Select Last

Introduction

Select Last is designed as a programming workflow tool. Select Last keeps a record of your Fixture or Group Selections so you can return to the Fixtures or Group you were working with without remembering their Fixture, Channel or Group numbers. The plugin allows you to move backwards or forwards through your Fixture Selection history while continuing to modify any Fixture attributes.

Recalling a selection replaces your Programmer's fixture selection. Values already in the Programmer remain intact. Select Last does not recall earlier attribute values or undo your programming.

This guide covers Select Last v1.0.0.1 for grandMA3 2.4 and 2.5.

Installation

1. Download Select Last from your Matt Jones LD User Portal and extract the ZIP file.

2. Keep Select Last.xml and Select Last_vx.x.x.x.lua files together. Copy both files to the grandMA3/gma3_library/datapools/plugins folder on your USB drive.

3. In grandMA3, import Select Last.xml into a Plugin Pool object. Use only one active copy of Select Last on a show file at any one time.

4. Open Select Last from the Plugin Pool. Configure the shortcut and history depth, then press Apply.

Select Last does not require a Licence Key, activation or seat registration. Download access is associated with your customer account in the User Portal.

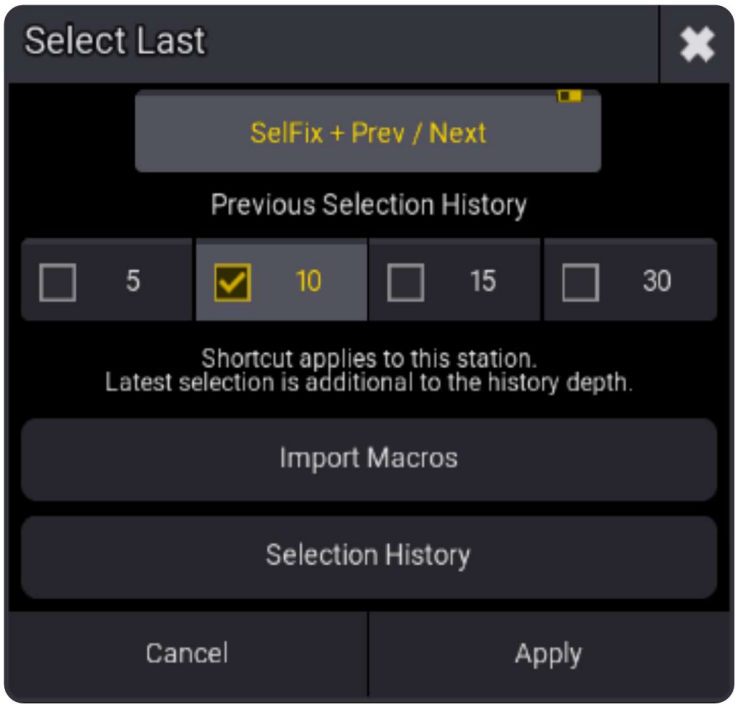
First Time Use

Open the plugin before making Fixture or Group selections you wish to record. Select Fixtures and Groups normally, then use the Select Last recall shortcuts or a recall macro. Selections made before the recorder starts cannot be recovered.

Calling the Plugin Pool object opens settings; this does not act as the recall button. Once the Select Last selection recorder is running, you can close the settings window and continue programming normally.

Settings

Open the Select Last Plugin from the Plugin Pool whenever you want to change its settings.



SelFix + Prev / Next

The shortcut toggle allows you to enable or disable both Previous and Next history shortcuts. Once shortcuts are enabled, you are able to move through your Selection History by holding SelFix and tapping Prev to progress backwards through your Selection History. Holding SelFix and tapping Next will progress you forward through your Selection History.

SelFix remains available for its native use. Prev and Next without SelFix retain their normal native console behaviour.

Disabling the shortcuts does not stop the history recorder or disable recall through a Lua macro.

