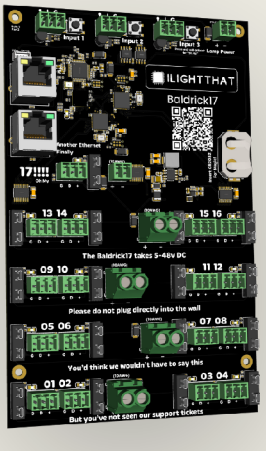
BALDRICK BOARDS · MANUAL & DOCS

Baldrick17 Manual

Everything you need to wire, network and run your Baldrick17 — from first power-up to your first show.

Last updated 18 Jun 2026



Getting started

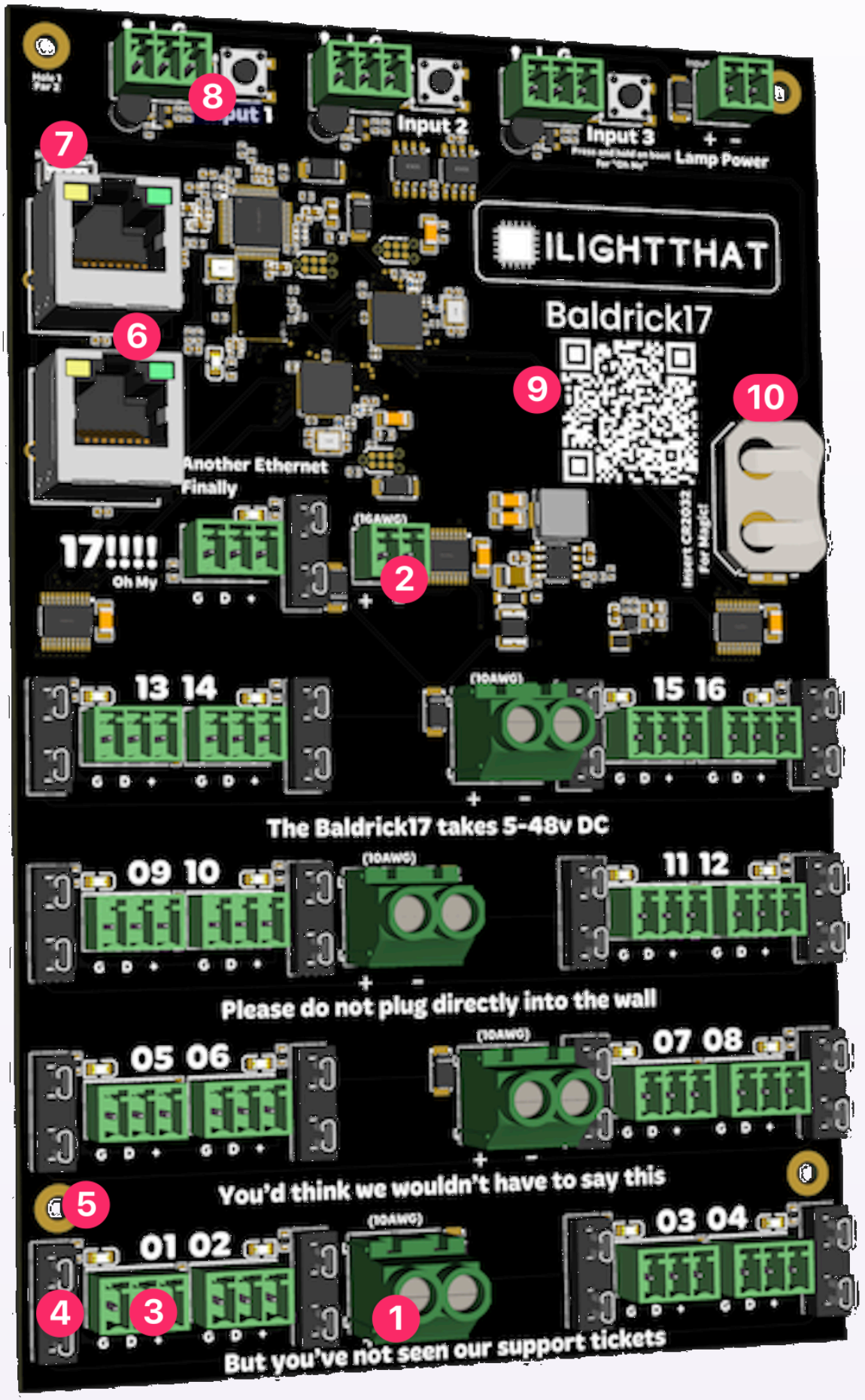
...and imagine more ports! (It's basically the same thing, just with 17 ports instead of 8 and some Turniputs) All the setup instructions, power requirements, firmware installation, and pixel connection methods are identical. The only difference is you get 9 extra ports to play with!

Technical specifications

At a glance

Specification	Value
Pixel-Ausgänge	17 Smart-Ports
Pixel pro Port	Bis zu 750 RGB-Pixel bei 40fps
Protokolle	DDP, Art-Net, E1.31, sACN
Stromeingang	`5–48V DC`, in Gruppen (4 + 4 + 4 + 4 + 1)
Absicherung	7,5-A-Sicherung pro Port
Taster	3 programmierbare Turniputs, FPP API
Lizenz	Kein Pi und keine FPP-Lizenz nötig

Board components


8
7
6
9
10
2
5
4
3
1
Input 1
Input 2
Input 3
Lamp Power
ILIGHTTHAT
Baldrick17
Another Ethernet
Finally
17!!!!
Oh My
(10AWG)
13 14
15 16
The Baldrick17 takes 5-48v DC
09 10
11 12
Please do not plug directly into the wall
05 06
07 08
You'd think we wouldn't have to say this
01 02
03 04
But you've not seen our support tickets

1. **10AWG Power Jack** — These can take 5v to 48v (each jack powers 4 pixel ports and can take different voltages and will automatically step down to power the components, no jumpers needed).
2. **16AWG Power Jack** — A special connector for port 17, can take 5v to 48v.
3. **Pixel connectors** — Using the industry standard Phoenix connectors, your pigtails or extensions will be added in G (Ground) D (Data) + (Positive / Voltage)
4. **Fuse Holder** — Easy to access fuses for protection (and easy changing), the Baldrick17 is designed with 7.5amp mini blade fuses.
5. **Mounting Holes** — We've designed the Baldrick17 to fit snugly on top of a meanwell power supply. These 3mm mounting holes are positioned for protection. **DO NOT DRILL out** these holes to make them fit the screws you've got already, doing this will void any warranty.
6. **2 Ethernet ports** — I know I know, "you are really spoiling us". We've added two 100mb ethernet ports to connect to your show network and daisy chain other things in the Baldrick Family.
7. **Mind ya business**
8. **3 Turniput connectors** — The Baldrick17 goes beyond button inputs and adds lamp management to the easy interactivity (we also have physical buttons on the board for testing, pressing and holding these buttons will activate test mode or reset the board).
9. **QR Code** — An easy to scan QR code which will take you to these docs for easy troubleshooting.
0. **CR2032 battery cradle** — Allows for RTC and CunningFX scheduling.

