

# The GLP Nexus Line: Reshaping Expectations

By: Richard Cadena



The Line has a .5m length. If you lay four Lines width-wise side by side, they are the same dimension as one Square or Circle. It's a clever way of making them flexible enough to build unique creative designs.

About ten years ago, I was wandering the halls of the PLASA show in London when Peter Kirkup, who was then working for LumenRadio, excitedly called me over to his booth to show me something. Then he put a tiny IC chip on the tip of my finger and asked if I knew what it was.

"It's an IC chip," I said.

"That," he proudly stated, "Is a wireless DMX receiver."

He went on to say that the OEM price was about US\$15 (in 2016) and LumenRadio aspired to put them in every entertainment lighting product made from that point onward.

The next year, W-DMX showed a similar product at LDI, and it wasn't long before City Theatrical introduced the Multiverse wireless DMX chip and line. From that point on, wireless DMX rapidly enveloped the entertainment industry, and many new wireless, battery-powered products continue coming into the market.

Among them is the GLP Nexus line. Though they can be operated free of cables like the others, this line is different. It bridges the gap between professional lighting and consumer lighting, which is a new market for GLP.

## Nexus shapes and modules

The first products were the Shapes, including the Square, the Circle, and the Line. They are small (6.6" by 6.6"), lightweight (about 1.15lb), wireless, battery-powered RGBW LED panels designed for DJs, pro users, nightclubs, weddings, and events. They have from 48 (the Line) to 64 (The Square) RGBW pixels that can be controlled by DMX, with the GLP iQ.Control app, or its Vision Control app. They can be pixel-

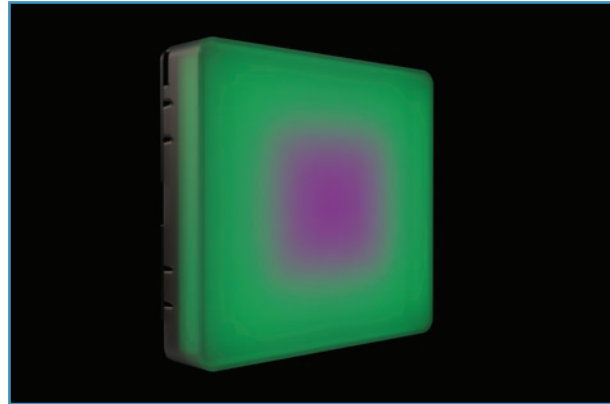
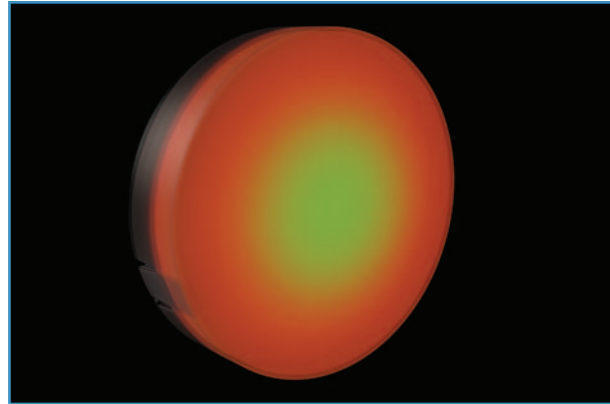
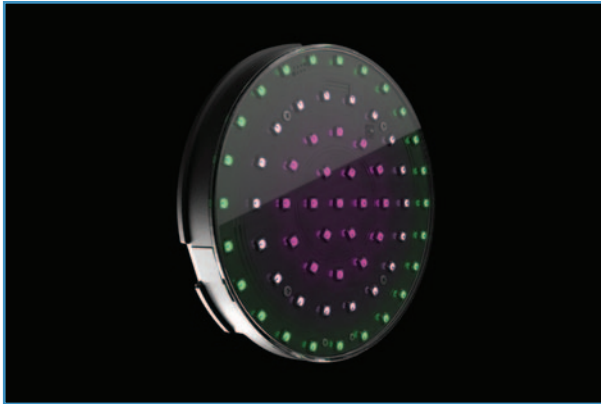
mapped, or they can run the built-in dynamic effects. For example, you can type in text, and it will scroll across a group of fixtures. You can build a wall of Nexus shapes in a low-resolution video surface or use them for simple color washes.