Shortcuts are not available on grandMA3 onPC without grandMA3 hardware.

Previous Selection History

Choose 5, 10, 15 or 30 previous selections. The latest selection is stored in addition to the selected history depth. For example, a depth of 5 retains up to six entries: the latest selection and five older selections.

The default history depth is 5 and shortcuts are enabled by default. Reducing the depth discards entries beyond the new limit. Increasing it allows more future entries; it does not recover discarded history.

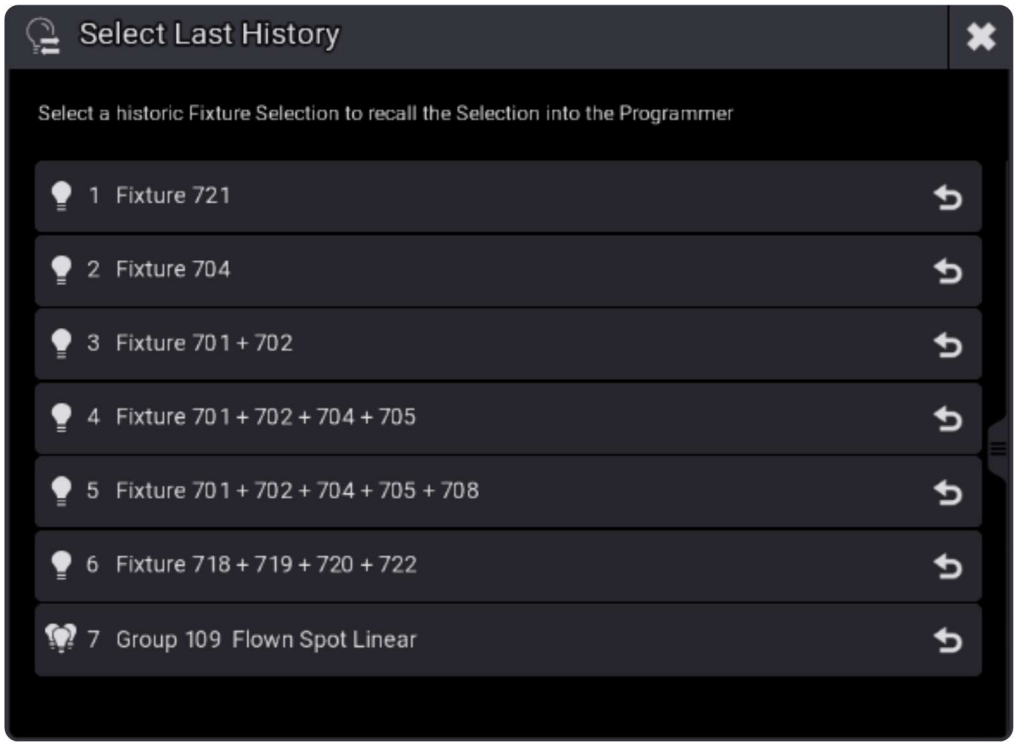
Selection History

It is possible to open a popup that will display your previous Fixture Selection history.

Fixtures and Channels are separated by their ID Type, and Groups are displayed with their Group Pool number and name.

Clicking on a historical selection entry will recall that Fixture Selection into the Programmer.

The Selection History can be opened by either using the UI button in the Plugin UI when opened from the Plugin Pool, or by pressing and holding SelFix + Prev on grandMA3 hardware. *Shortcuts are not available on grandMA3 onPC without grandMA3 hardware.*



Disabling Selection Recorder

To stop the Selection recorder from recording your Fixture or Group selection, in the command line, enter Plugin “Select Last” “stop”

Import Macros

The Import Macros button will import Macros at a location of your choosing, that provide Macros to form the Select Previous and Select Next functions. This is purposely provided for grandMA3 onPC users.

Apply and Cancel

Apply saves your shortcut and history-depth settings and closes the window. Cancel, or the close button, closes the window without applying your changes.