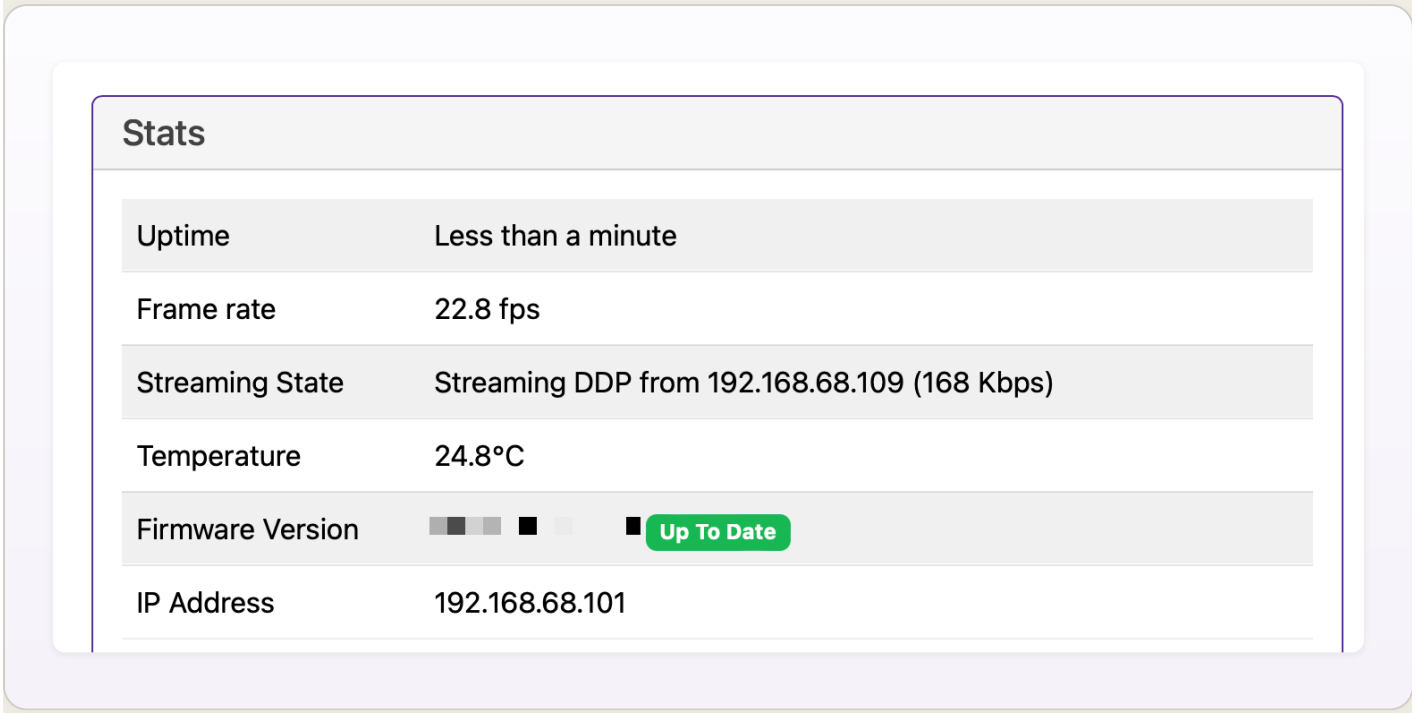
> ⚠ **Important**
>
> DO NOT DRILL out the mounting holes to make them fit the screws you've got already, doing this will void your warranty.

Web interface

The Baldrick17 includes a powerful web-based configuration interface that allows you to set up and control your board from any web browser. This comprehensive guide covers every aspect of the web interface.

Stats Dashboard

System Information



The Stats board gives you a heads up as to what's going on with your controller.

Uptime

Tells you how long your controller has been powered on *(this is useful in June to remind you that you forgot to turn it off over christmas)*

Frame Rate

This lets you know what the FPS (Frames Per Second) the controller is currently outputting *(The Baldrick17 has been optimised to output up to 2250 channels per port (which is 750 RGB pixels at 40fps))*

Streaming State

Will indicate if the board is receiving data from a specific IP address and what type of data. **The board will also show if two IPs are streaming to the board at the same time which is very useful for debugging those pesky problems**

Network Throughput

Like the FPS, this gives you an indication of the volume of network traffic passing through the controller, this should help with debugging.

Temperature

With a sensor next to the Ethernet connector, this gives you an indication of the board temperature *(in Celsius because water freezes at 0, not 32.. how does that make sense?)*

Generally, PCBs and components are good for -40 to +85°C. Anything below 60°C on this board is fine and nothing to worry about. If the temp is above that, try blowing on it like you would a hot chip out of the oven.

Firmware Version

We regularly release new firmware updates with features (and sometimes people break our boards and we have to fix it)

(clicking the new version will upgrade it in place then restart the controller)

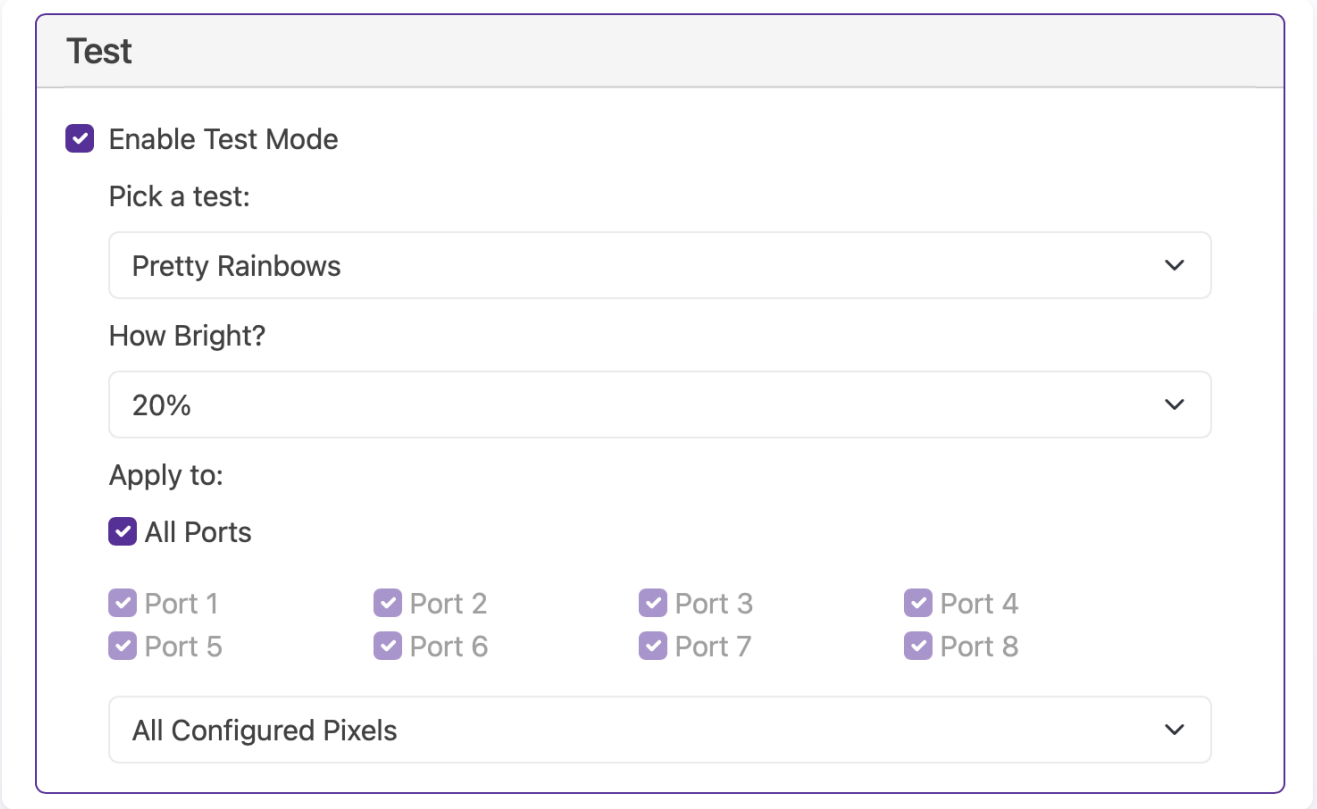
IP Address

It would be pretty silly to have a controller information box without showing you the IP Address of the controller wouldn't it? That would be like launching a controller without being able to manage the networking.