The Shapes are designed to be modular, allowing for the assembly of creative arrays with minimal setup time, thanks to the integrated magnets and threaded sockets on the back, which accommodate the optional accessory brackets and yokes. The Square and Circle have the same footprint, and the Line is as long as three Squares or Circles combined. If you lay four Lines width-wise side by side, they are the same dimension as one Square or Circle. It's a clever way of making them flexible enough to build unique creative designs.

Although the units are wireless, they can be hardwired for power using the built-in 90° USB-C connector in the rear of the fixture. The connector sits flat so it doesn't protrude, and it can be mounted cleanly against a wall or surface. It has a cutout channel that neatly accommodates the wiring.

The units have a price point that targets productions on a budget, but they are IP65-rated, so they can be used in indoor or outdoor environments. They also come with a frosted cover that can easily be removed by pulling it off to expose the LED pixels. That gives them an entirely different look.

Accessories include a hard case for up to 24 fixtures or 18 fixtures plus a charging station, hanging brackets, and safety attachments.



Top, left and right: The Circle has a diameter of 166.7mm.  
Bottom, left and right: The Square is 16.7 by 16.7cm.

### The Nexus Hilite

The evolution of the Nexus Hilite is a testament to GLP's responsiveness to end users. It was originally called "the Strobe," but because of its small size (the same width as the Square and Circle) and its wireless capabilities, the industry recognized its value as a practical—a light that is visible in the frame of a movie or used as a handheld prop—so it was renamed the Hilite. It features 62 variable white LEDs and has a 90° field.

Real-world applications have already proven its versatility. In one high-end fashion show, models carried Hilites hidden inside books (it weighs 1.1lb), opening them on the runway to create a "book glow" effect on their faces. In another application, dancers used the compact fixtures to simulate the glow of iPhones. Although it has been rebranded as the Hilite, it still works very well as a compact strobe light.

### The Nexus Uplight

The Shapes provide modularity for creatives, while the new Nexus Uplight fits the mold of a more conventional fixture in the form of a small wireless spot. It features a 40W RGBL LED light engine and a sophisticated internal zoom mechanism that ranges from 13° to 66°. The zoom optics move internally, allowing for beam-width adjustment by simply

twisting the snoot, and it does so without altering the length of the fixture. The 7.3" by 3.5" housing is rated IP65, and it has three rubber feet for standing up, one of which is threaded to provide enough adjustment to graze a wall or a column. Besides an optional hard case that carries six Uplight fixtures, also available are an optional yoke and accessory ring attachment to mount 3D-printed accessories.

### iQ.Control and iQ.Mesh

In this industry, if we're going to use wireless control, it must be reliable. The app that runs the Nexus line uses Bluetooth, but it also uses the iQ.Mesh protocol. This "mesh" technology allows fixtures to act as nodes, extending reception and control across the entire installation.

The GLP iQ.Control and Vision Apps offer untethered control using a PC, an Android, or iOS device. The app allows you to discover fixtures and create fixture groups, and it features a color picker, effects engine, and pixel-mapping capabilities. You can control up to 255 fixtures on one network, and for simple applications there is also a simple infrared (IR) remote.

When the fixtures are running on battery power, you can use the "24-hour runtime" feature, which lets you set the

required runtime in two-hour intervals. The fixture automatically changes its output level to ensure the battery lasts the duration of the event up to 24 hours.

For DMX control, the Nexus Bridge converts incoming hardwired DMX to the iQ.Mesh wireless protocol and connects wirelessly to the fixtures. The Bridge can operate any fixtures equipped with either iQ.Mesh or the Vision Protocol.

For serious designers and programmers, the line offers support with GDTF files for accurate pre-viz and console patching.

### Customization and charging

GLP is publishing the 3D footprints of the Nexus fixtures to allow designers to 3D-print their own custom attachments and branding elements. At a University of Kentucky sports awards ceremony, for example, the team used the fixture's quarter-turn attachment to mount 3D-printed versions of the school's mascot and logo directly onto the lights.

The Nexus fixtures are charged using a USB-C, and the 18-way charging station is quick and easy to use. It's 9.5" by 3.9" by 5.9," and it outputs up to 15W per USB-C connector. Whether or not you're charging Nexus Shapes, this is a useful item, especially in live event production.

### Accessible price

The best news about the Nexus line is its price point. The Square, Circle, Line, and Hilite retail for \$99. The retail price for the Charging Box is \$280, and the DMX Bridge is \$300. All of these products are currently shipping. 📶