Settings are saved per user. The shortcut applies to the station on which the plugin is running. Check the Select Last Plugin setting on each console or onPC station where you intend to use Select Last.

What the History Contains

The Selection History records your Fixture or Group selections and selection order. It does not store attribute values, selection-grid coordinates or MAtricks settings. An empty selection is not stored as a history entry.

Groups that contain Selection Grid arrangements are recalled with the Grid arrangement preserved as it is stored in the Group it was called.

Incremental selection changes can create intermediate entries. Selecting a new set of fixtures returns navigation to the latest entry. Recalling an entry through Select Last does not add another copy of it to the history.

Recalling Selections

After you make a new selection, the first recall starts at the last recorded selection. If those fixtures are already selected, the first press may appear to do nothing. Press again to move to the preceding entry.

Both directions wrap around the available history. Moving backwards beyond the oldest entry returns to the latest. Moving forwards beyond the latest returns to the oldest. Prev and Next share the same position in history, so you can reverse direction at any time.

Example Workflow

1. Select Fixture 101 and adjust its position. Then select Fixture 205 and adjust its colour. Finally, select Fixture 102 and set its dimmer level.

2. Hold SelFix and tap Prev once. Fixture 102 remains selected because it is the latest entry. If your Fixture Selection was cleared beforehand, Fixture 102 is brought back into the programmer.

3. Tap Prev again while holding SelFix. Fixture 205 is selected. Tap Prev once more to select Fixture 101.

4. While holding SelFix, tap Next to return to Fixture 205, then Next again to return to Fixture 102.

5. Release SelFix and make the required attribute changes. Values previously entered for the other fixtures remain in the Programmer until you clear them.

The same workflow applies to selections of several fixtures and to fixtures selected in a non-numerical order, as well as Groups.

Using Macros

After the plugin has been initialised, enter the following command in a macro line to move backwards without using the SelFix shortcuts:

Lua "SelectLast()"

Use this command to move forwards:

Lua "SelectNext()"

These calls work even when the SelFix shortcuts are disabled. They use the same history position as the shortcuts, including the first recall of the latest entry and wrapping at either end.

Starting and Managing the Recorder

Open the plugin on each station before relying on selection history, particularly after loading a show or restarting the console. The recorder starts when grandMA3 evaluates the component; automatic startup is not currently implemented.

History is held in memory and is cleared by restarting or resetting the recorder. Each User has their own separate Selection Histories.

Plugin “Select Last” "status" reports recorder status and history in System Monitor.

Plugin “Select Last” "start" or Plugin “Select Last” "reset" starts recording with fresh history, without opening settings.

Plugin “Select Last” "stop" stops recording.

Troubleshooting

No Selection history exists. Open the plugin or enter Plugin “Select Last” "start" into the Command Line to start the recorder, then make Fixture or Group selections to start creating your Selection History. This message also appears when the selection context is unavailable.

The first press does not change the selection. The latest entry may already be selected. Press again. If only one entry exists, make further selections first.

The shortcut does not recall history. In the Plugin Settings, enable SelFix + Prev / Next and press Apply. Hold SelFix while tapping Prev or Next. Check that the recorder is running on this station.

A selection cannot be reconstructed. Check Worlds, filters, MAtricks and fixture availability. On failure, the plugin attempts to restore the outgoing selection. Check System Monitor for details.

Updating or Removing Select Last

Disable SelFix + Prev / Next and press Apply. Execute Plugin “Select Last” "stop" in the console’s Command Line, then replace or delete the plugin. To update the Plugin version, import the new XML and Lua together and open settings.

Support

Use Support in your Matt Jones LD User Portal or email support@mattjonesld.com. Include both grandMA3 software version and Select Last Plugin version, your computer OS for onPC system, the steps taken and relevant System Monitor messages. System Monitor history can be exported to a connected USB drive using the ‘DumpLog’ keyword.