Test Mode

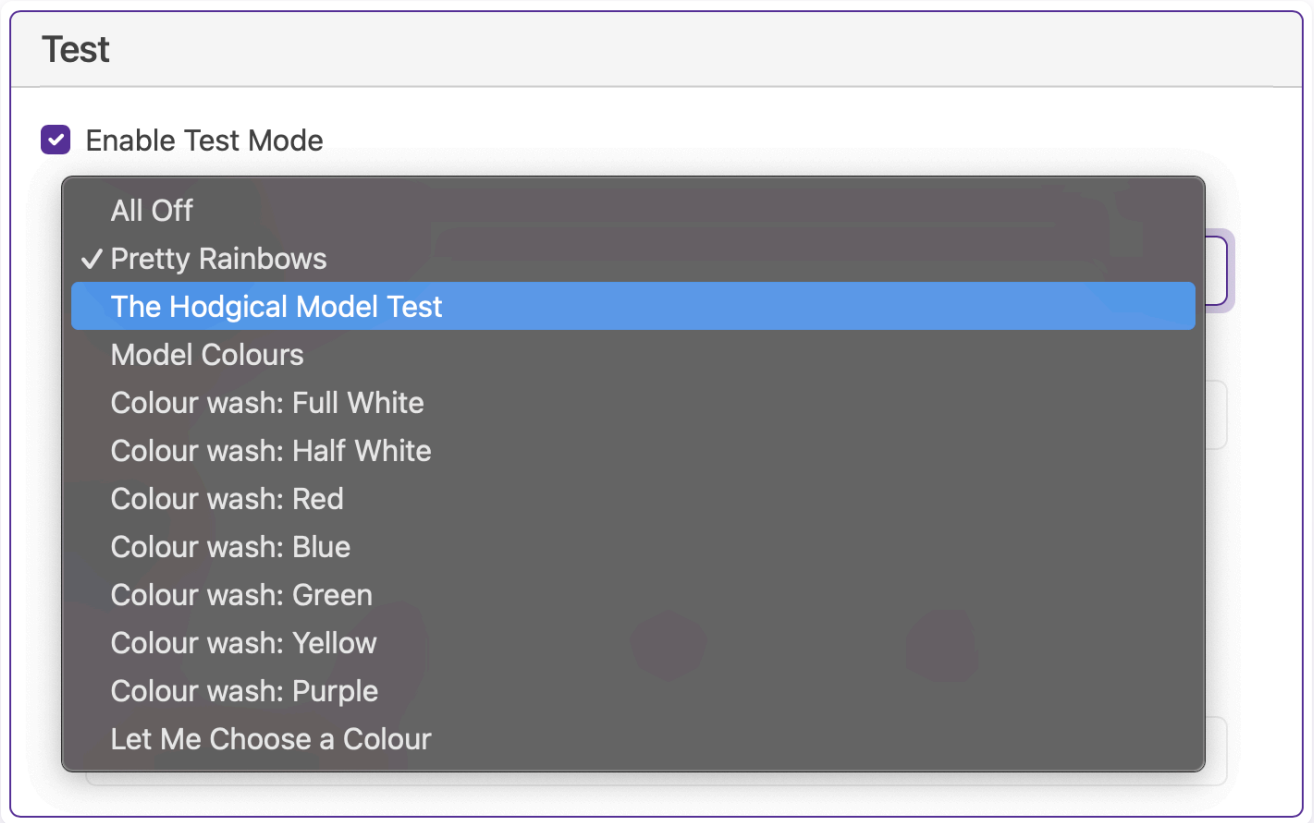
Quick Testing & Troubleshooting

Test mode is one of the most important features of the Baldrick Board, if it's two hours before switch on and something is going wrong, YOU NEED CLEAR INFORMATION QUICKLY.



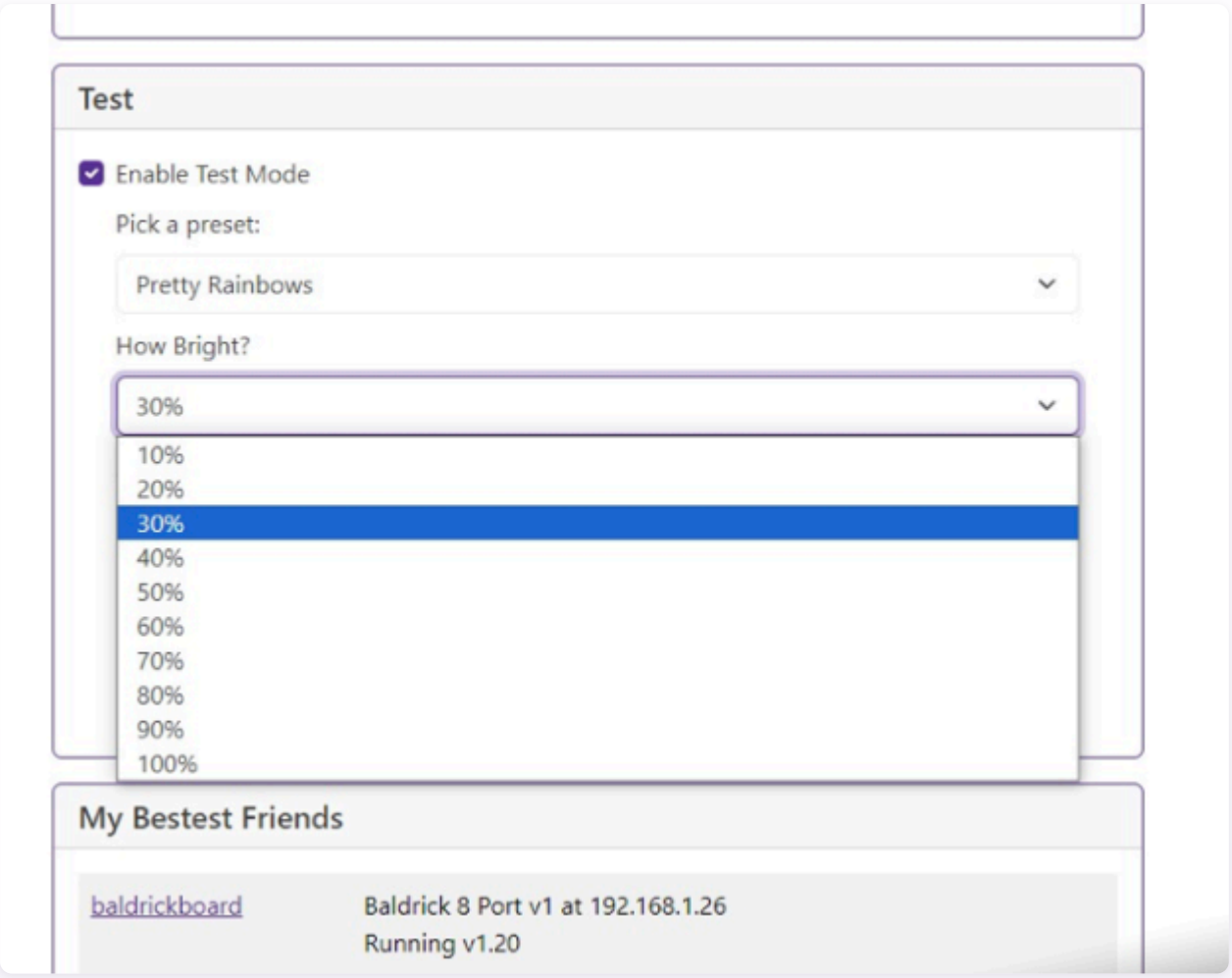
Colour Presets

We've created a bunch of presets to help you with your testing but we got bored with just writing colours so we thought we'd have some fun with the names. You might want to have a look at something special we've introduced called Hodgical Mode



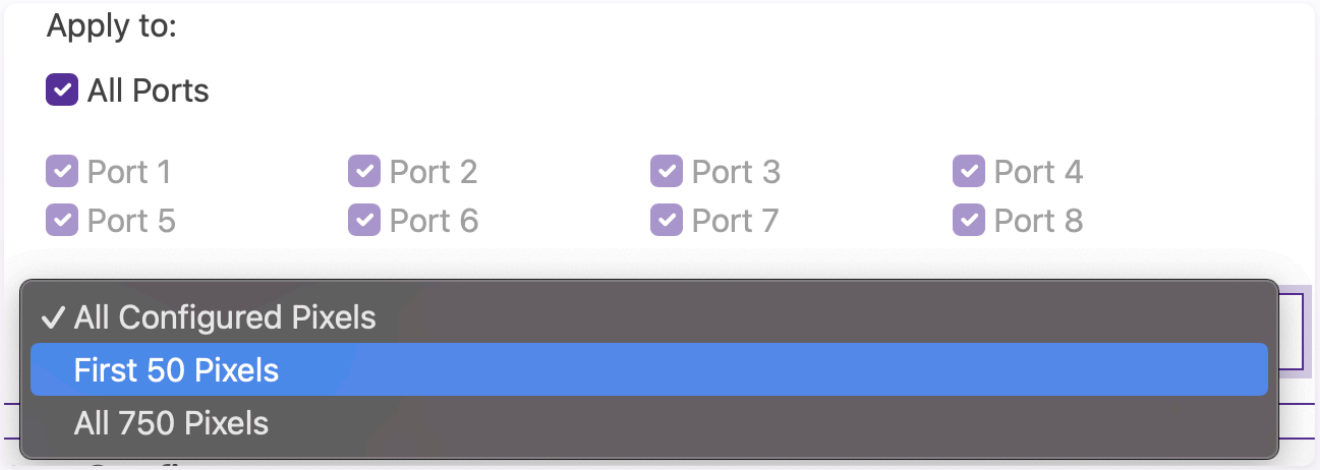
Brightness

Sometimes 100% is too much *Have you done those power calculations correctly?* so we give you the choice of brightness.



