displaced on the directions X and Y.

Naturally, it is a precondition, that the scan region of the galvos is sufficiently extended. If global-size **and** show-size are already set to their maximum, then a displacement will hardly be possible, because the galvos will come to their limits (or in other words, the range of 16 bit coordinates is fully exploited).

**Important: The default values (of the respective scrollbar) are recovered by a click onto the respective caption.**

**Rotation:** Here a rotation of the output can be adjusted to get it horizontally (the steps are always 1 degree).

**Size X/Y (globally):** Via these scrollbars the size of the figures in general (globally) is adjusted (the difference between global size and show size will be explained below). When X/Y linked is checked, the second scrollbar is activated when adjusting the first one, too.

**Trapezoid X/Y:** With these scrollbars the output geometry of the projection can be adjusted to get e.g. a square on an inclined wall instead of a trapez. This function is dependant on the setting for the “Proj. Distance”.

**Proj. Distance:** Here the distance from projector to screen for laser projection is adjusted. The control works similar as the perspective control in the Effect dialog. The screen, which distance is set here, can be mounted in any inclined position, thanks to Trapezoid X/Y. It is adjusted, how much the border of a square near the projector is prolonged until it looks equally long as the more distant parallel side.

Hint: All these setups are globally and quasi determine the limits of a rectangular scanned with maximal size.

**Size X/Y (Size of Show):** Via these scrollbars the size of the “show” is adjusted. When X/Y linked is checked, the second scrollbar is activated when adjusting the first one, too.

**Important: The difference between global size and show size:**

The two kinds of sizes may be a little bit confusing, but they are necessary. In old versions of the software only one setup for the size was possible. It was possible, e. g., to half the size of the laser output. Thus a square was scanned at an angle of  $30^\circ$ , when the galvos maximal angle was  $60^\circ$  (just half of the galvos maximal angle). But nevertheless the square could be displaced by the use of the effects (displacement X/Y) that e.g. the outermost border of the square had an scan angle of  $60^\circ$ ...the inner border then was just in the centre.

This effect has advantages, but also disadvantages: The advantage is, that some figures look very impressive, when they suddenly move to the outermost limits (an example is the wave in Tschosefs Award-show 2006). The disadvantage however is then, that it is not shure for all figures to be correctly placed on the screen.

For this reason the global size was implemented. The global size will additionally make the output size smaller, as if the amplitude of the galvos would be scaled down (on the driver).

Let us stay at our example. Assume that both sizes are set to 50%. What will happen to our square? Firstly the whole projection region will have half of the maximal size, due to the setting for global size. The square thus will have half of its size. Furthermore the output size will be reduced additionally by 50%, according to the settig at show size. Thus the square will be projected with 25% of its (normal) size. If now the displacement effect is used, then the maximal possible displacement is determined by the global size – and this is set to 50% - thus only half of the maximal (mechanical) scan angle can be used. By this it is secured, that the intended region (set up with global-size) can not be exceeded. But now it is possible to use the displacement effect.

Many users now may think that this would be silly – only the half scan angle will be usable. NO! That is not true! Because when the global size is set to 100% at all, it will be ignored. If then the output size is too small, then the reason is the galvo system itself. Shurely it is possible to set the show size to higher values. But when the show size is set to 100%, too, then displacement effects will have no more place, when the figures use the totally possible scan region. According to the setting of “Margin visible” in the effects dialog the lines crossing the border of the scan region will become invisible, or they become visible, but compressed on the border.

To set up both scroll-bars the following procedure is recommended:

1. In the first step it is recommended to project the figure “Orientierung\_Test.heb” (folder “HE\_s\_Testbilder”). If this figure is projected with wrong orientation, then Mirror X/Y will help to correct this.
2. To set up now the sizes, create a square with 100% size (set the size-effect to 100%!). An already existing figure to use you can find also in the folder “HE\_s\_Testbilder”, named “RasterBild.heb”.
3. Now the laser output of the figure is started. Then open the dialog Options/Output.
4. Set the show size to maximum.
5. Now adjust the global size. The figure shall be visible within the whole (wanted) output-region (screen). If the figure has a suitable size, but is not projected fully onto the screen, then use the displacement X/Y –options. The output region for beam shows can be quite more extended, than the region occupied by the audience.
6. Furthermore (for beam-shows) it should be secured, that the centre of the projection is positioned above the heads of the audience. If that is not the case, please adjust the height via displacement Y. You can use for this setup the figure “Sicherheits\_MittelLinie\_Ueber\_Kopf.heb”.
7. Now the show size can be adjusted (with the square in 100% effect-size). If it is set smaller the 100%, then the remainig X% gives the regions for effect displacements.

**Hint to No.6:** To set up the centre line above the audience was established, because the show programers expect this. The dangerous beams are set always above the centre line (by careful programers). Thus, if this setting is not done correct, dangerous beams could hit the audience.

**Remember:** These settings should be done, before the audience will take its places. The security should always be guaranteed. People, who are in the room, when these settings are made, must be informed and the danger should be explained.

Generally, the safety of every show should be tested in advance of a presentation.

### 5.3.8 Index Card Colour Correction

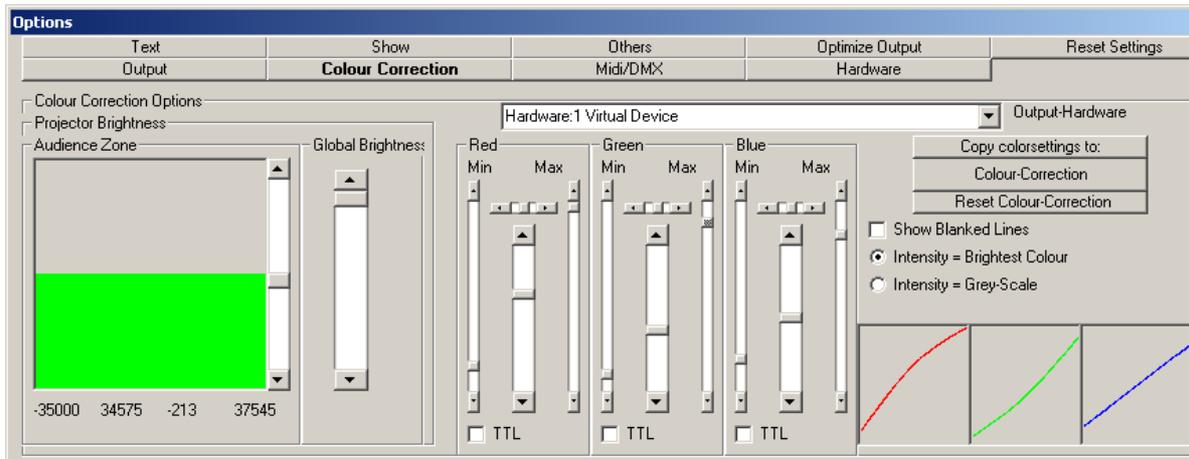


Fig.87: Dialog "Options", index card "Colour Correction".

The Colour Correction dialog serves for different functions. The existent lasers can be defined and their brightness can be adjusted to get correct colour mixtures (white balance, only possible with analogue driven lasers). The Colour Correction is done separately for each projector. If some lasers are not present, e.g. the blue one, then the respective coloured parts of the figures will be displayed by the existent lasers (mapping). Furthermore safety zones can be defined.

#### ► Show Blanked Lines

This option is thought as a help for the set-up of the correct values. If chosen, the in general blanked movements of the galvo mirrors are displayed. To distinguish them from "normal" lines (un-blanked) they are coloured RGB in small parts (a small piece of the line is red, the next green, then blue) to estimate the distances. (if you have only a green laser, then the blanked lines will be displayed green-black). **Attention!** If a figure consists of 0 points (actually no figure) a still standing beam will be projected! A message will be displayed to warn you.

#### ► Intensity=Brightest Colour / Intensity = Grey-Scale

This option lets you chose how the level of the intensity-signal is calculated. It is only of interest for users, which use the intensity signal of the DAC to drive their laser. When Grey-Scale is selected the intensities will be a little darker over all. But there are differences, if the colour was originally blue or red. With the selection of Brightest Colour a blue and a red line will have the same intensity.

#### ► Button Colour-Correction

The click on this button will open the dialog shown in Fig.88. This dialog was used in former times for the colour correction and today it is not really necessary any more. Nevertheless it can be used to make a pre-setup of the colour correction anymore.

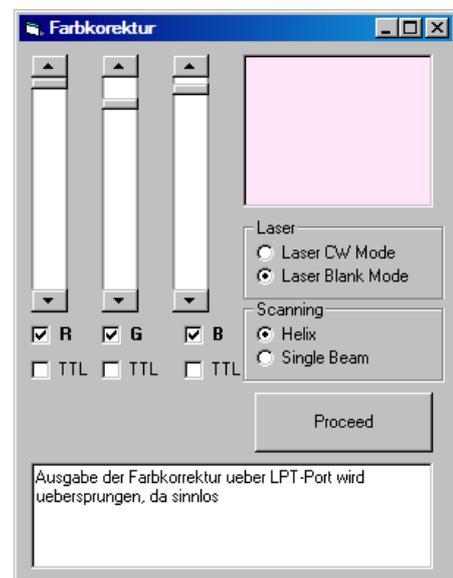


Fig.88: Dialog Optimize Output/ button Colour Correction.

Also here is offered a “gimmic” which is not accessible anywhere else: **This tool offers the only possibility within the software to operate the lasers in CW-mode with full power (option “Laser CW Mode”).**

Firstly you have to select your lasers (colours) to make a pre-setup of the colour correction for the selected projector. In Fig.88 the colours R, G and B are selected (checked boxes). If you have only red and green lasers, then the software will no more control the blue laser and it will distribute the blue colour to the other lasers. (Here are described analog driven lasers! TTL-lasers will be described later!)

Now the descriptions, which are displayed in the lower text box, should be read. Follow these instructions (sorry – in Fig.88 is not shown a respective message, because no DAC was connected).

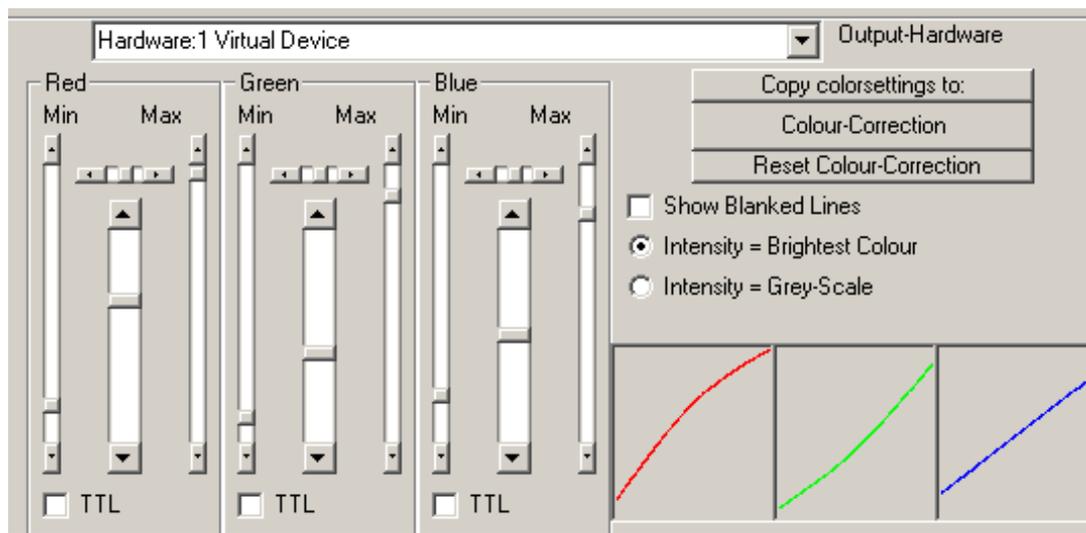
To compare the brightness of the lasers in CW or modulated (Laser Blank Mode) modus, you can switch the options in the field “Laser”. To make a white balance for shows the “Laser Blank Mode” must be used. The scanning must be set to “Helix”.

After working through the procedures displayed in the text box, a pre-setup is done. The scrollbars for the colours shown in Fig.87 will be set according to the pre-setup. If a laser (colour) is not present, the respective scroll-bars will be set to zero. Then this colour will be distributed to the other lasers.

The Colour Correction will operate in the following way, when colours (lasers) are missing: For example, when blue is missing, the (original) blue colour will be distributed to equal parts to green and red, when it was only blue. Thus blue will be replaced by yellow. If blue was originally in combination with red (purple colour), then the blue part will be distributed ONLY to red – the same is valid for blue-green combinations.

► **Extended Colour Correction (Min/Max scroll-bars for RGB)**

Fig.89 shows the extended colour correction:



*Fig.89: Dialog Options/ Extended Colour Correction*

The above described pre-setup already changed some scrollbars in the extended colour correction. For each colour four scrollbars are present. In the lower right the settings of the respective colours are displayed graphically.

Via the extended colour correction also curves with non-linear characteristic can be set, e.g. to get more brightness (but then the colours may be displayed not correctly any more).

The **Min** scrollbars determine the modulation voltage, when the lasers just begin to shine. These scroll-bars should set a little below the lasing threshold to have dark. In Fig.89 you can see for example an offset for the blue laser (it will begin to emit light, when the modulation voltage reaches about 1V).

The **Max** scrollbars determine the modulation voltage for the highest brightness, which the lasers should have at all (for your understanding: Assume that the green laser is much too bright compared with the red and blue laser to get a good white balance. Then scale down the green Max scrollbar to lower the brightness of the green laser, until you get a fine white).

The **scrollbars in the middle** are similar to those of the “parametric middle” of a sound mixer. The horizontal scrollbars determines the position of an interpolation point, where the increase or decrease, adjusted with the horizontal scrollbars, starts. With these controls a nonlinear response of the laser brightness can be set.

#### **Some tips to adjust the colour correction:**

Load again the folder “HE\_s\_Testbilder” and then select the already prepared figure “GrauVerlauf\_Testbild\_SollteImmerWeisSein.heb” for the laser output. Now your projector should display some planes, which show a colour gradient from white to black. Open the colour correction index card and adjust the fine-tuning of the colours. The aim is to get white-grey lines. The starts and the ends of the lines should show no colour fringes.

The following procedure is recommended by the programmer:

- 1) Scrollbars Green Max and Blue Max set to minimum → only the red laser is on.
- 2) Increasing of Red Min until the dark region (where the two out-faded lines hit) is just black.
- 3) Now Green Max to maximum, Red Max to minimum. Increase Green Min until the dark region is just black.
- 4) The same for blue.
- 5) Now the Min-Values are set properly.
- 6) Now increase all Max-scrollbar to maximal values. Then decrease the colours which are to bright to get a clean white.
- 7) Theoretically you should get now lines, which are at least white at the start and end. In the middle (half brightness) the lines can still have a little depth of colour. These can be tuned to white using the middle scrollbars (non-linearities).

The aim is to get only white-grey lines. But very probably only a compromise will be possible. To get always a clean white or grey will perhaps only be possible with very expensive and highest quality DPSS-lasers. Another suitable figure for the colour-correction is “Farbverlaufstest\_2.heb”.

**A further very good possibility** offers the test picture “AlleMuessenGleichzeitig-Ausgehen”.

This picture shows 4 elements in the colours red, green, blue and white. These elements fade very slowly to dark and then become bright again. The aim is to A) let all colours become dark simultaneously and B) to let the white element always be white, even when it disappears.

**At least Ralf developed a very good method** for the colour correction. For this method the picture “Farbgleich\_nach\_Ralf” is used. Informations how to use this method is given via the \*.pdf with the same name as the picture (You find it in the folder HE-s\_Testbilder. Sorry available only in German, but the pictures could help nevertheless).

**Some words about TTL lasers:** If a laser can only be modulated by a **TTL** signal (on/off), then the TTL-box must be checked. The consequence is that all brightness values will be put out with full intensity.

**Attention!** If the original figure will become smaller and darker with analogue lasers, then the TTL-laser will radiate with full intensity!!! **DANGER!!!**

The option TTL works in the following way: If a laser colour is exactly set to zero (laser off) then the DAC will set 0V at its output (for the respective laser). As soon as the laser colour is no more zero, then the DAC will set 5V at its output. The reason is that TTL-signals (or inputs) have only two levels: above 2.5V means ON, below 2.5V means OFF. But if now a show e.g displays a slowly fading off wave, then without the TTL-option the wave will become invisible below half brightness. With TTL-option set, the wave will still be visible, until it is really off.

But with the TTL-option also danger is present: Assume a tunnel, which becomes smaller until it shrinks to a single beam. Thus the show programmer will dim the lasers when the tunnel becomes smaller. But this dimming will not happen with a TTL-modulated laser – a dangerous beam will appear which is much too bright.

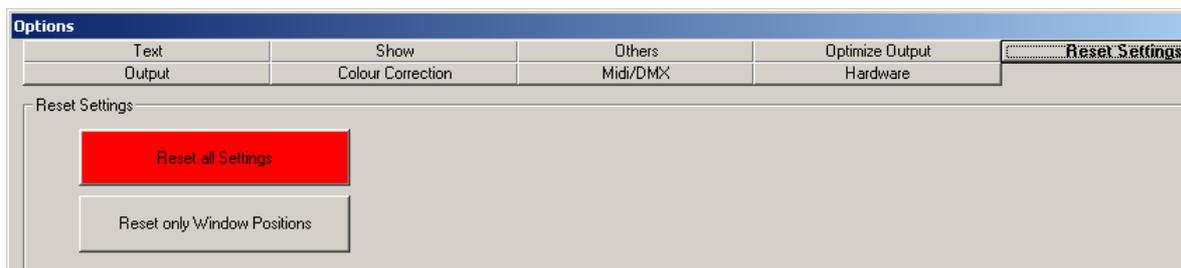
**Thus it is NOT recommended to use TTL-modulated lasers!**

► **Window “Projektor Brightness”**

**“Audience Zone”:** Here it is possible to define in the graphics window the zone, where the audience is expected. You can draw with clicked mouse in the window the zones, where the intensity should be reduced. With the scrollbar the over-all intensity for these zones is adjusted.

**“Global Brightness”:** Here the laser intensity can be adjusted globally. If here you set 70% of maximal intensity and also at the audience zone, then in the audience zone the intensity will be only about 50% of the maximal possible intensity. The 100% reference for the audience zone is the value at “Global Brightness”.

**5.3.9 Index Card Reset Settings**



*Fig.90: Dialog Options/ Reset Settings*

With the help of this dialog all settings can be reset to default values (button “**Reset Settings**”).

Furthermore a reset to default positions of the divers windows (button “**Reset only Windows Positions**”) is now available. This is very useful, if you have distributed the windows to several monitors, but later work only with one monitor.

### 5.3.10 Buttons at Options



*Fig.91: Buttons at Options.*

#### ► Buttons “Export/Import Settings”

Via these buttons the settings can be exported or imported, respectively. A dialog to enter/select the name for the exported settings will open.

#### ► Button “Close Window”

By pushing this button the Options-Dialog will be closed WITHOUT saving the changes. On the next start of the program the “old” settings will be valid again.

#### ► Button “Save Settings and Close Window”

Via this button the changed settings are stored permanently. The changed settings will be valid at next program start, too. It is important to use this button after changing the colour-correction!

Within the **black area** the path and the filename of the currently used \*.ini file is shown.

