



Calvert Lights of Faith 2023

Larry Calvert

Indiana Christmas Mini 2024



Map Sequences to your Display

Introduction

- ❖ Larry Calvert - Greenwood, Indiana (South of Indianapolis)
- ❖ IT career in Software Project Management and Leadership (some development)
- ❖ Wife: *"Up your Game Grandpa for Christmas Lights"*
- ❖ 4 years of Displays; 20k lights; 5 - Falcon F16 v3/v4, 5 Smart Receivers
- ❖ Raspberry Pi, FPP show scheduler/player
- ❖ Mega Tree (23' w/ star), Small Mega Tree (13' w/ star)
- ❖ Unique: PermaTrack permanently installed outline and 3 garage door outlines
- ❖ Imitation is the greatest form of flattery! (Canister Christmas, Matt Johnson, xLights Zoom Group, Clyde Lindsey, Kyle Bostick, Steve Ni, most of You!)

Map like a Pro



Agenda:

- ❖ Choosing other's sequences
- ❖ What you like & matches your show!
- ❖ Horizontal/Vertical/Level of Props
- ❖ Learn and Enjoy

Pole:

- Raise your hand if you only Sequence your own songs?
- Raise your hand if you have purchased > 10 sequences for your show?
- Raise your hand if you belong to Sequence Clubs from Vendors?





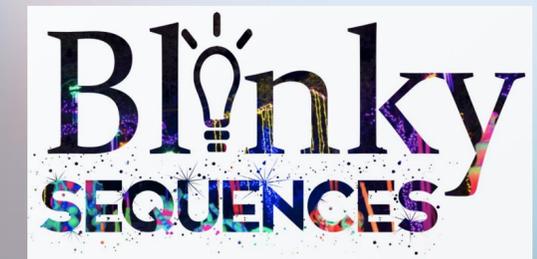
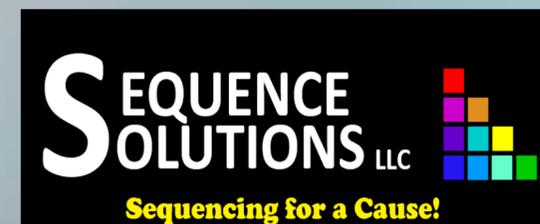
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Choose:

❖ Where to find Sequences?

- Free: xLight Google Drive, XLAW site, Vendors
- Paid: Sequence vendors, Vendor Clubs
- xLights Sequences – sequence index both Free and Paid: <https://xlights.info>

