

Setting Up an Air Tally with the Wheatstone Bridge Router System

PURPOSE: Use the following procedure to set up an air tally logic output to be used to trigger an air tally light. All configuration is done using the Wheatstone Xpoint GUI application.

PRELIMINARY: Before beginning the actual procedure you should read it through first and collect any information you will need to know, such as location of logic cards, availability of logic ports, signal ID numbers of audio signals that you want to use for triggering the tally, etc.

STEP 1 -- Create a logic destination in the Xpoint matrix:

- this can be done at any unused destination signal ID, preferably below 1000
- for the sake of this discussion we will use signal ID number 1
- in the Xpoint matrix right click on the first yellow box at the left under the word Destinations
- select Modify Signal Definition from the popup menu to see the Signal Definitions dialog box
- the Id should be 1
- enter a name, such as TheTally
- Destination will already be selected in the Source / Destination radio group
- select Logic I/O Only from the radio group of signal types
- select the Logic I/O (1-6) Tab and put a check under Enabled for LIO 1 (assuming it is not already in use)
- select the Tier, Rack, and Slot where the Logic IO card you will use is located
- select the port you want to use; I'll use 1 in my example
- set Direction to Out (you use a logic OUTPUT port to provide the tally closure)
- make sure the Invert box is unchecked
- from the drop-down Function list select ST4InUse (corresponds to CR tally in VDip)
- click Apply

A brief explanation is in order here. There are 4 monitor circuits associated with the Wheatstone surface: Studio1, Studio2, Headphone, and Control Room. These appear in the VDip screen as Studio Tally's 1, 2, HP, and CR. They appear in the function list, when setting up a logic signal's function, as ST1InUse, ST2InUse, ST3InUse, and ST4InUse. This is why you use ST4InUse to set up a Control Room (CR) tally.

STEP 2 -- Create a new crosspoint

Next, create a crosspoint between the Destination just created (TheTally) and the auto-generated source signal that carries the tally functions for the surface. By auto-generated sources, we mean sources that are automatically generated by the Xpoint program when a system is configured with one or more surfaces. These signals appear at signal ID 1000 and above. The names of these signals are of the form GxTALLY, where G tells us that the surface is in the G-series (a surface in the D-series would have a D in place of the G) and x is a number indicating which of (possibly) several surfaces this signal is specific to. This all assumes that you haven't renamed the surface. GxTALLY will be one of the last Sources seen for a particular surface. You may want to lock this crosspoint to prevent it from being accidentally disconnected.

STEP 3 – Modify the Vdip settings

Next you will need to make the VDip settings for the surface inputs you want to trigger the tally with. Please note that the VDip settings apply to an input SIGNAL, and not to a surface channel.

- select the Configure | VDip Settings menu item in XPoint - defaults to Surf1
- unless you want the tally to activate whenever any surface channel is ON, select the Per Signal Tab - it will be helpful if you write down the signal ID numbers of the sources that will trigger the tally before you get to this point - for our example, assume the signals Mic1, Mic2, and Mic3 will be used, and that the signal IDs for these three signals are 33, 34, and 35
- highlight the Input Signal Id box entry (defaults to 1) and type 33 - the signal name of Mic1 is now also displayed
- click Override Defaults - put a check mark in the Studio Tally box labeled CR
- using the up arrow in the Id box, select 34 and repeat step 4 - and once more for Id 35
- Click OK

STEP 4 – Wire up the logic port

The only thing left to do is to wire up the logic card's output port 1 to the external circuitry (usually a relay) that will activate the tally light itself. Refer to the Wheatstone BRIDGE Generation Digital Audio Network System Technical Manual. In the Hardware chapter subsection that deals with the Logic Input/Output Card (LIO-2001) there is a diagram that indicates how the external wiring is done (page 2-77). Output port 1 appears on pins 12 and 25 of the LOWER DB-25 connector (see page 2-82 for the pinouts).

This should be sufficient information for you to set up a Control Room or Studio tally.