Apply to

Select your port (or all ports) then select if you want ALL configured pixels, 750 RGB pixels or 50 pixels.

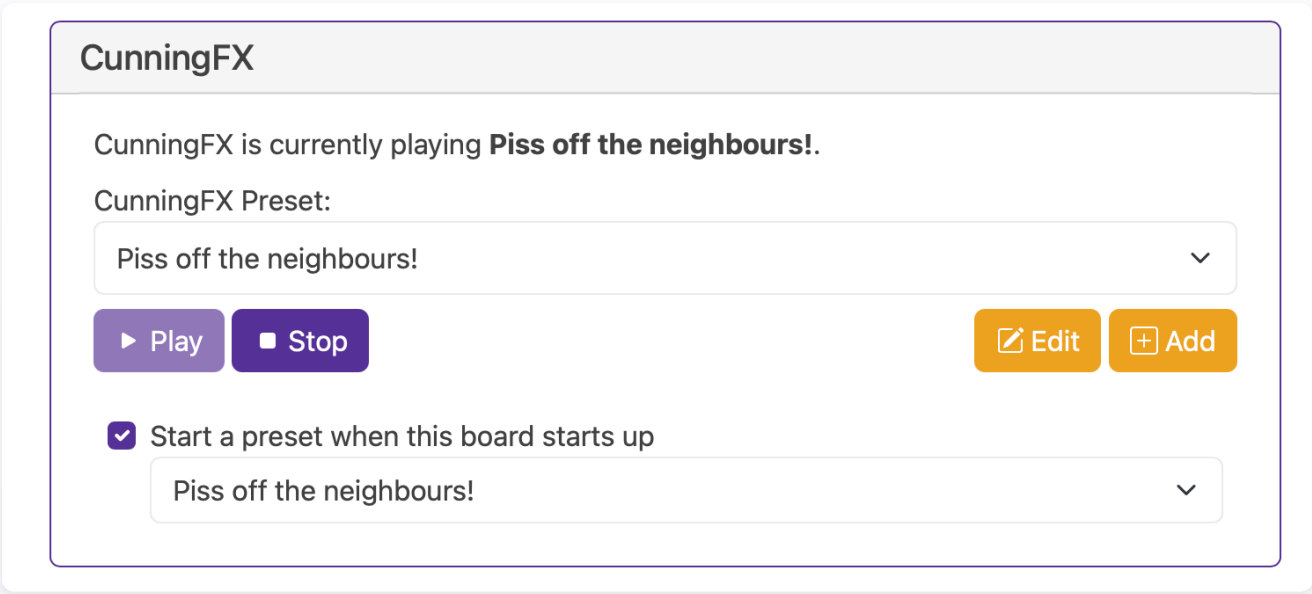


Immature Humour

Some of our vendors think their customers are a bit sensitive so have asked us to put the fun stuff behind an option. If you go to Advanced Settings you can *Enable Immature Humour*

CunningFX

Visual Effects Generator

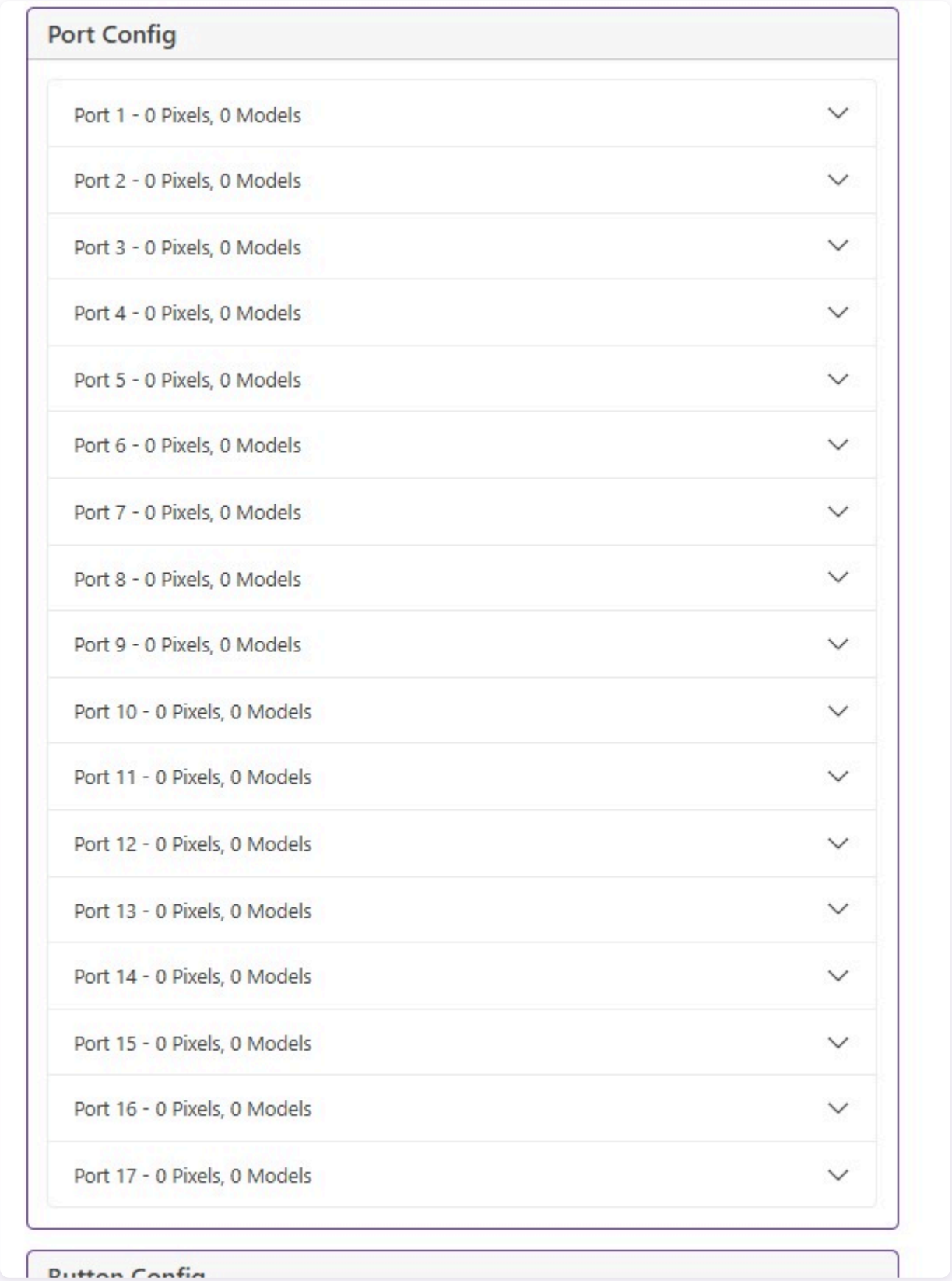


With more and more of our community putting pixels on their house all year round or producing lightart, we've produced CunningFX for you to add pretty stuff to your show without a show player.

A video for this is coming soon.