### 5.4 Show-Editor

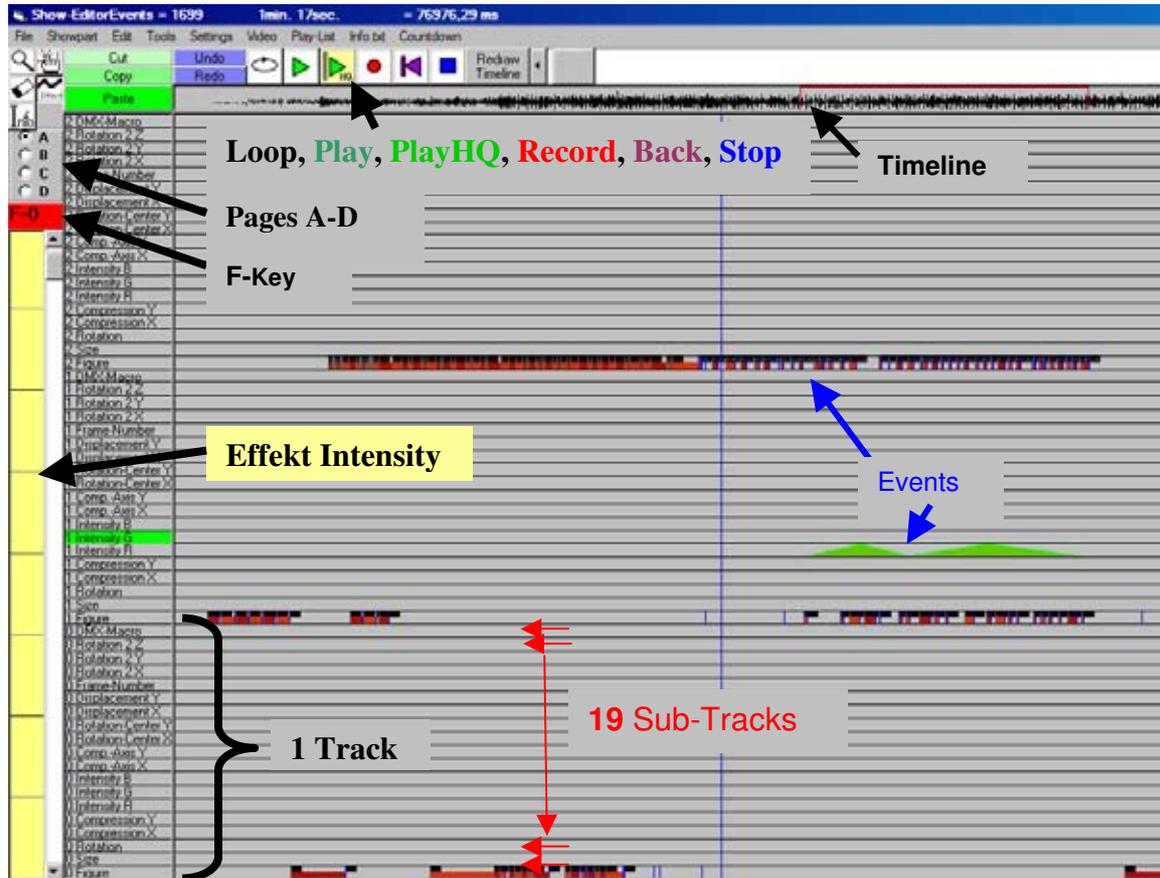


Fig.92: The Show-Editor.

The Show-Editor (Fig.92) is used to create music-synchronous laser shows or to play them, respectively. Very simple spoken: It is like a multitrack cassette recorder or like a MIDI-sequencer software – on each track “events” can be recorded. You have to select a track for the recording, choose the start position and to push the record button. During listening to the music and seeing the already recorded parts of the show, new elements or events are simply added simultaneously by pushing the assigned keys.

Events can be: Calling of figures, changes of effects, DMX macro callings etc. Each track has a certain function. 19 sub tracks belong to one lasertrack. Thus a lasertrack is able to manage a figure and all respective effects. In total we have 4 track pages (A to D) with 3 lasertracks on each page. Hence 12 figures can be called simultaneously, including their effects.

The principle function of the Show-Editor (keyword “sequencer”) is the following:  
 The Show-Editor starts on a click onto the button “Play” or “Record” the selected music-file (\*.wav or \*.mp3 file). During playing the music the program evaluates always the actual song position and works with that value (progressbar in **Timeline**). If new parts are recorded, then according to the position new commands for effects or figures are inserted into the active “**Sub-Track**”. Furthermore, during playing or recording the show, the events of the tracks are sent to the respective “windows”. In reality it is not the respective window, which receives the commands, but for the user it seems to be so: Changes of the figures will be sent to the Figure-Editor, effects will be sent to the Effects-Window, DMX-events will be sent to the DMX-Window. The activated windows, then, seem to calculate and perform the necessary output-procedures.

Within the **Timeline** the progress (already played time) of the show is shown. Furthermore, on using \*.wav files for the music, the loudness of the music is displayed here.

To record events the respective sub track must be marked via a click on its caption. Marked tracks have a green background colour.

### 5.4.1 Buttons and Tools

Within the Show-Editor several buttons and tools are present for different operations (Fig.93).



Fig.93: Show-Editor: Buttons and tools.

#### 5.4.1.1 Magnifying Glass



The magnifying glass is used to zoom parts of the Timeline. This is very helpful to work on single events or small groups of them. The magnifying glass works in the same way as that of the Figure-Editor. First click onto the button of the tool. If this is done with the left mouse button, then the zoom is set to 100%. On pushing the right mouse button the actually used zoom value is kept. Now the mouse wheel can be used to zoom into the Timeline or with pushed left mouse button you can mark a region to be magnified. The zooming can be done in several steps one after another. A reset of the zoom is done via a click with the left mouse button onto the tool or via pushing the button “**Redraw Timeline**” with the **right** mouse button.

#### 5.4.1.2 Hand



The hand has similar functions as that in the Figure-Editor for marking or moving the events. With pushed left mouse button a region on a sub track can be marked. But only **events of ONE sub track** can be marked. That sub track, which is actually present in the centre of the marking square, will be taken for further actions.

**Movements** are done with the **right** mouse button. The marked events will be moved. If actually no event is marked, that one directly under the cursor will be moved. On pushing simultaneously the “**Strg**”-key during the intended movement, a **copy** of the original events will be made and moved. The movements are possible to other sub tracks, too, if they are of the same kind as the original (figure or effect). If the events are marked, then that can be identified by their changed (back-) colour and the red back colour of the hand button.

#### 5.4.1.3 Rubber



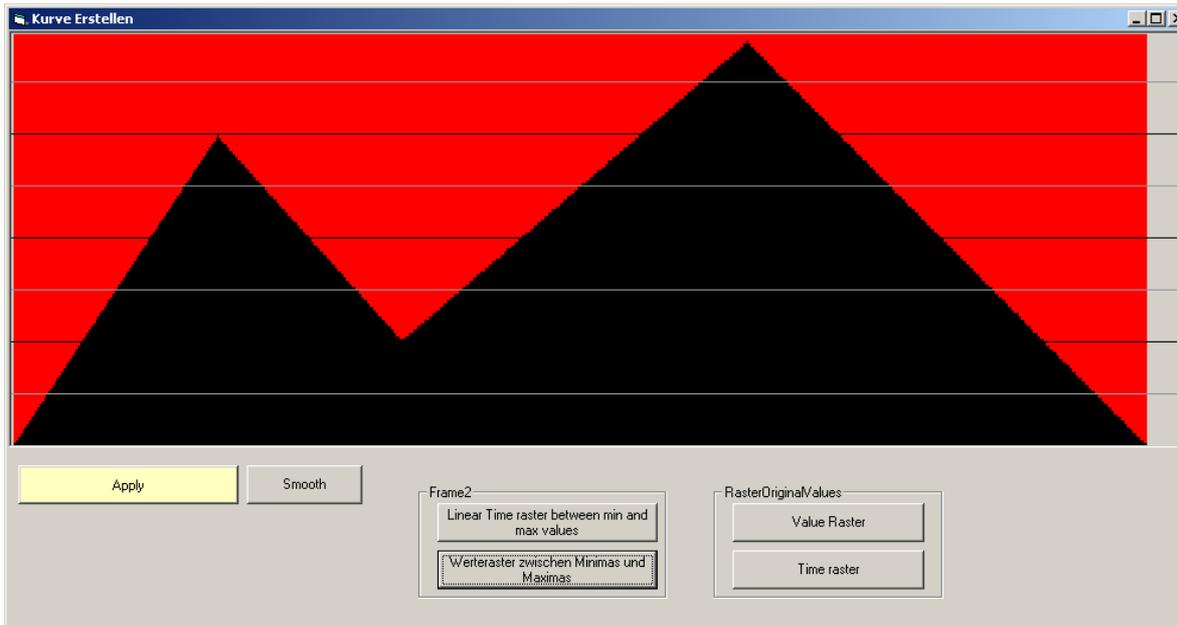
The rubber works like that within the Figure-Editor. If events are already marked, a click on the rubber button will delete them. Otherwise the event or figure directly under the cursor will be deleted.

ATTENTION! Sometimes it is possible that you forget the activated rubber and want to mark a region....But with the help of the “**UNDO**”-button unintended deleted events can be recovered easily, hopefully (-;

#### 5.4.1.4 Effect (-Tool)



The Effect-Tool is used to create effect events or to edit them. A click on the respective button activates the tool. Then a region to insert new events or to edit them can be marked on ONE sub-track with pushed left mouse key (NOT the “Figure” track!!!) The marked region is indicated by a yellowish background colour. After releasing the mouse button the window of the Effects Tool (Fig.94) will be opened. The tool works not very precisely, thus the “live” recording of effects is recommended. The reason is the handling of only 7bits for the effects (because of the use of MIDI in the early times of the software).



*Fig.94: Show-Editor: Window of the Effect Tool.*

#### ► Create/Edit Effects

Select the effect-tool and mark in the respective sub-track with pushed mouse button the region, where the effects shall be placed. Now the effects window (Fig.94) will be opened. Already existent effects are indicated by vertical lines (length of line=intensity of effect). With the left or right mouse button events can be created in the window.

If you use the right mouse button, then the alignment of the effects is controlled by the grid, which is displayed by horizontal lines (raster of 1/8). According to the kind of effect, which is edited, this grid will work a little different. The horizontal lines mark certain values of the effect. If you use the rotation, e.g., then between the lines are 45°, respectively. On displacements it will be 25% of the maximal possible distance.

#### ► Smooth

By using this button, on each click the changes of the effect intensities are smoothed (by computing of the average). More clicks result in more smoothing. Attention! The start value of the selected will also be affected! Its new value then could be the average of 0 and the actual value and will possibly be too small.

► **Linear Time Raster between Min and Max Values**

The function, activated by the respective button, looks for the highest and lowest effect-values and generates between them a linear slope by using constant time intervals. The time intervals can be adjusted via a right mouse button click onto the button.

► **“Werteraster zwischen Minima und Maxima” (Value Grid between Min. and Max.)**

As above for the time raster at first the minima and maxima of the course of the effect are calculated. Afterwards the function creates between them a linear curve of interpolation points, but this time with constant steps of effect values (1). The time intervals are cosen by the function in that way that the effects are called, when a whole step occurred. By doing so smoother effect courses are achieved, but on the other hand very much effect events are created.

► **Time Raster**

This function fills breaks in the course of the effect. It generates constant time intervals between the effects. By using this it is possible to reduce the amount of effect callings. The time intervals can be adjusted via a right mouse- button click on the button.

► **Value Raster**

This function fills breaks in the course of the effect, too. But now those times are looked for, where the effect value will change by one unit. Hence more stedily effect courses are created.

► **Apply**

A click on this button closes the window and writes the edited effects into the respective sub-track. Push the button “UNDO” to restore the old state.

**5.4.1.5 Button Info**



A click on this button opens a small window to show the figure and its name (Fig.95), when you click on its position in its sub track. If you have multiframe figures, which have in the beginning dark frames, then it is useful to open the simulation window, too.

You can use the info function by moving the cursor with pushed mouse button within the subtrack. If you use the right mouse button then the events of ALL figure tracks, which are active at the respective time, will be displayed. Here “displayed” means the display of the information within the info window AND the output with the laser projector (if switched on). The laser output will be activated and also finished automatically. Because very much information is to handle, please move the mouse slowly!

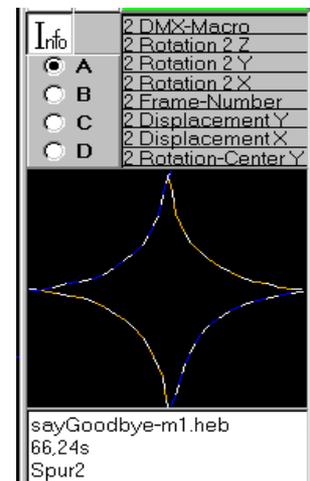
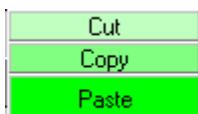


Fig.95: Show-Editor: Info.

**5.4.1.6 Buttons Cut, Copy and Paste**



These functions should be self explaining. With “Cut” marked events are copied into the clipboard and deleted in the subtrack. With “Copy” the marked events are copied into the clipboard without deleting the original. With “Paste” the events, stored within the clipboard, can be put to the actually selected subtrack on the same time position as the original.

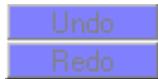
### 5.4.1.7 Button Play HQ



This button needs a special explanation. It is used to start the playing of a show in high quality. “Start” means that after a click on the button and after a certain, adjustable time, the monitor screen will be blacked out, the outputs to the windows will be stopped and the show will be displayed. The start delay can be adjusted by a right mouse button click. Furthermore the show will surely be started at its beginning and all effect settings will be reset. **Generally for a presentation of shows this button should be used!**

**Info:** The Play List uses PlayHQ, too.

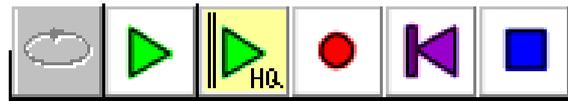
### 5.4.1.8 Buttons Undo/Redo



By a click on UNDO unwanted changes can be canceled. It will be restored the state after the last change of the editing function in use or after a new record. Up to ten levels can be restored. Redo is the opposite of Undo. If the storing of the undo files lasts too long (at very complex and extended shows), the storing can be switched off via “Options → Others”.

### 5.4.1.9 Transport Buttons

These buttons are used to operate the replay, the record and the stop-functions for the show (Fig.96). The green arrows are the Play buttons (Play and PlayHQ), the red, full circle is for recording, the violet arrow (Jump to start) is to come to the start of the show and the blue square is used to stop the playing or recording. The start position for playing or recording can be determined by a click on the desired position into the tracks or into the Timeline. If afterwards the playing or recording is stopped and restarted again, then it will be restarted at this position until another position is selected or the violet arrow is clicked. The start position will be changed, when events are marked or deleted. Furthermore a region for loops can be defined.



*Fig.96: Show-Editor: Transport buttons.*

#### ► Button Play



This button should only be used for the editing of a show. A click on this button starts the replay of the show, but the quality could be less than by the use of the Play HQ button. According to the setup in the Show-Editor menu “Settings/ Start/Stop Laser output automatically” the laser will be switched on automatically or not.

The same is valid for the DMX-output. If the playback begins in the middle of the show and a figure is called by this, whose calling should rather be earlier and which is changing due to effects, then it may happen that the course of the effect is not displayed properly.

#### ► Button Play HQ



This button was already explained above. The show will be played in high quality modus (with black screen).

► **Button Record**



This button starts the recording of the events on the marked subtrack. According to the setup in the Show-Editor menu “Settings/ Start/Stop Laser output automatically” the laser will be switched on automatically or not. The same is valid for the DMX-output. It is possible to click repeatedly onto Record. On each click the record starts at the selected start position.

**Hint:** It is possible to record on several tracks simultaneously. To select several tracks (of the same kind), use the “Strg”-key on marking with the mouse. For example for a fading off of a figure select the three tracks for R, G, and B.

► **Button Jump to Start**



A click on this button stops the replay or recording and the start position is set to the start of the show. According to the setup in the Show-Editor menu “Settings/ Start/Stop Laser output automatically” the laser will be switched off automatically (or not). The same is valid for the DMX-output.

► **Button Stop**



A click on this button stops the replay or recording. According to the setup in the Show-Editor-menu “Settings/ Start/Stop Laser output automatically” the laser will be switched off automatically (or not). The same is valid for the DMX-output.

► **Button Loop**



If a region within the Timeline was marked for play/record by using the left mouse button pushed, then the loop function can be activated. The loop function will replay the marked region endlessly. The loop region is valid until it is deselected or until a new song position is chosen.

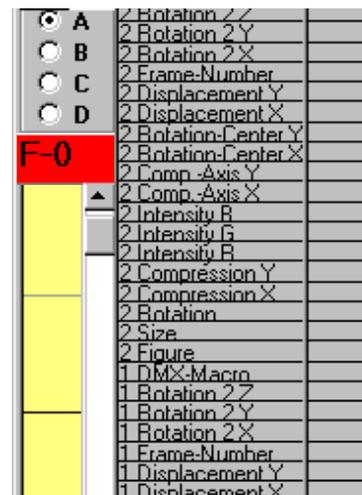
**5.4.1.10 Further Show-Editor Elements**

► **Track-Page Selection**

“A”, “B”, ”C” and “D”...these are the possible track pages. Each track- age contains 3 tracks with each having 19 subtracks for the figures and effects. Via the “Options-Dialog/Indexcard Hardware” the routing of the pages can be done free up to 16 projectors (see the respective chapter). To change to another track page, just click on the respective radio button.

► **Figure and Effect Subtracks**

Here the figures or effect intensities are “stored”. Each sub-track is the “container” for the respective effect intensity or figure. To record events on a subtrack the desired subtrack must be activated by a click on its caption. The green background will then show the readiness for recording. When several subtracks shall be recorded in one step (e.g. all three intensities for RGB), then keep the “Strg”-key pushed and click on the desired subtracks.



*Fig.97: Show-Editor: Track-Pages selection, Tracks and Subtracks, Effect Intensity Input (yellow) during recording.*

According to the kind of the subtrack (figure or effect) the events are recorded via pushing the prior assigned keys (figures) or via the mouse and the Effect Intensity Input. The functions of the 19 subtracks are:

- **Figure:** Start/ Stop of figure-callings, recorded by assigned keys or by drag'n drop
- **Size:** Size-changes (Intensity-Input range: 0-120%)
- **Rotation:** Rotation-changes (Intensity-Input range: +/- 180°)
- **Compression x:** Compression-changes along x-axis (Intensity-Input range: 0-100%)
- **Compression y:** Compression-changes along y-axis (Intensity-Input range: 0-100%)
- **Intensity R:** Intensity -changes red (Intensity-Input range: 0-100%)
- **Intensity G:** Intensity -changes green (Intensity-Input range: 0-100%)
- **Intensity B:** Intensity -changes blue (Intensity-Input range: 0-100%)
- **Comp.-Axis x:** Movement of compression axis x (Intensity-Input range: +/- 50%)
- **Comp.-Axis y:** Movement of compression axis y (Intensity-Input range: +/- 50%)
- **Rotation Centre X:** Movement of rotation-centre along x-axis (I-I-range: +/- 50%)
- **Rotation Centre Y:** Movement of rotation-centre along y-axis (I-I-range: +/- 50%)
- **Displacement X:** Displacement along x-axis (Intensity-Input range: +/- 50%)
- **Displacement Y:** Displacement along y-axis (Intensity-Input range: +/- 50%)
- **Frame Number:** Selection of frames of multi-frame figures (I-I-Range: 0-100%)
- **Rotation 2X:** Rotation around x-axis (Intensity-Input range: +/- 180°)
- **Rotation 2Y:** Rotation around y-axis (Intensity-Input range: +/- 180°)
- **Rotation 2Z:** Rotation around z-axis (Intensity-Input range: +/- 180°)
- **DMX-Macro:** On/Off of DMX-Macros

#### ► Effect Intensity Input

With the help of this function, effect intensities can be recorded. With pushed left mouse button on this yellowish backgrounded region (see Fig.97) you set the level of the respective effect intensity. It is also possible to use the mouse wheel to enter the effect intensity. The subtrack must be activated prior (see above). In the subtrack you can see the already recorded effect intensities. You can also use the right mouse button to “play” the effect intensity – but then the effects are quantified to the displayed lines (like in the effect tool).

#### ► Display of the Waveform

Within the Timeline it is possible to see the waveform of the song, but only when wave-files are used. If errors occur on the display, then a double click on the Timeline will initiate a new drawing.

### 5.4.2 Menus of the Show-Editor



Fig.98: Show-Editor: Menus.

#### 5.4.2.1 Menu File

The menu File (Fig.99) serves primary for opening and saving of shows, as well as for the export and import of ILDA files (of whole shows).

