

DIMMERABLE Range of Compact Fluorescent Lamps



Frequently Asked Questions

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

A1. No because we use Ingenium technology that is semi-conductor controlled our lamps in tests are more responsive and copy linear dimming more precisely than others available.

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

A2. Dimmerable lamps have a capacitive load which is different to how incandescent or halogen lamps work on dimmers therefore you work out how many you can use differently. You have to divide the maximum rating of the dimmer by 6 to get the amount of CFL power you can use.

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

A3. If you exceed the recommended amount of CFL lamps loading the lamps will not dim properly and will just operate as normal lamps. You will not be able to dim them and may risk long term damage to the electronic components.

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

A4. If you under load the dimmer (which is hard) as most dimmers only need one lamp to work then you basically are not putting enough power in to strike the lamp so the dimming wont work properly or it will look like it is non responsive.

**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 the voltage or load will be 10% of 240V i.e. 24V. This saves you energy and money.

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

A6. Ours are Compact Fluorescent lamps and as such they are a discharge lamp, this means they operate by means of an electrical arc down the lamp. If we dim to 10% the voltage will not be enough to keep the electrical arc struck. In essence we are dimming the light output only.

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

A7. Yes you do but not the same as linear dimming incandescent lamps. When you dim our GU10 to 10% light output the load is 50% less i.e. 6W so you do save energy but this is the lowest we can go without the lamp going out.

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

A8. No our Ingenium technology soft starts the lamps and they are fine for 600,000 switching cycle's without affecting performance.

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

A9. Yes you can the most important thing is to work out the max amount of CFL power you can use 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 what happens?**

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 worldwide for compatibility and found that the production and quality of dimmers varies considerably. Not all dimmers therefore are compatible. We have a list of approved ones available and can email it if required.

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

A12 Assuming you can take say 10 x 50W halogen lamps off the dimmer in your lounge and simply replace them with low energy dimming ones, you have to make sure the loading is ok or the lamps will not function as you wish.

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

A13. Follow the instructions carefully and 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 they will but the amalgam pellet will take longer to vaporize, this controls the mercury arc and so the lamp will take a bit longer to warm up and give full responsiveness but should not affect life.

**Q15 Does temperature affect them?**

A16 No the lamps are designed to operate within a normal ambient temperature range found domestically.

**Q16 Do they contain mercury?**

A16 Yes they contain Mercury in the Amalgam form. Our lamps are liquid Mercury free so if they are broken no gas can escape. Amalgam is used in Dentistry and other industries. Our GSU lamp for example has 1.9mg of Mercury whilst a ball point pen has 2000mg so the scale of risk is minute.

**Q17 How is this controlled?**

A17 The RoHS regulations govern how much Mercury can be used. Megaman lamps have the lowest amount in the industry.

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

A18 All electronic lamps have to pass EMC tests and the relevant BS EN safety awards. We have a full set of EMC certificates that are available for inspection; this means the lamps will not cause interference to other electrical appliances in the room i.e. the TV.

**Q19 Do all the lamps in the range perform the same?**

A19 The larger wattage lamps (18W) are the easiest to make for dimming, this is what most of our competitors have introduced. In fact this is all they have introduced. We use T2 diameter glass in our candles and GU10's and it has taken years of development to create an Ingenium chip that performs to our satisfaction.