Port Configuration

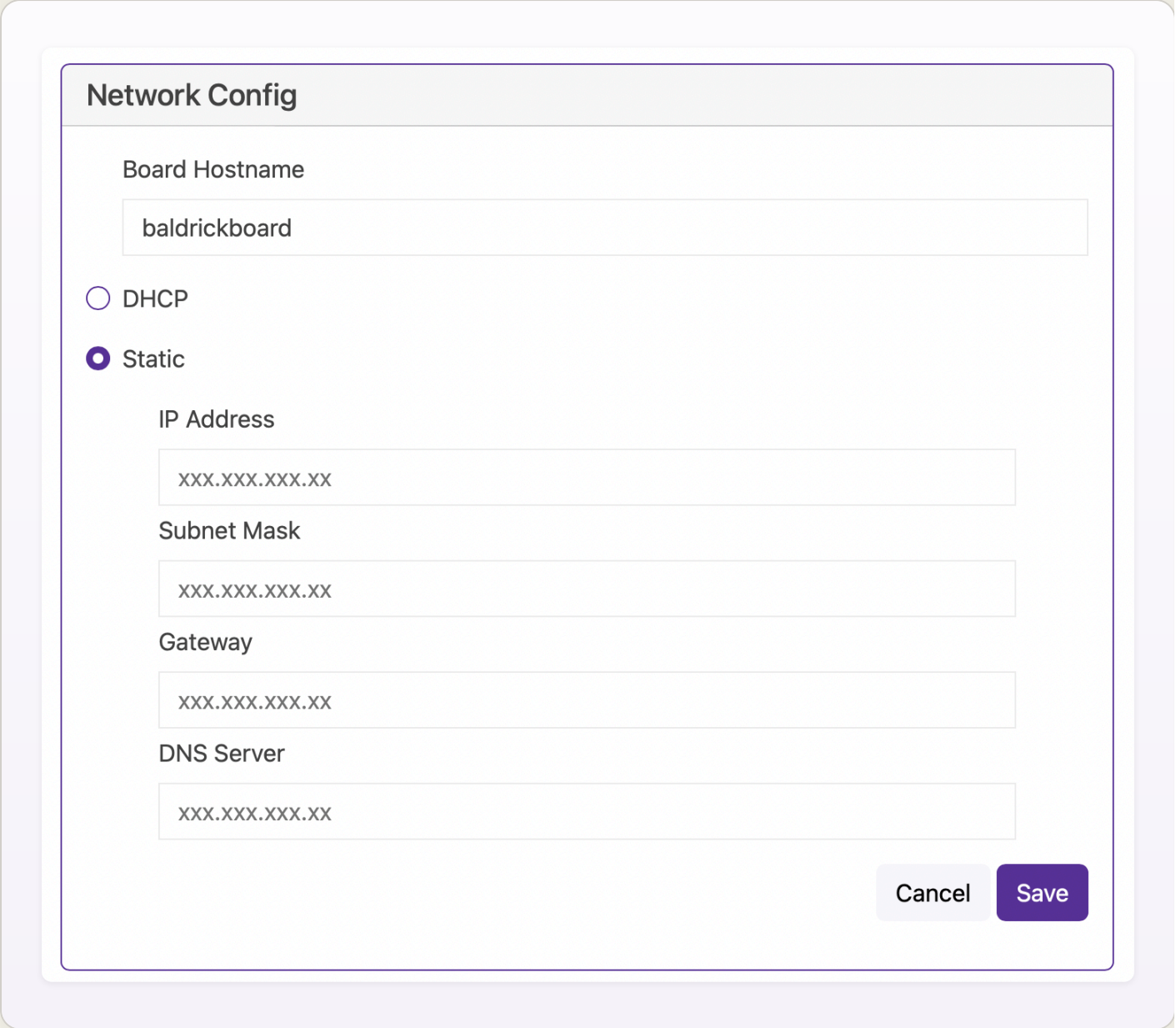
Manual Port Setup



Let’s be honest, most of the time you are going to be using xLights to play with your ports but if you want to be a strong independent person, you can drill down into each port, monitor and configure the models, the pixel count and brightness.

Networking Configuration

Good Defaults, Easy Config



Hostname

The default hostname is baldrickboard (hence baldrickboard.local). If you have one Baldrick17 then it's completely fine to keep this as it is, however if like us you want to collect a few of them, then we'd recommend you change this to something like *frontgarden* or *upstairsroof*

(Just a reminder that hostnames should be lowercase without spaces)

DHCP / STATIC

The default option is DHCP (which is Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol but you don't need to know that) which basically means your router or computer gives the board an I.P. address. This is great for initial setup but when you want to run a show it's best to switch it to STATIC, that's where your controller tells the router / computer "This is my IP".

IP Address

Set this to the IP address that you want the controller to be fixed to.

Subnet Mask & Gateway

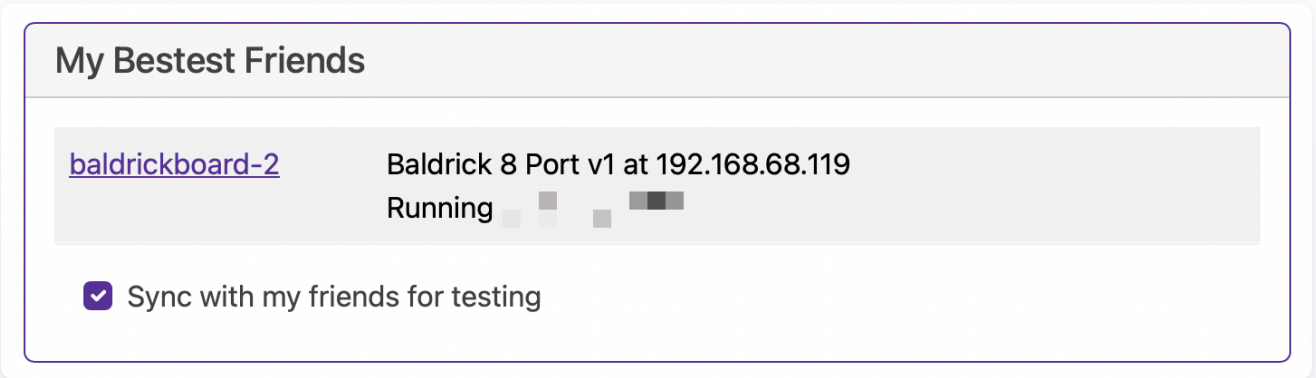
It is more than likely that you can copy the Subnet Mask (the size of your network) and the Default Gateway (the exit point of your network) from the output of an IPconfig check.

DNS Server

DNS wise, typically, your default gateway is your router IP, and that more often than not, can provide your network with DNS. However, some people like to use "outside 3rd parties" DNS like google or cloudflares DNS. If you don't know about this, its probably best just to stick to DHCP.

The Turnip Network

Network Discovery



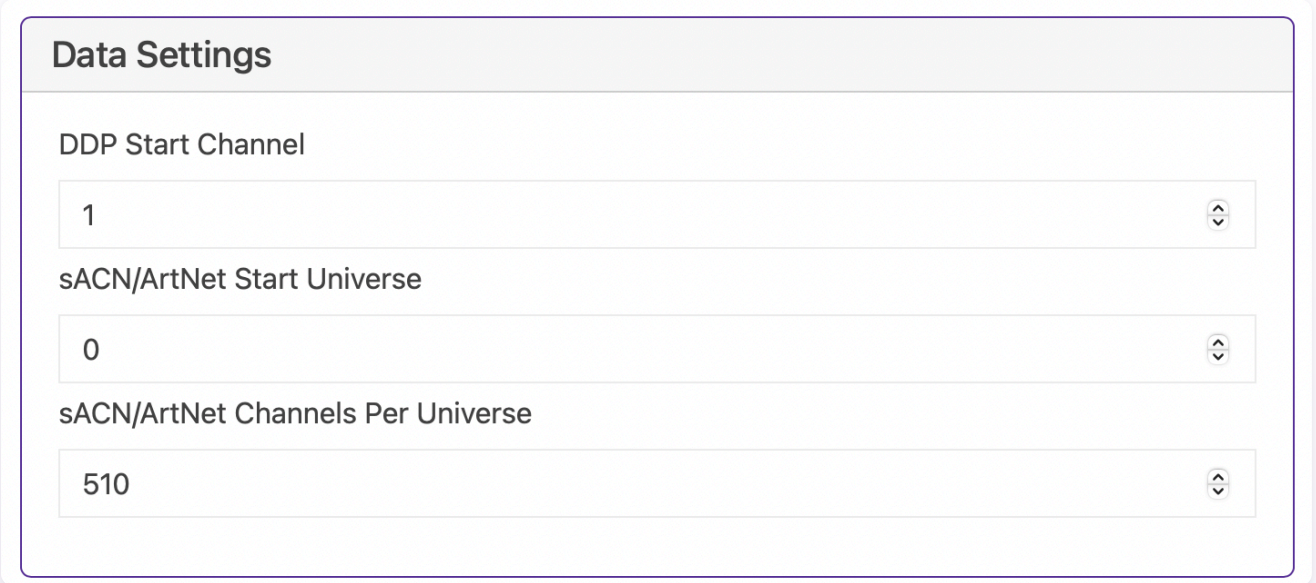
The Baldrick17 will keep an eye out on the network for other Baldricks and let you know how they are doing (this is helpful as we don't put an LCD screen on the board).

Test Sync

Ticking this box will sync the test mode between all compatible boards, meaning if you are doing something on the house and want all your baldricks in Test Mode, it's very easy to do!