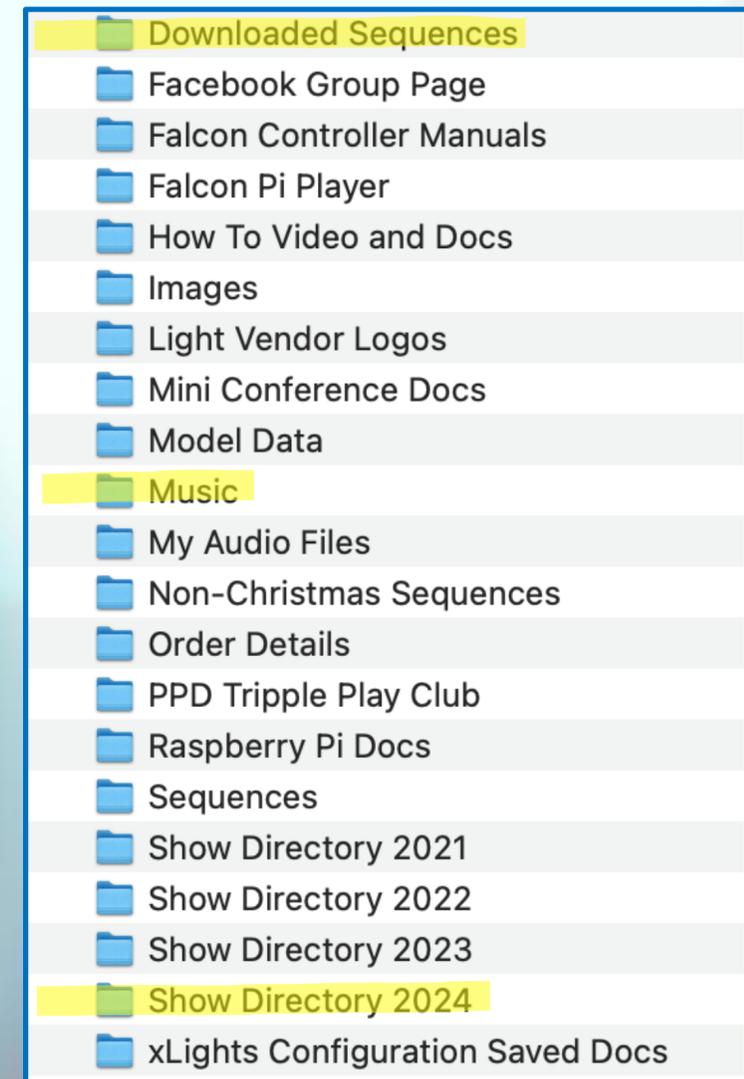


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Analyze:

- ❖ Download Zip file (Choose your format - Pro/HD/SD)
- ❖ Arrange Folders for Sequence Components:
 - ❖ “Downloaded Sequences” - store the Zip file download
 - ❖ “Music Folder” – store the MP3 used for your sequence
 - ❖ “Show Directory” – for the current Year/Display elements
 - ❖ “Configurations” – Controller, Network, How To

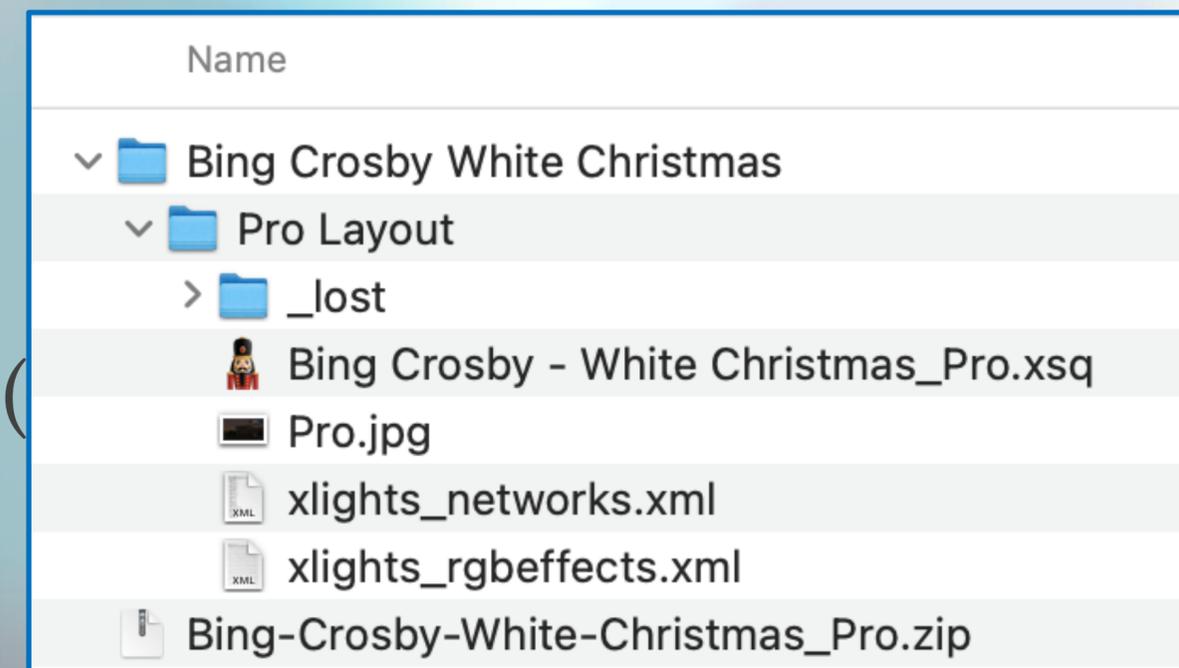


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Analyze:

- 1) Create Sub-folder in your Downloaded Sequences Folder – *Add Sequencer name!*
- 2) Also, Sub-folder for Unzipped components (automatic when opening Zip file)
- 3) Purchase/Download Music MP3
 - ❖ *Hint:* Rename to **remove Track #**
 - ❖ *Hint:* Rename to **remove special characters** {, [, (



Map like a Pro



xLights:



- ❖ Open an instance of xLights to create your new sequence.
- ❖ Open New (second) instance of xLights (*Right Click*) – preferably on 2nd Screen
- ❖ On controllers Tab: Change “Temporary” to point to original Sequencer’s xLights Layout
- ❖ Must point to the directory with the xLights rgb_networks & rgb_effects files from the downloaded Zip file. (Must Unzip)

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xLights: Your 1st Instance:

- ❖ Create a new Sequence
- ❖ Choose musical sequence you downloaded (Amazon, Sequencer, Apple Music)
- ❖ Choose the Frames per Second (default 20, some 40)
- ❖ Choose the Master View (default) or Your view
- ❖ Menu: Import Effects
- ❖ Choose the downloaded sequence – *the ZIP file*
 - ❖ *xLights will update the file folder paths to your computer from the ZIP file.*

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xLights: Your 2nd Instance:

- ❖ Open the original Sequence
- ❖ Choose the Master View (default)
- ❖ Right click on display elements
- ❖ Review the Master View *Render Order*, go back to your 1st instance and adjust accordingly

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xLights: Render Order, Render Order, Render Order

❖ To get the best results, your render order must match the sequencer render order as close as possible

❖ Create matching Groups if necessary

❖ *HINT*: I think of this as a “*Pop Up Picture book*” ...

USED	GROUP/MODEL/SUB MODEL	YOUR ELEMENT
	01.1.0Grp EVERYTHING BUT STARBURST	
	01.2.0Grp EVERYTHING BUT MEGA STAR STAR	
	01.3.0Grp HOUSE LESS YARD	
	01.4.0Grp HOUSE OUTLINE	
	01.5.0Grp ALL ARCHES	
	01.6.0Grp ALL CANDY CANES	
	01.7.0Grp ALL ICICLES	
	01.7.0 Door Peak Icicles Left	
	01.7.0 Door Peak Icicles Right	
	01.7.0 Entrance Icicles	

❖ The whole house at the top and the smaller or HD props and Yard at the bottom.