##### ► Create New Show

This item is only reachable via the menu. With this function the creation of a new show starts. After a click on this item, a dialog to select the music file opens. It is recommended to create a new show folder in advance and to put the music file into it (select the file type \*.wav or \*.mp3 in the dialog). All show files and figures must be stored in the same folder.

After the selection of the song the Figure-Editor opens the show folder automatically. Now the creation of the show can start. It is recommended to use prior the function “Save as” (to enter the name of the show file).



Fig.99: Show-Editor: Menu File

If you want to program the show by using a \*.wav-file, but later want to use a \*.mp3-file (of the same music-title), then put both music files into the show folder. After finishing programming just delete the \*.wav-file. On a new loading of the show the program will give a message that the music file is missing. Then go to “Options → Index card Show” and select there the \*.mp3-file.

##### ► New Showpart

This is a new special function, introduced with version 4 of the software. Now it is possible to create parts of a show and save them within the show folder. These showparts appear in the Figure Table, can be assigned to a key and used within a live show or in a laser show, respectively. There are some limits to remember:

- A showpart shall not contain callings of other showparts.
- If several showparts are running at the same time, the last called event has priority. Eventually it can come to chaos, if one showparts terminates another one (what is possible).
- Remember: Showparts are no figures or animations, but only calling lists for figure changes or changes of effects.
- Generally each showpart should be arranged in the way, that after its run the called figures are terminated (this is not a MUST, but is recommended).
- Showparts can be used for the Live-Window, too! Via this you can call figures and effects for several tracks by pushing just one key.

In principle the creation of a showpart is done as for “normal” laser shows (“Timeline shows”). But it will be created only a part of a show, e.g. for a refrain. This part can be used several times within a laser show (but it is not recommended to use every time the same part for a refrain – it could become boaring!).

To create a showpart, click on New Showpart, choose the music (this is a “must”, also when the showpart is later played without music via the Live-Window) and then record the events for the wanted showpart. For this all effects and figure tracks can be used.

If the creation of the showpart is finished, click on menu → Showpart → Create Showpart from Sequence. By doing this the showpart is saved within the Figure Table as figure. The Show-Editor will return to the actual show. In the Figure Table now a “figure” with yellow design is present. That is the showpart.

The icon can now be edited via a click with the right mouse button. Select “Edit Showpart Icon” to insert a picture for display (the picture must be created with another program).

The showpart can be edited via a right mouse button click on it, too. The program will open the Show-Editor automatically to edit the showpart. After editing the changes must be accepted by menu → Showpart → Apply. Remember to store the showpart “figure” by a click on “Store” with the button of the Figure-Editor. The actual show will be buffered (RAM). Thus don’t switch off the computer, else the edited show could be lost!

#### ► **Open Show**

This function is only accessible via the menu. An existent show can be opened via this menu item. Because of the use of the same file extension, Mamba shows will be shown, too. But if you want to open a Mamba show a message will be shown and the open process will be stopped. Furthermore it is not possible to open shows which are created with the LW-Showeditor (and vice versa). An additional possibility to load shows is the use of the playlist or a double click on the show file (extension \*.shw) within the Windows Explorer.

#### ► **Save Show**

This function is only accessible via the menu. With this function the actually loaded show is saved. If the show was not prior saved (has no name), then a dialog to enter the show-name will be opened. Otherwise the actual show will be saved without any request.

#### ► **Save as**

This function is only accessible via the menu. This menu item is used to save the show with another name or to give it a name. It is possible to use the same show folder for different shows, if they all use only figures which are present. They can use different song files, too.

#### ► **Clear Timeline**

Via this menu item the complete content of the tracks is deleted.

#### ► **Export Show as ILDA-File**

Via this function the whole show can be exported as ILDA-file. The sense of it is the easy sharing of shows with other show software, if allowed. Via the ILDA export and subsequent import the shows can be prepared as one track shows, too.

Some points have to be recognized:

- The show will be exported **INCLUSIVE** the optimization, colour correction and geometrical corrections. For the export as ILDA-file all options should be reset, or set to maximal values (e.g. output-size). **HINT:** For this operation the import/export of \*.ini-files within the Options dialog is very useful! Here you can set up an \*.ini-file only for the ILDA-export.
- If more than one projector is used, then for each projector an ILDA-file will be generated (recognizable by the added number at the ILDA-file name ).
- The ILDA-file contains 2-dimensional coordinates.
- The ILDA-file can contain a colour-table.
- The ILDA-file should be created as RGB-file. The software does not create ILDA-files with Pangolin-colours!
- If the ILDA-file is exported without colour-table and without RGB-data, then later the colours will presumably not be shown as in the original.

After the click on the menu item just follow the instructions.

**HINT:** It makes sense to have 25 to 50 frames per second, even if the later used galvo-system is not able to put them out. For short tests smaller frame-rates can be used. The software exports and imports only ILDA-Shows with constant frame-rates. Shows with a constant PPS-rate can not be exported! The import of such files is nevertheless possible, but makes no sense, because the temporal coherence with the song will be lost.

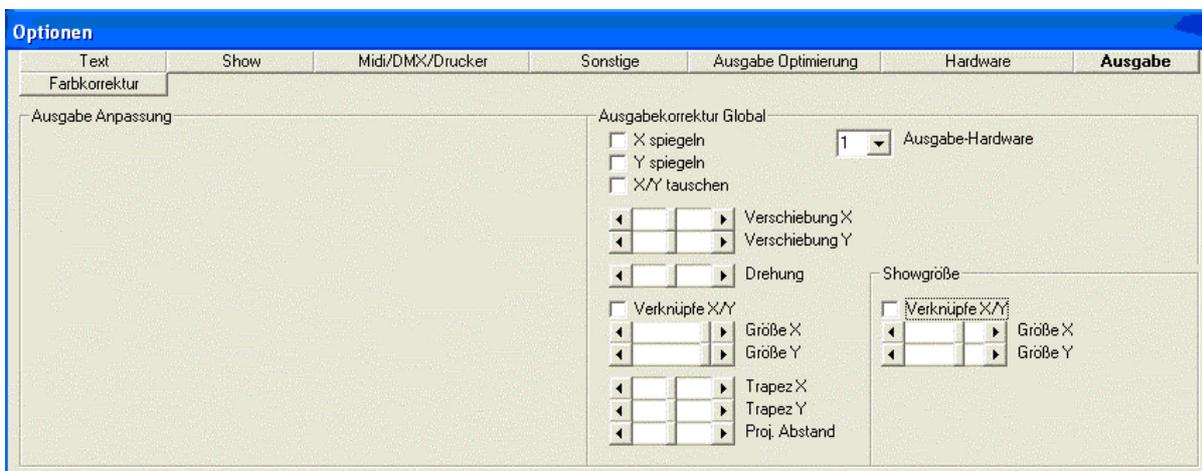
The export should be tested a little bit by varying the optimization and output setups. It makes absolutely sense to create an extra \*.ini-file only for export-purposes. For the export as ILDA-file please set the **show size to about 2/3** of the global-size and select only **one hardware, routed to all pages**. **No colour correction** should be used (reset). A PPS-rate of 30000 is recommended and **no colour shifts** shall be set (important!) for the optimization.

**The following settings can be used for an ILDA export for other programs. They were used at the Freak-O Jam 2008 and did work there very well:**

(All figures are only in German and from an older version, but that does not matter concerning the settings.)

**Output:**

Pay attention to “Showgröße“ (Size of Show), it should be about 2/3 or a little bit ore! The rest is standard. Otherwise, to get standard (default values) please click on the captions of the scrollbars! Important: Do not use mirroring or similar things!



**Fig.100:** Settings of output parameters for ILDA-Show export. (Ausgabe=Output).

**Hardware:**

For a 1 projektor show only one hardware is necessary... All tracks are routed to this hardware. Only for multi projektor shows you have to select more than one hardware. Another possibility to export multi projektor shows is to do it in several steps. Firstly you export e.g. the track pages for the main projektor, then those for the satellites.

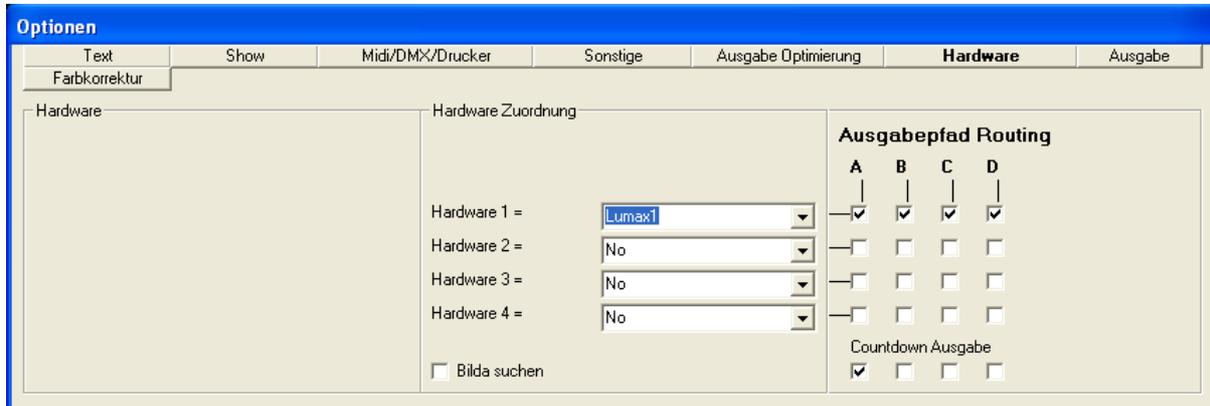


Fig.101: Settings of the hardware for ILDA-show export.

**Colour Correction:**

Best is to push „Reset Colour Correction“! It does not matter, which lasers you have within you projektor. For the export as ILDA show a linear behaviour is necessary ☺ .

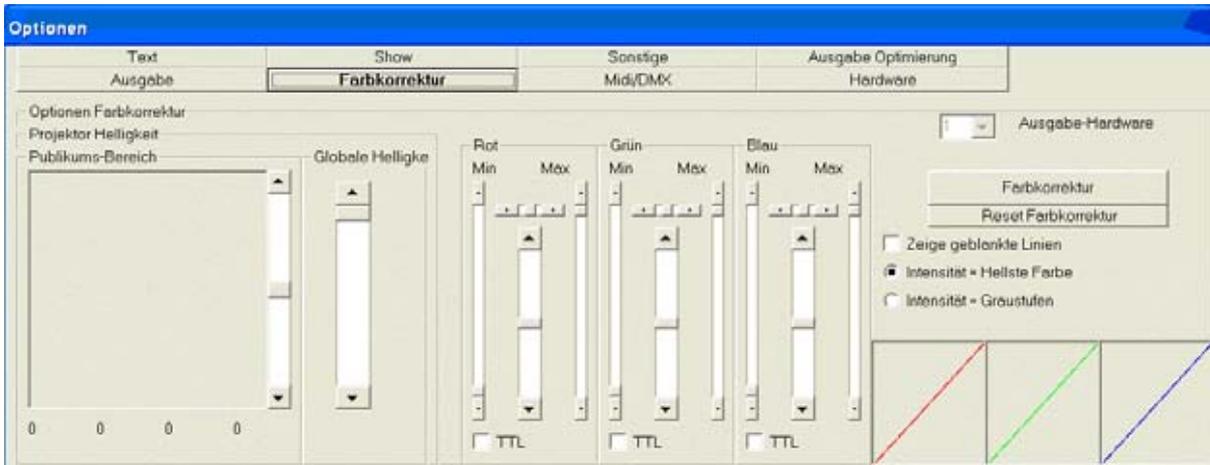


Fig.102: Settings of the Colour Correction for ILDA-show export.

**Output Optimization:**

Important! No Colour Shift!! Just copy the other values. The PPS rate does not matter for the export!

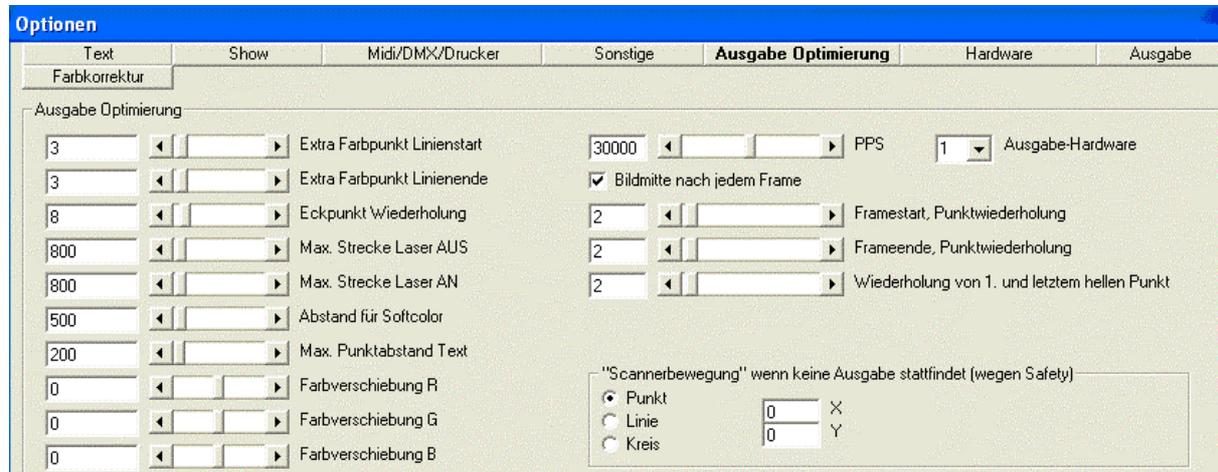


Fig.103: Settings of the Output-Optimization for ILDA-show export.

**The ILDA export:**

1. Load the show as usual.
2. Push Menu → File → „Export Show as ILDA-File“
3. Select target folder and enter the show name (e.g. LW-Show\_25 fps)
4. Confirm Type 5 with OK
5. Enter 25 frames/second and confirm

Now the ILDA file is created. When ready, a message is shown.

► **Create Show from ILDA-File**

This menu item is used for the import of ILDA files. From the number of the frames of the ILDA file and the length of the song the theoretical value of the frames per second is calculated. The ILDA file will be imported (like the ILDA figure import in the Figure-Editor), then for the newly arranged figures the frame rate is firstly proposed and then set, at least a key assignment is done and the \*.heb-file for the figure (of the ILDA file) is saved.

A show file will be created with only one event on track 0. The show name, as well as divers options and further things, will be requested. The whole procedure requires a constant frame rate (fps) of the ILDA-file (seems not to be fulfilled with Mamba). Furthermore errors at the colour display can occur, when the ILDA file is not a standard RGB file. Eventually it is necessary to load the Pangolin colour palette. After the import the source ILDA file can be deleted. At least a show file is generated, which can be played via the software.

There are many cases where the procedure does not work. Then the import has to be done manually. Sometimes it makes sense to move the first figure on track 0 a little to be simultaneous with the music. Because then it can be assumed, that the end will not fit, the frame rate has to be adjusted.

If the frame rate, which is proposed by the program, is not a natural number but a broken one (like 23.345....), then that is a hint of a not correct frame number of the ILDA file or a wrong length of the song file, respectively. Sometimes you need some patience, for some shows the procedure works very well.

It is astonishing, that other programs have no problems to import the ILDA-files, but on the contrary can not export ILDA files, which can be read by this software (because in general ILDA is created for an exchange).

If the ILDA show is a multi projector show, then the additional files (for the other projectors) must be imported manually. Then they must be stored as figure files within the show folder, assigned to keys and at least put into the Timeline (via pushing the assigned key or via drag'n drop). Seems to be complicated, but it isn't. If you have further questions, the programmer offers his help.

► **Show Dongle-Protection**

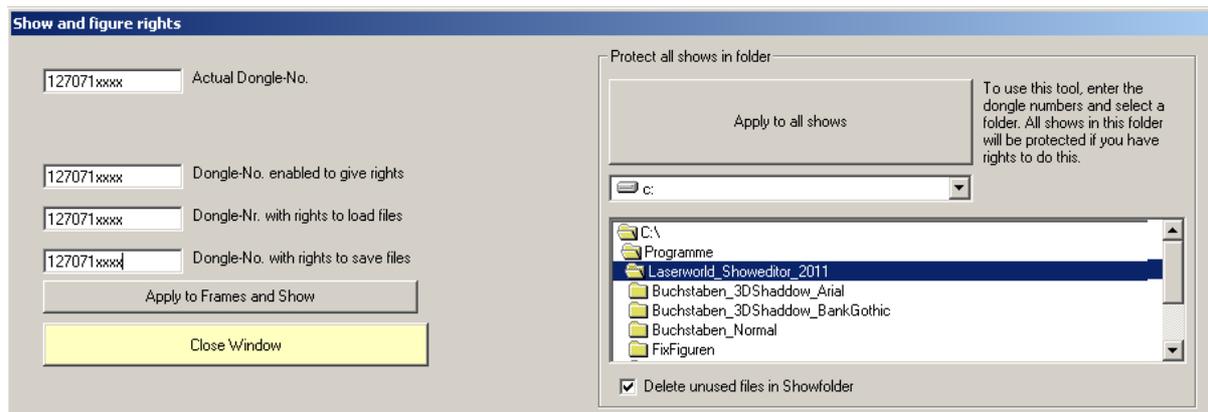


Fig.104: Show-Editor: Show Dongle-Protection.

The aim of this function is to protect shows and figure files against unwanted access. On a click on the menu item the window will open, which is shown in Fig.104.

There are two variants to protect shows:

- a) Only one single show or
- b) All shows within a folder.

The left region of the dialog with the button “**Apply to Frames and Show**” is used to protect the actually loaded show. The right region serves to protect all shows, which are stored in the selected folder (and its sub folders). Use then the button “**Apply to all Shows**”. If the option “**Delete unused files in Show folder**” is activated, then additionally to the protection all unused figures are deleted. This option can be used without the protection function, too. Then enter for the dongle numbers “0”. Before you protect shows, please make a copy of them for your safety!

The dongle numbers are used for both variants.

- Only the “**Dongle-No. enabled to give rights**” can change the rights.
- If in the textboxes all numbers are 0 no rights are given to other dongles The show ist then left WITHOUT dongle protection!
- Only when the **actual Dongle-No.** equals the **Dongle-No. enabled to give rights**, then it is possible to enter an other Dongle No. Then quasi all rights are given to the new Dongle No.
- Only users with dongles can get protected shows.
- Protected are all figure-files and all show-files.
- Before the protection it is recommended to make a copy of the show.

**IMPORTANT! Please make a copy of your show in advance of the protection!**

► **List of Show Names and Play Lists (loaded at the last sessions)**

At the bottom of the menu File are listed the 10 last loaded shows or play lists for easy access. A click on the name of a show or Play List will open it directly.

**5.4.2.2 Menu Showpart**

This menu was already explained above – creation of showparts (menu New Showpart).

**5.4.2.3 Menu Edit**

This menu offers some functions to edit the show.

► **Undo**

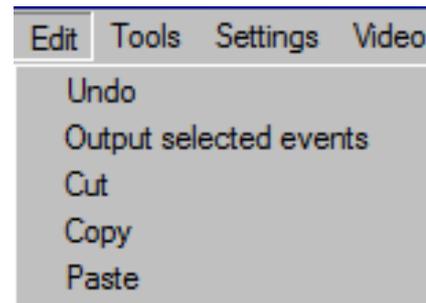
This menu item has the same function as the button UNDO. Look at its description (above) for more information.

► **Output selected events**

This function is only accessible via the menu. Marked events (figures) can be directly displayed by the projector, if the laser output is set to ON.

► **Cut/Copy/Paste**

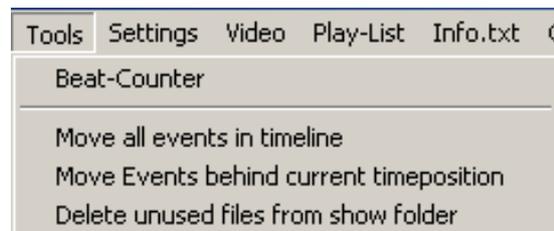
These menu items have the same functions as the respective buttons. Look at their description (chapter 5.4.1.6) for more information.