Data Settings

Protocol Configuration



DDP Start Channel

Configure the starting channel for DDP (Distributed Display Protocol) communication.

sACN/ArtNet Start Universe

Set the starting universe for sACN (Streaming ACN) and ArtNet protocols.

sACN/ArtNet Channels Per Universe

Configure how many channels are used per universe for sACN and ArtNet protocols.

Advanced Settings

Advanced Configuration Options

We avoided it for so long but it's finally time to have a "box to stick stuff that doesn't fit in the other categories" and here it is, Advanced Settings.

Receive Beta Software Releases

Sometimes features need a bit more testing before we are ready to push them out to the wider world, if you like living on the edge (or just like being nosey).

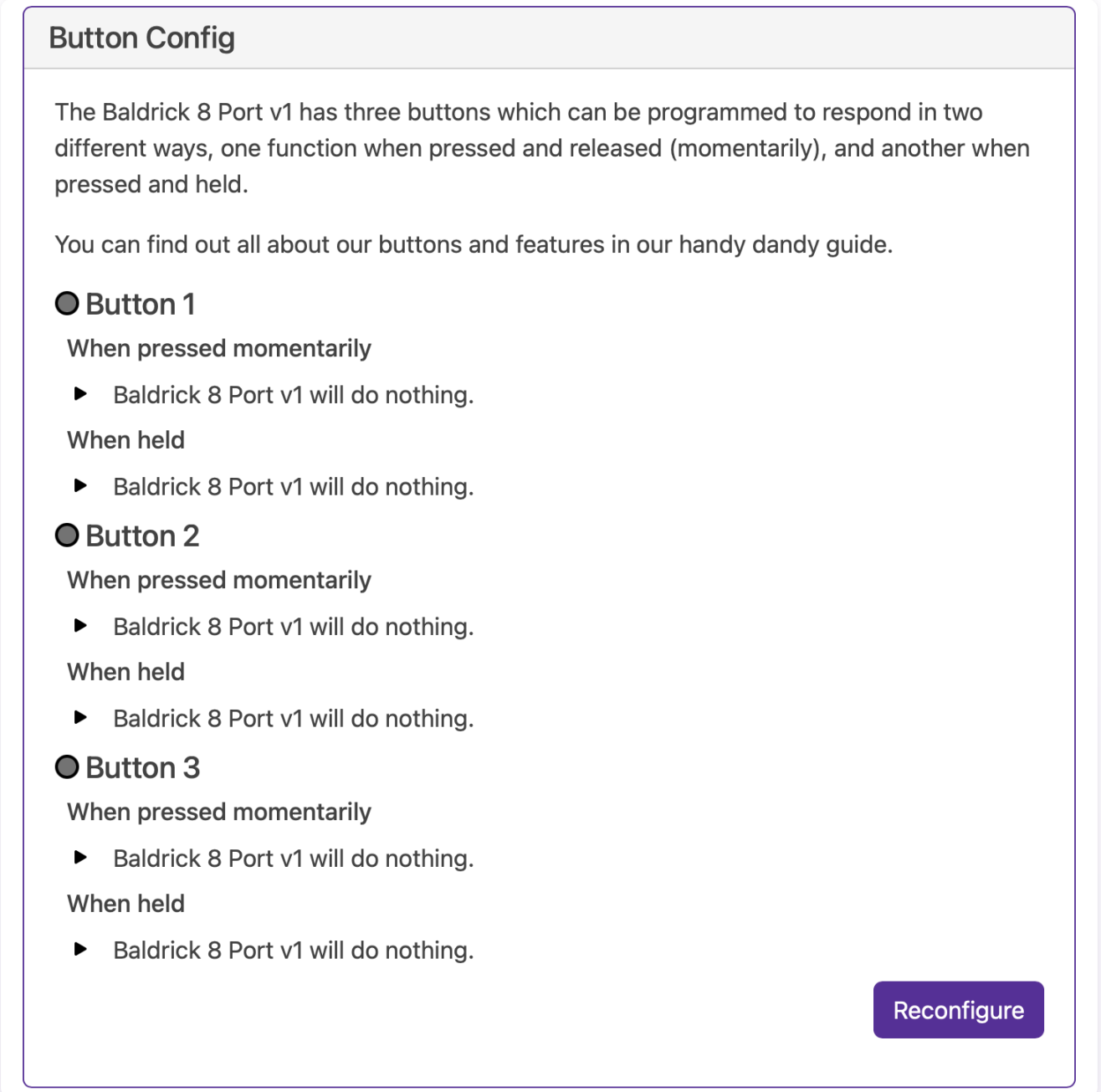
Enable Immature Humour

Some of our vendors love the board but do NOT appreciate our humour and so asked to remove the childish brightness names and test modes. This setting lets those customers WHO BELIEVE IN FREEDOM turn them back on.

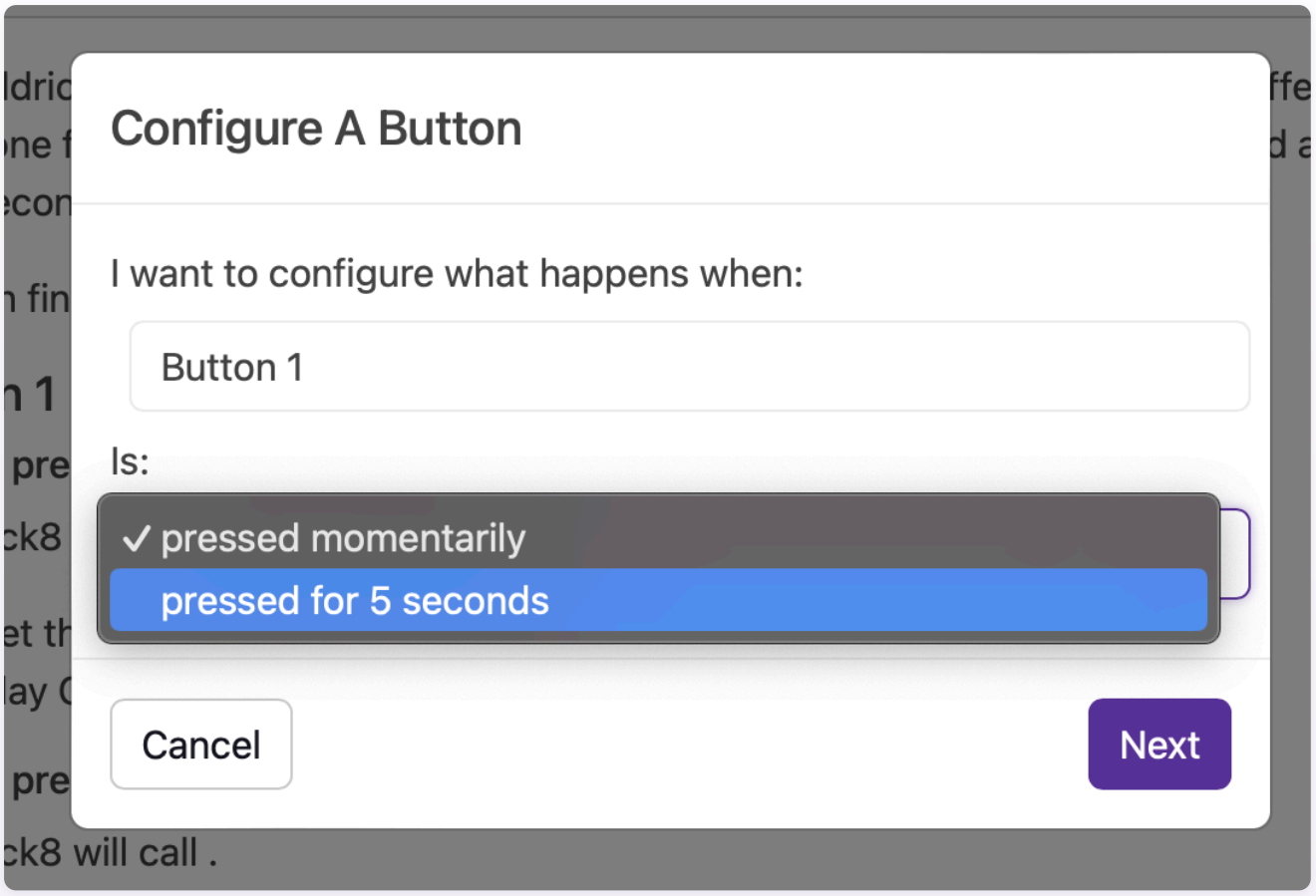
Turniputs (Inputs)

External Input Triggers

The Baldrick17 comes with three turninputs to attach external triggers (buttons, beam breaks, motion sensors) that can be configured when triggered to do a multitude of tasks.



