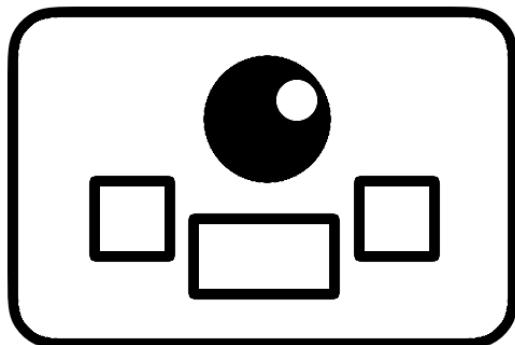




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# User Manual



# FrenschPress

Version 1.1 - Date 01.2026



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## Introduction

The **FrenschPress** is a MIDI- and network-enabled controller for professional theatre and event technology. The name is derived from its developer, Konrad Frensch, and has nothing to do with a coffee machine (which would be written with “CH”). It is a play on words—although we do enjoy drinking coffee.

The device features three mechanical buttons and one rotary encoder, all of which are fully programmable. The **FrenschPress** can be operated in four different modes (see Operating Modes below).

It works plug & play. No software installation or drivers are required. It is operating-system independent and can also be used without a computer directly within a network. For standalone operation, please use a stable 5V / 1A power supply.

All settings are configured directly on the device via a comprehensive yet intuitive web interface. Settings are saved, so there is no need to reconfigure the device each time.

A device plugin and preset library is available and will be continuously expanded. Users can create, save, export, and import their own presets.

The Backup functionality can be used to save and recall all settings.



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## 1. Warranty and Product Liability

### 1.1. Warranty

FrenschConnection provides a warranty covering verifiable material and manufacturing defects. The warranty period begins on the date of sale and is valid for:

- 2 years for end consumers
- 1 year for commercial users

The warranty does not cover defects of wear parts caused by normal wear and tear. Wear parts include, in particular, encoders, buttons, and connectors.

The warranty also excludes damage caused by improper or incorrect use, excessive stress, mechanical or chemical influences, incorrect connections to other devices, or use outside the intended purpose.

Any warranty claim becomes void in the event of third-party intervention or unauthorized modifications.

Before returning a device, please contact FrenschConnection ([hello@frenschpress.de](mailto:hello@frenschpress.de)).

In the event of a warranty claim, the customer bears the cost and risk of transport.



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Since the operating manual (especially the safety instructions) is part of the warranty conditions, it is essential to read and follow it carefully.

## 1.2. Liability

Any liability for consequential damages not caused by intent or gross negligence on the part of FrenschConnection is excluded.

## 2. Safety Instructions

- Operate the device only via a computer's USB port or a stable external power supply (max. 5V / 1A).
- Only connect each USB port to one computer. Do not connect both ports to the same computer. The second port is intended for a backup system.
- Protect the device from moisture and operate it only in dry environments.
- Do not allow liquids or objects to enter the device. If liquid enters the device, disconnect it immediately from power and dry it thoroughly using suitable means. If in doubt, contact us.
- Protect the device from damage caused by improper handling or dropping.



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- Protect the device from high temperatures and direct sunlight (operating temperature: 0–50 °C).
- Use the device only for its intended purpose.
- Do not open the device.
- Clean only with a brush or dry cloth. Do not use liquids.
- Ensure that connected cables are not under tension.
- Use only trusted networks, change default passwords, and keep access credentials secure.
- If something breaks, contact us. Spare parts are available. Do not carry out repairs yourself, otherwise the warranty will be void.

### 3. Technical Specifications

- Protocols: MIDI (USB), OSC, HTTP, TCP, Art-Net, sACN
- Network: Ethernet, optional Wi-Fi 2.4 GHz
- Storage: 4 GB internal storage
- Processor: 240 MHz dual-core MCU
- Operating voltage: 5V / 1A
- Encoder: 1x 32 mm aluminium
- Buttons: 3x mechanical with RGB LED

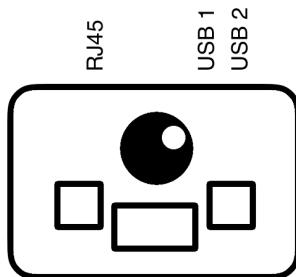


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## 4. Connections and Interfaces

- 2x USB-C (USB-MIDI & power supply), both usable independently
- 1x RJ45 Ethernet LAN port with DHCP or static IP
- Wi-Fi (2.4 GHz) client for existing networks or internal access point for configuration





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## 5. Configuration and Setup

### 5.1 Connecting the Device

Connect one of the USB-C ports to your computer (power + USB-MIDI). Optionally connect Ethernet. The device is recognized via plug & play and requires no installation.