*Fig.105: Show-Editor: Menu Edit*

**5.4.2.4 Menu Tools**

This menu contains the tool “**Beat-Counter**” (see also chapt. 5.2.12.6 “Menu Windows”). The beat counter is developed to help to find out the beats per minute (bpm) of the song. It is very helpful to set the appropriate frame-rate of multi-frame figures. A click on the menu item opens a small window. The clicks with the left mouse button into the small black area are counted. Their temporal distance is calculated and displayed as a bpm-rate. With the “space” key of the computer keyboard the counting can be reset.



*Fig.106: Show-Editor: Menu Tools*

A click on the menu item “**Move all events in Timeline**” opens a dialog for the movement of all events of the show (in milliseconds). This could be useful, if you want e.g. to delete the first part of a show (shorten music, and then move all events by the time, by which the music was shortened) and reversely.

A click on the menu item “**Move events behind current timeposition**” will do in principle the same, BUT it acts only on the events of the show, which are positioned **BEHIND** the actual song position! To define the actual song position first click on the respective place within the Timeline. The actual song position is then marked by a red line, followed by a double arrow. If events are moved backwards (negative direction), pay attention on overlappings!



### 5.4.2.5 Menu Settings

► **Start/Stop Laser Output automatically**

Check this item to start and stop the laser output automatically.

► **Use Key-Up Event ==> Figure off**

Check this item if you want that the figure display stops on releasing the assigned key. Key pushed → figure on; key released → figure off.

If this option is NOT selected, than only the pushing of the key is evaluated. Then the figure can ONLY be stopped by another one or by pushing the “Space”-key (then a blue line at the stop-position will be displayed in the track).

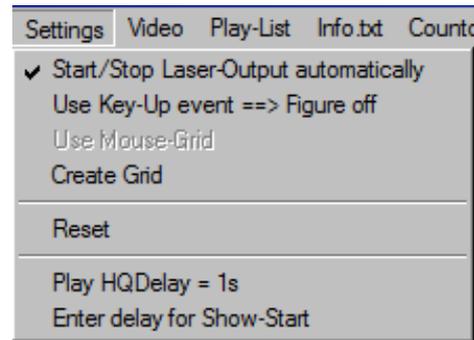


Fig.107: Show-Editor: Menu Settings.

On recording of a DMX subtrack you must take care on using the Key-up/Figure off option, as well as on using the “Space”-key. Here it can come to errors.

**IMPORTANT HINT! This option has influence on the usage of the function (F-) keys!**

As described above, the key assignment is changed and NOW combinations with the F-keys can be used (before the combinations with Strg, Alt and Control could be used). Remember that also within the program the key F0 is existant (NO F-Key pushed)!

The use of the F-keys is dependent on the setting of “Use Key Up Event => Figure Off” in the menu Settings of the Show-Editor. If NOT chosen, each F-“page” is chosen by a short pushing of the repective key. The F-page can be changed by pushing another F-key. The3 selection can be canceled by pushing again the same F-key (F0 is active – NO F-Key). If the option is chosen, then the F-Key must be pushed and kept down during pushing the assigned key to call the figure.

The key F10 can possibly make problems, because it sets the focus onto the menu of the actual program window. This is a function of Windows and can be changed only by use of the Windows settings.

► **Use Mouse Grid**

This function is only accessible via the menu. As explained above, it is possible to insert figures into the tracks by drag’n drop. Furthermore it is possible to work on the tracks by copying and moving the events. To make this work easier, it is possible to create a time grid. The option “Use Mouse Grid” is then used to activate the grid, or to inactivate it. This requires naturally, that a grid was created. To create a grid automatically makes no sense, thus you have to create it manually.

► **Create Grid**

This function is only accessible via the menu. It is used to create a time-grid for the tracks. After a click on the function a small window to show some instructions how to make the grid will be displayed. To enter gridlines the “Space”-Key is used.

► **Reset**

This function is only accessible via the menu. Via using this function all figures and events are loaded new.

▶ **Play HQ Delay = 1s**

Also accessible via the button “Play HQ”. Look there for more information.

▶ **Enter Delay for Show-Start**

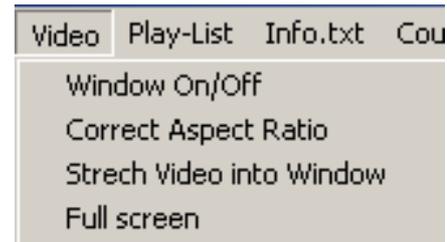
Also accessible via the button “Play HQ” by a right mouse button click. Look there for more information.

**5.4.2.6 Menu Video**

▶ **Window On/Off**

A click on this item displays the Video Window. That makes only sense, if a video file is selected as media file for the show.

All videos should work, which can be played with the Windows Media Player. Usually the Video Window is opened automatically on loading a respective media file.



*Fig.108: Show-Editor: Menu Video.*

A multiple screen system for the creation of laser shows with videos is perhaps a necessary thing.

▶ **Correct Aspect Ratio**

Serves for a correct ratio of width to height of the video. Eventually then the video will not fit onto the screen.

▶ **Stretch Video in Window**

Fits the video into the window. Possibly the video display will be distorted.

▶ **Full screen**

Shows the video in full screen modus. Via a mouse click the video will be displayed again in window modus.

If the laser show is played via PlayHQ, then the video window changes to full screen modus. The “main screen” of the PC will be switched to dark, as usual. But for this the function “Monitor Standby” has to be switched off.

### 5.4.2.7 Menu Play-List

► **Display**

A click on this menu item opens the Play List.  
See next chapter for explanations.

► **Save**

Saves the actually loaded Play List.

► **Load**

A click on this menu item opens a present Play List.

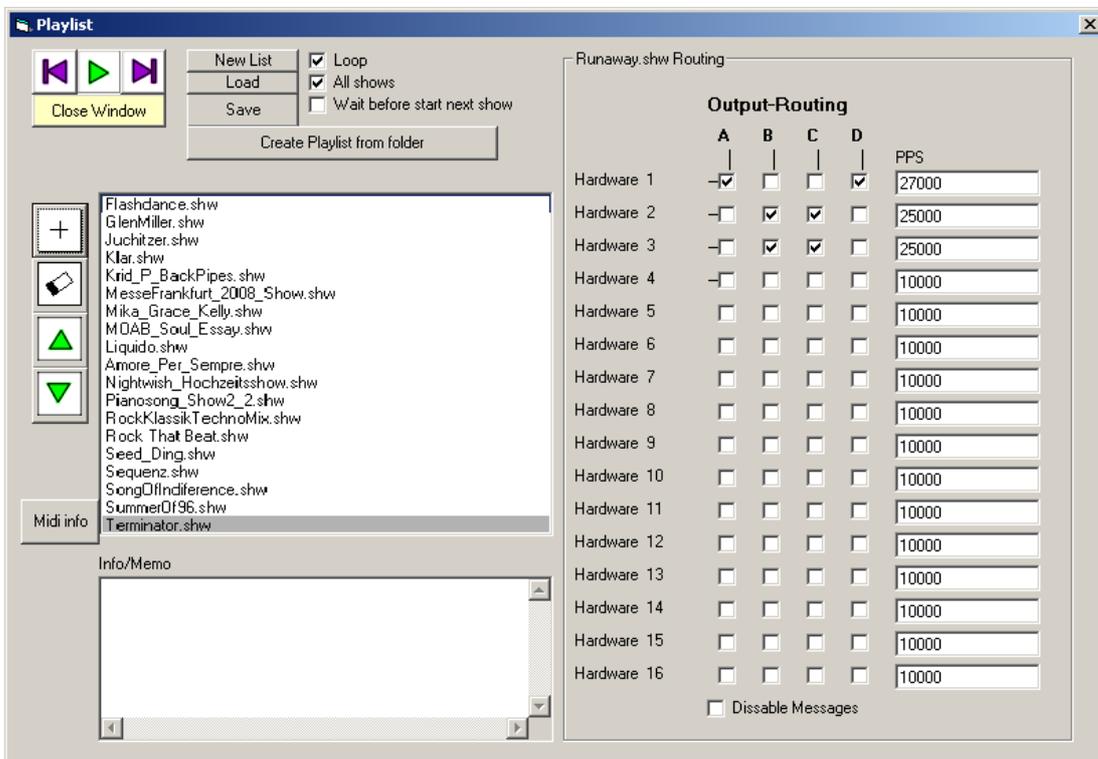
► **Start Play List**

A click on this menu item starts the playback of the shows of the Play List.



*Fig.109: Show-Editor: Menu Play-List.*

### 5.4.2.8 The Play List



*Fig.110: Show-Editor: Menu Play-List/Display opens the Play List.*

The Play List works dependant on the path of the files. This means, that the Play List will not work, if the show files were moved to other locations (changed folder etc...). In that case you have to delete the item and to insert the show again.

► **Violet Arrows**



Via a click on these buttons the previous or the next show is activated (marked).

► **Green Arrow/ Blue Square**



By a click on the button with the green arrow the actually selected show is started. When the show is playing, the button shows a blue square. A click on that button will stop the playback of the shows.

► **Button Close Window**



A click on this button closes the Play List. On clicking again "Display" the prior loaded list is shown again.

► **Button +**



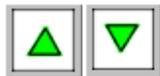
Via this button shows are added to the Play List.

► **Rubber**



A click on this button deletes the marked show from the Play List (not the show!)

► **Vertical Green Arrows**



Via these buttons the marked show can be moved to another place within the Play List.

► **The List**

Within the list a show can directly be selected. A double click on a show will start it. After the replay of the show the output is stopped. The routing of the marked show can be done on the right side of the dialog.

► **Output Routing and Speed**

Via the output routing the user can define the routing of each show and the output speed, too. Attention! When the routing was changed via the Play List, do NOT save the options!!! It will create confusion!

► **MIDI-Info**



A click on this button will show some information concerning the remote control of the Play List via MIDI.

► **Auto Loop**

When this option is checked, the first show is started again after the finish of the last one. The Play List will be repeated endless until stopped.

► **All Shows**

When this option is checked, the next show of the list starts automatically when the prior show was finished. This option is not valid when a show was started by double click.

► **Wait before start next show**

If this option is checked, the playback of the next show must be confirmed. Advantage: If you want to play some shows one after another, but you want to tell the audience some things in between, then this option helps you. The next show is loaded automatically but started only when you confirm it via "OK".

► **New List**

Push this button to clear the content of the list to enter a new one.

► **Load**

Load a present list via this button.

► **Save**

Save the actual list via this button.

► **Create Play List from Folder**

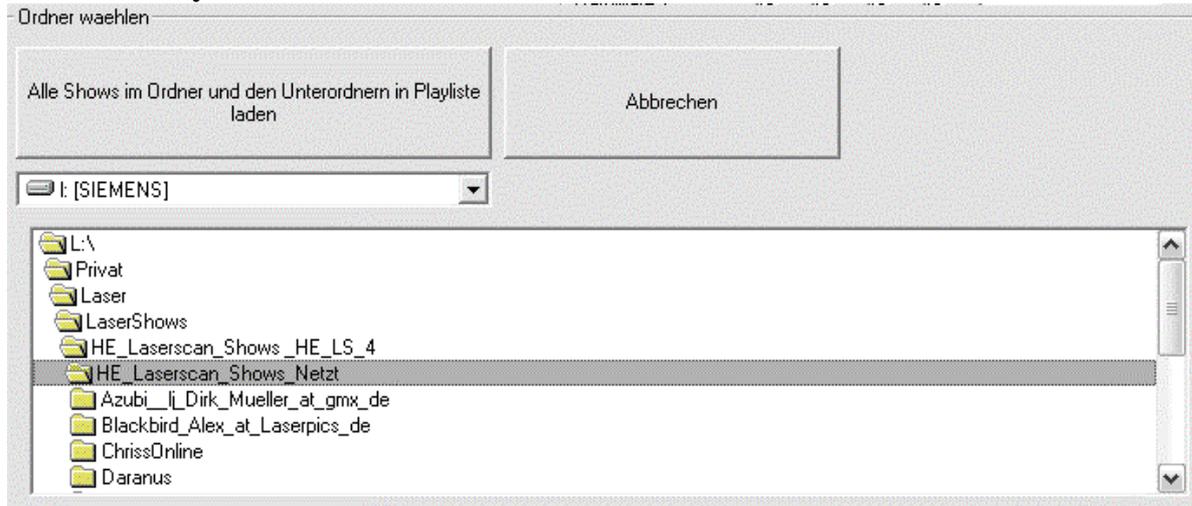


Fig.111: Play List, Create Play List from folder.

With this option you can create a Play List very easy from a folder and its subfolders. A dialog opens to select the folder. After selection of the folder push the button “**Alle Shows im Ordner...laden**” and in a few seconds the Play List is completed. This list can be edited as usual.

**5.4.2.9 Menu Info.txt**

The info.txt-file is created by the show programmer (by YOU, hopefully!). In this file some information from you about your show should be stored.

This information should include the author, the song file, the used or proposed galvo system and some specials about the show (still standing beams or anything else).

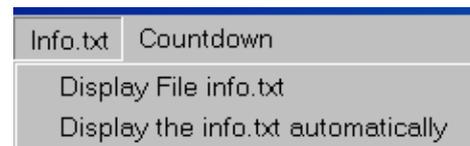


Fig.112: Show-Editor: Menu Info.txt.

This part of the program has been completely edited at version 2009. A dialog with several index cards is opened (Fig.113) to fill in the proposals for the use of the show. We hope, the index cards explain themselves, thus here a nearer description is not given. **All infos are recommendations**, any assignments or pps-rates have NO influence on the real show parameters!

► **Display File info.txt**

A click on this menu item opens and displays the info.txt dialog.

► **Display the info.txt automatically**

If this option is chosen, at the opening of a show the info.txt is displayed automatically.

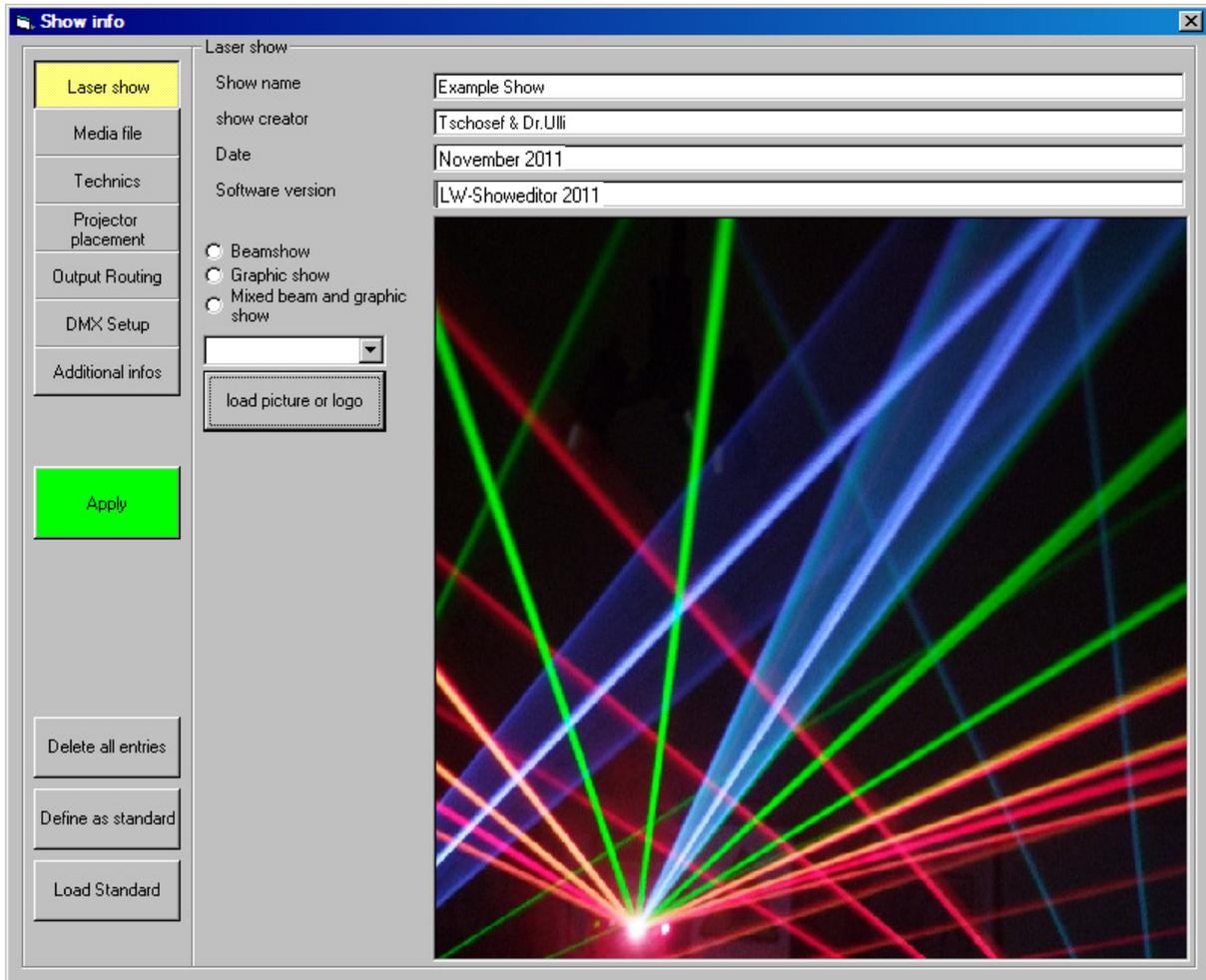


Fig.113: Show-Editor: Dialog Show Info.

### 5.4.2.10 Menu Countdown

► **Start**

This menu item is used to start a show by countdown. The countdown will be routed depending on the entries at “Options”, index card “Hardware”.

If the countdown is used, a small dialog (Fig.114) will open to enter the start-time. After a click on OK the countdown starts. The countdown can be interrupted by switching the laser off (Figure-Editor/ Button Laser OFF).

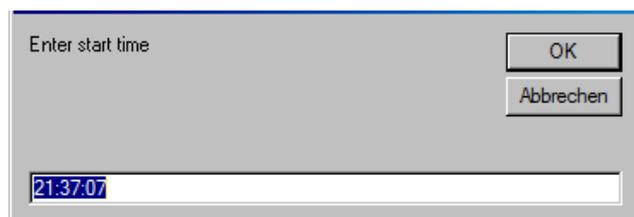


Fig.114: Show-Editor: Menu Countdown/Start => Dialog to enter the time to start the show or to Cancel the Countdown.

► **Define Figures**

This menu item is used to define the countdown figures. The figures are inserted via Drag'n Drop. They are displayed during the countdown display. If ONLY these figures shall be displayed during the countdown, then you have to remove the check at Options/Hardware/ Countdown Output. With the help of these figures it is possible to write "Next Show"....HH:MM:SS.

