

DIMMERABLE Range of Compact Fluorescent Lamps



Frequently Asked Questions

**Q1. Are Dimmerable lamps the same as other Dimming lamps?**

**A1. No, because we use something called Ingenium technology. This is a semi-conductor based technology that controls the operation of the lamp for maximum efficiency. It brings marked improvements in terms of controlled start-up and long-term light output.**

**Q2. How many lamps can I put on a dimmer?**

**A2. Dimmerable lamps act as a capacitive load which is different to incandescent or halogen lamps, which are resistive. This does effect dimmer performance, and dependant on the size of the load, at some point can over load the dimmer. Depending on the type of dimmer used, there is a maximum and minimum load which must be adhered to. Please refer to the approved dimmer page of our website for further details. Where the user wants to try other dimmer types, we recommend that the general dimmer loading table is used.**

**Q3. What happens if I overload the dimmer?**

**A3. If you exceed the recommended amount of CFL load on the dimmer, the lamps will not dim properly or may start to flash / flicker. When the lamps are used in a flashing condition, this may risk long term damage to the electronic components.**

**Q4. What if I under load the dimmer?**

**A4. If you under load the dimmer you will not be putting enough current through the dimmer for it to regulate properly. This means the lamps will probably not dim properly or will appear unresponsive.**

**Q5. What is linear dimming?**

**A5. Linear dimming is how Incandescent or Halogen lamps perform when on a dimmer. If you take a 100W bulb and dim it to 10% - you will get 10% light output and 10% of the electrical load also. This saves you energy and money.**

**Q6. Why are Megaman lamps different?**

**A6. Our lamps are Compact Fluorescent types and as such they use discharge principles. This means they operate by means of an electrical arc inside the lamp tube. So for them to be dimmed, it requires a suitable dimming signal from the dimmer to be modulated on to the power supply, whilst maintaining a minimum voltage. This is achieved through pulse width modulation, which divides the 50Hz supply into variable time-based "chunks", depending on the level of desired dimming.**

**Q7. So do I not get any energy savings when I dim low energy lamps?**

**A7. Yes you do, but not the same as when you dim incandescent lamps. For example, when you dim our 11 Watt GU10 to produce 10% of its original light output, the electrical load is about 50% less i.e. 5-6W. So you do save energy, but this is about the lowest you can go without the lamp going out.**

**Q8 Are the lamps affected by switching?**

**A8. No. Megaman's patented Ingenium technology starts the lamp in a controlled way, over the life of the product. They are rated to work well for at least 600,000 switching cycles.**

**Q9. Can I mix different types of lamps i.e. Candles and GLS on the same dimmer?**

**A9. Yes you can. But the most important thing is to work out the maximum amount of CFL power the dimmer can handle, and then you can have any combination or type of lamps up to that level.**

**Q10. What if I put one Incandescent lamp in the circuit?**

**A10. In some instances having just one standard lamp in the circuit will not affect performance, some customers want four spotlights and three are CFL and one is halogen so there is instant light in a room on entry. This is fine.**

**Q11. Will any dimmer work your lamps?**

**A11. We have tested over 120 dimmer brands from around the world for compatibility, and found that the product quality of dimmers varies considerably. As a result, not all dimmers are compatible. Please see the approved dimmer section of this website for further details.**

**Q12. What is the most common problem?**

**A12. The most common difficulty found when dimming CFL lamps is ensuring that the dimmer is compatible. For the reasons explained in A2, the dimmer type and lamp loading needs to be considered when choosing the dimmer model. Failure to do this will mean the lamps will not function as you wish.**

**Q13. How do I look after them for best performance?**

**A13. You can help extend the life of the lamps by running them on full power for 1 minute before you start to dim them. This allows the lamp to warm up and you will see a more responsive dimming range.**

**Q14. If I start them at a dimming level of 50% will they work?**

**A14. Yes, but the lamp will take longer to warm up and achieve stable light output (brightness).**

**Q15 Does temperature affect low energy lamps?**

**A15 No, they are designed to operate within the normal ambient temperature range found domestically.**

**Q16 Do they contain mercury?**

**A16 Yes, but only in the form of a tiny amalgam pellet. Our lamps are completely free of liquid mercury, so if they are broken no mercury can escape. MERCURY amalgam is widely used in dental fillings as well as other commercial products. Our lamps have the smallest amount of mercury in the industry, for example our GSU111i lamp contains only 1.9mg – considerably less than the tiny ball at the tip of a ball point pen.**

**Q17 How is this controlled?**

**A17 In the UK, The Government's RoHS regulations specify the maximum amount of mercury which can be used. Megaman lamps contain much less than this maximum and less than competitive products.**

**Q18 What are the safety requirements and tests they have to pass?**

**A18 Electronic lamps like ours have to pass strict EMC tests and meet the relevant BS EN safety standards. We have a full set of EMC certificates that are available for inspection; this means the lamps will not cause interference to other electrical equipment nearby, such as TVs, radios, computers or other electronic items.**