By default, the device starts in QLab mode and works immediately without any configuration. All other modes, LED colors, and network settings can be configured via the web interface.

### 5.2 Opening the Web Interface via Ethernet

A new device and after a factory it will have the following static IP settings:

IP: 192.168.1.10 / Subnet: 255.255.255.0

Within the same network, open <http://frenschpress.local> or the IP in your browser. If the device does not appear at this address, check the network connection.



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## 5.3 Opening the Web Interface via Access Point

If Ethernet is not used the internal access point can be activated:

- Hold Encoder + STOP for approx. 5 seconds
- LEDs turn magenta when the access point is active
- A Wi-Fi network named “FrenschPress\_Config” appears

Connect your computer to this network (default password: “12345678”) and open the web interface at <http://frenschpress.local>.



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## 6. Web Interface

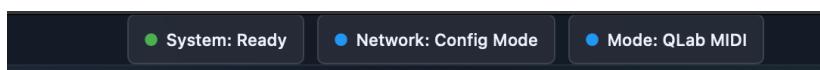
When accessing the web interface for the first time, create a user account. Then log in to access the settings interface.

### 6.1 Status Bar

The status bar at the top displays:

- System status: Ready, error messages, firmware update available
- Network: Connected network and IP address
- Mode: Active operating mode (QLab MIDI, Custom Mode)

A logout button is located in the top right corner.





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## 6.2 Settings Area

Below the logo are three tabs:



- **Settings:** Device ID (name), Ethernet (DHCP/static, IP settings), optional Wi-Fi (scan, DHCP/static, IP settings), backup function
- **Control Mode:** Change and configure operating modes
- **Library:** Install or uninstall plugins to extend the device with command templates and presets



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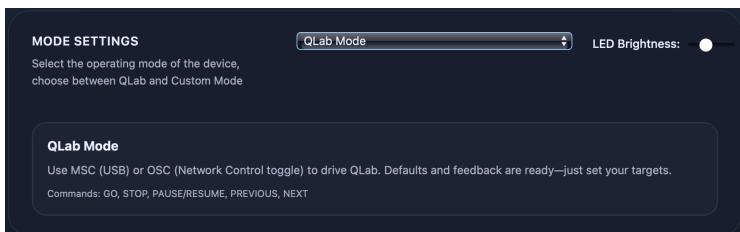
### 6.2.1 Settings

- Device Name: Optional device name for easier identification in networks
- Ethernet Control: DHCP (default) or manual IP
- LAN Info: Current IP address and MAC address
- Wi-Fi Control: Enable Wi-Fi and choose DHCP or manual IP
- Wi-Fi Connection: Scan and connect to networks, including hidden SSIDs
- Backup: Backup the entire device configuration

Changing the default access point password is strongly recommended.

### 6.2.2 Control Mode

**Device Settings:** The device operating mode can be selected from two options.





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### 6.2.2.1 Qlab-Mode

Communication with QLab via:

- USB: MIDI MSC, plug & play
- Network: OSC (configure IP, port, optional passcode and workspace ID)

QLab hosts can be scanned automatically.

In OSC mode, cue status (playing, paused) is displayed via the button LEDs.

### 6.2.2.2 Custom-Mode

Each button/encoder has three configurable fields representing button sets A/B/C. This allows three different functions per control, depending on the active set.

LED colors can be configured individually per set.

Supported command types:

- MIDI (Note, CC, SysEx)
- OSC
- HTTP (GET/POST/PUT/DELETE)



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- TCP (raw socket)
- Art-Net (DMX with universe/channel, optional fade, unicast/broadcast)
- sACN (DMX with universe/channel, optional fade, unicast/broadcast)
- Delay (milliseconds)
- Snapshot (Art-Net/sACN DMX recorder for up to 10 universes)

Button sets can be switched using a switch-set macro, assignable to any button or encoder press.