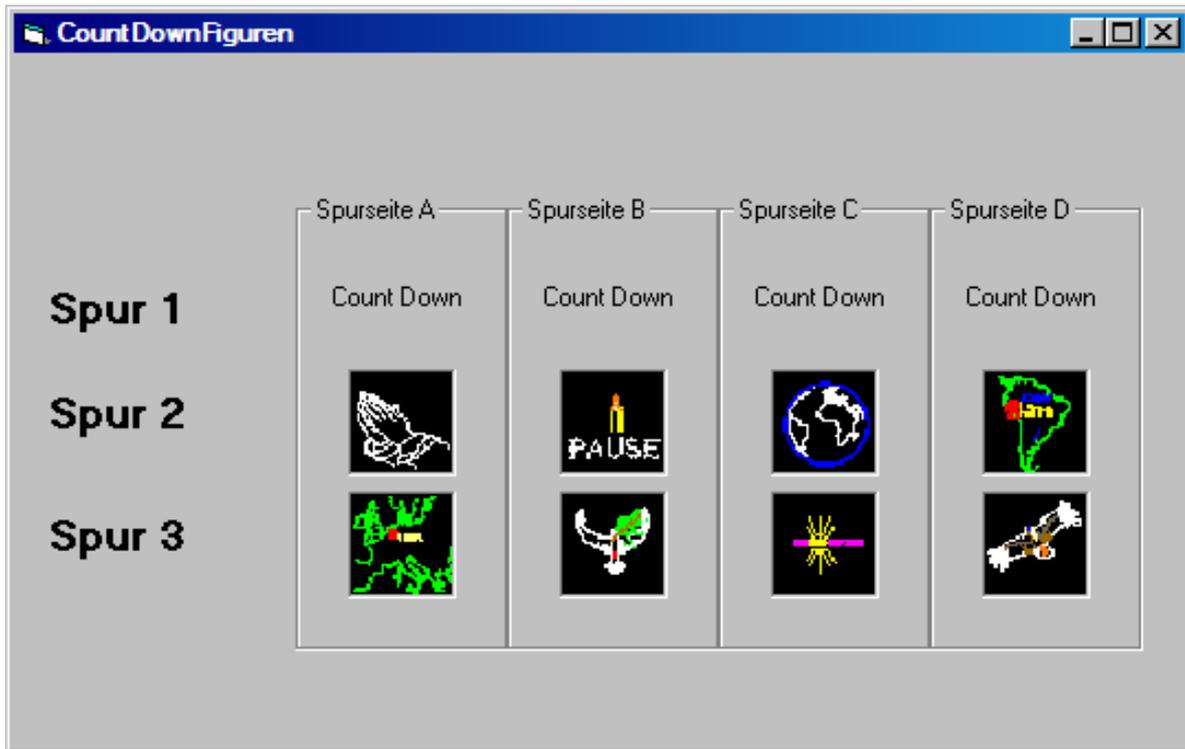


Fig.115: Countdown figures (examples).

**Hint:** The countdown time will be displayed with the actually chosen colour. If you have just chosen black, then you will surely not see the digits of the time.

**Also important:** The countdown can not be displayed as ticker (moving letters). The software thus uses automatically the "normal" font (morphing letters, but without morphing). Please remember to set up the respective options for text.

**5.4.2.11 "Menu" Showpath**



Fig.116: "Menu" Showpath

This is surely no menu (Fig.116), thus the quotation marks ☺ . When a show was loaded, then you can see here the path and the name of the show.

### 5.5 DMX-Editor

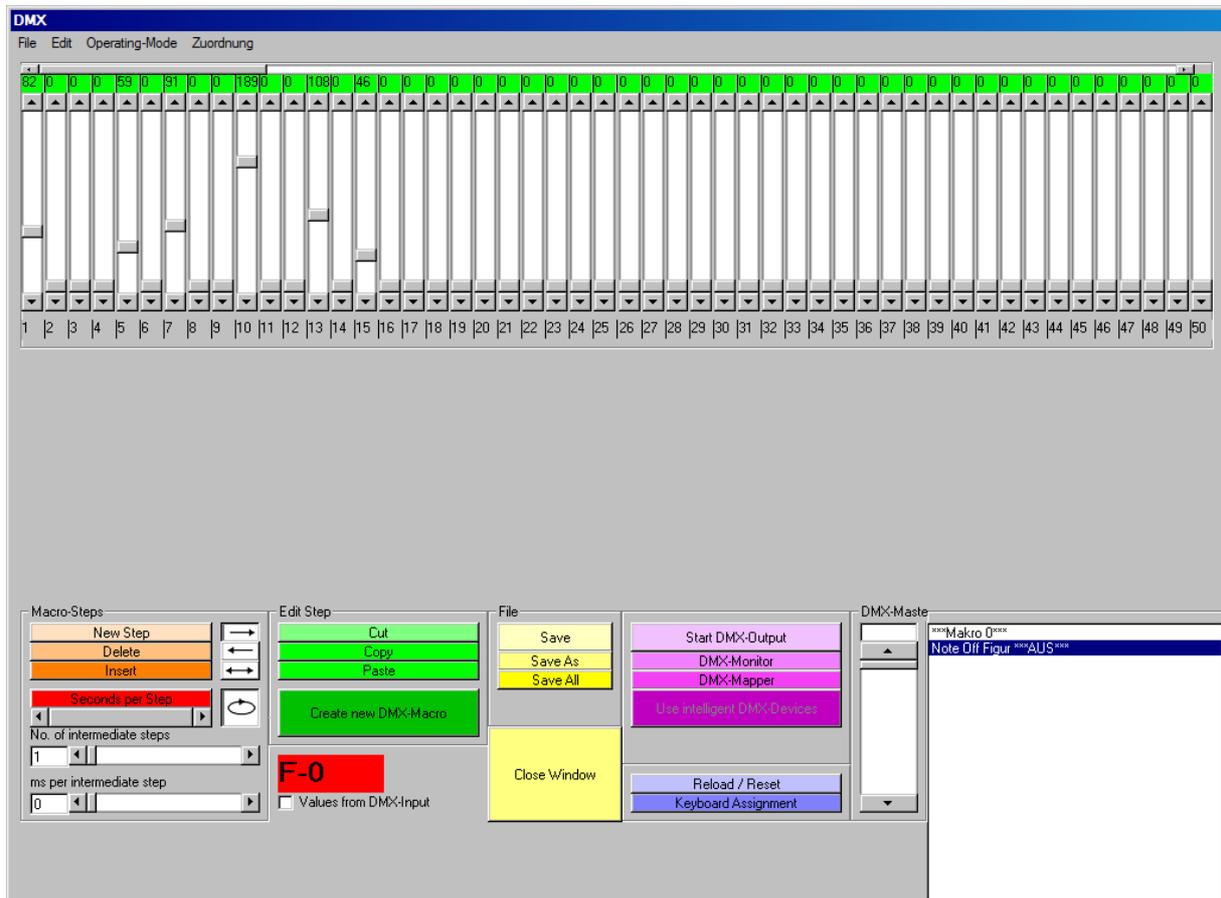


Fig.117: The DMX-Editor.

The DMX-Editor serves for the control of the DMX OUTPUT of a Lumax or EasyLase card. With these other DMX equipment can be controlled via the software.

Comment by the programmer: *Generally I have to concede: Who wants to be the owner of a SUPERB DMX controller can not rely on LW-Showeditor (-: . With LW-Showeditor you can control RGB LED's. Also a nebuliser, screen or others could possibly be controlled with not to much effort. For (light-) scanners or movingheads is becomes a little bit tricky, especially when more then ca. 4 devices such as movingheads should be controlled. Then the limits of this DMX software will be reached. If such challenges have to be fulfilled, an external DMX software is recommended, which then can be triggered by LW-Showeditor. That is surely possible! On demand I could think about a timecode or other methods to synchronize the external DMX. Until today such request were only very little...thus we are now engaged with the simple LW-Showeditor -DMX.*

The DMX control (for DMX OUT) is done generally via DMX macros! These are created and assigned to keys of the computer keyboard. Afterwards the macros can be called.

In principle there are two possibilities to control DMX-channels (DMX: digital multiplex):

- EasyDMX
- Intelligent DMX (only for Dongle users)

Intelligent DMX is in the strict sense only a push-up of EasyDMX. It is simply spoken a possibility to control more complex devices very easy.

### 5.5.1 EasyDMX

The use of the EasyDMX-Editor (Fig.117) is similar to that of the Figure-Editor, but for the control of DMX devices “macros” are created (comparable with the figures within the shows). Each DMX-macro can consist of one or more steps (“scenes”) and can be assigned to a key (similar to the figures in the Figure-Editor). After the creation, assignment and storage the macros can be used.

In Fig.117 a lot of vertical scrollbars can be seen on the upper side. Each scrollbar controls one output channel, which can be assigned to one or even more DMX channels (As default each control is assigned to the respective channel number). At the bottom are positioned the control elements.

The creation of a DMX-macro works in principle just like the creation of a figure. At first you have to push the button “**Create New DMX Macro**” in the region “Edit Step”. Via this action an empty “Macro0” is generated. Now the scrollbars can be set. To reach the scrollbars for channels with higher numbers then 50 the upper horizontal scrollbar is used. Above the scrollbars the boxes are all coloured red, when “Create New DMX Macro” has been pushed. The colour red indicates “not yet used controls” for the actually edited macro.

**It is important to understand the colour code!** The red colour means that these channels have not been defined so far for the actually processed macro. All red marked channels will not change the value of the respective DMX channel on calling the macro. If a scrollbar is adjusted, the red box will change to green colour and the actually adjusted DMX value will be displayed. The activation or deactivation of channels via green or red flags, respectively, is a useful visualization to prevent unwanted actions of the macros. Let us presume that channel 6 and channel 7 refer to two lamps which can be dimmed and channel 8 and 9 refer to a RGB-colour-changer. Then this macro (which we see in Fig.118) will have no influence on the RGB-colour-changer, because its channels are still red. If an activation of the RGB-colour-changer is wanted, too, then the respective scrollbars have to be adjusted at least once. At least, the created macro can be saved via a click on the button “Save”. Remember: When the box above a channel is red, then it has totally NO influence!

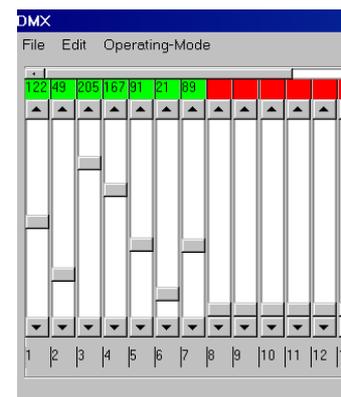


Fig.118: DMX-Editor: Used and unused channels.

#### 5.5.1.1 Region Macro-Steps

##### ► Button New Step

A click on this button adds a new step after the actual one.

##### ► Button Delete

A click on this button deletes the actual step.

##### ► Button Insert

A click on this button adds a new step in front of the actual one.

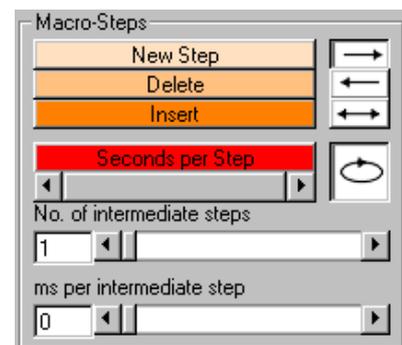


Fig.119: DMX-Editor: Region Macro-Steps.

► **Button Seconds per Step**

A click on this button opens a dialog to enter the duration of a step in seconds.

► **Scrollbars No. of intermediate steps/ ms per intermediate step**

With these scrollbars a fading is possible to create between steps. The nominal values of a new step will be delayed set with small intermediate steps. For this the number of intermediate steps needs to be set with the respective scrollbar. 1 means, that the nominal values will taken immediately. The value 2 means one intermediate step and so on.

With the scrollbar “**ms per intermediate step**” the delay for the intermediate steps is fixed. A reasonable value is e.g. 30 or more milliseconds for each intermediate step (faster is not recommended, because the laser output will be hindered visibly by many DMX-outputs).

**Hint:** The intermediate steps (the dimming) will work at “intelligent DMX” devices only in that case, when at the definition of the device the option “dimnable” was checked (set to true) for the respective channels. More information to this point will later be given at the chapter “Intelligent DMX”.

► **Buttons to set the direction**

Here some comments are necessary. Example: Suppose having already created a macro consisting of multiple steps. At step 1 only channel 1 shall be changed, at step 2 only channel 2 and so on. If now the direction is changed, then it can happen that you will not understand the resulting output. The reason is that the steps will be put out reverse. Thus the first step was not put out at all. Thus the channel 1 was not set to the respective (expected) value, too. This should be recognized when using the direction buttons. You can avoid surprising results, when channels are changed, too, whose change is otherwise not necessary.

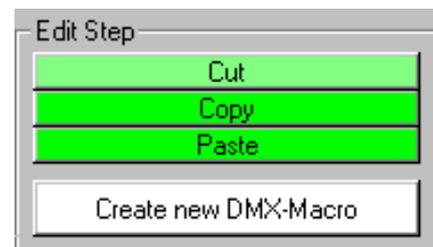
**5.5.1.2 Region Edit Steps**

► **Buttons Cut/ Copy/ Paste**

With these buttons macro steps can be cut, copied and pasted.

► **Button Create new DMX-Macro**

Push this button to create a new macro.



*Fig.120: DMX-Editor: Region Edit Step.*

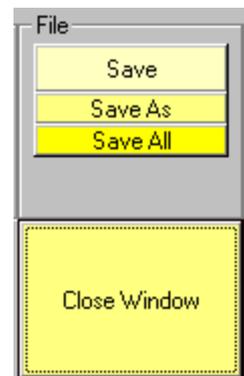
**5.5.1.3 Region File**

► **Buttons Save/ Save as/ Save all**

With these buttons macros can be saved, saved with another name or all present macros can be saved via one click.

► **Button Close Window**

A click on this button closes the DMX window.



*Fig.121: DMX-Editor: Region File*

### 5.5.1.4 Additional Elements (Output, Master, Mapper etc.)

#### ► DMX Interface

The DMX interface(s) are not set within the DMX-Editor, anymore. You find them at “Figure-Editor/Options/DMX”. Look at the chapter “Options” for more information.

#### ► Scrollbar DMX Master

With this scrollbar all DMX channels can be regulated. The DMX master works like the Master-Volume of an audio-mixer.

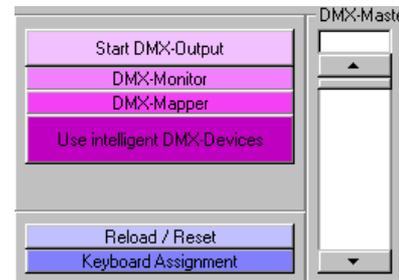


Fig.122: DMX-Editor: Additional elements (Output, Monitor, Mapper..)

**HINT:** The DMX master controller has no influence on an “Intelligent” DMX-device, if for it the option “Master sensitive” is set to “false”. More about this is described in the chapter “Intelligent DMX”.

#### ► Button Start DMX Output

This function is similar to the “Laser ON”-function of the Figure-Editor. But in principle each change of the scrollbars will be put out to the DMX interface, even if the output is set to OFF. On starting the DMX-Output the step timers will be activated. The start/stop of the DMX-Output will be done automatically on the start/stop of a laser-show. If the DMX-Output is stopped, then the macro “Note off \*\*\*Aus\*\*\*” will be carried out automatically.

#### ► Button DMX Monitor

A click on this button opens a little window with the display of the actual values of the 512 output channels. The display will be actualized only with DMX output switched on.

#### ► Link DMX Macros with Laser Figures

DMX macros can be linked with laser figures. The links are done in the Figure Table of the Figure-Editor (via a click with the right mouse button onto the figure)! If a link has been created the calling of the figure will call the macro, too. The link refers to the **key assignment**. Thus the DMX macro and the figure have to be assigned to the same key!

#### ► Button DMX Mapper

Important: The macros alter the values of the scrollbars. These scrollbars are assigned via mapping to the real DMX OUT channels!

A click on this button opens the dialog shown in Fig.123. In the region DMX-mapping you can define, on which DMX channel the respective scrollbar will be mapped (put out). Multiple channel assignments are possible!

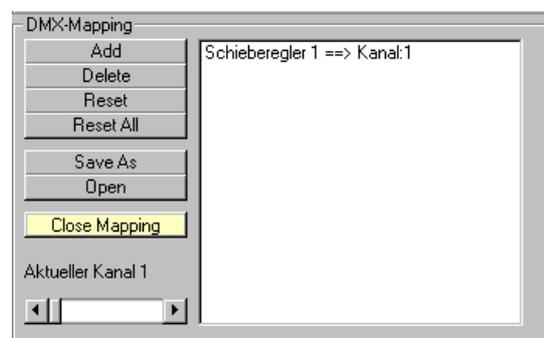


Fig.123: DMX-Editor: DMX Mapping.

The settings will be saved within the program folder on leaving the dialog via “Close Mapping”. Several “mappings” can be used to control the DMX devices by “Save As” and “Open”. The scrollbar to edit can be selected with the slider “Aktueller Kanal 1” or via a double click onto the name of the scrollbar within the list.

This function shall make possible the adaption of different hardware combinations in different rooms by also different users. Several users have thus the possibility to adapt their DMX devices to a show, even when the show programmer used a different “mapping”.

► **Macro Window**

Analog to the Figure Table within the Figure-Editor a macro list within the DMX-Editor exists. In the Macro Window the macros existent within the actual folder are listed. By a mouse click they can be selected for editing or output, respectively.



*Fig.124: DMX-Editor: Macro Window.*

A key assignment is not possible here. This is done via the button “Keyboard Assignment” (see Fig.122). The already done assignment of a marked macro can be read in the upper region of the Macro Window.

► **DMX Macro “Note off Figur\*\*\*AUS\*\*\*”**

Note off is equivalent to “Release Key”. On DMX-recordings the NOTE OFF function works, too. Thus a macro can be stopped by releasing the respective key (e.g. lamp on/off), **but** then the NOTE OFF macro is called, which will invariably set **all** DMX-channels to 0. This could be very disturbing, if “Moving-Heads” are used.

If only one channel should be set to 0, then the release key function is not usable. In that case you should write an additional macro, which sets only the desired channels to 0.

### 5.5.2 “Intelligent”-DMX

A click on the button “Use intelligent DMX devices” will change the view of the DMX-window (Fig.125)

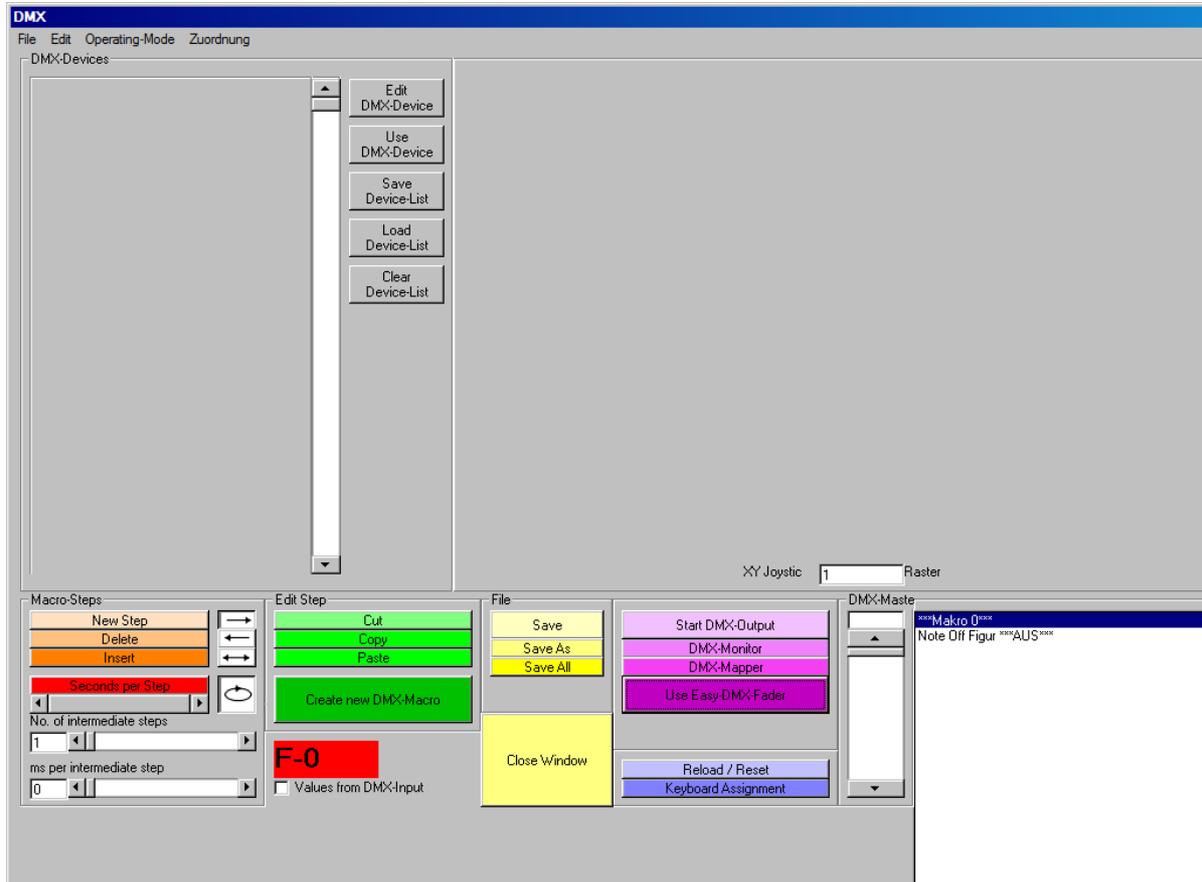
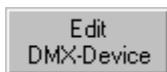


Fig.125: DMX / Intelligent DMX Window.