Each input has two action states - either pressed instantly or held. When an input is in the active state, the interface will show the status by highlighting the LED.



Available Actions

FPP Integration

Control FPP (Falcon Pi Player) instances, change volume, play songs/playlists, or call FPP API directly.

Toggle Test Mode

Quickly enable any test mode at a specific brightness for quick prop testing.

BaldrickSwitchy Control

Turn on/off BaldrickSwitchy ports for specific durations (bubble machines, snow machines, etc.).

BaldrickDMX Presets

Activate preset commands on your BaldrickDMX for moving heads, effects, etc.

HTTP URL Calls

Call web APIs from simple triggers - perfect for custom integrations.

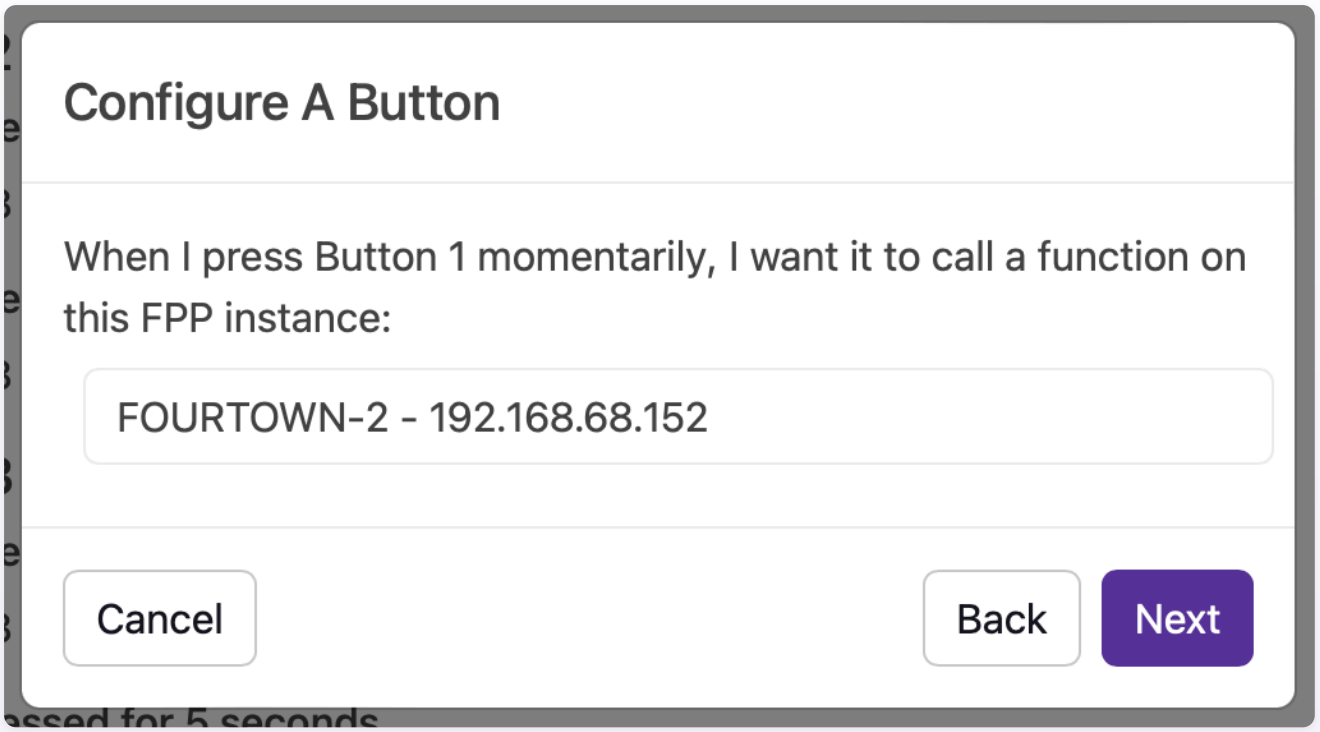
Do Nothing

Sometimes you set an input to do something and think “oh actually no, that’s not what I want.”

FPP Integration Details

FPP (or Falcon Pi Player) is our recommended show player for the holiday lighting hobby. It has some really powerful functionality and is simple to setup and use, that power also extends to its API which allows people to do some really cool stuff. But we don’t think you should have to learn the API to do that cool stuff.

We’ve two ways of using FPP which have proper names but let’s call them ‘Easy’ (Control an FPP Instance) and ‘Advanced’ (Call an FPP API Directly).

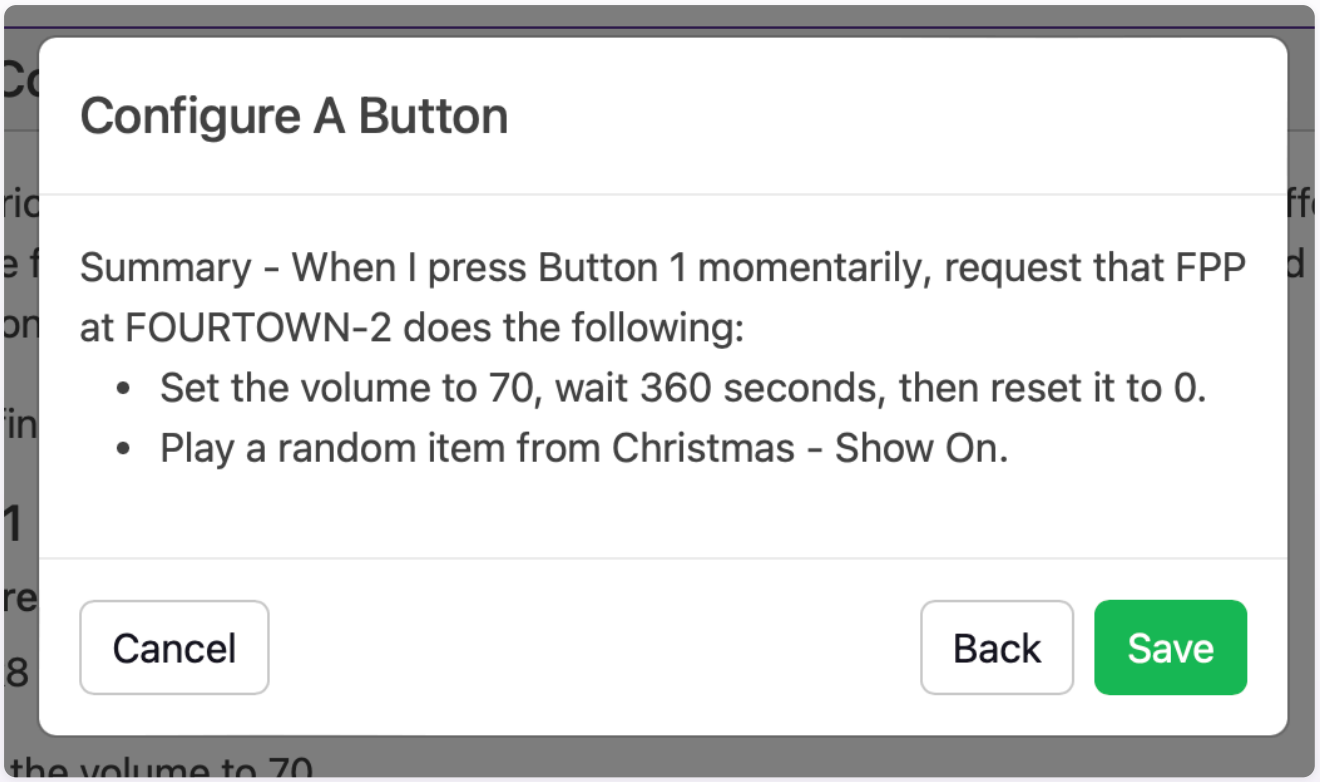


Both start off the same way by selecting the FPP instance that you'd like to interact with. If we can't find it automatically you can put in an IP address (although it might be worth finding out why we can't find it as it will be pretty hard to send commands to something we cannot find).