Active Set

Set A      Set B      Set C

Switch button set

Assign commands to physical buttons.

STOP Button	GO Button	PAUSE Button
Set A: MCU Stop	Set A: MCU Play	Set A: MCU Record
Set B: create/select...	Set B: create/select...	Set B: create/select...
Set C: create/select...	Set C: create/select...	Set C: create/select...
Set A Color: Set B Color: Set C Color:   	Set A Color: Set B Color: Set C Color:   	Set A Color: Set B Color: Set C Color:   

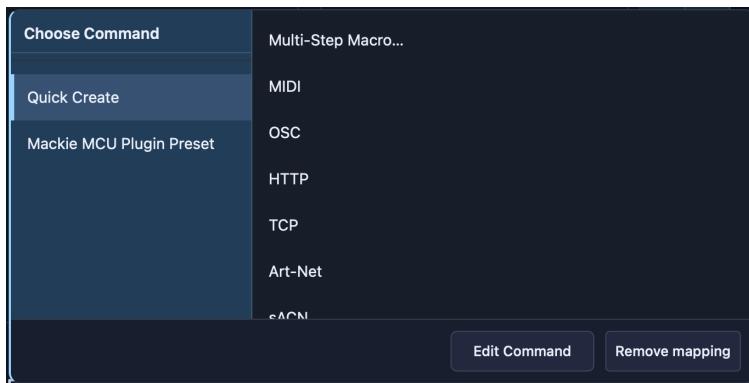


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## Creating / Assigning a Command

Click into the desired button field – the Library opens, where you can either select an existing command or create a new one via **Quick Create**.

In Quick Create, select the appropriate protocol and create a **Single Command**, or choose a **Multi-Step Macro**.



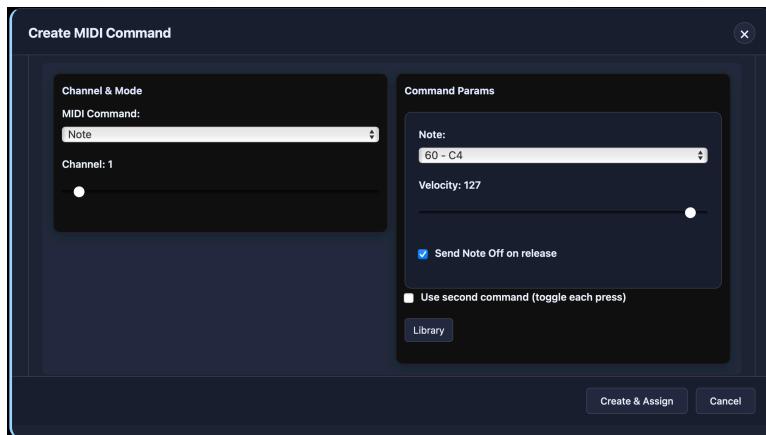


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## Single Command

Configure the command in the dialog and save it using **Create & Assign** – the macro is now assigned to the button and stored in the Library under **Custom**.

The **Library** button opens the library of command templates installed via plugins or created by the user, which can be used here. These are filtered by protocol (for example, in the MIDI dialog only MIDI templates are shown).