For the first impression it looks as if nothing has changed, except the five new buttons. That is because at first you have to define the used DMX devices (look at Fig.127 for an example).

#### 5.5.2.1 Button Edit DMX-Device



To select or to edit a device, this button has to be pushed. A new window will open to enter the data of the device(s), see Fig.126 on next page.

The example (Fig.126b) shows the definition of a RGB moving-head (simple variant). The start address was set to 60 (within the device). Because the most elements of the window are self explaining, here are explained only some important things.

##### ► Label

Here some short descriptions for the channels can be entered.

##### ► To dim

This option is set via a click on the respective field to “false” or “true”. If dimmable (true) is chosen, then these channels can be dimmed via intermediate macro steps. If “false” is chosen, then the channels will be set instantly to their nominal values. This has much influence on the behaviour of “Gobo-Wheels” from Moving-Heads, Scanners (light-scanners – not galvos!) and other devices.

► **Master sensitive**

This option behaves like the option “dimmbar”. If the option is set to “true”, then these channels can be regulated via the DMX-Master-control. Because this function is not usable for Movingheads the respective channels are set to “false”.

► **Channel Red/Green/Blue**

If these channel numbers are entered (referring to the start address!), then later a RGB colour selection field will appear (Fig.127). If no RGB device is used, just enter a “0”.

► **X and Y Channels**

If these channel numbers are entered (referring to the start-address), then later a XY joystick field appears. The field works with a 16-bit resolution (movingheads). For not moving devices just enter a “0”.

► **Many identical DMX-devices with different addresses**

Firstly define one device and store the respective data. If you have identical devices, then you need only to change the start addresses and reasonably the device names, too. Then just save the data for the devices using new filenames. Hence a new device with the same data, but with another start address is generated.

Hint: It is not stringently necessary to save new created devices individually. You can after the definition immediately push the button “Use DMX Device”. Thereby the device is put into the device list (without saving!). The device list itself will be stored later separately. It does not need the single device files. Nevertheless it is possibly useful to save the single devices. If later you want to add a similar device, then you just have to load it and to edit only a few things.

► **Button Save DMX-Device**

This function is used to save the settings of ONE DMX device (the actually edited one).

► **Button Load DMX-Device**

With this you can load a \*.ger file and, if wanted, edit it and take it over for the device list.

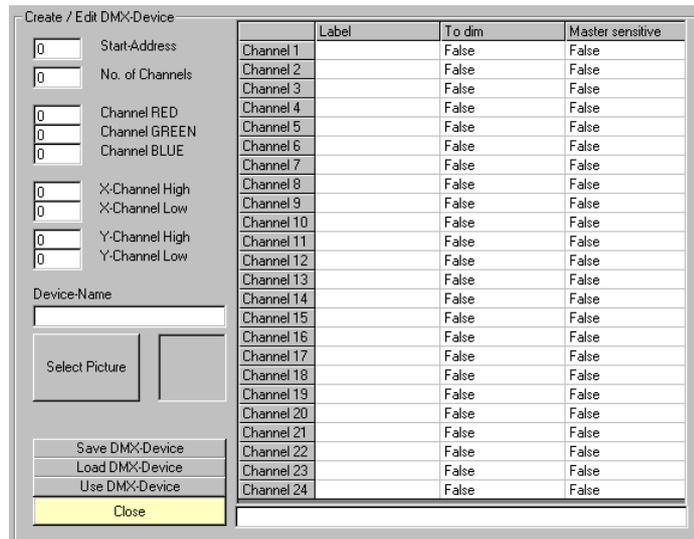


Fig.126a: DMX / Intelligent DMX /Edit DMX-Device.

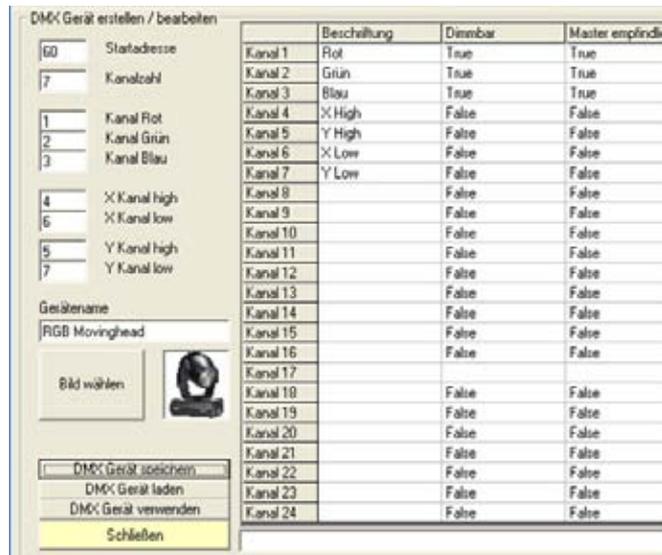


Fig.126b: DMX / Intelligent DMX /Edit DMX-Device. Example. (Sorry, only in German)

► **Button Use DMX-Device**

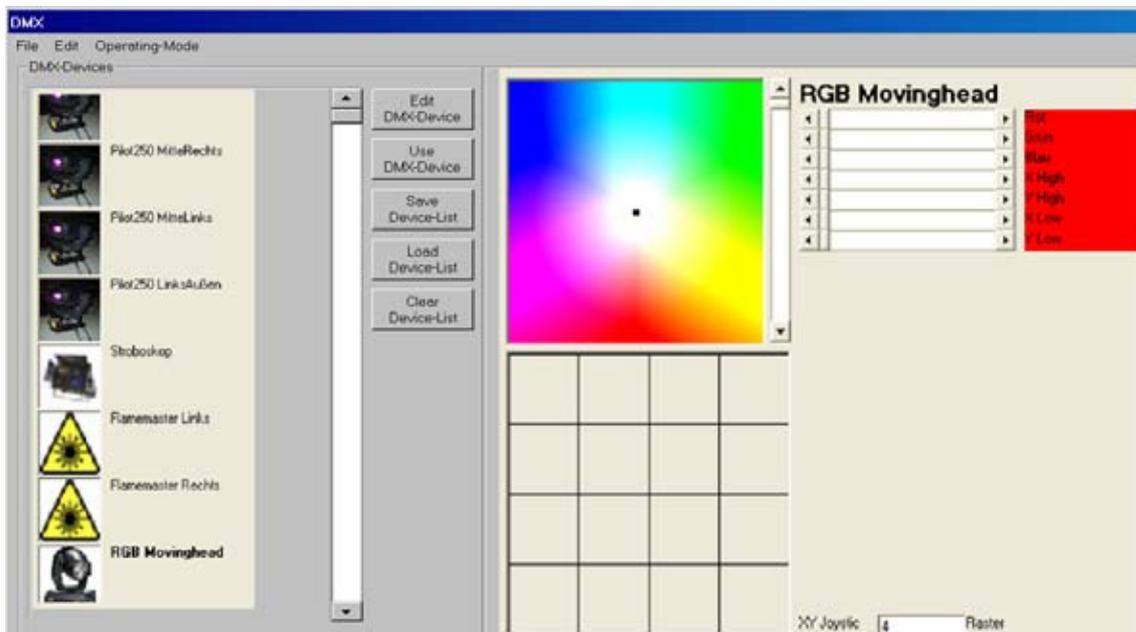
This button is present here within the Edit-Device window and within the Intelligent DMX window, too (see next chapter). If you push it here in the Edit-Device window, then the device is inserted immediately into the device list, **without** saving it. That is arranged in this way, because it is possible to save a complete device list. For your safety it is recommended to store all devices separately.

**5.5.2.2 Button Use DMX-Device**



Via a click on this button stored devices can be loaded into the program. With it, it is possible to create a list of devices (see for example Fig.127).

Since version 5.1.j **several devices can be selected simultaneously** for the editing of the macros. For this firstly a device is selected with the mouse and then the “Strg” key is pushed and keep down. Now via mouse click the further devices to be marked are selected.



*Fig.127: DMX / Intelligent DMX / DMX device list, colour -field and XY-joystick field.*

If now a click is done on one device of the list, then its functions are displayed on the right side (The example shows the functions for a RGB moving-head, the colour-selection-box and the XY-joystick-field). For the XY-joystick the possibility to use a grid (“Raster”) is given. The grid works a little different than that of the Figure-Editor. The value 4 divides the field into 4 equal parts etc. This can be advantageous for the use of moving-heads, especially if they can rotate more than one times around the x-axis.

**Attention:** If several devices are selected simultaneously for editing, then on the display of the actual values it possibly can come to problems. Shown are always the values of the last selected device. If the values of the respective channels of the actual macro for the other devices are different, then this has perhaps been overlooked. Very problematic it will become, if several different devices are selected simultaneously! Then it can come to very confusing displays, especially when the different XY and RGB assignments shall be shown onto the scrollbars (because the respective channels have been labelled within the device editor). Thus the labelling should be disclaimed and then the channels are not shown at all.

It is possible to select several head-moving floodlights and to modify their X and Y position, also when their channel numbers for Pan and Tilt (X and Y) are different.

#### **5.5.2.3 Selection of the DMX Devices to Create Makros**

On pushing onto a device within the list it will be marked as “ACTIVE” (the device name is displayed in bold letters). A display of the functions of the respective device appears on the right side of the window.

#### **5.5.2.4 Button Save Device List**

If a device list is completed it must be stored via this button (the name is fixed). Otherwise the list is lost on a new start of the program.

The device name is preset by the program internally. It is only possible to store a device list (this list normally does not change always, because it is dependant on the location). Only via storing the device list can be loaded at the next start of the program. The loading of the device list is not necessary to play shows containing DMX macros. The list serves as help for the creation of DMX macros.

#### **5.5.2.5 Button Load Device List**

A click on this button opens a prior stored (on this computer) device list.

#### **5.5.2.6 Button Clear Device List**

A click on this button deletes the actually loaded device list (from the window).

#### **5.5.2.7 Use of Intelligent DMX-Devices**

After all above described settings “intelligent” DMX devices can now be used as “intelligent” DMX-devices. The difference should be understandable very quickly: The devices and their functions can now be accessed directly. In clear text the functions of the present controls are displayed. You don’t need to think about channel numbers! A table function (where you could save e.g. the values for different colour wheel positions or Gobos) is not available at the time.

#### **5.5.2.8 Intelligent DMX and USB-Dongle**

Intelligent DMX works only within the full-version including USB-dongle!

#### **5.5.2.9 Menus of the DMX-Window**

The menus of the DMX window contain the functions, which are directly accessible via the buttons. Please look at the description of the respective button for more information.

## 5.6 Control of the Software via DMX and MIDI

This region has been completely new revised at the work on LW-Showeditor 2009.

There are now two regions of the software which can be accessed via DMX and/or MIDI:

- a) The Timeline Window (Show-Editor tracks)
- b) The Live-Window

### 5.6.1 Control via DMX

According to the settings at Options → DMX incoming DMX data are processed via the DMX Input Mapping and then send to the respective windows (at least only the commands are executed, which can be done via mouse or keyboard, too).

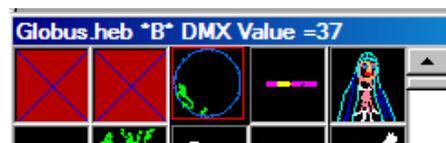
#### 5.6.1.1 Timeline Window (Show-Editor DMX Control)

For a proper function of DMX control a DMX-In port must be selected at the index card “Options/MIDI-DMX”! Because the DMX input will reduce somewhat the performance of the software, the values for the DMX request should be set not faster as needed. The more often the program has to request the DMX data, the slower the performance of the software will become. If you have an output board with DMX input it makes sense to use that for the DMX input.

At this place a hint: In fact it makes actually no more sense to control the Timeline via DMX. That was in earlier times the single possibility to control the software via DMX. Actually it makes only sense if you are intended to “replace” the Timeline by an external DMX program which contains a Timeline, too. If you are not intended to do that, you can skip this chapter and read the next chapter 5.6.1.2 ☺ .

Now quasi all what could be controlled via the Timeline can be controlled via DMX console or computer with DMX software. The laser output must naturally be switched on before and a folder containing figures has to be selected. To call figures via DMX these have to be assigned to a key (even if that seems to be not necessary in the moment) and to a DMX value (look at the description of the Live-Window, chapter DMX assignment).

If you have set the DMX ports in “Options”, you will see the DMX value of the respective figure in the top of the Figure Table (see Fig.128). In the shown example the figure Globus.heb will be called by the DMX value 37. In former times the assignment of the DMX values has been randomly. Now this has to be done via the assignment, which can be done automatically, too. Maximally 254 figures should be possible, because the value “0” stands for “Figure off”.



*Fig.128: Display of DMX-value of a figure.*

The change since LW-Showeditor 2009 compared to older versions includes the fact that for the selection of figures now also the function keys F0 to F12 are used. The new design of the control has been followed by the use of the track 19 (DMX) for the selection of the F-keys!

To make the access to the DMX assignments much easier, the DMX-Input Routing dialog (Fig.129) has been introduced. It can be opened via Options → DMX → DMX Input Routing.

Within this dialog you can select the DMX channels one after another to look at their respective assignment on the left side of the window.

The assignment of channels behaves exactly as the track order in the Show-Editor, from bottom to top. Thus the first channel (referring to DMX-input offset) is the sub-track "0 Figure" (Fig.129), the second channel is the sub-track "0 size" and so on... in total 19 channels per track are available (in which DMX-out is not supported!). To control all possible channels your DMX-control thus needs exactly  $12 \times 19 = 228$  channels.

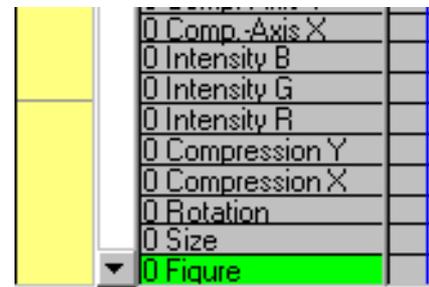


Fig.129: Lasertrack number "0" – channel 1 for DMX.

If someone is interested in the "logical" description, the following is necessary to understand:

Important is to understand the definition "Laser Track". The "Laser Track Number" is that number, which is written at the tracks within the Show-Editor (see Fig.129). It runs from 0 to 11 (thus we have in total 12 Laser Tracks). Unfortunately this is sometimes somewhat confusing, because there are, depending on the software, different names in use for that: "Laser Track", "Track Number", "Track", "Channel", (German "Spur") and more. Excuse this chaos, it is sometimes not easy to have a common defined name for the same thing.

Let us now define "(Laser-) Track" (we have 12, see above). Each Track has 19 "Sub-Tracks" (Figure, Size, Rotation, see Figures 129 and 130 (left side)). Each of the Tracks is controlled by 19 DMX channels. 1 Sub-Track for the Figure + 17 Sub-Tracks for Effects + 1 Sub-Track "DMX" (can not be controlled via DMX). The Sub-Track "DMX" controls the F-Keys.

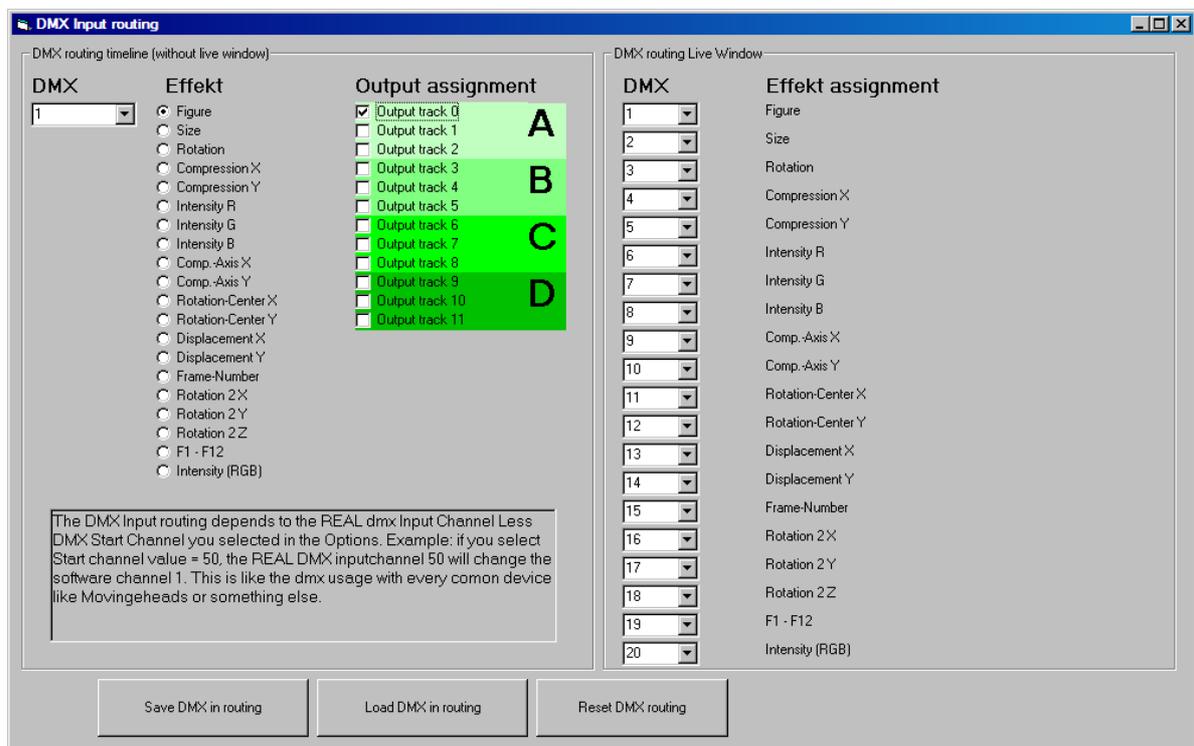


Fig.130: DMX assignments (Options/Midi-DMX- DMX Input Routing).

Now we develop a **formula for the DMX-Input Routing**:

**The first DMX channel for a Laser Track is = Laser Track Number \* 19 + 1**  
**The last DMX channel for a Laser Track is = Laser Track Number \* 19 + 19**  
 Understandable???

Thus the following channel assignment is valid:

Page A:

Lasertrack 0: First channel =  $0*19+1 = 1$ , Last channel =  $0*19+19 = 19$   
 Lasertrack 1:  $1*19+1 = 20$ ,  $1*19+19 = 38$   
 Lasertrack 2:  $2*19+1 = 39$ ,  $2*19+19 = 57$

Page B:

Lasertrack 3:  $3*19+1 = 58$ ,  $3*19+19 = 76$   
 Lasertrack 4:  $4*19+1 = 77$ ,  $4*19+19 = 95$   
 Lasertrack 5:  $5*19+1 = 96$ ,  $5*19+19 = 114$

And so on.....

If we break it down onto the respective sub-tracks then we obtain the following:

Selection of figure = tracknumber \* 19 + 1  
 Size = tracknumber \* 19 + 2  
 Rotation = tracknumber \* 19 + 3  
 Compression X = tracknumber \* 19 + 4  
 Compression Y = tracknumber \* 19 + 5  
 ...  
 F-Key = tracknumber \* 19 + 19 !!!

The DMX track can not be called via DMX input! This channel selects the F-key!

**The DMX channel assignment is thus exactly the Sub-Track order within the Show-Editor from bottom to top. At least we achieve the formula for the DMX channel:**

**DMX Channel = DMX-Input Offset + Lasertrack Number \* 19 + Number of Sub-Track**

where Lasertrack number runs from 0 to 11, Sub-Track number from 1 to 19. To control all tracks we need in total  $12* 19 = 228$  DMX channels.

Again some examples:

Track 0 on page A is controled by the channels 1 to 19, in total 19 channels  
 Track 1 on page A is controled by the channels 20 to 38, in total 19 channels  
 Track 2 on page A is controled by the channels 39 to 57, in total 19 channels  
 Track 3 on page B is controled by the channels 58 to 76, in total 19 channels  
 And so on.....