Control an FPP Instance

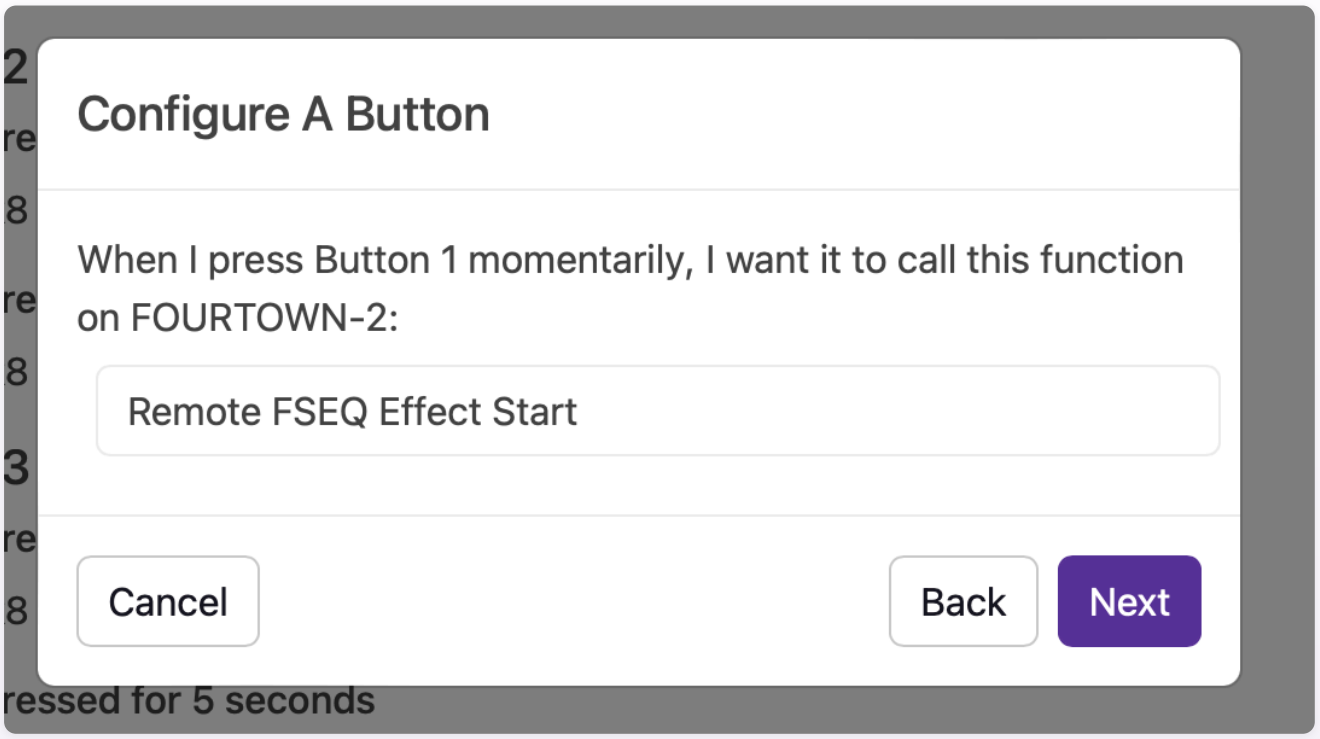
This section takes away having to use the scary API to ask FPP to do some things. For our initial version you can change the volume of FPP (either forever or for a period of seconds) or play a song / playlist / random song from a playlist.

Sorry did I say or I meant AND. You can do both of these, with one input and we will even pull in live your sequences and playlists direct from FPP.



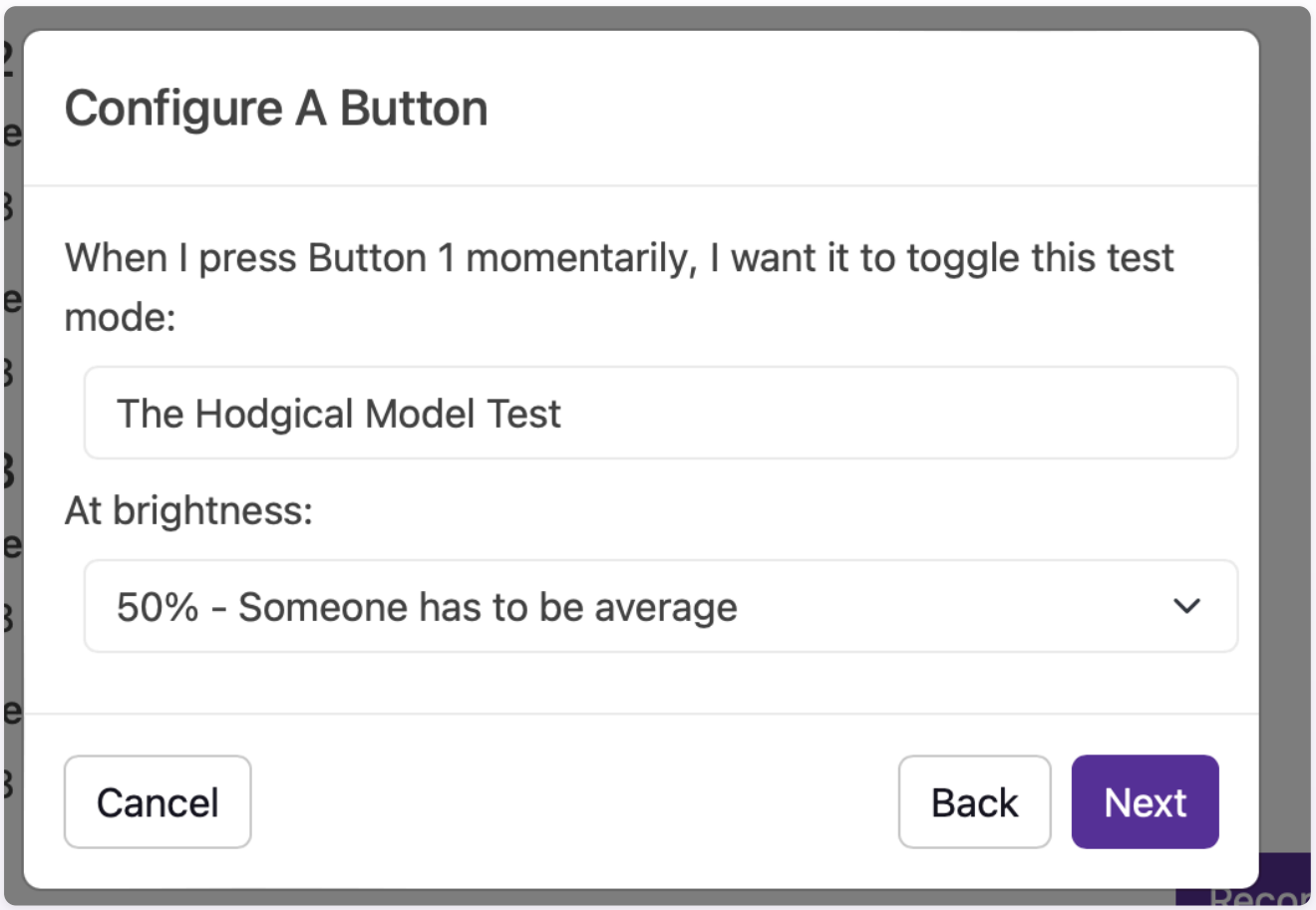
Call an FPP API Directly

If you want to get your hands dirty with FPP commands, here it is - almost everything you can do via the API direct and configurable to be executed via a Baldrick17 input!



Test Mode Activation

Sometimes you just want to quickly test how the props look (or put something up when the neighbors pop round to ‘see how it’s going’). You can quickly enable any of our test modes at a specific brightness with the touch (or activation) of an input.



BaldrickSwitchy Control

Have you heard about BaldrickSwitchy? Do you want to turn on your bubble machine, snow machine, AC lights or anything else via xLights or a Baldrick Button?

From this section you can turn on (or off) a BaldrickSwitchy port for x number of seconds.

Much like FPP, we will automatically detect the board and whilst I’d love to have the screenshot of it here, at the time of writing this documentation my BaldrickSwitchy is in another building and it’s far too hot to move from the sofa, did you know Britain is having a bit of a heatwave right now?

BaldrickDMX Preset Activation

This function will activate a preset command on your BaldrickDMX, perfect for activating a snow machine, bubble machine or pointing a moving head at one specific spot.

HTTP URL Calls

When we first launched the Baldrick17, we were so proud of this feature! Imagine being able to call a web API from a simple trigger! We even wrote a