❖ xLights renders from Bottom to Top

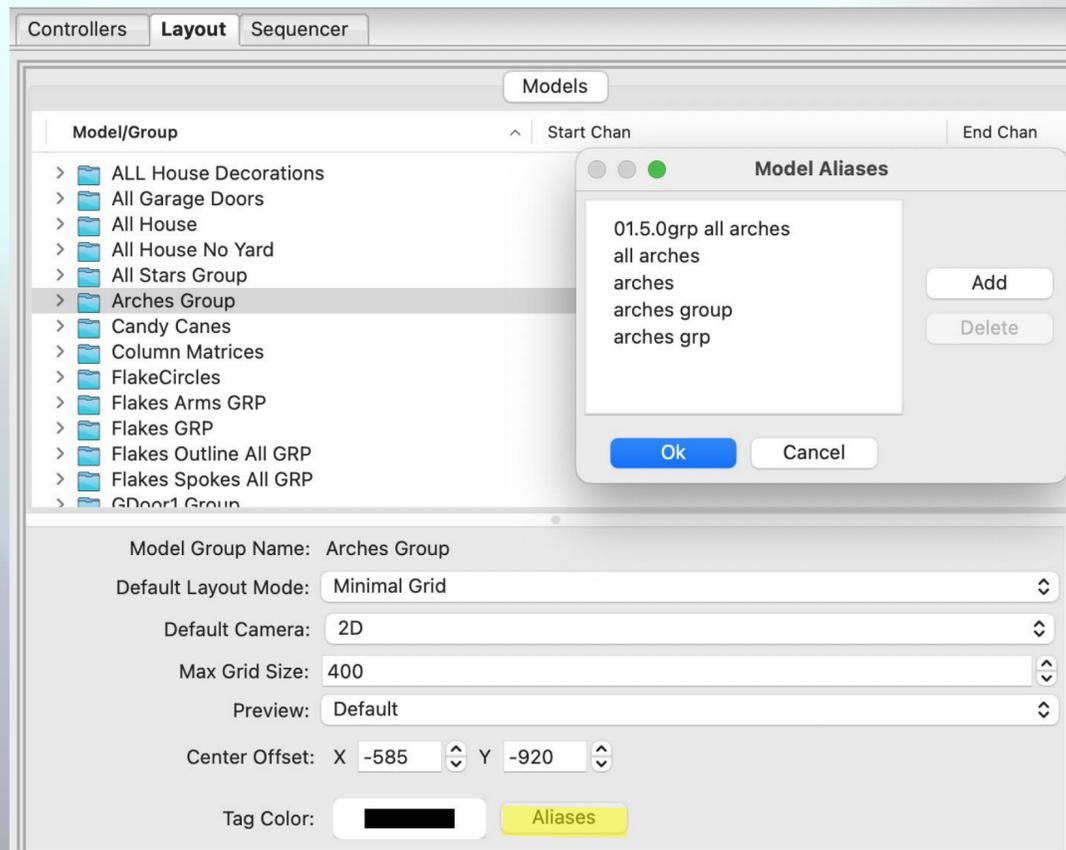
❖ Think of painting the whole house, then smaller groups, and finally individual props!

Map like a Pro

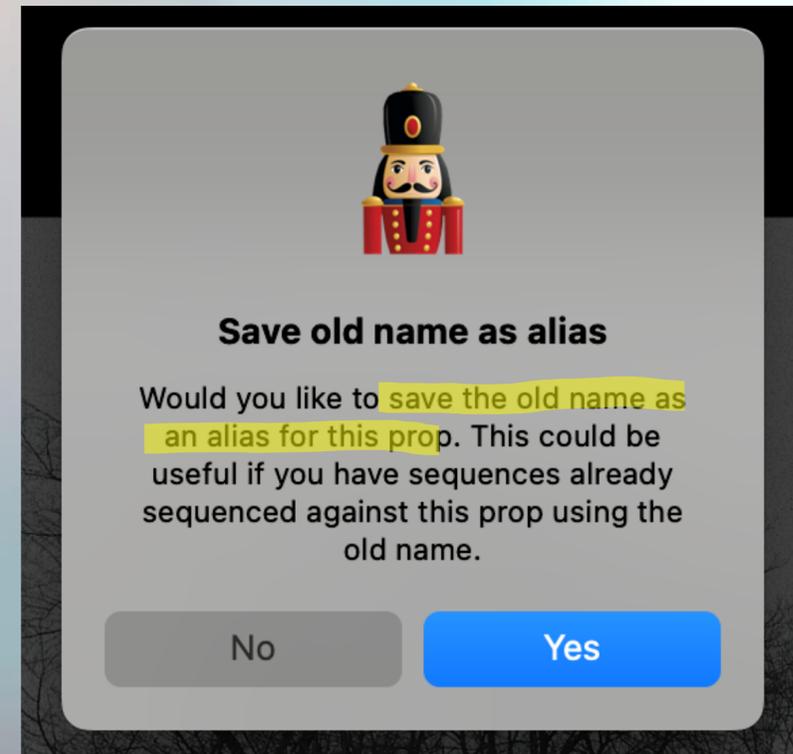


Pro Hint: xLights: Mapping process recent Functionality!