Because it is hardly possible to keep this all in mind, a somewhat “intelligent” DMX-controller (DMX-board or software) is necessary, where it is possible to write down the assignment in clear text. Because it is e.g not very simple to calculate the needed channel for a rotation of the figure in Track 7, Page C (this would be the channel  $7 \times 19 + 3 = 136$ , because we have Track 0 – thus the Tracks 0-6 have  $(6+1) \times 19$  channels, plus 3 to reach the Sub-Track “Rotation” on Track 7 – and because we now assume DMX-Input Offset = 0 ).

BUT anyhow, with the help of the DMX-software-control it is possible to replace the complete Timeline (the tracks on the pages A-D) by a DMX-board (if it is sufficiently “intelligent”). Thus you can integrate laser-projectors into an existing DMX-light-control (there are truly some discos, which use it). If you possibly need more help to this topic, please contact us.

But we have luck, meanwhile the Live-Window has been introduced.....

### 5.6.1.2 Control of the Live-Window via DMX

That is very easy...You can push the keys for the calling of figures by DMX. Also it is possible to change the effect settings of the actually selected figure via DMX. In total 20 DMX channels are necessary to do this. The standard assignments are visible at Options → DMX → DMX Input Routing (Fig.131).

Then all is valid for DMX control, what in general is valid for DMX. The laser output must be switched on, the DMX Input must have been set, and so on....

How to use the Live-Window, please read in the next chapter.

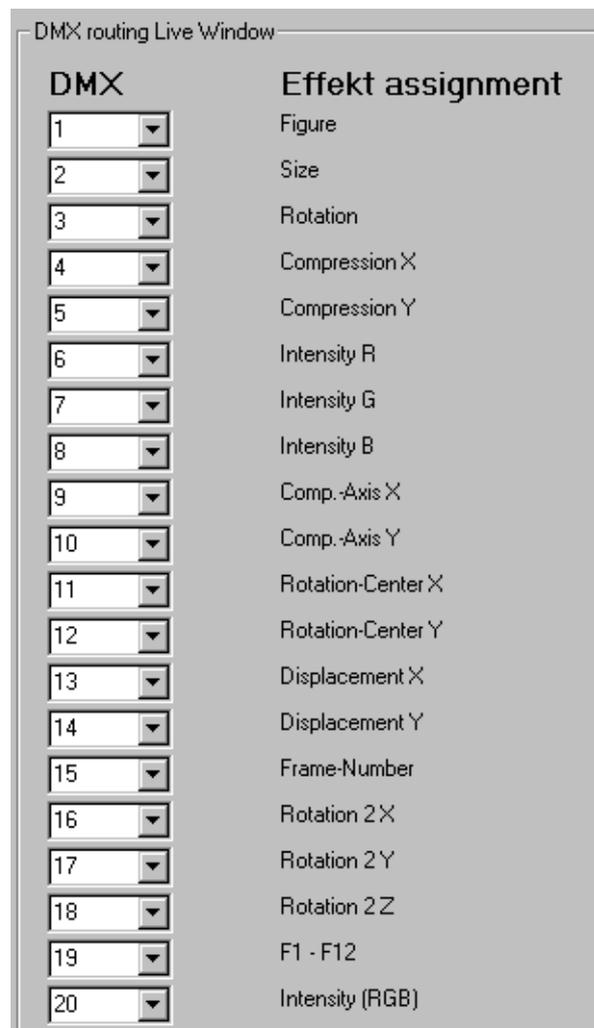


Fig.131: DMX assignments for Live-Window.

### 5.6.2 Control via MIDI

As it is possible to control the software via DMX, this is also possible via MIDI.

Again, two “regions” can be controlled:

- a) The Timeline (Show-Editor)
- b) The Live-Window

For the Timeline (Show-Editor) and the Live-Window a MIDI input routing exists.

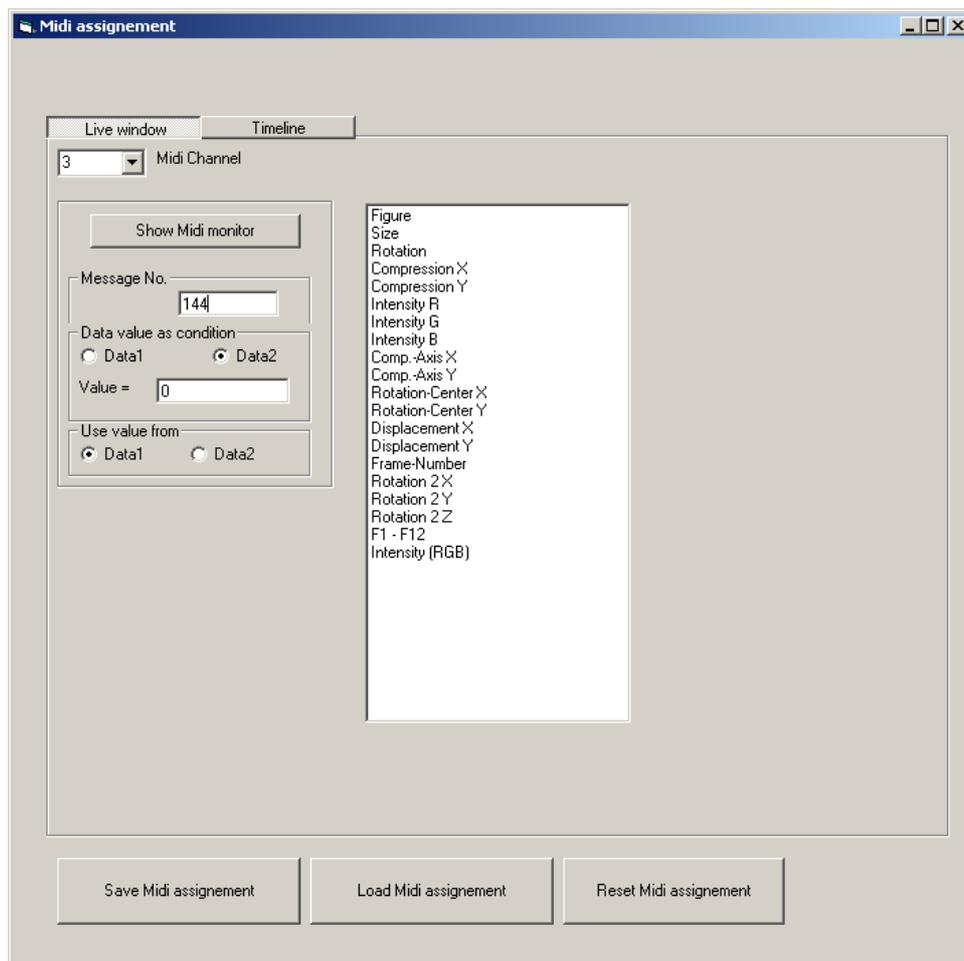
#### ► Setup of MIDI Input Routing

Here much work has been done. This region is very new.

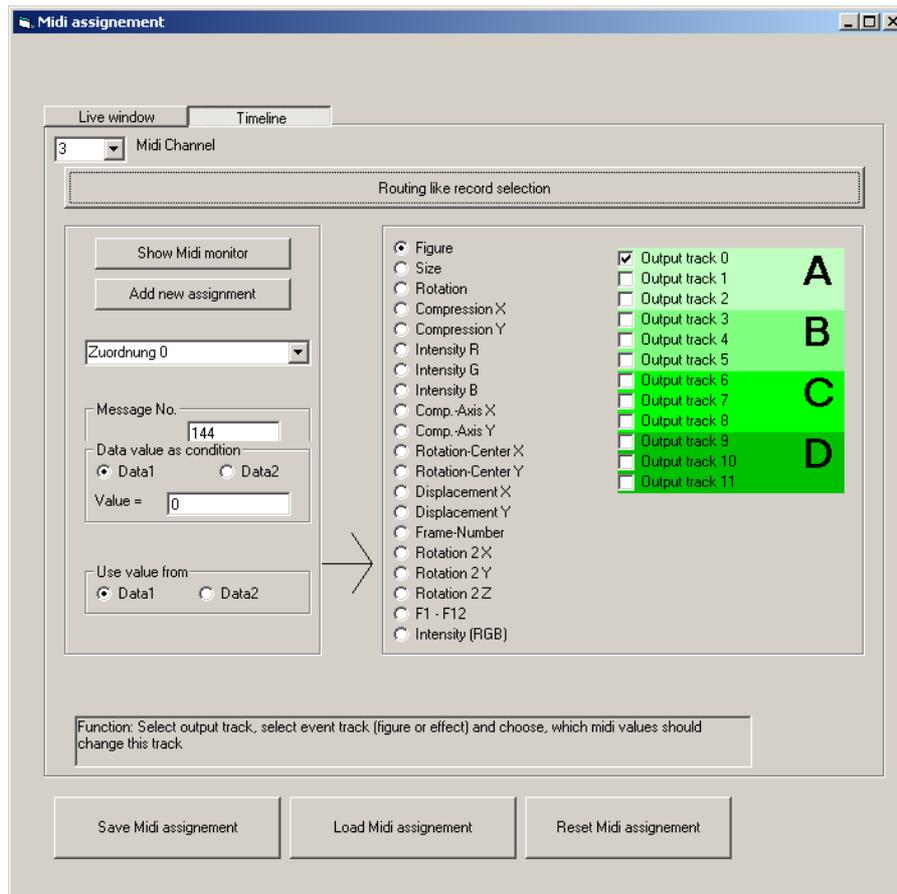
Since the Live-Window exists we have to distinguish, which function shall be controlled by what. In principle “all” can be controlled via MIDI or DMX. Presumably the control of the software by external controllers is referred to the Live-Window. You have to realize the following (valid for the whole software):

- 1) Figures are always assigned to keys (of the PC keyboard)
- 2) The keys can be linked to MIDI or DMX values

Hence it is clear...if a key is “pushed” by “anything” (can be the Timeline, the PC keyboard, a MIDI or DMX command –whatever...) then the respective (assigned) figure is activated!



**Fig.132:** Live-Window: MIDI-Input routing (assignment for Live-Window).



*Fig. 133: Live-Window: Midi Input routing (assignment for timeline).*

The MIDI Input routing determines, which MIDI values are used for the respective regions. Every MIDI transmission contains 4 different data: MIDI channel, MIDI message No., Data 1 and Data 2. To use a MIDI value for the control of an event (e.g. push a key) it has to be defined, which “parameters” should match for the received value of the actually MIDI command in order to be valid.

These definitions exist for two regions. On the one hand for the Live-Window and on the other hand for the Timeline. For the Timeline we have also the old default setup “**Routing like record selection**” (Fig.133). This means: If the option is set (button is pushed by default), then just the green marking of the track in the Timeline is valid. You select a track, push on Record and then you can enter the effect values via pitchbend or modulation, or select the figures via pushing keys.

For the Live-Window (and also the Timeline) the “filter rules” must (can) be defined for the MIDI control of the individual regions. The element to control is selected (figure, size, rotation...) and then the Message Number and also one of the Data (which has to be given for the usage of the other Data as value) are defined. The programmer has at home for these purposes a “Oxygen49 Keyboard”. That has enough keys, some turning knobs and sliders and thus is suited very well.

\*\*\*short message\*\*\*

Not long ago user meeting took place. There it was realized, that not all MIDI controllers work satisfying together with LW-Showeditor. The APC40 controller has e.g. the property, that it uses different MIDI channels for the rows of keys. Thus it can not work together with LW-Showeditor. It will give always some surprise!

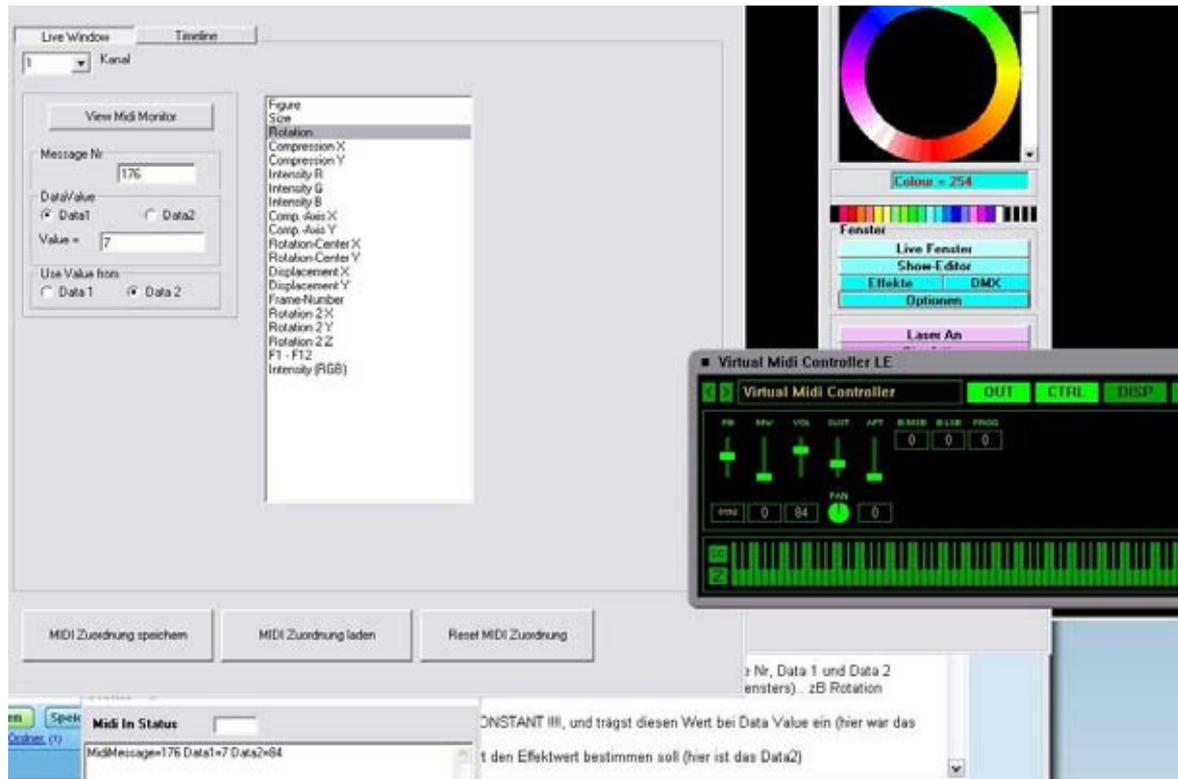
\*\*\*end of short message \*\*\*

In principal the setup of MIDI is very simple, if you just have it understood. Hence a short description:

**Just test it:**

Select at Options → MIDI a MIDI keyboard.  
Then open the MIDI assignment.

You see the window shown in Fig.134 (Hint: It was used for demo a virtual keyboard).



**Fig.135:** Live-Window: MIDI assignment and virtual keyboard.

Push “**View MIDI Monitor**”. Now you see a small window, which shows the MIDI events when anything changes at the MIDI keyboard (the green keyboard in the picture).

Use a control, a key or a button of the keyboard and observe the MIDI message number, Data1 and Data2 within the MIDI monitor window.

Now select an effect (now we speak of the control of the Live-Window), e.g. rotation. Then enter the respective message number (in the picture it is 176).

The next is to check, which Data value remains CONSTANT when changing the controller. This value is entered at “Data Value” (in the picture it was Data1 = 7). At least select the Data (“use Value from”), which shall control the effect value (here it is Data2). This Data value will change every time when the MIDI controller is used.

In the example it means that the values of Data2 of the volume control (controller 176, Data1 = 7) will change the rotation.

In that way you can work on all settings and in the end store your work as file.

Please remember: If at Options/ MIDI-DMX the size control is not activated, then some effects (size, etc.) will not work in the case that they could cause a still standing beam! Even if it would go in another way, it is explicitly recommended to use the claviature to call the keys (the figures), because then the “Note Off” command can be used, too (to “flash” the figures, if this is activated for the keys within the Live Show). At the end the assignment keys → figures and also the routing MIDI values → keys is done. Do not forget that also an assignment key → MIDI value is necessary for a proper function. That is because it has to be defined, which MIDI values shall “push” the respective keys. This will be explained more detailed within the description of the Live-Window.

Some “knobs and controls” have one of the Data ALWAYS = ZERO or something funny...then as selection rule ZERO is entered. Zero means that the respective Data is NOT used for the selection. In this case only the MIDI message number counts.

Two examples:

#### **Example 1 (also when not typical): NoteOn**

NoteOn (could possibly used for rotation...when pushing a key the rotation becomes faster or slower). Here Data1 is the number of the key, whilst Data2 denotes the loudness...

Hence this means:

MIDI message = 144

Data Value = 2 (Data2), BUT as selection rule we use “0”! Thus exclusively the message number = 144 is used as criterion.

“Use Value from” Data1 then means that the key number is used for the rotation.

#### **Example 2: PitchBend**

At a 14 bit PitchBend one of the Data refers to the high-byte, the other one to the low-byte. Because LW-Showeditor only uses 7 bits, only the high-byte makes sense.

If the PitchBend wheel is slowly moved, then you see both Data values changing. One goes slowly from 0 to 127 (once), whereas the other one **always** goes from 0 to 127. That means we have a 14 bit PitchBend event. Thus in the example Data1 refers to the low-byte (always from 0 to 127) and Data2 refers to the high-byte (only once from 0 to 127).

Hence the following parameters are used:

MIDI message = 224

For DataValue Data1 is selected, but as value “0” is entered. Thus the low-byte is ignored.

The right chose for “use value from” thus is Data2.

“PitchBend” and “Note ON/Off” are somewhat exotic within MIDI. The rest of the controllers and buttons is (nearly) always the same. A message number refers mostly to a block of the MIDI device (at the Oxygen, e.g., all sliders...or all buttons, etc.). One of the “Data” refers mostly to a single controller (button) of all existent controllers (buttons) within the block. The other Data then usually is the varying value, which is used for the control of effects or keys.

MIDI is unfortunately somewhat complex because of the unusual data structure. The control of the software via DMX is much simpler, because there are only channels. Each channel just receives values from 0 to 255. LW-Showeditor reacts at the time only to one MIDI channel! This one channel you can define. Controllers, which use more than one MIDI channel, are not recommended for the use with LW-Showeditor.

## 6 The Live-Window

This window was integrated within LW-Showeditor 2009 for the first time. It shall serve for the use of laser projectors LIVE to the music of a discjockey within a disco or somewhat else.

Like for a music-synchronous lasershow, which is prepared with the Timeline (Show-Editor) and then stored to the harddisc, it is possible here to collect all tools for the Live Show and then store the collection as “Live Show” (file with extension \*.live). Here it is again valid: All what belongs to the show (figures, assignments, the show itself), has to be stored within a show folder.