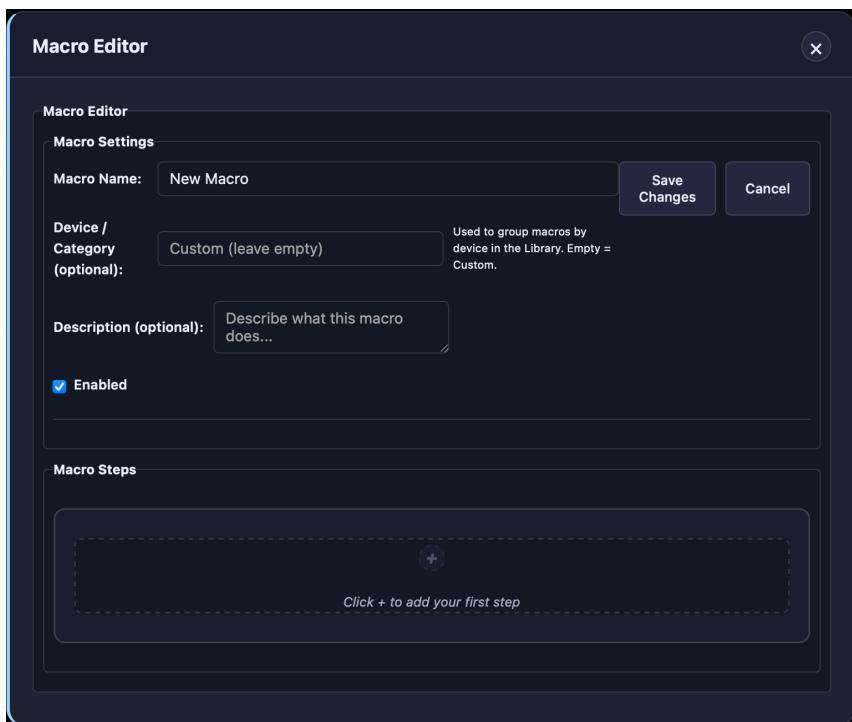
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## Multi-Step

In the dialog, set the name and description of the new macro. Then configure the command sequence in the **Step Editor** below.

The individual steps can be rearranged freely using drag-and-drop. Finally, save the macro with **Save Changes**.

It is assigned to the button and stored in the Library under **Custom** or under the specified device name.





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## 6.2.3 Library

FrenschPress features an extensive **Library** function for device plugins and created macros. Plugins can be installed and uninstalled here. They include command templates for a wide range of software and hardware and come with presets that can be easily loaded in **Custom Mode**.

It is also possible to create templates yourself. Presets can be imported, exported, edited, and deleted.

The device library is continuously expanded. If the device has internet access, the library can be updated directly. During the update, the new content is merged with the existing library so that user-created macros and presets are preserved.

The screenshot shows the 'LIBRARY & PLUGINS' section of the FrenschPress interface. At the top, it says 'LIBRARY & PLUGINS' and 'Install device plugins, manage reusable command blueprints for use in Custom Mode.' Below this is the 'Device Plugins Repository' section. It includes a search bar labeled 'Search plugins...' and a message 'Loaded 12 plugin(s) from repo (version 1.0.6)' followed by 'Up to date'. On the left, there's a list of available plugins: 'QLab Essentials', 'grandMA3 Essentials', and 'ETC EOS Basics', each with a 'Not installed' status and an 'Install' button. On the right, there's a 'Details' section for 'QLab Essentials' which includes its version (v1.0.2), author (FrenschConnection), date (2025-12-28), credits (QLab by Figure 53), homepage (https://qlab.app), and a note about its use with OSC and MSC protocols.



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## 6.3 Footer

**Identify Button:** When this button is clicked, the device's buttons play a color sequence. This function makes it possible to identify the FrenschPress on which settings are currently being adjusted. This is particularly useful when multiple devices are being used.

**Sonne/Mond Button:** Here you can switch the web interface between dark and light modes to suit personal preference. Light mode can make operation easier in very bright environments.



## 7. Button combinations

The **FrenschPress** has several Button combinations that allow certain functions to be used even without configuring them in the web interface, for example switching modes:

- **Change mode:**  
Press and hold the encoder + tap **GO** → switches from **QLab Mode** to **Custom Mode**.
- **Brightness:**  
Hold **STOP** and turn the encoder → adjust LED brightness.
- **Lock / Unlock:**  
Hold **STOP** and press **PAUSE** → activate/deactivate **Lock Mode**.  
The LEDs indicate that Lock Mode is active by increasing and decreasing brightness (breathing effect). When active, the buttons are locked to prevent unauthorized operation.
- **Factory Reset:**  
Hold all three buttons during boot for approx. 10 seconds → LEDs change from blue to red, begin to blink, and finally confirm with green blinking → the device is restored to factory settings.
- **Open Access Point:**  
Hold Encoder Push + STOP for 5 seconds.



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## 8.3 License Texts

### 8.3.1 MIT License

(applies to ArduinoJson, PsychicHttp, FastLED)

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### 8.3.2 CNMAT License

(Applies to OSC Library)

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