Alias – Enabling you to give multiple names (Alias) to Props so that different sequencers names will “Auto Map” to your display elements!



When?



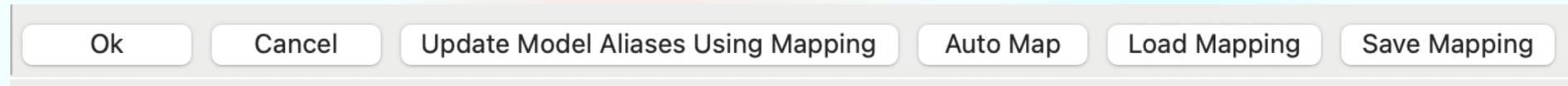
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xLights: Mapping the downloaded Groups and Props to your display

- a) **Timing Tracks – Check mark each you wish to be imported**
- b) **Auto Map – “If” you setup Alias names for your props**
- c) **Select the row in the “Available” right column, then double-click the corresponding display row to make the assignment.**
 - ❖ **Note: Double-click to remove the assigned row.**
 - ❖ **Note: Consider also assigning at the sub-model level**
- d) **Save the sequence Mapping! Suggest in the Downloaded sub-Folder created.**

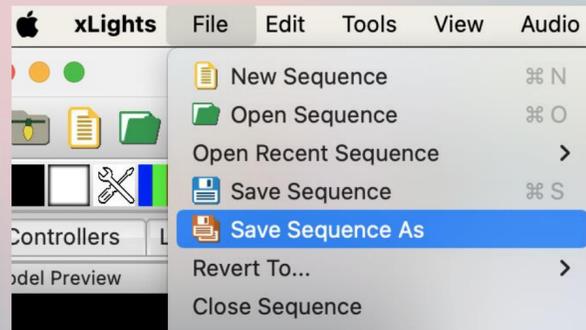
Map like a Pro



xLights: Mapping the downloaded Groups and Props to your display

Once mapped: Click “Save Mapping”, click OK

Save As – save your new sequence. Use naming convention: Date, Title, Sequencer, Format (Pro/HD/SD)

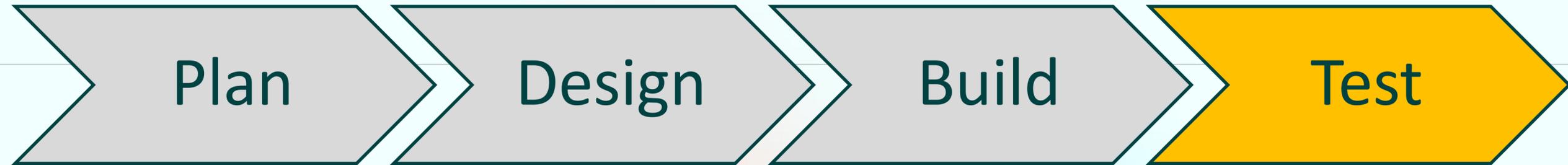


Hint: Why? You may need to contact them in the future, or an update could be supplied, and you want to know where you saved it by date and which format.

Click: Render



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Testing Sequences:

- ❖ Visually inspect for HD props – Sub-models display correctly
- ❖ Choosing the proper Matrix (Pixel Matrix, Garage, P5/P10, Projector)
- ❖ FONT sizing for your Tune-To matrix or other Text on Props/Trees
- ❖ Aware of Sequencer's nomenclature for numbering or naming conventions
- ❖ xLights Menu: Tools / Check Sequence

Q&A - Map like a Pro

- ❖ If time Permits:
 - ❖ What other suggestions do you have?