The Live-Window has this design:

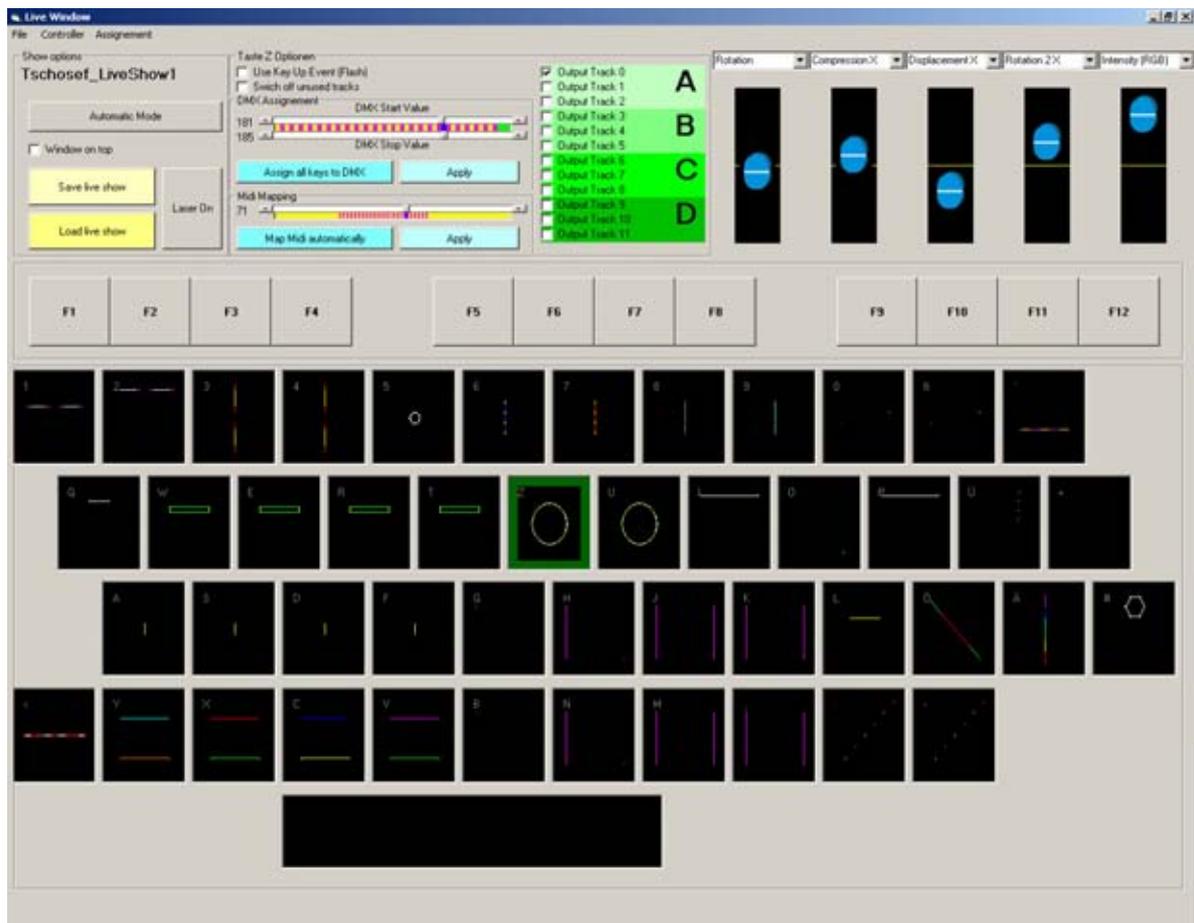
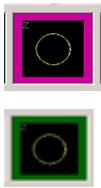


Fig.136: The Live-Window.

If the screen resolution is less than 1280x1024 pixels, then some scrollbars for the effects could be missing. Later is given more information to this point.

The idea of the window is the following: The Live Show shall be controlled via pushing keys (or by mouse clicks or DMX, respectively). If a key is pushed, then the assigned laser figure or animation shall be displayed by one or more projectors. The principle of a Live Show is the following: For each key the respective settings are stored. These can be for example the Lasertrack number on which the figure is put out, the behaviour of the other tracks which are not used, and more.



Therefore in the upper region of the window are divers possibilities for setups, which refer to the actually pushed key. Which key **is just pushed** you can see on its **purple** border. Which key **had been pushed** and afterwards been released you can see on its **green** border. The properties of the keys are refreshed on pushing the keys.

How to create and assign figures has already been explained in detail in the former chapters. If the mouse is moved over the keys, then the (possible) animation of the figure is displayed.

The following properties and functions are accessible:



Fig.137: Live Show options.

In the part Show Options (Fig.137) you see the name of the Live Show and buttons to save and load a Live Show, as well as the button to switch on or off the laser(s).

New (2011) in this region is the button “**Automatic Mode**”. This button opens the Automatic Laser Player (see chapter 5.2.12.6 Menu Window).

The next part of the Live-Window shows the key options (Fig.138). The frame text displays the lable of the key, for which the options are valid (in Fig.138 key number “Z”).

► **The region of „Key „X“ Options“ (here with the lable „Taste Z Optionen“) contains the options of the respective key (here key „Z“).**

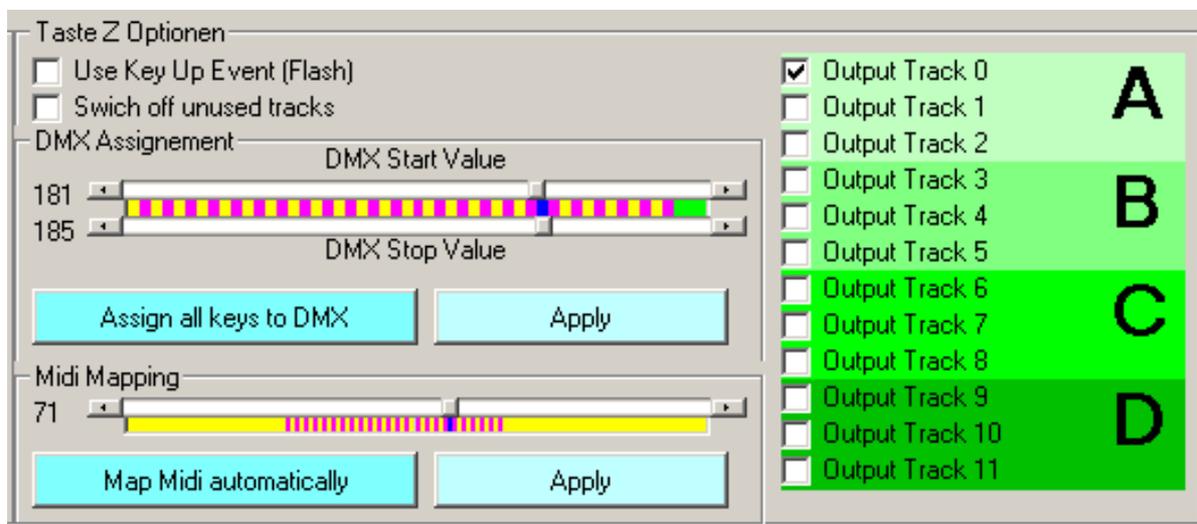


Fig.138: Key options.

► **Use Key Up Event (Flash)**

If this option is checked, then the figure, assigned to the respective key, will be displayed only during pushing the key. On releasing the key the figure is switched off. That works naturally only with the keyboard. For DMX or touchscreen, respectively, the “flashing” is not possible – naturally.

► **Switch off unused tracks**

If this option is checked, then all figures on other than the used tracks (by the respective key) are switched off.

**Example:**

Key 1 selects a circle on track 0. The track 0 belongs to page A. Let's assume track A is assigned to a main projector.

Key 2 selects, for example, a wave on track 3. The track 3 belongs to page B. Let's assume track B is assigned to a satellite projector.

Further assumptions:

For Key 1 the option "Switch off unused tracks" is chosen, but not for key 2.

If now key 1 is pushed, on the main projector the circle is displayed.

If the key 2 is pushed afterwards, then on the satellite projector the wave is displayed, while the circle will be displayed furthermore.

If the key 1 is pushed again, the circle will remain but the wave will be switched off!

► **Output Tracks 0 - 11**

Here you can select by checking the respective fields, on which tracks the figure shall be put out. That should be known already from the Figure-Editor. Attention! If you use Showparts then you must define on which track it is running. On which tracks the output of the figures will be done is defined within the Showpart. Thus do not be astonished, when the figures of a Showpart, which is defined for e.g. track 2 are put out on totally different projectors (e.g. projector defined for track 4).

► **Scrollbars DMX Start / Stop Value(s)**

With these two scrollbars the DMX value range for a control via DMX is set. After setting the value range the **button "Apply"** has to be clicked!

► **Scrollbars MIDI Start / Stop Value(s)**

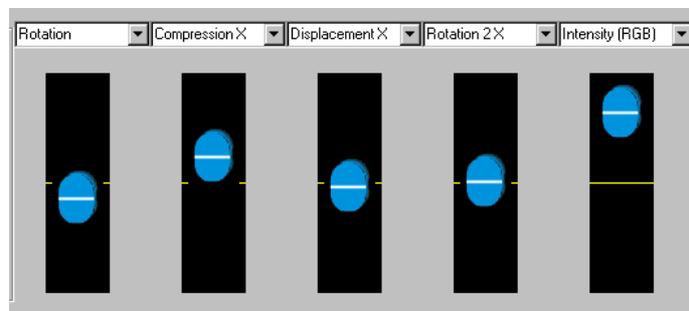
With these two scrollbars the MIDI value range for a control of the respective key via MIDI is set. After setting the value range the **button "Apply"** has to be clicked!

► **Buttons "Assign all Keys to DMX" and "Map MIDI automatically"**

If many figures are used (we have about 600 key combinations!) the DMX and MIDI value assignment can be done automatically via a click on this button.

► **Selection of Effects**

Within the dropdown lists above the sliders (see Fig.139) the effect which is controlled by the respective slider, can be selected. All known effects are possible and additionally the RGB intensity (brightness) can be selected. For every key different effects can be chosen. These 5 sliders are used to control the respective effect via mouse (or touchscreen).



*Fig.139: Effect scrollbars and dropdown lists (above).*

You can chose 5 of the possible effects and "put" them onto the sliders. If DMX or MIDI is used, then you have access on all possible effects at the same time.

► **Sliders**

With the sliders the respective effect intensity is adjusted.

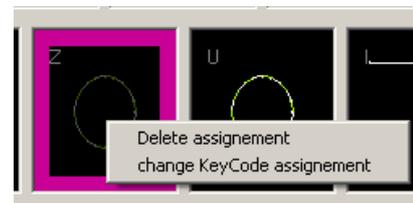
**Hints:** Rotation: The rotation is not switched off, when the slider is in the middle! At the highest and lowest positions the rotation speed is zero. Just on approaching the middle the rotation will become maximal and will abruptly change the direction in the middle. This kind of regulation has been adapted from DMX controllers. Some sliders will be invisible when another window overlaps or when the Live-Window is not maximized.

Display of the sliders: Unfortunately sometimes the buttons of the sliders are not visible, especially when they are overlapped by another window. That is just a disfigurement.

► **Other important hints concerning the operation**

Via a click with the right mouse button onto a figure the small dialog, shown in Fig.140, opens. You see:

“Delete Assignment”. With this item the assignment of the figure to the respective key is deleted.



*Fig.140: Live-Window: Click with right mouse button onto a figure.*

**Change KeyCode Assignment** is an important feature for all countries with another keyboard layout. In Germany we have the “QWERTZ” keyboard, but in many other countries the “QWERTY” keyboard is used. You see, the “Z” and the “Y” keys are interchanged, but nevertheless they have the same ASCII-code.

Thus users of the “QWERTY” keyboards have to reassign the KeyCodes. To do so, select this item and then push **every** key of the keyboard. The new KeyCode Assignemnt is saved within the INI file. It is very strong recommended to do this **before** the creation or the loading a Live Show!

The menu of the Live-Window should be self-explaining – you would get no new information if we repeat the labels of the buttons for explanation ☺ .

If nevertheless further explanations are necessary, then please tell it us. Then we shure will give them in a next revision of this handbook.

## 7 Showparts

This is a new special function, introduced with version 2009 of the software. Now it is possible to create parts of a show and save them within the show folder. These showparts appear in the Figure Table, can be assigned to keys and used within a Live Show or in a Laser Show, respectively. There are some limits to remember:

- A showpart shall not contain callings of other showparts.
- If several showparts are running at the same time, the last called event has priority. Eventually it can come to chaos, if one showparts terminates another one (what is possible).
- Remember: Showparts are no figures or animations, but only calling lists for figure changes or changes of effects.
- Generally each showpart should be arranged in the way, that after its run the called figures are terminated (this is not a MUST, but is recommended).

In principle the creation of a showpart is done as for “normal” laser shows. But it will be created only a part of a show, e.g. for a refrain. This part can be used several times within a laser show (but it is not recommended to use every time the same part for a refrain – it could become boaring!).

To create a showpart, click on New Showpart, choose the music and then record the events for the wanted showpart. For this all effects and figure tracks can be used. If the creation of the showpart is finished, click on menu → Showpart → Aus Sequenz erzeugen (sorry: English: Create from sequence). By doing this the showpart is saved within the Figure Table as figure. The Show-Editor will return to the actual show. In the Figure Table now a “figure” with yellow design is visible. That is the showpart. The icon can now be edited by a click with the right mouse button. Select “Edit Showpart Icon” to insert a picture for display (the picture must be created with another program).

The showpart can be edited, too, by a right mouse button click on it. The program will open the Show-Editor automatically to edit the showpart. After editing the changes must be accepted by menu → Showpart → “Apply”. Remember to store the showpart “figure” by a click on the button “Save” of the Figure-Editor. The actual show will be buffered (RAM). Thus don’t switch off the computer, else the edited show could be lost!

The carefull reader will notice that this chapter is just a copy of the above description (Show-Editor/ Menu File). It was inserted here additionaly for a fast access and for the reason to find the keyword “Showpart” within the content.

## **8 Software Changes and new Functions**

This chapter will be used to explain changes of the software or new functions, respectively, which are very new and have been introduced after releasing this manual. Then it should not be necessary to change the whole structure of the manual when only small changes were done. This will be valid, until it is necessary to insert new chapters.

Today the manual is completely new and all functions are explained. ((-;

If something is missing, please send a short message to us.

### **8.1 Outlook to Future Versions**

The next changes will be:

- More supply of the mouse wheel
- Eventually more track pages (A to H...eight should be enough??)
- Automatic Update function (possible to disable, naturally)
- Support of “Skins” (Colour selection for background, buttons, etc.)

In general a good contact to the users is much appreciated! Thus do not be shy and tell us your wishes and possible improvements!

## 9 Important Hints

### 9.1 Tutorial Videos

On YouTube you can find some tutorial videos for HE-Laserscan. **These explain the LW-Showeditor, too.** The easiest way to find them is to enter “Tschosef” into the search box. At the time 23 videos with duration of about 10 minutes are ready.

Please look for the very new recorded tutorials, too! Also English versions are planned, thus a regular visit of the webpage is recommended. Also your tips and wishes are welcome!

### 9.2 Conventions

Among the laser-show-writers some conventions are already discussed and accepted. Here are cited only the most important ones.

#### 9.2.1 Beam Zone and Audience Zone

“Bad” beams (single still-standing and bright beams) should only be used **above** the middle-line of the frame (in Germany the minimal height for these beams is 2.70m – when they are parallel or increasing in height – this should be the middle-line). In other words: The middle-line should always be above the heads of the audience! By this it is sure, that no glare caused by very intensive beams can be present. If this convention is not fulfilled it should be always remarked within the info.txt-file.

Nevertheless it is always recommended to display unknown shows at first on a wall or screen to prevent unhappy accidents.

#### 9.2.2 Assignment of tracks to projectors

There exists no fixed assignment of tracks to projectors. In general it is the common use that the track-page “B” is used for satellites (small additional projectors). Also the track-page “D” is generally used for graphics. Exceptions are allowed, of course, but should be remarked within the info.txt.

### 9.3 Terms and Names

There are many terms and names used to describe different things. Thus some confuse can occur especially when other programs use the same term for another use.

Example: At LW-Showeditor there are figures, which represent also a file, respectively, and consist of frames (single pictures). At other programs also “frames” exist – but in the strict sense there another meaning is behind it. All frames belong to ONE picture file and within the Timeline then are put only “frames” of the picture file, which shall be displayed at a certain time and shall act on certain effects.

Thus it is necessary to accept divers terms and names. If you have any question concerning these names, then please write an e-mail to us. We will help you to solve the problem.

## 9.4 Old Shows

In general it should be possible to open old shows with the newer versions of the software, but that is not possible reversely (load new shows with older versions). Thus you should install always the newest version of the software. But because there are some differences of the file-format, it is recommended to have the older versions of the software on the computer (only if necessary for old shows). The different versions have their own \*.ini-files, thus they will not interfere.

The shows on the homepage have been created (not rarely) with older versions of the program. LW-Showeditor detects this and “imports” the respective show. Sometimes (very rare) it is necessary to save the “imported” show. Then save a) the show and b) the figures (use the respective button “Save all Figures”).

Who wants to be sure that his shows use the newest data format can use the tool to “dongle protect” multiple shows, without dongle number – naturally (Show-Editor chapter 5.4.2.1 Menu File, “Dongle protection”). Via this all files are stored with the new data format. If errors occur, please tell them to us.

## 9.5 Support

For urgent problems with the software, please contact us. Just send an e-mail. Furthermore a regular look at the homepage **www.laserworld.com** is recommended. There you can find some new shows, newest versions of the software and other useful things.

The **www.laserfreak.net** offers a forum for the users of the software. Here you can find some help, too. Also many additional information about lasers, laser physics, safety of lasers and, and, can be found there.

The community of all laser enthusiasts hopes to see very soon **beautiful** laser-shows, MADE BY YOU and wishes you to have many creative moments!  
GOOD LUCK! (-;

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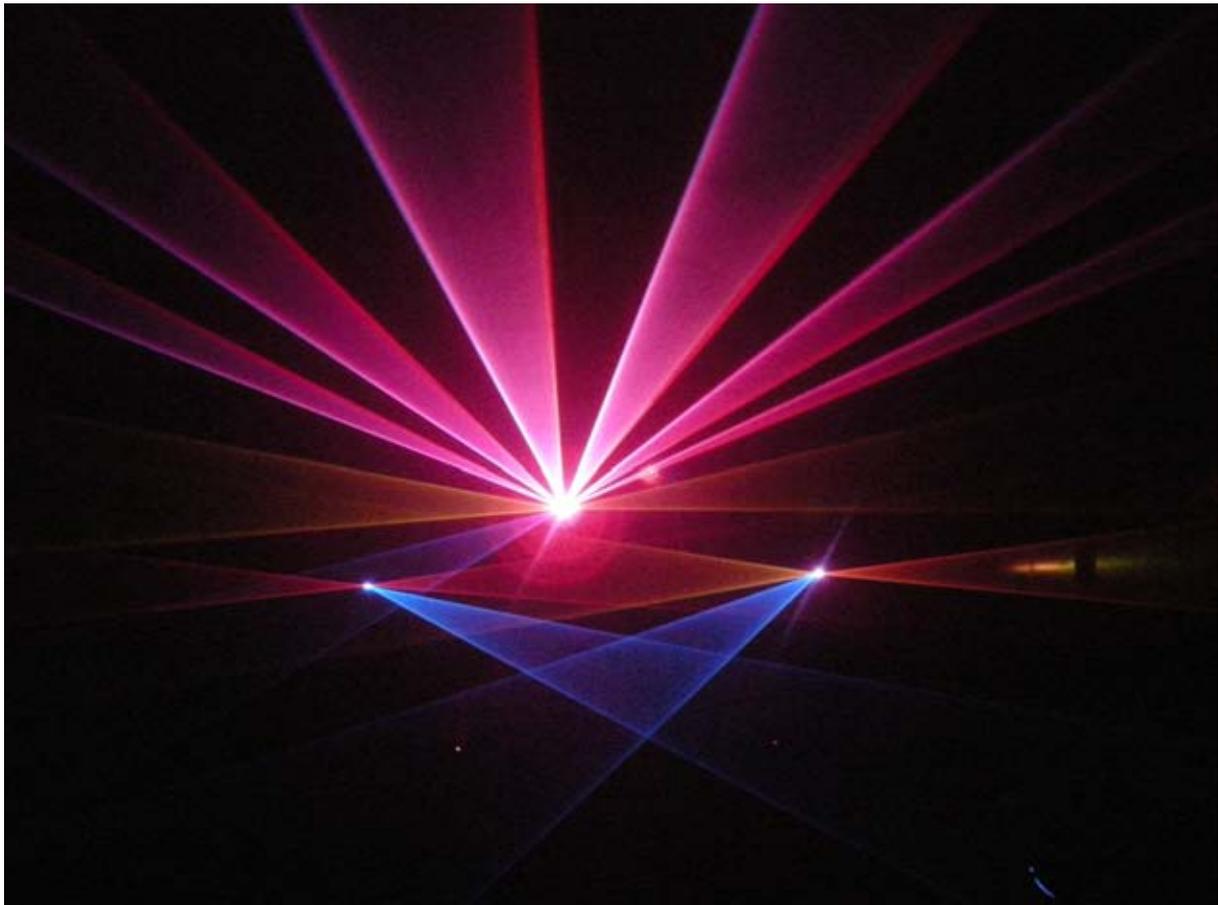
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